

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

DECEMBER 2012

STAR Testing Academic Achievement Schools' Recognition



During a recent Board of Education meeting, Superintendent Verdugo and the Board of Education congratulated and presented Alondra Middle School, Gaines School, Jackson Middle School, Lincoln School, Los Cerritos School, and Zamboni Middle School administrators with a congratulatory replica banner on their high achievements on the STAR tests. Schools will be receiving a formal banner that will allow them to display at their school site for their students and community.

School Achievements:

Alondra Middle School

- Met all State and Federal targets in 2011 and 2012
- Achieved an API of 816
- Increased its API by 60 points in two years

Gaines School

- Met all State and Federal targets in 2012
- Achieved an API of 825 points

Jackson Middle School

- Met all State and Federal targets in 2011 and 2012
- Successfully exited Program Improvement
- Increased its API by 57 points in two years

Lincoln School

- Met all State API targets in 2012
- Achieved an API of 835 points

Los Cerritos School

- Met all State API targets in 2012
- Achieved an API of 804 points

Zamboni Middle School

- Met all State API targets in 2012
- Achieved an API of 807 points
- Increased its API by 59 points in two years



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

December 12, 2012

Board of Education meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at the District Office, 15110 California Avenue, Paramount, and are open to the public

Paramount USD Supports the Arts



The Paramount Unified School District is committed to supporting the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA). An example of that commitment begins in kindergarten classrooms throughout the district via the Art Masters program. Art Masters is a program that provides an instructor who directs a one hour lesson with the assistance of the classroom teacher using VAPA standards-based art instruction.

Every kindergarten classroom in Para-

mount's schools receives four lessons focusing on four different artists: Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh, and Georgia O'Keefe. The instructor provides historical information about the artist through storytelling and guides students to create a piece of art that replicates the artist's style. Parent volunteers are a valuable resource in preparing materials for the Art Master lessons. Pictured are kindergarten students at Los Cerritos School under the

Great Things are Happening at Los Cerritos School

Great things are happening at Los Cerritos School. October was a month of two big celebrations for the students, staff, and community of Los Cerritos.

First, on October 24th, Los Cerritos School was recognized for our Academic Performance on the 2012 STAR Test. Los Cerritos is one of only five schools in the District to have achieved or exceeded the 800 API mark. (Los Cerritos reached an API of 804 on the 2012 STAR Test) It has taken a lot of hard work by teachers, students and parents to reach this State target. We are all very proud of our accomplishment!

Next, on Thursday, October 25th, Los Cerritos held its annual Spooky Read Night. From ghosts and goblins to witches and zombies, Los Cerritos' students and parents showed their support and made the night a true success.

Students first participated in our grade level costume contest. Our judges had a difficult time choosing winners at each grade level from all the creative costumes which were worn by students. Congratulations to the following grade level winners:

Kinder:	Joseph Garcia Alyssa Little Aaron Castro	1st Grade:	Angelina Rojas Emily Velasquez Julian Torres
2nd Grade:	Analory Ramirez Eduardo Picos Paul Corral	3rd Grade:	Jayleen Otañez Geovanni Lara Anayeli Gallegos
4th Grade:	Adrian Ramirez Fabian Ravega Monserrath Rocha	5th Grade:	Annalee Ortiz Tiffany Navarro Fernando Garcia

Students and families then entered one of our classrooms to hear spooky stories read to them by teachers and staff. After hearing the ghoulish stories, students received sweet treats! We know a good time was had by all who attended!

A big thank you to Christie Martin, our Spooky Read Night Coordinator, and to all of the teachers and staff who volunteered their time and worked extra hard to put this event together. They helped to make our 2012 Spooky Read Night a night to remember!

We know that the coming months will bring may more exciting events and accomplishments. We look forward to sharing all of the great things that are happening at Los Cerritos School.

Paramount Unified School District

Parent
Workshops

LOCATION: Jefferson School
8600 Jefferson Street
Paramount, CA 90723

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Dec. 13, 2012	Preparing for the Holidays
Jan. 10, 2013	Show Me the Money for College
Jan. 24, 2013	Homework Help with Academic Skills
Feb. 7, 2013	Building Positive Communication
Feb. 21, 2013	Teen Help

Spanish Translation will be available.
Co-sponsored by Paramount Unified School District
and Cerritos College (FKCE Program-Certificates for renewal hours)

Babysitting available for children ages 3-12 (must be toilet trained)
MUST pre-register for babysitting one week in advance;
MAY pre-register for individual workshops
Call: Myra McGinnis at 562-602-6035

Workshops Open to all PUSD Parents

Dr. David Verdugo chosen for College Board Chinese Bridge Delegation



Dr. David Verdugo, Superintendent of the Paramount Unified School District was recently selected to be a part of the College Board's 2012 Chinese Bridge Delegation traveling to China during mid-November. The District is currently considering opportunities involving Mandarin Chinese language courses.

Dr. Verdugo attended the trip to China after an extremely competitive application process which included approximately 400 educators who were selected nationwide to attend the College Board's 2012 Chinese Bridge Delegation.

The activities and itinerary of the program were focused on partnership-building, school visits and educational workshops. In addition, participants were able to gather valuable resources and contacts to help the District initiate and implement a Mandarin Chinese foreign language course.

Dr. Verdugo stated, "the opportunity to visit and speak to educators in Beijing to learn more about the Chinese language and culture was extremely valuable." They were also very interested in our District schools to glean information about our school and educational practices.



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

Board of Education

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

District Superintendent

David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.

Great things are happening in Paramount Schools

PUSD Education News

Editor - Isela Preciado
Paramount Unified School District
15110 California Ave., Paramount, CA
(562) 602-6000 • Fax (562) 634-6029

From the Ground Up at Jefferson



Jefferson School is excited to work in conjunction with the City of Paramount and the after-school STAR program in our brand new garden! As a state-recognized Healthy Behavior School for the STAR program, students were already learning about fruits, vegetables, and their Harvest of the Month from a smaller garden. The new, extended garden will provide more opportunities to reinforce our students with healthy, nutritious habits. Additionally, the garden will provide real-life experiences as our students learn their Science standards on plants, and learn about agriculture as a global topic. There are so many possibilities ahead!

Located at the east end of Progress Park, the City of Paramount began construction on

the garden this past summer. They cleared the area, leveled the ground, fenced the garden in, and created a shed and arbor. Student and parent volunteers helped out on a Saturday morning in September as we constructed raised beds, painted the shed, and planted a wonderful variety of fruit trees that included mango, banana, nectarine, and avocado. In October, more volunteers finished constructing the raised beds, leveling the ground, and adding a mixture of dirt and potting soil to the beds. There will be many more volunteer days ahead. We can't wait to see what's next to enjoy the "fruits" of our labor later this school year!

Eileen Aparicio
Kindergarten Teacher

Pirate Pride

Fall Sports at Paramount High School are coming to an end. All of our fall sports have done extremely well. Our football team finished the regular season with an 8-2 record, winning back to back San Gabriel Valley League Championships. The football team advanced to CIF playoffs, but lost to last year's CIF Champion in the first round. The girl's varsity tennis team capped off a tremendous season by winning another San Gabriel Valley League Championship. Both the boys and girls cross country teams have qualified for the CIF playoffs. The boys finished in second place at the SGVL finals and the girls finished third place at league finals. The two teams will now run in the CIF prelims on Saturday November 10. The girl's volleyball team just finished an exciting season which saw them finish in the top four of the San Gabriel Valley League. The team is hoping to nail down an at-large birth into the CIF playoffs. The boys water polo team just completed their season with a hard fought match against Cerritos. The team has worked extremely hard and is looking forward to next season.

November is an exciting month for fall sports because it marks the start of playoff season. With four teams entering the playoffs Paramount High School is looking forward to watching and following all the success of their teams. The month of November also marks the start of winter sports.

Boys and girl's basketball, boys and girls soccer, wrestling and girl's

water polo are the winter sports that will be competing in the CIF Southern Section. Paramount High School is looking forward to successful seasons from these sports. Boys soccer will try for a fourth consecutive CIF championship when it starts its season on December 3 versus Loyola at Paramount Stadium at 6:00. They will be ranked in the pre-season top 25 in the country. The girls soccer team is looking forward to a great season. They have been working hard to get ready for the upcoming season. The boys basketball team will open its season in the El Modena tournament starting Monday November 26 and concluding on Saturday December 1. The girls team will open their season on Friday November 30 against Gardena High School in the newly renovated Paramount gymnasium. Wrestling season opens up at the end of November with several tournaments prior to the start of San Gabriel Valley League competition. The program has improved every year and they are looking forward to competing at the highest level. Girls Water Polo also gets underway with matches at the end of November. With hard work and dedication the girls look forward to a very successful season. Their goal is to compete for a league championship and a spot in the CIF playoffs.

We are proud of Pirate athletics and all the success we have experienced in the fall. The entire administration, faculty, and student body look forward to an exciting winter season of great competition. Go Pirates!

Superintendent's Message: Holiday Season's Greetings

On behalf of the Board of Education, Alicia Anderson, Sonya Cuellar, Linda Garcia, Vivian Hansen and Tony Peña, I want to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday and a very Happy New Year.

As we all take a moment to pause and reflect during this Holiday Season, it is easy to understand that the best part of the season is remembering those who make the holidays meaningful.

As we approach the Holidays and the New Year, it is very common for us to make important new commitments that will improve our lives and the lives of people around us. That spirit and magic has been a part of the Paramount Unified School District and our employees for generations. Our commitment and promise to serve our students has

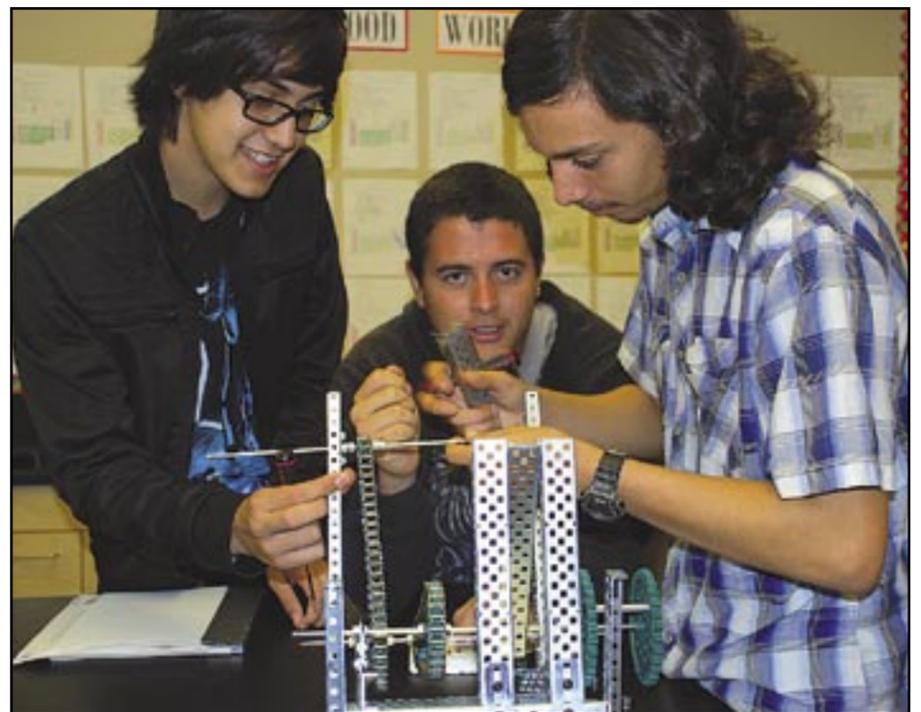


never been stronger.

I want to thank each teacher, counselor, staff member and administrator for their commitment and care of our most precious gift, our children. May you have a blessed Holiday and prosperous New Year.

David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.
Superintendent

New Class at PHS Offers an Introduction to Engineering



If you pass by Mr. Yi's classroom during first period, you will see groups of students huddled around small machines with various gears and pulleys in operation. This first year class offered at Paramount High is titled Principles in Engineering, which is part of a federal program called PLTW (Project Lead the Way). Paramount High is one of 4,200 schools in the nation offering PLTW courses, which provide rigorous learning experiences in science, math, engineering, and technology. These classes focus on students having the opportunity to collaborate, create, and design various projects while developing problem solving skills based in math and science.

Samuel Yi, whom teaches chemistry most of the day, enjoys the change of pace that comes with the Principles of Engineering class. He shares that a typical week in the class consists of a day teaching specific engineering concepts, followed by four days of project development and building by the students in small groups. Mr. Yi adds that the class involves lots of hands on activity, plus "it's enjoyable to watch the students' creativity flourish."

Sigifredo Gastelum, an 11th grader at PHS, shares that after learning concepts in designing and building simple machines,

the class then moves on to the design and creation of compound machines. Sigifredo explains that compound machines consist of "basic levers and gear systems which move objects through various planes." He also says that he especially enjoys seeing "projects move from conception to completion." After graduation from Paramount High, Sigifredo is planning on attending California State Polytechnic University in Pomona to pursue a degree in Engineering.

Another 11th grade student, Emmanuel Andrade, also enjoys the opportunity of hands on learning offered in this course. Emmanuel explains that the compound machines presently being built in class are "designed to have the most output of force with the least possible input of force," or put another way, "to move a heavier load with the least force." After graduating, Emmanuel is planning to attend either University of California, Davis, or Stanford University. He is interested in majoring in Biomedical Engineering, where he will apply skills developed in classes such as Principles of Engineering to problem solving challenges in the field of prosthetics.

Jeff Beahn, PHS

Inspiring a Shared Vision to Create a Culture of Reading



Wirtz Elementary has launched a new and exciting initiative this school year. Our goal is to create a culture of reading where students and their families are inspired to read more together for pleasure. We want our students to be reading for fun, and to realize that the more they read, the better readers they will become.

This fall, Wirtz Elementary has several school-wide activities planned to support this initiative- including a Fall Festival, Book Fair and Reading Marathon!

Wirtz students, staff and families enjoyed each others company during a Fall Festival on Thursday October 25th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The festival fostered a true sense of community as over 40 Wirtz family members volunteered during the event, as well as Wirtz Student Council and all Certificated Staff. Kindergarten teacher, Teresa Reno took initiative to facilitate the festival and collaborated with PTA and Staff to ensure that the family event was a success! The festival consisted of nearly 20 games, prizes, music and an abundance of food that was enjoyed by all.

During the week of Fall Festival, Wirtz Librarian, Jolanda Dudgeon teamed up with Scholastic and PTA to arrange a Book Fair so that students and their families could have the opportunity to purchase new books for their home library while earning books for the school. With the support of PTA, community volunteers, students and staff- Dudgeon had record sales and earned a \$1,400.00 credit with Scholastic which will be used to purchase new books for our library.

Following the Fall Festival and Book Fair, we kicked off our first ever school-wide Reading Marathon that will take place from November 1st- 15th. Our goal is for students to read a minimum of 30 minutes per day,

including the weekends. During the school week, students are now being encouraged to read in the morning after breakfast silently, or with a high school helper or friend. Students are also being given the opportunity to read during Structured Lunch Recess during an activity called, Read on the Green. During non school hours, families have been asked to create additional opportunities, such as a trip to the book store or local library.

To best entice students to meet their reading goal during the marathon, several incentives have been provided courtesy of PTA and Shakey's Pizza in Paramount. Every student will receive a prize each week simply for reading each day, and documenting their reading on a log that has been provided to all families. Weekly incentives include a book clip, Wirtz Book dollar, Wirtz Pride pin and a Shakey's Pizza certificate.

Our goal is for students to read for a minimum of 30 minutes per day; however the top reader for each grade will receive a Grand Incentive of an electronic reading device such as a Leap Frog, Kindle or Nook. Additionally, if we meet our goal of reading 288,540 minutes total as a school (30 minutes per student), students will earn a Snow Cone Machine that will be used regularly at Wirtz School functions for students, staff and families to enjoy.

Wirtz top readers will be featured in an upcoming Eye on Education article along with information about additional activities and programs to support this initiative. Keep your eye out to learn more about our new reading program, Accelerated Reader, and how we plan to support parents in learning the English language!

Ashley Howard- M.Ed
Counselor

Keppel Media Center



The opening of the Keppel Media Center marked the completion of the Keppel new building construction. The "oohs" and "aahs" of the students said it all. Everyone is very appreciative. What a gift from the community through the AA Bond! The state of the art computers will allow students to keep up with the demands of the rapidly advancing world of technology. We are preparing the children to be competitive in this 21st century by the teaching of technology standards. We are also working towards examining and meeting the elementary school library content standards. It is going to be a continuous project to be accomplished by the joint effort of parents, teachers and students.

Linda Go, Principal

We Love to Dance!



On October 26, 2012 some of us went to our first Transition Fall Dance at Progress Park. Transition schools joined us from ABC, Norwalk-La Mirada and Bellflower. Our class hosted the dance. To get ready for the dance we went shopping for salad ingredients to set up a salad bar. We also made flan for dessert and served punch to drink. Before the day of the dance we called around and got pizza order prices. We found the best deal from Pizza Loca. To help us meet and dance with new people we had a Dance Card book. The DJ played a lot of great music, and we had a blast!

Sarah Lambert, Rigoberto Gonzalez and Stephanie Tejada,
Paramount Adult Transition students