

PUSD EDUCATION NEWS

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

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AUGUST 2014

“Preparing for the Future”

On Tuesday June 3rd Alondra Middle School students participated in the second annual 8th grade Exit Interview Process. Exit interviews provide 8th grade students with an opportunity to reflect on their achievements during their middle school years. It is also a time for students to assess their strengths and weaknesses in order to set goals for high school. Alondra students worked diligently to archive their work in portfolios since the beginning of the school year, and used the accumulated products as part their reflection portfolio. Each student was given a 5 minute interview led by Alondra Middle school staff, community volunteers, and even our own Superintendent Mr. Herman Mendez. During the interview students were able to showcase the knowledge learned from each of their core subjects (Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science), as well as their elective classes and extracurricular activities.

“The goal of the interviews is to get students thinking about college and their future. By participating in this process, our students get the opportunity to bring closure to their middle school years, while gaining valuable interview skills.



These include: good eye contact, proper interview attire, formal body language, effective articulate dialogue, and even the importance of a firm handshake”, mentioned Alondra Middle School teacher, Mrs. Nadya Nieto, who began the interview process for the first time last year. “Many of the students

enjoyed dressing for success and embraced the opportunity present themselves in a professional manner. It was a valuable learning experience for all students who participated in the interview process. Many gained an understanding and insight into what will be expected of them when they venture out into



the job market after high school,” stated Alondra Middle School teacher, Mr. David Carser.

The 8th Grade Exit Interviews are just one of the ways that Alondra students are beginning to be prepared for college and career readiness, the driving focus behind the newly adopted Common Core

Standards. With an understanding of what lies ahead, these 8th grade students are now able to move forward into their high school careers with confidence and a clear understanding of the expectations of the future.

Nadya Nieto, Teacher

New Murals Beautify the Wirtz Landscape



Mural artists are pictured with 5th grade students from Wirtz Elementary School. Top row from left: Hi-Dutch, Yusuke Hanai, Dustin Klein, Tim Kerr, Rich Jacobs, Kota Toyoda, and Koji Toyoda.

The weekend of May 31, 2014 was a busy one at Wirtz Elementary School. Artists from around the world met here for two days to complete work on a mural project entitled: Communities Do Not Need To Be Homogenous To Coexist – We are Free To Enjoy Each Other’s Differences. Each artists’ mural represented a neighborhood scene created in their own personal artistic style.

The artists who donated their time and talent to support our 2014 Mural Project were Koji Toyoda, Dustin Klein,

Yusuke Hanai, Tim Kerr, Rich Jacobs, and Kota Toyoda, Hi-Dutch. Each artist’s rendering represented a scene that exists within a community. Each scene blended into the next as the artists incorporated their signature styles into each others’ work.

The first scene by Koji Toyoda depicts a community during both day and night, while a boy and girl rest underneath an apple tree. Next, artist Dustin Klein, depicts an inviting row of homes as community members interact

with each other. This scene is followed by Yusuke Hanai’s glimpse inside his communities’ homes as doors are open to greet guests. As we leave this community, we are then able to visit a colorful representation of the famous Watts’ Towers, by Tim Kerr. Artist Rich Jacobs welcomes us into his community of chimney stacked homes. Our community walk ends with Kota Toyoda’s abstract re-rendering of his community filled with homes, animals and a man in a top hat. Artist Hi-Dutch

added his wave art throughout the scene scape.

This great Mural Project could not have happened without the tireless efforts of Erick Caruso, 5th grade teacher at Wirtz. It was because of his desire to help foster a sense of community amongst students and to promote a love of the arts, that this mural project came to be. Mr. Caruso also received great support from his fellow 5th grade teachers Mrs. Cheri Lujan and Mrs. Martha Ramirez. Together they have brought a total of six murals to Wirtz Elementary School - forever changing it’s landscape.

This weekend of hard work was capped off on Monday, June 2nd by an Art Gallery Showcase. The day began with a grade level meet and greet with all of the artists

who participated in the mural painting. This was followed by a 5th grade student ‘jam session’ with artist and musician Tim Kerr. The day ended with the 5th annual 5th grade Art Showcase. Students’ art work representing each artists’ style was on display in the cafeteria. Winners were named in each category. We truly have a talented group of students at Wirtz elementary.

The weekends’ event, followed by the Art Gallery Showcase was a great way to cap off a school year that has been filled with much hard work, student success and community support. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event. We are proud of the community spirit we foster here at Wirtz Elementary School through events like these.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATE

August 13, 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

PUSD Mathematics Professional Development in the Common Core Standards



Today's students are preparing to enter a world in which colleges and businesses are demanding more than ever before. To ensure all students are ready for success after high school, the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics establish clear guidelines for what every student should know and be able to do in mathematics from Kindergarten through 12th grade.

In order to facilitate the transition to these new standards, K-12 teachers and administrators in Paramount Unified School District have been learning about instructional practices that are carefully designed to better prepare students to be "college and career ready". Selected Common Core Lead Teachers, representing all schools and grade-level spans, are provided intensive professional development in preparing students for more rigorous instruction and assessments. These teachers then return to their schools to provide the same training to their grade-level peers. All K-12 math teachers have been learning about the importance of asking questions that stimulate

critical thinking, giving students opportunities to explore and investigate concepts, and leading classroom discussions where students construct arguments and critique each other's thinking.

Furthermore, in order to prepare for the District's implementation of these new standards, Curriculum and Assessment Development Teams have been formed. These teams of dedicated teachers participated in a rigorous review of new state-adopted math textbook programs aligned to the new standards. Having recommended new K-12 math programs that were adopted by the Board of Education, these teachers are now in the process of developing assessments and instructional sequences that will assist our students in transitioning to the expectations of the Common Core.

As we move into 2015, California's first official year of the implementation of the new standards, Paramount Unified School District will continue in its efforts to educate teachers about the shifts in instruction and changes in the curriculum and assessments.

SCHOOL RESUMES Wednesday, August 20, 2014

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

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Great things are happening in Paramount Schools

PUSD Education News

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Club HOPE Gives Hope to Students at PHS



Throughout the school year, the Hope Club has participated in a variety of events, some of those which were a contribution of their time and efforts to support those who are in need. Health Career Academy teacher and Hope Club Advisor, Ms. Rodriguez, began the Hope Club as a means to pay her respects to her own family members and for relatives of her students. This includes a great number who have been diagnosed with cancer or have passed away because of cancer. Hope Club advisor, Ms. Rodriguez, confesses that she was a bit hesitant about the success of this club, but to her surprise over 300 students showed up to the very first Hope Club meeting in 2012. Not only was the Hope Club a great success, Ms. Rodriguez saw the enthusiasm and eagerness from Paramount High School students, which motivated her even more to dedicate a great amount of time towards this club. The Hope Club is a collaboration of students who are

passionate in seeking help for their own or their peers' relatives. These students participate in a variety of walks, donation collections, and fundraising in order to contribute to the medical research to aid society fight cancer.

Led by Hope Club President Lisandra Vega, Vice President Baudilla Ruiz, and Treasurer Vanessa Soto, the Hope Club recently participated in the Lozilu Women's Mud Run. Lozilu is a 5k mud run dedicated to young women who have been diagnosed with cancer. The run is filled with invigorating athletic obstacles for each woman to endure and love. Hope Club advisor Ms. Rodriguez says "this has been one of the most challenging, yet entertaining runs we have done yet." Although this particular run was especially enjoyable to all Hope Club members who participated, The Hope Club accumulated a total of about \$2,000 in a brief period of time as a donation towards Lozilu.

Celebrating Athletes

The Paramount High School Athletic Department proudly serves 50 sport teams and is powered by nearly 80 coaches and over 900 athletes. Winning on the court, field, track or course is a wonderful feeling and accomplishment, but success in the classroom is the ultimate win for our student athletes. In the 2013-2014 school year, over 250 student athletes received Scholar Athlete awards for earning a 3.5 or above grade point average. Fourteen seniors were awarded a maroon and white cord to wear at graduation indicating that they earned a 3.75 grade point average or above on their transcripts while balancing involvement in after school sports. Additionally, some athletes' accomplishments were highlighted at the PHS Senior Award Night Ceremony where 11 deserving Pirates received Athlete of the Year Awards. Paramount High School celebrates the athletes and their accomplishments. Congratulations and go Pirates!

Scholar Athlete Cord Recipients

Kenneth Teeples
Darlene Spicer
Leonardo Silva
Yessica Sosa Gonzalez
Chanel Calderon
Pamela Garcia

Judith Barragan
Lizette Martinez
Gabriel Rivera Leon
Shams Haque
Ulises Reyes
Jose Enriquez
Nester Plascencia
Rubeen Guardado

Freshman Athletes of the Year

Na'Tori Nelson
Leon Polk

Sophomore Athletes of Years

Nicholas Hudson
Daisy Lopez

Junior Athletes of the Year

Angelina Florimon
Noe Sandoval

Senior Athletes of the Year

Michael Gilliam
Passionae Martin
Tiarah McDaniel

All School Athletes of the Year

Marjoree Fargas
Jeneum Toalepai

Paramount Arts Professional Development

Paramount Unified School District (PUSD) continued its support of the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) and Arts' education during the summer by providing professional development to approximately 40 K-5 teachers from schools throughout the district.

Techniques for bringing Language Arts to life were provided to K-5 teachers from Hollydale, Jackson and Roosevelt Schools this summer with the assistance of staff from the Music Center at the Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County. Four teaching artists conducted a two day workshop, June 16-17, for teachers, administrators and District Office staff. The workshop provided teachers

with strategies to increase their knowledge and understanding of Theatre/Visual and Performing Arts Standards and their connection to Language Arts. Teachers actively role played characters and events from Open Court stories and participated in activities to strengthen their instructional skills and build upon foundational skills, vocabulary and content knowledge. Utilizing total physical response strategies is especially beneficial to English learner students with language development. The four teaching artists will visit the individual teachers' classrooms ten times during the 2014-15 school year to collaborate with them on lessons utilizing techniques introduced during the summer.

End of the Year at Los Cerritos...



education Excellence 2013 Honor Roll. This award recognizes higher performing schools in the state that are closing achievement gaps and focus on proficiency! Congratulations Los Cerritos!!

Los Cerritos has had many positive changes this year...First, Healthy Snacks Rule was implemented during recess and lunch time. All students eating snacks had to make a healthy choice at home before bringing it to school. We established the Morning Drop-Off Procedure which was accomplished by our dedicated volunteer parents. What a great success for our school and community!!! Los Cerritos had a great number of parents volunteering every day in the classroom, during recess and any activities being offered to the students. What an awesome way to see the parents helping at school! Implemented weekly parenting classes lead by Rosie Jaime from Solutions for Life. Classes were filled by eager parents learning about the 16 Pillars of Relationship Building for your child, family and society. Recently, Los Cerritos changed our lunch schedule to a block schedule which services one grade level at a time to eat in the cafeteria. Students now can eat in the AC cafeteria and have ample room to play organized activities during their recess time. The students love the new schedule and enjoy having the organized activities to play!

Los Cerritos 2013-14 school year was filled with lots of hard work and successful accomplishments!! Los Cerritos administration, faculty and staff thank the students, parents and the community for helping us to achieve a successful year! We are looking forward to the next, successful school year!!! Have a great summer and see you on August 20th!

What a great year!! To better state that what a FANTASTIC year!! The year's end always brings with it a tremendous sense of accomplishment. So many things have been accomplished at Los Cerritos this year with our students, teachers, parents and community!!! From the successful fundraisers that funded all students K-5th grades to attend field trips that reinforced what was taught in the school year. Our students have been involved in an extraordinary number of activities. Of course, we should not forget the tremendous amount of Common Core and Thinking Map learning which has taken place during the school year. Throughout all of these activities our students have demonstrated great character and dedication to learning. The academic growth in writing and thinking was remarkable. Our amazing teachers have done a wonderful job of learning the newly adopted Common Core Standards. The rigor and expectations at Los Cerritos are high, we provide the BEST instruction for our students.

Los Cerritos had the honor to win a special award...California Business for Edu-

Superintendent's Message:

Aside from enjoying the great California summer weather, the summer season provided us with much to do in the Paramount Unified School District. For our students, the summer provided a number of continual learning opportunities that included Extended School Year (ESY) at Lincoln Elementary for students in grades K-7, middle school students from across the District attended summer school at Paramount Park Middle School, while incoming 9th grade students attended the Summer Bridge Program at our West Campus which provided core subject instruction and an orientation to high school, and at the Senior Campus, credit recovery and advancement classes were provided. All in all more than 3,000 students participated.

The District's staff, at all levels, was also very busy preparing for the start of the 2014-15 school year. Our teachers were busy this summer, as they participated in training to add to their professional knowledge. The summer training focused on the new mathematics instructional materials that will be used in the upcoming school year. The summer break also provided time for the deep cleaning of our schools, which included the cleaning and polishing classroom floors, scrubbing of walls, power washing school walkways, etc.

We also provided our students and community with the nutrition support of the Summer Food program that operated in our schools and was coordinated along with the Paramount Parks and Recreation program to deliver a positive experience for our children through the provision of free breakfast, free lunch and free recreation for individuals 18 years and younger.

As we enter the 2014-15 school year, our Board of Education's coordinated and strategic investment of resources and the collective efforts of all staff to ensure that our schools are ready for our children leaves me confident that we are ready for the start of the 2014-15 school year.

Remember, the first day of school is Wednesday, August 20, 2014!

Pirate Athletics

The 2013-2014 school year has ended at Paramount High School. Pirate athletics had another outstanding year. Nine of our boys and girls teams qualified for the CIF Southern Section playoffs. Our football team and boys soccer team captured San Gabriel Valley League championships. Several other athletes had excellent individual performances in tennis, track and field, wrestling, and swimming. The hard work and dedication of our athletes and the great coaching here at Paramount are major reasons why we were so successful this school year.

Our spring sports concluded with a number of athletes gaining individual recognition. In girls sports our softball team had three members earn 1st team All San Gabriel Valley. Jenny Collazo, Stephanie Pulido, and Melissa Perez were rewarded for their outstanding seasons with all league selections. In track and field Passionae Martin qualified has an alternate in the CIF finals in the 300 hurdles.

In boys sports our tennis team qualified for the CIF playoffs and four members of the team qualified for the individual portion of the playoffs. Seniors Luis Ochoa and Nester Plascentia were the San Gabriel Valley League doubles champions and Juniors Bryan Santoyo and Omar Vasquez were the SGV league runners up in doubles. All four individuals qualified for the CIF individual playoffs. In baseball, three

individuals were rewarded for excellent seasons by being named 1st team All San Gabriel Valley League. Congratulations to Randy Buenrostro, Joseph Torres, and Gustavo Jimenez for a job well done. Buenrostro was also named 2nd team All CIF in division 3. In boys volleyball the Pirates finished in third place in the tough SGV league and qualified for the playoffs. Three individuals were selected SGV 1st team All League. Alfredo Lariz, Anthony Duran, and Melbe Perez earned special recognition. In track and field Jeneum Toalepai was the individual league champion in the shot putt and the discus. He qualified for the state meet in the discus. He was a three time champion in the discus in the SGV league. Matthew Sherrills was the 100 meter champion in the SGV league and also was a CIF finalist. In swimming, senior Michael Gilliam was the 100 meter breast stroke champion in the SGV league. He also qualified for the CIF individuals in the 100 meter breast stroke.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and administration the Pirate family would like to congratulate all these fine young athletes on a great job. We would also like to thank the community and all those individuals who came out to support Paramount Athletics this past school year. We are looking forward to another great year in 2014-2015.

GO PIRATES!!

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 2014-2015 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 2014-15 school year, whether they stay at the same school or transfer to another Paramount school.

You can either fill out the Meal Ben-

efits Application at a school site or you can attend our 2014-15 Meal Benefit Application Open Enrollment being held at all elementary and middle schools. Open Enrollment will take place Monday, August 4, 2014 through Friday, August 8, 2014. Cafeteria staff will be on site to assist parents with filling out the 2014-15 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.

Registration 2014-15 school year **Transitional Kindergarten (TK)**

Children who have their 5th birthday between **September 2 and December 2, 2014** are eligible to attend Transitional Kindergarten (TK) at their home schools. Beginning in August, 2014, TK will be offered at ten schools in Paramount Unified School District. Parents must enroll their children for TK at their designated school during the Kindergarten Enrollment period beginning March 10, 2014. **Transportation for TK must be provided by parents.** Contact Early Childhood Education at (562) 602-6900 for more information.

Collins School 6125 Coke Ave Long Beach, CA 90805 (562)602-8008	Gaines School 7340 Jackson St Paramount (562)602-8012	Hollydale School 5511 Century Blvd South Gate, CA 90280 (562)602-8016	Keppel School 6630 Mark Keppel St Paramount (562)602-8028	Lincoln School 15324 California Ave Paramount (562)602-8036
Los Cerritos School 14626 Gundry Ave Paramount (562)602-8040	Mokler School 8571 Flower Ave Paramount (562)602-8044	Roosevelt School 13451 Merkel Ave Paramount (562)602-8056	Tanner School 7210 Rosecrans Ave Paramount (562)602-8060	Jefferson School* Wirtz School 8535 Contreras St Paramount (562)602-8068

*Jefferson School TK students will attend and register at Lincoln School for TK only.

Traditional Kindergarten

If your child will be 5 years old on or before **September 1, 2014** and you are a Paramount Unified School District resident, contact your local school for registration information. The Kindergarten Enrollment period began March 10, 2014.

PHS Math Teacher Receives Special Recognition



Paramount High School math teacher Mr. Polhemus recently received the University of California, Irvine (UCI) Wall of Fame Educators Award at the UCI Division of Undergraduate Education Educator Recognition event. The Educators Wall of Fame honors students who achieved academic excellence in their first semester at the University of California, Irvine and the person at their former institution who had the greatest influence on their academic development and their decision to attend UCI. The UCI Wall of Fame has been in existence since 2006. In 2014, 164 students had an opportunity to nominate the most influential person for the award.

Mr. Polhemus currently teaches Honors Pre-Calculus and Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus at Paramount High School. Luis Salazar, a freshman at UCI and former student of Mr. Polhemus, earned a GPA of 4.0 his first semester in college. When asked to choose who had the greatest influence on his academic life, Luis chose Mr. Polhemus. Luis said his experience

at "UCI has been tough" and he earned the 4.0 GPA through a lot of "hard work, dedication, and relentless studying."

He continued, "I found my necessary motivations in my family, my self-made expectations and the fact that I am the first person in my family to go onto higher education beyond high school." Luis said he decided to choose Mr. Polhemus because throughout his high school career, Mr. Polhemus was a mentor to him; he was there to advise and support him every step of the way, and he was there to help when he was getting ready to choose a college.

"I feel very honored to be the first Paramount teacher to go on the UCI Wall of Fame," said Mr. Polhemus. "Luis's academic achievement serves as a reminder that students have potential and many go on to greatness at the university level." Mr. Polhemus added that he is confident we will see other instructors from Paramount High School receive recognition from UCI.

Angie Gomez, PHS Senior

Roosevelt Students Participate in Science Fair

The importance of ensuring that students are college and career ready is one of the key components of the Common Core initiative. It is critical that our students are exposed to all that is available to them after high school, including college opportunities and career choices. Careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are a particular focus in the United States, indeed worldwide, and providing students with exposure to what is available to them in these fields is important.

Earlier in the 2013-2014 school year, all students at Roosevelt School participated in a school wide "College and Career Day" at which time guest speakers from throughout the community presented information on a range of career choices as well as the college experience.

To further support the "college and career" component of the Common Core initiative and, specifically STEM, fifth grade students at Roosevelt School participated in the first annual Science Fair.

Fifth grade students were introduced to the scientific method in the classroom setting and engaged in multiple collaborative experiences to support their understanding of the process used to design a science experiment.

Each fifth grade student was required to participate in the Science Fair by designing and presenting to his/her class an individual science experiment. The top five science projects from each class were then selected to be presented to the entire school population on April 10th, "Open House Day". On that day, the fifth grade scientists were stationed in the school Multi-Purpose Room where they explained and demonstrated their experiment to the TK-fifth grade classes as the students rotated from experiment to experiment.

Afterwards, the science projects were transferred to the school library where they were judged by Paramount High School AP science teacher, John Teeple, and Whittier High School High School AP science teacher, Jim Marilley. Mr. Teeple and Mr. Marilley spent over two hours reviewing each science project to determine the three honorable mention award winners and the first, second, third, fourth and fifth place winners. The projects were judged on creativity (is the project original?), scientific thought (is the project designed to answer a

question?), thoroughness (is a problem adequately answered or pursued?), skill (does the project represent the student's own work?), and clarity (is the data clearly presented?). Mr. Teeple and Mr. Marilley were very impressed with the quality of the projects and the hard work that went into them.

The projects were on display in the library during the school's "Open House" evening for parents and guests to enjoy.

The recipients of Honorable Mention ribbons were: Aldo Bugarin from Mrs. Baltierrez's class for his experiment "The Coca Cola Side Effects"; Linda Montoya also from Mrs. Baltierrez's class for "Can Plants Survive with Artificial Light?"; and Monica Caldera from Mrs. Wedrall's class for "What Causes Tooth Erosion?".

Taking fifth place and receiving a \$5.00 voucher for the Book Fair was Ariana DeLaTorre from Mr. Varela's class for "Can Color Float?".

Taking fourth place and receiving an \$8.00 voucher for the Book Fair was Alan Castilla also from Mr. Varela's class for "Bottled vs. Tap Water?".

In third place and receiving a \$10.00 voucher for the Book Fair was Melanie Vasquez from Mrs. Bias' class for her experiment "What Cleans Pennies Best?".

In second place and receiving a \$15.00 Book Fair voucher was Melody Valenzuela from Mrs. Baltierrez's class for her science project "Can Other Liquids Keep Cut Flowers Alive Longer?".

And our first place winner for the 2014 Roosevelt Science Fair and receiving a \$20.00 voucher for the Book Fair was Sonye Garcia from Mrs. Wedrall's class for her experiment "Under Pressure?".

Congratulations to these fifth grade scientists and to all of our fifth grade students for their participation in the Science Fair. Thank you also to our fifth grade teachers and parents for supporting Roosevelt School as we work together to provide the students with opportunities to gain in their knowledge of career opportunities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

Susan Marilley, Principal
Roosevelt School

PUSD Prepares Schools for California's Common Core Standards and Assessments



Students prepare for on line assessments in a new school computer lab.

California has adopted new standards outlining the academic content that students in the state's K-12 schools need to learn. These standards, named the California Common Core Standards, are part of a national initiative to assure all students leave high school prepared for college and career. In 2013-14 the Paramount Unified School District took important steps to prepare students, teachers and administrators for these new standards.

Teachers representing all of the district's 19 schools were assigned as Common Core Lead Teachers. These teacher leaders attended professional development to learn about the new standards and how students will be assessed on their understanding of them. Lead Teachers had the additional responsibility of returning to their schools to work collaboratively with the principal to share

what they learned with colleagues. This collaborative effort led to effective use of the new standards and the instructional "shifts" that are needed to help students master them.

One of the biggest changes that come with the Common Core Standards are on line assessments. In May, 2014, students throughout California participated in a field test of a new assessment. PUSD students in selected grades also participated in this field test, taking the test completely on computer—no more pencil and paper! To prepare for this, PUSD purchased and installed a new computer lab in every school. Middle schools with larger number of students to test received two new labs. Although testing on line was a new experience, students adapted quickly to this 21st Century initiative. The photo below shows an example of students in a new computer lab.

The Spring Sing Packs the House

Grizzly families filled the Wesley Gaines Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) on Thursday, May 29th. It was the night of the annual spring concert program and the capacity crowd filled the room and spilled out into the hallway. The show that everyone was clamoring to see did not disappoint.

Mrs. Kaluzok, the Wesley Gaines Teacher of the Year for 2014-2015 organized and ran a wonderful event. 243 students representing nine of our classes from Kinder to 3rd Grade serenaded our Grizzly families for an hour this night. The National Anthem kicked off the show as the students from Mrs. Silva's class belted out a powerful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. Mrs. Leal's class followed up with a cover of the Bruno Mars song, "Count on Me". The second grade class of Mr. Juarez was up next singing, "All I Really Need". They did a wonderful job singing loud and clear to fill the room with sound. The surprise of the night came when Mrs. McCance led her class through two songs; "I Turn to You", and "Fireworks". Mrs. McCance has a voice! She was wonderful as she and her students rocked through their set that ended in a shower of well-deserved applause.

The closing acts of the show were

worth waiting for. The kindergarten classes of Mrs. Espina and Mrs. Menser teamed up to deliver the songs, "Baby Beluga" and "In Summer". The Kinder classes always raise the needle for cuteness in song and Thursday night was no different. The students were animated with all kinds of hand gestures and arm movements and of course their ear-to-ear smiles. Look to either side of the stage curtains and you would see Mrs. Espina and Mrs. Menser making the same movements and sporting the same ear-to-ear to smiles as their students making it evident that they were having as much fun as anyone. The night did not end on a downbeat after all that cuteness. Mrs. Juarez's and Mrs. Armenta's 1st grade classes got everyone moving and singing with their rendition of "Happy".

And happy is how everyone felt as they left the MPR with pep in their step and humming a tune. Another successful Spring Concert thanks to Mrs. Kaluzok, the participating teachers, students and staff, our wonderful Gaines families, and our excellent corps of volunteers. Thank you everyone!

Jeff Bowers
Principal