

PUSD EDUCATION NEWS

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

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JANUARY 2013

PHS Students Visit NFL Network

On November 30th, a group of Paramount High students had the opportunity to visit and tour the National Football League's television studios in Culver City. Shows such as NFL Gameday, A Football Life, and NFL Redzone are filmed and broadcast from this studio. This is also the facility from which NFL Thursday night games are broadcast. Only a group of five visitors were allowed to participate in the tour, and these lucky students were Xavier Aldana, Jorge Ceballos, Charlie Contreras Alan Cortez, and Erwin Preciado. These students are enrolled in Mr. Sewell's Film and Video Production class.

During their visit, these students were able to see state of the art video and audio equipment, as well as first-class audio and editing facilities. They also were able to watch broadcasters and camera crews rehearsing for later filming. Luckily for these students, the studio went "live" with breaking news during their tour and they experienced firsthand what goes behind a live broadcast. Erwin Preciado expressed how impressive it was to "see how much more goes on behind the scenes than what you see on your television screen."

Charlie Contreras shared that



it was also interesting to see some of the same programs and tools from his PHS class being used at the NFL studio. Two programs he and fellow students are gaining experience with now in Mr. Sewell's class are Sound Track Pro and Final Cut Pro, which were being utilized at the network during their visit.

Several of these students expressed that they are considering entering film and video production programs in college, as well as a possible career choice. Some of the schools mentioned for this major include UC Irvine, UCLA, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Jeff Beahn, PHS



Outgoing Board President Linda Garcia Honored



The Board of Education and Superintendent David Verdugo congratulated outgoing President Linda Garcia on her successful year as President of the Board of Education.

'Tis the Season for Giving

The holiday season is full of joy, laughs, great food, loved ones, and most importantly—generosity. The students, staff, and ASB at Paramount High School West Campus are doing as much as possible to keep in the spirit of giving during the holidays and support the less fortunate. West Campus students are extremely generous by donating to canned food and toy drives sponsored by ASB.

During the month of November, the West Campus ASB sponsored a school-wide canned food drive. ASB Leadership students collected cans from all first period classes on campus. The food items donated by the students and staff were arranged into a holiday baskets full of goodies for families in need to enjoy. With a total of over 500 cans, ASB was able to assist seven families. To complete their Thanksgiving meal, each family was given a twenty-five dollar gift card to a local market.

In the month of December, West Campus held its annual Su Casa Holiday Toy Drive. Su Casa is a shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children. For this toy drive, ASB collected board games, books, dolls, sports equipment, teddy bears, and many other toys and art supplies. The gifts donated by West Campus Pirates brought a smile to the face of less fortunate children.

The holiday season is full of generosity here at Paramount High School West Campus and so many other places. It does not matter where the giving takes place just that families are able to have a better holiday season and the West Campus was able to play in this.

Jose Ortiz, ASB Leadership Vice President
Paramount High School West Campus

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

January 9 • January 23, 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



Vivian Hansen Elected President

The Board of Education elected new officers for 2012-13 during their December statutory meeting. Trustee Vivian Hansen was elected President and Sonya Cuellar will serve as Vice President/Clerk.

PHS Winter Sports



With winter sports underway, coaches and players alike are excited to set and reach new goals. One feature that marks the new year in the name of player safety is the concussion legislation that will take effect in 2013. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) offers a free course to coaches, parents, officials, trainers and players who want to gain materials and information on concussion in sports. Education and a safe playing environment has become essential for the Paramount High School athletic department; an informational packet focused on understanding the nature and risk of concussion must be signed by each athlete and by his/her guardian(s) prior to participation. In addition to "Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know," NFHS offers other free courses including "Sportsmanship," "Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment," "NCAA Eligibility Center Coaching Education" and "The Role of the Parent in Sports." As a member of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), Paramount High School emphasizes the following certifications, "Fundamentals of Coaching," First Aid, and CPR approved by either the American Heart Association or

Red Cross.

With distinct guidelines that protect the safety of our student athletes, coaches are now teaming up with Lanette Walker, the newly hired athletic trainer and equipment manager for the Paramount Pirates. She oversees the safety of the equipment used by student athletes while monitoring their progress both on and off of the playing field or court. She is a valued addition to the pirate team and her expertise in student athlete safety is a great asset to the Paramount High School sports programs. A special thanks to Liz Rodriguez and the Career Technical Education (CTE) medical program who volunteered time to work closely with Dr. Patricia Rodriguez and the newly hired trainer to insure the safety of our football players this fall. Student and teacher volunteers who are intent on maintaining the safety of our student athletes is a true sign of how education and team work is formula for a successful high school safety program.

Come and support the Paramount High School winter sport teams including girls' and boys' soccer, girls' water polo, wrestling, and girls' and boys' basketball. Go Pirates!

Paramount's Foster Youth Services Program

The Paramount Unified School District's Foster Youth Services (FYS) Program, is a grant-funded program for a specific student population. Its goal is to provide services to students identified as Foster Youth.

Students are eligible for the Foster Youth Services Program if they are in a formal Foster Youth Placement or in any other out of home placement, or do not live with either birth parent. The student might live with a foster parent, a relative or non-relative court appointed guardian, or a relative who has obtained a District Guardianship for school placement.

Students receive tutoring services in both Language Arts and Math. The tutoring occurs during the school day for a minimum of 30 minutes, one time a week. The FYS Program, in collaboration with Cerritos College, also offers a series of Parent Workshops. Past Workshops have covered a variety of topics such as Internet Safety, Building Positive Communication,

Conflict Resolution, and Understanding Educational Rights. Information flyers are available at every school site office. These Parent Workshops are open to ALL Paramount Unified School District parents and employees at no cost.

Additional services provided to formal foster youth students include an annual field trip, scholarship opportunities and applications, information about FYS Programs at colleges and universities, invitations to participate in a College Readiness Program provided in collaboration with United Friends of the Children and referrals to community agencies and resources. Each year the FYS Program has been able to assist our foster youth with graduation-related expenses such as yearbook, prom, cap and gown, etc.

For more information about the Foster Youth Program in Paramount, please call James Monico, Student Services Director or Judy Morrison, FYS Program Coordinator, at 562-602-6048.

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

Board of Education

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

District Superintendent
David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.



Great things are happening in Paramount Schools

PUSD Education News

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Paramount Unified School District



Workshops

LOCATION: Jefferson School
 8600 Jefferson Street
 Paramount, CA 90723

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

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

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 have 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

Jingle All The Way



Imagine children having the opportunity to shop for Christmas presents for their family members, without having to have their family members along! (After all, that would spoil the surprises, right?) Hollydale students do have just such an opportunity, thanks to our hard-working PTA.

The Jingle Bell Station Holiday Shop is a place where all our children can find just the right gifts for family members and friends. It offers over 120 different gifts ranging from 25 cents to \$12.50. The majority of the items, over 75% of them, are \$4 or less.

A consumer math lesson is included in the program. Each child was given a special budget envelope to take home. The envelope has spaces for students to list the various friends and family members for whom they wish to buy gifts. Then there are spaces to write a budgeted amount for each person, and a grand total. In this way parents can help

with the financial management of it, keeping their purchases within a limit, and students can plan ahead to provide for everyone.

Because it is a safe and supervised setting, with several PTA members monitoring the shop each day, students are able to keep their gifts a secret. And because the workshop is open every day for the two weeks of school in December, students had time to do chores to earn more money to buy more gifts. Having our own Jingle Bell Station keeps students safe, offers very reasonable prices, and allows them a much appreciated degree of shopping freedom.

We enjoyed our Holiday Shop very much, and we look forward to having it again next year, because it was a terrific way to allow our children to experience the joy of giving during the holiday season.

Kathleen Vaughn, Hollydale School

Students Experience the "Magic of Math"

Have you ever wondered how magic really works? A magician waves his wand, says the magic words, and right before your eyes, he can make a coin, a card, or even a rabbit disappear and then magically reappear. Although good magicians never reveal their secrets, an exception was made for the GATE students who attended the Magic of the Mind workshop held at Jefferson School on Saturday, December 1. Over fifty middle school GATE students from across the district had the opportunity to go behind the scenes and experience the magic of famous magicians of the past including the great Harry Houdini and Doug Henning. During the workshop, students discovered that mathematics was not only a tool necessary for science and technology, but in ancient times, also used for recreation in the form of magic.

This connection between math and magic has been well-established in guessing games, sudoku, Rubik's Cube, and

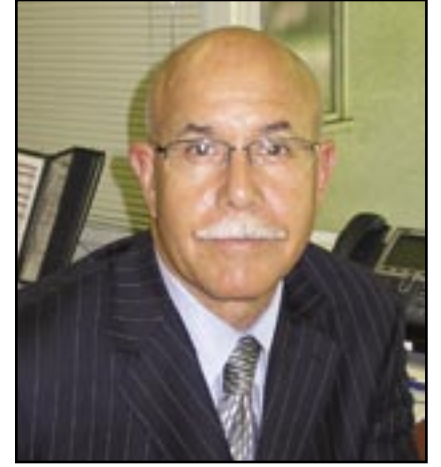
many other math-based card tricks. By calculating simple equations along with a few shuffles of a deck, students were able to identify the number on a randomly selected playing card. Students also learned how to create simple illusions by quickly manipulating the position of their hands or by diverting the attention of the audience. By the end of the day, our student magicians were amazing each other by guessing cards, making coins disappear, and even creating the illusion of levitation. When asked about the event, one student said, "I really enjoyed the workshop because now I understand how magic works and I can do some tricks."

The Magic of the Mind workshop will return to Paramount for GATE students in grades three through five on January 19, 2013.

**Michael Naruko
Curriculum Specialist**

Superintendent's Message:

The Aftermath of the Connecticut School Shooting Planning for the Unthinkable



On December 14, 2012, our nation experienced the largest school based shooting incident since the Virginia Tech College rampage. That tragic event which occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut is difficult for all of us to comprehend because parents entrust their children to our schools. This tragic and horrific attack has impacted our nation and deeply affects every person with a child.

Here in Paramount Unified School District and no doubt throughout our entire community, our hearts go out to the members of the Newtown School community and to all of us who devote our lives to caring, raising and loving our children.

I want to share with each member of our community and schools, while we all know that there are no guarantees, the safety and welfare of our students and staff is always our highest priority.

Here in Paramount Unified School District, we continually work to maximize the safety of students at each campus or school site. I want to share with everyone that we have safety procedures in place with the goal of protecting students and staff. We have always maintained excellent relationships with the fire and police departments and City officials in our city. They always provide

outstanding rapid response whenever we require their service. We regularly practice school wide drills, including lockdown drills in order to prepare for a worst case situation. We also maintain an emergency communication messaging system which can be used to rapidly connect with our parents.

I want to assure all of our parents and community that we will continue to examine and evaluate our emergency procedures and systems in the wake of the tragedy. I believe that our schools continue to be a safe haven. Our school staff is very proactive in ensuring safety as a top priority.

Our school sites and principals will be prepared to share and provide resources and guides to help parents talk to their children about this overwhelming tragedy.

Planning for the "unthinkable" has become an important priority for educational leaders throughout our nation.

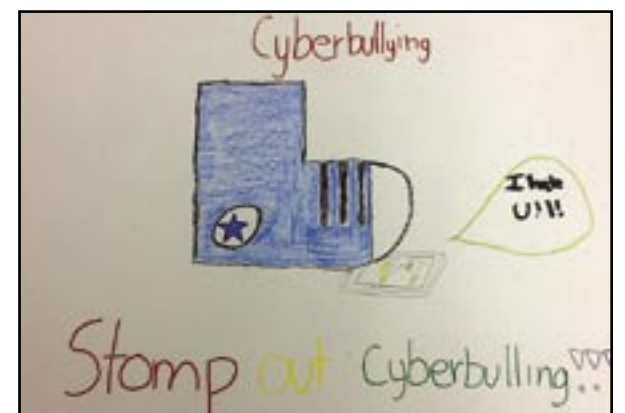
Thank you all for continuing to make such a difference in the lives of the children and students in Paramount Unified School District.

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

Zamboni Stomps Out Cyberbullying

Zamboni's counselors presented a Cyberbullying guidance lesson to all 6-8th grade students. Forms of cyber media discussed were texting, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Students participated in a lesson that included a powerpoint slide show, videos and group activities. The definition of Cyberbullying was discussed along with what to do if you are a victim and what the consequences are in school and in our community. Students discussed the dangers and consequences of communicating with unknown persons on the internet as well. Many students were unaware that the way in which they were communicating with others via the internet or through texting was considered Cyberbullying. Many were shocked to learn the consequences in school such as suspension or on some cases alternative placement. They were surprised as well by the fact that police may be involved in the investigation.

The students were broken up into groups and had the opportunity to develop an idea for a Cyberbullying commercial Public Service Announcement (PSA) that was put on posters. Posters are currently being displayed in our multipurpose room and will be judged by staff and students. The



winning group will have the opportunity to write, cast, produce and film their own PSA for Zamboni. After the PSA is filmed counselors will present it to all students and it will be added to our school website. The students are excited and enthusiastic about having the opportunity to film their own Public Service Announcement.

As a result of this lesson, students gained awareness of Cyberbullying and its consequences. A parent training on Cyberbullying will be held to educate them on internet awareness and safety. Through these presentations and the development of the PSA our students and parents have been enabled with the tools to identify and Stomp out Cyberbullying.

**Lucy Duran, Counselor
Zamboni Middle School**

Our Trip to Big Bear



"As long as I live, I'll hear waterfalls and birds and winds sing. I'll interpret the rocks; learn the language of flood, storm, and the avalanche. I'll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild gardens, and get as near the heart of the world as I can"

- John Muir.

Paramount High School's Green Club has yet again embarked on another adventure! After September's trip to Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and before November's hike to Griffith Park, we went camping. Recently, PHS's Green Club went camping in Big Bear, where returning members made new memories and had new experiences. Originally we were supposed to camp in tents; however, due to the rain and snow forecast and thanks to help from some of the National Forest Service and Sierra Club, we were able to stay at the Discovery Center near Big Bear Lake! Green Club

worked alongside forest rangers and Sierra Club leaders at Cactus Flats, collecting seeds and dispersing them in efforts to produce more plants like the Antelope Bush, which are vital and native only to this ecosystem.

Green Club not only works hard—we also enjoy some really fun activities. Whether listening to a presentation from LEAVE NO TRACE, hiking in the majestic forests, eating S'MORES and telling stories around the campfire, chilling by the lake, or performing funny skits in groups at the amphitheater located at the Discovery center, Green Club did it all! All this would not be possible if not for the help of our volunteers, Elizabeth Neat and Chris Albertson from the Sierra Club, and Joe Vandelden from the National Forest Service.

**Melina Guzman,
PHS 12th Grade Student**

Howard Tanner School Holiday Math Night



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

Early Childhood Education

The Early Childhood Education Program at Paramount Unified School District provides a stimulating curriculum for preschoolers which builds a strong foundation for elementary education. Teachers refer to the Preschool Learning Foundations to assist with lesson planning. The Preschool Learning Foundations are from the California Department of Education, and outline expectations for skills development in language, literacy, mathematics, visual/performing arts, physical, health, and English-language. The foundations are similar in function to the California Content Standards for K-12 education.

To build literacy skills, the preschool program uses the Imagine It! curriculum that is aligned with the District's Open Court reading curriculum used in the K-5 grades. Children learn letter recognition, letter sounds, syllable segmenting, and writing through storybooks, poems, and songs. Preschoolers also practice their literacy skills on a daily basis with play-based activities like the reading corner, writing center, object labeling, and access to book baskets at the different learning centers throughout the classroom.

Children are exposed to early math concepts with the Growing with Mathematics curriculum. The early math

skills of comparisons, sorting, shapes, size, patterns, and number sense are reinforced regularly while turn-taking, daily calendar, and math/science centers. Teachers integrate math into other lessons as well. At Mokler Preschool, Ms. Theresa introduced the concept of voting by practicing sorting/categorization over a three-week period. The children voted to name their classroom fish pet while learning about the voting process for the presidential elections. The photo shows how the children learned to count and categorize while voting to name the fish pet. Another example of math integration took place recently in the preschool classes with learning about the harvest. Some of the preschool teachers carved pumpkins and used the pumpkin seeds for counting practice (see photo).

Preschool teachers also monitor student learning through regular child observations and note taking. Student work samples are collected and reviewed to help teachers address student needs and plan instruction. Teachers use the observation information to complete the Desired Results Developmental Profiles (DRDP) and communicate child progress to parents.

**Elida Garcia, Ed.D.,
Program Director**

Paramount Unified School District is a Model for School Attendance

What Is SARB?

School attendance is vital to student success. The attendance expectation of school districts and their communities are all students must go to school every day. The purpose of a School Attendance Review Board or SARB is to help students who are not going to school on a regular basis and are in danger of falling.

The SARB Board serves the Paramount and Bellflower School Districts. The board holds their weekly meetings at the Bellflower Superior Court House. The board members of the SARB are school administrators, counselors, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, District Attorney's Offices and other parenting educators.

SARB has many resources to offer and help students and parents during the process. There are several agencies that support SARB that are noted below. The strength of the SARB is a commitment of the agencies to participate, share resources, and strong follow-up that occurs every 30, 60, and 90 days. Some of the SARB resources and recommendations are:

- The 10-20 Club founded by former

professional baseball player Darrell Jackson. This group serves students and families by providing drug and alcohol classes, anger management classes, family support groups conflict resolution.

- The Parent Project offers classes at Paramount Adult School. Topics covered are: Understanding Our Children, Addressing Problematic Behavior, A Parent's Formula for Success, Adolescent Drug Use and others.

- Developing Capable People are parenting classes held at Bellflower Unified School District. These classes address parenting strategies and how to deal with students with problematic behavior issues.

- Gang Resistance Is Paramount (GRIP) is a nationally recognized anti-gang program that steers children away from gang membership through classroom lessons, counseling and parental training.

The goal of the SARB Board is to provide solutions, resources and appropriate measures to resolve student attendance problems. The ultimate purpose of this important group of professionals is to promote the importance of attendance, behavior and good citizenship and assure that students attend school every day.