

# 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 2015

## Dr. Michael Conroy Recognized



Pictured are Board President Alicia Anderson, Board Vice-President Tony Peña, Dr. Michael Conroy, Board members Vivian Hansen, Linda Garcia, Sonya Cuellar and Co-Interim Superintendent Delores Stephens.

Board of Education members and Co-Interim Superintendent Stephens recognized Assistant Superintendent-Business Services Dr. Michael Conroy for his dedicated service and many contributions for the students, staff, and community of Paramount Unified School District.

Dr. Conroy has recently accepted a position as Deputy Superintendent with the Ocean View School District in Huntington Beach. Dr. Conroy has been very instrumental in overseeing the Business Services, Fiscal Services, Technology and Student Nutrition Services departments and under his tenure, many successful Measure AA

Bond projects and facilities needs. Dr. Conroy has worked diligently to ensure that the District remain financially sound throughout his time here and during the tough budget crisis. Most recently, Dr. Conroy coordinated a District-wide intermural sports program for the middle school students.

Dr. Conroy has been an exceptional leader to our district, promoting and nurturing excellence for all students within our community.

Dr. Conroy will be missed and is wished well as the new Deputy Superintendent of Ocean View School District.

## 2014-15 Student Board Representatives Recognized



Pictured are Co-Interim Superintendent Verdugo, Board President Alicia Anderson, PHS student Avery De La Cruz, Board Vice President Tony Peña, PHS-West Armando Torres, Board members Linda Garcia, Vivian Hanse, Buena Vista student Stephanie Alonzo, Board Member Sonya Cuellar, Paramount Adult School student Armando Vera and Co-Interim Superintendent Stephens.

Board of Education members and Co-Interim Superintendents Delores Stephens and David Verdugo thanked and recognized the 2014-15 Student Board representatives. Student Board representatives Armando Torres-Paramount High School-West, Av-

ery De La Cruz-Paramount High School, Stephanie Alonzo-Buena Vista High School and Armando Vera-Paramount Adult School who attended monthly scheduled Board of Education meetings and reported on activities taking place at their respective sites.

## Panther MESA Program Finishes Strong!

Paramount Park Middle School's Math, Engineering and Science Achievement, MESA Program added a strong finish to this year's accomplishments! First, Cal State Long Beach hosted a MESA Banquet May 19, 2015, and selected eighth graders from each participating school to attend. The eighth grade representatives from Paramount Park who attended and received recognition and awards were:

**Eric Hernandez**  
**Neftali Percastequi**  
**Jesus Gastelum**  
**Gaddiel Gil**  
**Edgar Cervantes**

The next spotlight was shown on Quetzalli Orta and Amelie Belmontes at the PUSD Board Meeting, held May 27th. Quetzalli and Amelie won the Gold Medal, First Place, for having the fastest 6th Grade Mouse-trap Car at the MESA Day Regional Finals! The event took place at Cal State Los Angeles in April, and the girls added to their accolades by



receiving a third place ribbon for Innovative Design of their car.

On May 30th, 36 of the Paramount Park MESA students went on a field trip to The California Science Center. The Center seeks to stimulate curiosity and inspire science learning in everyone by creating fun, memorable experiences. As the Science Center displays real-life examples of the application of MESA core concepts, the students and teachers who attended encountered excitement and

motivation!

The school ended this year's MESA Program with school site awards and pizza for all participating students. We extend congratulations to all of the MESA students and its sponsoring teachers. Gratitude and a special thank you go to Paramount Park teachers, Mr. Kiesel, Ms. Real, and Ms. Soto for their guidance and leadership of this program.

**Kevin Longworth, Principal**

## 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 2015-16 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 2015-16 school year, whether they stay at the same school or transfer to another Paramount school.

There are several options for you to complete a "new" 2015-2016 Meal Benefits Application. You can also log onto the Paramount Unified School District website, and fill out your application online. You can also go to your children's school office or cafeteria and complete an application. You can attend our 2015-16 Meal Benefits Application Open Enrollment being held at all elementary and middle schools. Open Enrollment will take place Monday, August 3, 2015 through Friday, August 7, 2015. Cafeteria staff will be on site to assist anyone with filling out the new, 2015-16 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**

## Summer Sports at Paramount High School

Athletics are in full swing at Paramount High School. The Pirate athletic department is hard at work preparing for the 2015-2016 school year and upcoming fall seasons. With all of the athletic teams working out all summer, it is an exciting time for athletics. Summer vacation for high school athletes is very limited in this era. Most athletes spend their vacation at school, lifting weights, running, and participating in summer athletic events against other schools. High school athletics has become a very demanding endeavor during summer months. Commitment and dedication are two aspects that you must have in order to be a successful athlete. The Paramount athletes are proving to meet the challenges.

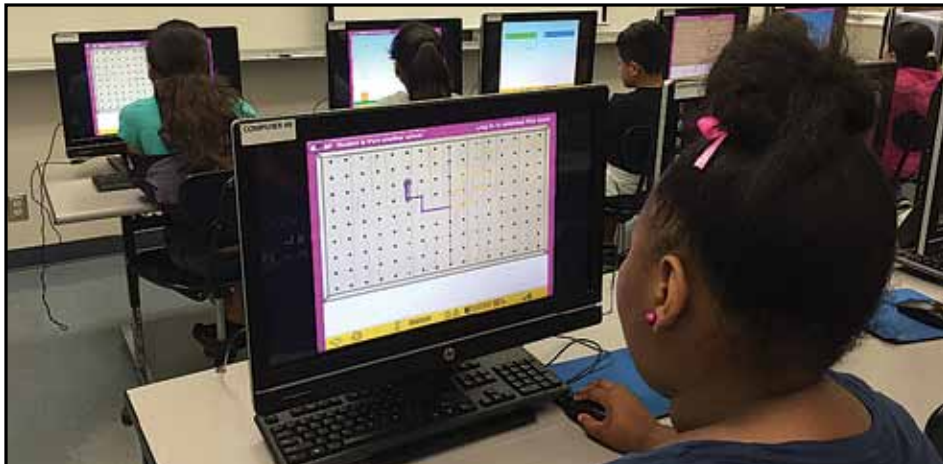
At Paramount High School our athletes work out four to five times a week for 2-3 hours a day. Dependent upon the sport of focus, workouts vary from cardiovascular workouts to muscular strengthening and skill development. Our football, boys and girls wrestling, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls water polo, girls volleyball, boys and girls X-Country, and track and field have workouts four times a week and then participate in some sort of summer league or competition. All this work is to prepare for the season and to uncover the strengths that each athlete brings to the table. All teams have that dream of winning a league championship, advancing to the playoffs and winning a Division championship. Paramount athletes are willing to work this hard in an effort of chasing that championship.

Pirate athletics start with fall sports in September. Football, boys and girls X-Country, girls volleyball, boys water polo, and girls tennis kick off the 2015 -16 athletic seasons after a 3-week dead period. The athletic department is looking forward to another successful year with the hopes of one or more teams bringing home a championship. On behalf of Paramount High School, we would like to wish all of our teams the best of luck in the 2015-2016 school year and during the summer as they prepare. GO PIRATES!!!!

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATE**  
**August 12, 2015**

Board of Education meetings are held at  
6:00 p.m. and are open to the public

## Paramount Unified School District Students Learn Math Concepts with ST Math



In order to support the transition to the Common Core Standards, the Paramount Unified School District is providing students a new instructional program: ST Math. ST Math is educational software that uses a visual learning approach linked to Spatial-Temporal (ST) reasoning to teach math concepts. This kind of thinking supports students' ability to visualize and manipulate images, a process that is critical for successful problem solving in mathematics.

In ST Math, students engage in math games that target concepts students need to learn in math. In these games, students help a little penguin, Jiji, get past obstacles by

solving math puzzles. When students demonstrate understanding of a math concept, Jiji crosses the screen, signaling success and leading the student to the next challenging puzzle. ST Math makes learning math fun as students experience success and take ownership of their learning.

Students participate in ST Math during their visits to the computer lab. Teachers can also use this program to assign homework to students if students have a computer at home with internet access. This year, all third and fourth grade students in PUSD participated in ST Math. Additional grades will be phased in each year over the next two years.

## Leona Jackson's AVID Class Visits UCSB



On May 28, 2015, the eighth grade AVID class at Leona Jackson School had the privilege of visiting the University of California, Santa Barbara. They were accompanied by Dr. Francois, school principal, AVID Elective Teacher Ms. Gonzalez, and the school's AVID Coordinator Ms. Duran along with three AVID tutors and parent chaperones. This was their final college field trip after visiting three other college campuses: University of California, Los Angeles, California State University Fullerton, and University of California, Irvine. The trip to UCSB was a special one due to it being Dr. Francois' alma mater. He was excited to share his college memories with the students. This field trip was also special because many of the students had not previously had the experience of driving along the scenic route on Pacific Coast Highway. Students were amazed and took pictures at the first sight of the ocean.

The AVID students had a phenomenal tour of the campus and were able to experience the day to day life of a college student first hand. They were eager to arrive on campus after a long bus ride. The students arrived on the UCSB campus proudly wearing their AVID shirts designed by one of their own peers. The group was welcomed by a UCSB student in the visitor center where he discussed the different academic and extracurricular programs. The students were shown a video of the variety of programs and organizations offered at the university. The students then had the opportunity to ask questions. Excellent questions were asked pertaining to scholarship opportunities, housing, and majors/minors offered. The AVID group then embarked on a tour of the campus led by two friendly and energetic student tour guides. The students learned important information regarding admission requirements, career choices, researching on campus, campus life, housing, community involvement, and much more. While on the tour the students were not only captivated by the ocean front views, but also by the great number of bicycles used to maneuver around the large campus. The tour guides provided an excellent overview of the university for the AVID Class.

The AVID students left UCSB feeling inspired by what they had learned and experienced. Student Yulan C. described her field trip experience as "absolutely amazing because it is such a beautiful campus with a breath taking view of the ocean. I noticed that it was such a happy campus because the students that attended the school had positive energy and answered any questions that we had. I feel that our visit to UC Santa Barbara was a wonderful experience and worth the long drive." The highlight for AVID student Janeth H. was that "UCSB students care about their education and are helpful with each other. Even though this university is far from home, this experience was the best." AVID student Taleesa J. summed up her field trip experience by saying that it was different from what she is used to such as the location and the friendly atmosphere of the university. She stated, "It was certainly an enjoyable experience for the class. The trip to UCSB is an important highlight of my eighth grade year." The series of college field trips played a vital role in providing the students with insight on college life which then transpired into stronger aspirations to attend college after high school.

Susie Duran, Counselor

### Enrollment Spaces Still Available for Preschool for 2015-16

**Half-day** preschool sessions at the following locations:  
Eligibility based on family income. Families must be of low income and child must be 4 years old on OR before Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

**Collins State Preschool-AM**  
6125 Coke Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90805

**Mokler State Preschool**  
8571 E. Flower Street  
Paramount, CA 90723

**Gaines State Preschool**  
7340 E. Jackson Street  
Paramount, CA 90723

**Wirtz (Jackson) State Preschool**  
8535 Contreras Street  
Paramount, CA 90723

**Hollydale Preschool**  
5511 Century Blvd.  
South Gate, CA 90280

**Zamboni Preschool**  
15733 Orange Avenue  
Paramount, CA 90723

**Keppel State Preschool**  
6630 Mark Keppel Street  
Paramount, CA 90723

**Full-Day** Preschool provides preschool to children ages 3-5.  
Families must be low income, parents have to be working, going to school, training, or seeking employment. Families may need to pay a fee depending on income level and family size.

**Gaines Full-Day Preschool**  
7340 E. Jackson Street  
Paramount, CA 90723

**Alondra Preschool**  
16200 Downey Avenue  
Paramount, CA 90723

Call the ECE Office for more information at (562) 602-6900 or  
7340 E. Jackson Street, Paramount, CA 90723

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

Board of Education

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

District Co-Interim Superintendents  
Delores Stephens  
David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.



Great things are happening in Paramount Schools

**PUSD Education News**

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## Art Action Research in Paramount Unified School District

Arts for All, a division of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, completed a partnership during the 2014-15 school year with Paramount Unified School District on an Action Research Project. The purpose of the project was to investigate the extent to which visual arts experiences enhance the quality of students' writing. The project involved two fourth grade classes at Mokler and one fourth grade class at Lincoln. Teaching Artist Robin Kiss collaborated with teachers Elaine Hoffman, Stephanie Nutall and Mickie Hazlewood over the course of twelve art lessons. Teachers administered a pre and post-test writing assessment for each of four art activities. The art activities included the creation of sugar skull masks, California missions on sandpaper, skeleton paintings and self-portraits on tin. The results, collected and analyzed by WestEd, an educational research group, indicated that 31% of the students showed improvement in their writing.

Randy Gray, Ed.D. - Director-Curriculum & Instruction/Projects

# Parent Volunteers Here at Collins School are #1



At Collins School, we invited a group of our helpful and wonderful parents to our Volunteer Breakfast. Towards the end of every school year it is a Collins tradition to invite parents who have been instrumental in making Collins a great school. Many of our volunteer parents provide much of their time and dedication that we want all of them to know how much we appreciate them. A few instances of their exemplary work are when Collins Parent Volunteers contribute in various areas throughout Collins School by being members in Collins PTA, School Site Council, and ELAC. In addition, as part of our student incentive activities many of our volunteer parents host events such as our Basic Math Fact celebrations and

perfect attendance rewards. These remarkable parents coordinate and organize Collins' parties by preparing and distributing goodies like popcorn, ice-cream, and pizza to Collins' Students who have met their Basic Math Fact or/and reading goals. Our Parent Volunteers also visit the classrooms and practice fundamental skills one on one with students in reading, writing, and math, which portrays a good tutor-student relationship amongst our students. Many of our Teachers and staff here at Collins School always look forward to this time of the year. It is our pleasure to show our sincere appreciation to our Volunteer Parents that provide support, dedication, and excitement every day here at Collins School.

# The Interact Club at Paramount



The Rotary Club has thrived for over a century and is known throughout the world for its humanitarian efforts and community leadership and service. Founder Paul P. Harris stated, "Whatever the Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves." The Rotary identifies five avenues of service to focus on bettering their community and the world. One of these avenues is Youth Service, which focuses on empowering youth through leadership development programs. An example of Youth Service is the Interact Club at Paramount High School advised by the 2015-16 teacher of the year, Andrew Yonaki. This club is sponsored by the local Paramount Rotary chapter and is dedicated to creating student leaders by promoting positive change through community service.

Throughout the school year, the Interact Club participates in and coordinates different community service events to impact their

local community as well as internationally. Every year the Interact Club organizes a very successful school-wide food drive to donate to local families in need and food banks during the holidays. This year they also participated with West High School in Torrance to collect school supplies for children in the Philippines still recovering from the typhoon. Students later were provided the opportunity to spend an afternoon volunteering at Project Angel Food preparing and packaging food for those in need. The students were humbled by this experience and opportunity to help others. The impact of the Interact Club on its members is best summed up by student President, Sergio De La Torre who stated, "I am constantly being inspired to do better by all of my fellow members who want to be involved and make a difference in our community."

Through this club the Rotary is building up service-minded future leaders in the Paramount community.

## Superintendent's Message:



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

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

Since 1953, Paramount Unified School District has existed with the mission to prepare our students for a bright and successful future. I often share with our community that our most valuable asset is not the capital investment in our new schools and buildings. A school district is not great because of bricks and mortar, or libraries and laboratories. A school district is great because of its people, its faculty, students, staff, community, and alumni and in the manner in which those people work together for a "common cause".

I am very proud of the many accomplishments and success that we have witnessed in Paramount.

As we move towards the 2015-2016 school year, I am also very proud and pleased to announce the new leaders at our school sites and offices who will ensure that we continue on that path to success and create conditions for renewal.

### 2015-2016 New Administrative Positions

Administrator	School Site
Jill Hammond, Assistant Principal	Alondra Middle School
Scott Law, Principal	Collins School
Nancy Manning, Assistant Principal	Hollydale School
Kelly Anderson, Principal Margie Domino, Assistant Principal	Jackson School
Hilda Verdugo, Principal	Los Cerritos School
Holly Hennessy	Tanner School
Lisa Kirk, Assistant Principal	Zamboni Middle School
Dr. Andrea Aguilar-Nuno, Principal Roxanne Shelby, Assistant Principal	Buena Vista High School
Jerry King, Principal Hector Lujan, Assistant Principal	Paramount Adult School

District Office Administrator
Adrian Ayala, Director-Leadership Development
Dr. Greg Francois, Director-Secondary Education
Beatriz Spelker-Levi, Director-Personnel
Patricia Tu, Assistant Director-Fiscal Services
David Daley, Program Administrator-Special Education

Thank you and I look forward to an exciting and successful school year.

Dr. David Verdugo

## Nickels for Nepal

Zamboni Middle School Wildcats were at it again, fulfilling their Guidelines for Success! This time their focus was on Strengthening their Global Community! Students had heard about the devastation in Nepal from the earthquake that happened the previous Saturday. Zamboni's Student Council implemented 'Nickels for Nepal' and in three days, the Zamboni Wildcats Strengthened Their Global Community by raising close to \$1,000. With the money raised, eight water purification systems of varying types - hand-pump, gravity flow and electronic - were purchased, as well as emergency dental supplies. Michael Lawler, husband of Zamboni teacher, Mrs. Lawler, had already planned a trek to Everest Base Camp. He decided to go on with his trip, bringing the much needed supplies with him. Within 24 hours of arriving, Michael met with the Rotary Club of Katmandu and the Rotarians immediately distributed the



precious supplies to the surrounding areas, knowing where they were needed most. This global community interaction is what makes our schools great and our students aware and ready to be future, interactive, global leaders, thinking not only of their surrounding communities, but communities around the world! Great job Zamboni Wildcats!

Barbara Lawler

## Another Memorable Year at Wirtz Elementary

Each school year brings with it many challenges, successes and exciting activities and events. Well, this past school year was no exception. Our Harry Wirtz students rose to every challenge and accomplished the goals which they set out for themselves.

Our quarterly recognition assemblies showcased students' hard work and dedication in meeting these goals. Each quarter over 200 students were recognized in the following areas: Perfect Attendance, Super Citizenship, Most Improved, Academic Excellence and the all-around Wirtz Wizard Award. We had a record number of students join the Principal's Challenge Club each quarter in the area of Basic Math Facts by scoring 100% on timed tests. At each assembly, students were rewarded with certificates and prizes as their parents and family members looked on with pride.

Students also accepted the challenge of becoming Wirtz Wizard Readers. Students read at home on a daily basis and then completed a monthly reading log. At the end of each month, these students were invited to the Principal's office to select a book of their choosing from a wide selection of titles. Over 2,500 books were awarded to our Wirtz Wizard Readers this past school year!

Grade levels also met school wide challenges set for them throughout the year. First, both 4th and 5th grade met quarterly Basic Math Facts Challenges and



Students participate in the Halloween Parade during our Fall Read Night.



Students' art work on display at our Art Gallery Showcase.

earned trips to Baskin Robbins for their hard work. Next, 3rd grade students researched famous people in history and participated in a gallery walk interview session. Together we are achieving our goals.

Students also participated in many activities and events throughout the school year including, Spirit Weeks, Read Nights, Dr.

Seuss' Day, Sports Tournaments, Field Days, and the 7th Annual Art Gallery Showcase.

As we look back on this year we would like to give a big thank you to all who helped make this year a success: our teachers and staff, students, parents, and Wirtz Community. We look forward to the many successes and memories we will create next school year.

## Roosevelt Students Participate in Annual "College and Career Day"

One of the key components of the Common Core initiative is ensuring that students are college and career ready. Exposing our students to careers and educational opportunities beyond the high school setting is an important role. On Thursday, May 21st, from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., Roosevelt School hosted the second annual "College and Career Day".

All students in grades TK – 5 had the opportunity to listen to guest speakers from throughout the community as they presented information on a range of careers as well as the college experience. The guest speakers provided the students with a variety of resources including handouts and college brochures.

Breakfast and "thank you" gifts were provided for the guests prior to the event as a token of the school's appreciation for the time they took from their busy schedules to support the school.

The students had prepared questions for the presenters and took notes which they transferred to writing once they returned to their classrooms.

Among the guest speakers who participated in "College and



Career Day" were: Deputy Thelma Ramirez, Paramount Unified School District's school resource officer from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Paramount High School 2015 Salutatorian Judith Santano; Paramount High School 2015 Valedictorians Jorge Cardenas and Gisel Lopez; Danielle Sawyer, PUSD nurse; Los Angeles Port Police officer, Luis Bautista; Cerritos College advisor, Arturo Gasca; El Camino College advisor, Joshua Casper; Sephora Operations Manager, Alice Rendon; Judge Cris Frisco; Assistant City Manager of Paramount, John Moreno, and Mayor of Paramount,

Tom Hansen.

The response to "College and Career Day" was very positive. Teachers validated the need to expose students to all that is available to them after high school. Fifth grade student, Caleb Reyes, stated, "I think I may go into politics after meeting the Mayor."

Plans are already underway for "College and Career Day" 2016 and several presenters have committed to joining us again next year! Thank you to everyone who helped to contribute to the success of the event.

Susan Marilley, Principal

## Paramount High School Student Recognition

On May 28th the Paramount High School Counseling Department hosted a California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) Luncheon to celebrate sophomores who scored a perfect 450 on at least one section of the CAHSEE. 54 sophomores were invited to a catered luncheon where they received certificates of recognition. Paramount High School principal, Dr. Buckner, gave special recognition to 5 students who received perfect scores on both the Mathematics and Language Arts sections of the CAHSEE. Congratulations to Stephanie Castaneda, Zoe Dorothy Pamonag, Joanne Charlene Robielos, Jesus Salazar, and Jason Wong!

The following day, seniors who completed 100 hours or more of community service, were recognized at a Community Service Luncheon. 224 seniors were recognized and each received a certificate and a cord to wear at graduation. Of those invited, the top 6 seniors were individually recognized for their community service contributions. It was an inspiring event where students shared their stories of community service as model citizens and youth leaders.

### Jessica Mason (421 hours of community service)

Jessica Mason started her community service her freshman year. She served as a camp counselor during the summer for Camp Savio which is organized through the Youth Ministry of St. Dominic Savio Parish. Her responsibilities included supervising fieldtrips, playtime and most importantly interacting with elementary-aged students and becoming a mentor to each. Through this experience, Jessica developed a sense of responsibility, patience and commitment. Working with young children was challenging for her, but her commitment to the organization allowed her to meet new people and develop characteristics and skills that will help in her to navigate her future college and career goals. She encourages others to get involved because it allows individuals to grow as a person.

### Ana M. Oropeza (487 hours of community service)

Ana Oropeza began her community service as a camp counselor for Camp Savio. One of the reasons she decided to become a counselor was because she was a camp member herself when she was young. The role of the counselor was not just to supervise kids but to interact with them. She enjoyed being able to teach kids social skills that they would benefit from both inside and out of the classroom. As a camp counselor, she had to be aware of her students' various family backgrounds and be sensitive to their needs. Her advice to other high school students would be to get involved in their community because they may learn something new about themselves and develop an appreciation for diversity in their community.

### Stephanie M. Veliz (520 hours of community service)

Stephanie Veliz was involved in community service since she was ten years old. As a freshman, she began to log her hours, most of which she completed though her church, Ministerios Elementary. It was through her church that she supervised toddlers. Her responsibilities included checking in toddlers, making sure they were given a snack, coordinating play time, bible story time and attending to all the needs of each child. Her memorable moments are when children become older and come back to visit her. She will continue her volunteer service with her church after graduation.

### Luis A. Garfias (532 hours of community service)

Luis Garfias has collaborated closely with the City of Paramount and the Paramount and Compton Initiative, which organized city clean up events. His volunteer responsibilities as the lead coordinator for the City of Paramount included clean up events, Breakfast with Santa, the Tree Lighting event, the Halloween Carnival, the Safe and Smart Fair, Relay for Life and much more. His community service experience has given him a sense of accomplishment. His advice to Paramount Unified students is to try volunteering as it provides them with a better understanding of where they come from as they hold the key to making their community a better place.

### Lisette Cisneros (560 hours of community service)

Lisette Cisneros started her community service freshman year with the City of Paramount. She would sign up for every recreational activity the city provided, such as flag football, soccer, baseball and basketball programs. She also volunteered for city clean up events and holiday fairs. Lisette also assisted with the Track team meets. Her overall experience with community service has helped her develop valuable social skills. She learned how to work with children and develop a working relationship with children's parents. She highly encourages students to do community service because it provides the opportunity to network with community leaders.

### Tariq M. Muhammad (1,167 hours of community service)

Tariq Muhammad spent his summers volunteering for the Hemingway Park summer day camp. As a small child, he grew up at the park and met people who guided him and steered him in the right direction. As a result, he wanted to give back to his community and became a day camp counselor. Tariq shares, "A memorable event was helping an elementary student in the homework club. He started the club with 3 fails on his report card. After working with him on a daily basis on his math, science and attitude toward learning he was able to improve his grades to A's and B's. Doing community service has taught me that I can make a difference and help others in my community!"

**2015-2016 School Year Begins**  
**Wednesday, August 19, 2015**