

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

APRIL 2014

TECHNOLOGICAL INTEREST ON THE RISE AT KEPPEL

The Common Core State Standards require that students be equipped for life in a technological world. Technology is not considered a separate strand of the content. The expectations in this area are embedded throughout the rigorous new standards. Therefore, the need to train students to use technological tools from early on is necessary. Keppel School has embraced the vision and embarked on the journey to prepare our students to thrive with success in the 21st century. Students from Kindergarten through 5th grade use the computer labs on a regular basis. Students engage on required



typing lessons with enthusiasm. Kinder and first graders look

forward to the reward of typing games upon completion. Aside

from keyboarding skills, 3rd to 5th graders are using technology, including the internet to produce and publish writing. 5th grade teacher Ms. Chun said, "5th graders go online to practice Basic Math Facts. They also take various assignments such as Problem of the Day, Open Court lesson and Social Studies assessments using Edmodo.com."

This site is also used as a medium of interaction and collaboration with the teachers and other students of our class." 1st grade teacher Ms. McCarthy shared, "My students are having fun learning to type. They don't even

feel they are learning a skill." It is gratifying and impressive to see groups of students walk in to the computer lab during their recess and breaks to complete different technological assignments. Playtime is nothing as compared to the thrill of accomplishments in the computer lab.

Keppel School is excited to see the student technological interest on the rise. We are confident that we are on the right track guiding the students through their technological journey to Common Core success.

**Linda Go, Principal
Mark Keppel School**

The Threat of Rain Cannot Dampen Pajama Story Night

The spirit of Theodor Seuss Geisel must have been smiling on the Wesley Gaines Community the evening of February 27th, 2014. There had been plenty of rain that week, but Thursday dried up and provided a cool, mostly clear night to celebrate a beloved author. That was the evening that Pajama Story Night was held to celebrate Dr. Seuss's (Theodor SEUSS Geisel) birthday and help cap the Read Week Activities taking place at Wesley Gaines from February 24- 28th.

That week is full of fun themes for all Gaines Grizzlies. Themes like Wacky Hair Wednesday or Green Day make the week extra special, but the evening of the 27th was all about the enjoyment of reading and storytelling. Staff members, including teachers,

the counselor, and the principal read stories for our Grizzly families. Grizzly families were treated to a special visitor from the Paramount Library. Librarian Sarah Loverme attended the event and brought some of her favorite Dr. Seuss books. Sarah read two stories for groups of children and it was evident from her smile that she was having a great time. Thank you Sarah for contributing to a fun filled night of stories and for continuing to concern yourself with the literary well being of our Grizzlies and all Paramount students.

After a stream of stories was read to packed classrooms of pajama clad children and their families each child got a free book to take home. There was a large selection of books for all age ranges, so no one left empty



Efrain and Megan with their new books at Pajama Read Night.

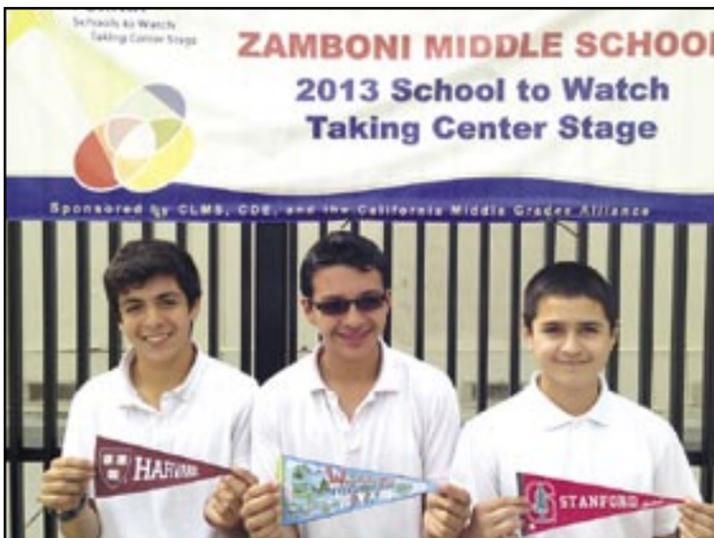
handed. The evening concluded with dinner in the cafeteria.

The Gaines PTA sold pizza and beverages to hundreds of hun-

dreds of Grizzly families. Families relaxed over dinner and had time to enjoy their new books. It was another successful event and thanks go out to those that made it possible. Thank you to Mrs. Varela for organizing and orchestrating. Thanks to Sarah Loverme for finding time in your busy schedule. Thank you to Mrs. Espina, Mrs. Armenta, Mr. Juarez, Mrs. Silva, and Mrs. Espinoza for your fine storytelling. To the wonderful PTA parent volunteers that give so much of their time for the families of Wesley Gaines thank you so much. And to all of the Grizzly families that braved the potential rain and thunderstorm, thank you for helping to make Pajama Read Night and fun and memorable evening.

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss.

Wildcats Clawing Their Way to Harvard, Stanford and Washington D.C.



This year, three students from Zamboni were nominated to the People to People program by Yvonne Nandino, Social Studies teacher at Zamboni. People to People is an organization that provides student centered programs designed to deliver

a lifetime of global awareness and readiness for success focused on leadership and college preparation. 80% of the People to People alumni are accepted into their first-choice college. Alexis Armando Torres, Matthew Fernandez and Edward Mendoza

were accepted to participate in this summer program.

The students were given the opportunity to select the college campuses and programs they wanted to participate in. Alexis Torres was accepted to Harvard. He will participate in the Leadership in Action Program where he will develop leadership qualities, and prepare for college admissions. Edward Mendoza was accepted to Stanford. He will participate in the Technology Summit where he will learn what it takes to succeed in the technology industry.

The program will be led by the industry leaders: Apple, Adobe and Facebook. Matthew Fernandez will be attending the World Leadership Forum: Learning to Lead in Washington D.C. where he will delve into the leadership styles of prominent historical leaders, and develop

his own leadership skills and self-confidence. These students are an example of our future leaders. We are excited and proud to see the amazing things they will accomplish in the future. All three students are anxiously anticipating their upcoming academic adventures. They are diligently working to fundraise money to be able to attend these programs. These three Zamboni Wildcats have created websites to help fund their summer programs.

To learn more about their goals and to help fund them go to:
Alexis Torres <http://gofundme.com/6iytt0>
Edward Mendoza <http://gofundme.com/6u7jd8>
Matthew Fernandez <http://gofundme.com/70rn9k>

**Lucy Duran
Counselor**

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATE

April 9, 2014

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

Leona Jackson Knights Take Center Stage as a School to Watch



After an extensive and complex application process, Leona Jackson School received its reward at its Schools to Watch Celebration on February 21, 2014.

Leona Jackson School was chosen among eleven schools as a California School to Watch. In order to qualify for this distinction, the Jackson Knights had to prove itself as a high-performing middle school demonstrating academic excellence, social equity, developmental responsiveness, and strong organizational structures and processes. Along with this prestigious recognition, comes great responsibility. As a School to Watch model middle school, Leona Jackson School will host other middle school educators across the state to come and learn from their practices.

Celebration day was a day to stop and recognize the students, teachers, staff and administrators who earned the Schools to Watch award. It was a day to remember just how far the school has come. Since the opening of the school, Leona Jackson School doubled its number of percent proficient students in almost every grade level in both language arts and math. API scores increased 137 points since the school opened in 2004.

Students and staff enjoyed the outdoor assembly event, holding up large signs dis-

playing school pride. Jackson's cheer squad performed, the band played, student body president, Celeste Perez delivered a moving speech, and school security guard, Frank Labriel, sang the national anthem.

The school community, district staff, school board members, and city representatives came out to support Jackson on celebration day. Dr. Irvin Howard, president of National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform, presented the official designation banner to the school. Lisa Nunley-Macon, the principal of Leona Jackson School, ended the ceremony by asking all the students to give a standing ovation to the teachers as a recognition for their hard work, daily diligence, and dedication.

Celebration day marked the beginning of the Schools to Watch responsibilities for Jackson School. A team consisting of both administrators, two teachers, math coach and a counselor presented on the school's accomplishments at the California League of Middle Schools Conference in Sacramento in late February and will present again and receive the national recognition award at a conference in Washington D.C. in June.

Rebecca Perez
Language Arts Coach

New Testing Format Across California

Do you remember life before modern technology? To speak to friend, one had to either call her/him on a rotary telephone connected to a phone jack or find them in person. To find additional information about a topic, we visited the local library, looked through the catalog cards and then walked through the aisles to find a particular book. In school, tests were completed using a pen/pencil and paper. Beginning this April, however, students across California will take state mandated tests using computers and the web.

This is an exciting time for everyone at Paramount Unified School District (PUSD). PUSD, along with thousands of schools across California, are participating in a trial run of a modern assessment system called the California

Assessment of Student Performance and Progress or CAASPP. The results of these tests will help shape teaching and learning in the classroom to better prepare students for college and careers, no matter where they come from or where they live.

We will analyze the results of the CAASPP test this year to determine how well students demonstrate what they know and still need to learn. We are also taking this opportunity to see how well our technical capabilities meet the demands of computer-based assessments and to see what resources our teachers and school may yet need

Jose F. Iniguez
Director of Secondary Education
and Instructional Technology

Los Cerritos says THANK YOU!!!!!!



Los Cerritos welcomes and encourages parent volunteers as an important component in the home-school connection. We believe that parents enhance the learning experiences for students. The more you know about what takes place during the school day, the more you can continue and expand upon the learning at home. Your involvement helps us to maintain a safe, secure, and nurturing learning environment for all of our students and staff.

Parent involvement is one of the pillars of a successful school, and the school would be a much less colorful, interesting, and effective place without it. Each and every day, rain or shine, parents are working crossing guard duty, helping in the morning drop off procedure by opening car doors and greeting families, supervis-

ing students on the playground, helping in the main office, and in classrooms helping teachers in a multitude of ways.

Without the dedicated experience of these many volunteers, the school could not offer as rich an experience to its students. Everyday we have a group of dedicated parents with the help of our Student Council that help with our morning drop off procedure to ensure that traffic flows and the students are safe. Our neighbors in the community are so happy to have this procedure in place. Not only does Los Cerritos benefit, but the neighborhood!!!!

Los Cerritos is thankful for this great help!!!! To all of our parent volunteers: THANK YOU! We couldn't do it without you.

1 mile RUN (for Grades K-5th) 2 mile RUN (for Grades 6th-12th)



SAT. MAY 31st @ PHS Sr. Campus

- **Medals to Top 3 finishers in each div.**
 - **1st Place TROPHY to Fastest Schools**
 - **T-Shirts Available for \$5**
 - **\$2 Entry Fee**
 - **OPEN Race for post 12th graders**
- Family & Friends Welcome**
\$3 Pancake Breakfast at 10 AM

→ **See your PE Teacher for a Flyer-Entry form or just Show Up on the 31st!**

Beginning April 1st register on-line at :
<https://sites.google.com/site/gtdrunningclub/>

Hosted by **GTD**, the Paramount Middle School Running Club

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



Board of Education
Sonya Cuellar - President
Alicia Anderson - VP/Clerk
Linda Garcia - Member
Vivian Hansen - Member
Tony Peña - Member

District Superintendent
Herman M. Mendez

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

PHS Health Career Academy Students Receive Job Offers at Local Clinical Sites



While certain fields of work are closing out and growing smaller, the medical field is booming with new job opportunities every day. The Health Career Academy at Paramount High School offers students hands on experience with on-the-job training for those who wish to pursue an exciting career in the medical field. The Therapeutic Pathway, or HCA as we call it, is a four year pathway offered through the Los Angeles County Office of Education / ROP (Regional Occupational Program) and Paramount Unified School District during the traditional day schedule. Our bright enthusiastic students learn such skills as; BLS/CPR, vital signs, front and back office clinical skills, electrocardiogram application, injection and venipuncture, point of care testing, and patient bedside manner to name a few of the many subjects students learn through this pathway.

The students' hard work gives them the opportunity to intern at local city clinical sites under the supervision of doctors and medical office staff and our two senior campus instructors, Ms. Elizabeth Rodriguez, LVN and Ms. Laura Alcantara Ortiz. This clinical portion of the academy happens during the students' third and fourth year and students must meet strict requirements and have a total of over 500 hours of clinical unpaid training to receive certification as a front and back office medical assistant. Several of the students have even been offered jobs due to their abilities and knowledge. Some of these outstanding students received job offers in their junior year of the academy. The list includes Sabrina Lares, who interned at Dr. Andrew Lim's office here in Paramount and was offered a job in 2013. She has worked for that office while attending high school. Luis Flores was offered a position in April 2013, and Danvia Rosales just received a job offer this past December at Clinica Para Latino Tran's office. Arcelia Salazar

has been offered a job at Dr. Minerva Lobarbio Banares in January 2013, and Brianna Fuentes began working at her clinical site last year after finishing her hours of training. I myself received an employment offer but was unable to take the position due to my school schedule and other commitments.

These students are seniors in the graduating class of 2014 but they are not the only pathway students that have had jobs offers or who have attained employment due to their certifications earned by this program. Many of the academy students over the years have been offered and accepted promising jobs at clinical sites and have risen in position and secured a bright future for themselves and the ability to help pay for their college education. What we strive for in this academy is to pursue a higher education not to just "get a job" but to have a career, one that we love and can be proud of. Ms. Rodriguez spoke to me about how difficult it was for her and Ms. Ortiz to secure clinical internships at these offices due to our ages, starting at 16 ½. The office staff and doctors were hesitant in taking such young interns on, but have grown to respect our enthusiasm and work ethic and can observe our excellent training.

If you have an interest in becoming a health care professional, please see your school counselor about joining this pathway. And if you are an adult who wished you were still in high school to be able to join our program please see Paramount Adult school for the classes that are offered here at PHS senior campus and the cost associated with it.

"The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth."

– John F. Kennedy

**Cynthia Carbajal,
PHS Senior**

Superintendent's Message: Alondra and Jackson Middle Schools Receive National Recognition!

Schools to Watch (STW) is a recognition program, similar to California Distinguished Schools, that recognizes middle schools that are academically excellent, socially equitable and have a culture of strong collaborative leadership. It is a highly selective process and few middle schools are given the Schools to Watch award. This year, only eleven schools in the state received STW recognition.

This year two of Paramount Unified School District's Middle Schools--Alondra and Leona Jackson-- submitted applications to be considered for the State's Schools to Watch - Taking Center Stage recognition. As the result of the high quality middle grades education they provide students, both Alondra and Leona Jackson Middle Schools have been awarded the recognition of being national exemplary middle schools. They are two of only 11 schools in California to receive this award and PUSD is one of only two schools in the entire state to have more than one middle school recognized this year!

In February principals and teams from both Alondra and Leona Jackson Middle School presented their work to educators from throughout the state at the California League of Schools Conference in Sacramento. Both schools will host visitors from throughout the state who will visit to learn about their work and practices.



Back row: Counselor Devin Dawson, Superintendent Herman Mendez. Middle row: Counselor Dolores Barrios, ELA Coach Ana Azevedo, Board Member Alicia Anderson, Board of Education President Sonya Cuellar, Math Coach Michelle Cribari. Front row: Assistant Principal Kelly Anderson, Assistant Superintendent Debbie Stark, Principal Lynn Butler.



Back row: Superintendent Herman Mendez, Assistant Principal Hilda Verdugo, Board Member Alicia Anderson, Board of Education President Sonya Cuellar. Front row: Math Coach Claudia Ramos, Principal Lisa Nunley-Macon, and Assistant Superintendent Debbie Stark receive a plaque recognizing Leona Jackson School as a national School to Watch

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.

PTA Reflection Contest Student Winners



During a recent Board of Education meeting, PTA District President Teodora Espinoza, Board member Alicia Anderson, Superintendent Mendez and Board of Education members recognized and presented students who participated in the 1st Annual PTA District Reflections Contest 1st place winners with a certificate of recognition.

This year's theme was "Believe, Dream, Inspire".

This year's winners included:

- Visual Arts K-2 – Kayla Ruiz, Jefferson School
- Visual Arts 3-5 – Francisco Botello, Keppel School
- Visual Arts 6-8 – Giselle Guevara, Paramount Park
- Visual Arts 9-12 – LeAna Perez, PHS-West
- Literature 3-5 – Jasmine Cardenas, Keppel School
- Literature 9-12 – Lonnie Hawthorne, PHS-West
- Film Production 9-12 – Lonnie Hawthorne, PHS-West
- Musical Composition 9-12 – Katya Lozaya, PHS-West
- Photography 9-12 – Jesus Muñoz, PHS-West

Central Basin Municipal Water District Donates \$2,500 to PHS



Central Basin Water Municipal Water District President, Phil Hawkins, and Site Sponsor Mark Moss, presented the Board of Education and PHS staff members and students with a \$2,500 check that will be designated to the PHS Solar Cup team for the upcoming Solar Cup competition that will be held May 16-18, 2014 in Lake Skinner in Riverside County.

In attendance to also receive the

check was Paramount High School Solar Cup advisors Alicia Megofna and Brent Rummel, principals Morrie Kosareff and Greg Buckner, and participant students Jishaly Castillo, Jesse Gonzalez, Daniel McLean, Justin Peña, Leo Silva and Jordan Wright. Paramount High School is in its fourth year of participation thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Central Basin Municipal Water District.

Mokler Teachers and Students Celebrate Read Across America



On Monday, March 3rd, Mokler students began a week of reading celebration! The festivities started with a morning assembly where 20 fifth grade students sang and danced a reading song to the tune of "Happy". Joining the students were the Cat in the Hat and Things One and Two.

The celebrations continued on Tuesday with students wearing green and enjoying a breakfast of Green Eggs and Ham followed by a school wide reading of Dr. Seuss' famous story Green Eggs and Ham. Wednesday's bright festivities included a reading of Oh the Places You Go. Students were reminded that life provides you with choices and the decisions you make can take you on many exciting journeys, if you dream big and work hard.

On Thursday, students and staff came to school in their pajamas! Older students buddied up with younger students and read some of their favorite books. Some of the older students asked the younger students questions such as what is your favorite part of the story. The older students then asked them to answer why it was their favorite part. They sounded just like teachers!

The week of reading celebrations concluded with an afternoon of Reading on the Green where parents were invited to bring a blanket and book and read with their child(ren) on the grass! It was wonderful to see the Mokler family come together to promote the love of reading.

Deanne Katayama
Instructional Coach



Paramount Unified School District



Workshops

LOCATION: Jefferson School
8600 Jefferson Street
Paramount, CA 90723

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

- May 1, 2014 ADHD and Autism: How it can affect a child's learning
- May 25, 2014 Preparing for Summer Activities: Keeping your child academically active
- May 29, 2014 Understanding Bi-Polar Disorder

Spanish Translation will be available.

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

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

MUST pre-register for childcare one week in advance;

MAY pre-register for individual workshops

Call: Myra McGinnis at 562-602-6035

Workshops Open to all PUSD Parents