

# 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 2014

## Hornets Sting in Season Opener Volleyball Game!

The Hollydale Hornets girls' volleyball team played their first game against Jackson School in early October. The girls on the team played an amazing game and had our new gymnasium packed with enthusiastic parents and students. The game was so exciting that many of the fans were on the edge of their seats the entire time, and were doubly excited when the outcome was a win for Hollydale!

Everyone in attendance recognized all the work done by our coaches, Ms. Moore and Mr. Diaz, for developing our players during after school practices. Our teachers, Mr. Angulo, Mr. Van de Velde, Mr. Wulkowicz,



Mrs. Montemayor, and Mrs. Burton, showed their team spirit and pride by helping with supervision and cheering for our team. Extra thanks go to Mrs. Nunley-Macon for supporting the development of our sports program.

Having a new gymnasium allows our school to encourage healthy competition and motivates students to become more physically fit. In the months and years to come we will further develop our sports program to include more students and activities. Who knows, we may have to look into adding a trophy case to our gymnasium entrance way!

**Kathy Vaughn**  
5th Grade Teacher

## West Campus Students Participate in MFG Day At ACE



As part of the national Manufacturing Day, 34 Paramount High School West Campus freshmen were invited to ACE Clearwater Enterprises in Compton who were presenting "The Manufacturing Process from Conceptual Design to Final Assembly." These students were able to tour the plant and listen to presentations on a variety of manufacturing topics.

ACE is a company who specializes in Complex Formed and Welded assemblies from the Aerospace and Power Generation industries. During the event students were exposed to several conventional, innovative and state-of-the-art processes and technologies

including CAD/CAM design, 3D Printing, Work Flow Optimization, Metal Forming, Laser Cutting, 3D Measuring Inspection, and Welding.

The majority of the freshmen students are currently enrolled in the Introduction to Engineering course taught by Mr. Brent Rummel. According to Mr. Rummel, "This is an opportunity for students to see the real world of engineering brought to life." He also commented that it is interesting for students to find out how a manufacturing company incorporates team building in their daily operation which contributes to making it a successful company. Students were most

impressed by Kellie Johnson, ACE's Chief Executive Officer, and one of the few female CEO's in the industry. Furthermore, they were also excited here about the five internships that ACE offers.

ACE's event is one of hundreds that goes on across the country as what is known as MFG Day. The first Friday of October, is when manufacturers across the US open their doors to demonstrate the potential of modern manufacturing and create interest in manufacturing careers.

**Dr. Yvonne Rodriguez**  
Assistant Principal  
PHS-West

## Paramount Unified School District Provides Support to Foster Youth

The Paramount Unified School District's Foster Youth Services (FYS) Program, is a grant-funded program for a specific student population. Its goal is to provide services to student identified as Foster Youth.

Students in formal foster youth placements are students who live in an out-of-home placement or any student who is not living with either of their birth parents. The student might live with a foster parent, a relative or non-relative court appointed guardian, or a relative who has obtained a District Guardianship for school placement. Tutoring services are offered to Foster Youth in both Language Arts and Math. Tutoring occurs once a week during the school day for a minimum of 30 minutes.

Additional services provided to formal foster youth students include an annual field trip, scholarship opportunities and applications, information about FYS Programs at colleges and universities, invitations to participate in a College Readiness Program provided in collaboration with United Friends of the Children and referrals to community agencies and resources. Each year the FYS Program has been able to assist Paramount Unified School District's foster youth with graduation-related expenses such as yearbook, prom, cap and gown.

If you believe a child in your home may be eligible for services, please call Manuel San Miguel, Student Services Director or Judy Morrison, FYS Program Coordinator, at 562-602-6035.

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATE

**November 19, 2014**

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

## College Preparedness Starts Early for Jackson Knights



Members of Leona Jackson School Student Council and students enrolled in the pilot AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) class recently visited and toured UCLA. A total of thirty seven students in grades sixth through eighth along with six of their parents attended UCLA's annual Open House event. The Jackson students and families woke up early on a Saturday and traveled to Westwood and received a taste of school spirit from the electrifying performances by the UCLA Band and Cheerleaders before touring the campus with current UCLA students. The students and parents participated in numerous workshops regarding undergraduate admission requirements, financial aid, and support for incoming student learners.

"It was a wonderful and fun experience" commented 8th grade Jackson School student council president, Axel Suazo. Upon attending the college field trip, 8th grade student Taniya Washington shared

that the visit to UCLA has motivated her to try harder in her current and future classes. "It was my first time visiting a UC school and having my mom attend with me was awesome" shared 8th grader, Janeth Huerta. Natalie Benitez also attended the trip with her mother and added that "my mother supports me all the way, and I am so glad that she was able to visit UCLA with me. I am extremely excited about going to college now." Natalie's mother, Mrs. Benitez describes seeing the excitement on her daughter Natalie's face while walking through the prestigious university as "priceless."

Jackson school counselor, Maureen Melgaard was especially moved by the presentation on the admissions process. She shares that the message of the importance of college readiness in the early years really hit home for the students of Jackson School. She further commented that students learned that college is a realistic goal as long as they remain focused. Gooooooo Knights!

## Roosevelt Students: Developing Student Leaders



Providing students with opportunities to develop as school leaders is a focus at Theodore Roosevelt School. Fostering leadership skills will serve students well as they move on to college and future career endeavors.

Roosevelt School encourages fourth and fifth grade students to serve in a number of leadership roles including the position of Safety Monitor. Safety Monitors assist kindergarten children before school by supporting them in the cafeteria and on the playground. Safety Monitors are easily identified by the bright green vests they wear to indicate that they are on the job!

Another leadership role is that of Breakfast Club Tutor. These school leaders support students in grades 1-5 with the mastery of foundational skills: Basic Math Facts, high frequency words, letter recognition, and Sound Spelling Cards. Students must meet specific criteria in order to be considered for this position including outstanding citizenship, high academic achievement and excellent school attendance. Breakfast Club Tutors are highly regarded at Roosevelt School for the outstanding support they provide their peers.

The Student Council of Roosevelt School offers another opportunity for students to serve their school. The Student Council consists of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, as well as members of the Fundraising and Spirit Committees. Classroom representatives from each fourth and fifth grade class also serve as members of the Council. All positions are voted on by the students.

Student Council elections took place recently. Interested students submitted an application and essay to the Student Council teacher advisors, Mrs. Baltierrez and Mr. Varela, by September 26th. Candidates participated in the campaign process which culminated in the candidates making speeches for their peers on October 13th.

Elections were held on October 14th and the results announced by the principal on October 15th.

The 2014-2015 Roosevelt Student Council officers are:

- President Samantha Rivera (5th, Mrs. Baltierrez)
- Vice President Caleb Reyes (5th, Mr. Varela)
- Secretary Emily Ochoa (4th, Mrs. Wedrall)
- Treasurer Yarelle Ruiz (5th, Mrs. Baltierrez)
- Fundraiser Committee Adan Herrera (5th, Mrs. Manglicmot)
- Dayanara Sarabia (5th, Mrs. Baltierrez)
- Nathaly Abonce (5th, Mrs. Baltierrez)
- Joshua Paloma (4th, Mrs. Chung)
- Henessy Ochoa (5th, Mrs. Baltierrez)
- Spirit Committee

Student Council, Breakfast Club Tutors, Safety Monitors – just some examples of the opportunities students at Roosevelt School have to shine as school leaders.

Susan Marilley, Principal, Roosevelt School

**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.**

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

*Board of Education*

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

*District Superintendent*  
**Herman M. Mendez**



*Great things are happening in Paramount Schools*

**PUSD Education News**

Editor - Isela Preciado  
 Paramount Unified School District  
 15110 California Ave., Paramount, CA  
 (562) 602-6000 • Fax (562) 634-6029

# Lincoln Lions Enjoy a "Spooktacular" Read Night Event



In October, Lincoln School hosted its annual Scary Story Read Night. The Lincoln PTA worked enthusiastically to decorate the cafeteria stage with a haunting, festive look to help celebrate this wonderful event! Students and parents gathered to listen to delightful and haunting tales read by Lincoln teachers. As teachers modeled good reading strategies, students enthusiastically listened and answered questions from the readings such as who, what, where, when, why, and how. It was a spooktacular event of storytelling, prizes and delicious candy! In order to foster a love for reading, every student was given a free book, donated by the PTA.

The parent volunteers also supplied goodie bags, filled with delicious treats! The winners of the evening raffle received gift certificates to be used at the book fair, later in the evening. At the book fair students and family members enthusiastically shopped for treasured books to enjoy. The excitement of reading filled the room as students discussed their book choices. Scary Story Read Night was a wonderful celebration of reading! The students, parents and staff members all had a spooktacular time!

**Mandy Murrietta,**  
Language Arts Coach

# Wesley Gaines students start their day the energized way!

The school day starts early for elementary students. In many districts students make their way sleepily into school, eat their breakfast with one eye still closed and then make their way to class where they try to wake up before recess.

At Wesley Gaines, like at other Paramount U.S.D. schools the morning looks and sounds a lot different. Grizzly students that eat at school, eagerly make their way to the cafeteria to have a well-balanced breakfast before heading outside for activities prior to going to class. Students that have eaten at home, drop off their backpacks and join in on fun and games (and exercise) on the field. From 7:45 a.m. 8:10 a.m. students are encouraged to participate in games as a way to kick-start their day.

There is always a large contingent of students that are playing soccer- one of the favorite games at school. Hula hoops are very popular also. The students enjoy twirling the hoops with their friends and improving their coordination skills on a daily basis. Jump ropes, both single ropes and the hugely popular double-dutch ropes draw a crowd of happy jumping students each morning. Volleyball is drawing a larger crowd each morning as an increasing number of students try their hand at a new sport and experience the fun to be had by trying new things. Hand to eye coordination is a very important skill set for children as they develop through the years. A number of students are practicing their hand to eye coordination each morning by getting a friend and playing a game of catch with a soft foam ball.

All of the outdoor games are developmen-

tally sound activities that help our Gaines Grizzly students improve coordination, develop a sense of fair play, and promote teamwork within a safely supervised setting. But don't tell them that, they just think it is fun.

Not every student is going to be motivated by sports. For those seeking a more cerebral experience, the computer lab is also open from 7:45 a.m.-8:10 a.m. Students are able to engage in a number of computer based activities. Many students take the opportunity to take Accelerated Reader (AR) tests. With AR tests students read books and then take a computer based test that gauges their comprehension of what they had read. And most importantly to the students, they earn points for passing each of the tests. They love to keep track of their points and compete with their friends to see who can be the top point earner. Some students use the ST Math program to sharpen their math ability. ST Math helps the students to learn their basic math facts and helps them to gain a deeper understanding of math concepts. Other students practice their keyboarding skills on the Type To Learn program. This fun program helps the students to be better prepared to take the new online Common Core test when they reach third grade. But again, they just think it is fun, so please don't give away our secret.

All of these wonderful morning options for Wesley Gaines students mean that our campus is buzzing with activity, laughs and smiles in the morning. It also means that our students arrive at class awake, aware, and ready to learn! Energized Grizzlies are great learners- Go Grizzlies!!

# Superintendent's Message: Using Technology to Increase Parent Participation

Research has consistently shown that parent participation is a leading factor in determining student success. However, our modes of parent participation have remained largely unchanged in decades. Historically, schools have relied on scheduled open houses and parent-teacher conference nights to keep parents informed regarding the progress of their children.

We are always exploring ways to encourage meaningful parent participation and there are a number of ways that technology can help to connect parents to the classroom experience. Technology can provide greater ease of access to student grade information; it can improve communication between teacher and parent, and provide an avenue for parents to have a more meaningful role in the learning process.

In August 2008, the Paramount Unified School District introduced the use of School Loop, an online secure com-

munication tool in which parents and students at the high school could log on and review their grades, attendance, and school assignments, among other school related information.

The high usage of the School Loop has prompted the next level of evolution in parent communication which is called Parent VUE, which was initiated during the spring of 2014 for use in our middle schools. Like School Loop, parents are able to review attendance, grades, class schedules and school calendar. Parents can also send email messages and questions to their children's teachers, under a secure site.

Once again, research supports the fact that involved and informed parents translates into higher school success for students. We are very pleased that we can offer the benefit of enhanced parent and school communication through technology - of course we always welcome a personal face to face visit.



## Paramount Unified School District

### Parents

Do you want to be informed about your child's attendance and academic progress?

ParentVUE allows parents to monitor attendance and academic progress online. Ask your school office for details.

With ParentVUE you can:

- View class schedules and monitor attendance
- Check Homework assignments
- E-mail your child's teacher

ParentVUE now available

Zamboni Middle School  
Alondra Middle School  
Hollydale (Grades 6-8)  
Jackson (Grades 6-8)  
Paramount Park Middle School



Have questions about ParentVUE? Visit room 5

### Padres

¿Quiere estar informado sobre la asistencia y progreso académico de su hijo/a?

ParentVUE le permite verificar la asistencia y progreso académico por internet. Pregunte en la oficina escolar o al maestro/a para más detalles.

Con ParentVUE usted puede:

- Ver horarios de clases y asistencia
- Asignación de tareas
- Comunicación con el maestro por correo electrónico

ParentVUE disponible para

Zamboni Middle School  
Alondra Middle School  
Hollydale Grados 6-8  
Jackson Grados 6-8  
Paramount Park Middle School

¿preguntas sobre ParentVUE? Para más información visite el salón 5

Approved by Educational Services



# Paramount High School Hosts College Fair

Over 1,500 people were in attendance at the 22nd SouthEast annual college fair hosted at Paramount High School on Saturday, October 4th. Diane Martinez, the Mayor of Paramount was in attendance along with the support of Paramount Unified School District Board Members, Tony Peña and Alicia Anderson. The district Superintendent, Herman Mendez, and Assistant Superintendent, Deborah Stark, were also in attendance to kick off the event in the main gym that ended with laptop raffles that excited the large crowd.

After the kickoff event, over 20 workshops were offered to participants. The workshops targeted topics relevant to students as they create their own plans to attend college. The workshop presenters were very interactive and allowed Paramount families to ask questions to gain more specific knowledge on topics of interest. Lunch was provided at the end of the workshop sessions and over 30 colleges set up booths for the college fair. Students flooded into the fair to gather information and literature on the programs offered at each institution. College representatives were eager and happy to have one-on-one interactions with students and their families.

The college fair was one great way to get students excited about their future college and career plans!

# COLT Activity at Collins School



Collins Schools is a school where all student's unique differences are celebrated. We are a Safe and Civil School where we work on a daily basis to improve and learn as much as possible. We "Work it out" by communicating our needs when we have disagreements with others. All students have the opportunity to be in the Friday raffle where 20 prizes are raffled.

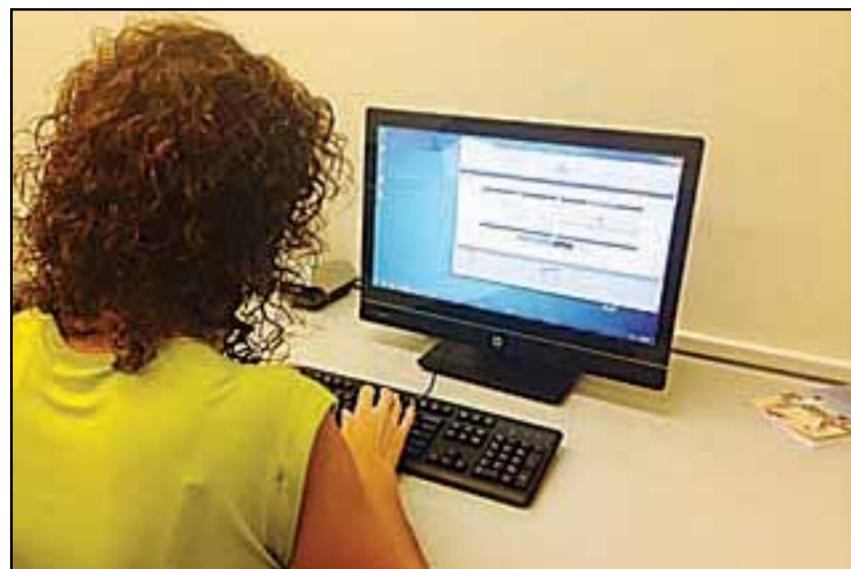
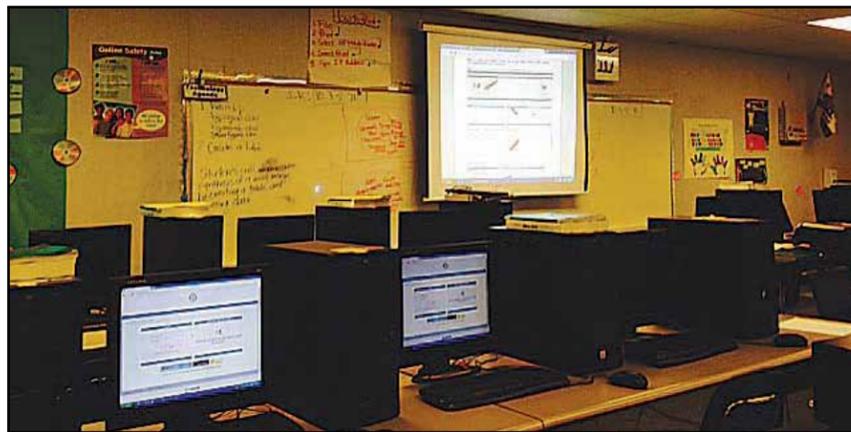
Most importantly, we have a monthly activity in order to celebrate our accomplishments using different criteria each month. The first COLT activity for the

year took into account the importance of assessment. Therefore, ALL students in 1-5 who tried their best on a test were invited to either the Line Dance Party (3rd-5th) or the Obstacle Course (1st-2nd) on Friday, September 26th. All students participated.

All students and staff enjoyed themselves immensely. We look forward to our monthly activities as we celebrate successes as a school community.

**Beatriz Spelker-Levi, Principal**

# ParentVUE Allows Parents to Monitor Student Progress on line



Parents of students in PUSD Middle Schools have the opportunity to access up-to-date information on their child's class schedules, attendance, tests, and school activities. This communication tool enables richer dialogue among teachers and parents throughout the academic school year. During middle school Back-to-School night parents received great information and support on how to set up their account to log in to ParentVue.

Features of ParentVue include:

- Grade book activity such as homework/assignments
- Student attendance information
- Class schedules
- Teacher e-mail information

Parents play a vital and indispensable role in the educational lives of their students. This provides an important way for parents to stay up-to-date with how their students' are progressing in school.

# Fall Sports are Underway

Paramount High School Athletics is off and running and doing very well in the Fall season sports. Led by the three-time San Gabriel Valley (SGV) League Champion football team, all sports are competing at a high level. The football team is 3-2 with victories over Long Beach Wilson, Long Beach Jordan, and Culver City. They began SGV league play with their sights set on capturing another league championship.

Boys and girls Cross Country had an outstanding showing at their first league meet. With both boys and girls in 2nd place, the boys finished with a record of 4-1 and the girls also finished 4-1. Their next league meet is October 16, and league finals will be held November 5 at La Mirada Regional Park.

Boys water polo opened their season with three victories in a row, defeating La Puente, Bell Gardens, and Pioneer. It was the best start to a season in quite some time at Paramount. They now began league play with hopes of picking up victories that create momentum for the program.

Girls' tennis is off to a great start. Wining their first 5 matches and looking like a league championship contender,

the Pirates are looking forward to tough competition in the San Gabriel League. They have already captured three victories in league with wins over Lynwood, Gahr and Downey.

Girls' volleyball opened the season with one of the toughest schedules in the area. Playing the likes of national ranked Redondo Union High School the Pirates competed at a high level and played all their opponents with a toughness that impressed crowds. They are currently 6-6 with wins over Van Nuys, Glenn, Norwalk, Whitney, Bellflower, and Schurr. They are looking forward to league play with the hopes of being prepared, coming off the tough pre-season schedule.

Paramount High School is excited about the upcoming league play in all Fall sports. All teams have set their sights on making the CIF playoffs. As all Pirate teams continue their seasons, we would like to wish them the best of luck and continue to make Paramount Athletics proud.

On behalf of the Administration and the faculty, we invite the community to come out and support all of our great Paramount High School athletes. GO PIRATES!!!