

EYE ON EDUCATION

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

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JANUARY 2011

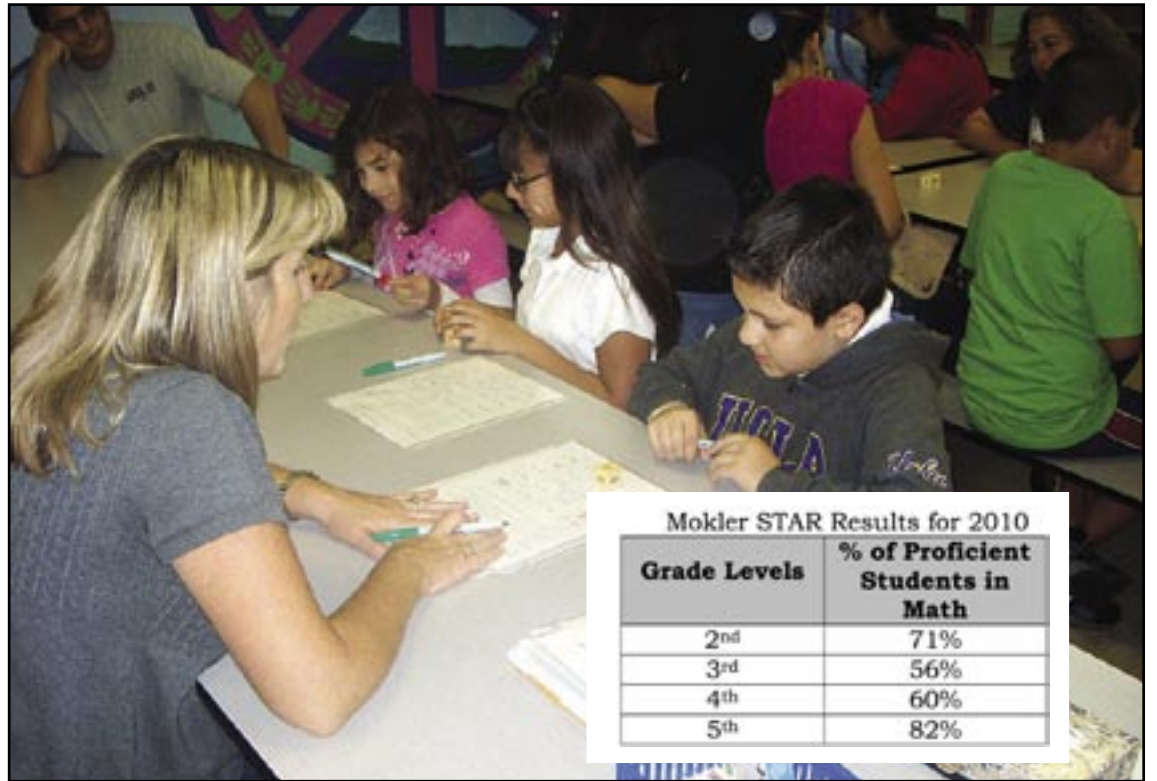
Parents and Teachers Working Together Make a Difference at Mokler



Mokler School's California State Standards Test scores soared this year in math thanks to the efforts of the students, parents, and teachers of Mokler School. Partnerships between parents and teachers have helped to make a difference in our students' success. Events such as Mokler School's K-5 Math Night help foster cooperation and build skills that can carry over to and from school and home and have helped our students achieve success on State mathematics standards.

On Wednesday, November 17th from 4:00-5:30 p.m., teachers, parents and students worked

together to participate in Math Night activities that can help support students' mathematical learning at home. The evening included two sessions for parents and students to participate in (at the grade levels of their choice) with teachers guiding activities. Mrs. Ebacher led the kinder group in ordering and identifying numbers 1-20. First grade students played Cornucopia Countdown, an addition and subtraction game, with Mrs. Sabido. Mrs. Coronel led the second graders in Clock Charades. Third graders were taught several multiplication games by Ms. McDonald. Mrs. Whitten-



bury shared Tic-Tac-Toe, Three Products in a Row and Divide and Conquer with fourth graders and their families. The fifth grade group was led by Mrs. Nutall who shared the game, Ingrid's Incredible Integers.

Family events, such as Math

Night, at Mokler School encourage learning both at home and at school. Students respond to the enthusiasm and participation of their families in school activities, and teachers enjoy the camaraderie that these evenings produce. Working

together, the students, teachers, and parents of Mokler School can achieve success in whatever they put their minds to.

Theresa M. Diaz
Math Coach
Mokler School

PHS Seniors Win Senate Scholarships

Audrey Valdez and Jacqueline Martinez, both seniors at Paramount High, were awarded the California State Senate Certificate of Recognition Certificate on November 13, 2010. They received their awards as part of their participation in Senator Alan Lowenthal's 4th Annual Young Women's Empowerment Conference at California State University, Long Beach.

The conference was attended by more than 200 young women in the 11th and 12th grade, from fifteen local high schools. The purpose of the conference was to give young women the opportunity to learn more about some of the difficult issues they may confront in their future lives. The day was full of excellent and relevant workshops, led by various speakers and role models. The workshops dealt with themes such as setting and achieving goals, preparation for college, and issues of self-esteem and building positive



relationships.

After a continental breakfast, California State Senator Alan Lowenthal began the conference with some opening remarks. Senator Lowenthal was followed by some words from the keynote speaker, Dr. Jeane Caveness, the Assistant Dean at Cal State Long Beach. The young women then attended two workshops, followed by lunch and performances by Cul-

ture Shock LA and the CSULB Poetry Slam Team. Lunch was followed by one more workshop and closing remarks delivered by Dr. King Alexander, President of Cal State Long Beach.

The conference concluded with Senator Lowenthal presenting the Senate Certificate of Recognition awards. Audrey Valdez and Jacqueline Martinez were eligible for the awards, based on their entry essays ad-

ressing goals and their plans on achieving them. Silvia Flores, a school counselor from Paramount Park School who served as a chaperone for our students from PHS, shared that as the Senator began calling the names of students to receive their awards, "I was waiting for him to call our students from Paramount High, but at one point I was getting concerned that he hadn't called our students." But then the Senator announced that he would then present the three highest awards, each with a \$500 scholarship. Two of the three students to achieve these awards were Paramount High's own Audrey Valdez and Jacque-

line Martinez.

Jacqueline plans on using her scholarship award for the college she attends next year. Her school of choice is the University of California, Riverside. Audrey plans on using her scholarship towards attending California State University, Fullerton, where she plans on majoring in business and finance. Congratulations are due to Audrey Valdez and Jacqueline "CoCo" Martinez for not only representing themselves so well, but Paramount High also.

Jeff Beahn
Testing Coordinator
PHS

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

January 12, 2011 – January 26, 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

Pirates Racing to the Finish on Solar Power



Eighteen students enrolled in Paramount High School West Campus' Introduction to Engineering course are participating in the Solar Cup Program sponsored by the Central Basin Municipal Water District. This is a seven month program in which high school students build and race solar powered boats.

The first event was held on Saturday, November 13 in which the West Campus' ninth graders gave up their Veteran's Day weekend holiday to participate with students from 21 other schools in a boat building workshop. This workshop is the first in a number of activities that school teams must complete in order to race their boat in May. There are actually over 40 high school teams competing in the Solar Cup Program. According to Introduction to Engineering instructor, Brent Rummell, the West Campus students were the only ninth grade team participating in the event. Rummell stated, "Our rookie team was competing against high schoolers who had participated in the program a number of years in a row." Rummell went on to say how proud he was that the West Campus ninth

graders were the second team to finish constructing their boat. Principal Morrie Kosareff also attended the event along with teachers Alicia Megofna and Henry Schafer. All three individuals noted how excited they were to be a part of the event and very proud of how our ninth grade students performed.

Over the course of seven months, each high school team will apply stewardship of natural resources, science, mathematics, and engineering. The teams will also apply their learned knowledge about water conservation and energy in a public relations campaign and present the information to an expert panel as a part of the competition. The different competitions will test each team's ability to design a solar boat that can maintain maximum energy efficiency, speed, and design. This year's Solar Boat Race will be held May 13-15, 2011 at Laker Skinner in Riverside County.

Brent L. Rummell
Introduction to Engineering Teacher
PHS- West Campus

Our Trip to the Getty



Our third grade classes at Wesley Gaines School attended a field trip to the Getty Museum thanks to the generosity of Banamex, USA. The students, teachers, and parent volunteers were greeted by docents and escorted to the picnic area of the museum where they enjoyed their lunch. They boarded a tram to the main area of the museum where they met with their guides for an hour and a half tour.

The classes were divided into groups of 15 students. As they walked the grounds, the students listened attentively while their guide explained the structure of the buildings. Once inside the museum, each group was taken through the Nature in Art galleries to learn about different ways artists interpret the natural world around them. The tour guides allowed time for students to ask questions, describe, and reflect on what they observed. The children were extremely interested in the tour. They were excited and amazed at the beauty of the museum pieces.

At the end of the tour, each group participated in various art activities focusing on mood, details, and styles. They sketched seascapes, plants and



flowers, and created their rendition of a Monet painting. Before leaving the museum, teachers were handed a packet of free parking permits for each student to give to their parents. The tour guides invited the students and their families back to enjoy a stroll in the beautiful gardens and spend a fabulous day at the Getty Museum.

Wafa Kaluzok, Teacher
Gaines School

Paramount Unified School District



Workshops

LOCATION: Jefferson School
8600 Jefferson Street
Paramount, CA 90723

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Jan. 13, 2011	Getting Back on Track after the Holidays
Jan. 27, 2011	Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
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



Board of Education

Tony Peña - President
Linda Garcia - VP/Clerk
Alicia Anderson, Member
Sonya Cuellar, Member
Vivian Hansen, Member

District Superintendent
David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.

Great things are happening in Paramount Schools

Eye On Education

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Tony Peña Elected President



The Board of Education elected new officers for 2010-11 during their December statutory meeting. Trustee Tony Peña was elected President and Linda Garcia will serve as Vice President/Clerk.

Outgoing Board President Alicia Anderson Honored



The Board of Education and Superintendent David Verdugo congratulated outgoing President Alicia Anderson on her successful year as President of the Board of Education.

PHS Winter Sports Open Competition

Paramount High's winter sports' program began non-league competition in late November and the majority of contests in December were played in tournaments. Each program will use the concentration of games that tournaments provide in order to prepare for the beginning of San Gabriel Valley League play following the Christmas break.

Headlining the winter schedule is Paramount's defending league and CIF champion boys' soccer team. The Pirates return a number of players from last season's amazing title runs to both the Southern Section Division 3 and State Southern Regional Division 1 championships. Co-coaches Juan Navarro and Rafa Villaseñor are excited about the team's ability to defend its titles, and the coaches have worked to improve the quality of the 2010-11 non-league schedule, including playing in the prestigious College Cup Challenge at UC-Santa Barbara. Lady Pirate soccer also has high hopes to return to the playoffs this season, and Coach Doug Tirado had the team playing in tournaments at Artesia and Bellflower in December to get the program ready for the always-tough league rivals Downey, Warren, Lynwood, and Gahr.

Last season Pirate boys' basketball had a great run to the league title game against Gahr but lost eleven of its twelve players to graduation last June. Coach Mark McGarry is looking to season his young 2010-11 squad with tournaments at El Modena, Century, and Valley Christian. The Lady Pirates, under second-

year coach Rosheka Polk, are looking to build on last year's late season success, and tournaments at St. Anthony, Norwalk-Glenn, and Cantwell will go a long way to measure our ladies improvement before league play begins in January 2011. An exciting new development in 2010-11 is that our freshman boys and frosh-soph girls will play their league games at the new PHS/West gym.

Pirate wrestlers also have reason to be optimistic this winter, and coach Don Wakefield has several experienced returners back to go along with his usual large numbers as the Pirates look to break into the top tier of the SGVL that has long been controlled by Downey and Warren. The Pirates will host both schools in dual meets in January as well as the SGVL Finals on February 5. December tournaments included Millikan, West Torrance, and the Servite/Mann tournament at Cal-State Fullerton. Finally, Lady Pirate water polo looks to build last season's improvement under coach Eduardo Osorio. Our ladies played tough in 2009-10 and were in the hunt for a playoff spot until late in the season; tournaments at El Rancho, Los Altos, and Costa Mesa will allow the team to get ready for the challenging league schedule that includes Cerritos, Downey, and Warren.

All the best to Paramount's winter athletes and coaches, and the athletic department hopes that everyone had a wonderful Christmas break.

Mark Kemp
Athletic Director, PHS

Superintendent's Message:

School Board Members Recognized for Valuable Role in Paramount Unified School District and in Local Government



Dear Paramount Unified Parents and Community,

School Board members are ordinary people who have an extraordinary dedication to our public schools. What better time to thank our Board members for the countless hours they dedicate to our 16,000 students than this January during School Board Recognition Month.

Too often we forget the personal sacrifices our Board members routinely make, along with the valuable role they play in the local governance of our public schools. It's one of the most important elected positions, yet, it can be a thankless job. What would our schools look like if local education issues weren't in the hands of local officials who know our community best?

Let's make sure that the hard work our school Board members have put in over the past years is recognized and rewarded. January is a time to show our appreciation and better understand how our Board members work together to provide leadership for our schools.

The Paramount Unified School District works closely with parents, education professionals, and community members to drive a vision that leads our students to success. The

Board formulates goals, defines results, and sets the course of the educational program for our schoolchildren. School Boards are also responsible for assuring the public that education funding is allocated to appropriate programs and resources. Our schools continue to feel the burden of California's budget crises, which have reduced education funding by nearly \$18 billion in the past two years. With these draconian cuts, our school Board is responsible for making tough decisions on complex education issues that affect our community as a whole. It is a challenging position to hold during these difficult economic times.

Please join me this January and take a moment to salute Tony Peña-President, Linda Garcia-Vice President, and members Alicia Anderson, Sonya Cuellar, and Vivian Hansen. These are the men and women who provide grassroots governance for our local public school. Make a special effort to tell each school Board member that his or her hard work has been noticed and is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Verdugo

Congratulations to Victoria and Cassandra!



The Board of Education and Superintendent David Verdugo recognized PHS senior students Victoria Garcia and Cassandra Montenegro at a recent Board meeting. Both Victoria and Cassandra recently participated in the Specialty Graphic Imaging Association National Conference and Competition. Of over 120 entries in seven different categories from schools participating from across the country, Victoria and Cassandra were awarded First Place/Gold Medals for their entries. Cassandra's Special Effects shirt design also received "BEST IN SHOW".

2010 PHS Girls' Volleyball Honorary Team Member Day

On November 2, 2010 the Paramount High School girls' volleyball program hosted their first Honorary Team Member Day and cordially invited all of the students involved in the Life Skills classes to their home match against Dominguez High School. The hot, but fun filled day began as the cheerful students arrived with their adaptive PE teachers Cheryl Metheny and Margo Brooks along with their aides Leo Perez and Bertha Villegas. Each student was greeted by Coach Genesis Lewis, a former Paramount volleyball player and graduate, and received a Paramount jersey, honorary team member name tag. With the help of the Junior Varsity volleyball players, the students began to assist in the pregame warm-ups by throwing balls that the varsity players were expected to dig. When each student threw the ball, everyone enthusiastically cheered and the gym was filled with an awesome energy that expressed the true meaning of teamwork.

Upon the completion of the traditional warm-up routines, each varsity player accompanied a life skills student as they were individually announced by Coach Cameron Chinn in front of an excited crowd including Superintendent Dr. David Verdugo, Principal Dr. Greg Buckner, and Assistant Principal Rick Evans. In reflection of the momentous day, Marleen Ruiz, a junior varsity volleyball player, described the event as phenomenal. "It was just so beautiful to watch the students from the Life Skills classes get so pumped up and excited. The moment I saw each of their faces as they were presented to the crowd along with varsity players



was priceless. Their vibe and support was the best and winning was the icing on the cake."

Before the match began, each varsity player and all of the Life Skills students wished every Dominguez player good luck as they offered a high five and sign of good sportsmanship. After wishing the opponent well, they traveled around the perimeter of the court and ran through a tunnel of cheering players, managers, cheerleaders, aides, and teachers. Jacqueline Martinez, a junior varsity player, stated, "It made me feel so good to see our Life Skills students and the varsity girls go through the cheer tunnel! They were just so excited and it was fun to be there and to see all of the enthusiasm. It was a great way to get pumped up for the game!"

Next, the honorary team members eagerly joined hands with the players in a traditional team huddle. They proceeded to chant with the team, throw up their arms and proudly yell,

"Go Paramount!" With the help of all the life skill students, supportive teachers and aides the event and the match was a true success. The teachers took turns directing students to throw the volleyball to both the Paramount and Dominguez players who were rotating to serve. The students received maroon and white pom poms and cheered as they enjoyed popsicles and fun conversations during the match. Gabriela Herincx, a volleyball manager, stated that "it was a great experience! We got to interact with the students and they were really fun. One of the kids sang for us and it was so cute and special. I will never forget it."

In a post season reflection, Angela Urbano, a junior varsity player stated, "I was reminded of the beauty of the game and life itself by seeing the Life Skill students be our honorary teammates. Watching them throw balls back and forth with such enthusiasm made me realize how lucky I am to be playing volleyball. Sometimes we

get caught up in bad plays and forget that the very essence of volleyball is playing for love of the game." Vanessa Jimenez, a senior varsity player, also reminisced about the day. "The Honorary Teammate Day was a special day to enjoy the company of others. This day made me smile contagiously. To see the smile on their faces made me think of how we all struggle some times, but they still smile and wear a face of pride for who they are and they make others happy doing so." Junior Julie Isais stated, "The experience I had that day was amazing and my schoolmates gave me a lot more encouragement and excitement to play! My honorary teammate, Karen Esparza, taught me a lot when she said, "I like helping out. It's really fun." That made me want to just take her to every game I have because I felt like she was my lucky charm."

Anna Yasuhara, PHS - Girls Volleyball Coach

The Academic Improvement Continues

The 2009-10 California State testing results demonstrate another year of academic improvement at Collins Elementary School. We are proud of our continued growth and excited about our bright future. Although we have not yet reached the performance level we aim to achieve, all indicators point to the fact that we are certainly on the right track.

In 2009, our Academic Performance Index (API) was 714. Our 2010 API score was 743-a growth of 29 points. We look to achieve the statewide target of 800 very soon. A close look at our individual subgroups shows similar progress. All but two of our numerically significant subgroups met AYP targets in both English Language Arts and Mathematics. We have established plans and have implemented procedures directly geared for these subgroups and



are confident the 2011 test will show marked improvement.

An important component of our instructional program this year has been the establishment of our "Learning Center". The Learning Center staff is comprised of three certificated teachers and one instructional aide. This staff works with small groups of 1st-5th grade students on specific scaffolding skills and state content standards. We are seeing improved assessment results for these students in both the Learning Center and in their classrooms. We are eager to see how they perform on the annual CST test in the spring.

At Collins, we pride ourselves on continuous improvement for both students and staff.

Mark Brown, Principal Collins School