

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

MARCH 2013

Buena Vista High School - "School of Excellence"

Superintendent Verdugo and the Board of Education presented Buena Vista High School Principal and staff with a plaque recognizing their commitment and dedication to the students and for their recent "School of Excellence" Award. This award identifies and recognizes outstanding programs of high quality schools that can be visited by other schools and serve as models. In order to qualify for this award, the school must demonstrate exemplary effectiveness in school management, curriculum, instruction, climate and



Principal Jean Law pictured with the Board Of Education, Superintendent & Buena Vista High School.

counseling services.

Buena Vista was visited by a team of experts in the field of alternative education who spent the day observing and interviewing teachers, students and

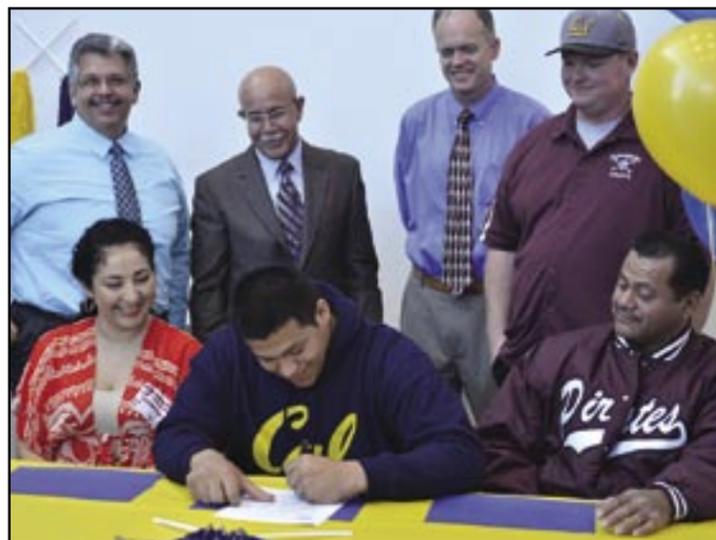
parents. Buena Vista will now be recognized at an awards luncheon and make a presentation at the California Continuation Education Association conference in Los Angeles in May.

"National Letter of Intent Ceremony for Paramount Football Player Christopher Borraro"

February 6, 2013 marked a momentous day in Paramount High School history and for senior athlete Christopher Borraro as Superintendent Dr. David Verdugo, School Board Member Tony Peña, family, friends, teammates, classmates, teachers, coaches and administrators gathered together to honor Chris as he signed his National Letter of Intent to attend the University of California, Berkeley on a 100% football scholarship. Fans surrounded Borraro to take photographs and to congratulate him on this well-deserved accomplishment. Coaches reminisced about his seasons past, former teachers recalled him as a young student at Lincoln Elementary School and his family glowed with pride as they reflected on his achievements as both a scholar student and as an elite athlete.

As the Associated Student Body Commissioner of Athletics welcomed all for attending the ceremony and celebration, the excited crowd grew silent to listen to Principal, Dr. Greg Buckner, deliver an opening speech. Through his words, it became quickly evident that Borraro had not only reached his goal to play football at an academically and athletically prestigious Division I University, but his journey as a student athlete was product of his commitment to reach competitive greatness and a willingness to reach his goals through determination and perseverance.

Dr. Buckner then proudly introduced Head Football Coach,



Pictured with Chris Borraro is his mother and father, Board Member Tony Peña, Superintendent Verdugo, Principal Dr. Buckner and Coach Howard.

Matt Howard, who eloquently spoke about Borraro's exemplary character traits as a teammate, player, student and future collegiate athlete. His powerful words clearly inspired Borraro's football teammates as they buzzed with a hope for their own athletic futures. As Howard excitedly listed Borraro's numerous athletic accomplishments including being named the 2012 San Gabriel Valley League Offensive Player of the Year and receiving Press Telegram Dream Team honors, it is evident that Borraro's future as a Cal Bear is incredibly bright.

Howard's exhilarating and inspirational speech lead up to the moment when Borraro was called to sign his National Letter of Intent. Chris stood by his parents, Enrique Borraro and Angelica Mata, who both gleamed

with pride knowing that their son had fulfilled his dreams. The brand new Paramount High School Hall of Champions was filled with an energy that exemplified the pride that the Paramount community has in student athletes who go above and beyond the call of duty to reach their goals.

Borraro was called to the podium to speak and was received with a roaring applaud from all who came to wish him well. Chris humbly expressed gratitude to his beloved family and went as far as to call up both of his grandmothers, Margarita Borraro and Leticia Cuadros, to share in the celebratory moment. His heartfelt embrace of each grandmother who stood on either side of him was indicative of how this young man continues to demonstrate

Frank J. Zamboni Middle School "School To Watch"



Principal Salcido with the Board of Education, Superintendent Verdugo and students and parents of Zamboni Middle School



Principal Salcido with the Board of Education, Superintendent Verdugo and staff of Zamboni Middle School

Superintendent Verdugo and the Board of Education presented Frank J. Zamboni Middle School Principal and staff with a plaque recognizing their commitment and dedication to the students and for their recent "Schools To Watch" Award. Schools To Watch is a recognition program similar to California Distinguished Schools that recognizes middle schools that are academically excellent, socially equitable and have a culture of strong collaborative leadership. It is a highly selective process and few middle schools are given the Schools

To Watch status. This year only 12 middle schools were selected and Zamboni was the only middle school in all of Los Angeles County.

Zamboni Middle School will serve as a model school for other educators to visit to observe effective middle school education.

Zamboni Middle School had a formal recognition for their accomplishment with District administration, officials from the Department of Education and the Schools to Watch at Zamboni Middle School on February 22, 2013.

honor character traits as an athlete and as young man. The Paramount High School community is very proud to have Christopher Borraro as a model student athlete and know that Chris will remember the, "once a pirate, always a pirate" motto as he journeys to his next collegiate endeavors.

Chris Borraro continues to impress his fans as he extended his accomplishments beyond football when he won the San Gabriel Valley League (SGVL)

Wrestling Championship and shortly thereafter clenched the CIF Southern Section Championship in his weight class to qualify for Wrestling Masters under the guidance of head coach Don Wakefield. It is obvious that Paramount Athletics has played a significant role in Chris Borraro's life and his accomplishments are now an integral part of Paramount History.

Anna Yasuhara
PHS Athletic Director

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

March 13 * March 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

PHS Teachers Honored at NBA Games

On Friday, January 25th, Esperanza Lopez was recognized at a Los Angeles Lakers game for her outstanding performance and achievements. Her special invite included complimentary parking and four tickets to see the Utah Jazz take on the L.A. Lakers. During halftime, Mrs. Lopez was honored as the Los Angeles Lakers January 2013 Teacher of the Month. She was presented with a \$50 gift card to Staples, a nice wooden-plaque, along with two L.A. Laker T-shirts. Esperanza shares that she felt nervous, humbled, yet excited. She further shares that "it was a great experience to share and enjoy with my family. It's a special feeling to be recognized for your hard work."

I hope that there are other dedicated PUSD teachers who could have the opportunity to be recognized as well."

During the same weekend on Sunday, January 27th, another PHS teacher was recognized at the Staples Center. Ms. Lori Louzy was honored at Staples Center before a Los Angeles Clippers game as part of "Teacher Appreciation Night." Ms. Louzy, who teaches Math at Paramount High School, is also Paramount Unified School District's "Teacher of the Year" for 2012/2013. As part of being recognized for her superb teaching, Ms. Louzy was awarded with two tickets to the LA Clippers versus Portland Trailblazers game that day. Before the game started, Ms. Louzy and three teachers from other school districts sat courtside during player warm-ups and other pregame activities. As part of the pre-game activities, Ms. Louzy was introduced at mid-court by a Clippers' spokesperson for her excellence as a teacher



Paramount Unified School District Teacher of the Year Ms. Lori Louzy



Paramount High School Teacher Mrs. Esmeralda Lopez

and her commitment to her students. She was awarded a certificate of recognition, as well as a Clippers gift bag.

Jeff Beahn

Important Dates for Early Childhood Education

As the youngest students in the Paramount Unified School District get ready to finish this school year, we get ready to welcome a new group of young children for the 2013-14 school year. The District is fortunate to offer different types of early childhood education programs. We have enrollment starting soon for California State Preschool (CSPP), Los Angeles Universal (LAUP), and Transitional Kindergarten.

State Preschool is for children who will be four years old on or before October 1, 2013. Enrollment for 2013-14 for State Preschool begins on March 18, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. Families may need to pay for State Preschool depending on family income level and family size. State Preschool is offered at Collins, Keppel, Mokler, Wirtz and Gaines Schools. State Preschool has classes for 3.5 hours in the morning or afternoon sessions. We also have a Full-Day Program for families who are working, going to school, in job training, or seeking employment. The Full-Day Program depending on family income level and family size. Enrollment starts March 18, 2013 at the ECE Office, 7340 E. Jackson Street, Paramount, (562) 602-6900.

LAUP is for children who will be four years old on or before October 1, 2013, and families must live in Los Angeles County. LAUP has Part-Day classes for 3.5 hours in

the morning or afternoon sessions. LAUP preschool classes are offered at Alondra Middle School, Gaines School, Hollydale School, and Zamboni Middle School. Enrollment for 2013-14 LAUP Preschool at Gaines School and Hollydale School begins on May 21, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. For LAUP Preschool at Alondra Middle School and Zamboni Middle School, enrollment begins on May 30, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. Enrollment will be at ECE office, 7340 E. Jackson Street, Paramount, (562) 602-6900.

The District offers Transitional Kindergarten (TK) for children who will be five years old during October 2 through December 2, 2013. Transitional Kindergarten will be offered at Roosevelt, Lincoln, Gaines, Collins and Tanner Schools for 2013-14 school year. Student's home school site is used for placement. Enrollment for Transitional Kindergarten will begin on March 18, 2013. Transitional Kindergarten offers an age appropriate curriculum in early literacy and mathematics while developing children's language and social-emotional skills.

Kindergarten enrollment also begins on March 18, 2013 for children who will be five years old before or on October 1, 2013. Kindergarten enrollment takes place at each student's home school. Kindergarten instruction is based on the state academic standards to prepare children for the first grade.

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

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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.

Mar. 7, 2013	Health and Nutrition
Mar. 21, 2013	Understanding ADHD
April 11, 2013	Text Anxiety vs I Can Do Attitude
April 25, 2013	How the Brain Learns
May 9, 2013	Handling Difficult Behaviors
May 23, 2013	Creating a Life Book

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

Confident Problem Solvers Through P.O.D.

How can we guide students to think in a higher level of learning? What kind of instructional strategies can lead students to understand problems presented to be resolved? How can we, as teachers, get students to all participate actively in learning process? These are some of the difficult challenges we will face with the shift toward the Common Core Standards.

Mathematics presents problem solving in daily lessons. Although we do address the steps of solving problems, they are often done subjectively according to each teacher's instructional styles. The steps are called with different names that prevent students from acquiring spiral learning throughout the learning years. Students can gain new knowledge taught based on previous lessons if the academic language is consistent year after year.

I have been invited to pilot a strategy in mathematics that includes consistent academic language, higher level thinking, and active participation- Problem of the Day (P.O.D.). I have been implementing P.O.D. as a daily warm-up practice in my math period. Students are given a word problem to find the solution.

They have to follow specific steps – Understand, Plan, Solve, Check, and Sum. Linguistic patterns are given to support the students to write out their thought process. They also need to share out and explain their work process to their peers for confirmation and or correction. Doing so also challenges the students to think of various ways to approach the problem.

Most of the assessments emphasize solutions. This process also leads students to show their thought process in writing and articulate in an effective way to teach others. Tho' difficult at times, my students are pushed to think deeper and use higher level of thinking. I have observed students gaining



self confidence in solving problems. They have had "aha" moments as they tackle new concepts because they automatically use the Problem Solving strategies. They have been more active in participating on discussion. This strategy has challenged my students to the max in solving problems not just in mathematics but across all areas. Parents who were interviewed by the Principal were happy with the changes they have seen among their children when it comes to solving Math problems. Mr. Beltran said: "I see the difference. Damian has gained so much confidence in Math. We no longer have to struggle with him completing assignments." Mrs. Sanchez and Mrs. Zamudio echoed the same observation; "Our children are independently completing their Math homework now. They can solve Math problems and also able to explain how they did it."

Keppel School has recently implemented the POD Program in all 4th and 5th grade classes. We are looking forward to seeing more confident and independent learners.

Ms. Helena Chun
5th Grade Teacher
Keppel School

Former Pirates Inspire Adult School Students



It was a cold and rainy Friday morning late in January, yet 60 Paramount Adult School (PAS) students packed their GED/high school diploma classroom. They showed up at 9:30 to listen to five visitors from El Camino College, Compton Center. Topics included how to register at the college, how to receive financial aid, and how to attend classes such as welding, business, HVAC, and aerospace.

The reviews were raves. "Our students were really interested in the welding program," said PAS instructor Bibi Angola, who has been spearheading this partnership for three years. "They can envision themselves doing that job, and once they get their license, there's a demand for them all around the world." Being able to make \$45 per hour after finishing the welding program also helped pique their interest...especially when instructor Joseph Ginn reported that some of his former students are making \$3,500 per week with overtime.

Ginn, who used to attend our district's Michelson School, wasn't the only Paramount alumnus among the speakers. Several more El Camino College students volunteered to come and went to work late

once they realized that the visit was going to occur in their former school district. Once a Pirate, as they say...

The aerospace program was also an especially popular topic. The only such program of its kind in the U.S., it's in a field that is about to experience a large number of retirements and therefore has excellent employment prospects. And, again, high pay.

Students were informed that they can continue attending their classes at PAS while attending college courses. "GED or high school diploma and career training—sign me up!" several of the students must have been thinking...because they registered for college as the event finished up at 11:00.

Does that sound like something you'd like to be doing—learning and potentially earning life-changing money in a growing profession? Focusing and growing like the students in this story? Call PAS at (562) 602-8080 or stop by 14507 Paramount Blvd. to find out more about how to sign up for adult school classes and take the next step toward your goals.

Jerry King
Assistant Principal

Paramount Unified School District

Registration for the 2013-14 school year begins on March 18, 2013 for Pre-School/Transitional Kindergarten(TK)/Kindergarten Students

Pre-School Program

Children are eligible for Preschool if their fourth birthday is on or before October 1, 2013. Call (562) 602-6900 for more information.

Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

Children are eligible for Transitional Kindergarten (TK) if their fifth birthday falls between October 2 and December 2 for the 2013-14 school year. The Transitional Kindergarten program will be offered at five locations: Collins, Gaines, Lincoln, Tanner and Roosevelt.

Traditional Kindergarten

Do you have a child who will be five years old on or before October 1, 2013? If so, registration begins March 18, 2013 at your designated school.

Collins K-5
(562) 602-8008

Gaines K-3
(562) 602-8012

Jefferson K-5
(562) 602-8024
Keppel K-5
(562) 602-8028

Lincoln K-5
(562) 602-8036

Los Cerritos K-5
(562) 602-8040

Mokler K-5
(562) 602-8044

Roosevelt K-5
(562) 602-8056

Tanner K-5
(562) 602-8060

Wirtz K-5
(562) 602-8068

Hollydale K-8
(562) 602-8016

To enroll in our Transitional Kindergarten or Kindergarten program, you will need verification of residency within the Paramount Unified School District boundaries, original documentation of birth certificate, current immunizations and parent will need to provide current identification.

Superintendent's Message: Paramount Unified School District Measure AA



Dear Parents,

I am very excited to report to you that our Measure AA "Campaign For Kids" facilities master plan continues to be on time and on budget.

I am proud to announce that we have now finished with the complete renovation and modernization of the Clearwater Auditorium located adjacent to the Paramount High School West Campus. This facility will soon be open for use by our students and staff. This particular building renovation and modernization compliments our ability to provide additional arts, choir, theater and instrumental music performances on a grand scale.

Our Board of Education's goal of providing a "State of the Art" auditorium for our students has now come true.

The newly refurbished and modern Clearwater Auditorium includes the following enhancements and features:

1. Rework of the 4,313 sq. ft. auditorium space and approximately 500 sq. ft. of additional entrance/lobby area.
2. New interior walls with Acoustical wall panels
3. New ceiling
4. New flooring
5. New openings-doors, frames and hardware, new glazing
6. New speaker system with state of the art "YAMAHA" mixing console
7. Newly built Control station with counter tops behind the seating
8. New ADA accessible opening direct to the Control station
9. New general and ADA accessible seating in the auditorium (approximately 500 seats)
10. New pendant and wall lights with dimmers
11. New interior paint
12. New signage



I also want to once again thank all of our citizens, families, teachers, and staff for your support. The Board of Education's vision and goal of establishing a fine arts venue for our students has now come true.

Sincerely,

David J. Verdugo
Superintendent

David J. Verdugo, Ed.D. – Superintendent

Positive Behavior Support Program Check-In & Check-Out

Being successful in school is the foundation to a student's future. Utilizing skills of listening, focusing, having a good attitude, setting behavior, and academic goals are all essential to school success. These skills may come naturally to some children, however, for most of us these skills need to be taught, practiced, encouraged, and structured, in order to be successful in school.

This year Collins School is excited to implement a new component within Safe and Civil Schools. The Check-In & Check-Out Positive Behavior Support System is a Tier 2 intervention. At-risk students are referred to the program to assist students with goal setting, and techniques to achieve them.

Students meet with the school counselor each morning in a small group setting. They are provided a safe environment to receive homework support, peer tutoring, or just a place to connect with an adult or another student on campus. Daily



academic and behavioral goals are set which focus on meeting classroom and school-wide expectations. Throughout the day teachers complete a daily report card with a list of positive behaviors. Students are motivated and encouraged to meet their daily goals.

At the end of the day, students review their daily report card with the school counselor. An incentive chart is posted for students to

monitor their progress. In addition, as a two-way communication between home and school, parents are provided with a copy of the daily report card to review with their child in the evening.

Once students have achieved their goals for the month, the principal, counselor, and teachers celebrate their success. Students are given a pizza luncheon for all of their hard work towards achiev-

ing their academic and behavioral goals.

Per teacher feedback and comments, many students have had a positive impact from the Check-In & Check-Out Tier 2 intervention. According to one of our 5th grade participant's, "I liked challenging myself every day to set and achieve my goals". As a Safe & Civil School we know there is a new challenge each and every day.

However, with the support from our Principal Mrs. Spelker-Levi, Assistant Principal, Mrs. Contreras, all of the teachers, support staff and myself we are dedicated to work towards meeting the needs of our students and helping them become life long learners and productive citizens.

Wendy Hunt
Counselor

Transitional Kindergarten



Paramount Unified School District began implementation of Transitional Kindergarten, also referred to as TK, in August 2012, with classes at three sites: Gaines, Lincoln and Roosevelt. TK is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program for students who are born between September and December. It is a result of the Kindergarten Readiness Act legislation, signed into law in 2010, that changed the kindergarten entry date from December 2 to September 1. The new law phased in the new age requirement by moving the cutoff date one month a year over three years, beginning in 2012. By 2014-15, all kindergarten students must be five by September 1.

For the 2013-14 school year, students who have their fifth birthday between October 2 and December 2 are eligible to attend TK at one of the five sites (Collins, Gaines, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Tanner) listed below according to their home school. For example, TK students who live in Mokler's attendance area would attend TK at Collins. Home schools are listed under the TK sites:

TK Site	Collins	Gaines	Lincoln	Roosevelt	Tanner
Home School	Mokler	Keppel	Jefferson	Hollydale	Los Cerritos
				Wirtz	

Parents may enroll their children for TK at the designated schools (Collins, Gaines, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Tanner) during the Kindergarten Enrollment period beginning March 18, 2013. Transportation must be provided by parents.

TK bridges the path from preschool to the K-12 school experience. It blends preschool and kindergarten standards which better prepares children to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Pictured are students from Lincoln's TK classroom working on a visual arts project with their teacher.

Hollydale's Future Teachers?

Hollydale teachers are constantly thinking of ways to help their students. So when Ms. Yu, a K-8 Math and Science Coach, and Mrs. Vaughn, a fifth grade teacher, approached their principal with a new idea to help students, it was no surprise. Now, a month after they implemented the "Study Buddy" program, it is exciting to see how well the students are responding to the experience!

Four days a week, a select group of eighth graders meet with identified fifth graders from Mrs. Vaughn's class to work on increasing the students' success in math and more. The two groups of students meet with their buddies twice a week. The eighth graders were selected because of their academic acumen, their maturity, and their desire to help. One of the meetings can be described as "Push In" support. The eighth graders go to Mrs. Vaughn's class to observe while the teacher is teaching. The mentors jot down what the buddy is struggling with and focus on these areas during the "Pull Out" tutoring. The mentors also use this first-hand knowledge to give their buddies praise or advise them about their behavior in class.

"My buddy is really smart, but I noticed that the other day he got in trouble for running through the hall. I plan on talking to him about his actions and how to stay out of trouble," said Anthony Fregozo, eighth grade mentor.

The students have blossomed in their role as mentors and are able to make connections with the students that are different from those a teacher would make.

"We were done with the assignment early once, so I asked how my buddy was doing. He told me he didn't finish his writing assignment and got in trouble. We

spent some time discussing some ideas of what he can write. I also saw him over the weekend and realized he is my neighbor. I can definitely check in on him whenever I see him," said Rommell Barrantes, eighth grade mentor.

During the "Pull Out" meeting, each mentor breaks down math concepts and teaches their buddy using manipulatives and mini white boards. They have also been taught how to use questioning strategies to check their buddy's understanding of the topic. The mentor even analyzes his or her buddy's district assessments and work with the younger student to set goals for the next assessment.

"My buddy is actually pretty smart, but there are some things he struggles with. After I help him with what he's struggling with, I have him show me what he learned on the whiteboard," Samantha Gilbert, eighth grade mentor.

The program has only been running for about a month and the school hopes to see increased achievement reflected in the students' math scores. Judging from students' reactions, the results are favorable.

"Math buddies help me with math that I don't understand. It's helping me get higher scores," said Jakob Ramirez, a fifth grade buddy.

Hollydale teachers will continue to find new ways to teach and motivate students. As educators, we know that two of the first steps along the path to learning are motivation and interest.

Deanna Roche (a fifth grade buddy) says, "I think it helps me learn all the things I don't know, and it's kind of fun."

By Grace Yu, Kathy Vaughn, and Kevin Longworth

Report any suspicious behavior school authorities and the Paramount Sheriff Station at (562) 220-2002, Lakewood Sheriff Station at (562) 623-3500, Long Beach Police at (562) 570-9800 (Collins School) or South Gate Police at (323) 563-5400.