

# 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

FEBRUARY 2013

## Lincoln Lions Love Learning!

Lincoln students shine through their many accomplishments and successes.

### Basic Math Fact Mastery

One of our school goals this year is to increase our students' mastery of the Basic Math Facts in Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division. Mastery of these facts allow students to solve more complex math problems more efficiently, without taking additional time to solve basic math operations. In our Lincoln Computer Lab, our Lincoln Lions love learning math facts using the Mad Minute Program to practice Basic Math Facts. Our school goal is 80% mastery or higher at each grade level.

Students who become "Masters of the Basic Math Facts" are highlighted in our classrooms and in our school cafeteria. To celebrate our students' success, we post the names of all children who have mastered the Basic Math Facts.

### Lincoln's "Masters of the Basic Math Facts"

2nd Grade: Subtraction – 88% Mastery	4th Grade: Addition – 92% Mastery
5th Grade: Addition – 93% Mastery	5th Grade: Subtraction – 87% Mastery
5th Grade: Multiplication – 89% Mastery	5th Grade: Division – 83% Mastery

### English Language Development & Academic Success

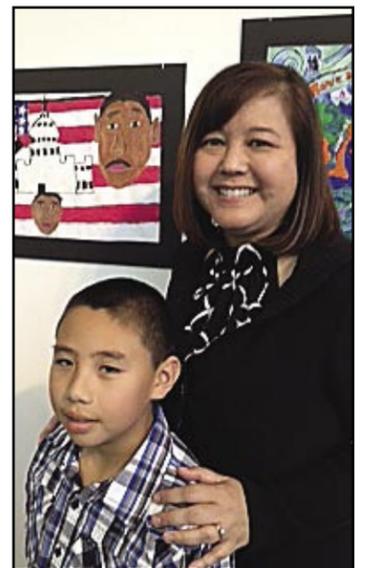
In October, approximately 300 Kindergarten through 5th grade students took the California English Language Development Test as English Language Learners. The state target for passing this test is 57.5%. Lincoln students exceeded the state target with an overall passing score of 66.7%. In addition, 46 of our 3rd through 5th grade students were reclassified as Fluent English Proficient based on their test scores, as well as their strong academic performance in school.

### The Dream @ 50 Art Contest Winners

On Monday, January 21st, three 4th Grade Lincoln students were honored as Los Angeles Semi Finalists at the California African American Museum of Art. Their artwork was a visual representation of the message conveyed in the I Have a Dream speech of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We are so proud of their artistic abilities as well as their award! Congratulations to these students, their families, and their 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Suzanne Naruko. Each student received a free art kit filled with art supplies that will help them continue to express their creative talents and artistic talents. Way to go Lincoln Lions!

Nathan Endo – Men With a Dream (Art Medium – tempera)  
Jared Navarro – All Men Are Created Equal (Art Medium – marker)  
Audrey Ortega – I Have a Dream (Art Medium – mixed media)

Pamela Williams – Principal



## Dr. David Verdugo to Retire as Superintendent of the Paramount Unified School District



Paramount Unified School District Superintendent David Verdugo announced that he will retire at the end of this school year.

An educator for 40 years, Verdugo concludes eight years as Superintendent of the 16,000 student Paramount Unified School District.

As Superintendent, Dr. Verdugo has been instrumental

in leading the school district's many significant accomplishments. These achievements include dramatically raising the College and Career pathways for students establishing Professional Learning Communities, a resurgence of the arts, leading the effort to build new school facilities and transform existing ones; and most importantly, raising the level

of academic achievement of students to an all-time high.

Dr. Verdugo is highly respected throughout schools, the community and the education field. He is known for his strategic approach to major decisions, his communication to all stakeholders and his efforts to build a culture where individuals care about each other which results in a dramatic difference for students. His communications and work during the State's budget crisis resulted in galvanizing everyone to work together so that we can continue our efforts to benefit children, families and employees.

In a message to staff regarding his retirement, he humbly shared that "it has been my honor to have served with such an incredible group of learning leaders. Our Board of Education, managers, teaching and classified staff are the very fin-

est I have worked with in my 40 years as an educator."

Superintendent Verdugo has been an educator for 40 years, formerly serving three uniquely different school districts: Spokane District in Washington, El Rancho Unified School District, and Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. He has been a teacher, assistant principal, principal, spanning grade levels K-12 and as assistant superintendent.

Dr. Verdugo received his B.A. from Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington, his

M.A. from La Verne University and his Doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Southern California. He was recognized as the 2008 ACSA Region 14 Superintendent of the Year, the California State University of Long Beach Superintendent Leadership Award for 2012 and was selected as a National Governing Board Member for the American Association of School Administrators (AASA). He currently serves as President of the highly respected Southern California Superintendents' Association.

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

February 13 \* February 27, 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

## Paramount Schools keeps pace with advances in technology



Paramount Unified School District continues to work hard to ensure that students have the current technological tools necessary to keep pace in an ever changing technology dependent society. There are a number of projects that the District has initiated in the area of instructional technology, which include an iPad pilot at Alondra Middle School, updating technology electives in the middle grades and adding new computer labs at many of the schools.

Students in science classes at Alondra Middle School will have access to iPads and will use various applications to create and share power point presentations,

create and share word documents and access the internet for research projects. Students in technology elective courses at the middle schools create web pages with links and images. New state of the art computer labs have been installed at several elementary and middle school sites and are scheduled to be installed at three additional schools this year. These projects will give students the tools they need to be successful in the workforce.

**Manuel San Miguel**  
Director

Secondary/Alternative Education

## Crisis Prevention Intervention

The District is required to provide training to school staff members as prevention for addressing student behaviors. The purpose of the Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) training is to teach strategies to staff members on how to talk to students through coping strategies to calm them down. On December 11th-14th, District Program Specialists attended a four-day CPI Instructor Certification Program. The Four-Day Instructor Certification Program certifies those participants that successfully complete all the program's requirements, to provide Intervention training for staff within the base of their employment.

Since 1980, CPI has trained over six million individuals, globally, in the human service provider field (health care, mental health, education, social welfare, residential services, law enforcement, and corrections); they are trained to effectively resolve potentially violent situations. As a result of the training, participants gain skills and confidence necessary to handle crisis situations with minimal anxiety and maximum security. The emphasis of the program

is Care, Welfare, Safety, and Security of all involved in a crisis situation. This message was clearly posted and stated throughout the four-day training.

The four-day program objectives included mastering: preventative techniques, nonviolent physical crisis intervention and team intervention techniques, and post intervention techniques. To meet the objectives, participants received traditional direct instruction and hands-on practice, both methods provided participants with the background knowledge and practical experience to take back to train others in their organization.

After the successful completion of a practicum (the teaching of the material to other members of the class) and an extensive written exam, the program specialists are now certified to train and support the staff of PUSD. The emphasis for their trainings, just like of their trainer's, will be that of preventative techniques and safety for all!

**Kim Cole, Director**  
Special Education/  
Early Childhood Education

Paramount Unified School District



Workshops

LOCATION: Jefferson School  
8600 Jefferson Street  
Paramount, CA 90723

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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**

## Tanner School rolls into the holidays with a festive evening infused with math and learning!



On December 6, 2012, at 4:30pm, the doors of Tanner School's multipurpose room opened up to eager families waiting to attend the annual Holiday Math Night. Hosted by the Reading Committee, the aim of Holiday Math Night was to give students an opportunity to explore various math concepts in interactive ways that make learning fun and interesting while also celebrating the winter season.

Lead by our choir teacher, Mrs. Slater, the night kicked off with the harmonious voices of the Tanner Tiger Choir singing renditions of Jingle Bells, Up On the Housetop, and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. After brief announcements by our principal, Mrs. Sanco, and our Open Court coach, Mrs. Triche-Harris, parents and students were free to embark on all the merriment on campus.

Various interactive math stations filled the multipurpose room. Geared towards Kindergarten and 1st grade students, a holiday pattern station was headed by Mrs. Domino. Students practiced their pattern making skills and created patterned Fruit Loop necklaces. Mrs. Peck's station offered students of all ages to participate in addition and subtraction math dice games. Students brushed up on their estimation skills with Mrs. Garrett at the gumdrop "guesstimation" table. Parent volunteers, Mrs. Rea and Mrs. Carlos, helped students create gingerbread glyphs. Mrs. Corrales hosted a fun and interactive holiday math card games tables. Mrs. Tsang and Ms. Alex hosted a geometric holiday cards table where families and friends alike helped create festive holiday cards just in time for the Christmas season.

Just outside of the multipurpose room, students practiced their money sense by making purchases and calculating correct change at the book fair, train ride station, and taco stand. In the library, Mrs. Astredo, welcomed visitors to Scholastic book fair. On the playground, Mrs. Shearer and Mr. Guzman, guided visitors on the train. The taco man provided delicious treats for everyone at the event.

And of course, the evening would not have been complete without a visit with our very own Santa Claus! Families took pictures with Santa on the beautifully decorated stage and told him of all the ways they would practice their math skills this year.

Thanks to the wonderful administrators, teachers and parent volunteers for another successful year of educational holiday fun!

Cindy Tsang, Tanner School

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



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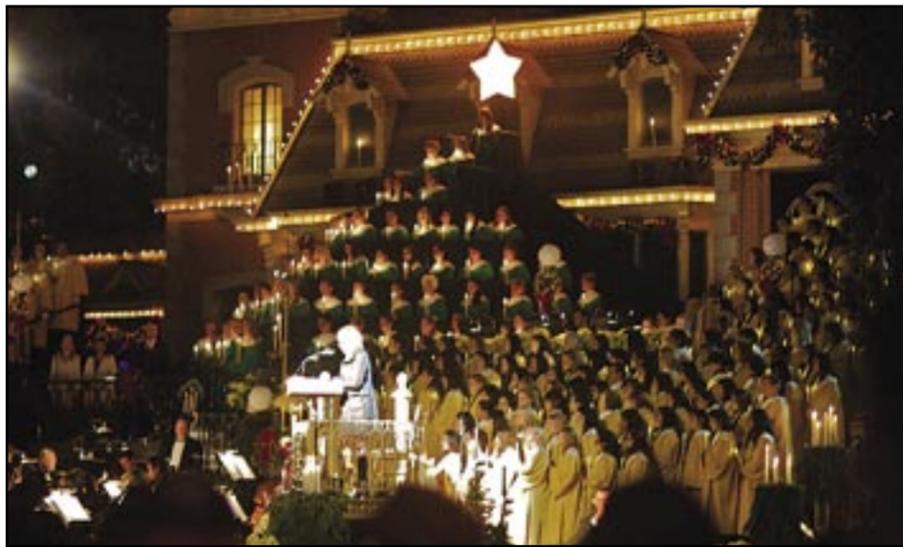
*District Superintendent*  
**David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.**

*Great things are happening in Paramount Schools*

**PUSD Education News**

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# PHS Participates in Disneyland's 2012 Candlelight Procession



Paramount High School's choir, taught by Ms. Wilson-Espinosa, was invited to submit a recording of two songs as an audition to perform in Disneyland's Candlelight Procession during this school year's winter break. Though many high school choirs auditioned, the PHS choir was one of a select few chosen to participate in the three nights of performance. Close to one hundred 10th through 12th grade students from Ms. Espinoza's Concert Choir, Advanced Choir, and Corsaires classes joined a few PHS choir alumni for the shows in front of the Sleeping Beauty Castle inside the Disneyland park. This group from PHS merged with another 400 singers to form a 500 voice choir, singing with the live Disney Orchestra for all three nights.

Another especially exciting part of each show was the appearance of a different celebrity joining as narrator. The narrator for the first show was Dick Van Dyke. For the second performance, Patricia Heaton, star of *Everybody Loves Raymond* and *The Middle*, narrated. Molly Ringwald, star of movies such as *Sixteen Candles* and *Pretty in Pink*, joined for the third night. Another perk for each choir member was earning a full day hopper ticket to Disneyland and California Adventure for each of the three

nights they sang.

Being part of the Candlelight Procession would require much commitment and rehearsal however, as each show would require performing sixteen songs from memory that ranged from a classical background to traditional carols. The time spent in rehearsing was well worth it, as Ms. Espinoza-Wilson shared that "the amount of musical growth cannot be fully measured as this was the experience of a lifetime! We experienced singing the 'Hallelujah Chorus' by G.F. Handel with an amazing choir in front of thousands of spectators. It doesn't get much better than that." Students also shared that the challenging aspects of rehearsing had special rewards. Alexis Rogel, a senior at PHS, said one of the best things about choir is that "it feels like family, but also somewhat emotional and sad when shows come to an end because we have become so close." After high school, Alexis plans on pursuing choir in college.

Bianca Baker, a junior at PHS, is a member of Ms. Wilson-Espinosa's Corsaires Choir. Bianca stated that she enjoyed performing at Disneyland for the same reasons she enjoys all choir shows, "we spend so much time rehearsing and work-



ing together, it becomes to feel like family." After graduating from PHS, Bianca would like to major in Audio Engineering, preferably at the University of Oregon. Another senior at PHS, Alee Nolasco, has been a member of PHS Choir since 10th grade. Alee shared that participating in choir has really encouraged his love of music. Alee plans on attending the Music Institute in Los Angeles after graduating to pursue a career

in performing and recording.

Ms. Wilson-Espinosa stated that "if given the opportunity, she plans on preparing students to participate again next year." Undoubtedly, if given the opportunity, the Paramount High School Choir will represent the school as superbly as always.

**Jeff Beahn**  
Paramount High School

## How do the new Common Core Standards benefit students, parents and teachers?

California has joined a national movement to adopt common standards and assessments for all students in grades K-12. Currently, standards for what students should know and be able to do vary among states. California's adoption of the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and math provides students across the state with the opportunity to learn the same standards as students from across the nation. The standards were developed by parents, educators, researchers, content experts and national organizations from across the nation. These new standards are rigorous, research-based and designed to prepare all students with the skills necessary for success in college and the workforce.

### How do the new standards benefit students?

- Students will be taught the knowledge and skills to succeed in the 21st century.
- Students will be required to apply new learning to real-world scenarios.
- Students moving into new school districts will have a smoother transition because the academic standards are the same.

### How do the new standards benefit parents?

- Parents can be assured that students have access to the same high-quality education other students receive across the United States.

### How do the new standards benefit teachers?

- Teachers will be able to narrow and deepen their focus because there are fewer standards.
- Teachers will be able to collaborate with educators from surrounding districts, across the state and nation.

With implementation of the California Common Core Standards scheduled for 2014-2015, Paramount Unified is committed to providing professional development to all teachers. To learn more, visit the following websites:

- California Department of Education at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>
- Paramount Unified School District at [www.paramount.k12.ca.us](http://www.paramount.k12.ca.us)
- K-8 California's Common Core Standards Parent Handbook at [http://www.ccsesa.org/sysadmin/documents/CCSParentHandbook\\_020411.doc](http://www.ccsesa.org/sysadmin/documents/CCSParentHandbook_020411.doc)

**Lihn Roberts, Facilitator**  
Instructional Improvement & Research/Testing

## GO PIRATES!!!!

As 2012 came to an end Paramount High School athletics finished strong in all Winter sports. Starting with our nationally ranked boy's soccer team, who competed in the prestigious Arizona Soccer Showcase. The Pirates finished the tournament with a 3-1 record and a loss in the quarter finals to Arizona's number one ranked team, Brophy Prep. It was a hard fought contest, but in the end Brophy prevailed with a 1-0 victory. The Pirates enter 2013 with a 7-2-3 record and the number two ranking in the CIF Southern Section Division 2. Adding to this great start was the announcement that Co-Head Coach Rafael Villaseñor was selected as the 2012 National Soccer Coaches Association of America Western Region Coach of the Year. He is one of seven finalists for the national coach of the year that will be announced at a banquet in Indianapolis, Indiana later in the month. Congratulations to our boy's soccer program and Coach Villaseñor.

The boy's basketball team had an excellent pre-season. After dropping 4 out of their first five games they finished 2012 with nine straight wins. They captured the championship of the Santa Ana Century High School Christmas Classic with a 45-42 win over CIF power Glendora High School. In the tournament the Pirates beat Santa Ana, Northwood, and Rancho Alamitos, before knocking off the Tartans of Glendora for the title.

They enter 2013 with great momentum and are looking forward to competition in the San Gabriel Valley League.

The girls soccer team also enjoyed a very successful pre-season capturing wins over St. Monica, Whitney, Santa Fe, Pioneer, and Bellflower. They are working hard in preparation for the start of San Gabriel Valley League play. They hope to finish in the top three of league and earn an automatic bid into this year's CIF playoffs. The girls basketball team continues its pre-season schedule and has shown tremendous improvement in their last seven games. They hope to enter 2013 on a winning note and compete in the tough SGVL. Girls Water Polo competed at a high level during their pre-season and continues to improve with every match. Coach Eduardo Osorio is optimistic about league play and thinks the girls can do well. The Pirate wrestling team continues to compete in high level tournaments in preparation for the SGVL dual meet season. The wrestling team will be hosting the league finals on Saturday February 2 with hopes of winning another CIF title and a few individual championships.

On behalf of the Pirate Administration, Faculty and Student Body, we look forward to the continued broad community support of our student athletes and programs. See you at the events! Go Pirates!

# Buena Vista's Free Eagles

The adventures continue with the Buena Vista High School Free Eagles club! The mission of the Free Eagles is to expose members to the wonders of art, science, and nature available in local venues that are free or very low cost. Our adventures range from a hike in the El Dorado Nature Center to visiting art museums and the California Science Center. On Saturday, December 8th, the Free Eagles (affectionately nicknamed the "Freagles") visited the Getty Villa Museum in Malibu. Club members had a chance to examine the unique collection of ancient art accumulated by the Getty family in a beautifully recreated Roman Villa. Both Greek and Roman art are highlighted throughout the Getty with gardens to accentuate the Roman lifestyle. Hands-on exhibits allowed members to experience the textures and subtleties of both Greek and Roman techniques. A surprise bonus to our visit was a temporary exhibit of ancient and modern art that explored the last moments of Pompeii; the pieces were diverse and visceral from casts of the actual remains of Vesuvius' victims to a rare piece by Salvador Dali.

After delving into the historical and artistic experiences of the Getty Villa, the Freagles returned to the modern



world by enjoying food and refreshment at a Malibu Beach picnic! Once our appetites were satiated, we explored the tide! We discovered harbor seals, sea stars, anemones, urchins, lobsters, kelp, limpets, and countless other forms of marine life! After an impromptu game of beach soccer, the exhausted club members cleaned the beach, loaded the vans, and cruised home to Paramount!

**Lisa Ferrer**  
Teacher



## Alondra Dolphin's Stand Up to Bullying!!



Alondra Dolphins do not just stand by to bullying, they STAND UP. At Alondra Middle School the theme of November was STAND UP Month. The goal was to promote an ongoing Safe and Civil environment by focusing on bullying awareness, prevention and intervention. From the moment you walked on campus you could see and feel the influence of STAND UP month. Student council members and parent volunteers created yellow banners promoting powerful messages about standing up to bullying and placed them all around campus. There were different activities designated every week, including: the Stand Up to Bullying Pledge that was signed by Alondra students and showcased in the quad; students wore yellow on Wednesdays and the staff proudly wore their yellow Stand Up t-shirts each week; every student had a yellow STAND UP wrist band to show their commitment against bullying; and heartfelt morning announcements were made school-wide by student council. They shared poems and other important facts about bullying and the impact it can have on others.

Another important part of STAND UP month was the interactive guidance lessons that were presented by the school counselors to both students and parents. The counselors provided multimedia lessons to all students at Alondra. They focused on the different types of bullying and the real-life impact of bullying on today's youth. Students worked in groups and participated in active discussions about what present day bullying looks like and what they can do to prevent or Stand Up to bullying. Counselors also held a bullying prevention / intervention workshop for parents during their weekly parent meetings. The goal was to not only inform the students, but the parents and community alike, to create a bully-free environment at Alondra Middle School. Alondra staff and students pledged to STAND UP to bullying not just during the month of November, but for the entire school year.

**Lynn Butler**  
Principal  
Alondra Middle School

## Jackson School Prepares for Common Core Standards

As the state of California moves towards Common Core State Standards, schools are faced with the challenge of preparing teachers for this shift. Here at Jackson we are up to the challenge! Although the Common Core State Standards will not be implemented until 2015, our school has begun to deliver professional development to ensure that our teachers are equipped with the best tools possible for a smooth and fruitful transition. At every staff meeting we dedicate 10-15 minutes discussing Common Core. Teachers get the opportunity to share what they are trying in their classrooms and ask questions.

Our school coaches, Rebecca Perez (ELA) and Claudia Ramos (Math), are developing modules to address topics specific to Common Core. Topics that are being addressed include: text dependent questions, levels of cognition with text dependent questions, questioning techniques and evidence based writing. Although the task of preparing for the new Common Core State Standards might seem challenging, everyone at Jackson School is eager to do their part to prepare themselves for the good of our students.

**Claudia Ramos**  
Jackson School

## Roosevelt Family Movie Night

If you happened to drive by Roosevelt School on Thursday, December 6th around 5:30 p.m., you may have seen lots of children and adults in their pajamas!

On December 6th, Roosevelt hosted its first "family movie night". Our spirit committee helped to organize this event with the support of teachers, parent volunteers, Student Council, and community members.

Flyers were sent home to advertise the event which was also publicized in the school newsletter.

Families were invited to come to the school from 5:30-7:30 p.m. and enjoy the film "Polar Express". The City of Paramount via the STAR program provided the use of a projector for the event.

Refreshments including hot chocolate, pizza, and churros were sold with the proceeds earmarked to support a field trip for fifth grade students before they leave for middle school.

The evening was a resounding success – over 400 people attended the event! Family nights provide an opportunity for the school and community to work together to support our students and to develop communication between the home and school.

Thank you to all who supported Roosevelt School in this special event. Another "family movie night" is planned for later in the year.

**Susan Marilley, Principal**  
Roosevelt School