

PUSD EDUCATION NEWS

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

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JUNE 2015

Paramount Unified School District Celebrates Teacher of the Year



On May 13, 2015, school and district staff and members of the Board of Education met to celebrate each school's Teacher of the Year. The Teacher of the Year recognition honors the positive effect teachers have on the lives of students each day. The Board of Education awarded each of the 20 recipients a plaque to honor their contribution to Paramount's students and community.

Schools select one outstanding teacher to represent their school for this honor. In making this selection, teachers give careful consideration to the person who best meets all of the following criteria:

- Shows commitment to professional growth
- Supports his/her colleagues to develop their skills
- Pursues educational activities beyond the school day
- Delivers high quality instruction
- Communicates positively with students and parents

After a selection committee chooses the District-wide Teacher of the Year, he or she has the opportunity to apply for the Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year competition. This year Michelle Soto, Special Education Teacher from Paramount Park Middle School was selected to represent PUSD as the district wide Teacher of the Year. We congratulate Ms. Soto, her students and her school for this outstanding honor!

Paramount Unified School District's 2015-16 Teachers of the Year

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Early Childhood Education | - Belen Cabral | Mokler School | - Lori Stahl |
| Alondra Middle School | - Andrea Carr | Paramount Park Middle School | - Michelle Soto |
| Collins School | - Lashonda Toston | Roosevelt School | - Eric Martin Varela |
| Gaines School | - Sofia Silva | Tanner School | - Sheri Wilson |
| Hollydale School | - Vanessa A. Mabini | Wirtz School | - Teresa Reno |
| Jackson School | - Maria Lourdes Gamez | Zamboni Middle School | - Mandy Butler |
| Jefferson School | - Maria Angela M. Parkin | Paramount High School-West | - Michael Almada |
| Keppel School | - Hakeem Davies | Paramount High School | - Andrew Yonaki |
| Lincoln School | - Yessenia Orozco | Buena Vista High School | - Hector Ramos |
| Los Cerritos School | - Marysol Renteria Rivera | Paramount Adult School | - Renee M. Aguilar |

A Gold Star Battalion

This spring, Paramount High School select JROTC members entered into the Sonora Sports competition and earned 1st place in overall competition. Team members, under the guidance of Colonel Guild and Sergeant Brayboy, diligently practiced countless hours to prepare for the intense team sport competitions. Larry Porter, a member of the competing battalion, stated, "...we all had fun playing the sports we love... we brought a lot of energy to each event." The squad's energy paid off when they received first place awards in volleyball, soccer and tug of war with 2nd place awards in football and basketball.

The most challenging part of preparing for the competition was concurrently preparing for a program formal inspection. Dr. Buckner, principal at Paramount High School, gave feedback to students as they practiced pre-

sentations that aimed to explain all leadership roles within the program. Mr. Kosareff, principal at West Campus and Dr. Dragos, assistant principal at senior campus, along with the 8th Brigade commander conducted the overall inspection. The full day inspection began with a PowerPoint presentation that explained all of the roles and duties of cadets within the Brigade. The panel members were able to ask questions which led to the Student Learning presentation. In this segment of the inspection, students presented the mission of the JROTC program and provided details of student-driven community service projects such as campus-wide clean ups. Next, the panel individually interviewed all cadets to verify that their work in the battalion was as reported and supported by the instructors.

Through all of the prepara-

tion involved, the results yielded were impressive. A final score of 98.75% was announced and Paramount obtained the highest score achieved throughout the 8th Brigade which is responsible for ROTC programs in Washington, Oregon, Montana, California, Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii and Guam. This high honor in the Paramount Brigade allowed the program to transition from blue star to gold star honors. With 1st place honors and gold star inspection earnings, the true service from the Paramount High School must be recognized. The hearts of gold in each member who dedicates countless hours of service at all of the Paramount High School events is exemplary. Congratulations to the Paramount High School JROTC program for their accomplishments and kudos to the program for continued service to the community.

A Mathemagical Night!



The Graciano family (with Lakeshore representative, Jessica Thudium) poses with their raffle winnings at Family Math Night.



Ms. Yessenia Orozco plays Rush Hour with Lincoln students at Family Math Night.

Abraham Lincoln Elementary School's Annual Family Math Night was a phenomenal success! Over 125 students and families came out to enjoy the games and fun. PTA supported the event and families by selling pizza and drinks. Over twenty-five raffle prizes were given away, and children and adults alike had a fantastic experience!

Lincoln Family Math Night featured sixteen stations that offered math games and fun for the entire community! Lincoln teachers and staff pulled together and volunteered their evening to help man the different stations. Activities included games such as Shut the Box and I Sea 10! (addition and number sense games), an estimation activity to guess Principal Jones' height in Tootsie Rolls, and the student favorite, Rush Hour (a logic game to help a trapped car escape traffic gridlock).

Lincoln families enthusiastically came out to support the event! With dinner taken care of by the PTA pizza sale, families were free to enjoy the activities without worries. Students received raffle tickets at each station and a game log to mark their participation. Parents were encouraged to play alongside their children. Throughout the night, prizes generously donated by Lakeshore and Lincoln teachers were given away in random drawings. Excitement grew as winning names were called out every 15 minutes and students took home gift cards, various math games, and even a Minecraft Lego set!

Volunteers, students, and parents all felt jubilation at the success of Family Math Night and are already looking forward to next year's event!

Joyce Taylor, Math Coach

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATE

June 10, 2015 * June 24, 2015

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

A Day at the Capital



Three of Paramount High School's students were nominated as leaders to attend the Day at the Capital event, in Sacramento. The opportunity was made available by the California Youth Connection, a nonprofit organization, which provides leadership and educational opportunities for current and former foster youth. Their goals include empowering foster youth to advocate for themselves and other youth in the system through their "Our Voices, Our Future" slogan.

The students spent three days in workshops learning leadership skills, communication skills, and the legislative process. During the evenings, social events were held including a poster contest, a movie, a talent show, and dinner out with peers. The last day was spent at the Capital, speaking to legislators about a proposed bill and the rights of pregnant and parenting foster youth, with the aim to find a sponsor for the bill.

The pirate leaders reflected on their experience and one commented, "...the whole event was amazing! The Day at the Capital gives former and current foster youth knowledge about the foster youth system and a voice to change the system through legislation." Most of all, the leaders in attendance were inspired to make a difference. Another leader in attendance stated, "I was complimented for my participation in activities and

received good advice from adult supporters. I felt confident to speak up and to make eye contact." He aims to help other foster youth students and wants each to know that there are adults who care and who can help. One leader felt that she learned to present herself in a professional way. She states, "Listening to other youth's stories was a rewarding experience." She was empowered to share her own story because she felt that the other youth could really understand her. The best part of the trip, however, was flying! She loved flying at night to look out and see all of the city lights below.

While at the State House, the leadership group was able to meet with Congressman Patrick O'Donnell, who taught social science at Paramount High School. He took the time to speak with each of the students individually, let them know they can always reach out to him if there is anything he could help them with, and provided each leader his contact information.

With faculty leadership guidance from Judy Morrison, Foster Youth Services Coordinator, Anna Martinez, the Foster Youth Counseling Liaison and co-club advisor, and Patricia Gonzalez, a teacher and co-advisor, this leadership club meets once a week to discuss advocacy topics and strategies relevant to college, career and future financial advocacy and readiness.

Jefferson School Selects New Teacher of the Year

Jefferson School recently selected Maria Parkin, aka "Cha Cha" to represent the school as Teacher of the 2014-2015 School Year. Maria is a local gal who was born in Lynwood. She graduated from Saint Joseph High School and then went on to Long Beach State, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies. She continued her studies at Mount St. Mary's college where she received her Master's in Education.

Maria lives with her husband, John and her daughter, Caterina Elizabeth, age 20, and her son, John Joseph, age 17. The

Parkin family resides in Long Beach.

Mrs. Parkin comes from a whole family of educators. Her four brothers and two sisters are all involved in education. One of her brothers was a principal at Los Ceritos and Wirtz.

Maria teaches 2nd grade at Jefferson. She believes that people and students have success through hard work and dedication. Maria herself is extremely dedicated to her job. Jefferson School is pleased to have such a devoted, professional teacher as Maria Parkin to represent our staff for this school year.

The Bug Bus Comes to Hollydale!



Hollydale fifth graders recently experienced the VecMobile, a "Bug Bus" sponsored by the Mobile Science & Vector Education Foundation of the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District. Its aim is to educate Los Angeles area students about the science of mosquito anatomy and behavior, the risks mosquitoes present, and practices for preventing their growth in our neighborhoods. The Bug Bus was as fun as it was informational.

In the classroom portion of the program, students learned how to look for and eliminate mosquito-breeding sources. They discussed any current-events involving vectors with a VecMobile instructor. Finally, students viewed an extensive collection of insects from around the world. After reading clues on identifying types of insects, they completed an activity sheet identifying country of origin for each specimen in the collection.

The VecMobile portion of the program took place in a converted

motorhome. The "Bug Bus" is decked out with four study stations carefully designed to allow students to practice scientific inquiry. Clear directions at each station allowed students to work with each other to accomplish tasks, independent of adult intervention or coaching.

Not only was the Bug Bus fun for students but it also helped to develop their scientific inquiry skills. At the end of the program, students were able to continue doing research by examining and eliminating their backyard breeding sources at home, fill out a form and send it back to the Mobile Science & Vector Education Foundation. Students who complete this project will receive an award for helping to control mosquitoes. All of the fifth grade students enjoyed learning on the Bug Bus and look forward to other extended learning opportunities.

Lisa Nunley-Macon
Principal

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

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Delores Stephens
David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.



Great things are happening in Paramount Schools

PUSD Education News

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Graduation Dates

Buena Vista High School * June 9, 6:00p.m.
Paramount High School * June 11, 6:00 p.m.

Paramount Unified School District Counselors



Paramount High School Counselor Patricia Jacobo presenting information to her colleagues.

In every school of the Paramount Unified School District students have the support of dedicated counselors to support their social emotional and academic success. Counselors meet monthly to learn about current information on school counseling and share successful approaches. This year, middle and high school counselors identified topics they were interested in learning more about, researched these topics and then presented them to their counselor colleagues. Some of the topics covered include:

- What type of software can counselors use to inform students and parents of school events?
- What do counselors need to know about the new Common Core Standards?
- What are effective resources for supporting students who experience crisis?
- What do counselors need to understand about the needs of Foster Youth Students?

Spring Sports at Paramount High School

It is hard to believe, but the 2014-2015 school year is coming to an end. Paramount High School athletics are winding down with all spring sports coming to a close. In boys and girls track & field, boys tennis, and boys and girls swim, some athletes will be competing in the CIF individual playoffs in events that they qualify by finishing in the top tier in their respective league finals. The San Gabriel Valley League finals for these sports happened in the first week of May. In our next edition, we will be recognizing those individuals who not only qualified for CIF, but made Pirate athletics proud. There are a number of athletes who have the potential to go deep into the individual playoffs. We look forward to cheering on all of our athletes as they begin their individual competitions.

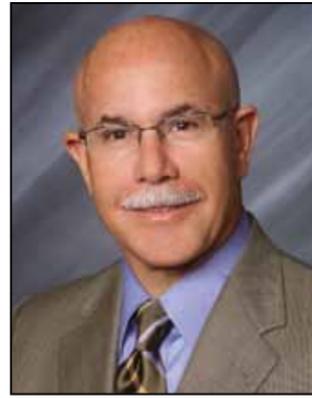
In the sports of baseball, softball, and boys volleyball, these seasons finished up in the middle of May. The boys volleyball team had an outstanding season. They completed the regular season with an overall record of 15-7 and a league record of 4-4, good for third place in the tough SGV league. They entered the division 3 playoffs in the middle of May. Results of their playoff run will appear in the next edition. Softball is finishing up their season with three games remaining against Lynwood, Downey, and Warren. The lady Pi-

rates struggled in league play, but will return 7 starters for the 2016 season. Next season promises to be a much improved team with a goal of qualifying for the CIF playoffs. Baseball is currently in first place in league with three games remaining. The team has been playing their best baseball late in the season. They are 5-2 with one game against Downey and two against Warren left on their schedule. If they win two out of the next three games they will be crowned San Gabriel Valley league champs. Results of those games and their performance in the CIF playoffs will appear in our next edition.

The Paramount High School athletic department is proud of all its athletes who competed throughout the entire school year. With over 800 boys and girls competing in twelve different sports, participation was outstanding and many student athletes and their teams did very well against great competition. Every year the pirate players and coaches try and represent to the best of their abilities and this year was no different. Best of luck to those athletes still competing in both team and individual sports. Once again the Pirate family would like to thank the community for the continued support and for coming out and cheering at all Pirate athletic events.

GO PIRATES!!!!

Superintendent's Message:



Paramount Schools Honored with California Gold Ribbon Award

Paramount Unified School District is proud to announce that Alondra Middle School, Zamboni Middle School, Paramount High School-West and Paramount High School have successfully completed the California Gold Ribbon Schools Program application process and have been recognized as part of the state's 373 California Gold Ribbon Schools for 2015. This award is a direct reflection of the dedication, hard work, and vision of the Paramount Unified School District educational community.

The Gold Ribbon Schools Award honors California schools that have made tremendous gains in implementing the academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education for all students. The schools went through a rigorous application process earlier this year. They were then selected to receive site visitations to validate the application. The schools were notified of their selection in early May by Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. "These schools are academically successful, vibrant, and innovative centers of learning and teaching," Torlakson said in a press release. "They provide great examples of the things educators are doing right—embracing rigorous academic standards, providing excellence and creativity in teaching, and creating a positive school climate."

On May 22, 2015, schools were recognized in San Diego by State Superintendent of Schools Tom Torlakson at the 2015 California School Recognition Awards Reception.

Please join us in congratulating Alondra Middle School, Zamboni Middle School, PHS-West and Paramount High School for achieving their Gold Ribbon Award. They are an excellent representation of the great things that are happening in Paramount. Thank you to the staff, teachers, counselors and administration of these schools for your continued dedication of guiding our students towards excellence.

Dr. David Verdugo and Delores Stephens



Pictured from left to right are: Alondra Middle School Assistant Principal Kelly Anderson, Board President Alicia Anderson, State Superintendent Tom Torlakson, Co-Interim Superintendent Delores Stephens, Principal Lynn Butler and LACOE Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs Dr. Cuahemoc Avila.

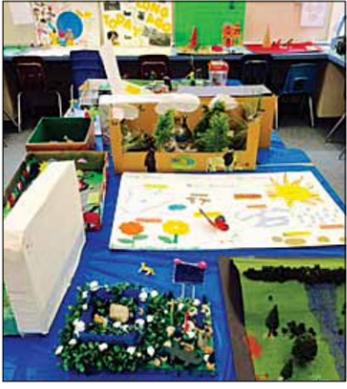


Paramount High School Principals Greg Buckner and Morrie Kosareff, Board President Anderson, Co-Interim Superintendent Delores Stephens, and Paramount High School staff pictured with State Superintendent Tom Torlakson and LACOE Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs Dr. Cuahemoc Avila.



Pictured from left to right are: Zamboni Middle School Principal Elizabeth Salcido, Board President Alicia Anderson, State Superintendent Tom Torlakson, Co-Interim Superintendent Delores Stephens, Assistant Principal Scott Law and LACOE Assistant Superintendent of Educational Programs Dr. Cuahemoc Avila.

Project Based Learning At Mark Keppel School

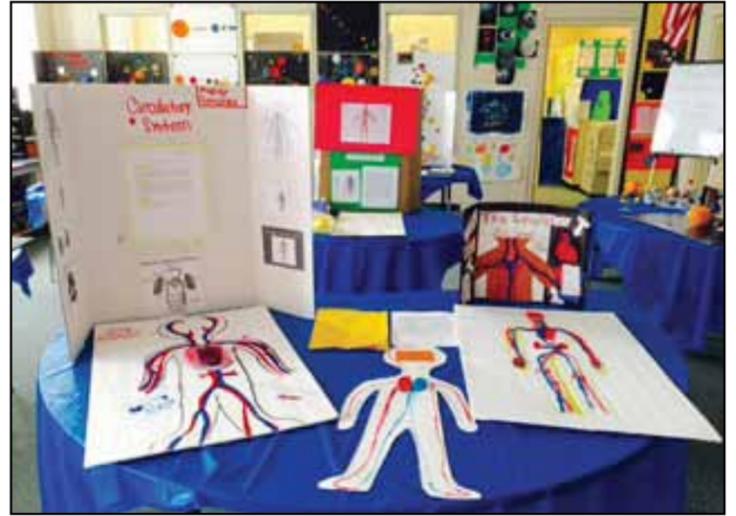


One of the capstone practices at Marvelous Mark Keppel School is Project Based Learning. Project Based Learning, PBL is an instructional framework, which integrates academic content with hands on representations of learning. Students are able to work individually or as a group to produce projects that show case the learning that has taken place in a lesson or curricular unit of study. Throughout the school year, students have created meaningful projects at Mark Keppel School on a variety of academic topics. "The Science Fair Museum" was the most recent topic for our school wide projects. Students in each grade level were able to create representations of what they learned in science. Kindergarten and first grade students created projects on plants and plant life. Second grade students displayed work on earth



changes, and third grade students explored the solar system. Fourth grade students shared their work on ecosystems, and fifth grade students formulated representations on the bodies' circulatory system. All of the student work was displayed in the "Science Museum". Com-

munity members, Paramount District Office personnel, parents, and students all had the opportunity visit the science museum. All of the visitors commented on how much effort each student put into making their project great. The students and staff of Mark Keppel School look



forward to their summer take home project. The focus will be on geography. Students will be able to choose from 15 exotic locations to research and then create a visual representation of "their dream vacation".

Teachers at Mark Keppel School will be working

this summer to expand their knowledge of how to incorporate this type of hands on kinesthetic learning into their classroom instruction. Great things are happening at Marvelous Mark Keppel School.

Patricia Brent-Sanco,
Principal

Buena Vista's Awards Night

On May 19, 2015 at the Paramount Park Community Center, Buena Vista High School, a Model Continuation High School, recognized 34 students for their determination and excellence. Buena Vista High School is an outstanding small learning community for students to learn and graduate from high school. We have smaller class sizes, and dedicated teachers and staff members who support students with their learning. Students at Buena Vista overcome the obstacles that have caused them to become credit deficient and meet their goal to graduate from high school.

The following students were selected by their teachers, counselor, and administration for their resiliency, dedication to learn, positive attitude, and work ethic. Along with our students' proud parents, we were joined by Board members, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Hansen, Mr. Peña, and all of the District's Executive Cabinet. MAPS, Rotary Club, Schools First Credit Union, and the Dr. David J. Verdugo Scholarships were presented to Stephanie Alonzo, David Becerra, Yadira Flores, Elizabeth Gurrola, and Kyrice Thompson. Please join me in congratulating all of our students on their awards. We are very proud of them and look forward to hearing about their bright futures!

Award Title

2015 Principal's Award
2015 Principal's Award
2015 Student of the Year
2015 Student of the Year
2015 Citizenship Award
2015 Character Achievement
2015 Character Achievement
2015 Outstanding Attendance
2015 Outstanding Attendance
2015 Soaring Eagle
2015 Academic Excellence
2015 Fitness MVP
2015 Fitness MVP
2015 Health Achievement
2015 Algebra Achievement
2015 Achievement in Math Applications B
2015 Achievement in Geometry A
2015 Achievement in Geometry B
2015 Achievement in Language Arts 1B
2015 Achievement in Language Arts 2B
2015 Achievement in Language Arts 3A
2015 Achievement in Language Arts 3B
2015 Achievement in Language Arts 4A
2015 Achievement in Language Arts 4B
2015 Achievement in English Language Development
2015 Achievement in Biology
2015 Achievement in Physics
2015 Achievement in World History
2015 Achievement in US History
2015 Achievement in Economics
2015 Achievement in American Government
2015 Art Achievement
2015 Achievement in Sociology
2015 Achievement in World Geography

Student Recipients

Stephanie Alonzo
Kyrice Thompson
Yadira Flores
Elizabeth Gurrola
Isaac Lauano
Olegario Flores
Guel Escobar
Ramon Palacios
Ricardo Rios
Robert Garcia
Ariel Mansion
Guillermo Pena
Lizzeth Gonzalez
Daniel Valle
Brenda Lopez
Angel Manriquez
Ana Rodriguez
Vanessa Melendez
Fantajiah Herring
Ricardo Solis
Janice Thomas
Kristal Gonzalez
Baleria Rodriguez-Ruvalcaba
Darien Simon
Adrian Lozano
Raul Ayala
Jesselle Montoya
Analiz Parra
Maura Hernandez-Gonzalez
Daniel Herrera
David Becerra
Vanessa Lopez
Kevin Pineda
Jonathan Rivas

Dr. Andrea Aguilar-Nuno - Assistant Principal

Paramount Supports the Arts



Paramount Unified School District (PUSD) continued its support of the Arts and Arts' education this year by partnering with Arts for All through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission on an arts action research project. The project involved Robin Kiss, PUSD's artist in residence for the past five years, and three fourth grade teachers. The teachers were Mickie Hazlewood from Lincoln, and Elaine Hoffman and Stephanie Nutall from Mokler.

The research project addressed the question, To what extent do the visual arts experiences enhance the quality of students' writing? The project consisted of 17 culturally relevant art lessons during which students focused on descriptive writing as they created their art projects. The teachers used a rubric to measure the improvement in their students' writing and collaborated with WestEd, an educational research agency, to analyze the results. On average, students demonstrated significant improvement in their use of descriptive vocabulary in their writing.

The three teachers expressed satisfaction with the partnership and collaborating with the artist in residence and WestEd. They were especially pleased with the improvement in their students' writing. The attached picture is student created sugar skull masks from Mokler students.

Dr. Randy Gray, Director-Curriculum & Instruction/Projects