

EYE ON EDUCATION

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

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JUNE 2011

PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR: 2011 CELEBRATION



District staff, members of the Board of Education, and community leaders joined in the celebration of each school site's Teacher of the Year at Progress Park on May 11, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. during the Board of Education meeting. The program was moderated by Assistant Superintendent Stella Toibin and the Board of Education Trustees awarded the recipients a plaque. Teachers don't always realize the impact they have had or can have in the life of a student, but this recognition reinforces the positive effect teachers have on the lives of students each and every day.

Each year, teachers at each school site are asked to select one outstanding teacher who will represent that school in the District-wide Teacher of the Year selection process. In making that selection, teachers are asked to consider the following criteria: a teacher who is committed to continued professional development training, one who supports his/her colleagues to improve their skills, a teacher who is involved in educational activities beyond the school, a positive problem solver, one who delivers a high quality instructional program, and a teacher who communicates positively with students and parents.

Once the District-wide Teacher of the Year has been determined through a Selection Committee of teachers and administrators from across the District, the one District-level recipient has the opportunity to apply for the Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year competition. If the candidate is identified as a County winner, their name moves forward to the State level of competition.

This year's 2011-12 Teachers of the Year and their school sites are as follows:

Early Childhood Education	- Angelica Rodriguez
Alondra School	- Maria Enciso
Collins School	- Susan Deogracias
Gaines School	- Josephine Alvarez
Hollydale School	- Grace C. Yu
Jackson School	- Kelly Murphy
Jefferson School	- Trenise Coleman
Keppel School	- Maria Aragon
Lincoln School	- Irene Pritchett-Romero
Los Cerritos School	- Janet Wardell
Mokler School	- Theresa Maeva Marie Diaz
Paramount Park School	- Tracy Michelle Casdorff
Roosevelt School	- Rosie Zepeda
Tanner School	- Nancy Moua
Wirtz School	- Erik Caruso
Zamboni School	- Randall R. Reza
Buena Vista High School	- Laura Rheume
Paramount High School-West	- Gwendolyn Antcil
Paramount High School	- Fabiola Barcena
Paramount Adult School	- Ashley Ruiz

The District-wide Teacher of the Year is determined through a Selection Committee of teachers and administrators from across the District and will have the opportunity to apply for the Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year competition.

This year's Teacher of the Year, Randall Reza, is an educator who has been teaching in the middle school grades for seven years. He is the first in his immediate family to graduate from college and become an educator. He is currently finishing a master's program in Educational Administra-

tion and hopes to complete an Ed.D from USC. He strongly believes that every child has strengths and weaknesses, and an educator must observe, analyze and distinguish how to influence and affect each student. Having an opportunity to teach music in Paramount has been a blessing and a dream come true. Although the middle school band, orchestra and choir are only in their second year of implementation, it has been a great start and the program will continue to flourish under his direction.

Mr. Reza believes that there is no other job that influences so many and grants such enormous satisfaction as teaching. Sometimes he

can't believe he is being paid to work with children. He believes in every student and is committed to sharing his time and patience to help students. He wants to give students the gift of music and art and is honored to have a career that allows him to do this.

Mr. Reza is an advocate of character-building. He models his expectations by demonstrating the behavior that he wishes to see. He shows fairness, promotes equity and models respect. As a music teacher, he influences students to develop discipline, confidence and pride in their school work. What was once thought of as impossible becomes a reality through teaching music.

The most important element that makes teaching the greatest job of all is the students. He loves working with children and the long hours, sleepless nights of concern; unending grading of papers is all worth it to have the peace of mind that he attempted to make the world a better place. He goes to work every day for his students. They continuously bring him joy, sometimes frustration, but overall a more complete life.

In addition to his dedication to students, Mr. Reza was awarded the Honorary Service Award from Zamboni's PTA in recognition of his outstanding teacher leadership and dedication to the Zamboni parents and community.

Congratulations to Randall R. Reza, Paramount Unified School District's Teacher of the Year!

Hollydale Fifth Grade Students Go to Music Center!

Hollydale School is excited to report that the fifth grade students from Hollydale were selected to attend the Blue Ribbon Children's Festival at the Los Angeles Music Center on Tuesday, April 5th. The Blue Ribbon Children's Festival is an annual event sponsored by the Music Center which provides artistic experiences to children through performance. Assistant Superintendent Stella Toibin had suggested to school sites that they submit their school as a potential candidate for this wonderful opportunity. Hollydale principal Mrs. Marilley was thrilled when Hollydale School was selected by the Music Center to participate in the event.

The students, teachers, parent chaperones, and Mrs. Marilley took a bus to the Music Center where they were greeted by members of the Blue Ribbon

Children's Festival. The group first enjoyed a performance by the Diavolo Dance Company, a troupe which specializes in acrobatic movements in their routines. The students sat in awe as they watched the dancers perform seemingly impossible feats of movement and gymnastics.

After the performance by Diavolo the students proceeded to the front of the Music Center where they joined fifth grade students from other districts. All of the students had been taught a Native American dance

by their teachers at their respective schools and on April 5th they came together to perform the dance. How exciting to watch thousands of young people share in this unique experience!

The field trip to the Music Center was a special event that will be remembered for a long time by all who had the opportunity to attend.

**Susan Marilley, Principal
Hollydale School**

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

June 8, 2011 & June 22, 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

Paramount Spring Sports Bring Home Treasure Trove of Success

The first two weeks of May yielded great success for a number of Paramount spring sports, with the promise of more as playoff competition got underway. San Gabriel Valley League titles were won by boys' Varsity and JV tennis, boys' and girls' Varsity Track and Field, Varsity boys' swimming, and Varsity and freshman baseball. In addition, Lady Pirate softball finished third in league to make the playoffs, while boys' volleyball just missed the playoffs but played the league's top three teams very tough in both rounds. Coach Jimena Vargas's program will be back as her dedication to her kids has raised her program to a highly competitive level. Finally, Pirate swimming yielded a stunning CIF title - the first for any Paramount swimmers since 1994.

It was a "3-peat" for Coach Curtis Mu's Varsity boys' tennis team as they swept to an undefeated league record inside a 19-1 overall record. The Pirates hammered Garden Grove Santiago 14-4 in the first round of the CIF Division 4 playoffs, and as of this writing were on their way to Los Olivos to play Dunn Boarding School in the

2nd round. Coach Mu has a number of underclassmen on the Varsity and, coupled with a 2011 league champion JV team, should be in great shape for next season as well.

Coach Chris Barboza's dominant boys' and girls' Varsity Track and Field teams again were the class of league competition. Coach "B's" charges swept to dual meet championships and qualified 19 athletes for the CIF prelims at Trabuco Hills HS on May 14. Defending CIF D1 boys' discus champion Ma Brown will attempt to go "back-to-back," and four freshman girls were among the CIF qualifiers. The next few weeks could be very exciting for Pirate Track and Field.

Coach Cameron Chinn's baseball squad surprised local high school baseball experts by rolling to 13-2 league title record. The Pirates made it interesting the last week by losing to 2nd place Gahr on May 10 (which tied both teams for first place) but then went to Gahr two days later and took out their frustration with a resounding 12-7 victory, clinching the program's 4th league title in the last 5 seasons. On the heels of last season's playoff-

missing disappointment, this championship is especially sweet, and the Pirates hope to keep it going when the playoffs open the week of May 16

Lady Pirate softball finished league play on a strong note and in 3rd place to qualify for the CIF playoffs. Coach John Guggiana's young team played league champion Warren tough - losing by 2-0 and 2-1 scores - and our ladies showed real character in their playoff-clinching win over Gahr on May 12. Down 5-3 going into the bottom of the 7th inning, sophomore Victoria Padilla homered to right, and the next three batters followed with base hits to stun the Lady Gladiators, 6-5. The Lady Pirates certainly have the capability of making some noise in the playoffs.

And Pirate swimming - Coach Roberto Guerrero's squad capped a tremendous 2011 schedule with "4-peat" league title for the Varsity boys, the JV boys' one-loss season, and a Pirate girls' relay team school record in the D4 CIF Finals. But the topper was the Varsity boys' 5th place finish in the CIF D4 team standings AND the individual CIF CHAMPIONSHIP won by Sergio Garcia, William Rodriguez, Timothy

Goodner, and Jorge Montoya in the 200 Freestyle Relay, the first CIF title for any Paramount swimmers since 1994. As of this writing, that relay team and several other Pirate swimmers had qualified for the CIF Masters' meet. What a great job by a dedicated group of coaches and their athletes.

Finally, as the school year winds down, Paramount High will lose three great former Pirate coaches to retirement in June - Assistant Principal Rick Evans, Science teacher Dennis Hudson, and Social Studies teacher Randy Holman. All three men made their mark in Paramount athletics - Mr. Evans coached basketball and volleyball for years, Mr. Hudson coached football, wrestling, and track, and Mr. Holman coached cross-country and track. Each of these great Pirates gave a lot of years to Paramount athletes in addition to their teaching and administrative careers, and their tireless dedication and example will be missed by Paramount High School. We wish them the best of health and happiness as they move on to a new phase in their lives. Congratulations and all the best!

Career Day at Jefferson



On April 1st Jefferson School hosted a Career Day to support 4th and 5th grade students who are not sure what it is they would like to do for a career. Our students were inspired by the triumphant stories of those who are living their dreams and doing what they love. Students were allowed to take a peek into the lives of an FBI agent, Police Officer from Skid Row, Fitness Trainer, Community Superhero, Actor, Dentist, Nurse, Army Sergeant, Cartoon Artist, Chef, R& B Band, Deputy Sheriff, Ambulance ETA Team, and a Probation Officer.

Students listened intently and

asked insightful questions. They heard story after exciting story about how hard one must work to make their dreams come true. They were encouraged to do their best every day in school, as they would need the skills that they learn in order to succeed in life. Guest speakers encouraged students to love what they do and do what they love including being a great student. At the end of the day, students were inspired and motivated to do their best on the upcoming STAR Test and be shining Stars in life!

Ayanna Holland, Counselor
Jefferson School

English Language Development Springs into Poetry Before the Break



Recently students in the Accelerated English Acquisition Program (AEAP) at Paramount High School participated in an off-campus poetry reading. Mr. Joe Lopez and Ms. Fabiola Barcena, both PHS English Language Development teachers, designed a sequence of lessons providing students with a strong background on the elements of poetry and poetry types. Upon acquiring the background knowledge students began to author their own pieces.

The poetry reading took place at Casa de Luna Coffee House in the city of Bellflower where students recited original poetry in English while exhibiting their newly acquired English skills. The theme for the poetry reading was "Spring", and was wholeheartedly embraced by students through their usage of vivid language and colorful

details about this time of year. While some students described the 'green grass' and the 'fluttering butterflies' through their free verse poetry, others went on to concentrate on the small details of spring using Haiku, a Japanese form of poetry. In addition to the open microphone style literature written, students also took the time and effort to provide a description of their work though the elements of poetry they included in each composition. This was a positive and academic way to begin a week of relaxation, observing and writing about the simple, yet beautiful signs of life around us all. Keep up the good work you guys!

**Ms. Fabiola Barcena &
Mr. Joe Lopez,**
PHS ELD Teachers

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



Board of Education

Tony Peña - President
Linda Garcia - VP/Clerk
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District Superintendent
David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.

Great things are happening in Paramount Schools

Eye On Education

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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.

Abraham Lincoln Elementary School Achieves Academic Excellence



Abraham Lincoln Elementary School Achieves Academic Excellence

On March 30, 2011, Lincoln School received the very prestigious Title I Academic Achievement Award from the California Department of Education. State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson, announced that only 209 California public schools were selected to receive the 2010 - 2011 Title I Academic Achievement Award. The awardees will be honored at a reception on June 3, 2011.

"These schools have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the education of their students and have achieved impressive results," said Torlakson. "I congratulate all those who put forth the extra effort that resulted in this prestigious award—school administrators and staffs, teachers, parents, and, of course, the students themselves."

The criteria to qualify for the Title I Academic Achievement Award have become more rigorous in recent years. To meet the criteria for this distinction, the school must demonstrate that all students are making significant progress toward proficiency on Cal-

ifornia's academic content standards. Additionally, the school's socioeconomically disadvantaged students must have doubled the achievement targets set for them for two consecutive years.

The Title I Academic Achievement Award is given only to schools receiving federal Title I funds as authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Title I funds assist schools in meeting the educational needs of students living near or at the poverty level. Of the more than 9,000 schools in California, more than 6,000 of them participate in the Title I program.

In addition to this award, Lincoln also received the Honor Roll "Star Schools" Award from California Business for Education Excellence. This award recognizes outstanding public schools for raising student academic achievement and reducing the achievement gap.

At Lincoln, we are extremely proud of our accomplishments. As part of our school wide celebration of success, Lincoln recently received a well-deserved "face lift". Our school office building was repainted to visually demonstrate to our school community not only our Lincoln pride, but also our commitment to academic excellence.

Our continued success is testament to our Lincoln School motto, "Lincoln Lions Love Learning!"

**Pamela Williams, Principal
Abraham Lincoln School**

Preparing for STAR Testing at Jefferson School



Jefferson fifth graders Israel Rivera, Sekai Wright, Brooke Moeai, Evelyn Figueroa, Liset Huerta, and Elijah Morales study their Stars of information as they get ready to take the STAR Test.

Students at Jefferson have prepared for their important STAR Test. While reviewing the released test questions to focus on various strategies, STARS of information were posted throughout our school to familiarize students with key vocabulary such as synonym, antonym, punctuate, and summarize. During recess, students were avidly reading the STARS, discussed them with each other, and went back to their teachers with any questions. Not a moment is lost during the school day to prepare our students to their fullest!

We had our STAR Fiesta and Jeopardy game, and another morning of Muffins to inform our parents about

test-taking strategies and how to support their children from home. STAR Busters met in the Learning Center to reinforce their skills; the principal conducted her STAR Assembly to persevere and endure; the counselor met and encouraged various students; and students presented invigorating chants and rap songs to share their confidence and spirit. Our students, teachers, staff, and parents have worked hard together to increase learning and achievement this year, and with our goal for Students' Success and Excellence, we are ready for STAR!

Yuki Mio, Principal

Superintendent's Message:

Congratulations Paramount High School Class of 2011



On behalf of our entire Board of Education, President Tony Peña, Vice President Linda Garcia, members Alicia Anderson, Sonya Cuelar, and Vivian Hansen, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to the Paramount High School Graduating Class of 2011.

I have had the distinct pleasure of witnessing a senior class of over 850 students successfully complete their high school experience. Their individual and group accomplishments in academics, activities and athletics is an outstanding example of young people who have prepared to take the next step towards a bright and fulfilling future.

I have no doubt that the Class of 2011 will carry that special "Pirate Pride" into their future careers

and lives. They are also not likely to forget the work and dedication of the devoted staff, counselors, coaches, teachers and administrators who provided the support and skills they will require to reach their dreams. Congratulations to the Class of 2011.

Always remember, "Once A Pirate, Always A Pirate".

**David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.
Superintendent**

Freagles Visit Griffith Observatory



On Friday, May 13, 2011, the Freagles of Buena Vista High School participated in a fun-filled and educational visit to the Hollywood Hills and Griffith Observatory. Led by teachers Lisa Ferrer and Pam Gilreath, eighteen Freagle students began the trip with a strenuous hike to enjoy the sights leading up to the Observatory. Senior Kimberli Nava describes, "It was really hot, but the scenery was beautiful. We could see the buildings of downtown Los Angeles. Unfortunately, the effects of pollution were visible in the smog layer."

After the hike, students enjoyed an outdoor picnic near the Observatory. Because this was the last Freagle trip of this school year, students took the opportunity to enjoy each other's company and reminisce about their adventures with this club.

Once inside the Observatory, students quickly found items of interest. The variety of exhibits was fascinating and some of the highlights included

holding an actual meteorite, viewing the moon through a large telescope, and finding planets using smaller telescopes. Students explored how seismographs detect movement by creating their own earthquakes by jumping up and down as a group. Senior Viviana Castaneda says, "Other people came up to our group to join in on the fun of making an earthquake. We packed the entire floor to make some pretty big movements."

Another highlight was students weighing themselves to find out how the gravity on different planets would affect their mass. Senior Emily Guzman says that Pluto is the planet to be on if you want to be thin – she weighed less than one pound on that planet's scale!

All in all, this was a wonderful experience for the students. The hike, the Observatory exhibits, and the fun times created memories to last a lifetime.

**Jean Law, Principal
Buena Vista High School**

The Paramount Unified School District and the City of Paramount Parks and Recreation Department is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children without charge regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at Paramount Unified District School sites, Alondra, Collins, Gaines, Hollydale, Jefferson, Lincoln, Los Cerritos, Mokler, Paramount Park, Roosevelt, Tanner, Wirtz, Zamboni and Iglesia Misionera Emmanuel Paramount Hispanic Forsquare Church beginning June 20, 2011 through August 19, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast and 12:00 p.m. for lunch. Paramount Parks and Recreation will be on site to provide recreation activities from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m..

Paramount High School has 9th Gates Millennium Scholarship Winner



Paramount High School is proud to announce another Gates Millennium Scholarship winner this year. Senior, Jennifer Ramirez, is the 9th Gates Millennium Scholarship winner to come from Paramount High School. Jennifer plans to attend UCLA in the Fall of 2011. She is one of 1,000 students selected nationally this year for this prestigious and highly competitive scholarship that requires strong academics along with school and community involvement. Over 20,000 students are nominated and apply for this scholarship nationally each year. The Gates scholarship reduces financial barriers for African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American

and Hispanic American students with high academic and leadership promise who have significant financial need.

The scholarship also helps increase the representation of these target groups in the disciplines of computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health and the sciences, where these groups are severely underrepresented. The Gates Millennium Scholarship renews each year as long as students maintain satisfactory academic progress. Graduate school funding continues for Gates Millennium Scholars in the areas of computer science, education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health or science.

The Gates Millennium Scholars Program was established in 1999 and was initially funded by a \$1 billion grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. To date this program has funded more than 13,000 Gates Millennium Scholars since its inception. Gates Scholars have enrolled in more than 1,500 colleges and universities. Jennifer will join other scholars in developing a diversified education and join the future leaders of America by successful completion of her bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees – all paid for through the Gates Millennium Scholarship.

Erik Lindshield
Counselor, PHS

Paramount Color Guard Makes School History



Paramount High School Color Guard recently earned two prestigious medals at The Winter Guard Association of Southern California (WGASC) Intermediate Championship on Saturday, April 16-17. This yearly tournament took place at Edison High School and included 52 local schools. Of the 52 total schools that competed, only 15 teams would advance to Grand Championship's final's competition during the following day at the Bren Center located at UC Irvine in hopes of earning Gold, Silver, or Bronze awards.

In prior Championship competitions, Paramount Color Guard had performed very well yet had not received the Gold medal award. The closest Paramount Color Guard had come to the Gold medal award was in 2003 when they received a Silver medal in the Regional A division. Senior, co-captain Rosa Jimenez shares that her favorite memory of the tournament took place on Saturday night in seeing everyone so nervous as they waited for the names of the winners to be called. "It was amazing to see us get what we deserved for all of our hard work." For

the first time in school history, Paramount Color Guard would enter into the finals as a Gold medal winner.

On Sunday the competition was strong with all the medal winners from the night before. In competing against 15 other schools at the Grand Championships, it was a shock and a big surprise to hear Paramount be called for another medal.

With tears of joy and smiles on their faces, Paramount Color Guard stepped out and was awarded the Bronze Medal along with their Gold medal for the Intermediate A Division. Junior, Captain Jacqueline Ramirez explains that "It felt great! We followed through and our commitment showed. We did our best and I am extremely proud of everyone." When senior, Co-captain Edgar Reyes was asked for his thoughts on the accomplishment of his team, he shared that "I am proud, last year we came so close and didn't win any medals, and this year we earned two!"

Angel Carmona
PHS Band Director

Keppel School Construction



Keppel Elementary School started construction October, 2010 to build a two-story classroom building with a library and media center. The project will be completed in late December, 2011.

Measure AA General Obligation Bonds are funding the project with fund-

ing support from the State. An Overcrowded Relief Grant was received this year, which provides funding to replace portable classrooms with permanent two story classrooms. Our students will soon enjoy more playground areas and new facilities.

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 provide 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. This requirement does not affect students enrolling in this year's summer school program.

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 you student's school site today.

Paramount Unified School District



Workshops

LOCATION: Jefferson School
8600 Jefferson Street
Paramount, CA 90723

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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