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School News



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Covering the Paramount Unified School District

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February / March 2017

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Covering the
PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!
New beginnings are always filled with hope and excitement of what is to come. Students are focused on their goals, which is evident in the articles in this issue. In fact, you might want to get a comfortable chair and plan to read for awhile. In this issue you will reading about Girls on the Run, Literacy Night, exploring the arts and sciences, the importance of academic standards in tandem with behavioral expectations, learning about colleges, and so much more.

Thank you for your comments when you email your contest entries. Everyone has a vested interest in public education and your involvement

as a parent and member of the community helps strengthen the already strong school district.

Our next issue is April 5.

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Welcome back!

It is great to be back from Winter Break! Our teachers, staff and students have returned to school refreshed by the holiday season and ready to continue all of the fabulous work we started in the fall. As we settle back into the school year, I want to continue to stress to our parents the importance of making sure our kids are striving for perfect attendance. Every day is an opportunity to instill valuable lessons into our students so let's make the most of it as we help our kids build for the future.

Our High School Promise team continues to expand opportunities for our high school students as they inspire college and career preparedness. Our team has now visited four campuses outside of our District this school year, observing classroom techniques and meeting with educators to gain new ideas that we can utilize here at Paramount Unified. We're learning valuable lessons from these visits and also building partnerships throughout the state that will only make our District stronger.

We are continuing to update our facilities and strengthen technology to give our students the best tools possible to succeed. Over the summer, the District installed new Wi-Fi technology at Paramount high school and we have already started upgrading wireless connectivity there. Our community came together in November and voted to pass Measure I, which will allow us to fund further updates and repairs for all of our schools. Approximately 10 percent of the funds raised will go to upgrade technology capacity at the District's 17 campuses and help provide more students with digital tools.

Welcome back! Now let's continue to work together to empower our students and our community.

Paramount Unified School District
15110 California Ave., Paramount, CA 90723
562/602-6000
www.paramount.k12.ca.us

¡Bienvenidos nuevamente!



Dr. Ruth Pérez
Superintendent

¡Es asombroso volver de vacaciones de invierno! Nuestros maestros, personal y estudiantes han regresado a clases recargados de energía después de los días festivos y están listos para continuar todo el fabuloso trabajo que iniciamos en el otoño. A medida que nos adaptamos nuevamente al año escolar, quiero seguir haciendo hincapié a nuestros padres sobre la importancia de asegurarse de que nuestros niños continúen luchando por la asistencia escolar perfecta. Cada día es una oportunidad para inculcar lecciones valiosas a nuestros estudiantes, así que aprovechemos al máximo al enseñarles a nuestros estudiantes a construir el futuro.

Nuestro equipo de Promesa de la Escuela Secundaria continúa expandiendo oportunidades para nuestros estudiantes de secundaria mientras que se inspiran para asistir a la universidad y prepararse para sus carreras. Nuestro equipo ha visitado cuatro planteles fuera de nuestro distrito este año escolar, para observar técnicas de salón de clase y reunirse con educadores para obtener nuevas ideas que podamos utilizar aquí en Paramount. Hemos aprendido lecciones valiosas de estas visitas y además hemos construido vínculos en el estado que ayudara a nuestro distrito a ser más fuerte.

Continuamos actualizando nuestras instalaciones y fortaleciendo la tecnología para dar a nuestros estudiantes las mejores herramientas posibles para tener éxito. Durante el verano, el distrito instaló nueva tecnología Wi-Fi en la Escuela Secundaria Paramount y ya hemos comenzado a actualizar la conexión inalámbrica. Nuestra comunidad se unió en noviembre y voto por la Medida I, que nos proporcionara fondos para reparar nuestras escuelas. Aproximadamente 10 por ciento de los fondos recaudados serán usados para actualizar la tecnología de 17 escuelas del distrito y ayudará a proporcionar más herramientas digitales a nuestros estudiantes.

¡Bienvenidos nuevamente! Ahora continuemos trabajando juntos para capacitar a nuestros estudiantes y a nuestra comunidad.

Alondra Middle School

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



Carolynn Butler
Principal

Which Side are You On?

For the 2016–2017 school year, Alondra Middle School has made a commitment to promote college awareness. In an effort to expose students to local universities, Alondra's Mentor Program held the first annual University

of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and University of Southern California (USC) Spirit Week, preceding the infamous rivals' football game.

Throughout the week, students began the day by hearing either the UCLA or USC fight song, followed by information on both schools and the history of their ongoing rivalry. Students were also encouraged to wear USC and UCLA gear to support their favorite teams.

With a spirit of competitiveness, the Mentor Program held games during lunch, where teachers and students donned



cardinal and blue T-shirts to form two teams. Each day, teams competed in games, including Pop USC Away, which required teams to pop balloons that were tied to the opposing team's ankles; Roll Over UCLA, where teams maneuvered scooters around cones; and Turn Up for Your Team, an obstacle course that concluded with a water-bottle flip challenge. Teams battled back and forth throughout the week. However, in the end, just as on the field, USC prevailed and was named the winner of this year's spirit week.

Buena Vista High School

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



Morrie Kosareff
Principal

Ready For 2017!

As 2017 begins, we at Buena Vista High School are looking forward to many new opportunities. We would like to share some of the highlights with you!

We started off the new year with the opening of a new location for our computer lab. The technology will help our students become better prepared for state testing, college, and life in general. Our ASB

continues to promote a positive school culture with weekly activities that will get the student population more involved. It also looks forward to growing their membership in the Spring semester.

ASB is planning to sponsor some sporting tournaments in the upcoming semester. Our Freagles group provides free trips for students to a campus tour of UCLA, hikes in Palos Verdes, and visits to the Cabrillo Aquarium, El Dorado Nature Center, and the Griffith Park Observatory. The College and Career Center is in full swing too, and also has some exciting events planned such as FAFSA workshops and community college tours.

Buena Vista High looks forward to receiving approximately 40 students from Paramount High School

for the Spring 2017 semester. These students will have the opportunity to catch up on their credits. Many of them will graduate on time! We are also gearing up for state testing this spring. With the addition of a new computer lab and computers for the College and Career Center and Independent Studies program, our students will be well prepared to show their success on the SBAC and CST assessments.

One of our most anticipated events of the Spring semester is our College and Career Fair. Local colleges and businesses are invited to set up booths and make presentations to the students to increase their knowledge of the options available to them after graduation.

And finally, Buena Vista High School will seek renewal of our WASC accreditation, and will be visited by the WASC Accreditation Team at the end of February. The WASC Team will spend three days visiting classrooms and meeting with students, staff, parents, and community members to see all the ways that we are providing our students with a high-quality academic experience.

Buena Vista High School would like to invite you to come and see for yourself all of the wonderful things that are happening at our school. Call us to schedule a visit at any time. This is going to be a great year at Buena Vista!

Collins *Elementary*

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



Scott Law
Principal

Partnering with Families

Each month our Collins staff members conduct parent workshops focused on engaging families in the academic success of their students. The monthly workshops focus on English language arts, math, and science. All of the

workshops use hands-on activities that provide an opportunity for parents, staff, and students to actively interact with the content for each session.

The first session focused on being a pro-active participant in parent-teacher conferences, and empowering parents to become advocates for their students. The school's language arts coach, Dr. Toston-Zeno, led the discussion and provided the attendees with tips on how to be prepared for parent conferences with the information they need to discuss during that time. Additionally, students and parents worked jointly on an art project that required collaborative conversations and parental guidance to help complete the task.



The following month, our parents, teachers, and students gathered for an interactive Literacy Night where participants rotated between project stations to practice a variety of literacy skills. Kindergarten and first-grade students worked on rhyming and sight words in addition to creating written stories and illustrations with their parents. Second- and third-grade student activities focused on comprehension of text as well as poetry writing, while fourth- and fifth-grade activities were geared toward text analysis and finding supporting evidence.

Our parents and students thoroughly enjoyed the activities, and were excited to implement some of them at home. One parent stated, "I was exhausted and didn't feel like staying, but I am glad that I did. I learned so much, and wish all parents were available to participate."

Upcoming sessions will feature activities focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), poetry, literature, and college preparation. Parent workshops are held on select Tuesday evenings each month throughout the school year. Please contact Collins School for more information.

Gaines *Elementary*

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



Michael Naruko
Principal

A Mission to Mars with GATE!

By Annaliese Bishop, Third Grade Teacher and Michael Naruko, Principal

In December, Gaines, Collins and Jefferson GATE students attended a GATE Super Saturday. The theme for the event was "Mission to Mars." Students were introduced to the challenges that engineers and astronauts face when preparing for space travel and life on other planets.

Students learned about the forces of gravity and how special rockets have to be designed to carry passengers and cargo. They also learned about the extreme weather

conditions on other planets and what it would take for human survival. During the event, students were given hands-on experience building and launching rockets, designing solar-powered cars, making electrical circuits, and creating a structure that could withstand the weather conditions of Mars and provide shelter for humans.

Gaines third-grader Danica Araiza especially enjoyed building and launching her rocket and looks forward to the next event. The GATE Super Saturdays have given Paramount GATE students opportunities to explore the arts and sciences through hands-on experiences and collaboration.



Hollydale K-8

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



Lisa Nunley-Macon
Principal

Reading to Achieve

The halls of Hollydale are overflowing with excitement about reading. This may be attributed to our dynamic reading programs, which are designed to develop and nurture a love of reading while simultaneously maturing our students' critical, analytical and comprehension skills.

For example, we kicked off the year with our exciting monthly reading-log program.

Students are encouraged to read each night and record their minutes in their reading logs. The class with the most minutes read from each grade level receives prizes as well as an opportunity to participate in an exciting end-of-year field trip.

Similarly, Hollydale Hornets also participated in the LA Clippers Read to Achieve Program. In this citywide program, students from each grade level who logged in the most minutes they spent reading received cool rewards as well as a chance to compete against other students in Los Angeles County. Students who read the most minutes will receive a visit from the LA Clippers Cheer Squad!

Most recently, Hollydale Hornets participated in our annual Holiday Family Read Night, where over 150

students, along with their families, poured into the halls of Hollydale to celebrate the holiday season through songs, stories, poetry, and arts and crafts. Students received candy canes, cookies, milk and a visit from Old Saint Nick himself!

All of the wonderful reading incentives being offered make it crystal clear that Hollydale Hornets are buzzing with the enjoyment of reading!



Jackson Middle School

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



Kelly Anderson
Principal

Girls On the Run

The Jackson Middle School Lady Knights are on the run! Jackson has partnered with Girls on the Run, a nonprofit organization that sponsors after-school programs. In the fall, this group of fourth- and fifth-grade girls built confidence and positive self-image through health and fitness accomplishments. The group has met twice a week since September for dynamic, conversation-based lessons and running games.

Under the direction of Girls on the Run coaches Gabbie and Lety, our Lady Knights learned about making positive choices, building self-esteem, and challenging themselves to accomplish their goals. The girls practiced on Jackson's new track in preparation for a 5K run on December 11 at Dockweiler State Beach in Playa del Rey.

"We thought it was going to be hard, but we helped each other to keep going," said fifth-grader Briahna Cebreros about completing the 5K.

During their end-of-season celebration, the girls reflected on their time together. Fifth-grader Alyssa Rodriguez shared, "This program taught us how to be nice people and make good choices for ourselves."

According to fourth-grader Iris Moreno Zarinana, "Girls on the Run taught us to be who we want to be."

This group of young ladies has made Leona Jackson School very proud! Way to go, Knights!



Jefferson *Elementary*

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



A Golden Bell Winner

Jefferson has been chosen as one of 56 recipients of the state's leading educational honor, the Golden Bell Award. This award is sponsored by the California School Boards Association.

Kelly Williams
Principal

The award recognizes school programs that are innovative and sustainable, that make a difference for students. Jefferson's model, Growth Mindset is Paramount, was selected as being a program of excellence that will be recognized at an awards ceremony to be held in San Francisco. This model program includes teacher professional development and embracing a Growth Mindset by every person on our campus. Students' academic growth and closing the achievement gap is the driving force behind our model program. Our hope is to instill strategies and knowledge that will motivate students to become life-long learners. Jefferson Elementary is truly an award winning school!



Keppel *Elementary*

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



Pajama Read Night

Mark Keppel held its Pajama Read Night on January 19th. Students had an opportunity to wear their pajamas and snuggle with their favorite stuffed animal as they were read to. Students enjoyed stories about Franklin, a snowbaby, and the biggest snowball ever. As the stories were read our students enjoyed milk and cookies. Once the

Delores Stephens
Interim Principal

students were done listening to the stories, they headed to the cafeteria to enjoy various activities. Students made bookmarks, snowflakes, snowmen puppets, and winter slim. Our parents and PTA were well represented as they assisted our students with their creations. At the end of the event students were able to choose a book to take home. The event was a huge success which was evident by the enthusiasm of our students and parents.



Lincoln *Elementary*

15324 S. California Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8036 • www.lincoln-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com



Dr. Topekia Jones
Principal

When Should Students Learn About College?

When is the appropriate time to teach students about the importance of attending college? This question was posed to the college committee at Lincoln School in an effort to cultivate a systematic way to promote college awareness beyond just wearing a college shirt once a week.

To begin this journey, the committee decided it is important that our students know why they should attend college, and which colleges would help them reach their career goals.

In December, Lincoln School kicked off its first “Adopt a College Day.” On this special day the energy and vibe around college awareness was celebrated by everyone! USC’s fight song played as the Lion mascot came out to celebrate with our students. Adorned in his Trojan attire, he held a basket with the names of the colleges that all of our students will learn about this year.

Each teacher and a student representative were randomly selected to pick the college that will represent their classroom for the 2016–2017 school year. One class per week will be responsible for researching information and then briefly presenting their results during the Monday

morning general assembly. The presentation must include the name of the college/university and where it is located, the college’s colors and mascot, which career majors the college is best known for, the names of well-known graduates from the college, and any other interesting facts.

These weekly college presentations are designed to foster conversations among students and adults about the college experience, and to help reinforce the message that a college degree is an important component of career success. By creating a college-going culture here at Lincoln School, we hope to inspire our students to develop a life-long path towards a higher education that will help them excel in any career they choose.



Los Cerritos *Elementary*

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



Hilda Verdugo
Principal

Take a Ride with the MTSS Team!

The journey toward establishing effective protocols according to a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework requires the organization, alignment and implementation of academic standards in tandem with behavioral expectations in order to accelerate the performance of all students. This integration of Response to Intervention (RTI) academic strategies and Positive Behavioral

Interventions and Supports (PBIS) has become the driving force behind Los Cerritos School’s revamped MTSS team.

The MTSS team at Los Cerritos consists of a balance of academic and behavioral representatives such as the TOSA, RSP teacher, intervention teacher, psychologist, behavior intervention specialist and counselor. The team uses a problem-solving model based on data to address student needs and maximize growth.

The responsibilities of this team involve collecting and analyzing data regarding students whose data indicate that supports beyond Tier 1 classroom instruction and intervention are necessary for their success at school. The team collaborates to ensure the availability of targeted interventions, matches interventions to student needs,

initiates functional behavioral assessments when indicated, and monitors student progress in interventions.

In its initial rollout, the team provided staff with a MTSS road map in the form of a detailed flow map as a guide to the new referral and documentation process. Documentation such as a comprehensive initial referral form, a classroom data collection form and a teacher summary form were presented and augmented based on teacher and team input. A conscientious effort was made for parent input in the form of a formal consent form and a background/meeting invitation.

MTSS meetings are held on a bimonthly basis, with team members responsible for myriad tasks such as scribing necessary background, academic, behavioral and intervention information onto meeting summary forms as well as inputting follow-up meeting dates on a master calendar. In order to ensure fidelity with implementation of interventions, all information from meeting summary forms is inputted onto a master Excel spreadsheet, and copies of meeting summary notes are provided to the classroom teacher and parents as well as placed in an ongoing MTSS CUM file for any upcoming teacher’s reference.

As we roll on down the educational road with its many bumps, Los Cerritos School is happy to have a ticket on the MTSS bus!



Linh Roberts
Principal

Believing You Can

By Kathleen Shivers, Intervention Teacher

Everywhere you go today, you hear about “growth mindset.” But why should Mokler Elementary School’s staff and students invest our time in it? If it’s true that what you think is how you will act, then our words have power and can influence our decisions.

Carol Dweck’s research described two mindsets: “fixed,” meaning your level of intelligence cannot be changed, and “growth,” meaning you can change your level of intelligence over time with effort, struggle and persistence.

Mokler staff members strive to promote student success and look for ways to encourage its students both in and out of the classroom. We began the year by learning about growth mindset and quickly embraced its beliefs.

Data was collected using a survey. Then students were asked to show what they knew about the brain by relating it to a sponge. Both are pink, squishy, absorbent and able to grow. Students learned about parts of the brain and how they work together. This led to discussion about neuroplasticity, the brain’s ability to change over one’s lifetime, and how neurons are important in development. Using different strings and cords, students visualized the neurons in the brain becoming stronger when working through challenges or weaker when avoiding them.

Future lessons will include learning about the “power of yet,” understanding that mistakes can provide feedback to grow the brain, and taking an inventory of how the words we choose can develop our growth mindset. Parent workshops will help families to develop their understanding of how to use growth mindset beliefs at home.

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

Working Together to Succeed

For the third year in a row, Paramount Community Day School (CDS) students successfully built roller coasters. No, not like the huge ones at theme parks, and not like the symbolic ones that carry us up and down emotionally. They were more like live demonstrations of Newton’s Laws of Motion such as centrifugal force and equal/opposite reactions, using only construction paper,

tape and a marble. And, of course, the help of their group members.

“I didn’t think it could work,” one student later wrote, referring to how something as flimsy as paper could hold up a heavy marble. The thought of working together was another of the challenges, as was how exactly to problem-solve to make something strong and tall enough to meet the curve and drops-and-loops requirements.

“One of the central reasons for the project is to develop 21st century job skills in our students,” one of the CDS

teachers said. These include cooperation, problem solving and critical thinking. This year, a writing component was added to the project as well as including the other two teachers for cross-curricular involvement from science to writing. Thinking Maps were used to help complete the essay component. In their summaries, students reflected on what worked, what didn’t, and what they could have done differently.

“At first, I thought it was a dumb thing just little kids would do,” an 11th-grader wrote. “But by the end, it was hard because we had to figure a lot of things out and work together.”

Another goal was accomplished, too: simply completing the task and having it work. You could see the look of pride in the students’ eyes when they finished and when they talked about the project. Not to mention those who took first-, second- and third-place ribbons and awards.

Both teachers and students expressed that they are looking forward to the next hands-on cross-curricular project that’s coming up. Bring it on!

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Paramount Park *Middle School*

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Kevin Longworth
Principal

Teaming Up Against Drugs

By Jovanna Figueroa

Paramount Park Middle School's Red Ribbon Week, led by our Associated Student Body, provided students and teachers with opportunities to "Team Up Against Drugs" during exciting lunchtime activities. Teams participated in challenging obstacle courses, and teachers shared anti-drug lessons.

Ms. Mireles, our art teacher, led the

students in a blind art contest. Each student drew a red ribbon on a paper plate that was placed on top of his or her head.

At the end of the week, students and teachers competed in a friendly dance-off. They were surprised when mascots from local schools joined



the fun. The Paramount Park Panther, the Jackson Middle School Knight, the Alondra Middle School Dolphin, and the Zamboni Middle School Wildcat battled it out on the dance floor. After some intense competition, Paramount Park's Panther was declared the winner!

This was a week our Panthers, students and staff will never forget.



Paramount *High School - Senior Campus*

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



Dr. Greg Buckner
Principal

Cianna Andrews—Congratulations!

In December, our athletics department hosted a National College Athletic Association (NCAA) signing ceremony and reception for varsity volleyball player Cianna Andrews. Cianna signed a national letter of intent to commit to attend California State University, Sacramento. She was granted a full athletic scholarship covering all expenses. According to NCAA statistics, only 2 percent of high

school athletes are awarded athletic scholarships, and Cianna's dedicated efforts on the volleyball court and in the classroom were key to her success.

Cianna cites the comprehensive support program for student athletes as one of the appealing features of the college. The mentorship program includes priority registration, weekly mentor check-ins, schedule and course planning with trained advisors, daily study hall, and individual tutoring. Her priority is to pursue her career goals in physical therapy while balancing team and individual volleyball goals. Here at Paramount, Cianna challenged herself to take honors and advanced placement (AP) courses while balancing varsity high school athletics and travel-club volleyball commitments.

Her time-management skills will serve her well at college and the Division 1 competition in the Big Sky Conference.

Sacramento State recruited an exemplary Paramount Pirate, and the program will surely benefit from her many seasons as an athlete here.

"Cianna is a quick middle who jumps well and has a fast arm, said Ruben Volta, head coach at Sacramento State. "Middles by nature have to work hard because of the pace of the game, and she works hard and will attack well in transition."

The Sacramento Hornets are fortunate to have recruited this four-time scholar/athlete: an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Tournament Athlete of the Year, a three-time San Gabriel Valley League first-team player, and an NCAA-eligible student athlete whose smile and positive spirit can carry a team to competitive greatness. Cianna Andrews, the Paramount community is proud of your well-earned accomplishments!



Paramount *High School - West Campus*

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



Elizabeth Salcido
Principal

Second Semester Success

After a titillating start to a brand new year, Paramount High School West Campus is preparing for second semester.

The Class of 2020 began the year learning how to be a pirate in our first Pirate Pride Day. After the first day worries flew by, our freshmen quickly became acclimated to joining athletic teams and clubs through tryouts and club rush. All ninth-grade

students took the PSAT, where they were able to glimpse what it takes to be college and career ready.

Our CTE pathway students have experienced hands-on opportunities to explore their fields through study trips and guest speakers such as the CTE



Tours at Senior Campus, MGF Day, and Culinary Expo. As we end the semester, our 1,250 ninth-grade students are preparing for their first high school finals. Good luck as you continue into the second semester of your ninth-grade year, Class of 2020!



Roosevelt *Elementary*

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



Susan Marilley
Principal

Parent Education

Promoting educational opportunities for our parents is important at Roosevelt School. Activities and events are designed to encourage these important stakeholders to become informed participants in children's education.

Once a month, parents are invited to attend Breakfast with the Principal. A delicious breakfast is provided for our guests, followed by a presentation on initiatives implemented throughout the district and information on areas of interest to our parents. All presentations are provided in English and Spanish.

In September, parents received information on the importance of school attendance as defined by California law. The presentation was facilitated by Daniel Sepulveda, teacher on special assignment with Student Services at the district office.

In November, Principal Susan Marilley presented information on technology use at Roosevelt School and



how it supports learning. As a culminating experience, parents joined Mrs. Marilley and math coach Anastasia Bias in the main computer lab and engaged in a variety of online resources available to parents at home to support their children.

In December, Mrs. Bias facilitated a presentation on math fluency and the importance that knowledge of basic math facts plays in math success. Parents were also given materials to take home.

In addition to Breakfast with the Principal, Roosevelt School has hosted Parent Visitation Day for the past seven years. Parents have the opportunity to visit classrooms and observe the implementation of programs designed to support the rigor of Common Core Standards. Informative presentations are also included in the morning activities. This year, Parent Visitation Day is scheduled for the spring. Focus will be on the implementation of the new district-adopted English language arts/ELD program.

Keeping our parents informed is essential to the home/school connection and provides our parents with ways to support their children with the appropriate skills to achieve academic and personal success.

Tanner Elementary

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



Holly Hennessy
Principal

Civic Learning

Civic learning is an important part of our students' education here at Tanner Elementary School. Participation in opportunities inside and outside the classroom helps students to become productive members of their community. In addition, it allows teachers to focus on teaching their students social responsibility, appreciation of diversity, and applied

learning. Through activities, guest speakers, field trips, and specialized programs, students are able to weave real-life experiences into their day-to-day learning.

After learning about community workers, kindergarten students took a walk to the fire station, where they learned what a real fire fighter does each day. They touched a real fire truck, tried on authentic uniforms, and talked to the firemen. Back in class, first-grade students were visited by a female firefighter, who demonstrated important elements of her job and gave the students hands-on experiences with fire-fighting tools and uniforms.

Fifth-grade students participated in the city of Paramount's Gang Resistance Is Paramount (GRIP) program. Students were shown real-life footage and had a

chance to interact with officers from the Paramount Sheriff Station. GRIP is a successful, nationally recognized anti-gang program that helps children stay away from gang membership through real-life lessons in the classroom.

It is important for us to recognize that our students don't just become responsible participating citizens in their community; we need to educate them and teach them how this is done. Working together as a team with our parents, teachers, and partners in the community, we are preparing our students for the world outside our school walls. And it's never too early.



Wirtz Elementary

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



Connie Toscano
Principal

The Hundred Mile Club

Fifth grade teachers have developed a great way to motivate their fifth graders to sharpen their running skills and stamina in preparation for the Physical Fitness Test in the Spring. Teachers have begun the 100 Mile Running Club with the following distance mile markers as goals:

- 10 miles - Knott's Berry Farm
- 15 miles - Disneyland
- 25 miles - Universal Studios
- 50 miles - Magic Mountain
- 100 miles - Sea World

Students are presented with a mile-marker button and prizes as they reach each goal. They are also recognized at our quarterly Recognition Assemblies. The following number of students have reached the following mile markers:

- 10 miles - 3 students
- 15 miles - 46 students
- 25 miles - 71 students
- 50 miles - 2 students
- 100 miles - 0 students

A special congratulations to Alan Villanueva who has run a grade-level high of 61 miles. Also, a special thank you to our 5th grade teachers: Ms. Ramirez, Ms. Lujan, Ms. Thompson, and Mr. Caruso for their great work.



Martha Ramirez, Alan Villanueva, Cheri Lujan, Christine Thompson, and Erik Caruso.

Top runner in 5th grade, Alan Villanueva, displays his mile marker buttons as he is congratulated by the fifth grade teachers at our Recognition Assembly.



Sue Saikaly
Principal

Running Start for College Boards

Three hundred eighth-grade students at Zamboni Middle School seized the opportunity to take the PSAT 8/9 in December. The PSAT 8/9 provides students with a baseline measurement for college and career readiness, as it is designed to help students understand the knowledge and skills needed for success.

To prepare the students and their families, Mrs. Calero-Hill, college and career counselor, held two informational parent meetings to discuss the importance of this opportunity. Each student was provided with a student guidebook that included sample questions and expectations for the exam. In addition, the AVID students practiced for the PSAT, using the Khan Academy website during their elective course.

After completing the two-hour-and-25-minute test, eighth grade student

Joaquin Medrano said, "I think it's a good test to see how well we understand the eighth-grade content. It had many of the things we are learning in our classes."

The PSAT 8/9 includes sections in reading, math, and writing and language. Students read passages and interpreted informational graphics to answer questions. They focused on problem solving, modeling and using tools strategically. Finally, the test transformed the students into editors by asking them to read passages and improve them by fixing mistakes and weaknesses.

Perhaps the most exciting part of this experience is the personalized score report that each student will receive. The results will outline academic skills that students need to improve upon to become college and career ready. Counselors are excited to have students visit the College and Career Center to connect with College Board and Khan Academy accounts to receive free study plans based on their personalized needs, and they look forward to hosting several more parent meetings to share the valuable results.



Car Parts 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 Please put Paramount in the subject line.

Entries must be received by March 15, 2017

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-------------|
| antenna | gearbox | radio |
| armrest | hitch | seats |
| belts | hood | speedometer |
| blinker | hubcaps | starter |
| brakes | ignition | wheels |
| bumper | key | windshield |
| engine | lock | wipers |
| fenders | mirror | |
| gas tank | muffler | |

Congratulations Karen Gowen
Winner of the December Contest!



Early Childhood Education Program

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



Dr. Elida Garcia
Director

ECE Professional Learning

Preschool teachers and staff participate in ongoing professional learning throughout the year. Recently, the teachers and instructional assistants took part in workshops that focused on children's literacy. Theresa Ybarra, Instructional Coach, guided staff in learning more about the relationships between letters-sounds and connections to literature. Ms. Ybarra based the workshop

content on the Preschool Learning Foundations and the Desired Results which are the tools used to plan and monitor learning outcomes in preschool. Staff learned strategies to help students listen for sounds and make connections between student experiences and literature. Staff members expressed that they gained knowledge in the importance of using music, books, and play to help students develop pre-reading skills.



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- Slavery
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- Reconstruction
- Second Industrial Revolution
- Populist
- Captains of Industry
- Progressives
- The Gilded Age
- The Great War
- The 1920's
- The 1930's
- Europe in Crisis
- World War II
- Post War 1945-53
- 1950's, 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's
- Present

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