

# 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

JANUARY 2016

## Outgoing Board President Alicia Anderson Honored

The Board of Education, Co-Interim Superintendents Dr. David Verdugo and Mrs. Delores Stephens, City of Paramount Mayor Tom Hansen, City Councilmember Diane Martinez, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard's representative Genesis Coronado and Senator Ricardo Lara's representative Jesús Diaz congratulated outgoing President Alicia Anderson on her successful year as President of the Board of Education. A Certificate of Recognition was also presented to Board member Anderson on behalf of Supervisor Don Knabe.



Pictured are Co-Interim Superintendents Dr. Verdugo, Mrs. Stephens and Board of Education members with outgoing Board President Alicia Anderson.



Pictured with Ms. Anderson is Senator Ricardo Lara's representative Jesús Diaz and Board President Tony Peña.



Pictured with Ms. Anderson is City of Paramount Councilmember Diane Martinez, Board President Tony Peña and City Mayor Tom Hansen.



Pictured with Ms. Anderson is Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard's representative Genesis Coronado and Board President Tony Peña.

## Tony Peña Elected President



The Board of Education elected new officers for 2015-16 during their December statutory meeting. Trustee Tony Peña was elected President and Linda Garcia will serve as Vice President/Clerk.

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

January 13, 2016 \* January 27, 2016

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.

## Wesley Gaines Elementary School prepares Students for 21st Century Citizenship



At Wesley Gaines Elementary School, teachers are preparing their students for 21st century citizenship as technology becomes integrated into instruction. The new Common Core Standards require that all students are able to use technology and the internet to conduct research, publish writing, and collaborate with others.

Last year, new computers were purchased for all classrooms and two technology research labs were added to support the heavy traffic in the main computer lab. This increase of computer hardware has provided students with immediate access to a variety of digital resources that support the new standards. This year, electronic books have been made available to all teachers and students to promote research through a balance of literature and informational text. In classrooms, teachers are using electronic books as an integral part of their daily instruction. Instead of teachers reading a hard copy of text,

books are projected on a large screen in the front of the room. Mrs. Poole, a 3rd grade teacher states "I have found that my students are more engaged when their learning includes the use of technology." In the technology research labs, students are creating digital presentations to demonstrate their understanding of concepts and are using multiple textual sources as a springboard for higher level thinking.

During collaboration, teachers are utilizing technology to develop rigorous lesson designs and access digital resources that are aligned to grade level standards and unit themes. Ms. Armenta, a 1st grade teacher has shared several video resources with her grade level team that have enhanced reading instruction. Through the integration of technology, Gaines' teachers and students are accessing information from across the globe and are developing new and improved strategies to teach and learn.

## Trustees Linda Garcia and Vivian Hansen Reelected



Newly reelected Paramount Unified School District Board of Education members Linda Garcia and Vivian Hansen were given the Oath of Office by Co-Interim Superintendent Dr. David Verdugo at the December 9, 2015 Statutory Board meeting. Trustees Garcia and Hansen were uncontested

and reelected for an additional four year term. They have continued to provide extraordinary service to the students, staff and community during their prior service as members of the Board of Education.

Congratulations to Trustees Garcia and Hansen!

## PARAMOUNT PARK PANTHERS VISIT JPL



Paramount Park students (left to right) Keilei Ceja, Valerie Ceja, Eddie Silva, Daniel Sanchez, Aldo Bugarin and Alejandro Hernandez enjoy their visit to the JPL Open House in October.

After a long day of walking, talking, eating and exploring, it was a tired bunch of Paramount Park Middle School Panthers that climbed back onto the bus at the end of a very rewarding visit to one of the world's most renowned space centers, the famous Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), in La Cañada. It was the annual JPL Open House, which typically draws thousands of visitors each year.

JPL is home to the three Mars rovers, Spirit, Opportunity and Curiosity, and there were full-size models of these famous Martian explorers on display. One of the oldest surviving space probes, the famous Voyager 1, which just passed the outermost edge of our Solar System, and is still sending back data after nearly forty years, is also under the command of JPL scientists

and engineers, some of which were on hand to answer questions.

In addition, there were numerous displays and opportunities to talk to the very scientists who design, build and command most of the space probes currently operating in our Solar System, including the ones to the moons of Saturn and Jupiter, as well as New Horizons, which is just now passing Pluto.

Students who waited in one of the longest lines of the day were rewarded with a visit inside JPL's Command Center where engineers were communicating with Curiosity. There were also several movies highlighting the successes of JPL's various projects.

Jeff Kiesel  
Paramount Park Middle School  
MESA Advisor

## Winter Sports

Paramount High School athletic teams are in the last month of their seasons. Led by the boys and girls soccer teams, the Pirates are doing well in the tough San Gabriel League. The lady Pirate soccer team is currently 15-5-1 overall and 5-2 in league. With three games to play, the team is in second place and hoping for the opportunity to play Warren on the last day of the season for the championship. The team is also looking forward to the playoffs with a goal of competing at the highest level. The boys' soccer team is half of a game behind Warren for first place. They have an overall record of 12-3-4 and are 5-0-2 in league. They are currently ranked number 6 in the latest division one CIF polls. With a strong finish in league they are looking forward to the CIF playoffs with the hopes of bringing home another CIF championship.

As for the rest of the winter sports teams, our girls' basketball team is having one of the best years in Paramount history. They are currently 12-6 and tied for third place in the San Gabriel Valley League. A third place finish will guarantee the lady Pirates a berth into the CIF playoffs. With games at Lynwood, Downey and Warren the girls look to finish strong and continue to build on their success. The boys' basketball team started the

season on a bumpy road, but has since recovered and need to win three out of their next four games to qualify for the playoffs. Wrestling finished their dual meets and are now preparing for the league finals. Winners of the San Gabriel Valley league finals qualify for the CIF prelims and prelim winners qualify for the CIF finals. Our girls' wrestlers are sending seven athletes to the CIF qualifying meet with the hopes of qualifying for the CIF finals. Girls' water polo finished up their season with two hard fought matches against Downey and Warren. With continued hard work the girls are looking forward to next season.

As the winter season comes to an end, the spring season is about to start. With baseball, softball, boys' volleyball, boys' tennis, track & field and swimming, Paramount High school will have many athletic events taking place over the course of the next couple of months. With all of the teams in full swing, preparing for the upcoming season, spring sports promises to be fun and exciting for all Pirate fans.

The entire Pirate family would like to thank the community and all who come out to support athletics at Paramount High School. We look forward to seeing our entire fan base at many athletic events this spring. GO PIRATES!!

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

Board of Education

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

District Superintendents  
Dr. Ruth Pérez



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

# It Happened in the Hornet's Nest



Hollydale School hosted its first annual Guidelines for Success Kick-off Assembly complete with cheerleaders, music and theatrical performances! The Hollydale Hornet staff agreed on seven essential guidelines for success. The guidelines spell out our school mascot, HORNETS.

- H** is for Hardworking
- O** is for Organized
- R** is for Responsible
- N** is for Noble
- E** is for Enthusiastic
- T** is for Trustworthy
- S** is for Supportive

Students who display these characteristics are recognized as Students of the Month. Their parents are invited to a continental breakfast and awards ceremony celebrating and promoting successful behavior. Our front office bulletin board boasts the current Students of the Month and some cool pictures from our assembly!

The Safe and Civil team members and their students put on mini perfor-

mances aimed at teaching each guideline. Hardworking students showed the crowd how to work through a difficult math problem. Organized student volunteers from the audience raced to see who could organize a very messy backpack first. Responsible students showed how to keep track of homework and activities using their backpack and planning tools. Noble students taught the audience the tenants of nobility. Enthusiastic students showed us all how a science lesson about volcanoes can be very interesting and cause one to be enthusiastic about learning. Trustworthy students taught the crowd the full meaning of the word using synonyms and thinking maps. Supportive students acted out a friendly conversation that highlighted specific ways friends can support one another.

We concluded the assembly with a principal "Whip and Nae Nae" demonstration because that's how all great assemblies should end.

A great time was had by all!

**Go HORNETS!**

## Superintendent's Message:

Dear Parents and Friends of the Paramount Unified School District,

Greetings! Please allow me to introduce myself as the new Superintendent of the Paramount Unified School District. It is truly an honor and privilege to have been selected by the Board of Education to serve in this important role. The Board of Education ensured that community input was received and regarded as they looked for a leader that would be dedicated to meeting the needs of the students of Paramount Unified School District. It is my privilege to have been selected as a new instructional leader for the District.

I do not come from too far away. In my most recent role I served as Deputy Superintendent of Instruction for the Los Angeles Unified School District. Prior to that, I served as Superintendent in the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District for 5 years. With great anticipation, I look forward to serving your children as well.

I am a former English language learner and fluent Spanish speaker. Communication is important to me in order to understand the needs and desires of our student population.



As a visionary of a deserved and promising future for all students, I greatly value the support of parents and community to achieve our goals of offering a quality education and opportunities for student success. Collaboratively we can achieve great outcomes for each and every child in Paramount Unified School District.

Paramount Unified School District has made significant growth in student achievement over the last few years. I look forward to building upon the good work that has been done continuing in this positive direction.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Ruth Pérez**

## West Campus Pacific Islander Club Attend National Pacific Islander Education Network Conference



For the very first time, ninth graders from Paramount High School West Campus participated in the 14th Annual National Pacific Islander Education Network's Conference at Lakewood High School. Students from West Campus' Pacific Islander Club along with their advisory, Mr. Yang, attended the event on Saturday, November 7.

The NPIEN is a nonprofit organization dedicated to support students in their pursuit of higher education. At the annual conference, students and teachers were offered both educational and cultural workshops as well as a Career and College Fair. Additionally, a wonderful lunch that included dance performances from local high schools was provided for all the attendees.

During the closing ceremony, a number of scholarships and awards were given as part of NPEN's mission, which is to recognize students from the

Pacific Islander community who have exhibited outstanding or improved academic achievement or excelled in the areas of community service or extracurricular activities. PHS students Pupualii Maluia, Andiloa Palei, Zoe Pamonag, Carlos Rebieos, and Natalie Santos each received a scholarship. Moreover, Ms. Alicia Megofna, West Campus Projects Facilitator, received the Seria Ma'ae Educator Award for her exemplary work and service to the students of PHS West Campus. Mr. Morrie Kosareff, West Campus Principal, stated, "I am proud of the accomplishments of our award winning students and Ms. Megofna. They serve as an excellent example of the many positive things that are happening at Paramount High School."

**Yvonne Rodriguez**  
Assistant Principal

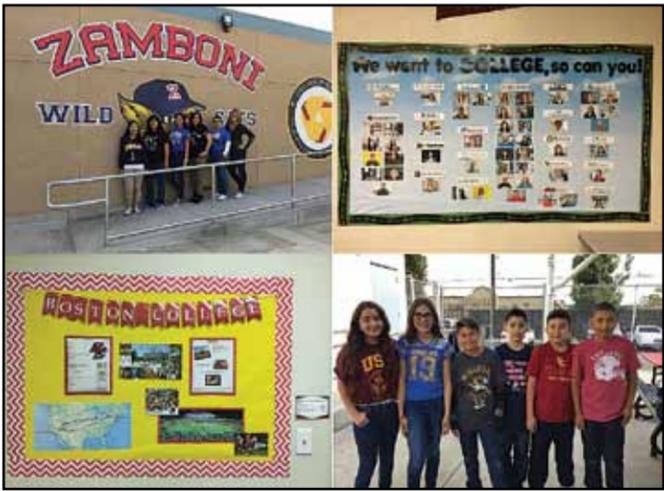
## Technology Advances in the Classroom

Technology is becoming an integral part of the curriculum at middle schools in Paramount Unified School District. Teachers and students at Paramount Park and Hollydale School are paving the way by piloting a Microsoft product called Office 365. This program allows users to access all of the Microsoft Office applications (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and OneNote) online. Each student has a unique PUSD account that includes a district email address. This means that students can begin typing their reports at school and then continue working on them at home as long as they have internet access, even if they don't have Microsoft Word installed on their own computer.

Using OneNote, a Microsoft Office component, students are using this program to record and organize their notes about a topic they are investigating in their ELA classrooms. From different computers and even different locations, students are able to collaborate on presentations through online versions of PowerPoint. In addition, each student has 1000 gigabytes of storage that will continue with them through graduation.

In the following weeks, students at all of the middle schools will begin working with these exciting tools. We look forward to seeing this important technology streamline the collaborative and productive process both in and out of the classroom. Office 365 will become a significant part of the way work gets done now and in the future in Paramount Unified School District schools.

## Zamboni's College-Going Culture



Welcome to ZMS College Days! If you visit our campus on a Thursday, you are bound to see Zamboni Wildcats proudly wearing college t-shirts and sweat-shirts as students, teachers, and staff all participate in celebrating and promoting our college-going culture.

Exposing our students to higher education does not stop here though! Take a tour through our campus and you'll find a different college or university highlighted in each teacher's classroom. If you stop by our computer labs, you'll immediately notice that they have been transformed into our College and Career Center, filled with wall-to-wall information about different universities, career paths, and occupational themes. Photos also adorn the walls, showcasing students' career aspirations, as well as where each Zamboni teacher attended college. The staff is proud to represent and be the alumni of 20 different universities!

Two of our teachers, Dr. Kugler and Ms. Rosales, have also started Zamboni's first College Club, which currently consists of approximately 25 students. The club's mission is to support Zamboni students in their understanding and awareness of college. Club members not only research and share information about different colleges, but also have the privilege of hearing guest speakers talk about their college experiences. In November, we welcomed a representative from El Camino College, who explained the importance of college in general, as well as the link between community college and 4-year universities. Students were more than eager to answer questions in hopes of winning El Camino t-shirts, water bottles, and lanyards.

As the new year approaches, we look forward to continuing to promote college readiness here at Zamboni. January will bring our first administration of the PSAT 8/9 with a pilot group of 8th graders, as well as the start of a monthly competition that will test homeroom classes on their college knowledge. We are proud to say that college awareness is alive and well here at the Mighty Z!

**Alyssa Muramatsu, Counselor  
Zamboni Middle School**



## Parent and Teachers Working Together

The Mokler community is fortunate to have supportive parents and we appreciate their support. This support is demonstrated in a variety of ways. Each year, our group of ELAC and SSC parents meet to advise and vote on school-wide decisions. This year, our group has doubled in size and continues to plan activities to provide students with a positive school environment.

Additionally, students are invited to participate in a parent-led Ballet Folklorico dance program. Under the leadership of parent dance instructors, stu-

dents are taught the art of Folklorico dance through weekly practice sessions and perform at community and school events. In addition to the fun, the parents conduct fundraisers to purchase costumes and also donate back to school events such as Fall Fun Night and ongoing donations of sports equipment.

Parents also participate in parent meetings and Family Nights. Throughout the year, there will be meetings focusing on academics, discipline and the importance of family. Currently, Mokler's support

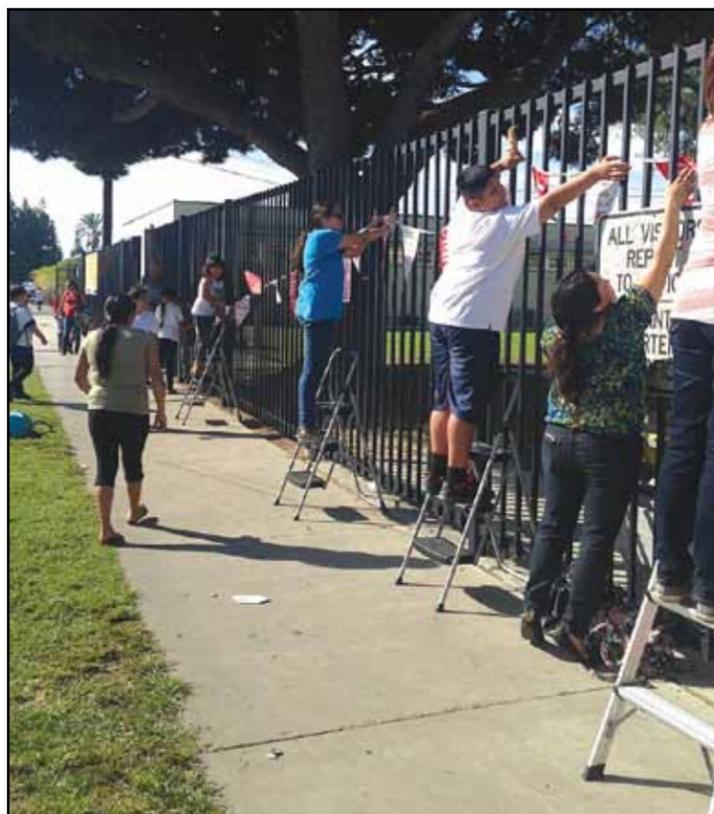
staff has conducted two parent meetings on how to raise school success through Effective Discipline Strategies. The meetings were well attended and provide lifelong helpful techniques on how parents can improve and promote positive behavior at home and at school.

For a schedule of upcoming activities, please contact Mokler School. We look forward to another excellent turnout of parents at the next meeting.

**Ms. Holland, School Counselor**



Parent Meetings with Ms. Holland, Counselor and Ms. Montano-Flores, Behavior Intervention Specialists.



Parents helping to decorate for Red Ribbon Week.



Ms. Barron-Pena, Ballet Folklorico President donating sports equipment to Mrs. Roberts, Principal.