

# PUSD EDUCATION NEWS

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

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AUGUST 2012

## Zamboni Middle School Celebrates Woman's History Month

During woman's history month our Zamboni students were chosen to enter the Paramount Woman's History Club contest. The contest included essays and artistic displays of a woman in history who has influenced our students' lives. Board president, Linda Garcia, introduced the contest to our students. During the following weeks the students worked closely with their teachers and created beautiful displays of art. 150 students entered the contest. They were all eager to demonstrate to the club their acquired skills. The teachers who helped our students were Ms. Elaine Lopez, 8th grade history teacher, Mrs. Elisa Williams, 8th grade Language Arts teacher, Mrs. Jissell Juarez, 6th grade Language Arts teacher, and Ms. Yvonne Cruz, 7th grade history teacher. The contest was organized by Mrs. Jennifer Pierson, Language Arts coach. She made sure that the students had what they needed and that the event ran smoothly.



Pictured above are Maria Urrea 8th, Rebeka Martinez 7th, Andreina Espinosa 7th, Mrs. Liz Salcido, Joel Valdivia 6th, Bryant Miron 6th, PUSD Board President, Mrs. Linda Garcia, Mrs. Jissell Juarez, Mrs. Elisa Williams, Vanessa Jacobo 6th, Maria Flores 8th, Alejandra Hernandez 8th, Ms. Elaine Lopez, Ms. Yvonne Cruz, and Dawnteray Sanders 7th.

The Woman's Club members came to the school to judge the students' work. They were amazed with all the entries displayed in the

Zamboni library. Throughout the library the entries were organized by grade level. The ladies read essays, observed presentation boards and

enjoyed a power point presentation of Amelia Earhart. The ladies spent the day judging the entries. They were finally able to narrow their top 9 winners.

Mrs. Linda Garcia presented the top winners on May 4th at a lovely breakfast in the library hosted by Mrs. Salcido, Principal at Zamboni Middle School. The top winners were presented with certificates and monetary awards

of up to \$50. The students were all excited and very appreciative of the clubs generosity.

Zamboni Middle School would like to thank the Woman's Club for selecting our school and allowing our students the opportunity to participate in this year's Woman's History Club contest.

Hilda Verdugo, Assistant Principal  
Zamboni Middle School

## Alondra Middle School Rewards Students for Perfect Attendance

Alondra Dolphins with perfect attendance for the 2011-2012 school year took it from the ocean to the ice, at Iceland Skating Rink in Paramount! Over 100 Alondra students earned a trip to Iceland as a reward for their perfect attendance. These committed students were not only present everyday, but did not have a single tardy in that time. The trip to Iceland was a fun filled event. The majority of those students who earned the trip came out for an afternoon of skating and celebration!

Alondra Middle School has been working diligently to meet the district attendance goals. With the support of PTSA, Alondra School has implemented a variety of incentive programs over the past year that enabled them to meet both the Annual District Attendance Goal and every Monthly Goal as well. In addition to the Iceland trip, Alondra had monthly grade-level challenges, where first period classes in each grade-level competed against one another for the highest classroom attendance rate. The class in each grade-level with the highest attendance that month won a build your own ice cream sundae



party. Alondra also celebrated over 150 students who had perfect attendance during second semester with a visit from the Ice Cream Truck. Alondra

Middle School is very proud of these students and will make continued efforts to keep their students in school, everyday and on-time!

**School Begins  
August 22, 2012**

**Paramount Adult  
School Graduation  
August 2, 2012  
7:00 p.m.**

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES  
August 22, 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

# Celebrating an Effective Collaboration in Paramount

What do you call a program that involves nearly 300 Paramount students on eight campuses dedicated to the growth and practical learning in the areas of mathematics, science, and engineering? Here's a hint- our program is coordinated and sponsored by California State University Long Beach, the City of Paramount and Paramount Unified School District. Need another hint? This program prepares students in the subjects mentioned above to compete regionally against five local school districts involving twenty-two middle schools and eight high schools. If you haven't guessed it yet, the program is named MESA, the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement program.

This year's MESA story begins with a parent meeting at Progress Park on a Wednesday evening on October 5th. It was attended by over 200 community family members- parents, students, teachers and staff they met to discuss the goals, expectation and vision of the 2011-2012- MESA program a vision to prepare our students for futures in engineering and the sciences. The grand kick off on October 15th drew Paramount's finest.



Pictured is Paramount's City Council Members (and Mayor at time of photo) Dale Hofmeyer left, with Gene Daniels right and in the center, School Board member- Vivian Hansen greeting students and parents at center. Official MESA t-shirts designed by City Parks Supervisor Suleyma Rosales were distributed to all students. Students boarded their school busses and traveled to Cal State Long Beach's engineering building for training that would prepare them to compete in the spring. Five additional Saturdays were dedicated to their growth, learning and project development.

Spring preliminary competitions took place on March 3rd for the Middle Schools and March 17th for High School at California State University Long Beach. Student competitors from Paramount schools received 46 Middle School and 91 High School ribbons with 27 students receiving ribbons at the regional competitions held on April 14th and the 21st. Projects that students built and entered in competitions included airplanes, bridges mouse trap cars, prosthetic arms and windmill designs. Students from Zamboni hold bottles in the air used in their bottle rocket project.



The spring program also included visits to Universities and study trips to the Science Center at Exposition Park.

The MESA Program concluded on May 22nd with a banquet at the CSULB Student Union Hall to honor the Middle School eighth graders and graduating seniors (Shown below) followed by certificates presented to the regional award winners at the Paramount Unified School District Board meeting.



The heart and soul of MESA is our local school advisors. MESA Advisors are dedicated teachers who work in our Middle and High Schools that promote and organize all activities. Our MESA advisors include from Alondra- Chris Rise and Martin Hernandez; from Hollydale- Dale Van De Velde; from Jackson- Laura Donato and Carlos Sierra; at Paramount Park- Jeff Kiesel and Michelle Soto; from Zamboni- Britain Bombard, Edith Cabral and Christina Soto. From Paramount High School West Campus- Brent Rummell and Kevin Reed from the Senior Campus.

When we look at the impact that MESA has on student's success, the data shows that nation-wide, students who participate in MESA have a twenty times better chance of attending college than their non-member counterparts. In addition, MESA is a rare program that unites the efforts of local University, City and School District efforts towards developing the achievement and future of Paramount Youth. Please keep a close watch on plans for 2012-13 it promises to be even better!

Durrell Jackson, Curriculum Specialist  
District Office

## Paramount Park Middle School

### *How to Prepare Your Child for Middle School*

The first day of school is filled with anticipation and excitement of the new year. This is the one day that students nervously wait in anticipation to embrace the friends that they lost contact with over the summer. The halls are filled with chatter and laughter as they compare their summer adventures and compare schedules to see if they have the same classes. For new sixth graders, the idea the first day of Middle School may not be embraced with the same enthusiasm. Instead, they envision a scary place where they will have to make new friends, while traveling to six new classes. During this time, they can't imagine that they will adapt to their new environment and learn to navigate the campus within the first few days of the new year. Because of the mixed emotions of the new middle schoolers, it is important that parents take the time to discuss any concerns and/or questions their child may have. Below are a few suggestions to help make the transition to Paramount Park Middle School a little easier.

1. Take a tour of the new Middle School and meet the staff members.
2. Talk about the benefits and opportunities of Middle School, such as participation in extra-curricular activities and clubs.
3. Address your child's fears about Middle School and remind him/her that counselors are on-sight to help them make the adjustment.
4. Talk about bullying and remind him/her that Paramount Park School is a "Bully-Free Zone".
5. Talk about increased responsibility of organizing school work and materials to ensure success in all their classes.

In addition to the suggestions above, it is important to stress that Middle School is that place in the middle that all students must travel. It is during this time that they will begin the journey of discovering their independence while establishing the foundation of what they want to be in the future. By the end of the first few days, your child will realize that Middle School is an adventure and the teachers and staff are willing to be part of this new and exciting journey ensuring a successful introduction to the middle school experience. The staff at Paramount Park Middle School is looking forward to meeting the new students and embarking on the journey to making 2012-2013 another great year!

Topekia Jones, Principal  
Paramount Park Middle School

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Great things are happening in Paramount Schools

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# When the Construction Dust Settles

When the construction dust settles at Paramount High School, all pirates of the past, present, and future will certainly appreciate the history and progress that the Paramount community has invested in its high schools. Upon a rapidly approaching completion of all construction, students of Paramount High School will benefit from a brand-new mini gym, a modernized main gym, updated boys' and girls' locker rooms, athletic team rooms, expanded food service areas, an improved quad for students to rest and enjoy themselves beyond the labors of their academic rigors, and a hall of champions that will exemplify a great sense of pride in the history of Paramount High School athletics. The coaching staff and athletes are eager to see the dust settle so that the athletic teams at Paramount High School can thrive in their new home-away-from-home environment. Over one thousand students at Paramount High School participate in after school sports or activities and will gain so many great high school experiences from the facility improvements made over the past couple of years thanks to the passing of the Bond Measure AA.

With the underlying philosophy to encourage all student athletes to pursue victory with honor and through character development, the athletic program aims to emphasize the development of the six pillars of character including trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship which aligns with the school's Expected School Learning Results for all students. The goal is to emphasize the importance of character building, ethics, and sportsmanship in the Paramount community and strives to always be an exemplary representative in the competitive San Gabriel Valley League.

As the Paramount community looks back on the many athletic accomplishments of the past, we are able to build on those winning traditions toward future successes that stem from the work ethic of the phenomenal coaching staff and athletes of Paramount High School. Although new facilities and changes are underway, the traditions of Paramount High School athletics will carry on, and that makes so many proud to be pirates!

**Come support Pirate athletics in the upcoming fall competitions:**

- Paramount Football vs. Los Alamitos (August 31, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.)
- Girls' Tennis vs. Western (September 5, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.)
- Girls' Volleyball vs. Whittier (September 11, 2012 at 3:15pm - West Campus Gym)
- Cross Country League Meet (September 20, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. - Hollydale Park)
- Boys' WaterPolo vs. Gahr (October 2, 2012 at 3:15pm)

# Spring Carnival

Spring was in the air at Roosevelt School in June! Our annual Spring Carnival was held on Thursday, June 7th from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Parent volunteers, teachers and community members contributed time, supplies and, most of all, a dedication to our students and school to support this special event.

Teachers from each grade level hosted a booth which was supervised by the teachers and parent volunteers. Children enjoyed face painting, games, and FUN! A variety of delicious food choices were available for those who attended. Food booths, organized by our parents and community representatives, served everything from tacos to pizza to hot dogs!

Entertainment was provided by a local folkloric dance troupe. The young dancers impressed the crowd with their beautiful native costumes and expert dance skills. Many of the dancers in the ensemble were Roosevelt School students!

A wonderful afternoon was enjoyed by all who participated. Proceeds from the carnival will be used by the school to support school-wide programs and student achievement.

Thank you to all who gave of their time to ensure the success of an important Roosevelt tradition.

**Susan Marilley, Principal  
Roosevelt School**

## Superintendent's Message:

### Dear Parents and Community Members, Welcome Back!



On behalf of our Board of Education, I would like to welcome all of our students and families back from what I sincerely hope was a relaxing and fulfilling summer holiday with family and friends.

Unfortunately, the State is once again facing a deep and prolonged budget crisis that has continued to take its toll on California Schools and the Paramount Unified School District. When Governor Brown released his 2012-2013 budget, it became very apparent that school districts' throughout the State including Paramount Unified School District would continue to operate in a fiscal environment of uncertainty.

After seven years as your Superintendent of Schools, I have learned that difficult times often bring out the best in us. These complex economic challenges we are facing have a way of focusing our attention on what is essential. They remind us of our core values and the District's Mission and Vision.

Since 1953, Paramount Unified School District has existed with the mission to prepare our students for a

bright and successful future. In times like these, I am reminded that our most valuable asset is not the capital investment in our new schools and buildings. A school district is not great because of bricks and mortar, or libraries and laboratories or rankings and SAT scores. A school district is great because of its people, its faculty, students, staff, community, and alumni and in the way in which those people work together for a "common cause", the District's Mission and Vision.

I continue to have faith and hope that we will emerge successfully and do the right thing for our students, our employees and our District in these difficult times due to our greatest asset –you– the Paramount family of faculty, students and parents.

I am very proud of the many accomplishments and success that we have witnessed in PUSD. I am confident that we will continue our conditions for renewal. I am looking forward to a great 2012-2013 school year.

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

## SCHOOL REGISTRATION! SCHOOL STARTS AUGUST 22, 2012

**Transitional Kindergarten (TK)**

Children are eligible for Transitional Kindergarten (TK) if their fifth birthday falls between November 2 and December 2 for the 2012-13 school year. The Transitional Kindergarten program will be offered at three locations: Gaines, Lincoln and Roosevelt.

**Kindergarten through 5th GRADE**

Do you have a child who will be five years old on or before November 1, 2012. If so, have you registered him for Kindergarten? Starting August 6th, all of our elementary schools will be accepting registration for grades K- 5. You will need proof of residency and personal identification to register.

**Middle School Grades 6-8**

All middle school registration starts on August 6th.

**Paramount High School West Campus (9th grade only)**

New Student Registration began on July 31, 2012.

**Paramount High School Senior Campus (10-12 grades)**

New Student Registration began on July 1, 2012.

If you have questions regarding registration, please call your school or Student Services at 602-6035 for information.

We'll see you on August 22!

Collins K-5 (562) 602-8008	Mokler K-5 (562) 602-8044	Alondra 6-8 (562) 602-8004
Gaines K-3 (562) 602-8012	Roosevelt K-5 (562) 602-8056	Paramount Park 6-8 (562) 602-8052
Jefferson K-5 (562) 602-8024	Tanner K-5 (562) 602-8060	Zamboni 6-8 (562) 602-8048
Keppel K-5 (562) 602-8028	Wirtz K-5 (562) 602-8068	Paramount High West Campus (9th grade only) (562)602-8066
Lincoln K-5 (562) 602-8036	Hollydale K-8 (562) 602-8016	Paramount High School Senior Campus(10-12 grades) (562)602-6068
Los Cerritos K-5 (562) 602-8040	Jackson 4-8 (562) 602-8020	

## Collins is a Safe and Civil Place



Collins School began the Safe and Civil process at the beginning of the 2011-12 school year. Teachers and all staff were trained in August by S. Isaacs. A committee was created to continue to maintain the Safe and Civil practices at our site. We have looked at our "common areas" (i.e. entering school, hallways, recess, cafeteria, and exiting school along with the bus pick up). Data was collected, shared with staff, and the committee made decisions. One of the biggest decisions was to change our school hours. It is important that the students are picked up immediately after school so that we do not have too much "wait time" which could lead to problems. Therefore, school will begin 10 minutes later allowing for less "wait time" at the end of the day. Guidelines and Procedures have also been set up, by our Colt Committee, to assist students with understanding our expectations so that learning can take place ALL DAY. We began to focus on positive behavior by rewarding students with "Colt Coupons." Coupons are passed out by all staff for positive behaviors observed or heard. A raffle is held every Friday where up to 20 students receive awards.

One liner's were created to make sure we all follow expected procedures. For example, "Go, Flush, Wash, Leave" for using the restroom. The school counselor came up with a great one liner, "Work it out!" When you work it out, students speak to one another about the concerns they may have with one another. Students continue to use these strategies on a daily basis where they talk out their problems instead of resorting to treating one another disrespectfully. It is our goal to treat others as we wish to be treated. Congratulations go out to the Colt Committee, Collins Staff, and our entire community. With everyone's assistance, we will continue to maintain a Safe and Civil environment for 2012-13 and years to come.

**Bea Spelker-Levi, Principal  
Collins School**

## Reminder to Fill Out Your Student Meal Benefits Application

The Student Nutrition Services Department encourages all families who have students enrolled in Paramount schools to complete a new 2012-2013 meal benefits application. A new meal benefits application must be filled out each new school year. Families only need to fill out one family application even if they have children at more than one school. Your student's current lunch/breakfast pin number will continue to work in the 2012-13 school year, whether they stay at the same school or transfer to another Paramount school.

You can either fill out the Meal Benefits Application at a school site or you can attend our 2012-13 Meal Benefit Application Open Enrollment being held at all elementary and middle schools. Open Enrollment will take place Monday, August 6, 2012 through Friday, August 10, 2012. Cafeteria staff will be on site to assist anyone with filling out the 2012-13 Meal Benefits Application. School meal benefits are offered to all families who qualify. If you have any questions or need assistance in completing the application, please contact Student Nutrition Services at 562-602-6031.

Remember to make healthy choices.

**Chris Stamm, Director, Student Nutrition Services**

## PHS Health Career Academy Students Secure Local Jobs



The Health Career Academy (HCA) is continuing to provide motivated students at Paramount High School the opportunity to explore and possibly enter careers in the health and medical fields. The Health Career Academy has flourished under the leadership of Ms. Elizabeth Rodriguez. As a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), she has been teaching Regional Occupational Program (ROP) here at PHS for the past four years. Ms. Rodriguez shares that since arriving at PHS, she has never had so many students hired or offered future positions so quickly and at such young ages. Ms. Rodriguez is proud to report that a total of ten of her students were offered positions of employment on a part-time basis in various hospitals and clinics within the local community this school year; two of which include senior, Cristian Salazar and junior, Thalia Hernandez.

Cristian has been enrolled in the HCA track for four consecutive years and has been employed on a part-time basis ever since her junior year. In working an average of fifteen hours per week as a Front Office Medical Assistant at a local optometrist office in the city of Paramount, she enjoys it

tremendously. She is excited about the opportunities that have been provided to her as a result of her enrollment in the HCA. She shares that the additional responsibilities make her feel like an adult while giving her a taste of the real world. She will continue to excel in the medical field for years to come as she actively takes steps of becoming a Clinical Pharmacist upon completing pharmacy technician school. Thalia will enter her fourth year of HCA classes this Fall. As a junior, she accepted part-time employment at a local clinic as a Front Office Assistant. She shares that she loves working at the clinic five days per week and dreams of becoming a Registered Nurse (R.N.) that specializes in assisting students with disabilities. She credits Ms. Rodriguez, along with the detailed training of the HCA program for bringing out the best in her. She adds that Ms. Rodriguez has inspired her to do the best job that she can possibly do.

**Gregoire Francois  
Assistant Principal  
Paramount High School**

## 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.