

# PUSD EDUCATION NEWS

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

15110 CALIFORNIA AVE., PARAMOUNT, CA 90723 • TEL: 562-602-6000 • FAX: 562-634-6029

MARCH 2012

## Gifted and Talented Education Program in Paramount Unified School District

Students in Paramount Unified School District's Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program had a special visit on a recent Saturday from none other than Leonardo DiVinci. As the first of a two part GATE series, Faces of Innovation – Masters of the Past, students journeyed back in time to explore the works of some of the most influential masters from the past, including DiVinci, Mary Shelley, MC Escher, and Sir Isaac Newton. The masters, instructors dressed in costume to portray the historical figure, explained to the students how they individually expressed their ingenuity in Art and Science as well as how they addressed barriers and challenges to their innovative thinking. Students worked in hands-on labs exploring the masters' contributions



Pictured are Leonardo DiVinci, students Noah Endo and Aurelio Cervantes.

and experiments. The half day workshop flew by and students were disappointed when it came to an end. A student from Alondra Middle School shared, "This

was much better than sitting at home watching television or playing video games. I actually had to think." The second part of the series will examine the



Pictured with Isacc Newton are students Ariana Castellanos, Jishaly Castillo, Xandra Avila and Arlette Flores.

harmony of math and technology and include innovative historical figures, including Albert Einstein. Pictured are students with Leonardo DiVinci

and Isacc Newton.

Randy Gray, Ed.D., Director  
Curriculum &  
Instruction-Projects

## Paramount Rotary Recognizes Dedicated Eagles



Jean Law (Principal), Lizbeth Martinez, Presious Aguilar, John Boogaard (Rotary Club), Yaricza Meza, Anthony Acosta

At the end of the first semester, Buena Vista High School celebrated the graduation of a number of Seniors who will return in June to participate in commencement ceremonies. On January 19, 2012, a special luncheon was held in their honor to commemorate their dedication and hard work. While the students enjoyed the festive atmosphere filled with balloons and delicious food, a few Seniors could not expect a very special surprise that was about to change their lives.

Along with all of the teachers and administrators, some special guests attended the luncheon. Mr. John Boogaard represented Paramount Rotary and Mr. Manuel San Miguel (Director of Secondary

Education) represented Paramount Unified School District. After the students finished their lunch, Mr. Boogaard spoke to the students about his own struggles in high school followed by success in college and his career. He related to the Buena Vista students in a very personal way and encouraged all of them to pursue education beyond their high school diplomas. Most important was his message of giving back to the community. He reminded students of their ability to make their world a better place by volunteering or getting involved with community organizations.

Along those lines, Mr. Boogaard explained the Rotary Club's dedication to helping the youth of Paramount. He then announced that five

Buena Vista graduates would be receiving \$500 scholarships to pursue vocational training at the schools of their choice. The students, who were called up one at a time, were both shocked and honored by this wonderful gift. Congratulations to Presious Aguilar, Anthony Acosta, Alberto Hernandez, Lizbeth Martinez, and Yaricza Meza for this special honor. We know that you will go on to reach for your goals and in the future, reach out to help those who may need assistance to pursue theirs. Thank you to the Paramount Rotary Club members who made these awards possible!

Jean Law  
Principal  
Buena Vista High School

## Annual Rotary Student Forum



Pictured are PHS Principal Dr. Buckner, Superintendent Dr. Verdugo, grand prize winners Mario Castaneda, Monica Cruz, Joshlyn Johnson, from Paramount Petroleum Chad Druen, and Rotary Club of Paramount President John Berg.

The Annual Rotary Student Forum, sponsored by the Paramount Rotary Club, Paramount Unified School District and Paramount Petroleum, took place on February 4, 2012. Students from Paramount High School and Buena Vista High School came together and were provided an opportunity to discuss their opinions about debatable topics taking place in today's world.

This year's topics for discussion included Occupy Wallstreet, Presidential Election, Bullying, California's Budget, and the Environment. Each question was to be discussed for fifteen minutes and the judging was based on three categories that included Best Creative Idea, Most Distinguished Leader, and Most Inspirational. Each category consisted of one grand prize cash winner of \$50 and this year's winners were: Joshlyn Johnson-Best Creative Idea, Mario Castaneda-Most Distinguished, and Monica Cruz-Most Inspirational.

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

March 14, 2012 - March 28, 2012

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

## Varsity Football 2011 SGVL Champions



Superintendent Verdugo and the Board of Education recognized the Paramount High School Varsity Football team on their success for earning the 2011 SGVL Champions Title. Coach Matt Howard, Assistant Coach Calvin Bryant along with key players and captains of the team Cristian Andrade, Jeffrey Gutierrez, Kenneth Moore, and Bernard Foy were in attendance at a recent Board of Education meeting receiving recognition on behalf of the Varsity Football team. Congratulations on their successful season.

## West Campus JROTC Rise Above the Rest at Rookie Drill Competition

In December of 2011, 45 freshmen JROTC cadets competed at a Rookie Drill Competition at Katella High School in Anaheim. These 45 Paramount High School West Campus students made up the majority of the JROTC rookie Pirate team. These Pirate rookies dominated the competition by placing in seven of the nine events as well as winning the Sweepstakes Trophy.

Master Sergeant Danny Brayboy, the ninth grade instructor, was very proud of his freshmen. He stated, "Throughout their training we always stressed and impressed upon them the importance of teamwork. 'One team, one drill' is our motto and on the day of competition, they truly lived up to our motto." Brayboy went on to state that every command was executed to perfection by the Pirate rookie team. Principal Mr. Kosareff had this to say about the ninth grade JROTC instructor, "The work that Sargent Brayboy does with our freshman cadets amazes me on an almost daily basis. He is an important member of our school community and is helping to transform our students into dedicated and disciplined young men and women."

West Campus cadets placed in the following events:

### Unarmed Drill Team (10 Students)

Regulation Drill	1st
Inspection Drill	2nd

### Armed Drill Team (13 Students)

Regulation Drill	1st
Inspection Drill	2nd
Free Style Drill Team (12 Students)	2nd
Unarmed Tap Out (Elizabeth Gurrola)	1st
Armed Tap Out (Rosaysela Maldonado)	5th

As part of the Unarmed Drill Team and Armed Drill Team, the marching units perform routines based on basic military drills. The Freestyle Drill Team, has cadets marching routines in a rhythmic manner by creating beats with their hands and feet. Cadets in the Unarmed Tap Out and Armed Tap Out, perform basic marching commands. If they do not execute each command to perfection they are tapped on the shoulder and asked to leave the competition; therefore, the last cadet remaining in the competition is the winner.

The 2011-2012 school term is the inaugural year for the ninth grade JROTC, and West Campus has four classes full of freshmen cadets, which makes for a large ninth grade JROTC contingent with approximately 120 students. Forty-five of these cadets competed at the Katella High School completion.

**Yvonne Rodriguez**  
Assistant Principal, PHS-West

## Collins' Learning Center Making Gains in Student Achievement



Something remarkable at Collins School this year is the Collins Learning Center. The Learning Center is an innovative program that helps struggling students get the extra attention they need in order to succeed in the classroom. Select students are identified to participate in the program based on the skills (in language arts and mathematics) they need to improve. Students are given the opportunity to work with highly qualified personnel at their individual learning levels. One of the team of Learning Center staff includes Resource Specialist Gina Kasper who said, "We use a variety of strategies with students in our learning center: response boards, computer software, fluency techniques, and tactile materials to assist the most intensive students in phonemic awareness."

Students who come to the Collins Learning Center for language arts receive targeted instruction four times a week for one half hour each day. Each grade level has several groups that are divided into 2-6 students guided by Learning Center personnel. The staff of the Collins Learning Center includes

Theresa Diaz (the K-5 Instructional Coach), Gina Kasper (the RSP Teacher), Evelyn Coronel (the Intervention Teacher), and RSP aides Maggie Cortez and Marcus Miller. All grade levels, kindergarten through fifth grade, are serviced in the Learning Center. For mathematics, selected students come to the Learning Center approximately twice a week and work on their basic math facts with the intervention teacher, Mrs. Coronel. Third grade teacher, Virginia Raygoza has noticed a difference in her students' performance already and said, "The Learning Center is affording students the opportunity to work in small groups to experience success, which is then transferring to the classroom."

As a result of working in the Collins Learning Center, students of the program are using basic math facts, phonics, spelling, comprehension, and fluency skills to enrich their classroom experience and achieve higher levels of learning. When asked how the Learning Center experience has helped student Rachel Shever, 4th grade, she responded, "The Learning Center has helped me to become a better reader and improve in multiplication." Thanks to the hard work of Collins students and the dedication of the Learning Center staff, the Collins Learning Center is making gains in student achievement.

**Theresa M. Diaz,**  
K-5 Instructional Coach  
Collins School

## Jefferson Learning Center Meets with Parents for Student Progress

The Jefferson Learning Center has completed another cycle of instruction and interventions. The Learning Center team is made up of Ms. Ponce, Intervention Teacher; Ms. Teng, Coach and Intervention Teacher; and Mrs. Calvert, RSP Teacher. After each cycle, Learning Center teachers hold meetings with parents and general education teachers to discuss their students' progress. Parents, general education teachers, and the Learning Center team are involved in helping to determine what next steps will be taken to support the child in school. The meetings are held to promote a team environment that brainstorms interventions and strategies to support each individual's needs. Each participant shares about the student's strengths and needs, and then the team collaborates to develop next steps and goals for that student. The team collaboration creates a positive interaction between all stakeholders who are working to meet the individual needs of the student. Open communication between all team participants is the key to identifying the problem and developing next steps to ensure the best plan for student success.

The first cycle of Learning Center meetings took place from November 7th through 10th. The team met with the parents of all forty Learning Center students. For the second cycle, the meetings took place February 3rd and 7th. These meetings focused on sixteen students receiving Tier 3 intensive instruction. As the Learning Center progresses and develops, the parent participation continues to grow. Jefferson School is moving toward closing the achievement gap for all of our students with the support of students, parents, and teachers.

**Heather Calvert**  
RSP Teacher

**PUSD Education News 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*

**PUSD Education News**

Editor - Isela Preciado  
Paramount Unified School District  
15110 California Ave., Paramount, CA  
(562) 602-6000 • Fax (562) 634-6029

# Lincoln School Student Council is Roaring to Go!

The Lincoln School Student Council has been working really hard to keep our school great! Student Council representatives have planned and taken part in several exciting activities, such as Fall Spirit Week, the Winter Fundraiser, our Annual Holiday Program, and a canned food drive to benefit the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. Our upcoming functions include a Valentine Candy Gram Fundraiser and the Jump Rope for Heart event to help raise money for the American Heart Association.

### Fall Spirit Week

Last fall, Student Council sponsored Spirit Week from October 24 – 28. We wanted to get students excited about the new school year and let them show their school spirit. So, each day, students were encouraged to dress up according to certain themes. Our event coincided with Red Ribbon Week, so we kicked off the fun with Red Ribbon Day on Monday. Students could wear anything red: shirts, socks, even hair ribbons! The other days' themes included Mismatched Day, Jersey Day, Twin Day, and Wacky Hair Day. We held a friendly competition to see which class had the most school spirit; we counted the number of students who dressed up and posted the count each day. Students were excited to also see teachers participate and watched as their class numbers went up each day. The winning class received an ice-cream party! The entire week was a lot of fun!

### Canned Food Drive

During the month of December, our Student Council collected almost 1000 cans of food for the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. Students from all classes donated each day and watched as the food multiplied under our Christmas tree in our cafeteria. All of the donated food was distributed directly to over 200 Paramount families during the holiday season. We were proud of how the entire school participated in this holiday service project. Lincoln students definitely learned firsthand; "It is better to give, than to receive."

### Winter Fundraiser

The Lincoln School Winter Fundraiser was a big success! The purpose of the fundraiser was to raise funds to complete the goals of Student Council. Guided by Student Council Advisor Mrs. Lopez, our Winter Fundraiser Committee was able to sell high-interest, yet safe merchandise to the students of Lincoln School. Merchandise was reasonably priced so that the students could afford to buy the items. We sold personalized pencils that said Merry Christmas Lincoln Lions and Feliz Navidad Lincoln Lions, snow-stacked lead pencils, candy cane rope erasers, and winter-themed rubber bracelets. In addition to items that students could buy on the spot, candy grams were also sold. Students purchased the candy grams to have delivered to friends in their classrooms. Committee members created flyers to advertise our event and also manned the sales table. With our hard work we made over \$200.00!

### Holiday Program

Lincoln School's Annual Holiday Program was an astounding production! We had two performances that played to standing-room-only audiences. Student Council President Jaleen Perez, Vice-President Joseph

## Superintendent's Message: Paramount Unified School District Measure AA "Campaign For Kids" Facilities Update

Dear Parents,

I am very excited to report to you that our Measure AA "Campaign For Kids" Bond Referendum Facilities Master Plan continues to be "on time and on budget".

The most recent grand openings of modernized and new facilities across the District are as follows:



Alondra Gym



PHS Medical/Science Bldg



Collins Café



Zamboni Gym



PHS Field House



PHS Café



Keppel Two Story Classroom/Library



Pirate Stadium



Delores Stephens Library

These facilities are now open and being used by our students and staff. The new buildings continue to complement our Board of Education's goal of providing "state of the art" classrooms, libraries, athletic venues and facilities for our students and teachers.

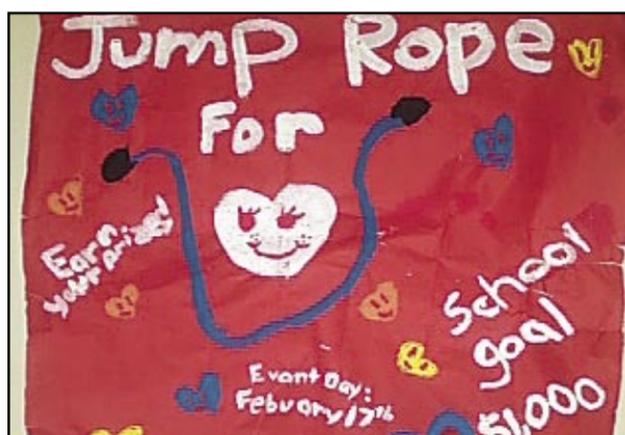
I am very proud of the work which has been completed and look forward to more reports of completed projects in the near future.

I also want to say thank you to all of our citizens who supported our \$100 million dollar bond program which has

resulted in one of the most successful Master Facility Plans in the entire State of California.

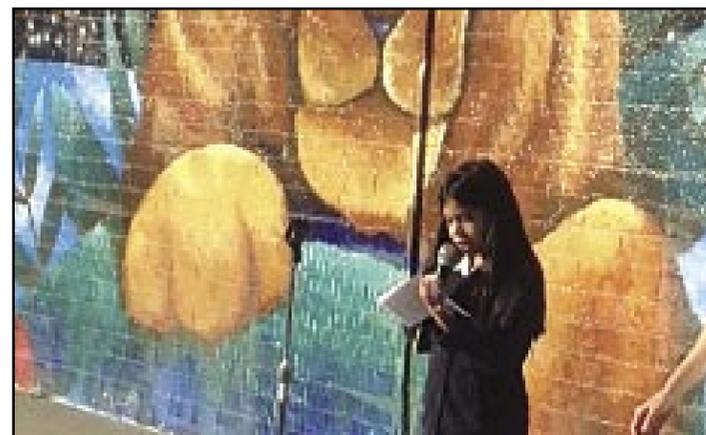
Thank you for your continued support.

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



Garcia, and 5th Grade Representative Giselle Toscano were the official emcees of this festive event, while Officer and Webmaster Austin Gonzalez helped with the technical aspects of the show.

Classes from 1st through 5th grade participated in the event, which always creates a buzz in the community. Fourth graders started off the show with a bang with their "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" dance. Then, Special Education students took the stage with a precious performance of "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer." There was not a dry eye in the house! We then had a touching rendition of "White Christmas" done in sign language by a second grade class.



Other memorable performances included the Lincoln Choir, fifth graders who sang a Christmas medley of songs, second graders who performed the Christmas Turkey Dance and fourth graders who played the recorder. Lincoln School is proud of our performing arts program, and our annual holiday show gives all students a chance to shine!

### Upcoming Events

It takes "heart" to be a hero! Lincoln School Student Council, along with our school counselor, Ms. Shannon Patterson, is busy organizing the Jump for Heart event to help the American Heart Association raise funds for research and education on heart

diseases. Our school goal is to raise \$1,000! We are learning heart healthy facts during the week thanks to Student Council announcements. Our culminating event will occur on February 17, 2012, when every 1st – 5th grade student in the school will participate in sports activities to help promote a heart healthy lifestyle! In conjunction with the Jump for Heart activities, Student Council will be selling Valentine Candy Grams to celebrate friendship and love. Save a life – Donate to Jump for Heart!

**Luisa Gonzalez, Jaleen Perez, Bianca Gaspar, Valerie Ramirez, and Klarissa Ayala**  
Student Council Representatives

## PHS Student Wins "Best of Show" Award



On January 20th, 2012, the annual Imprinted Sportswear Show was held at the Long Beach Convention Center. Several Paramount High School students competed against students from three other high schools. Paramount High's group included Aimee Montoya (pictured), Cassandra Montenegro, Jorge Ayala, Casandra Myers, Andres Ortega, and Vanessa Baker.

All of PHS's students did extremely well, winning nine of twelve available prizes in the competition. This was also the second year in a row that stu-

dents from PHS won the Best of Show award.

Cassandra Montenegro and Jorge Ayala submitted shirt designs that won 1st place awards in two different categories. Second place awards were captured by Casandra Myers and Andres Ortega, while Vanessa Baker's entry took 3rd place in two categories. Aimee Montoya's screen printing design not only won 1st place, but also took the prestigious "Best of Show" award. Aimee's original shirt design, which was embellished with rhinestones, was titled "Peace."

Next, Aimee's shirt will begin its travels across the country, beginning with its arrival in Las Vegas for the next level of competition that has a \$500 prize available. After that, her shirt will be sent to Atlanta for a photo shoot, with pictures to appear in Impressions Magazine.

Aimee enjoyed participating in the show and did an excellent job representing Paramount High School, as well as showcasing the experience acquired in Mr. Yakubovsky's Graphics Design class. Aimee, a senior, also plays for the PHS soccer team. After graduating, she plans on attending Cal State Fullerton and majoring in Criminal Justice.

Jeff Beahn, TOSA

## Save the Date for Preschool Enrollment



Parents in the classroom are active partners in their child's preschool experience. Guided by the teacher, parents work with their children in the areas of literacy, math, science, art and social skills. Parents are provided with helpful ideas to enhance their child's learning at home and in the classroom, making them become effective learners. Parents have a great time learning and working together working with their young students and assisting the classroom teacher.

Registration for the 2012-2013 school year will begin in April for all Preschool programs. The District offers no cost and low cost half-day programs for 3 and 4 year old children. These programs have both morning and afternoon sessions. In addition, there is a full-day program for children ages 3 to 5 years of age from 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM. This specific program is for working parents or for parents who are in college or are receiving job training.

For more information, please contact the Early Childhood Education Office at

(562) 602-6900 or visit the office at 7340 E. Jackson Street.

Nancy Kelley-Kuhn  
Program Director  
Early Childhood Education

## Hornets Go Green!



As I enter Mrs. Gerber's fifth grade class after school, there is a slow buzz of energy as the students work together on homework problems. The buzz gets more excited and contagious as Mrs. Gerber asks the students, "Who would like to share their thoughts on the Hollydale recycling program?" Hands shoot up and eager faces turn to us. Mrs. Gerber shared that the program started at the beginning of the year as a project for the fifth grade students. There are several bins around school for collecting plastic and aluminum cans. The students gather the containers once a week, and sort the items. Mrs. Gerber brings the recycling to South Gate Recycling. They raised \$50 through recycling this past Fall, which the students donated to the "Jump for the Heart" fundraiser benefitting the American Heart Association. The money that they will raise through recycling this Spring is being saved for an end of the year celebration.

The students recycle for many reasons. Jennifer Gomez says that she doesn't like seeing trash around the school and community because it makes her feel uncomfortable. "Recycling helps clean up," she says. Melissa Osorio says "(Recycling) makes the school look clean." Madeline Rodriguez added that she likes helping the school and Earth. "It's fun!" said Madeline with a big smile.

The students' enthusiasm for recycling

spreads to their homes and community. "(Because of the recycling program), I've learned to recycle at home," says Nicole Luevano. Yasmin Rivero, Nailene Gonzalez, Noemi Davila and Jacqueline Ruiz added, "Recycling helps our planet be clean and be better!"

Recycling has inspired Nathan Ortiz to want to plant a tree at home so he can further help the planet. Nicole Meija shared that recycling reminds her to pick things up at home and be more organized. Pearl Pham says that she loves to recycle "(because) if we don't, we'd be living in our own trash." Christopher Rivera also noted that recycling can also help polar bears! Anthony Beltran simply stated, "Recycling helps our community. It helps our world!"

Mrs. Gerber and her fifth graders are excited to continue the recycling program. In doing so, they are helping our school, community, and planet stay clean. It's also teaching these students that, when they are committed to something bigger than themselves, they may reap more than they may have initially given. So if you're on the Hollydale campus, please drop off your aluminum cans and plastic bottles in a designated recycling bin. You are helping these students continue to learn, grow, and reach beyond our school walls!

Cyndi A. Ting

### Paramount Unified School District



### Workshops

LOCATION: Jefferson School  
8600 Jefferson Street  
Paramount, CA 90723

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

- |               |                                      |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mar. 8, 2012  | Autism Spectrum Disorders            |
| Mar. 22, 2012 | Understanding Educational Rights     |
| Apr. 19, 2012 | Test Anxiety vs. "I can do Attitude" |
| May 3, 2012   | Drugs and Alcohol                    |
| May 17, 2012  | Internet Safety                      |
| May 31, 2012  | Preparing for the Summer             |

Spanish Translation will be available.

Co-sponsored by Paramount Unified School District and Cerritos College (FKCE Program-Certificates for renewal hours)

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

MUST pre-register for babysitting one week in advance;

MAY pre-register for individual workshops

Call: Myra McGinnis at 562-602-6035

**Workshops Open to all PUSD Parents**