

EYE ON EDUCATION

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

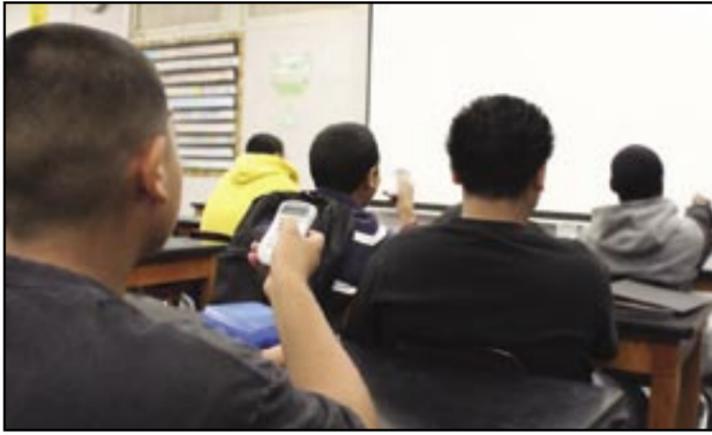
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AUGUST 2011

Technology Brings Significant Results in Learning to Paramount's Students

Algebra Support is a course students take in that reinforce math skills and re-teaches concepts that are challenging. Algebra Support classes at Paramount High School utilize a technology that leads to improved student learning. In these classrooms students spend two to three days each week in a computer lab. Each student has an individual subscription for a technology named ALEKS, which stands for Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces. In an ALEKS computer lab students are given specialized lessons that are tailored to reinforce the skills they still need to learn. When a student logs in for the first time, the program delivers a series of questions and problems. Based on the response to each question, an individualized lesson plan is prescribed for every student in the classroom.

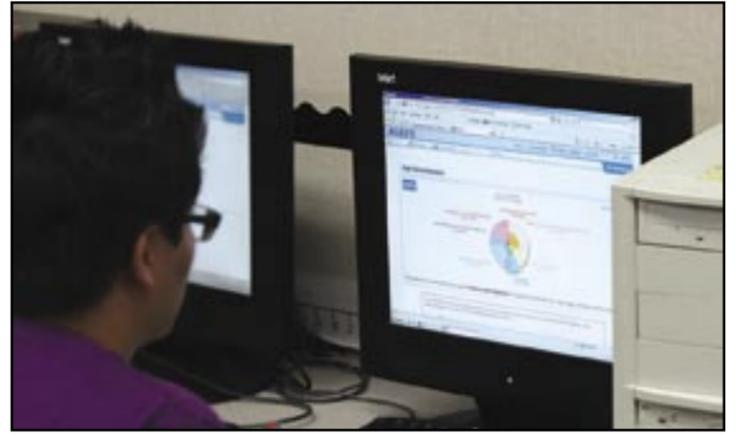
As students master each component of the program, their progress is shown on a graph visible



to both the student and teacher. As students learn more and more, ALEKS makes available new lessons that move them to the next skill level. This allows students to progress at their own pace while receiving immediate feedback about their results.

Effective teachers use skillful techniques to check students' understanding throughout the lessons they teach. In PUSD's middle and high schools, teachers use technology to find out exactly

what students do or do not understand. A device that looks like a TV remote, called a clicker, is given to every student in a classroom. At key points in the lesson the teacher projects a question onto a screen visible to the class. Students answer the question by pushing a button on their remote clicker. A summary of each student's response is electronically collected into a data bank and automatically converted into a graph that shows how students



answered. Results are displayed to the teacher and shared with the class. In one classroom, a science teacher displayed concepts on the theory of continental drift. At different points in the lesson, a question about the topic being discussed appeared on a screen. Each student with their own clicker gave their response and in a fraction of a second the teacher could see which students were having trouble understanding the topic, giving her the op-

portunity to re-teach and clarify misunderstandings as soon as they occurred. The instructor's ability to see the gap in students' understanding and her ability to respond took place in a matter of minutes.

These are just two of the many powerful and effective technologies implemented in classrooms in Paramount Unified, providing our students a competitive edge in both technology use and academic learning!

Alondra Middle School Artful Endeavors

The growth of Alondra Middle School's art program was evident this school year. Beginning art students started by learning the basics: line drawing, sketching techniques, and color schemes; by the end of the year, they progressed immensely, drawing faces and animals in motion. Second year students in intermediate art explored self-portraits, used architectural and design elements to construct their "dream home", and created their own still life. These experiences were amplified by yearlong visits and mini lessons taught by future art educators studying at California State University Long Beach. All seventh and eighth grade students enjoyed participating in the Contemporary Art Start program at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles. The yearlong program afforded Mrs. Griffith-Wu the opportunity to take her art students to the museum twice during the year to examine, interpret, and experience the wonder of viewing art in



Eighth grade intermediate art students, Estefany Galaz and Andrew Hernandez demonstrate their talent,

person. Students were challenged and excited at the chance to view well-known pieces. Participation in the program included a yearlong free pass to the museum good for each student and five guests! In addition to their travels, over forty students entered paintings and drawings in The Traditional Artist's Guild show of Paramount. Alondra took home many awards. Earning second place among all seventh graders for her outstanding drawing, Kora Manzano-Lopez created a beauti-

ful Dia de Los Muertos-inspired piece; the Commissioner's Award for an amazing still life went to seventh grader Alberto Cuevas. It is clear that Alondra art students represented their dolphin pride with full force this year, and their creative sides shall continue to shine. We look forward to more artful endeavors next year!

Lynn Butler
Principal
Alondra Middle School



Award winner! Still Life by, Alberto Cuevas

SCHOOL STARTS AUGUST 24, 2011

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

August 24, 2011 - September 14, 2011

Board of Education meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at the District Office, 15110 California Avenue, Paramount, and are open to the public

PHS Pirates Receive Recognition at Awards Night

Paramount High School held its annual Awards Night on Wednesday, June 1, 2011 in the school gymnasium. Numerous PHS students from all grade levels were recognized for outstanding academic achievement in the classroom, for soaring in the athletic arena, as well as those who received financial scholarships.

There were a total of thirty nine graduating senior students recognized for having a grade point average (GPA) of 3.75 and above while another forty eight were celebrated in having a GPA between 3.50-3.74 for the Honors category. Sophomore and junior high achievers were also recognized during the program for their impressive GPA's and for being on the Principal's Honor Roll.

Our 2010-2011 PHS scholar athletes were also very impressive. Our Pirate Athletes of the Year included Ariel Arguello of Football and Track and Field as well as our CIF Champion wrestler, Antonio Lopez. Our Pirate Female Athlete of the Year was Melissa Yopez who excelled in three sports, including basketball, softball, and volleyball.



Scholarship winners were greeted with cheers as their names were called as they went to the stage to be greeted by Paramount Unified School District Superintendent of Schools Dr. David Verdugo and PHS school principal Dr. Greg Buckner. Approximately ninety PHS students received over \$581,000 in scholarship monies that came from at least forty two different categories. Some of which include the

Dr. David Verdugo and Board of Education Scholarship, the Maureen McCarthy Foundation Scholarship for Teacher Education, the Rotary Club of Paramount Scholarships, Gates Millenium Scholarship, Dr. Sumie Imada Scholarship, the Russel L. Ball Family Memorial Scholarship, Paramount Women's Club Scholarship, Paramount Lady Elk's Scholarship, the Teacher's Association of Paramount

(TAP) Scholarship, Management Association of Paramount, Paramount PTSA Scholarship, Paramount Education Partnership (PEP) Scholarship, the Paramount Tepic/Sister Cities Association Scholarship, and the Elk's student of the month scholarships.

Gregoire Francois,
Assistant Principal, PHS

PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL REGISTRATION!

SCHOOL STARTS AUGUST 24, 2011

KINDERGARTEN through 5th GRADE

Do you have a child who will be five years old on or before December 2? If so, have you registered him for Kindergarten? Starting August 8th, all of our elementary schools will be accepting registration for grades K- 5. You will need proof of residency and personal identification to register.

Middle School Grades 6-8

All middle school registration starts on August 8th

Paramount High School West Campus (9th grade only)

New Student Registration starts on August 1, 2011

Paramount High School Senior Campus (10-12 grades)

New Student Registration began on July 1, 2011.

If you have questions regarding registration, please call your school or Student Services at 602-6035 for information.

We'll see you on August 25!

Collins K-5
(562) 602-8008

Lincoln K-5
(562) 602-8036

Tanner K-5
(562) 602-8060

Paramount Park 6-8
(562) 602-8052

Gaines K-3
(562) 602-8012

Los Cerritos K-5
(562) 602-8040

Wirtz K-5
(562) 602-8068

Zamboni 6-8
(562) 602-8048

Jefferson K-5
(562) 602-8024

Mokler K-5
(562) 602-8044

Hollydale K-8
(562) 602-8016

**Paramount High West
Campus (9th grade only)**
(562)602-8066

Keppel K-5
(562) 602-8028

Roosevelt K-5
(562) 602-8056

Jackson 4-8
(562) 602-8020

**Paramount High
School Senior
Campus(10-12 grades)**
(562)602-8068

Alondra 6-8
(562) 602-8004

Eye On Education is a monthly Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

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Great things are happening in Paramount Schools

Eye On Education

Editor - Isela Preciado

Paramount Unified School District
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(562) 602-6000 • Fax (562) 634-6029

Meal Benefits Don't Forget - Fill Out Your Student Meal Benefits Application

The Student Nutrition Services Department encourages all families who have students enrolled in Paramount schools to complete a new 2011-2012 meal benefits application and immediately return the application to your school. A new meal benefits application must be filled out each new school year. Families only need to fill out one application even if they have children at more than one school. Your student's current lunch/breakfast pin number will continue to work in the 2011-2012 school year, whether they stay at the same school or transfer to another Paramount school.

We will be having an "Open Enrollment" at all elementary and middle schools daily beginning Monday, August 1, 2011 through Friday, August 5, 2011 from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The cafeteria manager will be glad to answer any questions or assist with filling out the application. School meal benefits are offered to all families who qualify.

If you have any questions or need assistance in completing the application, please contact Student Nutrition Services at 562-602-6031.

Remember to make healthy choices!

Chris Stamm, Director - Student Nutrition Services

Paramount Park Middle School Parent Appreciation Day



At the end of each school year, the staff at Paramount Park Middle School takes time to recognize the parents that have dedicated their time and energy to making the school year a success. Staff members are asked to nominate parents that have partnered with the school to improve the educational experience for our students. In appreciation for their commitment, parents are recognized for activities such as: participating in parent education meetings, chaperoning field trips, volunteering in the classroom, working with PTSA, and contributing to the school management teams, such as the English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC)

and/or the School Site Council (SSC).

This year, parents were invited to enjoy a delicious breakfast with the school management team, while listening to the Panther Band, under the direction of Ms. Kopcsak. The students enjoyed the opportunity to perform for the parents to show their appreciation for their dedication to the school. After the performance, each parent received a "Parent Appreciation Certificate" and a small token in recognition of their invaluable contributions during the 2010-2011 school year.

Topekia Jones, Principal
Paramount Park Middle School

It's a Small World!



On June 2nd, Roosevelt School PTA hosted the annual spring carnival. There was plenty of food and games to keep the PTA volunteers busy for hours but we also had some exciting performances from two special dance troupes eager to please the crowd with some great entertainment. We were honored to have a large group of students from the Paramount Dance Company performing traditional ballet folklorico. These dancers had a large group of admirers who were enthralled with their performance. The additional group was the folkloric group Citta di Assemini, a troupe that was visiting from the Mediterranean island of Sardinia.

While many of our families are familiar with both the music and the costumes of ballet folklorico, no one had experienced the Sardinian style of dance or dress with the exception of one of our first grade teachers Mrs. Scalas. Mrs. Scalas and her husband hosted the Sardinian visitors and they were able to give our students the opportunity to experience another culture's folklorico. Mrs. Scalas explained to the audience that the dancers were dressed in traditional wedding attire and that the dances were usually performed in or near churches. The musical stories are told through the footwork, which

takes years to master. One member had been dancing with the group for thirty years, having started as a child at the age of five. While here in June, the Citta di Assemini sponsored by the Italian Cultural Arts Council also performed at the Cerritos Library and the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana.

Meanwhile, the Paramount Dance Company has traveled across the globe to visit and perform at an international folk festival in Bologna, Italy. These local performers have already won first place in their competition and are currently enjoying the Italian culture and people.

As we have come to realize just how small the world really is, Roosevelt School is awaiting confirmation of a grant to provide a beginning Italian class as an after school program. As our students begin to learn Italian we look forward to them being able to personally connect and speak to Italian students through supervised use of our technology on a regular basis. Now that our students have had an introduction to Italian culture we look forward to sharing ours with some new friends.

Michele Dutton
Principal, Roosevelt School

Superintendent's Message:

**Dear Parents and
Community Members,
Welcome Back!**

On behalf of our Board of Education, I would like to welcome all of our students and families back from what I sincerely hope was a relaxing and fulfilling summer holiday with family and friends.

In January, the State faced a \$26.6 billion budget shortfall, which was partially addressed when the Legislature cut \$14 billion in programs and services state wide. After much debate and negotiations between Legislative Democrats and Republicans, Governor Brown finally passed a balanced budget. This budget is based upon state revenues increasing. Should those revenues not materialize, the District could face mid-year cuts over \$3.9 million.

After six years as your Superintendent of Schools, I have learned that difficult times often bring out the best in us. These complex economic challenges we are facing have a way of focusing our attention on what is essential. They remind us of our core values and the District's Mission and Vision.

Since 1953, Paramount Unified School District has existed with the mission to prepare our students for a bright and successful future. In times like these, I am reminded that our most valuable asset is not



the capital investment in our new schools and buildings. A school district is not great because of bricks and mortar, or libraries and laboratories or rankings and SAT scores. A school district is great because of its people, its faculty, students, staff, community, and alumni and in the way in which those people work together for a "common cause", the District's Mission and Vision.

I continue to have faith and hope that we will emerge successfully and do the right thing for our students, our employees and our District in these difficult times due to our greatest asset—you—the Paramount family of faculty, students and parents.

I am very proud of the many accomplishments and success that we have witnessed in PUSD. I am confident that we will continue our conditions for renewal. I am looking forward to a very positive 2011-12 school year.

David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Zamboni Welcomes Incoming Sixth Graders



On June 6, 7, and 8 Zamboni Middle School enthusiastically welcomed all incoming 6th graders from Los Cerritos, Keppel, and Tanner Elementary Schools. The students and teachers were greeted by Mrs. Salcido and Ms. Verdugo, the counselors, Support Staff, and the Zamboni Wildcat Cheer Squad and the Zamboni Wildcat Band. The students and teachers entered the campus as the Band played and the cheerleaders welcomed them with the Zamboni Victory Cheer.

The Zamboni Middle School Student Council assisted with the campus tours. The tour consisted of the cafeteria speed lines, the 2 story building, 6th grade classrooms, boys and girls locker rooms, and finally the new Zamboni Wildcat Gymnasium. The incoming 6th graders were excited to see the new gym. During the tours, the students were given instructions of campus routines and procedures.

The next portion of the Zamboni Middle School Orientation took place in the Multi-Purpose Room. Mrs. Salcido

and the Zamboni Middle School Student Council reviewed a power point presentation that informed the students about class schedules, electives, materials and supplies, school uniforms and P.E. uniforms, and extra-curricular activities. The Zamboni Student Council was an instrumental component of assisting the incoming 6th graders to gear up for success at Zamboni Middle School.

Finally, the 6th graders were asked to participate in a Question and Answer portion of the orientation. The students were given multiple opportunities to answer questions in order to receive prizes. The students were enthusiastic to answer all the questions because they wanted to help them out to a great start. We were proud to see that the incoming 6th graders were eager to start their first day as 6th graders and join the Zamboni Wildcat Family. Go Wildcats!!!!

Hilda Verdugo, Assistant Principal
Zamboni Middle School

PHS West Campus Holds Their Own at Solar Boat Competition



Paramount High School West Campus participated in their first Solar Cup Boat Competition at Lake Skinner in the Temecula area during May 13-15. It is the largest solar boat competition in the nation and 40 southland schools competed in the event this year. Moreover, PHS West Campus ninth graders won first place in the Central and Bay Region for the sprint race.

The event is held annually and is sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. This is a seven month program where students build, equip, and race a 16 foot single seat canoe powered by solar energy. West Campus was the only full ninth grade team who participated against veteran teams made up of senior and juniors from a variety of schools in Southern California.

Teacher, Brent Rummell, and 13 of his students from the Introduction to Engineering class represented the West Campus in the competition. The solar boat Pirates were Emmanuel Andrade, Raul Avram, Bianca Baker, Leah Barker, Sigifredo Gastelum, Jesse Gonzalez, Omar Gutierrez, Daniel McLean, Bernardo Portillo, Ulises Reyes, and boat drivers Corazon Corona, Vicky Castro, and Leonardo Silva. According to Mr. Rummell, "I am proud to see the development of students with no prior background, knowledge, or boat building, make a boat." The boat was actually built by the whole Introduction to Engi-

neering class; however, only 13 students were involved in the competition.

Accompanying the crew on their journey was Principal Morrie Kosareff who also camped with the team for their three days of competition. Mr. Kosareff stated that the team proved to be "gracious in victory and also during difficult, times, never panicking, always in Pirate form." Special Projects Facilitator, Alicia Megofna, was also on hand assisting the team. She commented about the team, "Their problem-solving and collaborative efforts were truly student driven, and our all freshmen team held their own competing against upper classmen."

In retrospect, there were a large number of people who assisted the freshmen Pirate team in this project including the site administration, district personnel, teachers, and other volunteers. Mr. Kosareff stated, "I would like to thank our students, parents, district personnel, PHS West Campus faculty, and Mr. Rummell who were an integral part in the creation of the Solar Cup boat. I am proud of our Paramount community because when it comes to our students' education everyone steps up and helps them." West Campus looks forward to many more solar cup competitions in the years to come.

Yvonne Rodriguez
Assistant Principal
PHS-West

New Rule... Tdap Shots Before School

Student MUST have the Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Tdap Booster Shot!

There is a new California law that requires students in 7th through 12th grades that require proof of a Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Tdap Booster shot before starting the next 2011-12 school year. This new school entry law was enacted to protect California's youth against the recent pertussis epidemic. This requirement will begin July 1, 2011. If your student has received one dose of Tdap vaccine on or after the 10th birthday,

they have met the requirement. However, they will still need to show proof of the Tdap Booster.

The Paramount Unified School District is recommending parents contact your family physician today, to get a whooping cough shot (Tdap) before the 2011-2012 school year begins. Immunizations may be given by your family physician or are available at the health clinics.

If you have any questions regarding this new mandatory immunization law, please contact your student's school site after August 8, 2011 or the Student Services Office at 562/602-6035.

WIRTZ WIZARDS IN ACTION!

5th Grade Art E



Wirtz students, staff, and parents have been extremely busy in the month of June. We started the month with our 2nd Annual Fifth Grade Art Exhibit. The cafeteria was transformed into an Art Gallery. Mr. Eric Caruso, fifth grade teacher, decided to once again bring art education to the fifth grade students of Wirtz School. Students received lessons of various artists' and completed projects that reflected their styles and selections. These artists each selected three of the student's projects to be recognized at the exhibit. Students were very excited to discover which projects were selected and earned the many prizes, donated by the artists. This was a memorable experience for the students!

Wirtz Parent Volunteers Breakfast



On June 8th, Wirtz honored over fifty parents at their annual Parent Recognition Breakfast. Wirtz parents are definitely not strangers to our campus. They have a parent room dedicated to them being able to volunteer and support the various activities happening on campus. Collectively, our parents have provided over two thousand hours of support and dedication this school year. Our parents are a part of our Wirtz Team and the best in Paramount!

Battle of the Books Competition



The successes at Wirtz continued with our GATE Team taking Second Place in the District's Battle of the Books competition. Team captain, Jewel Sanchez, led her team through four grueling rounds of questions. This magical team also included Daniel Cardenas, Anthony Guevara, Eric Hernandez, and Michael Stemage. The students read six books throughout the year and met with their team advisors Jennifer Kelly and Dawn Lepire. These meetings allowed for the students to explore details from the various stories. Students were excited to participate and represented our school well. Way to go Wirtz Wizards!

Kelly Williams, Principal – Wirtz School

WALKING SAFELY

These student safety guidelines were developed by Paramount Unified School District. Please review the following safety precautions with your children:

- Do not speak to strangers.
- Do not walk alone, particularly in isolated areas not intended for walking, especially along the railroad tracks.
- Use the appropriate dismissal gates, ones where there is supervision.
- Walk in areas where you can be seen by others.
- Travel in groups whenever possible.
- Report any suspicious behavior school authorities and the Paramount Sheriff Station at (562) 220-2002, Lakewood Sheriff Station at (562) 623-3500, Long Beach Police at (562) 570-9800 (Collins School) or South Gate Police at (323) 563-5400.

Please remind your children to be careful and constantly aware of their surroundings.