

PUSD EDUCATION NEWS

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

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SEPTEMBER 2014

Alondra Dolphins are ready to "Make A Difference" in 2014 - 2015

Alondra Middle School is Making A Difference (MAD) this year as they ride the new waves of Common Core. On August 12th and 13th, AMS kicked off their "Go MAD" theme by opening their gates to the community in order for students and parents to meet the administration and counselors, visit the campus, join PTSA, and pick up materials and textbooks prior to the first day of school. The event proved to be a huge success as hundreds of new and returning Dolphins were in attendance.

In the week to follow, AMS went all out to inspire the entire Dolphin family to "Go MAD" this year. Not only did the campus brightly reflect this new theme, the staff also greeted the students on the first day of school in their new "Go MAD"



t-shirts. In addition, staff members and students participated in an activity in which they were able to reflect on how they were going to Make A Difference this year. AMS teacher of the year, Isela Griffith-Wu, stated that she will make a difference by "planning each lesson to bring our students a sense of accomplishment, a

new set of knowledge, and an interest in pursuing ideas further". AMS encourages you to "Go MAD" in 2014-2015.

Devin Dawson and Dolores Barrios
Counselors

Paramount High School California Scholarship Federation Club



ally, graduates receive a CSF certificate, pin, and seal on their diploma.

The high expectations and achievements of the CSF members support their application process for scholarships and admission into well renowned colleges such as UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara, UC Merced, UC Irvine and UC San Diego. The class of 2014 Valedictorian, Kenneth Teeples, and Salutatorian, Diane Spicer, are both CSF members. Through student-fundraising efforts this year, the CSF club was able to award three \$500.00 scholarships to deserving members for academic excellence and community service. Congratulations to the class of 2014 and the phenomenal accomplishments of the CSF club members.

Scott Brown
Paramount High School
CSF Advisor



California Scholarship Federation (CSF) is one of the oldest academic organizations in the country, founded in 1921. The purpose of the CSF organization is to recognize academic achievement, community service, and citizenship of those living in the state of California.

It is also one of the oldest clubs at Paramount High School (PHS) as it was founded in 1955. CSF has over 1,000 chapters in California high schools and is widely recognized among colleges across the country. The Paramount CSF Club is the second largest club on campus including over 200 members. Students must apply each semester to qualify to be a member of CSF. To qualify,

applicants must be enrolled in college-prep courses and must earn high marks on grades within those classes. Once the applicants meet the qualification requirements for 4 semesters between their sophomore and senior years, they become lifetime members and can graduate as CSF Seal Bearers. Members receive special recognition at their Commencement Ceremony and wear a gold stole over their graduation robes. Addition-

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATE

September 10, 2014 * September 24, 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

Jefferson Celebrates Their Dads



PTA is very active at Jefferson School. Our PTA encourages all parents to be involved. We have been fortunate enough to have several Dads that have been assisting in our Parent Room on a regular basis. Jefferson School wanted to honor our Dads as a way to say thanks for all that they do for our kids. On June 3rd, our PTA sponsored a breakfast to recognize all the special Dads we have at Jefferson. Our multipurpose room was decorated with balloons and centerpieces that reflected our theme of Dads being #1! We had vintage vehicles available for Dads to take pictures

with their children. All Dads were invited to have breakfast at school with their kids.

Our PTA Moms served donuts, juice, and coffee to each Dad that attended. It was awesome to see such a great attendance as we had 150+ Dads present at this celebration. Jefferson students were all smiles as they enjoyed breakfast with Dad. Every Dad left school with a bag of Reese's Pieces that had a label attached saying, "We Love Our Dads To Pieces!" We will definitely be celebrating our Dads next year as we continue to honor parent dedication and support!

Special Education Curriculum Professional Development



The District recently adopted curriculum and provided professional development for teachers who teach the severely handicapped population. Elementary teachers were trained in curriculum for mathematics and language arts. The new curriculum will teach our students the basic skills and knowledge they need to improve reading and the basic math skills needed to be able to complete more complex math problems.

The Secondary Teachers were trained in grade level material that is unique to the students' learning needs. The curriculum for secondary students focuses on middle and high school math content including

algebra, geometry, measurement and data analysis. Students will learn about the world around them through the science curriculum which includes hands-on lessons and experiments. Teachers were also trained in curriculum that teaches about some of the most influential people in American History and how our nation came to be and. Paramount Adult Transition teachers will be introducing new curriculum that addresses math, budgeting, social skills, and the community around them.

The District is excited about the new curriculum adoption and the rigor it will provide for our students.

Good Attendance Counts!

Students usually begin each new school year with excitement and enthusiasm. The anticipation of new classes, new friendships and renewing old friendships provides real motivation for daily attendance at school during those first few weeks.

Unfortunately, after a brief time, some students become careless about regular attendance. According to a recent California Department of Education report, California is facing an attendance crisis. Approximately 83,000 California elementary children missed 10% or more of the school year. Missing a few classes does not seem to be a big "deal" to some students. Sometimes it might seem insignificant to parents as well. However, regular attendance at school is important for every student. It is difficult for young students to learn if they are not in class. Just as we can never regain a moment of time wasted, the child who misses a day of school also misses a day of education that can-

not be retrieved. Indeed, all research shows that those children who attend school regularly are more likely to be successful during their school years. First grade students with 9 or more absences are two times more likely to drop out of high school than their peers who attend school regularly.

Schools in the Paramount Unified School District work hard to ensure students and parents understand the importance of good attendance. Attendance in the District is regularly monitored and monthly incentive rewards are provided to students who maintain perfect attendance. Interventions and support is provided to those students who are chronically absent or truant from school.

Students should attend school every day, unless illness or emergency prevents them from doing so. Please encourage your children to attend school and actively participate in the learning opportunities provided in their classroom.

**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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Buena Vista's Eagle in the Spotlight



At the California Continuation Education Association's annual state conference last spring, Buena Vista's very own Edith Sedano was the recipient of the District VII "Classified Employee of the Year." Edith is an integral member of the successful office team at Buena Vista. As the administrative assistant, Edith has to wear many hats each day; however, it is a challenge that she is well-equipped to handle. At the conference, Edith was asked to facilitate a round-table discussion for classified employees. She successfully tackled such topics as: working in small schools, organizational systems, technology, and customer service.

To earn the prestigious award, Edith was nominated and selected from of

a pool representing various continuation schools throughout Los Angeles County. Edith is known for her friendly demeanor and ability to multi-task. She finds inspiration in the success of the students. In her words, "Knowing that our students are working so hard to graduate is something that motivates me. I want to encourage them to reach their goals, and part of my daily job is to support the administrators and teachers in educating our students. I love working at Buena Vista High School!"

The entire school community celebrates Edith's accomplishment and is proud that the school is in the spotlight due to its exemplary employees. We are thrilled that Edith can serve as a role model to the students and we thank her for her dedicated service.

Pirate Athletics

The 2014-2015 school year has started at Paramount High School. The Athletic Department is excited about the upcoming seasons. Fall sports is off and running and football, boys water polo, boys and girls X-Country, girls volleyball, and girls tennis are hard at work preparing for the upcoming San Gabriel Valley League seasons. The Pirates hope to accomplish a goal of having every team qualify for the CIF playoffs.

The football team appears to be strong again and will compete for their fourth consecutive San Gabriel Valley League Championship. With good skill position players and a big offensive and defensive line the Pirates will be a major contender in November. Boys water polo is much improved and looks to finish in the top three of league in order to qualify for the playoffs. Boys and girls X-Country is one of the better programs in the San Gabriel Valley League and the team is poised to return to the CIF playoffs in 2014. With a number of excellent

runners returning on both the boys and girls side this season could be a special one. Girls tennis is always a playoff contender and this year will be no different. With boys coach Josephina Felix taking over the girls program, this year's team will also compete for a league championship. Girls' volleyball enters league play with a new coach, Diana Madrigal, for the first time in ten years. Former head coach Anna Yasuhara has been promoted to an administrative position at the high school. With a new identity the girls hope to continue their success of past years.

On behalf of the athletic department, faculty, and administration Pirate athletics is looking forward to another outstanding sports year. Our programs have worked hard throughout the summer and are ready to compete at the highest level. We invite the entire community to come out and watch our teams compete.

GO PIRATES!!

Superintendent's Message:

We are happy to welcome our students and families back from the summer break for what will be an exciting 2014-15 school year. Overarching our work in the Paramount Unified School District is that of ensuring that we continue to hold steadfast on our first priority of raising student achievement, toward the ultimate goal of preparing our students for College and Career.

An important part of this preparation is our focus on the Common Core State Standards. I agree with the statement that says, the Common Core provides students with the high standards and the rigorous education they deserve. Embracing the standards can turn our classrooms into engaging, thought-provoking environments that foster a lifetime love of learning, a college admissions letter and a 21st-century job with competitive pay. We don't know what tomorrow's jobs will be, but we do know that our future depends on a strong workforce and today's schools have to prepare our children to be part of it. Building critical thinking and problem solving skills that can be applied in any situation are vital. That's the idea behind the Common Core standards and an important part of preparing our students for College and Career.

In support of College and Career, I am pleased to share that we are partnering with State Senator Ricardo Lara to present the 22nd Southeast College Conference, which will be held at Paramount High School on Saturday, October 4, 2014 beginning at 9 a.m.

The event kicks off with Senator Lara welcoming participants and a keynote speaker who will help inspire our students to pursue their dreams. Participants can then select from a variety of workshops where they will learn about the application process, financial aid, test taking and scholarship opportunities, among others. Parents will also learn about these processes with their kids and also have an opportunity to network with parents who have kids in college now. Participants end the day with a free lunch and individual meetings with recruiters from colleges and universities. To add to the excitement, lap top computers will be given away as part of a raffle.

Pre-Registration to the event is not required, although you are encouraged to RSVP your attendance by calling Senator Lara's Representative, Ms. Julia Svetlana Juarez at (323) 277-4560.

2014 Summer Bridge

Paramount High School West Campus played host to over 400 incoming ninth grade students during their six week Summer Bridge program. Students attended classes Monday through Thursday for three hours a day.

According to Principal Mr. Kofsareff, students were invited to attend Summer Bridge based on their academic needs revealed from their eighth grade assessment data. All students had a class in mathematics to prepare them for Algebra 1 and an English class to build a foundation for Language Arts 1 in the fall. At the

end of the Summer Bridge program, students were able to earn five elective credits toward their high school graduation requirements.

Additionally, students completed their fall registration process as part of Summer Bridge and received their first pirate identification card. Furthermore, students were able to sign up for a variety of athletic classes offered in the summer. Students in summer sports crossed over from the West Campus to the Senior Campus following their Summer Bridge classes and earned five physical education credits.

WALKING SAFELY

These student safety guidelines were developed by Paramount Unified School District. Please review the following safety precautions with your children:

- Do not speak to strangers.
- Do not walk alone, particularly in isolated areas not intended for walking, especially along the railroad tracks.
- Use the appropriate dismissal gates, ones where there is supervision.
- Walk in areas where you can be seen by others.
- Travel in groups whenever possible.
- 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.

Please remind your children to be careful and constantly aware of their surroundings.

Early Childhood Education

A preschool education helps set the stage for school success in the future. Children learn some of the fundamental skills in preschool that are needed later on to be able to read, write, use reasoning, and problem solving. Enrollment is still available at some of the preschool sites for the 2014-15 school year. Please see information below, and contact the Early Childhood Education Office for more information.

Paramount Unified School District Early Childhood Education		
Preschool (California State Preschool Program)	Part-Day Sessions	Enrollment Location
Eligibility	Based on family income and size.	Early Childhood Education Office, 7340 E. Jackson St. Paramount, CA (562) 602-6900.
Ages	3 to 4 years old. Priority given to 4 year olds.	
Session	3.5 hours	
State Preschool Sites	Keppel School Mokler School Wirtz School	Please bring proof of family income (i.e. check stubs).

Elida Garcia
Program Director

New Era in Adult Education Begins

If you haven't already, you're soon going to start hearing the name "Tri City AEC" around town and around our region.

What is Tri City AEC, and where did it come from? Where is it going, and why?

"AEC" stands for Adult Education Consortium, and "Tri City" stands for Compton, Lynwood, and Paramount. These three adult schools—along with El Camino College Compton Center—comprise the consortium that has been formed as a result of recent state legislation. Assembly Bill 86 (AB86) established the consortium provisions while also providing monies to meet the planning requirements for over 70 regional consortia across the state. These provisions call for representatives from K-12 school districts and community colleges to plan and develop recommendations to improve adult education.

And that's exactly what representatives from each of the four schools and associated partners have been doing since last fall. While getting to know each other, members completed the required steps and documentation to be awarded our share of the planning funds. Meetings were at first held monthly, and now weekly. Student and commu-

nity needs have started to be analyzed. Gaps in educational services have been identified. Outreach to local business leaders and other educational providers has begun. Plans to leverage resources, expertise, and partnerships are taking shape. The focus of the effort is not just education—but education that leads to high demand, high paying careers, with seamless progression from K-12 to community college and/or the workforce. All of this will in turn strengthen our communities...our families, our businesses, our tax base, our lives.

This planning phase runs through next spring. The written plan will be made widely available throughout our region upon completion. Along with the other plans from across California, this effort will guide adult education funding from school year 2015-16 and thereafter.

As the planning and implementation process moves forward, your input as community members, potential students, business leaders, and educators will be vital. We'll be working together to create and bring to life a vision for improving our community through education and workforce development. Thank you beforehand for your contributions. We look forward to working with and for you.

Reminder to Fill Out Your Student Meal Benefits Application

The Student Nutrition Services Department encourages all families who have students enrolled in Paramount schools to complete a new 2014-2015 meal benefits application. A new meal benefits application must be filled out each new school year. Families only need to fill out one family application even if they have children at more than one school. Your student's current lunch/breakfast pin number will continue to

work in the 2014-15 school year, whether they stay at the same school or transfer to another Paramount school.

A Meal Benefits Application can be obtained and filled out at your child's school site. School meal benefits are offered to all families who qualify. If you have any questions or need assistance in completing the application, please contact Student Nutrition Services at 562-602-6031.

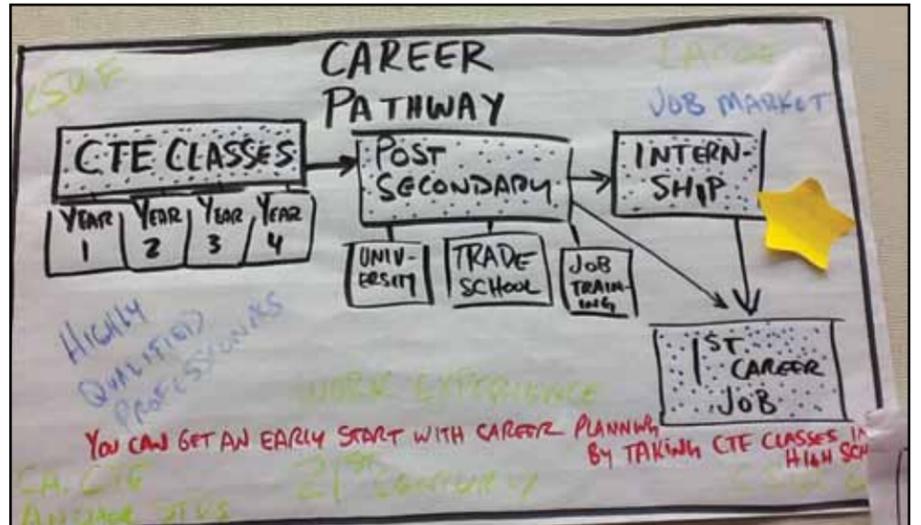
Over 250 Teachers Participate in Professional Learning in August

This summer an unprecedented number of teachers in the Paramount Unified School District (PUSD) participated in professional development to learn new approaches for teaching writing, Language Arts and mathematics. The pictures below show some of

the 250 teachers who participated in one of the many professional learning sessions that were provided by the district in August. PUSD strives to provide high quality professional development to support academic initiatives.



High school teachers learn how to use Thinking Maps to teach students how to organize their ideas for note taking and writing.



This example of a Flow Map shows how students can organize ideas around a specific topic. The purpose of the Flow Map is to show sequencing.



Elementary school teachers learn new approaches for teaching writing using the District's writing program, Write from the Beginning.

Report any suspicious behavior to school authorities and the

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