Daniel Pearl Magnet High School Marks 10th Anniversary of the Murder of the Journalist with Events in February

Los Angeles—Daniel Pearl Magnet High School has planned a series of events in February to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the kidnapping and murder of The Wall Street Journal reporter for whom the school is named.

The activities will conclude on February 21 with a panel of reporters, photojournalists and broadcasters taking questions from students on the topic “Journalists in Harm’s Way.” The panelists will also discuss the meaning and implications of the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act, signed into law in May 2010 by President Barack Obama.

Pearl grew up in Encino, and attended Portola Middle School and Birmingham High School in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). He was kidnapped 10 years ago in Karachi, Pakistan, and on February 21, 2002 the world learned of his murder. The reporter, who was also the Asian Bureau Chief for The Wall Street Journal, was investigating a story linked to Al Qaeda.

“The staff and students of Daniel Pearl Magnet High School believe it’s important to honor the memory of Daniel, particularly his legacy as a reporter of courage, integrity and honesty,” said Janet Kiddoo, school principal. “At the same time, we seek to honor the many investigative journalists around the world who have been tortured or murdered in the pursuit of the truth.”

The next issue of the school newspaper, Pearl Post, will feature a special section dedicated to stories about Daniel Pearl, the role of investigative reporting, and ethics in journalism. The school's website will have a Facebook link—“Pearls of Peace”—where visitors can add a “pearl” representing an action that they will take to build positive relationships at home, school, or in their communities. The goal is to create a digital chain of pearls worldwide and that represents the millions of people who are committed to living together peacefully.

Videos and podcasts of students discussing their hopes, dreams and view of the world will also be featured during the next several weeks. These multimedia projects will be posted on the school website. Daniel Pearl Magnet High School is located at 6649 Balboa Blvd. in Lake Balboa. To schedule an interview, please contact Janet Kiddoo, principal, at (818) 654-3775 or janet.kiddoo@lausd.net.

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