

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

AUGUST 2013

Herman M. Mendez Appointed Superintendent of Schools

The Board of Education is pleased to announce the appointment of Herman M. Mendez as the new Superintendent of Schools for Paramount Unified School District effective July 15, 2013. In announcing the appointment, Board of Education President Vivian Hansen stated, "The District participated in an extensive search for suitable candidates for the Superintendent position and Mr. Mendez possesses the skills and experience necessary to lead the District. We are extremely pleased and excited that he has joined the Paramount family."

Mr. Mendez began his career in education in 1986 as a bilingual education teacher with the Los Angeles Unified School District. He has successfully held positions in other school district settings that serve diverse student



Pictured are Board Vice-President Sonya Cuellar, Board President Vivian Hansen, Superintendent Herman Mendez, Trustees' Alicia Anderson, Linda Garcia and Tony Peña

populations as a Bilingual Program Coordinator, Assistant Principal, Principal, and Director of Student Services for Special Education and State and Federal Programs. Prior to coming to Paramount Unified School District, Mr. Mendez served as the Assistant Superintendent-Elementary Education with Santa Ana Unified

School District.

Mr. Mendez has a firm commitment and belief in the public educational system as a tool for positive individual and societal change and has experienced its benefits. He received his undergraduate degree in music from the California State University system, as well as his Masters in Edu-

cational Administration.

Mr. Mendez grew up in East Los Angeles and has a passion and deep understanding of the educational needs and challenges related to students who are English language learners, as well as the struggles associated with the social economics of a single parent household.

Mr. Mendez currently

serves as the Chair for the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Urban Education Committee. The committee is made up of leaders from the state's largest school districts including Fresno, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego. Committee members work together to develop solutions and ensure the academic needs of children in large, urban areas are met.

Mr. Mendez also recognizes the needs for a balanced approach to curriculum that includes the arts, which act as a powerful tool for student engagement and foster higher order thinking and creativity – skills that are highly valued in the work force. In 2011, the Orange County Music and Arts Administrators recognized him as an Outstanding Arts Education Administrator.

Roosevelt Students Shine At Board Meeting



On Monday, June 24, 2013, Roosevelt students had the opportunity to "shine as brightly as the sun" when school bulletin boards were presented to the Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. David Verdugo.

Members of the Roosevelt Student Council played an integral role in the evening's festivities by introducing each board and describing the student work and/or pictures of school events presented on each. The following Student Council members participated in the presentation:

- Student Council President, Angelina Rivers (Grade 5)
- Student Council Representative, Emmanuel Reyes (Grade 4)
- Student Council Representative, Monica Caldera (Grade 4)
- Student Council Representative, Destiney Barragan (Grade 4)
- Student Council Representative, Monica Payares (Grade 4)

Also, in attendance were principal, Susan Marilley, ELD Intervention Teacher, Jamie Hughes, and Student Council Advisor, Maria Baltierrez. Mrs. Baltierrez teaches fourth grade and is Roosevelt School's "Teacher of the Year".

A special thank you was extended to Ms. Hughes as well as to Roosevelt's Instructional Coach, Jessica Jennings, and ELD Intervention Teacher, Marisol Andalon, for the outstanding job they did in preparing the bulletin boards for the evening's presentation.

The theme of "Summer" was on full display with student work from all grade levels presented. Students from second grade "scooped up" their knowledge of multiplication by arranging cookies in equal groups – a

"yummy" concept! Fourth grade students created brochures highlighting the history of California and all that the Golden State has to offer. These brochures would certainly make anyone want to move to "sunny California"!

Pictures of the various school events held throughout the year were also presented including Family Math Night, Family Movie Night, the "Trunk or Treat Spooktacular", and of course, our annual Spring Carnival.

The school's community outreach was evident in the photos taken at the December visit fourth grade students paid to a local retirement home where the retirees were entertained with songs, refreshments, and good cheer. Roosevelt students "O-Fish-Ally Make a Difference" by supporting our families and community.

The students shared how they have the opportunity at Roosevelt School to serve as school leaders by participating in various programs. As a member of Student Council, fourth and fifth grade students meet to discuss ideas to make Roosevelt School even better. The Safety Monitor program ensures that Roosevelt School is safe and that everyone follows the rules. And Breakfast Club tutors work with other students who are

in need of assistance, perhaps with Basic Math Facts or High Frequency Words. The development of leadership skills is important at Roosevelt School.

The students applauded the outstanding teachers at Roosevelt School and acknowledged that setting goals with teachers, the principal, and other adults made them reflect on their learning: where they wanted to be and how to get there. Roosevelt teachers "make a splash" every day with their dedication to their students and the school.

The students also thanked the Board of Education for ensuring that the arts are alive and well in Paramount Unified School District. Student art products from the various art programs supported by the Board of Education were on display including student representations of Georgia O'Keefe flowers and Picasso style self-portraits.

The evening concluded with

members of the Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Verdugo being presented with Student Council Honorary Member t-shirts in appreciation for all that they do for the students of Paramount.

Dr. Verdugo was also presented with a special gift which was inscribed:

Dr. David J. Verdugo
Thank you for being the flame
of inspiration and
guiding light during your
tenure as Superintendent of
Paramount Unified School
District
With Our Sincere Appreciation
-Theodore Roosevelt School

It was a special evening honoring a special and inspirational leader.

Susan Marilley
Principal

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATE

August 14, 2013

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

Collins School Our "Volunteers"



The definition of a volunteer is, "Somebody acting without legal obligation, a participant in something who is not legally bound to participate and does not expect to be paid, someone who does something by choice." Many people consider volunteering but are not sure if they can take on the responsibility. At Collins School, our volunteers took on the responsibility and were here and supporting the school in many different ways. A few activities consist of: daily monitoring of the breakfast line in the morning, as well as manning traffic before school starts. Also, weekly assistance to teachers, daily reading with certain students in the Learning Center, and traditionally, the 3rd grade store during the Open Court- Money Uni.

Volunteers were recently honored at a breakfast on Thursday, May 30th in appreciation of all of their hard work. Volunteers were thanked by Mrs. Spelker-Levi and Mrs. Contreras for all of the activities they assist with. Breakfast was eaten by all in attendance surrounded by flowers and Thank you notes created by Collins School 2nd graders. The event culminated with certificates being passed out by Mrs. Spelker-Levi. Last year, 40 parents were invited to the event. This school year 100 volunteers were invited. Thanks to each and every one of you for making a difference with our students.

Beatriz Spelker-Levi
Principal

Wirtz Staff Appreciates Parent Volunteers!



On Wednesday May 29th, Wirtz staff hosted a parent volunteer luncheon to express gratitude to their most active parent volunteers. Approximately 40 parent volunteers enjoyed a savory chicken parmesan and salad lunch, followed by a sweet cheesecake dessert. Parent Volunteers were also given a few tokens of appreciation including a candy bouquet (made with love by Mrs. Ramirez, 5th grade teacher); a decadent creamy coconut cupcake, compliments of Mrs. Leon, 3rd grade teacher; and a certificate of appreciation, created by Administrative Assistant, Sonya Enser; and presented by Kelly Williams, Principal and Ashley Howard, Counselor.

Parent Volunteers are an integral part of Wirtz School. Parents not only offer assistance to classroom teachers by helping to prepare materials such as decodable books and crafts; but parents also help to decorate the school for special events, and sell kid friendly healthier snacks on a regular basis.

The parent work room is open every Wednesday throughout the school year, and volunteers are consistently available to contribute a helping hand. When parents are not working, they are welcome to take a Zumba class on campus, or practice the English language using the schools' Rosetta Stone program.

Thank you Parent Volunteers!

Written & Photographed by Ashley Howard-M.Ed, School Counselor

Kindergarten/Transitional Kindergarten (TK) registration continues for the 2013-14 school year

Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

Children are eligible for Transitional Kindergarten (TK) if their fifth birthday falls between October 2 and December 2 for the 2013-14 school year. If your child qualifies for the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program then they will attend one of the five schools: Collins, Gaines, Lincoln, Tanner and Roosevelt. Please register at the corresponding TK Site. If your home school is Mokler, for example, then you would register at Collins School (see chart below).

TK Sites	Collins	Gaines	Lincoln	Roosevelt	Tanner
Home School	Mokler	Keppel	Jefferson	Hollydale	Los Cerritos
				Wirtz	

Kindergarten

Do you have a child who will be five years old on or before October 1, 2013? If so, you can register your child for Kindergarten at your designated school.

Collins K-5 (562) 602-8008	Lincoln K-5 (562) 602-8036	Tanner K-5 (562) 602-8060
Gaines K-3 (562) 602-8012	Los Cerritos K-5 (562) 602-8040	Wirtz K-5 (562) 602-8068
Jefferson K-5 (562) 602-8024	Mokler K-5 (562) 602-8044	Hollydale K-8 (562) 602-8016
Keppel K-5 (562) 602-8028	Roosevelt K-5 (562) 602-8056	

To enroll in our Transitional Kindergarten (TK) or Kindergarten program, you will need verification of residency within the Paramount Unified School District boundaries, original documentation of birth certificate, current immunizations and parent will need to provide current identification.

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



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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

Sixth Grade Summer Orientation

The administration and staff at Paramount Park Middle School are always looking for ways to help students to become more successful in middle school. Hence, this year we held our first Sixth Grade Summer Orientation for incoming students. The orientation was held on July 29th and 30th. The purpose of the orientation is to teach students the basic skills that will help them succeed in middle school and beyond. During the two day orientation students will participate in two general assemblies which will cover the school's guidelines to success, school routines/procedures, and bullying. After the morning general assembly, students attended two classes per day and learned the following:

- Lesson 1: Organization
 - Lesson 2: Effective Study Techniques
 - Lesson 3: Goal Setting
 - Lesson 4: Cornell Notes
- Each session was taught by highly-qualified teachers that are equipped with the knowledge and skill of effective lesson presentation. Students not only



learned new things, they had the opportunity to practice and receive feedback from teachers.

It is our endeavor to equip the students before they start their middle school journey. They will be more prepared at the start of the school year and will have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to excel academically and socially.

Topekia Jones, Principal

PHS Athletes of the Year

Paramount High School recently named their 2012-2013 athletes of the year. One female and one male from each grade were selected by the Paramount coaching staff. Also, one female and one male were selected as the Pirate all school athlete of the year. There were many great athletes who accomplished a lot this year, but these select few were the best.

The female freshmen athlete of the year was Justine Padilla. She was a three sport varsity letter winner competing in cross-country, basketball, and track and field. In cross-country she was the team MVP, a San Gabriel League finalist, and set five freshmen course records including one in the league finals. In basketball she was the team captain, rookie of the year, and was the starting point guard. In track she was a San Gabriel League finalist in the 800 and the 3200. The freshmen male athlete of the year was Jibri Walden. Jibri was the leading scorer on the JV basketball team, team MVP, and team captain. He was also a starting outfielder for the freshmen baseball team and was named the teams most improved player. The female sophomore athlete of the year was Melissa Perez. Melissa was named first team All San Gabriel Valley league in softball. She was also voted the team most inspirational player. As a member of the JV volleyball team she was voted the teams defensive specialist. The male sophomore athlete of the year was Noe Sandoval. Noe was an outstanding wrestler this past season. He was Co-MVP, team captain, San Gabriel Valley league champion at 220 lbs. and a CIF qualifier. He was also voted to the Long Beach Press Telegram All Dream Team.

Moving to the upper class athletes. The female junior athlete of the year was Tracy Shumpert. She was a three sport varsity letter winner. In volleyball she was the starting middle blocker. In basketball she was voted first team All San Gabriel Valley. In track and field she was the league champion in the high jump, a CIF qualifier, she broke the school record for female high jumpers and was named rookie of the year. The male junior athlete of the year was Jen-

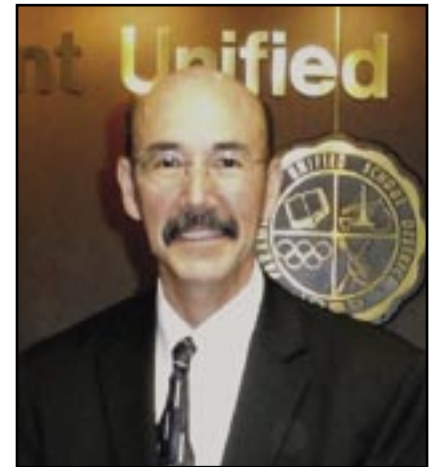
eum Toalepai. J was first team All San Gabriel Valley in football as a starting linebacker. In track and field he was the league champion in the discus, a CIF qualifier and he qualified for the Masters meet. He was also voted team captain and team MVP. The senior athlete of the year was Monica Caporal. Monica was a two sport star in her senior year. In volleyball she was voted defensive player of the year and first team all league in both her junior and senior years. In softball she was first team all league in both her junior and senior years, and was voted the coaches' award by her teammates. The male senior athlete of the year was Brian Fineangonofu. Brian was a three sport star in his senior year. In football he was voted most improved player and first team all league as a tight end. In basketball he was first team all league and the leading scorer and rebounder. In volleyball he was first team all league as a middle blocker. He is one of only a few athletes in the history of Paramount athletics to be named first team all league in three sports.

The Pirate all school athlete of the year is the most prestigious. 2012-13 female all school athlete of the year was Tanayri Novoa. She is a two time athlete of the year winning the award as a junior. In her senior year she was team MVP in volleyball, team captain, and first team all league in both her junior and senior years. In softball she was first team all league in both her junior and senior years and was voted the coaches' award. The male all school athlete of the year was Chris Borrayo. In football Chris was team MVP, team captain, the offensive player of the year in the league, All CIF, and voted to the Press Telegrams All Dream Team. In wrestling he was team captain, Co-MVP, league champion at 285 lbs. and CIF champion in the Inland division. He was a state qualifier, and a member of the Press Telegram All Dream Team. He will be attending Cal Berkeley on a football scholarship starting in the fall.

It was an outstanding year for Paramount athletics. The entire Pirate family is proud of these athletes. We look forward to much success in the upcoming 2013-2014 school year.

Superintendent's Message:

First and foremost I wish to thank the Paramount Board of Education for giving me the honor to serve as Superintendent for the Paramount Unified School District. It is a privilege that I will work hard to value and respect each and every day. Through my research about the District I am aware that "Great Things Are Happening in Paramount Schools" and I will look to build on the wonderful work of the Board, staff and community.



To continue to build on the excellent accomplishments thus far,

an important part of my work over the next several weeks is to learn as much as I can, and so I have a plan (Look, Listen, Learn and Lead Entry Plan) that will help inform the future work of the District. I look forward to hearing from parents and community through a variety of Look, Listen and Learn Forums that I will look to host at our schools (details will be shared through our District Web site and school notices).

As you may already be aware, we will be entering our second year of a three year implementation plan of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The standards were developed through a state-led initiative to establish consistent and clear education standards for English-language arts and mathematics that would better prepare students for success in college, career, and the competitive global economy. The California State Board of Education adopted the standards in 2010. However, it will take several years to implement curriculum and assessments based on the new standards. Paramount Unified School District is entering its second year of work on the CCSS transition to the California Common Core Standards with full implementation scheduled for 2014-15. More information may be found at the following web resources:

1. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>
2. http://www.paramount.k12.ca.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=203226&type=d

In closing, I want to share I am very excited to join such a wonderful District team that focuses on providing our children with the best preparation to ensure they are college and career ready.

We are looking forward to an exciting program year for our children and please remember our school year begins for students on Wednesday, August 21, 2013.

Herman M. Mendez
Superintendent

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 2013-14 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 2013-14 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 2013-14 Meal

Benefits Application Open Enrollment being held at all elementary and middle schools. Open Enrollment will take place Monday, August 5, 2013 through Friday, August 9, 2013. Cafeteria staff will be on site to assist anyone with filling out the new, 2013-14 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

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.

School Resumes
August 21, 2013

Students learn science with personal electronic devices

That's right students in middle schools in Paramount Unified School District are learning science with personal electronic devices in the form of iPads! It's called a "DEPLOYMENT" and in two of our five middle schools, students are or will soon be using iPads to research science topics, create digital models of their lesson, and even collaborate with each other. This exciting program is driven by our mission to prepare students for success in their future college and careers-in many cases, careers that haven't even been dreamed of.

So what does this "deployment" actually look like in the classroom? The teacher manages a class set of iPads from a specially designed (and secured) rolling cart. Similar to the rolling carts of the 90's that stored the HP laptops, they charge and protect the devices between classes and in the evening. Our middle school teachers typically have six different classes per day and so out of each period, two students are chosen to assist in sign-out and distribution. Monitors also record the condition so that the users gain a sense of responsibility for the iPad their using.

Learning with iPads and other personal electronic devices differ significantly from learning with traditional computers. Yes students will continue to use these devices for traditional classroom tech work like locating information on the internet and to a lesser degree for keyboard practice, but the bulk of the work done with these devices involves interaction with teachers and classmates, designing and expressing the concepts that they're learning. In a very real sense, it's expanding the classrooms beyond their physical four walls and the limits of their 55 minute period.

If you own a Smart device like an iPad, Chromebook, iPhone, Note, Razor (to name a few), you know that its most valuable asset is the ability to get information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We also use our devices to stay in touch and to pass on information to friends, and associates the things that are most meaningful to us. And so now that iPads are being used in the classroom, students are not only learning science, but they're also learning how to use their own smart devices to meet the requirements of school studies and to share and collaborate with their classmates and teachers. In fact, all the systems and programs that are used in the classroom with iPads can be used on student's own smart devices. Teachers are already finding that more and more students are logging into their internet science apps at home with their own Androids and iPhones outside their classroom.

And so here lies the one of the most valuable outcome of iPads in the classroom- that Paramount students are learning how to learn 24/7 in places away from the traditional classroom and in a very tangible way preparing them for the demands of college and career.

Additional deployments can also be seen in smaller, but no-less effective ways in all of our Special Ed classrooms and in our K-5 Learning Centers. We look forward to the 2013-14 school year for even further expanding student learning with personal devices in preparation for a successful future.

Durrell Jackson, Curriculum Specialist

Alondra Middle School Named Title I Academic Achievement School



Alondra Middle School is excited to announce that it has recently been awarded by the California Department of Education, as a Title I Academic Achievement School. In order to qualify for this award, schools must demonstrate that all students are making significant progress toward proficiency on California's academic content standards. Additionally, the schools socioeconomically disadvantaged students must have doubled the achievement targets set for them for two consecutive years.

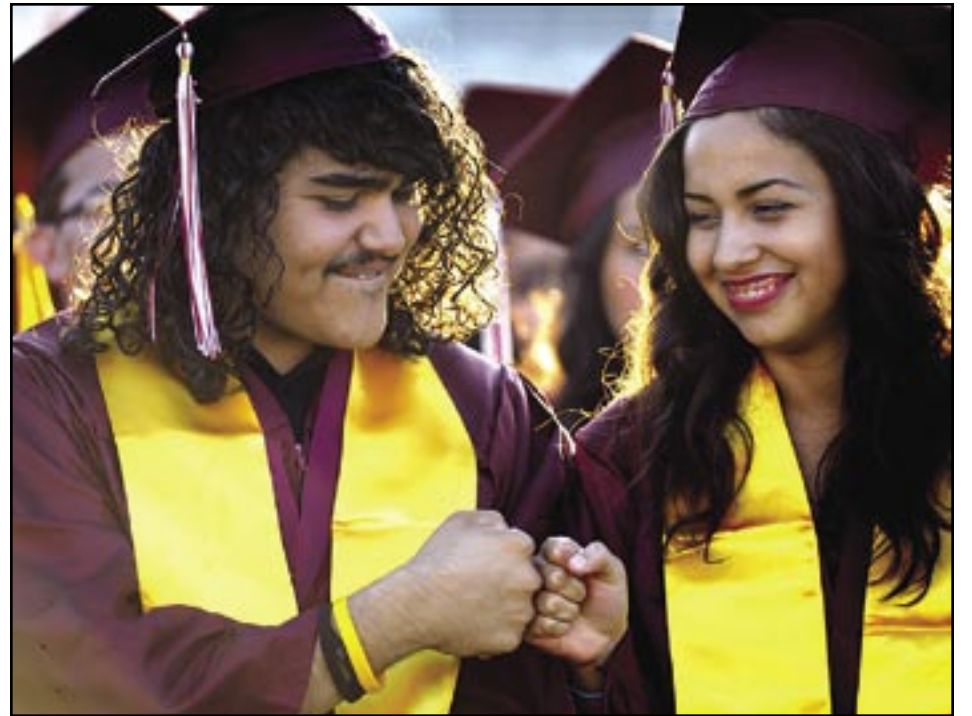
We are so proud of our dolphins riding the waves of success!

To learn more about Title I awards, please visit the California Department of Education (CDE) web page at: [Academic Achievement Awards](http://www.cde.ca.gov/academic/achievement/).

Lynn Butler
Principal

Lee Besler
Assistant Principal

Record Number of Graduates at PHS



Paramount High School recognized a record number of graduates on June 13, 2013. A total of 1,052 graduates participated in the ceremony that was held inside Pirate Stadium. Under the direction of Angel Carmona, the PHS Band and Orchestra kicked off the event with the playing of "Pomp and Circumstance" to signal the start of the Processional March. As the proud graduates entered the stadium, they were met with cheers and applause from the 6,000 spectators in attendance. After the Presentation of Colors by PHS JROTC, senior, Vernessa Taylor inspired the Class of 2013 with the singing of the National Anthem.

Senior Class President, Faviola Zuniga welcomed the audience and addressed the crowd with "It's Time to Begin" that was followed by speeches from the Salutatorian, Lucio Lopez, and from the co-Valedictorians, Jasmine L. Esparza and Anthony A. Meza. Under the direction of Sandra Wilson-Espinoza, the PHS Concert Choir delighted the crowd with two dynamic performances titled "Passages" and "Top of the World."

Before presenting the Class of 2013

to the Paramount Unified School District Board of Education and to the Superintendent, Dr. Buckner electrified the crowd as he called out to the Class of 2013 with "Once a Pirate;" the students responded with roars of "Always a Pirate!" Dr. David Verdugo then accepted the Class of 2013 on behalf of the Paramount Unified School District Board of Education and the students were called on individually to come to the stage for the presentation of diplomas.

Upon reflecting on the record number of PHS graduates, PHS Principal, Dr. Greg Buckner adds "Paramount High School is very proud that we continue to set school records relative to our number of graduates. While our increasing enrolment played a role in a corresponding increase in the number of graduates, in recent years, our increases in the number of graduates have been more attributable to the higher percentage of our students who complete the requirements for graduation. Our students, faculty and staff all deserve credit for this achievement." Way to go Pirates!

Greg Francois, Assistant Principal