

A Blast from the Past for the Class of '62

Tour and Class Reunion of
Abraham Lincoln High
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THE TOUR

The sun was out and the sky was a clear, bright blue and the day just could not have been more spectacular in San Francisco, than it was that day we pulled up to Abraham Lincoln High School—where we were greeted by a totally new and modern addition, an electronic marquee. The words “Welcome Class of S’62” were revolving in bright red lights, making us all feel that we were welcome to enter and once again walk those halls.

As a few classmates gathered together outside, we were able to reacquaint ourselves before entering. Some knew each other before and others just met for the first time, but it truly was like we all were long-lost friends and no time had actually passed. We were all just eighteen again.

Once inside, we were greeted by both our tour coordinators and student tour guides, as well as treated to some morning orange juice, hot coffee and cookies. Our student guides split us up into several groups, and we headed off on what was a very exciting and nostalgic walk. Being with other classmates helped to enhance the memory gathering within each of us, and how sweet it was—even more so, as the students made it so comfortable for us to relate our experiences while attending Lincoln, which flooded back as the tour continued. Each person remembering something different; this helped others to recall it and more.

The students were so gracious and seem to really enjoy hearing what we had to say. They guided us through the girls’ gym, which had not changed one iota, since we had “pretended” to shower there; the boys’ gym, where the girls stood on one side, while the boys stood on the other, at many a dance; the library,



The group of 1962 graduates who toured Lincoln as a part of their 45th reunion festivities.

which some of us did not even know existed; the ROTC area of the school, which most of us had never seen; the cafeteria, where fond memories of the food was nonexistent, but one of the highlights was seeing Lincoln’s “Wall of Fame,” and all the wonderful and successful people who walked those same halls, either before us, with us, or after us—and, we know that many more pictures will line that wall in the years to come. Lincoln turns out some of the best people you will ever meet.

After the tour of the school, we met Lincoln’s very genial Principal, Ron Pang, who gave us a bit of the school’s history since we graduated those short

forty-five years ago. Mr. Pang went over the School Board’s intentions to update the school and add a new wing, showing us the architectural renderings of the planned addition.

We were impressed and happy to see what is in store for our old school. It will be very much like a new school again as the “school of choice in San Francisco deserves to be.

We truly enjoyed this very memorable day, with the friendly and respectful students of today’s Lincoln High. We were not disappointed.

THE REUNION

Saturday turned out to be as equally beautiful as the day before. The weather alone just made everything perfect for this long anticipated “forty-fifth” high school reunion. All of us having lived in San Francisco, whether it was from being lucky enough to be born there, or just by being transplanted from somewhere else, knew how special this bright October weather really was, as we all experienced living in the ‘fog of the summer months.’ Many of us agreed that we did not know that the sun existed in the summer months, until we got our

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Mr. Pang, Lincoln Principal, took time from a very hectic day to address the class of 1962 alumni who toured Lincoln.

driver's licenses and headed for Marin County, where we literally soaked up the sun at "The Marin Town and Country Club." Who knew about summer tans before then? Those were the days we slathered on the cocoa butter, so we could bronze all the more quickly.

Some classmates stayed in the beautiful rooms of the Gateway Sheraton, where the Saturday night reunion took place and were able to meet up in the hospitality room prior to the evening's event. It felt good to have a chance to chat with our former classmates and some were able to make plans to sit together that evening.

During the cocktail hour and after about an hour of socializing, where everyone anxiously looked around to see whose faces they recognized or were trying hard to sneak a peak at name tags, so they could see the person's graduation picture, we entered the very well decorated ballroom, where the balloons of "red and gold" decorated the tables and framed the stage beautifully. You could see that the planning committee had really put a lot of thought and effort into setting the scene for us, and all the details were expertly taken

care of—from beginning the evening's festivities, with our singing of Lincoln's hymn, "High On a Hilltop;" to the great food and wine; to the music of "The Windy Hill Singers," our very own **Buzz Kerr** and **Mike Pasqualetti**, who sang all those songs that took us back to another moment in time; to the overhead presentation highlighting the pages of our class's year book. It was quite sad, of course, to see those faces of our classmates, all framed in a heavenly blue, who have passed before us, but it was appreciated by all to see that they were being remembered on this special night. One we wish they could have enjoyed with us.

Cameras were everywhere that night and no one was shy about either taking pictures or being photographed. Everyone was at ease with one another and many made plans to stay in touch. It was nice that most everyone felt that comfortable and the evening could have continued on, as Midnight came too soon.

One last thing that deserves mentioning is all the wonderful work that went into designing our class reunion's website. It truly made a huge difference for classmates to keep a check on the October dates, as well as give classmates an opportunity to reconnect beforehand. Many were encouraged to join the party via the site. Hopefully, with the help of this great tool, some "Lost Links" will be located for our "Fiftieth." The website (www.abrahamlincoln-s62.com) now includes reunion photos and an email directory.

See you all in 2012.