

EYE ON EDUCATION

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

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FEBRUARY 2011

Fifth Grade Lincoln Lions Learn Memorable Lessons in American History

As part of their studies this school year, our fifth grade students had the opportunity to participate in a dynamic educational program, Walk Through the American Revolution. This program, which is new to Paramount Unified, allowed all fifth grade students to actively participate in a lively retelling of our nation's beginnings. Through the use of games, music, and storytelling, history came alive!

Our fifth graders learned detailed facts, dates, and important information about famous events, historical figures, and relevant vocabulary from this pivotal point in America's history. Through dramatic activities, and the use of costumes and props, our fifth grade students "became" famous men and women of the American Revolution. They realistically



portrayed key people, and groups of people, such as the signers of the Declaration of Independence, the King of England, Betsy Ross, and the first president of the United States, George Washington.

Students also represented significant historical battles and incidents that greatly changed the course of our nation's histo-

ry. Flags, maps, re-enactments, music, and games all helped them explore and understand the importance of American liberty and patriotism.

Our Lincoln parents, families, and fifth grade teachers, Mr. Berthon, Mrs. Murrietta, and Mrs. Cuevas, supported our students by helping them create colonial costumes, memorize



scripts, and practice role playing important historical events of the American Revolution.

At Lincoln, we are incredibly proud of all of our fifth grade students, as well as their teachers, and parents who support them in learning. It is our Lincoln team spirit that contributes to their success!

Learning and fun go "hand in hand" at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School!

It's always a great day to be a Lincoln Lion!

Pamela Williams
Principal

The Buena Vista Eagles Soar to New Heights



Board member Alicia Anderson stands proudly in the middle of the happy grads.



Proud members of the staff salute the grads and offer words of praise

January 20, 2011 was a day for Buena Vista Eagles to fly high! All eyes were on seniors, especially the first semester graduates!

The Administration, Teachers, and entire Support staff hosted a luncheon in honor of the 27 first semester grads. The number represents the highest number of second semester grads in Buena Vista history.

The day began with teachers adorned in cap and gowns. The gowns were worn the entire day to recognize the significance of the graduate's accomplishments. They also remind the staff and students of Buena Vista's purpose: To support students' effort to earn their high school diploma.

Gwen Yates
Assistant-Principal
Buena Vista High School

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

February 9, 2011 & February 23, 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

Tanner Fourth Graders Sail the Ocean!



Anticipation and excitement built as the Fourth grade students of Howard Tanner School along with Mrs. Guzman, Mrs. Cunningham, and Ms. Shearer began to board the Los Angeles Marine Science Floating Laboratory Vessel in Long Beach Harbor. Students were given instructions and treated to a thrilling wind-in their-face cruise out into the Harbor to view California Sea Lions basking in the sun on the buoys and playfully swimming in the water.

After sailing into the far end of the harbor, students and parents first worked together to cast a large net and pull it in to view the teeming variety of fish and sea animals. The students worked in groups to investigate the ocean environment by using sampling equipment to collect biological, chemical, physical, geological and meteorological data. The

students then conducted investigations to gain a better understanding of oceanography. They enjoyed using their skills to collect record and analyze data. The intensely hands-on experience thrilled the students, as well as giving them a deep sense of accomplishment.

As fourth graders, they especially enjoyed the touch tank and interacting with the sea life. Follow-up lessons back in class reinforced their learning experience. Our students gained much from their hands-on experience and this unequalled experience will be an activity long remembered by the students and adults alike.

**Kimberly Triche-Harris and
Kirsan Veith
Teachers
Tanner School**

CSUF and Roosevelt Pair Up for Reading!



As educators we often hear the expression, "Learning is a lifelong journey". Well, a group of teachers from Paramount Unified School District and surrounding areas did in fact make a stop on this journey at Theodore Roosevelt School.

This fall a cohort of students from California State University, Fullerton (who happened to be teachers!) met for classes at Roosevelt School. This was proven to be a wonderful experience for a group of our students. Members of the cohort are nearing completion of a Master's Degree and certification as a Reading Specialist. From September through November the university students met one-on-one with Roosevelt students for a targeted reading tutorial once a week for ten consecutive weeks.

This was a learning opportunity for all involved. The intensive program provided teachers with the experience of conducting research, collecting data, and writing a diagnostic case report. Students were afforded individualized tutoring sessions which were developed based on their reading

needs. Parents were provided with detailed reports and the progress that was achieved by their student while in the tutoring program.

The reports not only provided the specific strengths and challenges of each student, but also included recommendations and strategies for reading that could be incorporated into the classroom setting and the home environment. Each student also received a list of books that were specific to their reading interests and reading level along with a list of websites that support literacy through educational games and electronic books.

CSU Fullerton professor, Dr. Susan Newcomb and Ms. Bartle-Angus of the CSU Fullerton Reading Center, recognized students that participated in the program on December 3, 2010.

Parents and family members were on hand to applaud their students and the teachers who are truly dedicated to a lifelong journey of learning.

**Michele Dutton, Principal
Roosevelt School**

Paramount Unified School District



Workshops

LOCATION: Jefferson School
8600 Jefferson Street
Paramount, CA 90723

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Feb. 10, 2011	Understanding Bi-Polar Disorder
Feb. 24, 2011	Conflict Resolution
Mar. 10, 2011	What Drugs are Your Children Using
Mar. 24, 2011	How to Build Your Child's Self-esteem
Apr. 7, 2011	How to Avoid Obesity
May 5, 2011	Improving Family Communication
May 19, 2011	Parenting Strong-willed Children
June 9, 2011	Preparing for the Summer

Spanish Translation will be available.

Babysitting available for children ages 3-12 (must be toilet trained)

MUST pre-register for babysitting one week in advance;

MAY pre-registration for individual workshops

Call: Myra McGinnis at 562-602-6035

Workshops Open to all PUSD Parents

Co-sponsored by Paramount Unified School District and Cerritos College

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



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David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.

Great things are happening in Paramount Schools

Eye On Education

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Coca-Cola Scholar Semifinalist

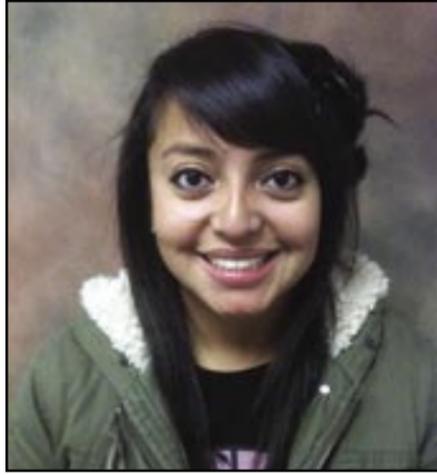
Paramount High School Student Chosen for Next Level in Prestigious Scholarship Program

Jennifer Ramirez, a student at Paramount High School, has been named a semifinalist for the 2011 Class of the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. With the 2011 class, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation will have provided more than 4,700 young scholars nationwide over \$44 million in scholarships.

"As a leading scholarship provider, we recognize our role in helping young people achieve their college goals," said Mark Davis, President of the foundation. "The economy continues to affect many students' ability to attend the college of their choice, so it is critical we continue to stay the course. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation received nearly 71,000 applications this year, and the semifinalists are truly some of the most accomplished students in the country."

Jennifer Ramirez ranks with approximately 2,100 high school seniors who are in the running for \$3 million in college scholarships that the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation will award in spring 2011. Students are selected to advance to this next phase based on their academic excellence, leadership, and achievement demonstrated in school and community activities. The Class of 2011 Coca-Cola Scholars will mark the 23rd consecutive year that the Foundation has awarded scholarships.

As semifinalists, students needed to submit additional information that was reviewed in January 2011 by a committee comprised of 30 educators from high schools and universities throughout the United States. If advanced, Jennifer Ramirez will be among 250 finalists



who will travel to Atlanta April 14-17, 2011 to attend the Coca-Cola Scholars Weekend. During their visit they will attend a final interview process that will determine whether they are designated as either a National or Regional Scholar. The 50 National Scholars will each receive a \$20,000 scholarship award, while the 200 Regional Scholars will receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Two additional \$20,000 scholarships are awarded by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, including the Coca-Cola Emory Scholarship and the Sandy Williams Alumni Legacy Scholarship.

When asked how she finds scholarship applications, Jennifer stated, "I am so lucky to have access to the scholarships posted on School-Loop! I've found so many scholarships I can apply to on the scholarship link." Students and parents can access the 'Scholarship' page through a link on the log in page on School Loop at: <http://psh-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com>.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation was created 25 years ago and is one of the largest corporate sponsored, achievement-based scholarship programs of its kind in the United States.

Eric Lindhiel
PHS, Counselor

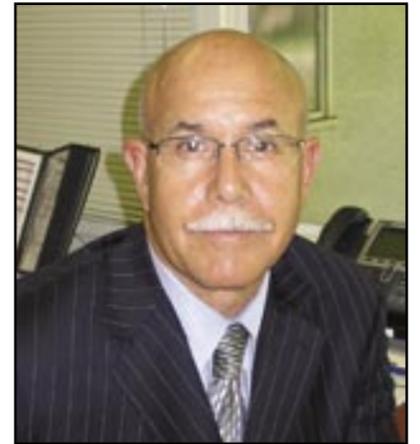
Superintendent's Message:

Governor's Proposed Budget State Budget Crisis 2011-2012

The State of California is once again facing an unprecedented budget crisis. The new Governor, Governor Brown, acknowledged that a combined shortfall or deficit of \$28 billion exists. This will again have a serious and negative impact on the children in school districts' across California.

Based on the Governor's proposal, Paramount Unified School District anticipates an unprecedented reduction in State education funding of approximately \$5 to \$6.5 million for the upcoming 2011-12 school year if any of the Governor's proposed solutions to this fiscal crisis are not realized.

Governor Brown's proposal to close the most recently projected budget deficit involves spending cuts to virtually every segment of State government. While the Governor has emphasized that education is a top priority and that he is protecting K-12 education from first round reductions, his plans continue to include potential cuts to school districts. The Governor will ask voters in a June special election to approve the continuation of current taxes. If the tax exten-



sions proposed by the Governor are rejected by voters or never make it to the ballot, California schools will be expected to face at least a \$2 billion cut.

As a result of the Governor's budget proposal not being fully realized and /or possibly not being acted upon until June 2011, many school districts' across the State including Paramount Unified School District will be forced to establish a District budget based on the worst case scenario. The magnitude of this budget crisis to public schools are likely to result in mass pink-slipping of teachers as in years past as well as continued uncertainty over education funding levels.

It is my intention to keep all of our educational community updated and informed as we anxiously wait for the State to make budget decisions.

Sincerely,

David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.
Superintendent

PHS Winter Sports Fight To Hold Their Own In Early League Play

Following a tournament-heavy December 2010 schedule, Paramount High's winter athletic programs returned from Christmas break to begin both the new year and San Gabriel Valley League play. Our Pirate teams have found early league competition rough going but are pushing through the schedule looking for improvement.

Pirate wrestling has been in the mix of top teams in the greater Long Beach area (ranked #8 in the Press-Telegram), and carried that well-earned spot into big league home meets against Downey and Warren in January. Against the defending CIF champion Vikings on Jan. 13, our Pirates led to the last match before falling 37-33. Taking on the perennially-tough Bears a week later, the Pirates trailed by nine points going into the last two matches, but Antonio Lopez and Michael Porcayo pinned their opponents and the Pirates stunned Warren, 33-30. Following dual meets at Gahr and Dominguez, Paramount will host the San Gabriel Valley League Finals

on Saturday, February 5, 2011.

Pirate basketball teams have struggled through the first round of league competition. Both teams are young - our boys' program lost eleven players, including four starters, to graduation last June, so Coach Mark McGarry has been in a teaching mode all season as he searches for good combinations and tries to help his young squad gain experience. The Lady Pirates are both small and young, so Coach Rosheka Polk has tried to play an up-tempo style, taking advantage of her squad's speed to offset the lack of size. Both programs are making strides against more seasoned league rivals.

Lady Pirate water polo has built on last year's promise and has enjoyed some success, including a league-opening 10-3 victory over St. Joseph's. Our ladies have played well in tournament competition, which is paying off against an always-tough league schedule. Coach Eduardo Osorio is looking for progress against Warren, Downey, and Cerritos

as the program moves forward.

Paramount's soccer programs are at each end of the competition spectrum in early league play. The Lady Pirates, down five starters to injury, have played hard but have struggled to replace the experience of the injured players; a tough 2-1 overtime loss to Lynwood in the league opener included more injuries that set our ladies back against league powers Downey and Warren. Coach Doug Tirado hopes to get some of his "walking wounded" back in time for the second round. Meanwhile, Pirate boys' soccer is undefeated in league play and ranked third in the latest local Press-Telegram poll. The Pirates have swept Lynwood, Downey, and Warren in the first round and can put some distance between themselves and the rest of the league if they can keep it going against Dominguez and Gahr.

All the best to our Pirate winter teams as they turn the corner toward the second round of league play.

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.

Jackson School Winter Concert



The Jackson School Band and Choir presented a winter concert on December 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. Sixth through eighth grade students currently enrolled in Choir or Band as an elective, performed songs that they learned throughout the first semester under the direction of their music teacher, Mr. McHenry. Students from two band classes and one choir class performed. The Multipurpose Room was filled with parents, family, and friends that came to support the students.

Over 80 members of the Choir and Band performed several songs. The first group that performed was the 3th period band class who performed songs including

“Hot Cross Buns”, “Rolling Along”, and “Lightly Row.” The night was off to a great start as the band energized the audience. After the band, the 6th period Choir performed songs including “All Star”, “Jingle Bell Rock”, and “Good Riddance” (Time of Your Life). The songs brought a warm winter feeling to the Multipurpose Room. Finally, the last group to perform was the 4th

period band class. This band class was extremely determined and highly motivated to learn to play their instruments. This group of students performed three very difficult songs for a beginning band class which included, “Mozart Melody”, “French Folk Song”, and “Hard Rock Blues”. The audience was very engaged during all the performances and enjoyed the array of songs.

Mr. McHenry and the students were very proud of themselves and all their hard work toward making this event a success. Thanks to all the parents and family for attending the event and supporting their students. In addition, thanks to all the staff members that attended and assisted with the event. Jackson staff and administration are very proud of the students that performed and will continue to support students to ensure a high quality educational experience. We look forward to our spring concert!

Andrea Aguilar-Nuno
Assistant Principal
Jackson School

Successful Student Transition into the Workplace



Paramount Unified School District has students working in collaboration with our local businesses through a WorkAbility 1 program that is funded as a grant through California Department of Education. In addition to our local businesses, Paramount Unified School District is an integral part of the WorkAbility 1 program. Currently, the District Adult Transition program has students working at the District Print Shop, these students are supported by a job coach provided by the District. The coach assists the students during a probationary period of ten days to ensure that they are able to arrive to the job independently and on time, follow

sign-in procedure, follow appropriate dress attire and know safety procedures of the position. This program prepares students for jobs in our community and is a source of income towards independent living.

Many of our students have been hired by our local businesses after participating in the WorkAbility 1 program. We are proud of our young adults as well as our community businesses that participate in this successful program.

Kay Cotter
Special Education -Program
Administrator
District Office

Adult Students Bring Smiles to Local Kids



Imagine: it's early December. You're in class to improve your reading and math skills. The teacher asks, “How can we—as a group—organize some kind of activity to help our community?” What would be your answer?

The answer for Adult Basic Education (ABE) students at Paramount Adult School was a toy drive. Their decision was based on their thought that “Christmas is all about bringing a smile to a kid's face.”

So in early December they started with a task analysis in class. At first they favored collecting used toys... then realized it was difficult to find a group that would accept that type of donation. Okay...so, new toys instead. Toys for Tots Marine Foundation would accept them. Next...who should they ask for contributions? Who would do the asking? Where would the toys be stored? Who would deliver them to a local fire station when it was all over?

“This is exactly the kind of real world project that typifies the current thrust of ABE across the country,” said teacher Ashley Ruiz. “Working in groups, reaching decisions, assigning tasks, applying reading and writing skills, taking responsibility,

and performing follow-up.”

Students went to all classrooms at the adult school and introduced the toy drive. They made signs. They obtained boxes and decorated one for each classroom. When a box was full, teachers called, and the students delivered another fresh box.

By the time the donation period of December 6 - 15 was over, the project had turned into a huge success. There were piles of toy-filled boxes ready to be donated. Lots of learning had occurred. And, perhaps most importantly, the students felt a sense of achievement, a sense of community. “It feels good when you're changing someone's life,” said student Sa Faleono, “when you offer something.”

Imagine: it's Christmas 2011, and you're a kid. Someone you don't even know and will never meet has given you this beautiful, brand new toy. Would that bring a smile to your face?

The thought sure did for student Jackeline Trujillo when she added, “Today for them...tomorrow maybe for me.”

Jerry King, TOSA
Adult Education Center

Board of Education Members Recognition Month



Board of Education members Tony Peña, Alicia Anderson, Sonya Cuellar, Vivian Hansen, and Linda Garcia received recognition certificates from the City of Paramount and Supervisor, Don Knabe during a Board of Education meeting in January. During the month of January, District's throughout the State of California, joined California School Boards Association in recognizing School Board members for their continued commitment in providing quality public education to students throughout the State.