

EYE ON EDUCATION

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

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

SEPTEMBER 2010

California Distinguished School Recognition

Wesley Gaines School was officially recognized as a California Distinguished School at a special award presentation and banquet on June 4th.

Mrs. Stevens, the School Principal, Mrs. Stella Toibin, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services and a delegation of teachers from Gaines attended this gala affair at the Disneyland Resort Hotel with State Superintendent Jack O'Connell presiding over the event. 484 outstanding elementary schools from counties throughout the State of California were recognized individually at an awards ceremony and then joined the whole delegation for a wondrous banquet in their honor.

This ceremony attested to the hard work and accomplishments of the principal, teachers, staff members, students, parents, and other

enthusiastic members of the education community who have been integral to the school's success.

The criterion for being identified as an eligible school was most stringent. An elementary school had to excel at meeting the standards of both the state and federal accountability systems and at closing the achievement gap between its subgroup of students to be eligible to apply to become a Distinguished School.

Additionally, Gaines School was asked to share two signature practices that contributed to making those tremendous gains and closing the achievement gap.



Pictured are top row from left to right, Rene Juarez-Teacher, Elizabeth Araiza-Parent, Fanny Varela-Coach, Tracy Espina-Teacher, bottom row; Linda Harju-Stevens-Principal, Sonya Cuellar-Board Member and Stella Toibin-Assistant Superintendent

A validation visit from a State Review team confirmed the vibrancy of these practices firmly embedded and ongoing at the school site.

Gaines staff proudly displays its Distinguished School mural and flies its distinguished flag with dignity and honor.

The students and teachers

eagerly await the new school year and their pursuit of academic excellence.

Linda Harju-Stevens
Principal - Gaines School

Hollydale School is Abuzz!

Hollydale School - "Home of the Hornets" - is abuzz with excitement about the 2010 - 2011 school year!

An important focus for our school this year will be the implementation of the Pyramid Response to Intervention. PRTI is a system designed to meet the academic needs of students who are in need of support. PRTI ensures that the District mission, to ensure learning and success for each student by providing a quality education, is met.

The middle school teach-

ing team has been working hard to develop grade level/content area grading policies to support the recently adopted Board policy. Teachers will share this information with parents at the September "Back to School Night".

The arts are alive and well at Hollydale School! This year the kindergarten students will enjoy learning about two artists, Picasso and Monet, through lessons facilitated by an outside art consultant. We are very excited about this opportunity

for our youngest students.

In closing, the partnership between home and school is critical to the success of our students at Hollydale. We look forward this year to having our parents and community become active participants in the life of the school by attending events such as Back to School Night, Open House, Parent/Teacher Conferences, and Parent Nights. Parents are also invited to become involved in our various school councils and com-

mittees including School Site Council, English Learner Advisory Committee, and GATE Parent Committee. Join us!

I am proud to represent a community of stakeholders which works together as a

team to make our school the very best it can be. Go Hornets!

Susan Marilley
Principal
Hollydale School

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

September 15, 2010 - September 29, 2010

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 High School Welcome's the Class of 2013



Paramount High School-Senior Campus held its third annual Sophomore Pirate Orientation on August 4th and 5th. The purpose of the event was to provide incoming sophomore students with the opportunity to meet current staff, students and to create a smoother transition from West Campus to Senior Campus by providing them with essential information that will help them feel comfortable during their first week of school and beyond.

The Sophomore Pirate Orientation experience will help the incoming tenth grade students to be prepared for the senior campus when they arrive later this month. The event was kicked off with a student led rally inside of the Paramount High School Gymnasium. Current Paramount High School student Katherine Alvarez served as the Commissioner of Rallies and facilitated the event. The student audience was entertained with a picture slideshow of PHS events that displayed numerous forms of Pirate Pride, while various school spirit items (i.e. PHS scarf's and PHS headgear) were raffled off to winners of individual class competitions.

Once the rally was over, students were lead by their Team Leaders to three different workshops. Team Leaders consist of current PHS students who volunteer to be part of this event. For many, this was their second year as Team Leaders. Many returned because they enjoy making a connection with the incoming sophomores and talking to them about the various events that occur on campus.

Approximately 800 incoming tenth-grade students actively participated in the event and were involved in three

main sessions. The sessions included a Counseling Informational workshop, a Student Experience workshop, and Pirate Olympics workshop. All workshops were facilitated by current teachers and school counselors.

In the Counseling Informational workshop students were informed about various campus resources, reminded about the graduation requirements, class change procedures, the tutorial schedule which allows for student interventions during the school day, ways to see their counselor, and the importance of taking advantage of such programs as School Loop. The Student Experience workshop showcased two clubs on campus, Comedy Sportz and the Choir Club. The purpose of this workshop was to promote student involvement on campus and to demonstrate to them how diverse each club can be. Miguel Iniesta facilitated the Comedy Sportz performance and encouraged audience participation while Andrew Aareola performed a song on stage.

Pirate Olympics was facilitated by our Track & Field Coach, Ms. Chris Barboza. At this workshop students worked in collaborative teams to compete in small group competitions, ranging from building a human pyramid to catching a football. Students were reminded that they only have three remaining years of high school and that working together as a team is not only beneficial, but it is essential. Good luck Class of 2013!

Patty Jacobo
Counselor
Paramount High School

Jump Start Your Future with Paramount Adult School



During these tough economic times, Paramount Adult School (PAS) should be on your radar as a major opportunity for improving your life and the life of your loved ones.

Despite the economic crisis that continued throughout the 2009-2010, PAS celebrated another successful year. We helped between 5,000 and 6,000 students—the same range we've attained for many years. In fact, June's graduation ceremony was the most successful in a long time. Nearly 190 people received their GED certificates, and 37 high school diplomas were awarded. That's not even including the hundreds of high school teens from Paramount Unified School District who earned credits with the Adult School and were thus able to graduate. And, of course, thousands upon thousands of adult students improved their English skills. So, as you can see, PAS continues to lead the way in improving our community through education ... but what does the future hold?

Plans to help in even more ways. First, classes will now be structured into three equal trimesters to better meet student needs. Registration will be the week of August 30, and classes begin September 7. Call (562) 602-8080 for more information or stop by the office at 14507 Paramount Blvd. (on the corner of All American City Way, next to the Swap Meet). Second, increased training for teachers will continue as a core component in improving student learning. Finally, new classes will reflect the new direction in adult education locally, across the state, and across the nation: not just improving students' skills, but improving skills directly related to getting jobs. And not just any jobs—high-demand, high-paying professions.

A good example is the electrician class which launched last spring. After one 9-week session, it expanded to two classes and ended up helping over 200 students earn certificates during the school year. It is roundly viewed as an excellent, hands-on class that can really change lives. There are plans to open a third class this fall.

Other new classes in the works include custodial services, child care worker/owner, Information Technology certification (such as A+ and/or Microsoft), healthcare, and even the exciting field of global logistics (which is rather like international import/export).

Do you see your goals on this list? If so, give us a call. Or maybe you envision something else for your future. In that case, call us anyway. We might be able to pursue the topic and add it to the list of new classes.

And don't forget: the price is still right.

Be a part of the future, become part of Paramount Adult School. And stay tuned.

Jerry King
Teacher on Special Assignment, Adult Education

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 to 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.

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



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Sonya Cuellar, Member
Linda Garcia, Member
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District Superintendent
David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.

Great things are happening in Paramount Schools

Eye On Education

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

\$59 Million in Additional School Facility Improvements and New Building Construction Begins This Summer

Superintendent's Message:



While students enjoyed summer vacation, several major school facility improvement projects were completed or under way thanks to the community's support of Measure AA School Bond Measure.

Students will see many improvements and new buildings when they return. Portable buildings will be removed to pave the way for permanent classrooms and construction will begin on a new Medical Health/Science Center, a new Athletic Field House and two new middle school gymnasiums. In addition, the new Paramount High School Library and new Paramount High School West Campus gymnasium have been completed and are now ready for use when the students return to school.

2010 Summer Projects Completed

PHS Library and Media Center

At Paramount High School a new library and media center was constructed and completed. The new library named after long time and retired employee Delores Stephens will be ready for use when the students return from summer break. The new library will be open to the community on the weekends. It is a state of the art facility that includes a research media center, digital card catalog stations and interactive boards including traditional book stacks and reading areas.



PHS-West Gymnasium

At the 9th grade PHS-West campus, a new modern and spacious athletic gymnasium has been constructed and completed. The gymnasium is the first gymnasium constructed on the campus and it will provide the school a building which can enhance the entire school's athletics, activities and ASB programs.



PHS Medical Health/Science Building

Paramount High School students will soon enjoy a new 19 classroom Medical Health/Science building thanks to the community's support of the Measure AA Bond. The new two story building is scheduled to be open and available for use by students and faculty by January 2012. Students will enjoy state of the art classrooms which will replace portables at the school.



PHS Athletic Field House

Construction has started on the new Athletic Field House which will be adjacent to the newly constructed "Pirate Stadium". The construction is underway and completion is expected by July 2011. The new building will include locker rooms, coaches' offices, training room, wrestling room, weight room, instrumental band facility, restrooms, storage and classrooms as well as storage areas. In addition, the building will include a ticketing booth, concession stand and entrance to the stadium.



Alondra and Zamboni Gymnasiums

Construction has started on two new middle school gymnasiums. The sites are Alondra and Frank Zamboni Middle Schools. Each 12,500 square foot facility will provide indoor athletics and student assembly space as well as student locker rooms, ticket booth, restrooms and storage areas. The new gymnasiums are already underway and completion is anticipated by May 2011.



Alondra Middle School Gymnasium



Zamboni Middle School Gymnasium

Keppel School Classroom Building

Future projects include a new two story 14 classroom building which will include a new library media center. Students will enjoy new spacious classrooms with improved lighting and air conditioning. Portable temporary classrooms will be removed which will provide for additional green-space for students to enjoy.



Paramount Unified School District also has designs and plans for a new practice gymnasium at Paramount High School and additional improvements and projects to be completed by July 2013.

Future plans include modernization of our existing gymnasium and student locker room facilities at Paramount High School and will include a "Hall of Champions". We also intend to modernize the Paramount High School West Auditorium or Clearwater Auditorium.

All of this is due to the support of our community.
Thank you.

Dr. David Verdugo

Career and Technical Education

Paramount Unified School District will be opening a new career pathway for students in the engineering field. Students who enter into this career pathway in high school will be able to enroll in classes that can prepare them for a career in engineering or architecture.

The courses begin in the ninth grade at Paramount High School-West Campus with the Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement Class (MESA) and continue to Paramount High School Main Campus where students can enroll in Computer Assisted Drafting and Design.

The last courses in the pathway will be in the field of Architectural Design. Students in these classes receive hands-on experiences and learn on state of the

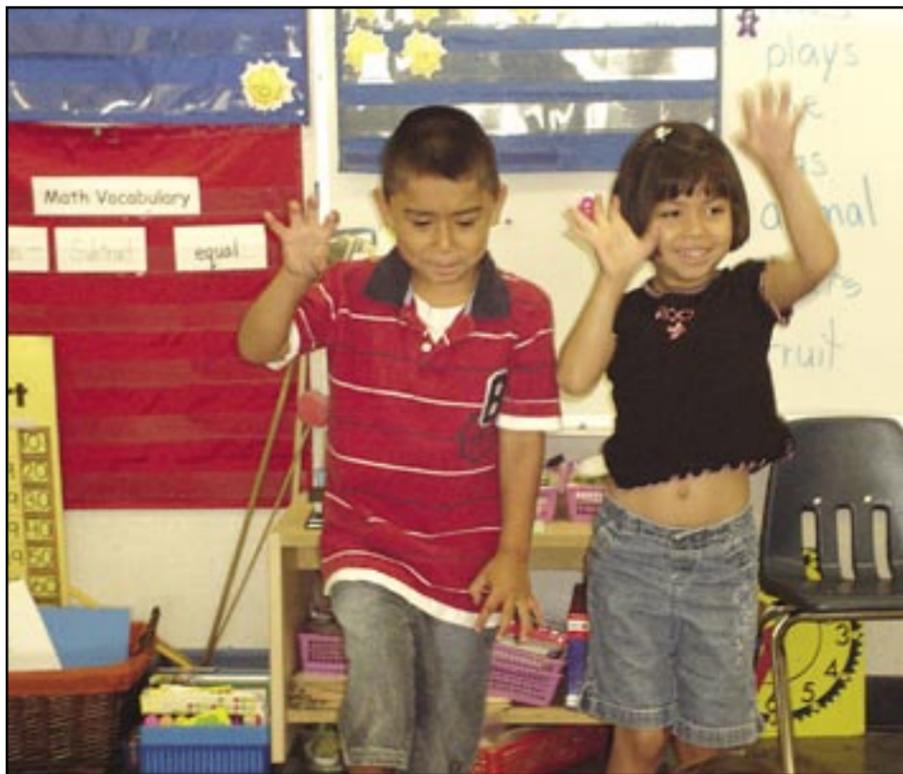


art computers and software.

For more information about these courses and other Career Technical Education classes, please contact the high school that your child attends.

Manuel San Miguel
Director, Alternative Education

QEIA Summer Enrichment Program



Paramount Unified School District brought Language Arts to life for teachers and students at Los Cerritos and Mokler Schools this summer with the assistance of staff from the Music Center at the Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County. Three teaching artists conducted a four day workshop, June 21-24, for teachers and administrators. The workshop helped teachers increase their knowledge and understanding of Theatre/Visual and Performing Arts Standards and their connection to Language Arts. Teachers' role played and participated in activities to strengthen their instructional skills.

All students at Los Cerritos and Mokler Schools were invited to participate in a four week Summer Enrichment Program from June 28-July 22, 2010. Los Cerritos and Mokler were selected to provide the program with funds they received through the School Improvement Grant (SIG) Program as Quality Education Investment Act (QEIA) schools. Teachers applied the newly acquired theatre techniques and strategies to the Open Court stories in the 120 minute Language Arts instructional block. Students also had a 90 minute Mathematics instructional block as well as 30 minutes of Physical Education daily with the assistance of staff from the City of Paramount's STAR Program. The Music Center's Teaching Artists visited classrooms daily during the program and collaborated with teachers in making stories come to life.

Students role played characters and events from the stories and in the process built foundational skills, vocabulary and content knowledge. Through the students' expression and enthusiasm for theatre, Language Arts and stories came to life.

Randy Gray
Director-Curriculum & Instruction
District Office

Jefferson's Coach and Parents Prepare for New School Year



Parent Volunteer, Jackie Cervantes, and daughter, Eileen Montes, from Alondra School assist Coach Deanne Teng as they put together Decodable books for all our students to prepare for the new school year.

Jefferson School welcomes our new Coach/Intervention Teacher, Deanne Teng, from Wirtz School. Deanne has hit the road running in her new position as she worked on new STPT and Growth Goal schedules. As a former 1st grade teacher, she brings her expertise in fundamental reading skills, and her experiences with technology and PTA involvement. Deanne is studying the assessments that she will be using for

universal screening as she prepares her interventions for students at our Learning Center.

One of the things Deanne did immediately was to meet our parents and have them involved in putting together Decodable books for every grade level. The teachers appreciated having these books completed for them. We look forward to Deanne's enthusiasm and support for our students' learning and success!

Paramount High School had a Great Year

Great things continue to happen at Paramount High School. The 2009-2010 school year was truly memorable. The most important example of this is the continued growth in the scope and rigor of our academic programs. Last year, more students took Advanced Placement (AP) classes and took and passed the corresponding examinations than ever before in the history of the school. In addition, we were ranked as one of the Top Schools in America by US News and World Report for the third year in a row. We also recognized 786 total graduates, the largest graduating class in the history of the school. Numerous Class of 2010 students received local and national scholarships including Josefina Gutierrez earning the Gates Millennium Scholarship.

Teachers, counselors, and school support staff continued to work diligently to meet the needs of all student learners. The implementation of our revised tutorial bell schedule allowed for students to receive systematic interventions during normal school hours. Students were able to get tutorials and/or enrichment from their classroom teachers during the course of the actual school day.

Our campus clubs and organizations excelled on campus and flourished in our local communities. Paramount High School FHA members Bonnie Casillas and Jose Ramirez took first place and won gold medals in the annual Family Careers and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) national competition in Chicago, Illinois. PHS Colorguard and Marching Band soared to new heights under the direction of Mr. Angel Carmona. Colorguard received a record score of 92/100 in reaching the Finals for the first time in school history in the Winterguard Association of Southern Cali-

fornia, while PHS Marching Band scored two Sweepstakes Awards in the Division IV "Band Sweepstakes" at the 48th annual Tournament of the Bands competition.

Our school choir flourished under the guidance of Mrs. Wilson-Espinoza. They participated in various campus and community events and shined during the Christmas and Spring concerts. They earned numerous awards including the "Spirit Award" and "Best Soloist" for David Toledo during the Magic Mountain festival while attaining the "Excellent Rating" at the Southern California Vocal Association. Under the leadership of Sr. Army Instructor Colonel Guild along with Army Instructor SFC Dannie Brayboy, PHS Pirate JROTC Battalion received a title of "Honor Unit" from their Cadet Command Formal Inspection, which is the second highest possible score.

Our athletic programs also continue to excel with numerous league championships over the course of the year and several more teams advancing to playoffs. We celebrated the success of two outstanding student-athletes who won individual CIF Championships in Track and Field under the leadership of Chris Barboza. Ma'taua Brown was the 2010 CIF Discuss Champion and Tiffany LaMar was crowned the 2010 CIF 800 Meter Champion. We also celebrated the huge success that our Boys Soccer team experienced this year. Not only did they bring home a CIF Southern Section Championship, they earned the title of 2010 State Division I Boys Soccer Champion under Coach Art Navarro.

Greg Francois,
Assistant Principal
Paramount High School