

## SCHOOLPOWER's DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT IS A SOLD OUT SUCCESS

by Samantha Washer

What stokes the most intense of rivalries? Politics? School allegiance? Olympic competition? At the LBHS gyms on Thursday night, the answer was dodgeball. SchoolPower's first annual Dodgeball Tournament was a sold out success with 42 teams from three divisions battling it out for their division title. There was a 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade division, a 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade division, and a high school/adult division.

Teams from all parts of the community participated, and the competition was fierce. Some came to watch their kids; some came to take part in the fun; and others came to win. Laguna's Police, for example, in trying to take advantage of any edge they could find over their friendly rivals, the Laguna Firefighters, snuck into the station house when the firefighters were on a call to hang posters claiming police victory. The firefighters were clear this only fueled their determination to win.

In addition to city safety personnel and local business leaders, teachers, toothless fairies and super heroes were all in attendance. But no one could defeat the ball handling skills of the Laguna Beach Lifeguards. They took home the championship prize of \$500 (to be designated to the school program of their choice) along with a much-coveted golden skull trophy, made by Bill Jarrard. Team captain, Kai Bond, reported that his team chose Special Ed programs for their \$500 prize winnings and that the Laguna Beach Lifeguard Association will match that sum with an additional \$500 for a one-time scholarship to water sport athletes. The Rastafarians won the title in the 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade division, taking home medals and \$100 which will be gifted to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade teaching team at El Morro. Team Shwayze 4 took the title in the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade division, designating their \$100 to the Thurston PE program.

Top of the World Elementary School principal, Ron LaMotte, said about the event, "It was the most fun I have had in years! And it created such positive school spirit with my staff and students alike. Thanks again for the support of our schools and building of community spirit." Event chair, Kristin Winter, was thrilled by the passionate response to the tournament but wasn't surprised that the event went as smoothly as it did. "With Rob Capobianco's and Mike Sadler's help we were golden. SchoolPower is always looking for ways to bring the community together," she said, "And it looks like Laguna Beach just wanted to play dodgeball."

For more information about next year's tournament or SchoolPower's ongoing Community Campaign, please contact SchoolPower, the Laguna Beach Education Foundation, at (949) 494-6811 or [www.lbschoolpower.org](http://www.lbschoolpower.org).