

PUSD EDUCATION NEWS

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

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NOVEMBER 2015

Celebrating a Successful Collaboration in Paramount

Every parent in our city dreams of a better life for their children. To achieve this dream they bring their students to Paramount Schools, they encourage habits of discipline and learning at home and they introduce their children to opportunities that take them to college and successful careers.

In Paramount Unified School District (PUSD), our MESA program is an opportunity that connects students with colleges, community leaders and school educators giving them the tools for success and achievement with an emphasis on math, science and engineering.

On October 17th, PUSD proudly kicked off its 2015-2016 MESA program. Parents from our five middle schools and two high schools brought their kids early Saturday morning to be greeted by Board of Education President Alicia Anderson, members Sonya Cuellar, Linda Garcia and Vivian Hansen, Co-Interim Superintendent Mrs. Delores Stephens and City of Paramount Mayor Tom Hansen joined also by City Council member Gene Daniels and City Manager John Moreno. The message was the same from all: success comes through dedication, hard work and participating in opportunities that challenge growth and learning.

The Kick-Off was held at 7:30 a.m. in the Pirate Plaza adjacent the Science and Medical Pathways building at Paramount High School and attended by nearly five hundred students, parents, district educators and city leaders.

After the celebration, students were transported with their school advisors to the first of four Academies held at California State University Long Beach.

In each of the academies, students explore engineering principles under the guidance of university professors and students. The principles students learn help them design, plan, test and development their own projects that will be entered in the spring MESA competitions.

The MESA Program in PUSD challenges students to find solutions using the principles of engineering while at the same time brings them into contact with the disciplines necessary for their future success. The Paramount Unified School District mission to ensure learning and success for each student happens through opportunities such as the Math, Engineering, Science Achievement program.

Durrell Jackson
Curriculum Specialist



Zamboni students gearing up for the MESA Kick-off



Mayor Tom Hansen providing MESA students and families with inspiring words



City officials and District Administration come together to Kick-off the 2015-16 MESA program



Board President Alicia Anderson offering morning remarks to MESA students, parents and staff



Zamboni Middle School MESA advisor Edith Cabral and student working on a project

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

November 18, 2015

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.

The AVID Program Comes to Hollydale!



7th grade students at Hollydale School are being introduced to the AVID program this school year. AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an international college readiness and awareness program that exposes students to a culture of college and helps prepare them to get there. The mission of the AVID program is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

At Hollydale, a group of hard working sixth graders went through an extensive application and interviewing process last year to become a 7th grade AVID student. The AVID program not only exposes students to a college culture, students are also given instruction using methods and techniques that will help better prepare them for school/college success. Some of the strategies used in the AVID program include WICOR strategies (Writing, Inquiry, Collabora-

tion, Organization, and Reading). These strategies are embedded throughout all curricular areas.

Not only are AVID students exposed to college readiness instructional strategies, they are also exposed to a variety of colleges and college choices through conversations in classrooms about colleges and college programs. AVID students will be visiting a few college campuses this school year. Our first AVID trip was to the UCLA campus on Saturday, October 3rd. They visited the UCLA College Fair and then on to the Rose Bowl to watch the Bruins play!

Is the AVID program just for the chosen AVID students? Not at all! It is hoped that the AVID program will eventually become school wide starting with our middle school students and then including all K-5 classes.

Lisa Nunley-Macon
Principal

Paramount High School Senior Campus Career Speaker Series



The Paramount High School Senior Campus Counseling Department is offering all students a new way to obtain information about various careers. Community partners and professionals are invited to the College Career Center to talk about their careers, explain the steps taken to reach their professional goals and interact with students to answer specific career & college-based questions. On September 24th, over 80 students attended a Career Speaker Series session on Law Enforcement. Presenters, Deputy Mike Abbot and Deputy Thelma Ramirez, serve the students in Paramount Unified School District and were able to describe the necessary skills and training to be successful on the job.

The next Career Speaker Series topic will cover Dental Careers. Students can sign up in the College and Career Center and can request future series topics as well. All students in the 2014-2015 school year were surveyed on their career interests and top college majors. The information taken from the survey gave the counseling office data to support offering students information on topics of interest.

Are you a Paramount High School alumni who would like to share your college pathway story and career expertise with current high school students? If so, please contact Krystal Fierro or Maria Garcia at kfierro@paramount.k12.ca.us or migarcia@paramount.k12.ca.us.

Paramount High School Senior Campus College Knowledge Presentations



During the month of September, all sophomore and junior students participated in a College Knowledge presentation hosted in the Paramount High School Senior Campus College and Career Center. College and Career Center counselors, Krystal Fierro and Maria Garcia, created grade-level college curriculum and utilized thinking maps to actively involve students as they plan for their post-high school steps. Students in 10th grade learned about resources they can use to explore colleges and the majors aligned with their career goals. Sophomores additionally learned about test preparation resources that are available for Advanced Placement (AP), Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), the redesigned SAT and the American College Test (ACT). Khan Academy, for example, offers practice exercises, instructional videos and a personalized account that allows students to study at their own pace and it is a free! Khan Academy is an on-line resource available for students of all ages and has a variety of topics to boost

confidence in all subject areas.

Students in the 11th grade took a close look at the requirements and application process for admission into higher education institutions. They were able to clarify their understanding by asking questions pertaining to the A-G requirements and college admissions tests. Counselors emphasized important dates such as the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) application deadline on November 30th. Furthermore, students learned about the link between the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASSPP) and the Early Assessment Program (EAP). In October, 12th grade students attended application workshops and received one-on-one assistance from counselors as they navigated their way through the required process.

Faculty and staff at Paramount High School Senior Campus wear college attire on Wednesdays and encourage the community to do the same as they aim to create a community that encourages a college-going culture.

Major Lynn Mokler Celebrates 70 Years of Excellence



Mokler School - September, 1945



Mokler School - September, 2015



Superintendent Tanner at the Mokler School Dedication Ceremony - September, 1945



Mokler Students honoring their past - September, 2015

On Sept. 10, 1945, Major Lynn Mokler School opened its doors to the Paramount community to help address the overcrowded conditions within the Clearwater Elementary School District. The Board of Education named the school as a tribute to a local war hero Major Lynn Mokler, the first Clearwater-Hynes youth to lose his life in World War II. The ideals and actions of Major Mokler have inspired countless students to become productive and successful citizens.

Lynn Mokler moved into the area in 1923 and was an honor student throughout his elementary, junior high, and high school years. He continued to excel in his higher education and graduated from Compton Junior College in 1940. Shortly after graduation, he enlisted with the U.S. Army Air Corps and fought in World War II. As a member of the 85th Army Air Force, Mokler and his crew flew B-17 bomber planes, assisting their allies overseas. He flew 27 bombing runs over enemy territory before his plane crashed on a return mission.

After his death, a friend wrote to Mokler's mother and said, "Lynn volunteered to give moral support to his former co-pilot, whose turn it was to fly mission, by accompanying him as a co-pilot on two extra trips. After Lynn was promoted to Major, he was entitled to a furlough, but because he was so badly needed, he chose to carry

on in active service in England, helping to plot raids over Germany. Lynn was a brave and loyal American."

Seventy years later, Major Lynn Mokler School continues to serve the Paramount community. The original 9 classrooms have grown to 29, educating over 700 students. Mokler School is a great school filled with dedicated, hard-working teachers and support staff. Every day the Mokler staff supports students in their learning by pushing them to become critical thinkers prepared for future success. Today, Mokler students still exemplify the strong morals and ideals of Lynn Mokler himself. Learning from our history shapes our core beliefs, as evidenced through our guidelines for success. Pilot P.R.I.D.E. establishes a learning community that supports all students' intellectual, ethical, and social growth.

Productive - Use time wisely. Work hard and make the most of every moment.

Respectful - Treat others the way you want to be treated.

Intelligent - Put forth effort to learn every day. Achieve your personal best!

Dedicated - Commit yourself to making good choices and using self-control.

Encouraging - Inspire others. Be helpful and positive with your words and actions.

Linh Roberts, Principal

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

Board of Education

Alicia Anderson - President

Tony Peña - VP/Clerk

Sonya Cuellar - Member

Linda Garcia - Member

Vivian Hansen - Member



Great things are happening in Paramount Schools

PUSD Education News

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District Co-Interim Superintendents

Delores Stephens

David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.

Jackson Middle School Receives Full Funding from DonorsChoose.org for 8th Grade Field Trip



As Gandhi advised, “You must be the change you want to see in the world.” To create change, one must be an “upstander,” be socially responsible by seeking out justice for wrongful acts. I could think of no one better to model for Leona Jackson’s students the importance of standing tall for one’s beliefs than Malala Yousafzai. With this in mind, as Leona Jackson 8th Graders move into their unit on Tolerance, I knew our students would benefit from the opportunity to see the new documentary, “He Named Me Malala” which details the inspiring story of the young Nobel Prize Winning, Pakistani teen shot by the Taliban for speaking up for a girl’s right to an education.

Through the organization DonorsChoose.org, Jackson sought funding. DonorsChoose.org is an organization that strives to encourage the public to have a more active role in our public schools by providing a forum for people to offer charitable donations to address educational inequities. The mission of Donors Choose is to “envision a nation where children in every community have the tools and experiences needed for an excellent education.” On September 27th we received the email that supporters of the “Students Stand with Malala” screening program had fully funded our trip. Every 8th grade student would attend the screening as well as provided free transportation to the theater. Knowing that most of our students have never attended an educational trip and that students who attend cultural school trips have increased critical thinking, empathy, and tolerance, we were thrilled.

The week prior to the film, Jackson teachers went to work implementing a cross curricular unit to prepare students for the film by providing background on historical, social and cultural aspects of life in Pakistan, as well as Malala’s story. It was our hope that through

the this preparation, our students would have a deeper appreciation of Malala’s story and would be able to understand that even when one faces personal adversity, there is an inner strength to be found.

October 9th, the anniversary of the day Malala was shot, 193 students and 15 staff members attended the screening of “He Named Me Malala” at the AMC Marina Pacifica in Long Beach. The students were eager to make their way through the theater, pick up snacks and get seated. Even through their excitement, they maintained composure and represented Jackson in style. Many of the theater staff complimented our students on their manners and responsibility. Viewing the film, the students were interested and intrigued by many of the scenes in the film to the point of verbal reactions and silence alike. As staff members, it was truly fantastic to watch our students’ level of involvement and see their reactions to Malala’s struggles and triumph.

After viewing the film “He Named Me Malala”, we returned to school and held small group discussions about the film and the global issues facing women and children. Jackson School is bursting with energetic personalities and busy learners with strong convictions and voices to be heard and they did not fall short during the discussions. The conversations and comments were passionate and empowering. It is our hope that through events like this, students will understand the impact that one person can have when called to action. One student asked, “But what can I do? I’m just a girl in 8th grade.” To which another student replied, “So was Malala.”

Wendy McWhorter
Language Arts Teacher

Pirate Athletics

The 2015-16 fall athletic season for the Paramount High School Pirates is well on its way and going strong. The football team charged into league with a 3-2 record and the Pirates are still looking good on both offense and defense as well as on special teams. The Pirates faced a tough pre-season schedule against powerhouse teams and nationally ranked teams to prepare them for the competitive play within the San Gabriel Valley League. They traveled to Warren for their first league game and will face both Gahr and Dominguez at home.

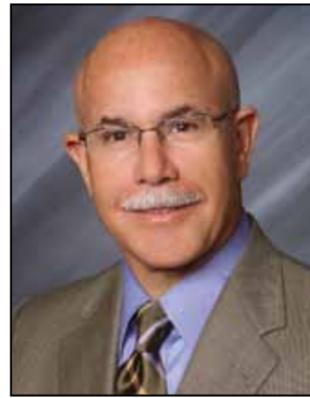
Other fall sports have gained the same momentum preparing for league as well. Boys Water Polo is still on a path to improvement with a pre-season record of 5-3. Teamwork, dedication and communication is putting Water Polo on a path to victory. Defeating Edgewood, Bell Gardens, La Quinta, Savanna and

La Puente puts the team in great spirits when coming up against competitive schools like Cerritos and Downey. Girls Volleyball finished pre-season play with a winning record of 7-5 and look forward to league competition with the aim to reach playoffs.

Fall weather had a hint of summer heat and the local Girls Tennis programs had to cancel several games due to the high temperatures. Despite the weather conditions, the girls are aiming to obtain more victories during league play after a 1-4 preseason record. Boys and Girls Cross Country trained over 70 student athletes in challenging pre-season competitions. The program conducts league meets where the athletes have to train diligently to compete with the best in the league.

Look for the league results in our next edition and GO PIRATES!!!!!!

Superintendent’s Message:



Thanksgiving Wishes

Dear Parents and Friends of Paramount Unified,

On behalf of Board of Education President Alicia Anderson, Tony Peña-Vice President, members Sonya Cuellar, Linda Garcia and Vivian Hansen, we 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.

We particularly want to express our 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!

Dr. David Verdugo and Delores Stephens
Co-Interim Superintendents

Cooperative Outstanding Learners Training for Success!



Collins school is thrilled to start the fifth year implementing the Safe and Civil/CHAMPS program. Safe and Civil is the foundation for student citizenship in common areas within our school. It builds common language and structures for students and staff. CHAMPS is a classroom management system that focuses on positive reinforcement and clear expectations.

Our Safe and Civil program highlights student success. Collins school hosts a Colt Activity every month rewarding students who have demonstrated success in becoming Cooperative Outstanding Learners Training for Success (C.O.L.T.S.). In the month of September, our students were asked to follow the uniform policy daily. Students were rewarded by receiving an invitation to participate in a variety of outdoor games and activities. The students and staff enjoyed celebrating and spending time together at this event.

Another way Collins celebrates student success is the Golden Spork Award. In order for classes to earn the Golden Spork, they must show appropriate behaviors in our Collins Café. Each

week, classes compete to earn the Golden Spork. The Golden Spork allows them priority dining in the Café. The winning class is also first on the playground after lunch. Students are proud to enter the Café holding the Golden Spork at the front of the line. This award promotes a safe and civil lunchtime experience for all students.

Structured play is another focus of the Safe and Civil program. During the first eight days of school, teachers guide students through the various recess options. Students learn all the new games, rules and procedures quickly and are excited to play. Structured recess ensures that students have equal access to all activities including basketball, tetherball, kickball, jump rope, jungle gym, and four square.

Collins continues to benefit from the Safe and Civil/CHAMPS program. The Collins campus is filled with positive culture from the classroom to the playground and everywhere in between. We know that our journey will continue in the right direction as we follow our guidelines for success. Go C.O.L.T.S.!

Scott Law, Principal

Roosevelt School Presents Student Work to The Board of Education

On Wednesday, September 23, 2015, Roosevelt School had the opportunity to share with the Board of Education their schoolwide “Safe and Civil Schools Guidelines for Success” and how they support the school’s high expectations for student achievement: Roosevelt Roughriders are in CHARGE and are: Cooperative, Honest, Ambitious, Responsible, Goal-Oriented, and Enthusiastic!

Principal Susan Marilley was joined for the presentation by fifth grade teachers Ms. Kristina Galias and Mrs. Maria Baltierrez as well as ELA Coach, Mrs. Jessica Jennings, and Intervention Teacher, Mrs. Marisol Andalon. Also playing an important role in the evening’s presentation were fifth grade student leaders Valeria Ayala, Emely Avelar, Jesus Hurtado, and Noemi Minor.

Examples of students as cooperative learners included work samples and photographs of fifth grade students engaged in an investigation and inquiry activity related to their Open Court unit, “Cooperation and Competition”. As one student responding in his writing, “We all need to come to consensus and work together.”

Third grade students demonstrated their appreciation of being honest by responding to a narrative “Write From the Beginning and Beyond” prompt which asked the students to share why being honest is important.

Roosevelt second graders certainly were ambitious in the variety of Thinking Maps they used to show their understanding of Number Sense, specifically how to compose and decompose numbers.

Roosevelt Roughriders are responsible at school as evidenced by kindergarten students who



engaged in personal experience narrative journal writing. When writing about the importance of following school rules, Neriah said, “I listen when my teacher speaks.” Viktor shared, “I raise my hand to talk.” The student writing followed extensive teacher modeling and was developmentally appropriate for the first weeks of kindergarten based on a child’s developmental level.

Setting goals is a focus at Roosevelt School as evidenced by the academic and career goal setting displayed in the writing of fourth grade students. Students wrote about the goal of becoming an architect, a professional soccer player, and even a teacher! Roosevelt Roughriders are goal-oriented!

Roosevelt Roughriders are enthusiastic about science as shared by first grade students in connect-

ing life science through the Open Court unit “Animals” by using a Tree Map to classify the physical characteristics of animals and “taking it off the map” to writing. Students also used a Bridge Map to compare the different ways that animals move.

At Roosevelt School, students are reminded every day that they are “in CHARGE of their future”. A final bulletin board display provided examples of the various opportunities students have to serve as student leaders including Peer Tutors, Safety Monitors, and Student Council members and officers. Also included on the bulletin board were photographs of the many activities sponsored by Roosevelt School to support our district goal of preparing our students to be college and career ready. Each year the school fa-



cilitates the spring Science Fair; fifth grade students present their experiments to the school and have them judged by high school science teachers. Another annual event is “College and Career Day”. This is a highlight of the year when community leaders and representatives from the college and university setting talk with the students about what it takes to be successful. Last year’s speakers included Mayor Tom Hansen, Assistant City Manager John Moreno, Judge Cris Frisco, Cerritos College advisor Arturo Gasca, and Paramount High School salutatorian Judith

Santano and co-valedictorians Gisel Lopez and Jorge Cardenas.

At the conclusion of the evening, Mrs. Marilley and her team presented the Board of Education and Co-Interim Superintendents Dr. David Verdugo and Mrs. Dolores Stephens with Roosevelt Roughrider t-shirts as a thank you to all that they do to support the students and families of Paramount Unified School District.

Roosevelt Roughriders were “in the house” on September 23rd and they were in CHARGE!

Susan Marilley, Principal

PRIDE Assembly at Lincoln

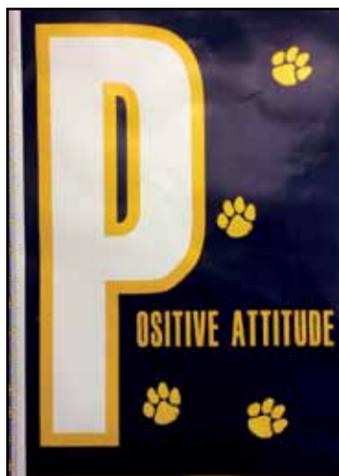


Positive Attitude student winners for the month of September!

Abraham Lincoln celebrated their first PRIDE Assembly of the school year. The acronym PRIDE, which stands for Positive Attitude, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Enthusiasm, was developed to give our students guidelines for success at school.

Each month, our school focuses on one of these traits. At the end of the month, teachers select one student from their class who best demonstrated this attribute to receive recognition at the PRIDE Assembly. For September, our focus was on “Positive Attitude”. We celebrated those students who best exemplified this trait during the

month with a morning PRIDE Assembly. There was excitement in the air as proud parents and other family members watched their student receive a medal and certificate for shining in the area of “Positive Attitude”. There were also special Lincoln PRIDE hair bows and backpack chains for students to proudly wear. Families, staff members, and students enjoyed a festive continental breakfast and awards ceremony at our PRIDE Assembly. Students continue to learn about character traits that make each of them a Lincoln Lion with PRIDE! We look forward to seeing who our next award winners will be



as we focus on Respect for the month of October.

**Mandy Murrietta
Language Arts Coach**

Manufacturing Day at Cerritos College

As part of the October 2 National Manufacturing Day, 150 West Campus ninth graders attended the event at Cerritos College. The day included tours of a variety of manufacturing labs at the college as well as an opportunity to hear and learn from experts in the field.

For the Manufacturing Day event, the Technology Division at Cerritos College held an open house for local area high schools. Students were able to visit the departments of Plastics/Composites, Machine Tool Technology, Welding, Woodworking Manufacturing Technologies, Engineering Design and New Product Development. In addition, students learned about business improvement resources and services delivered through manufacturing extension partnerships.

Overall, Manufacturing Day is designed to expand knowledge about and improve the general public perception of manufacturing careers and manufacturing’s value to the North American economy. The West Campus ninth graders who attended the event are part of the Career Technical Education Engineering pathway. CTE Engineering teacher Mr. Brent Rummell, as well as West Campus staff members Ms. Megofna, Ms. Ketelsleger, Ms. Serrano, and Ms. Davila accompanied the students and participated in the day’s activities. Mr. Rummell stated that the event proved to be an exciting day for his students as they were able to observe engineering and manufacturing work hand in hand together.

**Alicia Megofna
Special Projects Facilitator**