

**FREE**

# School News



*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Paramount Unified School District**

Volume 1, Issue 5

June 2017



**Congratulations  
Class of 2017!**

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7340 E. Jackson St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-6900 • www.paramount.k12.ca.us



**Dr. Elida Garcia**  
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**Bringing the Curriculum to Life**

The preschool curriculum covered the topic of transportation and the preschoolers took it to heart. Students learned about the different transportation vehicles in the categories of land, air, and water. Families created collages of transportation types for their monthly family project. The class at Gaines State Preschool made a 3-D mural of transportation in the community. Students worked together to make



cardboard replicas of train and rocket ship in the preschool classes at Wirtz. At Hollydale Preschool, the families made their own transportation vehicles out of cardboard boxes and the children put on a parade to showcase their creations. Everyone had such fun designing their own vehicles while learning about transportation.

**School News**

Education + Communication = A Better Nation  
www.schoolnewsrollcall.com  
Covering the  
**PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com  
**ADVERTISING SALES:**  
562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063  
**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:** Katie Caress  
**COPY EDITORS:**  
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia  
**Netragrednik** by Neta Madison



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562/493-3193  
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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



As we say goodbye to another school year, I want to thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. Congratulations to the Class of 2017 and to their parents and loved ones who supported, encouraged and often sacrificed to make sure

they succeeded. Thank you to the dedicated educators who care deeply about our future generations and continue to educate themselves to be better educators. Thank you to the volunteers and community as a whole. Our next issue is August 23. Have a wonderful summer.



**Be Part of the Largest National Study on Brain Development and Child Health at UCLA!**

The **Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study** will enroll 10,000+ healthy children and follow them for 10 years from ages 9 to 10 into early adulthood to understand how children's experiences affect brain development and other aspects of their lives - including academic achievement, social development, and behavioral and overall health.



Receive up to \$300 for your time participating in the study. Kids can also get a picture of their brain!



**What will participants do?**

There are 1-2 visits in the first year. During these visits, you and your child will be asked to complete interviews and questionnaires, play iPad games, give saliva samples, and undergo a safe, non-invasive MRI scan!

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**Phone:** (310) 794-0089  
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**For more info, visit:**  
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**FREE Summer Classes at El Camino College Compton Center!**

**Free college classes available to eligible high school juniors and seniors!\***

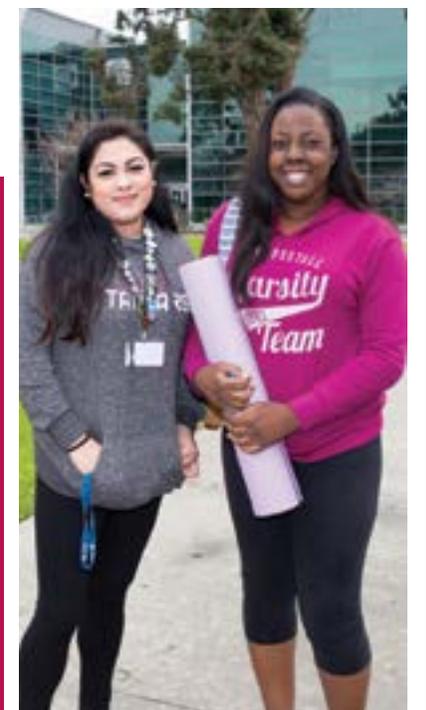
Earn college credits while still in high school!

**Two summer sessions to choose from:**  
Six- and eight-week sessions begin Monday, June 19

Eligible high school juniors and seniors must apply online and submit a Concurrent Enrollment Application. For more information visit [www.compton.edu/free](http://www.compton.edu/free).



\*Enrollment fees are waived for California residents.



**El Camino College**  
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Apply online today at  
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# Superintendent

On April 5, about 1,300 of our high school juniors took the SAT. As I watched them embrace the challenge of the test it brought me great pride to know that each of them had been given the tools they needed to perform well. Paramount Unified School District spent \$75,000 to provide PSATs for our students during the fall, ensuring they would be prepared for the SAT, and we also waived the \$43 registration fee for this week's test. This is simply one more way we are attempting to remove barriers that would keep students from achieving their dreams. We'll continue to pursue ways that allow our children to be their absolute best as they pursue college and careers.

Speaking of empowering our students, I'm pleased to announce that our Paramount High School freshmen students will be greeted with new Google Chromebook laptops this month as a part of our new tech implementation plan. This is the first step in a plan that will provide a personal technology device to every student in grades 3-12 by 2020.



**Dr. Ruth Pérez**  
Superintendent

El día 5 de abril, alrededor de 1,300 de nuestros estudiantes del onceavo grado tomaron el examen del SAT. Conforme yo los observe aceptando el reto del examen me llene de orgullo de saber que cada uno de ellos se les dio la preparación que necesitaban para realizar un buen trabajo. El Distrito Escolar Unificado de Paramount gastó \$75,000 para proveer el examen PSAT para todos nuestros estudiantes durante el otoño, asegurándonos que estuvieran preparados para el examen SAT, y también no se les cobró el costo de \$43 por tomar el examen de esta semana.

Esto es simplemente una manera más que estamos intentando de remover barreras que puede impedir que nuestros estudiantes logren sus sueños. Vamos a seguir buscando maneras que se les permita a nuestros hijos ser absolutamente lo mejor conforme continúan hacia el colegio y carreras.

Hablando de empoderar a nuestros estudiantes, me da placer en anunciar que nuestros estudiantes del noveno grado de la Preparatoria Paramount serán presentados con computadoras portátiles Google Chromebook este mes, como parte de nuestro nuevo plan de implementación de tecnología. Este es el primer paso en el plan que les proveerá un dispositivo de tecnología personal a cada estudiante de los grados del 3o – 12o para el año 2020.



Nuestro compromiso en fortalecer una cultura de preparación para ir al colegio llevó a nuestro Distrito en recaudar más de \$80,000 dólares en marzo para la Asociación de Educación de Paramount (PEP), que provee becas para los estudiantes de Paramount.

Tuvimos una recaudación de marzo de locura para recaudar fondos, quien observó a las escuelas compitiendo entre ellas para una impactante causa. Mientras la secundaria Jackson salió por encima de todas las escuelas, los verdaderos ganadores son nuestros jóvenes triunfadores quién beneficiarán del apoyo de la comunidad.

Me gustaría darle las gracias a la Ciudad de Paramount y la Cámara de Comercio de Paramount por el esfuerzo de colaboración para PEP. La asociación es un recordatorio que todo lo que logramos para nuestros estudiantes en PUSD se puede lograr como equipo.



Our commitment to strengthening our culture of college preparedness led our District to raising more than \$80,000 in March for the Paramount Education Partnership (PEP), which provides scholarships to Paramount students. We held a district-wide March Madness fundraiser, which saw schools competing against one another for an impactful cause. While Jackson Middle School came out on top, the real winners are our young achievers who will benefit from the support of our community.

I would like to thank the City of Paramount and the Paramount Chamber of Commerce for the collaborative effort on PEP. The partnership is a reminder that all we accomplish for our students at PUSD we achieve as a team.

## Alondra Middle School

16200 S. Downey Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8004 • <http://alondra-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



**Carolynn Butler**  
Principal

### Inclusion and Independence

April is National Autism Awareness Month. As a result, the Alondra Middle School Special Education Department dedicated April 10 through April 14 as their second annual Autism Awareness "Light It Up Blue" week.

Each day during the morning announcements our students were given information about Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Throughout the week our teachers wore a blue ribbon as a sign of support. They also taught their students about the puzzle piece that symbolizes ASD. They explained how a puzzle piece reflects the mystery and complexity of the disability, and that although every piece is different, so are the individuals with this disorder.



The students then completed a special 5"x 8" puzzle piece that revealed their own individual persona. Once all of the puzzle pieces had been submitted to the office, they were then put together and hung all around the campus.

Our educators also participated in a door decorating contest. Staff members were encouraged to represent what Autism Awareness has meant to them and their classrooms. During lunch, mini "Special Olympics" relays were also held with our moderate/severe population and general education students.

As the week came to an end, our Alondra staff, special education services, and district superintendents all demonstrated their solidarity in support of Autism Awareness by wearing an "AMS Supports Autism Awareness" shirt. Alondra is embracing a new perspective to educate its students and staff members about inclusion and independence for all individuals.



## Buena Vista High School

3717 Michelson St., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/602-8090 • <https://bvhs-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



**Morrie Kosareff**  
Principal

### College/Career Fair

In March, Buena Vista High School hosted its third annual College and Career Fair. Students rotated through three rooms of presenters and an open area with 11 booths featuring our community partners. All of Buena Vista's students were able to attend, participate, and open their minds to the possibilities that await them upon graduating high school.

In the first room, Cerritos College, El Camino College and Downey Adult School representatives spoke to students about financial assistance, how to apply to the schools, and the various programs their schools offer. In the second room, a representative from the local fire department, a Paramount Unified School District nurse, and a doctor from Charles Drew University spoke with students about different career paths in the medical field. Lawrence Black from Charles Drew University also gave an inspiring speech to students about following their own path. In the third room, radio personality Big Pee Wee from KJLH Radio discussed how to enter the music industry, and a parole officer discussed how to enter the law-enforcement field.

Outside in the open area, students circulated and visited various booths of their choosing. The booths featured representatives from the Army, Air Force, Marines, Long Beach City College, EL Camino College, Cerritos College, Paramount Parks and Recreation, LA County Sheriff, a probation office, a beauty college and a dental-assistant-training school. Throughout the fair, students gained information that they are using to formulate their two-year-post-high-school plan.

The event was a great success thanks to the hard work of Sharon Bryant, Buena Vista's College and Career counselor, and the community and district support that she received. Next year, Buena Vista hopes to grow the event and include more local business representatives.



## Collins Elementary

6125 Coke Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/602-8008 • <http://collins-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



### Cutting-Edge Changes

The 2016–17 school year has been a time of continuous improvement and upgrades at the Collins campus. Changes in the campus buildings in addition to improved schoolwide technology systems have helped update the learning environment.

To begin the school year, major renovations to the campus were made, including a redesigned main office and upgraded exterior lighting. The new main office provides more space for visitors and a widened hallway for compliance with the American Disabilities Act. Additionally, the renovated space provides a separate area for students who may be ill. The lighting around campus has been upgraded to LED lights that are operated on sensors to decrease our carbon footprint and protect the environment.

Another major upgrade was an improved public-address system that allows the staff to make announcements schoolwide, both inside and outside classrooms. With this improved system, general school announcements have been easier to manage, and communication is greatly improving across campus. Additionally, the systems include a new bell system and digital clocks in every classroom. Bells

are programmed to ring only in certain areas of campus to minimize distractions to students' learning.

Across campus, the Internet servers and access points have increased connectivity. With this upgrade, each class is able to successfully use technological resources to improve learning for students. Teachers at every grade level received new iPads and Apple TVs to use for classroom instruction, and their projectors were mounted to the ceilings. The enhanced classroom setup has allowed teachers to engage with students while using technology in the areas of math, language arts and other content areas.

Our latest renovations include demolishing an older building in preparation for a safe drop-off zone for students on the Allington Street side of the school. By creating a designated drop-off zone, the school will no longer need to use one of its parking lots for ingress and egress and can work to improve traffic patterns around the school.

Last, the library was remodeled during spring break, and nearly 500 new books were purchased based on student recommendations. Redesigning shelving layout and adding new carpet created an open area for students to engage in reading and increase literacy, both independently and in group settings.

Collins Colts are on the move, and improving our infrastructure is just one of many ways that our school is galloping ahead into a bright future!

## Gaines Elementary

7340 E. Jackson St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8012 • <https://gaines-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



### On Stage

On April 28, Wesley Gaines School was proud to present their first musical, *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

Through song and dance, our third-grade GATE students displayed their amazing talents as they acted out the scenes of this familiar tale. From the moment the curtains opened, the audience was thrilled as the entire cast sang the theme song, "This is a Story about a Boy Named Jack." The excitement continued as each scene followed with colorful costumes and delightful songs about the characters.

discovered their hidden talents.

Third-graders Andrew Llamas and Brian Palacios shared that they were both a bit afraid to sing until they volunteered to be in the play. With practice and support from Ms. Bishop and Ms. Pettygrove, Andrew amused us all as he climbed and sang his way up the beanstalk. Brian played the part of the Giant, and he became quite the star as he roared his famous, "Fee, Fi, Fo, Fum!"

As we close out the school year, the entire Gaines community feels so proud of its amazing student performers. We now look forward to next year, as we continue to build the magic of musical theater at Wesley Gaines.



Under the direction of third-grade teacher Ms. Annaliese Bishop, and music teacher Miss Lisa Pettygrove, the performance was a tremendous success. Through weeks of rehearsals, we witnessed every child grow in confidence as they



## Hollydale K-8

5511 Century Blvd., South Gate, CA 90280 • 562/602-8016 • <http://hollydale-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



### Read to Achieve with the LA Clippers

The Los Angeles Clippers Read to Achieve contest was a "slam dunk" for the kindergarten through fifth-grade students at Hollydale School. This spring, nearly 100 Los Angeles County schools participated in the Read to Achieve contest, but it was the Hornets who clutched the championship title! On April 6, alumni Clipper Lamond Murray visited Hollydale to recognize students

for reading over 500,000 minutes. Along with students Abraham Nuno and Noah Posadas, Murray read *Stone Soup* to the elated crowd.

In addition to a great story, students also received free Clippers T-shirts and books!

All-star reader Noah Posadas was acknowledged at the Community Kids Awards Night at the STAPLES Center, hosted by the Clippers on March 29. Noah won the first-place title for being

the top first-grade reader in the county, having read a whopping 2,096 minutes! As a reward for his achievement, Noah received courtside game tickets, a backpack filled with books, and a Clipper's T-shirt, and he was able to participate in the activities on the court to honor Read to Achieve winners before the Clippers took on the Wizards. Additionally, our own English language arts coach, Maria Lopez, was one of two Tobi's Heroes recognized during halftime on the court for her professionalism and commitment to the community.

Reading continues to be "all the buzz" for the Hollydale Hornets!



## Jackson Middle School

7220 E. Jackson St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8020 • <https://jackson-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



### Living Wax Museum!

This past April, our sixth-through-eighth-grade Knights traveled through time as they prepared for and presented the annual Jackson School Wax Museum. Students spent several weeks preparing for the evening. Their assignment consisted of selecting a historical leader to research, write about, and personify during this wonderful event.

As always, Jackson families turned out to support our students' hard work and creativity. Students dressed as their historical figures presented the speeches of just some of the religious leaders, political activists and

government reformers who have shaped the history of the world.

"Now I can say I have met kings and queens!" one parent said. "I had a wonderful time!"

"Our students have worked so hard on their projects," social studies teacher Sandra Gonzalez

said. "It's wonderful to see the support we get from the Jackson community for this event every year."



## Jefferson *Elementary*

8600 Jefferson St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8024 • <http://jefferson-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



**Kelly Williams**  
*Principal*

### Travel the World through Books!

At Jefferson School, we know that reading is a journey that all students should enjoy. Because our children's minds often travel to various places while they read, we created a Reading Passport Program that helps to support those adventures.

Kindergartners through second-graders have a passport that looks much like a game board. Each step is worth 10 minutes of reading, and needs to be signed off by their parent or teacher. When they reach 60 minutes of reading, they turn in their passports to the librarian for a stamp and "Jefferson" dollars. When they fill up the entire passport, they then turn it in and receive a book, a bookmark, and an ice cream certificate from the ELA coach.

Grades three through five have more complex passports that require more reading. Grade three has 20-minute



spaces, and grades four and five have 30-minute spaces. These grade levels also receive a stamp as they journey through their passports.

However, they also have a spot for "layovers." These boxes are reserved for reflection sheets that they fill out about the book they are reading. The upper-grade students also receive a book, a bookmark, and an ice cream certificate upon completion.

Our teachers love the program, because when the students turn in their passports for stamps, their classes are also awarded reading-minute points. Each grade level competes to see which class can accumulate the most points in the eight-to-twelve-week window. The winning class in each grade level also receives extra library time, usually in the form of a movie.

The classes are strongly motivated to read in order to earn the class incentives. The movie that is earned is usually connected to a book that was read, which adds an extra level of motivation. The Reading Passport Program is another success for our Jefferson Jaguars!

## Lincoln *Elementary*

15324 S. California Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8036 • [www.lincoln-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com](http://www.lincoln-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com)



**Dr. Topekia Jones**  
*Principal*

### Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead!

Lincoln School's 2nd Annual Family S.T.E.A.M. Night was another tremendous success! Held on April 27, the event featured 15 different stations where over 300 attendees explored science, technology, engineering, art, and math (S.T.E.A.M.) with amazing hands-on activities!

Highlights included Do-It-Yourself Lava Lamps, Glow in the Dark Keychains, and MinecraftEDU, an educational version of



the popular video game. Paramount Pet Entertainment provided a reptile encounter for families, showcasing boas, tortoises, and skinks! Oh, my! Lakeshore Learning was on hand with S.T.E.A.M. kits, such as Design & Play Planes and Create-a-Chain Reaction, for children to explore. Students also made tiny robots called Bristlebots and fired Air Cannons! The evening concluded with an egg-citing Egg Drop Contest and fabulous raffle prizes.

Thank you to Lincoln teachers, volunteers, PTA, students, and families for an extraordinary night of learning and fun!



## Keppel *Elementary*

6630 Mark Keppel St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8028 • <http://keppel-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



**Delores Stephens**  
*Interim Principal*

### Rock the Test

Here at Mark Keppel Elementary School, we spent the month of April busily preparing our third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students for this year's Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). On April 14, our young Pumas, along with our teachers and staff, participated in a Rock the Test pep rally.

The rally focused on motivating students to develop positive attitudes about testing.

We stressed the importance of having the right mindset and a healthy amount of perseverance. We also reviewed specific test-taking strategies. Teachers discussed

stress-reduction tips to use before and during the test, strategies to answer questions with confidence, and tips on preparing the night before the test. An original song about test taking and confidence building was sung, and Ms. Soto's fourth-grade class performed a flash-mob dance. Treats and rewards were handed out to students who could correctly identify strategies that were previously discussed.

The students and teachers left enthusiastic and pumped up about the tests. We also informed all students and teachers of about our SBAC incentives, which were earned for effort as well as attendance.

## Los Cerritos *Elementary*

14626 Gundry Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8040 • <http://loscerritos-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



**Hilda Verdugo**  
*Principal*

### A "PEP-Y" Reason to Party!

Los Cerritos School put itself into full fund-raising mode with our first annual silent raffle to raise funds for Paramount High School's senior scholarships. Teachers and school staff generously donated either a monetary gift in the form of a gift basket or service item in the form of a fun-filled party. The students responded with overwhelming excitement to the tune of \$2,100.

Each day at lunch time the students dropped into Room 1, the official raffle room, to peruse the selection of items up for raffle. A single dollar purchased two tickets, which the students were then able to place in the bucket of their

choice. "I have to win the Pie in the Face Showdown game because I've got all my tickets there," said fourth-grader Dwayne Ross.

To build excitement, different items were raffled off each day, starting with a "Be an NDA for a Day" prize with our favorite, Ms. Jayne. There was also a princess party with Ms. Sandra,

"Be the Boss for a Day" with Mrs. Verdugo, and the ever-tempting Barbeque Party hosted by our chef extraordinaire and custodian, Mr. Elbert.

In fact, second-grader Adrian Perez recently exclaimed, "I put in 20 tickets for Mr. Elbert's Barbeque, and I am hungry to win it!"

The two weeks of party fulfillment came fast. The children scurried around to various classrooms during scheduled party times to partake in activities like the Weird Science Party, Dance Party, Game-On Video Party, Ice Cream Party, Magic Party, and the final Get Soaked Water Balloon Party.

A great time was had by all. It was fun to party our way to "PEP'n up" our scholarships for our out-going seniors!



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## Mokler *Elementary*

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**Linh Roberts**  
*Principal*

### What Do You Want to Be?

*By Ayanna Holland, School Counselor*

Mokler Elementary School students are preparing for successful futures by thinking about what they want to be when they grow up. With the help of our dedicated teachers and counselor, students discussed the importance of going to college by participating in several activities to increase college and career awareness.

Each classroom adopted a university, took a virtual tour of different universities, and interviewed adults about their college experiences. Students took time during recess to sign the college-bound banners. The week ended with all fifth-grade students touring El Camino College. Students were encouraged to wear college attire throughout the year and even came dressed in the attire of the careers their colleges would prepare them for.

In addition, 240 Mokler students

participated in a career-interest activity. We asked students what they want to be when they grow up and developed a chart that shows the percentages of students interested in each career path. The Mokler Pilots are on their way to becoming future doctors, nurses, athletes, business owners, lawyers, mayors, singers, computer software creators, police officers, teachers, and much more.

The Pilots are truly soaring to success!



## Paramount *Adult School / Community Day School*

14507 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8080 • <http://www.paramount.k12.ca.us/schools/adulted/index.html>



**Jerry King**  
*Principal*

### Becoming a U.S. Citizen

Hermelinda Mancilla has dreamed for many years of becoming a citizen of the United States. With the help of the Paramount Adult School, her family, and a lot of hard work, her dream finally came true in March.

One of Hermelinda's brothers became a citizen quite some time ago, and through him she had become a permanent resident. But as Hermelinda raised a family and worked nearby, she continued to dream. "I wanted a better future for me and my family," she said recently, "I wanted something better than just working in a warehouse." This is especially since she had already studied nursing in her native country of Mexico.

And so she applied for citizenship. Meanwhile, Hermelinda began taking citizenship and ESL classes at the Adult School. Seven long months later, the date for her interview with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly known as the INS) arrived. "I was nervous," she said, "but I just kept studying my 100 questions."

She waited in line outside of the building for an hour, and then 40 minutes in the office itself. Instead of 10

questions as she expected, the officer only asked her about 7 or 8. All of these details she shared with her classmates in her citizenship class on March 29 when she visited them. Everyone listened very closely, and there were smiles all around — and cake at the end, too!

Now it's time for her next step to study being a medical assistant at the Adult School, and launch her career in health care. "If you want to do something, you can," she concluded. What great advice for all of us, and from someone who is a living example of dreaming and achieving.



### Robotics Challenge

In early March, the students from Paramount Park's Robotics Club participated in their very first VEX Robotics Competition at the University of Southern California.

**Kevin Longworth**  
*Principal*

The students competed in five different skills

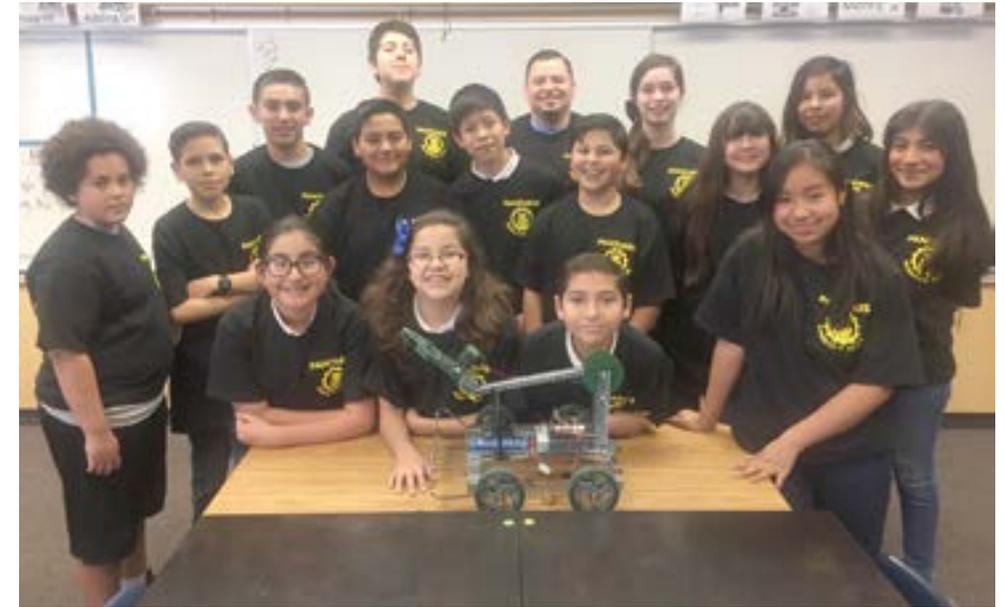
challenges that day, with a different student driving the robot each time. After each challenge, the students went back to their station and discussed what improvements, if any, should be made before the next event, and what changes the "engineers" needed to make to the robot.

There were 19 middle and high school teams participating in the day's events, many of which had been working on their robots throughout the entire school year.

## Paramount Park *Middle School*

14608 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8052 • <http://p-park-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>

Although this was their first attempt ever with a robot that was completed and programmed just a few short days prior to the event, our students were not intimidated. They definitely competed with a growth mindset! Way to go, Panthers!



## Paramount *High School - Senior Campus*

14429 S. Downey Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-6067 • <http://phs-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com>



**Dr. Damon Dragos**  
*Interim Principal*

### AP Studio Art

Over the course of the last decade, Paramount High School has increased the number of administered College Board Advanced Placement (AP) tests by nearly 1,500, and over 1,900 tests were administered this spring.

In the 2015–2016 school year, over 1,500 AP tests were taken in the following subject areas: Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Computer Science, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Microeconomics, Physics, Spanish Language and Culture, Spanish Literature and Culture, United States Government and Politics, United States History, and European History.

AP Statistics will be added in 2017–2018. Other course offerings added this school year included AP World History, AP Human Geography, and AP Studio Art: Drawing.

Mr. Juan Navarro, teacher and member of our Visual and Performing Arts Department, now offers AP Studio



**Junior AP Studio Art Drawing student, Noah Endo**

Art: Drawing. In this class, each student prepares a portfolio that includes five tangible submissions that demonstrate understanding of concept, composition, and execution. Additionally, students also learn to submit digital images to the College Board, and have to include 24 individually produced works of art. Twelve digital submissions focus attention on one art concentration to indicate an in-depth exploration of a particular drawing concern or sustained investigation.

AP Studio Art students worked diligently throughout the school year to fulfill the College Board AP submission requirements. Their impressive art work was also on display during Open House for our students and families to enjoy. The artists' passion for their craft is evident, and their talent is exemplified by their countless hours of dedication, including extraordinary recognition in local art contests.

On May 5, AP Studio Art senior Rebeka Martinez won first place in the Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard Student Art Competition. This was alongside Noah Endo and LeAna Perez, who earned second and fourth place respectively. Way to go, Pirate artists!

## Paramount High School - West Campus

14708 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8073 • <http://pchs-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/WestCampus>



**Elizabeth Salcido**  
Principal

### Roll Out the Chromebooks!

Technology makes learning possible anytime, anywhere. In April, West Campus Pirates received their Chromebooks, becoming the first 1:1 school in Paramount Unified School District to receive their devices.

In the following weeks, our students and teachers have been piloting the use of technology in their assignments, lectures and online assessments across the campus. Using their

new devices, students are learning how to collaborate on group projects, research information for primary sources, and turn in assignments with a touch of a button. Students and teachers are excited to move from paper and pencil to digital ink as students learn how to use their touchscreen devices effectively. Students are able to take notes using Office 365 and Google Classroom to complete their tasks.

Through the use of technology and their Chromebooks, the Class of 2020 is preparing for college and career readiness by developing 21st century skills for success in their future plans.



## Roosevelt Elementary

13451 Merkel Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8056 • <http://roosevelt-push-ca.schoolloop.com/>



**Susan Marilley**  
Principal

### Families Meet Science!

This year, Roosevelt's focus has been on providing students and families with opportunities to engage in science activities and to be exposed to the exciting careers available in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

In February, the school hosted the second annual Family STEM Night. Students and parents worked together at hands-on activities designed to test their critical-thinking skills.

In March, a consulting group presented "Faces of Innovation" in which parents and students learned about some of history's most exciting innovations, including flight, design and computer technology.

Later in March, fifth-graders participated in our annual Science Fair. Each student designed and presented an individual science experiment to his or her class. The top five science projects from each class were then selected for presentation to the entire school at Open House Day. The fifth-grade scientists were stationed



in the multipurpose room, where they explained and demonstrated in rotation their experiments to the TK through fifth-grade classes. Afterward, the projects were transferred to the school library where they were judged by Paramount High AP science teacher John Teeple and Whittier High AP science teacher Jim Marilley. Parents and guests enjoyed seeing the projects, and science-fair participants received prizes for their hard work.

In April, the consulting group returned for a second evening of science fun! The focus for this session was "Masters of the Past." Facilitators dressed as Leonardo Da Vinci, Mary Shelley, Ada Lovelace and Sir Isaac Newton, who magically appeared via time machine! Groups were assigned to a scientist who presented information on his or her contributions as the attendees engaged in hands-on culminating activities in rotation. Students about computer programming from Ada Lovelace, engineering from Leonardo Da Vinci, physics from Sir Isaac Newton and DNA extraction from Mary Shelley.

Science is alive and well at Theodore Roosevelt School!

## Tanner Elementary

7210 Rosecrans Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8060 • <https://tanner-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



**Holly Hennessy**  
Principal

### Roaring to Success

At Tanner Elementary, our students are soaring to success by learning the value of hard work and deciding to make good choices each day. The idea is that step-by-step and day-by-day, our students will stay on course and never lose sight of their goals. They also realize that a mistake is okay as long as they can learn from it.

I can only applaud our students' determination (and our teachers' innovative strategies) that motivate them to strive for the wonderful opportunities and rewards that will come when they

decide to achieve and make it happen. Remember: "A" is for Attendance; "B" is for Bedtime; and "C" is for Choices!

As we approach the end of the 2016-2017 school year, I see many smiling faces for a job well done. The students are feeling a sense of pride for their accomplishments, as well as the knowledge that their willingness to take a risk and commit to succeed has paid off.

Whether it was finding a place to study each night and making sure to get enough sleep, or deciding to come to school each day even when they really just wanted to stay in bed — or paying attention to their teacher in class even when recess was near — our students were moving forward and making the choice to succeed.



## Wirtz Elementary

8535 Contreras St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8068 • <http://wirtz-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



**Connie Toscano**  
Principal

### Our Readers are Rewarded

Wirtz Elementary School is rewarding student readers every month. It is one of the many ways in which we promote student literacy at our school. We are determined to encourage our students to read not just to promote learning, but to learn to read for pleasure as well.

Our students are asked to read daily at home and complete a monthly reading log. All students with completed reading logs are then invited to visit the principal's office at the end of the month to select a book of their choice from the numerous titles offered.

Our students are always excited to come

in and select their books. Sometimes it becomes difficult for them to make a final decision between two titles, but that only encourages them to continue reading for next month's reward!

We have many students who have added 10, 20, 30, and up to 40 books to their home libraries since we began this program four years ago. We also encourage the students to recommend titles to add to our selection, because this in



turn motivates them to complete their reading logs. Some of the most popular titles selected by students include *The Magic Tree House*, *Goosebumps*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Junie B. Jones*, and *A-Z Mysteries*.

We are pleased and eager to reward our Wirtz Wizard Readers every month with new and exciting books!



**Sue Saikaly**  
Principal

**Broadening Our Musical Horizons**

On February 16, the Zamboni Middle School Wildcat Music Department had the wonderful opportunity to see the Los Angeles Philharmonic perform at the prestigious Walt Disney Concert Hall. The concert highlighted the ingenious works of contemporary composer John Adams, as well as a host of other composers. Four acclaimed high school composers who took

part in the Nancy and Barry Sanders Composer Fellowship Program had their works premiered by the Los Angeles Philharmonic. This high school fellowship program is open to all music students. Once accepted, the students work with advisors and composers of the LA Phil to orchestrate musical pieces of inspiration. The concert was a huge success, and Zamboni Middle School was able to take 46 students to enjoy the beautiful orchestral works.

Many students were particularly impressed by the high school composers because they are so close in age

to our Zamboni students and able to create such amazing music. "I liked the 'Metro' song because it filled me with great emotions," said seventh-grader and alto saxophonist William Nunez. And Jessica Aguilar added, "'Inferno' was my favorite song because it was so vibrant and passionate."

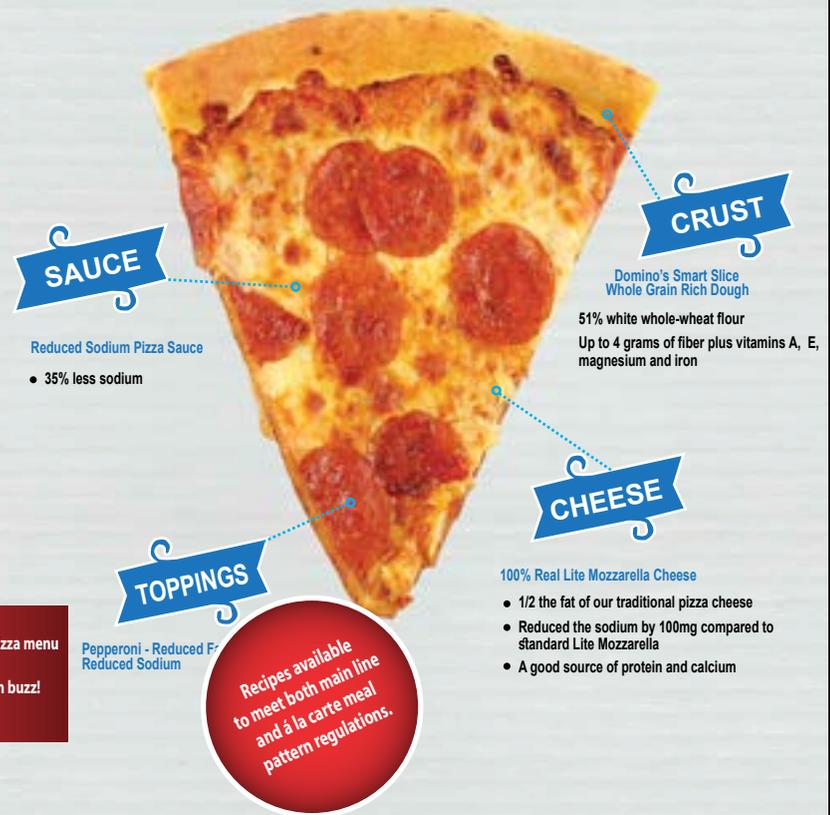
In addition to immersing themselves in the concert, our students marveled at the amazing architecture. The music and experience had a great impact on our students and it was a blessing for them to be a part of the concert.

Mr. Randall Reza, Zamboni's music director, organized the trip, which was made possible thanks to the generosity of the LA Philharmonic Symphonies for Schools program and the support of Paramount Unified School District, the district's Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)/ Visual And Performing Arts (VAPA) curriculum specialist, Karen Sullivan, and the district's director of K-5 schools and innovative programs, Renee Jeffrey. Zamboni Middle School is wholeheartedly appreciative and would like to thank all of the wonderful people who made this trip possible.



**ANATOMY OF A DOMINO'S SMART SLICE**

The Domino's Pizza Smart Slice Program allows you to select the perfect pizzas your students will love. We start by providing the most delicious, yet nutritious dough, cheese, sauce and toppings, designed specifically to meet USDA meal pattern regulations. Since every Domino's Pizza is made fresh to order, each recipe is entirely customizable.



The Domino's Smart Slice line includes many delicious flavors! Rotate them in your pizza menu to drive excitement in your program. Holidays, Spirit Days or just any old Friday are the perfect occasion to give students a taste of something new and start a lunchroom buzz!

**Going Green! Word Search Contest**

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search. When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put Paramount in the subject line)

Entries must be received by July 15, 2017  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game — fun for all ages!

- |              |           |                |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| Carpool      | Future    | Reduce         |
| Compost      | Garden    | Renewable      |
| Conservation | Healthier | Resources      |
| Difference   | Impact    | Respect        |
| Eco Friendly | Low Waste | Responsibility |
| Efficient    | Planet    | Reuse          |
| Emissions    | Process   | Solar          |
| Energy       | Protect   |                |
| Environment  | Recycle   |                |



**Congratulations to:**  
**Hunter York**  
**Winner of our April Contest!**

OFFER ENDS 7/1/17

# The REASONS TO SWITCH

your COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN  
are as clear as A, B, C.

A.

*Get up to \$500 to switch.*

Just for switching, get a little help building up your higher education nest egg.

Balance amount	Bonus
\$10,000 - \$20,000	\$100
\$20,001 - \$30,000	\$200
\$30,001 - \$40,000	\$300
\$40,001 - \$50,000	\$400
\$50,001 +	\$500

B.

*Get a highly-rated plan.*

With ScholarShare, you get a 529 college savings plan that is highly-rated by Morningstar—scoring five out of five across its rating pillars.\*

C.

*Get a broad array of investment choices.*

Choose from 19 investment portfolios, including low-priced age-based portfolios that become more conservative over time.

**Switching to ScholarShare makes sense: great incentives, ratings and investments. Visit [ScholarShare.com/switch](http://ScholarShare.com/switch) today.**



**SCHOLARSHARE**  
529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN

\*ScholarShare has received a Silver rating from Morningstar, making it one of the best-rated plans in the nation. In an annual review (10/25/2016) of the largest 529 college savings plans (63 total), Morningstar identified 33 plans that rose above their typical peers, awarding those plans Gold, Silver, and Bronze Morningstar Analyst Ratings for 2016. These forward-looking, qualitative ratings signal Morningstar's conviction in the plans' abilities to outperform their relevant benchmark and peer groups on a risk-adjusted basis over the long term. Morningstar evaluates college savings plans based on five key pillars — Process, Performance, People, Parent, and Price. For more information about Morningstar's overview of ScholarShare, go to [529.morningstar.com](http://529.morningstar.com). Past performance does not predict future results. Source: [529.morningstar.com](http://529.morningstar.com)



To learn more about the California 529 College Savings Plan, its investment objectives, tax benefits, risks, and costs please see the Disclosure Booklet at [scholarshare.com](http://scholarshare.com). Read it carefully. Check with your home state to learn if it offers tax or other benefits for investing in its own 529 plan. Taxpayers should seek advice from an independent tax advisor based on their own particular circumstances. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed and there is a risk of investment loss. If the money isn't used for qualified higher education expenses, a 10% penalty tax on earnings (as well as federal and state income taxes) may apply. Non qualified withdrawals may also be subject to an additional 2.5% California tax on earnings. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for the California 529 College Savings Plan. 108476