

# 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 2011

## FULL-DAY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM Offers Pre-K skills and the pure joy of learning

The Full-Day Preschool is a State funded program for parents that are working or seeking job training. This program is unique because it even offers child care for children while their parents are sleeping (after working all night shifts).

The full day child care preschool program is located on the Gaines school campus. This program offers full-day childcare for children ages 3 to 5 years of age from 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

All of the District's preschool programs offer pre-kindergarten readiness skills that align with the District's Curriculum – Open Court. The preschool program is designed to prepare children to be successful in regular school. The program stresses basic cognitive and social skills with special emphasis on reading



and math readiness. Parents are encouraged to participate in the classroom along with their children. Children acquire and practice new skills and learn to discover the pure joy of learning.

The part-day preschools are located on the Alondra, Collins, Hollydale, Gaines, Mokler, Keppel, Wirtz, and Zamboni campuses. Although all of the part-day preschool

programs are full at this time, they are taking applications for a waiting list. The full-day program is open for enrollment.

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**  
Director, ECE



## Howard Tanner School Welcomes Everyone to a New School Year at the Annual First Day Parent's Reception



The school year began on a high note at Howard Tanner School. Students, staff, and parents were excited to return to school on August 24th. The theme this year at Howard Tanner School is "Our Staff committed to Ensuring our Students Excel". As parents and students entered the school gates, this year's theme was evident. Hot air balloons and signs that read "Tanner Students are destined to excel" were beautifully displayed.

Each year, Mrs. Sanco our school's Principal hosts a First Day Parent Reception. Parents were greeted warmly as they entered the multipurpose room by our Instructional Coach

Mrs. Triche Harris, our District Curriculum Specialist Mrs. Cruz, and our Learning Center Teacher Mr. Monteon. Handouts that gave parents tips for a great school year and each grade levels high frequency word lists were given to each parent. Parents enjoyed the refreshments, and a motivational slide show with pictures of our students. Mrs. Sanco took the opportunity to share

STAR test data, school procedures, and school wide programs with parents.

We are all proud of the growth we've made in the last three years. Parents were given the opportunity to ask questions and find out about all the opportunities for parents to be involved on our campus. We are all positive that this is going to be a great year at Howard Tanner School. Go Tigers!

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

September 14, 2011 - September 28, 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 High School FHA/FCCLA Members Win Gold in Anaheim!



Paramount High School FHA members Jessica Casillas, Stephanie Trejo and Kimberly Veliz, recently won gold medals while participating in F.H.A./ FCCLA's (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) 2011 National Leadership Conference. After placing in both regional and state competition, Para-

mount High School FHA qualified to participate along with over 3,500 students at the National Competition held in Anaheim, California in which our Gold Medal victory came in the Chapter Service Project Manual Event.

In the Fall of 2010, FHA organized an advisory group which included

teachers, students, parents and community people to give us input we might need to carry out our project. Members set a goal of what they wanted to accomplish. Once their goal was set, a plan was developed, a calendar was made and their project was started. In working collaboratively with other clubs the group was able to construct over 700 toiletry bags which were donated to Children's Hospital LA and 200 bags to Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Under the guidance of Ms. Tanimoto, the students worked diligently for more than 300 total hours on their community service project to ensure that their manual and presentations met the requirements outlined in the rubric for the national competition. Ms Tanimoto said, "I am so proud of my students. FHA worked hard during the 2010-2011 school year to follow through on all their plans and commitments. This is the second year in a row that we came home from nationals with a gold medal.

This is unheard of and Paramount is the only club that was able to do this. I can't ask for more dedicated students." These young ladies will never be the same after coming home from a national competition with the gold medal. They showed what "Pirate Pride" is all about. As we honor the victory of these students, it should be remembered that these students exemplified what all students at Paramount High School can achieve through hard work and dedication. We are very proud of these students' achievement on winning the regional statewide and National competition but it should be remembered that the commitment of our FHA students to Childs Hospital LA and Little Company of Mary should be honored. The potential of our students is bound-less and it takes caring and dedicated teachers like Ms. Tanimoto and Mrs. Lash to unleash their students potential.

**Aileen Tanimoto, PHS**

## Paramount USD Supports the Arts through Teacher Professional Development

Paramount Unified School District (PUSD) continues its support of the visual and performing arts education during the summer by providing professional development to approximately 100 elementary and middle school teachers from schools throughout the district.

Techniques for bringing Language Arts to life were provided to 60 kindergarten through fifth grade teachers from Gaines, Jefferson and Tanner Schools with the assistance of staff from the Los Angeles Music Center. Teaching artists from the Music Center conducted a three day workshop for teachers, administrators and District Office staff. The workshop helped teachers increase their understanding of the state's Theatre/Visual and Performing Arts Standards and how to apply the Arts to reading and writing instruction. Teachers' role played the parts of characters and events from

stories that are part of the PUSD reading curriculum and participated in activities to strengthen their instructional skills in teaching vocabulary. Music Center specialists will visit these teachers' classrooms ten times during the school year to collaborate with them on lessons utilizing techniques introduced at the summer training.

In addition, through a partnership between PUSD and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, 40 teachers in third through eighth grades learned about the concepts and language of contemporary art with an emphasis on creative thinking skills. This program, Contemporary Art Start, provided specialized instruction for these teachers as well as classroom materials. During the 2011-12 school year, teachers will have the opportunity to take their students on a field trip to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

Paramount Unified School District

**Parent**

Workshops

LOCATION: Jefferson School  
8600 Jefferson Street  
Paramount, CA 90723

**6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Oct. 6, 2011	Preventing Bullying and Harassment
Oct. 20, 2011	Homework Help/Academic Skills
Nov. 3, 2011	Grounds for Suspension and Mandated Attendance (SART)
Nov. 17, 2011	Preparing for the Holidays
Dec. 1, 2011	Parent Project
Dec. 15, 2011	Handling Difficult Behaviors
Jan. 12, 2012	Creating Life Memories <small>(Children 7+ older may attend with parent/guardian)</small>
Jan. 26, 2012	Understanding ADHD

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**

## WALKING SAFELY

These student safety guidelines were developed by Paramount Unified School District. Please review the following safety precautions with your children:

- Do not speak to strangers.
- Do not walk alone, particularly in isolated areas not intended for walking, especially along the railroad tracks.
- Use the appropriate dismissal gates, ones where there is supervision.
- Walk in areas where you can be seen by others.
- Travel in groups whenever possible.
- Report any suspicious behavior school authorities and the Paramount Sheriff Station at (562) 220-2002, Lakewood Sheriff Station at (562) 623-3500, Long Beach Police at (562) 570-9800 (Collins School) or South Gate Police at (323) 563-5400.

Please remind your children to be careful and constantly aware of their surroundings.

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



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*Great things are happening in Paramount Schools*

**Eye On Education**

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



# Alondra Middle School's 2011 Eighth Grade Dinner Dance



The dinner dance took place at "The Center" in Sycamore Plaza on June 3rd from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Two hundred participating eighth grade students enjoyed an evening of camaraderie with their peers, as well as with the adults present. The students were instrumental in making this event come to fruition by fundraising to finance it.

Our lovely young people checked in at the Sycamore Plaza foyer, clad in their finest semi formal attire. After checking in they made their way up a spiral staircase leading to the grand ballroom and were struck by the grandeur of it all, with the wonderland of balloons created by the "balloon man" just adding to the excitement. The music, created by the STAR staff, flowed beautifully while the students mingled; exchanging oohs and aahs over the evening attire of their peers.

The music genre changed to accommodate a lovely background for dining, as dinner was to be served at 6:30. The tables were beautifully decorated, with the students able to sit at their table of choice. As our Alondra School staff members served meals fit for our kings and queens, the students retrieved their cloth napkins from their glasses and placed them on their laps; ladies and gentlemen all. As dinner came to a close, Sycamore staff members cleared the tables and two dessert bars were opened, with dinner music magically reverting to dance music for the remainder of the evening. The majority



of the kids returned to their tables only to hydrate between dances. The STAR team really knew how to keep a crowd on its feet!

At the close of this lovely evening, parents arrived for their sons and daughters. Once again we were reminded of what a great eighth grade class of students this was! They earned this evening of celebration, dressed like ladies and gents with behavior exemplary as well. Fun was had by all!!

For the adults, the evening was a bittersweet one; another closing of one chapter, but with the impending opening of another...

**Dolores Barrios and  
Debbie Morrow  
Counselors  
Alondra Middle School**

## Superintendent's Message:

### Students' Post High Scores on State Test

I am pleased to report that the State test scores for Paramount Unified School District released by the California Department of Education have surpassed County averages and in many cases, are all-time records for our school district.

Our student academic test performance scores continue to improve every year. Our students are to be congratulated for their hard work and our faculty, staff, and administrators are to be commended for their tremendous work and dedication to ensure that our students continue to achieve their very best.

The percentage of students who scored proficient or higher on the CST in grades 2-7 mathematics exceed the L.A. County average, with over 50% of PUSD students achieving proficiency on this challenging test.



I am very pleased and proud of the continued partnership and support existing between our students, schools, parents, and faculty that truly enhance our effectiveness and ability to increase student achievement for all students.

The State test scores are available to view at [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov).

Thank you for your continued support.

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

## Don't Give Up: An Adult School Success Story

How, exactly, does a person born in a house tucked amid acres of coffee trees in a tiny town in El Salvador rise to win awards and achieve widespread recognition in a big city like Paramount?

When asked this question recently, Paramount Adult School (PAS) student Ruth Sanchez had a simple answer: "Be positive and don't give up." Ruth embodies those qualities herself. Early in August she went through the PAS graduation ceremony as a GED recipient. Not only that, but she was recognized as the 2011 winner of the largest scholarship given out by ACSA Region 14, a statewide organization for adult school administrators.

These are just the latest steps in her long journey with our adult school. She began four years ago as an English student at an adult class held at Zamboni school. Then she followed her teacher to the main adult campus on Paramount Boulevard, where she worked her way through the intermediate and advanced English classes.

For years Ruth has also been active as a volunteer in many schools throughout Paramount Unified School district. "I would volunteer at whichever place my daughter was studying," Ruth said, "and I was always active in the PTA." In fact, she became the school's representative on the district advisory committee for Zamboni, Keppel, and Paramount High School. For the year that she was the PAS representative, she gave monthly presentations to the Board of Education that outlined the projects and progress of the adult school.

Ruth came to the U.S. when she was 16. After that she worked to help



her mother and sisters, then she started her own family. "I always thought about getting my GED and high school diploma, and when my youngest son started pre-school my daughter told me, 'Okay, mom. No more excuses. Now you have time to start studying.'" And so she did.

As for the future, Ruth is already preparing to earn her high school diploma with PAS. After that, she will be going to college to become a preschool or kindergarten teacher because she has always liked to be around little kids. "If you have a goal you can achieve it at Paramount Adult School," Ruth said. "They have great teachers. They will all help you, like they helped me. Whenever I needed help, Principal Morgan was there for me, too. "And don't forget to volunteer at your children's schools—they really need the help."

**Jerry King  
Assistant Principal  
Adult School**



## Proud to be Keppel School Parents

All through the school year, Mark Keppel Elementary School had incredible ELAC parent meetings. Aside from being informative for parents of English learners, they have also been learning experiences as well.

Our Principal, Mrs. Go, has teamed up with Mrs. Daisy Majak, an enthusiastic and loving retired teacher and parent, and Mrs. Diaz, a loving and dedicated first grade teacher and a parent as well. All of them have had years of experience as educators and successful parenting.

We have learned about teachers being our allies and how to work with them. We also learned about the importance of homework and how to deal with them. The value and techniques of reading to our children was another topic. Another eye opening session was called "Disciplining With Love." We were given tools to take home and implement right away. "They work!!!" parents exclaimed.

Every lesson has given us practical ideas that we can practice at home. They are ideas that the presenters themselves have practiced and have achieved great results with. We, as parents, have also used these great techniques in our own households and have succeeded as well!

There is magic in the lessons as well. For example, as we are learning how to "Discipline with Love," we learned the importance of building our own self esteem. We, the mothers, are also the authority and we don't need to use the "I am going to tell your dad when he

gets home" line. We need to discipline our children when we need to. We don't need to wait for anybody to do it.

After each meeting, parents get to ask questions, and even have some private sessions with the presenters. We receive advice from the wonderful ladies who have given their lives not only to their families, but also to teach our children and now us, the parents as well.

Parents love to come to the meetings and we can see it in the attendance. There are more and more parents showing up as the meetings progress. Parents said they have used some of the advice from the meetings at home and they are noticing amazing difference in their kids. During the last meeting, the parents were all asked to complete a survey. We were also asked of our inputs for the topics to be covered in the coming school year. We feel valued as parents. We are being heard!!!

We have experienced positive changes not only in our children's behavior, but in ours as well. We can't wait for the next Parent Meeting! We are thankful for how the school has embraced us as partners in educating our children. We are proud to be Keppel School parents!!!

**Teresita Zamudio, SSC President**

**Ruth Sanchez, ELAC Chairperson**

**Estela Lopez, ELAC Member Rep.**

**Angelica Trespalacios, PTA President**

## Enhancing Learning with Theater Arts at Jefferson



The director says, "Ready set, TABLEAU," and teachers are frozen in snapshot scenes from a story that illustrate the beginning, middle, and ending. This summer, Jefferson teachers joined a few other Paramount schools on how to bring stories to life through theatre arts as they trained with the Music Center's Professional Development Workshop entitled We Tell Stories. The three-day training included activities such as theatre games that provoked sensory awareness, teamwork, use of imagination, character and story analysis using critical thinking skills, and techniques to creatively stage and act out a story. Teachers participated enthusiastically, and it is exciting to implement these new strategies when students will bring stories to life through various theatre arts connections. Knowing that students learn in a variety of ways, theater arts provides another medium through which students can explore and investigate to express themselves successfully.

"Physicalization leads to intellectu-

alization" is a concept that was taught during the training. Acting out scenes in a story is not just for fun. To put on a good show and make a story come to life, the actor needs to comprehend what the story is about. Before putting on a show, students will have to sequence the story into logical scenes, determine the personality of different characters, use their bodies to portray different emotions, learn new vocabulary, and apply critical thinking skills while participating in all these activities. Our teachers and students will work with the Music Center artists throughout the year as they integrate their theater arts skills for content understanding. We look forward to seeing our students strengthen their vocabulary and comprehension skills, enhance their love of literature, and see their learning come to life!

**Deanne Teng**  
Instructional Coach/  
Intervention Teacher  
Jefferson School

## Alternative Education Center

The Alternative Education Center (AEC) opened in the fall of 2009 in order to provide an alternative setting for high school students to complete their education and earn a high school diploma. The AEC provides one to one instruction in a small and individualized educational environment. The AEC staff has worked hard to ensure the success of all its students which is evident in the number of students who finished all high school requirements this past year. Approximately 34 AEC students graduated in the 2010-11. The staff at the AEC congratulates all their graduates and wishes them well in their future endeavors.

**Manuel San Miguel, Director – Alternative Education**

## New Rule... October 4th Extension for Tdap Requirement

**Student MUST have the Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Tdap Booster Shot by October 4, 2011!**

There has been a change in the new California law that requires students in 7th through 12th grades that require proof of a Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Tdap Booster shot for this 2011-12 school year. The state legislation has extended the time line to October 4, 2011. 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.

The Paramount Unified School District is recommending parents contact your family physician today, to get a whooping cough shot (Tdap) before October 4, 2011. 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 or Paramount Unified School District, Student Services Office, at 562/602-6035.

## Welcome Back to the 2011-2012 School Year!



Pictured above, is Superintendent David Verdugo and Board of Education members as they welcome back District staff to the 2011-12 school year during the District's Annual Convocation that took place at Paramount High School.