

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

NOVEMBER 2012



ROOSEVELT SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS



An important role for schools is to develop student school leaders and to provide opportunities for students to perform in leadership positions.

This year Roosevelt School instituted a Student Council comprised of students in grades 4 and 5. The Student Council consists of a President, Vice President, Historian, Secretary, Treasurer, and classroom representatives from each fourth and fifth grade class.

Principal Mrs. Marilley and the classroom teachers introduced the concept of Student Council to the students at the beginning of the school year. Students who were interested in participating in the leadership group were required to write an essay which they presented to teacher advisors Mrs. Baltierrez, grade 4, and Mr. Varela, grade 5. Academics and attendance were also considered for potential candidates. Students participated in the campaign process which included posters and making speeches in front of their peers.

Elections were held on September 26th and the results were announced by the principal that afternoon.

Roosevelt School is pleased to announce the following officers and classroom representatives for our 2012-2013 Student Council:

President	Angelina Rivera (Mrs. Bias, 5th)
Vice President	Jesus Ruiz (Mr. Varela, 5th)
Historian	Samantha Ochoa (Mrs. Baltierrez, 4th)
Secretary	Monica Caldera (Mrs. Baltierrez, 4th)
Treasurer	Rosa Patino (Mrs. Bias, 5th)
Representatives	Alexa Angel, Sonye Garcia (Mrs. Baltierrez, 4th) Julian Martinez, Anthony Amaya (Mrs. Black, 4th) Emmanuel Reyes, Melody Valenzuela (Mr. Lane, 4th) Monica Payares, Destiny Barragan (Mrs. Wedrall, 4th) Albert Dominguez (Mrs. Caero, 4/5 SDC) Daphny Ayala (Mr. Tryon, 4/5 SDC) Chealsy Espinoza, Dalia Fregoso (Mrs. Bias, 5th) Kemoriae Font, Stella Sancho (Ms. Baltazar, 5th) Isabella Villalobos, Esther Perez (Mr. Varela, 5th)

Congratulations to all of our fourth and fifth grade students who participated in the election process.

Mrs. Susan Marilley,
Principal, Roosevelt School

Pirate Pride

Fall sports at Paramount High School kicked off to a great start when the varsity football team opened up their season with a 4-1 record, and ended their preseason games with an exciting win against Troy High School for a celebratory homecoming game! Their determination was evident on the field at Gahr High School when they swept the gladiators in their first league game. The varsity girls' tennis team entered league play with a phenomenal undefeated record and continued to battle match by match to prepare for the San Gabriel Valley League Tournament. The boys' water polo team continues to work countless hours in the Paramount city pool and their 16-9 win against Savanna High School gave them momentum as they entered league play.

October 1, 2012 marked the first day that Paramount Athletics was able to utilize the newly renovated main gym. The excitement reached a high as girls' volleyball opened the gym doors to welcome fans in their first league match against Lynwood High School. All three levels were victorious and they experienced great pride in being the first pirates to compete in the new gymnasium. The Cross Country team has competed in several invitationals in preparation for League Clusters and CIF Prelims. Each fall-sport team has devoted time and energy over

the summer and fall months; November marks playoff time, so thank you for all of the support as you have cheered the pirates on throughout this season.

The excitement for winter sports is around the corner. The wrestling squad has grown significantly and has taken advantage of all the new resources in the field house and the main gym to prepare for their intense meets. Both the girls' and boys' basketball teams have trained diligently and have benefited from the amazing new practice gym adjacent to the main gym which has helped the 11 gym-based sport teams to maintain their training and conditioning programs. With brand new bleachers, score boards and other modernizations to the main gym, you must book your calendars to cheer on the pirate basketball teams and see the new facilities during the winter months. The girls' soccer team looks forward to serving as a host site this winter break for the local Bellflower tournament and the boys' soccer team hopes to charge on as they have paved a way for great success as a championship team year after year. The pirate athletic programs have so much to be thankful for as they look at all of the resources available to support their success. Most of all, it's the pirate pride that fuels all of the energy that makes Paramount High School a great place to be! Go Pirates!

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

November 14, 2012

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

Lincoln Lions Witness A Moment in History!

Mission 26: The Big Endeavour



On Friday, September 21st, at 12:45 in the afternoon, Lincoln students experienced a moment in history as the Endeavour Space Shuttle, perched on top of a Boeing 747 aircraft took its final flight over California before landing at LAX airport to be transported to the California Science Center. Visit www.californiasciencecenter.org to learn more.

Students at Lincoln marveled at the site of the Endeavour as it flew over our Lincoln field twice before beginning its descent toward LAX. At such low altitudes, the Endeavour was easy to identify. Students cheered in amazement as the aircraft, accompanied by two fighter jets flew close enough to almost touch! Our school librarian, Toni Jackson, captured the moment as students, teachers, and even the principal were awestruck!

In the words of our 4th grade Lincoln students:

"When I saw the space shuttle it took my breath away. I couldn't breathe. Mrs. Naruko, my teacher, saw it too. We all ran to see the Space Shuttle. Everybody was so excited!" Andrea

"On Friday, September 21st all fourth and fifth graders witnessed history. It felt amazing to be part of history! My friend and I were just waiting in line for our teacher to pick us up, and bam! We saw the Endeavour Space Shuttle." Valerie

"I thought that the Endeavour was awesome! Being able to witness history felt pretty cool. The Space Shuttle flew right over Lincoln School. It was so amazing!" Audrey

"It was cool to see the Space Shuttle fly over Lincoln School for the first time. Everybody was running toward it, except for the staff and me. I got a good look from far away." Nathan

Grizzlies Prowl the Hallways

There are bears in the hallways of Wesley Gaines, grizzlies actually, Green Grizzlies to be exact. The Green Grizzlies are a student group formed last year as a student service organization. Their motto: Green Grizzlies Help the Earth.

Last year, the Green Grizzlies organized campus clean-ups, tutored emerging readers in kindergarten and assisted NDA's with equipment at recess time. Groups of Green Grizzlies prowled the campus in an effort to make Wesley Gaines a clean and inviting place for all. Pairs of Green Grizzly Tutors spent their donated lunch recesses helping our Little Grizzlies (Kinder students) learn their High Frequency Words. When it was recess time our Grizzly leaders would help to make sure that equipment used for play was organized and ready for the next day.

This year, the Six Pillars of Character Counts are at the forefront of behavioral expectations at Wesley

Gaines. The Green Grizzlies have made trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, caring, fairness and citizenship their formative and guiding principles. The students selected this year were chosen because they exhibit the traits of Grizzlies that understand that Character Counts. These students will once again provide valuable services to their school and will also lead by example, showing others how Grizzly Character can help the school and the Earth.

The 2012-2013 Green Grizzlies are being guided by our wonderful Wesley Gaines counselor, Shannon Patterson. Her energy and enthusiasm is spreading through our Green Grizzly ranks. When you visit Wesley Gaines and come across students in green t-shirts, you will know that you have encountered a... Green Grizzly.

Jeff Bowers
Principal

Women in School Leadership



Recently, a select group of administrators and District office staff were extended the opportunity to participate in the 2nd Annual Association of American School Administrators (AASA) and The Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Women in School Leadership Forum, a two-day conference that took place in Newport Beach.

The AASA and ACSA Women in School Leadership Forum is a premier networking and educational experience designed to engage, enlighten and empower women school system leaders from across the country. Focused on leadership excellence, the forum helped build skills, share solutions, strengthen professional networks, and sharpen the attendees career planning. This year, there were over 200 attendees from the various states throughout the United States. Various speakers included retired and cur-

rent County and District superintendents, teachers, judges, to keynote speaker, Nancy M. Dahl, President of Lifetouch.

This year's attendees included Assistant Superintendents Myrna Morales and Debbie Stark, Principals Lynn Butler, Jean Law, Topekia Jones, Yuki Mio, Patricia Brent-Sanco, Beatriz Spelker-Levi and Pamela Williams and also District Office Executive Assistants Isela Preciado and Ofelia Larios.

Principal Yuki Mio commented that "The Leadership Forum was powerful and poignant! It was inspiring to hear women leaders speak candidly about their experiences, those challenging moments, and the paths they took to make such an impact for children and our future. It provided an opportunity to collaborate across districts, embrace our team from Paramount, and reaffirm what we do each day to make a difference!

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



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Sonya Cuellar – Member
Tony Peña – Member

District Superintendent
David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.

Great things are happening in Paramount Schools

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Structured Play



As a Safe & Civil School, we participate in structured play. The wonderful staff of Collins School used the first eight days of school to lay the ground work for how we play appropriately on the playground. All the activities available on the playground were taught and practiced, such as; soccer, teetherball, wall ball, four square, basketball, swings, and the play equipment. We needed to take this time to run through each area in a structured manner. Visual cues are used to assist students with knowing where to begin.

During first recess, classes play in their assigned areas to assist them with direct physical play along with building camarade-

rie with their classmates. One student said, "I like playing teetherball with my friends from class."

Using our one-liner at the end of recess, "Stop, Freeze, Take a Knee" allows students to transition from recess to lining up by "City Walking" (walking really fast) and getting ready to return to class for learning. This has assisted us tremendously in returning to class in an efficient manner. Thank you to all the staff for making this work!

Bea Spelker-Levi
Principal, Collins School

One Ninth Grader's Point of View

As my first five weeks of high school come to a close here at Paramount High School West Campus, I can say that I eagerly await what is to come for me with anticipation. From athletic tryouts and games to Homecoming, there are plenty of events and activities that invite student participation. So far, I have nothing but positive things to say about my high school experience as a freshman.

Over the summer, I attended Summer Bridge for incoming freshmen at PHS West Campus and ran with the Cross Country team at the Senior Campus. I also attended a summer camp of sorts for incoming Associated Student Body Leadership students. During the camp, leadership students learned how ASB functions as well as their roles and responsibilities as members of West Campus' student body leadership.

By the first day of school, I was more than prepared for high school. I quickly made friends with other students and adapted to my high school schedule of Geometry, World History, Language Arts 1 Honors, ASB, Biology, and Cross Country. The teachers and staff at the West Campus were more than welcoming and the classes provided a rigorous and academic ambience.

Moreover, ASB was off and running this year as it hosted the annual club rush during lunch in September. Among the several

clubs that were offered were the sports club, college club, and the club of 2016. Students were also offered the opportunity to create their own club should they be able to sign up eight members and find a teacher who would be willing to serve as advisor.

ASB also hosted its first Pirate Lunch for teachers and students. Teachers were encouraged to invite a student from any of their classes to come and attend a Hawaiian themed lunch provided by ASB. Both teachers and students were welcomed to the West Campus Library to enjoy a delectable meal which consisted of gourmet pizza, bread sticks, chicken wings, salad, and drinks. Teachers had the opportunity to sit down and converse with their selected student in a very enjoyable atmosphere. Considering this was only the first of many Pirate Lunches, I believe it was a complete success.

Currently, I have A's in all of my classes; I am the ASB president and serve as the West Campus student representative to the Paramount Unified School Board. Additionally, I am a member of the Cross Country team and a member of the West Campus Chess Club. High school here at the West Campus has been a dream come true, and I am very grateful for having been given the opportunity for success.

Avery De La Cruz
Student, PHS-West

Superintendent's Message: Thanksgiving Wishes

Dear Parents and Friends of Paramount Unified,

On behalf of our Board of Education Linda Garcia-President, Vivian Hansen-Vice President, Alicia Anderson, Sonya Cuellar, and Tony Peña, I wanted to take this opportunity to extend to everyone our best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving Day.

At this time of Thanksgiving, we can all pause to count our blessings. Thanksgiving is incomplete without a moment of reflection. One of the joys of Thanksgiving is the opportunity to reflect and rejoice on our good fortunes by showing one's gratitude for life's little blessings during these difficult and challenging times.

I particularly want to express my sincere appreciation for your confidence



and loyalty to our School District, our teachers, school counselors, administrators, classified employees, and the countless others who make Paramount Unified School District the special place it is.

Our best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving!

David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.
Superintendent

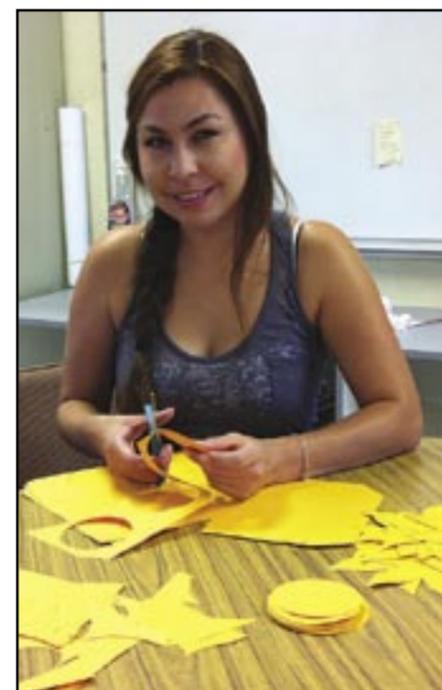
Parent Involvement at Hollydale School



Research shows that parent involvement improves school performance. There are many ways that parents can support their children at home, by reading to them, helping with homework, engaging in interesting discussions, and taking trips to educational places. Some parents choose to be even more involved in their children's education, and Hollydale School is very fortunate to have many of these parents.

This year we have provided added support for our dedicated parents by setting up a Parent Volunteer room. This room provides a comfortable place where parents can support teachers by constructing decodable books, copying and collating student work packets, laminating instructional materials, and doing anything else a teacher may need. In addition, it provides a place for PTA members and leadership to carry out their projects. Having the Parent Volunteer Center allows parents the flexibility to come in and help at times convenient to them, and without having to interrupt a classroom in order to help.

Last year, according to our PTA officers, there were about ten parents regularly involved. This year, as a result of the better accommodations and increased scheduling flexibility, that



number has doubled to about twenty. We have no doubt that as word spreads about our new center, more and more parents will become involved each year, resulting in more and more support for our school, our teachers, and the academic progress of our students.

Kevin Longworth
Principal
Hollydale School

Homecoming at PHS



You could feel it in the air... school spirit! Beginning October 1st, Paramount High School initiated spirit week with "twin day" and the results were magnificent. As you looked around you were puzzled, sometimes wondering whether this was real or a dream. Tuesday was "nerd day", a day appropriate for our school since we embrace our inner "nerdiness" every day by excelling in our classes. Then came the famous "Scrabble Day," filling our school up with spirit words and phrases such as "Class of 2013" and "Pirates."

Walking around campus on Thursday you could hear "is that a bird? a plane? No, it's Superman!" Superhero day had PHS students and teachers feeling heroic. Friday filled our campus with maroon, white, black, and gray, with each color representing an entire class. As you walked into the football stadium for the famous Wacky Olympics you could hear, feel, and see the tremendous amount of spirit radiated by each class.

The freshmen filled the visitor stands in a sea of grey. On the home side, the waves of black, white, and maroon were mesmerizing. Our school Alma Mater echoed through the stands to mark the beginning of the games. Victory by the Senior class would mark the end of the games.

Next was the Homecoming Game itself. We would eventually defeat Troy High School, 42-35, in what was one of the most exciting games we

have had in a long time. The halftime spectacular included elegant horse-drawn carriages, the presentation of the court, and a firework finale that accompanied the announcement of Karla Leon and Andres Gonzalez being named Homecoming Queen & King. Other members of the Homecoming court included Freshmen Princess and Prince Jishaly Castillo and Daniel Sosa, Sophomore Princess & Prince Heather Hartman and Aldo Avelar, Junior Princess & Prince Irene Castillo and Henry Estrada and other Senior Princesses Cindy Hernandez, Janine Juarez, Juliana Maidana & Alejandra Palma and other Senior Princes' Chris Borrayo, Mario Castañeda, Brandon DeSigueira and Eddie Otzoy.

With all the excitement of Spirit Week, Wacky Olympics, and the Homecoming Game, the dance was sure to be a success. To no one's surprise it was nothing less than excellent. It was definitely a memorable night for all. Set amongst the grass and trees of the beautiful Pirate Plaza and draped in the light of a full moon, we enjoyed all the sights and sounds of the evening. We created lasting memories filled with good music and good friends. A truly memorable dance was the perfect ending to an amazing week here at PHS.

**Amy Delgado &
Stephanie Chavez,
12th Grade Students, PHS**

Jackson School Celebrates its STARS with a STAR Party



STAR students celebrating their achievement are Mauricio, Michael, Alan, Albert, and Miguel.

A record number of students passed the STAR test at Jackson School thanks to the dedication of both staff and students. In order to celebrate the accomplishment of individual students, the Jackson staff, in partnership with the STAR after school program, organized a STAR celebration for the 430 students who passed the test in either language arts or math.

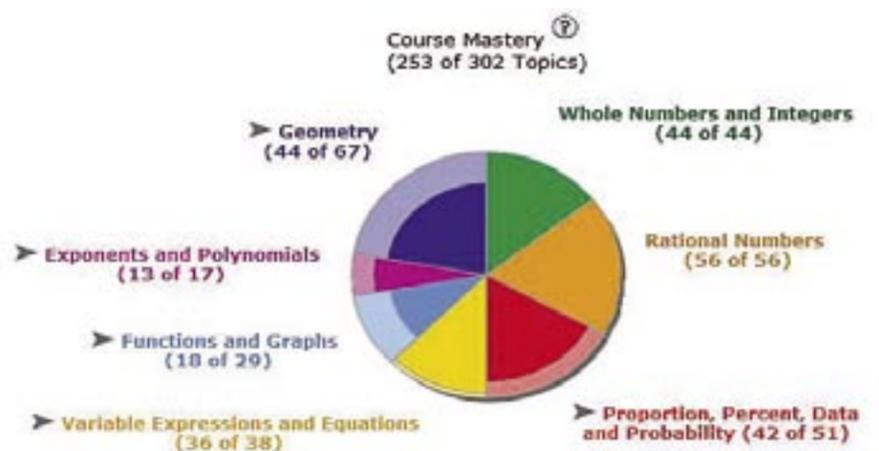
The STAR party took place on September 13, 2012 during student lunches. Each student who was invited received a personalized V.I.P. All Access Pass. At the party, students were treated to ice cream sundaes and video games. The STAR after school program set up and manned 4 Wii and 4 Kinect stations for students where they enjoyed Just Dance, Mario Kart and more.

You could hear the excitement in the air as students walked into the party zone. Their laughter and cheers drowned out the background music. "The students were very excited and proud to be part of the celebration," commented math coach Claudia Ramos. Some students in the party had never passed the STAR test before and they were especially proud of their accomplishment. Teachers, staff and administrators came in to congratulate students and participate in the festivities.

The STAR party is an example of how the city of Paramount and Paramount Unified schools can work together to motivate students to strive for excellence.

**Rebecca Perez
Leona Jackson School**

Computers give math students and teachers a hand!



One very effective computer program used in our schools to support math instruction is called ALEKS (Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces). ALEKS is a technology-based program that can be accessed on the internet. The ALEKS program has been used in our middle schools at Paramount Park, Alondra, Jackson, Hollydale, and Zamboni. Additionally, students use the program at Paramount High School, Buena Vista and the Paramount Community Day School.

With ALEKS if the student enters a correct response, the program automatically gives the student a question that is more challenging. On the other hand, if the student enters an incorrect response, it adjusts the next question to one that is not as difficult. By the time the assessment is completed, the ALEKS program has a very accurate picture of what the student's know and what they don't know. This chart represents all the concepts that a

student knows based on their assessment. The dark color represents all the concept areas that have been learned, while the light shaded colors show the amount of concepts that still have to be mastered.

How has ALEKS helped Paramount's Students?

Seventy five percent of students using the ALEKS program at Paramount's Community Day School program passed the California High School Exit Exam. In addition, students who regularly worked on ALEKS performed better than their non-ALEKS using classmates on district assessments.

ALEKS is one of the many technology based programs that students greatly benefit from in the Paramount Unified School District.

**Durrell Jackson
Curriculum Specialist**