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Local students meet internationally renowned ocean heroes

by *Pacifica Tribune*

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Local students met Lincoln Shaw of Animal Planet's "Whale Wars" and Chris Pincetich of the "Turtle Island Restoration Network" at the Pacifica Beach Coalition's Young Ocean Stewards event last Thursday at the Surf Spot. Nearly all of Terra Nova's AP Environmental class attended along with students from other Pacifica schools to learn what they can do to help our oceans and the amazing animals that live there from experts in the field.

Lincoln Shaw risked his life to save whales in the Antarctic with Sea Shepherd and saves marine mammals daily with The Marine Mammal Center. He witnessed the Ady Gil be intentionally run over the the Japanese whaling ship in 2010. Chris Pincetich, a scientist, outreach education manager working with Turtle Island Restoration Networks studied and rescued turtles in the Gulf following the oil spill. He taught all of the Earth Day 2012 Turtle assemblies and four Earth Day 2013 Shark Assemblies at local schools. His activism has resulted in the Leatherback Sea Turtle being named the official ocean reptile for the state of California, a cause that hundreds of Pacifica students wrote letters and campaigned for in 2012.

"It was wonderful to see so many students from the high school and elementary schools listening so intently," said Pacifica Beach Coalition social director and event organizer Julie Walters . "Everyone really enjoyed themselves and I hope learned something tonight."

The Pacifica Beach Coalition hosts social events on the last Thursday of each month at different local establishments. The public is always invited. This was the first event designed for students to meet and greet local ocean heroes.

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