

PUSD EDUCATION NEWS

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

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MAY 2015

Paramount High School JROTC Receives JROTC Program of Excellence "Honor Unit with Distinction"



Board of Education members, Co-Interim Superintendents Mrs. Stephens and Dr. Verdugo pictured with PHS & PHS-WV principals Dr. Buckner and Mr. Kosareff, Col. Guild, Sgt. Brayboy and PHS JROTC Cadets.

During a recent Board of Education meeting, the Paramount High School JROTC program was recognized by the Board of Education and Co-Interim Superintendents Mrs. Stephens and Dr. Verdugo.

The JPA: The Army JROTC program is accredited by AdvancED as a Special Purpose Program and as such is committed to continuous improvements. AdvancEd requires that the Army JROTC program meet five standards of quality.

- Teaching and learning
- Professional development
- Collaborative activities
- Assessment
- Continuous improvement efforts

On March 5, 2015, the PHS JROTC

program was inspected to gather information and evidence to support the continuous improvement of teaching and learning in the JROTC program.

The JPA school visit is designed to assess the unit primarily in the areas of teaching and learning. The visit was comprised of accreditation criteria that include cadet participation and the assessment of the instructor portfolio.

The Paramount High School program received a score of 98.5%, establishing the school JROTC program JROTC Program of Excellence (JPE): Honor Unit with Distinction, (Gold Start).

Congratulations to Col. Guild, Sgt. Brayboy and the PHS JROTC program.

Paramount High School West Campus Ends March Madness Attendance Month with Carnival

Over 950 freshmen participated in the second annual Attendance Carnival on Thursday, April 2 on the West Campus field. All freshmen who had perfect attendance during March Attendance Madness or had cleared their attendance in March by going to Saturday School attended the event.

Freshmen had an amazing time playing carnival games, inflatable games, mini soccer, and basketball games. Students chose from an array of carnival games like Monster Blast, Duck Toss, Rollerball, Hook the Horns, Hammer Time, and Monster Teeth. Moreover, ninth graders had an assortment of inflatable games which included the Cannon Blast, Hoop Challenge, Soccer Blast, and Pony Races. The big hit with students and staff was the Pony Races where students and staff raced on a mini track four at a time to the finish line on child-sized horse hoppers. Students were also treated to a gourmet hot dog meal during the fourth period and lunch time event.

Assistant Principal Gwen Yates, who organized and coordinated the event with Activities Director Frank Bignami and the support of Princi-



pal Morrie Kosareff, was excited to see students having a wonderful time on a beautiful spring day. Academic Coach Alicia Megofna stated, "With over 900 students on the field, our Attendance Carnival was a hit. Students had great fun

playing a variety of games." Students also danced with their friends as a DJ played music on the softball field. One ninth grader commented, "I had so much fun at the carnival. I was able to be with friends and play games and dance."

Tanner School Engineering Girls at The Beach



On Friday, March 20, 2015, forty Tanner School third, fourth, and fifth grade girls were invited to attend an exciting day at California State University, Long Beach. The event was hosted by the Society of Women Engineers to promote engineering and science as alternatives for girls to consider when they pursue higher education. This was an opportunity for our female students to see and participate in some fascinating, fun, hands-on activities and to start thinking about future careers that include sciences.

The girls had the opportunity to listen to the President of the Society of Women Engineers, Lita Cahuana, and Cheryl Osborn, a successful building contractor and owner/CEO of Casco Contractors. They were very inspirational and motivated the girls to think about choosing a career in the sciences. The girls also got to meet an inspiring montage of young women from the College of Engineering who surely instilled a great amount of enthusiasm for science among them.

All participants were also able to attend two one-hour workshops that included: Lemon Battery (electrochemistry), Mechanics in Daily Life (mechanical engineering), LEGO robotics (robotics), Complicated Machines (civil engineering), Foam Gliders (aeronautics) and Making a DC Motor (electrical engineering). These activities gave the participants an opportunity to demonstrate their creativity, skill, and scientific knowledge. The girls were all very excited to show off the products of their own creations!

After a wonderful pizza lunch, the girls participated on a variety of hands on activities set up by Engineering students. It was very exciting to see the girls come back to school with mini rocket ships, bouncing rubber balls, magnetic slime, structure building and lava lamps. They were even able to make and taste their own ice cream. It was rewarding to see the enthusiasm and joy the girls displayed as they traveled from booth to booth. They came back to school to share about their experience with their teachers and classmates. They were extremely proud of the products of their creation.

The Tanner girls' day at "The Beach" was worthwhile, fun-filled, and educational. It is safe to say that all of them will remember this experience for a long time!

Maria Loredo, Math Coach

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATE

May 13, 2015 * May 27, 2015

Board of Education meetings are held at 6:00 p.m.

and are open to the public

May 13 - Progress Park Plaza, 15500 Downey Ave, Paramount, CA
May 27 - District Office 15110 California Ave, Paramount, CA

PHS Students Selected for Harvey Mudd College FAST Program



Juniors, Guadalupe Quirarte and Daniel Lopez, applied and were accepted to attend the exclusive Harvey Mudd College Spring Future Achievers in Science and Technology (FAST) program. The program is designed for high-achieving and college-bound students in the Southern California region. The day included class visits, lab tours, research demonstrations and personal interaction with both students and professors. Below includes each student's synopsis of their experience.

The Spring FAST Program at Harvey Mudd College was a one day event that truly stimulated my mind to look beyond the process of college applications. Although everyone knows and talks about schools such as UCLA, USC, UC Berkeley, and MIT, other private and smaller institutions including the Claremont Colleges are remarkable schools that value the educational growth of their students. This program included a class visit, school tour, interaction with professors, an information session, and finally a case study. Throughout the day, the faculty emphasized that the school aims to include implementing a rigorous curriculum to prepare students for their careers and to create well-rounded graduates. This program focused on students with a passion in math and science like me.

I felt the program informed me not only about Harvey Mudd, but about colleges overall. It gave me insightful tips and knowledge about the college application process, and the importance to remain focused on one's passions. As one of the professors from Harvey Mudd mentioned to me, "I regret stressing out so much in high school. At the end, I realized that it is not about doing things to please others but to do something that makes us happy."

While Advanced Placement (AP) courses and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores do matter, what is truly imperative is to learn and follow what you feel comfortable doing the rest of your life. At a lecture about the way mathematical research is conducted, I learned how to implement different mathematical concepts and connect them to my own. This lesson exemplified how the high school skills I've obtained will be used at the college level. The Spring FAST Program was a great experience that I appreciate as it connected to my interest in the STEM fields.

Guadalupe Quirarte

Attending Harvey Mudd's Spring Fast program was a really eye-opening experience for me. One of the more interesting parts of the day was being able to attend an actual college class. I attended a class on differential equations which included a total of 20 college students. This made me realize that I want to attend a university with a smaller student to faculty ratio. I also had lunch with college professors. We were able to ask them questions about the college and their experiences teaching at Harvey Mudd. The most interesting experience during the program included reviewing a case study where we read fake applications of students applying to the made-up "Red Brick" college. It was an interesting experience to see how in depth these applications are and how colleges evaluate who gets accepted and who does not. The FAST program was an interesting experience and made me learn more about the process for applying to college and what to look for in a college.

Daniel Lopez

Collins School's Community Education Workshops



Collins School's Community Education Workshops are a series of meetings dedicated to providing parents with information on Common Core Standards and building a stronger relationship between home and school.

Each month, Dr. LaShonda Toston-Zeno presents information based on standards and activities that students are learning, followed by hands-on activities to give parents strategies on working with students at home. The workshops began in November with looking at ways to motivate students at home and school. Parents were given ideas on setting routines and a lively discussion ensued on how routines benefit students at home and school.

In January, parents participated in small group activities centered on grade level Common Core Math Standards. A brief presentation was given on the implementation of Common Core followed by grade level rotations focused on math inquiry activities. As we celebrated Black History Month in February, parents were treated to student poetry presentations in our first annual Poetry Recital. Groups of students performed poems by African American authors in front of an audience of more than 125 parents. Parents were introduced to language arts standards in March through activities that integrated reading, Thinking Maps, and writing. Participants commented that they had a better understanding of how reading and writing skills were integrated and that they were better prepared to assist



students at home.

The following months will feature a Literacy Fair where students will present their favorite story in a science fair format for parents, a trip to the University of LaVerne for a Math and Literacy Festival and college tour, and culminate with a workshop on preparing students for middle school and beyond.

Collins Community Education Workshops are built to engage parents and school staff in a non-threatening environment as a way to build a stronger relationship between home and school. Participants have the opportunity to ask specific questions about content areas and gain a better understanding of the shifts in students' academic work.

Dr. Toston-Zeno
Teacher

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

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Great things are happening in Paramount Schools

PUSD Education News

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Varsity Girls Cross Country Team Recognized by CIF



Big news hit the Paramount athletic department at the end of March when the pirates learned that the Varsity Girls Cross Country team was recognized by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section. The team received an academic award for earning a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 for schools with a student population of 1500 or more. Approximately 50 schools were recognized in the same category. A huge congratulations goes out to cross country head coach, Joe Peterson, and the entire team. Members of the team include freshman Bryanna Macias, sophomores Jully Alvarado, Destiny Rios, and Michelle Ybarra, juniors Justine Padilla, Elideth Salazar, and Daisy Velasco, and seniors Stephanie Flores, and Kathia Munoz. Being a student athlete can be demanding amidst team practices, competitions and the rigor of coursework and homework. The entire staff and school commend these young ladies for performing at a high level both during competition and in the classroom. Congratulations to the Varsity Girls Cross Country team for this tremendous accomplishment!

More great news comes from the Paramount HS spring sport teams who are competing well in pre-season play. The boys and girls swim teams had exceptional performances during dual meet invitationals during the first month of the season. The girls team is currently 6-0 and the boys team

is 5-1. Boys and girls track and field opened their San Gabriel Valley League dual meet season with a convincing win over Gahr. The girls won by a score of 67-35 and boys by a score of 73-45. Paramount High School will be hosting the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) League Finals for track and field on Tuesday, May 5 and Friday, May 8. Boys volleyball is off to one of their best starts in recent years. With an overall pre-season record of 11-3, the Pirates are looking forward to league play with their eyes set on the CIF playoffs. Boys tennis and softball eagerly await the return of key players who have been sitting out with injuries. The baseball team is off to a great start with good showings in the Newport Harbor Elks tournament and the Anaheim Lions tournament. They compete in the Don Lugo Classic in Chino over spring break vacation and open league with a home game against Dominguez HS.

The athletic department would once again like to congratulate the girls cross country team and emphasize that with hard work and determination, every athlete can be successful both on the playing field and in the classroom. It is important to take academic progress very seriously and this program has proven that it can be done. On behalf of the entire pirate family, we would once again like to thank the community for supporting all Paramount athletic programs. GO PIRATES!!!!

Alondra Middle School is Making A Difference in Meeting the Needs of Students

The Safe and Civil School Program is continuing to run full force at Alondra Middle School. Alondra has taken pride in Making A Difference to meet the needs of its students. Alondra has had a very effective Safe and Civil reporting system for over five years, where students, staff, and parents have the opportunity to voice concerns. These concerns can range anywhere from academic difficulties, peer conflicts, bullying, to safety of self and/or peers. By running the Safe and Civil reporting system, Alondra is empowering parents and students to seek assistance and make positive connections with Alondra staff. The goal is to promote a safe school climate that is conducive to learning.

Safe and Civil Reports have proven to be a useful tool for students. Alondra Dolphins are comfortable reporting and they have the administrators and counselors, who work as a team, to address concerns in a timely manner. This year, counselors have received close to 600 reports from students, parents, and teachers. Alondra Dolphins are truly Making A Difference! Counselors strive to make sure that reports are handled expeditiously and effectively. The reports are used as opportunities to teach students problem solving skills,

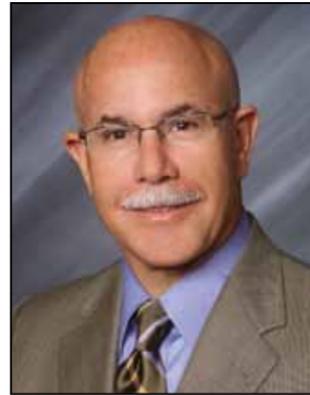
coping skills, and self-advocacy. Counselors also make contact with parents, to ensure that they are provided with tools to support their children at home and of the outside community resources available.

Along with Safe and Civil Reports, counselors are Making A Difference in the SDC classrooms. They are taking a proactive approach in teaching social skills through guidance lessons and role-playing. Counselors also work with teachers to reinforce the skills taught to ensure that student social needs are met, so they are able to achieve academically.

In their efforts to maintain a Safe and Civil environment, Alondra has administered a School-wide Needs Survey. Along with academic data, counselors are continually using data to build a comprehensive counseling program that adapts to student needs. They are planning to implement targeted interventions for specific grade levels, to provide additional social and emotional support to students. Counselors are also interested in facilitating more parent educational workshops and staff training to support student needs.

Devin Dawson
Counselor

Superintendent's Message:



California Day of the Teacher

The thirty-third annual "Day of the Teacher" will be commemorated in California on Wednesday, May 13, 2015.

Please join our Board of Education as we recognize and thank our teachers for their outstanding service and important work with our students and families.

Our Paramount Unified School District teachers rank among the best in the entire State and not only provide excellent academic instruction, they also strive to give valuable guidance, encouragement, and care to our students on a daily basis. Teachers are not only selfless givers, but also very often the mentors of our lives who have devoted and dedicated their life to their profession and students.

Please join me in expressing your gratitude for your child's teacher. A message, a note, a card, a poem, a compliment expressing your appreciation is truly a reward.

I believe we can all think back to that special teacher who made a profound difference in our lives.

Thank you for joining us when we say thank you to the teachers of Paramount Unified School District for making a positive difference in our lives.

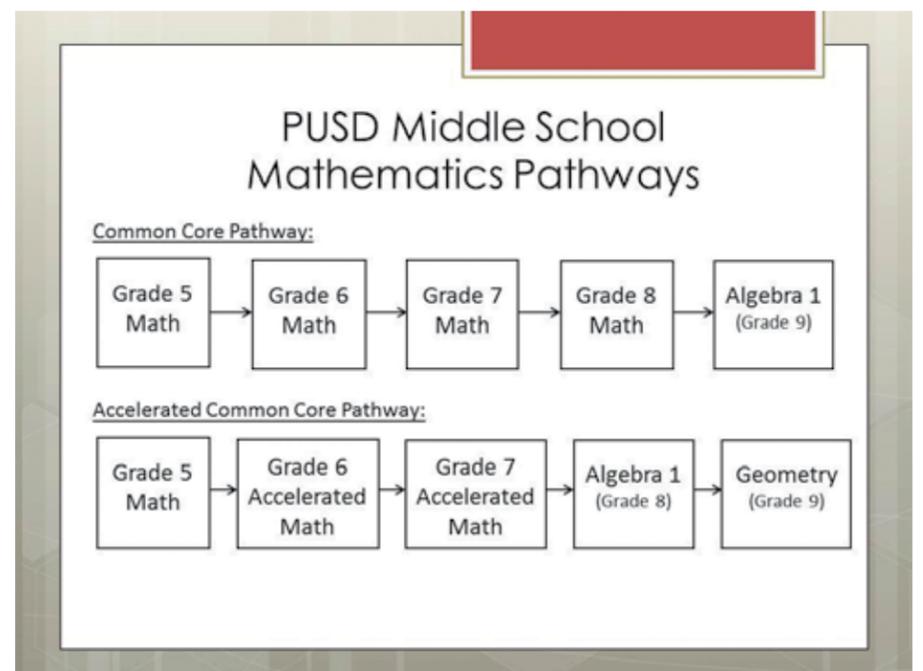
Dr. David Verdugo and Delores Stephens

New Accelerated Math Pathway for PUSD Middle Schools

Next fall, the Paramount Unified School District will phase in an accelerated mathematics pathway in middle school by offering a Grade 6 Accelerated Math course. The Common Core State Standards framework outlines the need for some students to be provided an accelerated mathematics program in order to be eligible to take college-level courses in high school. This program aligns with the district's goal of providing an appropriately challenging education for all students.

The accelerated middle school pathway is designed for students who grasp math concepts quickly and have a deep understanding of mathematical models and relationships. Three years of middle school mathematics standards will be compacted into Grades 6 and 7, thereby allowing selected students to take Algebra 1 during 8th grade.

A committee of math teachers, coaches, administrators and district specialists has collaborated to develop criteria for identifying eligible students. For example, students identified for the accelerated mathematics pathway should independently demonstrate the ability to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them, apply mathematical understandings to unfamiliar situations, construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.



flowchart outlines the difference between the two Common Core mathematics pathways in middle school.

Marya Hughes, Curriculum Specialist

Roosevelt Fifth Graders Shine in Science!

The importance of ensuring that students are college and career ready is one of the key components of the Common Core initiative. Careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) are a particular focus.

To support the “college and career” component of the Common Core initiative and, specifically STEM, fifth grade students at Roosevelt School participated in our second annual Science Fair.

Fifth grade students were introduced to the scientific method in the classroom setting and engaged in multiple collaborative experiences to support their understanding of the process used to design a science experiment.

Each fifth grade student was required to participate in the Science Fair by designing and presenting to his/her class an individual science experiment. The top five science projects from each class were then selected to be presented to the entire school population on March 26th, “Open House Day”. On that day, the fifth grade scientists were stationed in the school Multi-Purpose Room where they explained and demonstrated their experiment to the TK- fifth grade classes as the students rotated from experiment to experiment.

Afterwards, the science projects were transferred to the school library where they were judged by Paramount High School AP science teacher, John Teeple, and Whittier High School AP science teacher, Jim Marilley. Mr. Teeple and Mr. Marilley spent over two hours reviewing each science project to determine the honorable mention award winners and the first, second, third, fourth and fifth place winners. The projects were judged on creativity, scientific thought, thoroughness, skill, and clarity. Mr. Teeple and Mr. Marilley were very impressed with the quality of the projects and the hard work that went into them.

The projects were on display in the library during the school’s “Open House” evening for parents and guests to enjoy.

The recipients of Honorable Mention ribbons and Homework Passes were:

- Pamela Villarreal from Mr. Varela’s class for “Plants and Liquids”
- Ashlee Becerra from Mr. Varela’s class for “Self-Inflated Balloon”
- Kayla Lankford from Mr. Varela’s class for “Mystery Clock”
- Samantha Rivera from Mrs. Baltierrez’s class for “Zap!”
- Henesy Ochoa from Mrs. Baltierrez’s class for “What Liquids Conduct Electricity?”
- Yarelle Ruiz from Mrs. Baltierrez’s class for “Does the Color of Light Affect Plant Growth?”
- Dayanara Sarabia from Mrs. Baltierrez’s class for “The Study of Dry Ice”
- Eric Avelar from Ms. Galias’ class for his experiment “Homemade Lava Lamp”
- Michelle Flores from Ms. Galias’ class for “Tye Dye Milk”
- Symphony Jones from Ms. Galias’ class for “Electrochemical Battery”
- Danny Plascencia from Ms. Galias’ class for his experiment “Light Lead”
- Jessie Rodriguez from Ms. Galias’ class for “Egg Yolk Experiment”
- Lucia Elizarraras from Mrs. Manglicmot’s class for “Friction”
- Natalie Figueroa from Mrs. Manglicmot’s class for “Mint vs. Bubble Gum”
- Madisyn Rodriguez from Mrs. Manglicmot’s class for “Which Fruit Rots the Fastest?”

Taking fifth place and receiving a \$5.00 voucher for the Book Fair was Rosa Martinez from Mrs. Manglicmot’s class for “What Freezes



Mr. Teeple and Mr. Marilley judging student work



Arianna Estrada – Third Place winner



Arly Delatorre – Second Place winner

Fastest: Coke, Kool Aid, or Salt Water?”

Taking fourth place and receiving a \$5.00 voucher for the Book Fair was Elizabeth Pineda from Mr. Varela’s class for “Plants and Liquids”.

In third place and receiving a \$7.00 voucher for the Book Fair was Arianna Estrada also from Mr. Varela’s class for her experiment “Rotting Experiment”.

In second place and receiving a \$10.00 Book Fair voucher was Arly DeLaTorre from Mrs. Baltierrez’s class for her science project “Melting Shaped Ice”.

And our first place winner for the 2015 Roosevelt Science Fair and receiving a \$15.00 voucher for the Book Fair was Carlos Olivares from Mrs. Manglic-

mot’s class for his experiment “Where Would a Bean Sprout Faster?”

Congratulations to these fifth grade scientists and to all of our fifth grade students for their participation in the Science Fair.

Thank you to Mr. Teeple and Mr. Marilley for taking the time to support Roosevelt School by participating as judges. Thank you also to our fifth grade teachers and parents for supporting Roosevelt School as we work together to provide the students with the opportunity to gain in their knowledge of science!

Susan Marilley, Principal

Testing Has Met Its Match

“Testing Has Met Its Match!” This phrase greeted each Wirtz student as they passed through any and every day door at Wirtz School. It helped to inspire them as they began the SBAC testing period this year and worked hard to achieve their very best. At Wirtz School we not only strive to prepare our students academically, but we also strive to motivate them to succeed. The week before testing began, brought with it different activities aimed at inspiring our students to do their best.

Realizing that this testing period could be a stressful time for students, a pep rally was held for 3rd-5th grade students to help relieve any anxiety they might feel. First, the story Testing Miss Malarkey was read to students. In this story, the students, teachers and principal are anxious about the impending ‘BIG’ test. Only when the students understand that all that



is expected of them is that they try their best, do they realize that they can do their best. The story was followed by a variety of games and the winning of prizes. At the end of the pep rally, each student received a ‘SMARTIE’ gift bag.

We also held a testing meeting for parents during which we shared strategies that they could use to help their children to succeed on the SBAC test. Some strategies included being informed of the testing schedule, preparing for school the night before, getting a good

night’s sleep, providing motivational feedback to children and arriving to school on time. Parents were also given the option of sending their children a testing gram, which included a personal message of encouragement for their son/daughter and treats. Students were excited when they received these motivational grams on the first day of testing.

During the testing period, students also received incentives for arriving to school on time and for attending every day. The testing period culminated with a free dress day for all students.

We are confident in the ability of our students and in the hard work and dedication of our teachers to help them succeed. We are the Wirtz Wizards and we know that “Testing Has Met Its Match!”

Connie Toscano
Principal

Career Technical Education (CTE) Students Recognized

Career Technical Education (CTE) is a prominent program that has evolved at Paramount High School over the past 8 years. The humble beginnings of individualized classes in industry and vocational fields are now pathways to specific career development that spans from freshman to senior years. The three pathways consist of Engineering, Therapeutic, and Media Arts which have been cultivated with various industry standards for higher learning and a vocational experience. Similar to a major chosen in college, the Paramount High School CTE students learn an array of specific subjects and skill sets that pertain to their chosen pathway.

The students nominated to participate in Los Angeles County of Education’s (LACOE) Outstanding Student Recognition Awards have shown leadership as well as excellence in their CTE classes. After being nominated by a CTE teacher, each is groomed for success by participating in group workshops such as resume writing, application development, public speaking, portfolio organization, and interviewing techniques. There were a total of 20 school districts in the LA area which competed in the LACOE Outstanding Student Recognition Awards. Six Paramount High School students were selected to compete and each earned a winning metal. The Paramount community is very proud of all who participated in this culminating experience for outstanding CTE students. Congratulations to Alexandra Salcedo (Bronze in Media Arts), Jose Olmos (Bronze in Engineering), Gisselle Moreno (Silver in Therapeutic), Jesselyn Moreno (Silver in Therapeutic), Salvador Sanchez (Gold in Engineering), and Jose Ernesto Luna (Gold in Media Arts). This is the first year in Paramount High School history that students have been honored with gold medal recognition in this county-wide competition for deserving CTE participants.