

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

JUNE 2012

PUSD Celebrates Teachers with Teacher of the Year Awards!

On May 9, 2012, school and district staff and members of the Board of Education joined in celebrating each school's Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year recognition honors the positive effect teachers have on the lives of students each day. The Board of Education Trustees awarded each of the 20 recipients a plaque to honor their contribution to Paramount's students and community.

Teachers are asked to select one outstanding teacher to represent their school for this honor. In making this selection, teachers give careful consideration to the person who best meets all of the following criteria:

- Shows commitment to professional growth.
- Supports his/her colleagues to develop their skills.
- Pursues educational activities beyond the school day.
- Delivers high quality instruction.
- Communicates positively with students and parents.

After a selection committee chooses the District-wide Teacher of the Year, he or she has the opportunity to apply for the Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year competition. This year, Algebra Teacher Lori Louzy from Paramount High School was selected to represent PUSD as the district wide Teacher of the Year. We congratulate Ms. Louzy, her students and her school for this outstanding honor!



Lori Louzy
District Teacher of the Year



Paramount Unified School District's 2012-13 Teachers of the Year

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Early Childhood Education | - Charlene Landry |
| Alondra Middle School | - Kirsan K. Veith |
| Collins School | - Rhonda Wilson Knox |
| Gaines School | - Ann Juarez |
| Hollydale School | - Ane Astredo Miller |
| Jackson School | - Heather Simpson Downs |
| Jefferson School | - Judith G. Boxx |
| Keppel School | - Amie M. Grommet |
| Lincoln School | - Graciela H. Torres |
| Los Cerritos School | - Elsa Marcela Medina |
| Mokler School | - Missy Bergman |
| Paramount Park Middle School | - José F. Gómez |
| Roosevelt School | - Craig A. Lane |
| Tanner School | - Stacy Aleta Willard |
| Wirtz School | - Vienna Garcia |
| Zamboni Middle School | - Robin Herbelin-McPherson |
| Paramount High School-West | - Lorena Chaidez |
| Paramount High School | - Lori Louzy |
| Buena Vista High School | - Robert Ashabraner |
| Paramount Adult School | - Bibi Angola |

Physically Fit Preschoolers



The District's Preschool students are working hard to keep their bodies fit and healthy. They enjoy exercising every day. They exercise to music, or by counting out each repetition. They also enjoy ABC Yoga, which they make their bodies into the shape of letters of the alphabet.

Teachers have also changed the food that they use to celebrate with. They have had fruit salad parties

or bring your favorite veggie party in which children create healthy dips. Children have even made their own yogurt fruit sundaes - Yum! No longer do they celebrate with sweet cakes, cookies and ice creams.

For information, please contact the Early Childhood Education Office at (562) 602-6900 or visit the office at 7340 E. Jackson Street.

BIG SMILES



Gaines Preschool Student Kaili Cervantes received a big surprise while at preschool school on April 27, 2012. Her father Antonio Cervantes returning from being a specialist in the Army for the last 11 months, surprised his daughter at preschool. So surprised, Kaili sat with a big smile staring at her father as he walked in, continuing to eat her lunch. She finally jumped into his arms saying "I'm happy your home - you really surprised me!"

Being inquisitive preschool students, Sgt. Cervantes couldn't leave until he spoke to all of the students, explaining what the Army was and what his job was. All of the preschool students were almost as excited as Kaili was to see Sgt. Cervantes.

Sgt. Cervantes will only be home for 18 days. He will soon be stationed in Fort Sill Oklahoma.

For information regarding Preschool, please contact the Early Childhood Education Office at (562) 602-6900 or visit the office at 7340 E. Jackson Street.

Charlene Landry, Teacher - Early Childhood Education

Graduation Dates

Buena Vista High School * June 12, 6:00p.m.
Paramount High School * June 14, 6:00 p.m.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

June 13, 2012 - June 27, 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

Believe, Achieve, and Succeed!



Students at Hollydale School have spent months preparing for STAR testing. As a culminating activity, the Hollydale PTA provided a motivational assembly which delivered a wonderful message in a very entertaining show.

The TNT Dunk Squad performed high-flying aerial stunts with spectacular slam dunks. Between stunts they delivered the message that if you work hard and believe

in yourself, you can succeed. One of the performers shared his personal story of following his dream. Students listened attentively as he explained watching the Olympics one year, and deciding that he wanted to become a gymnast. His friends were not enthusiastic about his decision, but he pursued his dreams anyway. Now, because he reached his goals, he is able to travel the world as he displays his talents.



Students understood that the message applied to them as well. They learned that they can set their own goals, and that if they work hard, their dreams can be realized.

One of the highlights of the assembly was the opportunity for several students to participate. They stood still as the dare-devils performed stunts over their heads, sometimes snatching the hats they had

been given. Some had the opportunity to put the basketball in play for the trampoline stunts.

All in all it was the best assembly of the year, and the students were ready to face their testing weeks with energy and confidence! Go Hornets!

**Kathy Vaughn, Teacher
Hollydale School**

PHS Counselors Prepare Student-Athletes for the Next Level

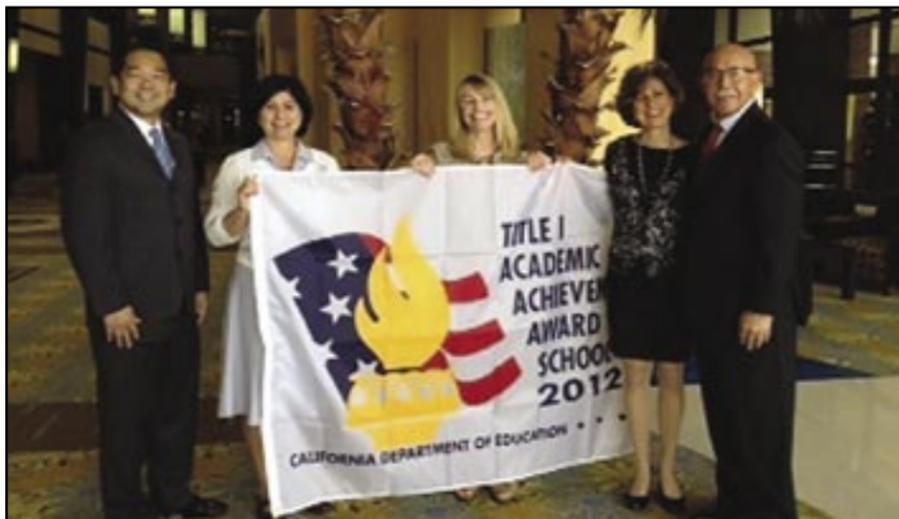


Paramount High School athletic talent levels continue to improve each year. As a result, PHS school counselors have been actively working with coaches, students, and parents to prepare student-athletes for advancement to the next level. PHS counselors are providing potential college athletes and their families with information on how they can qualify to participate in NCAA Division I and/or II athletics. Coaches from various sports campus-wide have collaborated with counselors in identifying current student-athletes that display the potential to compete at the collegiate level. They are utilizing this time to review student transcripts to inform students of the required courses that they would need in order to meet all NCAA and A-G requirements. Along with providing students with SAT and ACT registration information, counselors are also assisting student athletes in creating NCAA accounts at www.eligibilitycenter.org to further monitor their eligibility.

In efforts to better inform the families and involve the stakeholders in the process, NCAA Parent Informational workshops are also being facilitated on campus. During these workshops, parents are presented with key information in regards to their children on being NCAA eligible. Parents are provided with a copy of their child's transcript and a checklist to see where they stand in terms of meeting the following requirements: NCAA, A-G, SAT/ACT, and graduation requirements. Head Football Coach Matt Howard is very pleased with the efforts of all involved stakeholders. He further shares that "this program is allowing everybody to be on the same page in terms of our student-athletes."

**Patricia Jacobo, Guidance Counselor
Paramount High School**

Academic Excellence at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School



The "Lincoln Lion Legacy" of academic achievement continues to be recognized and applauded by the California Department of Education. For the second year in a row, Lincoln received the very prestigious Title I Academic Achievement Award. This award is testament to the hard work and dedication of not only our Lincoln teachers and staff, but also our Lincoln students and their families.

To meet the rigorous criteria that qualified Lincoln for the Title I Academic Achievement Award, our students demonstrated continued academic growth, as measured by their success on STAR tests in both English Language Arts and Mathematics.

In May, at our second annual STAR assembly, eleven Lincoln students were honored for attaining perfect scores in the area of mathematics, and highest scores in

the area of language arts. Parents were invited to attend this assembly. These students, and their families, exemplify Lincoln's strong focus on rigor, high academic standards, and student recognition.

In addition, as part of our school wide celebration of success, all students in second through fifth grades enjoyed a spirited assembly hosted by The Morris Brothers, who reviewed test taking strategies using music, games, and humor.

At Lincoln, we are extremely proud of our students' accomplishments and their commitment to academic excellence. Our continued success is testament to our Lincoln School motto,

"Lincoln Lions Love Learning!"

**Pamela Williams, Principal
Abraham Lincoln Elementary School**

PUSD Education News is a monthly Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

Board of Education

Linda Garcia – President
Vivian Hansen – VP/Clerk
Alicia Anderson – Member
Sonya Cuellar – Member
Tony Peña – Member

District Superintendent

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

Buena Vista's CCEA District VII Classified Person of the Year

The theme among the Buena Vista staff this year is "Teamwork" and Sandra Patino is an integral team player in the office. As the Data Technician, she wears many hats in serving our school. Mrs. Patino was recently awarded a very special honor – CCEA District VII Classified Person of the Year. We are very proud of this recognition she has earned for Buena Vista High School and the Paramount Unified School District.

CCEA is the California Continuation Education Association and is made up of districts throughout the state. Paramount USD is part of District VII, which includes Los Angeles County. Each year, CCEA hosts a state conference where various recognitions are given. In the category for "Classified Person of the Year" numerous schools made nominations and for all of District VII, our very own Sandra Patino was declared the winner.

Mrs. Patino has served Paramount USD for many years at various sites ranging from Adult School to elementary schools. She has worked as the Data Technician for Buena Vista for three years and collaborates with teachers, counselors, and administration to make sure that students and their families



receive the attention and support they need to be successful. It isn't uncommon to see her juggling many big projects at one time, but doing so with confidence and thoroughness. We are grateful for everything she does for our school.

Congratulations, Mrs. Patino!

Jean Law, Principal

Gates Millennium Scholars



Pictured with the Board of Education, Superintendent Verdugo, Principals Greg Buckner and Morries Kosareff are Gates Millennium Scholar recipients Maria Jimenez-Aguilar, Jesus Villegas, and Paola Ruiz.

During a recent Board of Education meeting, the Board of Education and Superintendent recognized three Paramount High School Class of 2012 students who are recipients of the Gates Millennium Scholarship.

This year's Gates Millennium Scholars are Maria Jimenez-Aguilar, Jesus Villegas

and Paola Ruiz. Maria is planning on attending UC David, Jesus plans on attending Cal State Long Beach, and Paola plans on attending Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Congratulations Maria, Jesus, and Paola!!

Superintendent's Message:

Congratulations Paramount High School Class of 2012



On behalf of our entire Board of Education, President Linda Garcia, Vice President Vivian Hansen, members Alicia Anderson, Sonya Cuellar, and Tony Peña, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to the Paramount High School Graduating Class of 2012.

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

I have no doubt that the Class of 2012 will carry that special "Pirate Pride" into their future careers and lives. They are also not likely to forget the work and dedication of the devoted staff, counselors, coaches, teachers

and administrators who provided the support and skills they will require to reach their dreams.

Also a special appreciation to the parents, guardians, and families of our graduates who supported them with their love and guidance.

Congratulations to the Class of 2012.

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

David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.
Superintendent

The 2011-12 school year Student Board representatives were recently recognized by the Board of Education and Superintendent for their continued representation of their school sites in reporting of activities, including athletic, academic and extra-curricular activities at their sites during the Board of Education meetings.



Pictured with the Board of Education are student Board representatives Claudia Mejia-Paramount Adult School, Antoinette Flores-Buena Vista High School, Kimberly Galvez-PHS West, and Angelica Lopez-Paramount High School.

California Department of Agriculture Award



Superintendent Verdugo and the Board of Education recognized Collins School student Jacob Garcia during a recent Board of Education meeting. Jacob submitted an essay entitled "Red Strawberry" into the California Department of Agriculture "Imagine This" essay writing contest. Jacob was one of five Los Angeles County Regional winners.

PHS Boys' Varsity Soccer Team



The Superintendent and Board of Education recognized and congratulated the Paramount High School Boys Varsity Soccer team during a recent Board of Education meeting. The team, coached by Juan Navarro and Rafa Villaseñor, finished a very successful season as Three-Peat Championship winners of the Division 3 – CIF Southern Section 2012 Boys Soccer Championship. In addition, the team was also for the second time in High School history 2012 CIF Southern California Regional Soccer Champions.

Paramount Unified School District Kindergarten Registration Begins!

It is time to register your child for Kindergarten! Children who are five (5) years old on or before November 1, 2012 are eligible to attend Kindergarten. Registration for the school year 2012-2013 begins May 1, 2012. To register your child the following documents are required:

- o Proof of birth, such as birth certificate
- o Current immunization records
- o Proof of residency in the Paramount Unified School District

NOTE: Children born between November 2nd and December 2nd of the current school year may attend Transitional Kindergarten (TK).

Further information about registration is available at your school or on the Paramount Unified website, www.paramount.k12.ca.us. The school site contact numbers are the following:

Collins	562/ 602-8008	Los Cerritos	562/ 602-8040
Gaines	562/ 602-8012	Mokler	562/ 602-8044
Hollydale	562/ 602-8016	Roosevelt	562/ 602-8056
Jefferson	562/ 602-8024	Tanner	562/ 602-8060
Keppel	562/ 602-8028	Wirtz	562/ 602-8068
Lincoln	562/ 602-8036		

PHS Spring Sports Bring 2011-12 To A Close

The end of the Paramount High's spring sports season brought the curtain down on another eventful year on campus. While spring league titles were sparse, CIF playoff spots were plentiful, with Pirates Baseball still in the mix as of this writing. The other major issue looming for Athletics was the completion of the five-year old construction project here at PHS, with the prospect of all of it being completed by the time school starts again in August a distinct possibility.

Paramount Varsity and JV Boys' Tennis swept to repeat league titles under coaches Curtis Mu and Ivan Rodriguez. They were joined by our boys' Varsity and girls' JV swimmers; the boys' SGVL championship was the program's fifth straight. Boys' tennis won a first-round match against Temescal Canyon before falling gamely to Buckley, 12-6. Senior captain Julian Avila capped a stellar career by maintaining his undefeated record though the team play-offs and competing in the CIF Individual Sectionals on May 18. Seniors William Rodriguez and Timothy Goodner, 2011 CIF titleists in the 200-meter freestyle relay, provided the leadership for coach Roberto Guerrero's deep squad and led the Pirates to a fine showing in the CIF prelims.

Lady Pirate softball finished 3rd in the tough SGVL, falling to Downey and Warren in one-run games in the 2nd round. But coach John Guggiana's young team (only one senior) responded in the playoffs with a 3-1 victory over El Segundo before falling to Atascadero 5-3 on a heart-breaking walk-off home run in the bottom of the 7th inning. Pirate Track and Field's streak of boys' and girls' league titles came to an end as well, but as of this writing, senior Jackie Manuel had qualified for the CIF Masters meet on May 25 at Cerritos College. Senior sprinter Shadonna Hunter completed a great

career in the CIF Finals and will be looking to continue competing in college.

Paramount Baseball also finished 3rd in league play but upset Del Rio league champion California in the CIF first-round before taking on Culver City in the second round at PHS on May 22. Pirate pitching has been strong all year and some opportune hitting could give the Pirates some playoff momentum. Finally, Pirate boys' volleyball finished just out of playoff contention; injuries hurt veteran players towards the end of the season, but the players and coach Jimena Vargas are to be commended for practicing and playing so well at the Paramount Park gym while remodeling is completed on the PHS gym.

As the 2011-12 school year closes, the possibility that the long-awaited completion of construction on the Senior campus comes into view. Since ground-breaking ceremonies on Pirate Stadium in December 2007, PHS has been under constant construction, most of it in the area of athletic facilities. The main gym remodel and new mini-gym are scheduled for completion in August, and the remodeling of the girls' PE building may be completed right on its heels. To say it's been an amazing five years would be an understatement, and the PHS coaching staff has done an amazing job in being flexible as each of the stages of construction was passed. At the same time, both district and site administration at PHS/Senior, as well as McCarthy Construction, have been great to work with and understanding of the coaching staff's needs and input on each stage of the project. It's been an amazing team effort and Athletics is grateful for everything that has been done. Have a great summer and - Go Pirates!

Mark Kemp
Athletic Director, PHS

Jefferson's School's STAR Spirit: Be Strong, Be Bold, Let's Go for the Gold!



At Jefferson School, many events took place to cheer our students on to a positive testing experience with STAR. A tradition at our school is to invite parents to a STAR Jeopardy game. The goal is to inform parents and review with students about effective routines and practices to prepare for testing. Parents listened as students answered questions on test-taking strategies in four categories of Self Confidence, Language Arts, Test-taking Skills, and Math. Students responded with trusting themselves when feeling nervous and taking their time. Parents had an opportunity to share how they can provide support at home by making sure their child had rest and nutritious meals. For every correct response, students were rewarded with raffle tickets which were later called out for fabulous prizes of board games, books, guitars, and stuffed animals. Parents always enjoy this game as

an actively engaging way to receive important information about good habits during STAR Testing.

Another event that took place was a Switch and Read Day where all teachers were assigned to a different class to read a book on persistence and perseverance. Students had another opportunity to reflect on being determined and purposeful in preparation for STAR.

Each class also created a motivational chant on a banner that was displayed throughout the school, and they were presented at the schoolwide STAR Rally. We continue to discuss the importance of being confident and applying all the content and strategies that students have learned all year long. As Mrs. Mio and Ms. Teng wore gold hair at the rally, students fervently cheered our school chant, "Be strong, Be bold, Let's go for the gold!"

Contemporary Art Starts at MOCA



On May 21, 2012, Ms. Tatro and Ms. Van Lith's students from Mark Keppel School took a trip to the Museum of Contemporary Art at Grand Avenue in Los Angeles. After visiting the Geffen location last November, Ms. Tatro's students took their second trip. At the end of a forty minute bus ride, the visit began with a walking tour of the public art around Bunker Hill. Students saw several large scale sculptures and dramatic water fountains. For the second part of the visit, students were divided into small groups to tour the inside of the museum with a museum educator. Students

used a technique called VTS (Visual Thinking Strategies) to develop thoughtful ten to fifteen minute discussions about modern art. In all, each group was able to view four art pieces. All participants received a special pass to visit any of the three MOCA locations with up to 5 other guests. When asked which his favorite part of the visit was, Henry Palacio enthusiastically said, "The Art!" We hope that the trip has inspired some future "art aficionados."

Ms. Tatro, Teacher
Mark Keppel School

Way to Go, Keppel Parents!



Since Mark Keppel's Parent Center opened its doors on August 29, 2011, parents have continued to come and volunteer. We focused on helping teachers accomplish tasks that would otherwise take away from the teachers' time with the students. However, Parent Center is not just all work. We also had the opportunity to learn from the teachers, our kids, and one-another. We gained satisfaction opening the Keppel Dollar Store as a behavior incentive program. The smiles on students' faces as they exchange their Keppel Dollars for gifts are priceless. In addition, we bonded, laughed, and were entertained by each other's talents! Our commitment is summarized by the 5,387.5, August till April volunteer hours, submitted by the PTA President, Angelica Trespacios, to the Paramount PTA Council. The Keppel PTA was awarded the Perfect

Attendance and Punctuality recognitions by the Council. In addition, 100% Staff Membership Award was also received. Maria Vargas, Guadalupe Miranda, Ana Maravilla, Teresa Bedolla and Maria Lucero received the "Very Special Person Award." Angelica Trespacios received the "Very Special Person Award." Ruth Sanchez and Teresita Zamudio were awarded the highest Service Award - the "Golden Oak Service" Awards. Furthermore, Teresita Larios, Emma Nunez, Angelica Govea and Alejandra Lopez have to be recognized for their tireless dedication. THANK YOU everyone! You have made a difference at Keppel School. It has been a great year and will get even better in the years to come.

Teresita Zamudio
Parent Center Coordinator

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.