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School News



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Covering the Paramount Unified School District

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November 2017–April 2018

It's great to be back!



¡Es genial estar de regreso!

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It's great to be back!

As our Paramount Unified School District students returned to the classroom recently, I was inspired by the promise of new academic discovery. We prepared all summer to ensure our students were met with the optimal learning environment on their first day back, and I'm pleased that our District is ready to meet the challenge of lifting our children to new heights.

I am excited to note that our students were greeted with new technology this year after the District purchased Google Chromebook laptops for all third-graders, ninth graders, sophomores as well as students of Leona Jackson School. The laptops are a part of our new tech implementation plan, which aims to provide a personal technology device to every student in grades three through 12 by 2020.

As you are likely aware, we are well underway in developing the District's new STEM high school which will open at its Lakewood site for the 2018-19 school year. We have appointed Keith Nuthall, who supervised the creation of an applied science program at Escondido Union High School District's Del Lago Academy, as the school's new principal and will be selecting a school name and finalizing curriculum in the coming months.

We have expanded our curriculum for the current school year as Project Lead The Way (PLTW) engineering courses will now be available as seventh-grade electives. In addition, college-prep elective Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) classes have been expanded to include three elementary schools and all sixth-grade students. This will give more of our students the opportunity to explore exciting concepts and discover new passions.

It's great to be back! Let's have a wonderful year as we continue to help our children develop into future leaders.

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



Dr. Ruth Pérez
Superintendent

¡Es genial estar de regreso!

Ya que recientemente nuestros estudiantes regresaron al salón de clases, me inspiro al ver la nueva promesa del nuevo descubrimiento académico. Nos preparamos todo el verano para asegurarnos que nuestros estudiantes se encontrarán con el óptimo ambiente de aprendizaje en su primer día de regreso, y me da mucho gusto que nuestro Distrito esté listo para cumplir con el desafío para elevar a nuestros niños a nuevos niveles.

Me dio gusto al notar a nuestros estudiantes al ser recibidos con nueva tecnología este año después que él Distrito compro computadoras portátiles Google

Chromebook para todos los del tercer grado, noveno y décimo grado, al igual que a los estudiantes de la escuela Leona Jackson. Las computadoras portátiles son parte de la nueva implementación de tecnología, lo cual tiene como objetivo proveer un dispositivo de tecnología personal para el año 2020, a todos los estudiantes del grado 3-12.

Talvez usted ya se enteró, que estamos realizando grandes avances en la nueva preparatoria STEM del Distrito, lo cual abrirá sus puertas en Lakewood para el año escolar 2018-19. Hemos nombrado a Keith Nuthall como el nuevo director de la escuela, él ha supervisado la creación de un programa de Ciencias aplicadas en la Academia del Lago en el Distrito Unificado de Escondido, y en los próximos meses estaremos seleccionando un nombre para la escuela y finalizando el currículo.

Hemos expandido nuestro currículo para el nuevo año escolar conforme los cursos de ingeniería de Project Lead The Way (PLTW) ya estarán disponibles como clases electivas para los del séptimo grado. Aparte, las clases electivas de preparación de colegio Avance Vía Determinación Individual (AVID) fueron ampliadas para incluir a tres escuelas primarias y para todos los estudiantes del sexto grado. Esto le dará a más de nuestros estudiantes la oportunidad de explorar conceptos emocionantes y así descubrir nuevas pasiones.

¡Es genial estar de regreso! Vamos a tener un año maravilloso mientras seguimos ayudando a nuestros niños a convertirse en futuros líderes.

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Netragrednik

Welcome to another new school year. This is always an exciting time for students and by now they have settled into their routine focused on their academic goals. On page 3 Superintendent Dr. Pérez brings you up to date on the District's programs and plans to continue to provide an outstanding learning environment for students to succeed.

We would like to express our sadness for the tragedy in Las Vegas that took so many lives and caused harm to so many innocent people. Our prayers are with the families. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. Our next issue is May 9.



School News

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Covering the
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UCLA

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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.

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El Estudio del Desarrollo Cognitivo y Cerebral del Adolescente (ABCD) matriculará a más de 10,000+ niños sanos, a quienes se seguirán por 10 años desde los años 9 a 10 hasta la adultez temprana, con el fin de entender cómo las experiencias de la niñez afectan el desarrollo cerebral y otros aspectos de la vida - incluyendo logros académico, desarrollo social, salud conductual y la salud en general

Se pueden recibir hasta \$300 por participar en el estudio. ¡Los niños también se pueden obtener un foto de su cerebro!

What will participants do?

During the first year visit, 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.



¿Qué van a Los participantes hacer?

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If interested, contact us: **Phone:** (310)794-0089

Si tienen interés: **Email:** abcdstudy@ucla.edu

For more info, visit: AbcdStudy.org

Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Teaching Tolerance – Starting a Conversation about Craniofacial Abnormalities with your Child



Ioana Pal, PsyD.
clinical psychologist,
Stramski Children's
Developmental
Center
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

Each year, about 4,400 infants in the U.S. are born with a cleft lip and about 2,700 are born with a cleft palate. Together, these conditions are often referred to as craniofacial abnormalities, which are among the most common birth defects.

For children with craniofacial abnormalities, there are many visible (facial characteristics and/or speech difficulties), as well as invisible characteristics (anxiety, breathing difficulties) that may impact a child's ability to interact with others in meaningful ways.

These interactions can become even more difficult, and can affect their self-esteem, self-acceptance and communication skills, when other children tease, taunt, stare or exclude them.

Your child may know someone with a craniofacial abnormality, and it may be challenging for them to understand their peer's condition. Family members and other adults who are part of a child's life have the opportunity to educate children about respect for others and tolerance of differences.

Here are several ways to encourage tolerance:

- Model inclusive behavior. You can help your children become more compassionate, empathic and respectful by staying educated. Communicate openly with them about sensitive topics (asking and answering questions about craniofacial defects) and role play hypothetical situations or conversations.
- Curiosity is a venue for learning. Teach your child to ask questions in appropriate, thoughtful ways.
- Good communication and socialization skills lead to compassion. Encourage your child to communicate about their feelings and thoughts in age appropriate, pro-social ways.
- Ask your child's school about their anti-bullying policies in order to understand the steps taken to prevent bullying.



2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806
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Our specialty:

Gastroenterology

Parker's specialty:

Tummy Time

Our specialists are the leaders
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As an infant, Parker struggled to gain weight. He was referred to pediatric gastroenterologist, Dr. Robert Tran, at the Children's Specialty Center in Irvine. Dr. Tran diagnosed Parker with cystic fibrosis (CF). CF is a life-threatening genetic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system – and was the culprit of Parker's failure to thrive. In the first week under Dr. Tran's care, Parker gained 1 lb. – a significant accomplishment. Now, he's growing strong and mastering the art of tummy time.



Parker, 7-months-old,
Miller Children's
Gastrointestinal Patient



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Alondra Middle School

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



Carolynn Butler
Principal

Leading the Way

Last year, Alondra Middle School was given the opportunity to pilot two Project Lead the Way classes that are STEM-based electives (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

Students were offered classes in automation and robotics, and design and modeling. The automation and robotics class allowed students to trace the history, development, and influence of robotics. In the design and modeling class, students used mathematical software and 3D printers to create models that effectively solve real-world problems.

This year, Alondra has added three additional Project Lead the Way classes, which puts our total offerings at five. The first class, called Green Architecture, gives students a chance to apply the concept of “green living” to the fields of architecture by using architectural software to design and build housing for the world’s growing population.

In the Medical Detectives elective, students research biomedical careers and play the role of real-life medical detectives by analyzing genetic testing results to help



diagnose diseases and study the DNA found at mock crime scenes. The Computer Science for Innovators/App Creators elective teaches students programming and coding to create wearable technology, mechanical assistance devices, and mobile apps.

Alondra is excited to allow our students to “lead the way” by thinking creatively and utilizing problem-solving strategies that can change the world.

Buena Vista High School

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



Morrie Kosareff
Principal

Continuing to Blossom

The 2017–2018 school year has gotten off to a roaring start at Buena Vista High School!

We are proud to announce some amazing additions to our course curriculum: the CTE course called “Entrepreneurship and Innovation,” the A–G approved electives such as Spanish 1 and Spanish 1 for Spanish speakers, and the AVID program. Our students are thrilled to have more electives to choose from and which will also prepare them for college, career, and beyond.

With these additional courses have come several new staff members. Mrs. Moncayo joins the BVHS from the West Campus teaching Language Arts 4 and both Spanish electives. Ms. Tereth teaches Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and longtime member of the BVHS staff, Mrs. Ferrer, brings her infectious spirit to Student Government.

There’s a lot more to come from Buena Vista this year, and so stay tuned!



Collins *Elementary*

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



Theresa Diaz
Principal

Partnership with Higher Learning

One of the most unique features of Captain Raymond Collins School is its lush 500-square-foot garden. The garden was started by retired teacher Susan Deogracias, who continues to volunteer with the program today. Mrs. Deogracias and Mrs. Brennan use the garden to teach agricultural literacy in an after-school program that serves more than 100 students each year.

This year our students will be able to use an innovative tool called the CompChomp that was designed and built by a student mechanical engineering team from Cal Poly, Pomona. Working in collaboration with Mrs. Deogracias and a local company, this innovative tool helps students grind waste into compost in a safe and effective manner.

Another great outcome of this program is the bounty of edible vegetables. Students learn to harvest a variety of plants, which include tomatoes, peppers, squash, pumpkins, sunflower seeds, herbs, and much more. The harvests are used to teach children healthy eating and cooking techniques. First-grader Luis said, "I like the garden. I like to eat the tomatoes!"



This innovative project is truly a collaborative effort between Collis teachers, students, higher education, community partners, and parents. It will provide our students with a fun and innovative way to learn about agriculture, mechanical engineering, environmental health and welfare, and healthy eating habits.

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Gaines *Elementary*

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



Michael Naruko
Principal

Another Great Year!

As principal of Wesley Gaines School, I welcome you to the 2017–18 school year. We look forward to serving the students, parents and families that make up this wonderful community. We have a dedicated, caring staff

that will ensure that every child receives the very best education in a safe and nurturing environment.

This school year brings some great enhancements to our educational programs. Our dedicated teachers attended a summer professional development in writing across the curriculum. Third-graders will begin a one-to-one Chromebook computer program and will have personal computers to use as tools for collaboration and research. In math, we're piloting the Cognitively Guided



Christian Madrid, second grader
is excited to be back at Wesley Gaines!

Instruction program (CGI) to improve mathematical thinking. To increase literacy and improve technology, we're upgrading our library with new books and additional computers.

Wesley Gaines is a Safe and Civil School. We believe that all students should be able to learn and play in a safe, civil environment. To this end, we continually teach our students about positive behaviors and attitudes through clear expectations and procedures.

Finally, we believe that student success is greatly enhanced through a strong partnership with the community. Through the support of our wonderful PTA and parent-volunteer program, we're certain to have another fantastic year.

Hollydale *K-8*

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



Lisa Nunley-Macon
Principal

Readers are Leaders Library Mural

A significant part of our vision at Hollydale School is for all students to become life-long readers who appreciate literature and who access and use information efficiently. Based on that expectation, we are excited to announce that our library has a new mural that captures our mantra that Readers are Leaders!

This new mural promotes our vision for literacy. It is colorful, vibrant and gives our students a sense of pride on our campus. Our Readers are Leaders reading incentive program challenges our students to read 1 million minutes as a school throughout the academic year. There are many wonderful prizes grade levels can win as well as a grand prize of a movie night at Hollydale Park. Our students are excited and ready to meet the challenge because at Hollydale, Readers are Leaders!



Jackson Middle School

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



Kelly Anderson
Principal

Learning in the 21st Century

Jackson Middle School kicked off the 2017–2018 school year by providing all sixth- through eighth-grade students an opportunity to experience 21st-century learning at their fingertips.

Over the course of three days in August, every middle school student received an HP Chromebook. There was much excitement when our students realized that taking these devices home meant that they would be able to continue their learning long after the school day is done.

These 1:1 devices have also provided students with an opportunity to enhance their sense of responsibility, as they are expected to charge their devices nightly and take great care to keep them in good condition. One eighth-grade Knight explained, “I know I have to be responsible with my Chromebook. I am very grateful that I have this privilege, and I know I really need to take care of it.”

Jackson teachers are also excited about actively incorporating this new technology in their classrooms. Through the school-wide use of

Schoology, teachers are able to post assignments, moderate class discussions, and assess student learning. Language Arts teacher Heather VanEede remarked, “Having the 1:1 technology has helped my students not only become more engaged with the lessons, but they are also learning to communicate effectively and appropriately and utilize online resources. These are skills that will help prepare them for tomorrow’s workforce.”



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cell 310-857-9602

Jefferson *Elementary*

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



Kelly Williams
Principal

AVID Elementary!

Jefferson School is fortunate to be one of only two elementary schools that are implementing AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination.) Being an AVID Elementary School, we promote college readiness strategies such as note-taking techniques, organizational skills, goal setting habits, and collaboration strategies.

AVID is focused on our fifth graders this year and designed to be embedded into the daily instruction of all Jefferson classrooms to maintain a school-wide structure. AVID's philosophy is grounded in the idea that growth mindset can be taught to students, and it is through the growth mindset that AVID students succeed in following their dreams and fulfilling their aspirations. We are excited to begin this AVID adventure this year as all of our Jefferson Jaguars are college bound!



Keppel *Elementary*

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



Darren Platt
Principal

Attitude is Everything

We are excited to start a new year at Keppel Elementary School, and I am excited to be the new principal! Our goal as an entire staff is to help each student reach their individual and full potential every single day. In order to do so, we have created a theme that will permeate everything we do all year long. That theme is, "Reach Your Target!"

Every student comes to us with different experiences and different areas of giftedness. Our responsibility as educators is to take these experiences and unique gifts and inspire our students to grow and develop into the amazing people they are capable of becoming. We will use our "Target" to constantly focus on the most important parts of being a learner and a good person.

Our Target contains three outer rings: called Attitude, Behavior, and Effort, and with the bulls eye being "Your Best."

The term "attitude is everything" is so true. The way we think or feel about something sets the foundation of how successful we can become. As the saying goes, "If you think you can or you think you can't, you're right." Behavior then becomes putting that attitude into action. A good attitude creates a good behavior or action.

The final piece to make it all come together is continual hard effort. If we all believe that we can do something, if we take direct action to accomplish our goal and never stop until we reach it, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Believing, acting, and never stopping helps all of us to Reach our Best!

Lincoln *Elementary*

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



Dr. Topekia Jones
Principal

AVID at Lincoln

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is here at Lincoln!

The new school year brings a new opportunity for Lincoln's fourth-grade students to prepare for college and career readiness through the use of AVID strategies. Fourth-graders will be learning organizational skills, note taking strategies, and how to collaborate effectively in order to be successful in a global society.

In late August, our fourth-grade parents gathered in the cafeteria to learn about Lincoln's new AVID program, presented by fourth-grade teachers Miss Dugan, Ms. Hazlewood, and Miss Nunez. Parents learned how student binders and school planners will be used as an interactive resource tool to help students learn organizational skills.



Our next AVID parent meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 28 in the Lincoln cafeteria, where we will celebrate the success of our AVID strategies' implementation.

Los Cerritos *Elementary*

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



Hilda Verdugo
Principal

There's Good in the World

With the sights, sounds and smells of summer slowly evaporating, Los Cerritos teachers filed in recharged and ready to embrace the upcoming 2017–18 school year. As teachers walked the halls toward the morning meeting, they were bombarded with inspirational posters, quotes and banners that heralded this year's current schoolwide theme, simply titled "Be ___" as in Be respectful, Be responsible, and Be a leader.

Entering the doors of the multipurpose room, teachers warmly greeted one another and seated themselves at grade-level tables adorned with "Be positive" trees bearing hanging ornaments with various character traits. The

ornaments were utilized during the icebreaker activity in which teachers were asked to be kind and "throw compliments like confetti" by circulating throughout the room and writing down a positive character trait on each colleague's ceramic tile as a keepsake. After the conclusion of a lengthy meeting, teachers let off steam and hammed it up during grade-level photos with personalized speech-bubble hashtags for posting on the #Believe in Your Selfie bulletin board.

Before exiting onward to their respective classrooms, teachers perused displayed A-to-Z character-trait posters and selected one to highlight, complete and post with their class as a powerful reference for all who are strolling down the hallways. Los Cerritos School's student and staff have accepted Gandhi's challenge to be the change you want to see in the world and look forward to a be-you-tiful year!



**Happy Halloween
and
Happy Thanksgiving!**

Mokler *Elementary*

8571 E. Flower St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8044 • <http://mokler-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Linh Roberts
Principal

Successfully Educating All Students

The Mokler Pilots have set sail across the “S.E.A.S” in pursuit of Successfully Educating All Students!

Our theme this year focuses on providing each student with the foundational reading skills they need to succeed through targeted interventions, critical-thinking through inquiry

based lessons, and a number of opportunities to apply technology into their daily lessons.

With the year just beginning, our teachers have been working hard to plan curriculum that meets the needs of all students. The year began with teachers reflecting on previous instructional practices that lead to increased SBAC scores in both language arts and math.

In pursuit of refining our instruction, Mokler’s dedicated team of teachers recently attended a variety of

professional development sessions on writing instruction that used the “Write from the Beginning and Beyond” program, along with problem solving through Cognitively Guided Instruction, and integrating technology into daily instruction with 1:1 Chromebooks.

With dedicated teachers and focused planning, we are prepared for a year of smooth sailing.



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>



Yvonne Rodriguez
Principal

The New Face of Adult Education

Earlier this year, the Brookings Institution of Metropolitan Policy Program released a report stating that although the monthly national unemployment rate showed a drop in those without jobs, there is a disproportionate number of people out of work. In fact, thirty-eight percent of this population are identified as English language learners, which is the largest student population that Paramount Adult enrolls.

In response to this issue, Paramount Adult School is piloting a new eight-week program this fall that addresses both English as a Second Language needs and the valuable skills necessary for the work place.

The pilot program is known as Integrated Education and Training, and has been under development since the spring of 2017 with Tonya Cobb, teacher on special assignment, taking the lead. Ms. Cobb has worked throughout the spring and summer with administrators and teachers in fine-tuning the curriculum for the program.

Adults in the program participate in a basic skills/ English as a Second Language component within a career pathway. Career Technical Education-Information Technology is the pathway that is addressed in the program and where students will receive their workplace skills instruction.

Most importantly, Integrated Education and Training (IET) provides those individuals at the highest levels of unemployment with workforce preparation. IET is made up of both basic skills such as reading, writing, math, ESL, and General Education Development (GED) test preparation, as well as the job skills needed for careers. In the past, basic skills and vocational skills were viewed and taught individually; however, in IET these skills are integrated into one cohesive course.

The benefits of IET include students gaining access to the 21st-century skills they need to be successful in the workforce. Additionally, students are able to acquire the basic skills necessary to succeed in their education, which results in their overall job success.

Paramount Park *Middle School*

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



Kevin Longworth
Principal

The Benefits of Co-Teaching

Sharing can be hard. It's not easy to give up something that we feel belongs to us, or that we feel responsible for. You never know what might happen! However, when a great partnership comes together, achievements can be unlimited.

After piloting a new English Language Arts program separately in both of their classrooms last year, Ms. Real and Ms.

Cowser have joined forces this year to co-teach a class of seventh-graders using the new digitally based Amplify curriculum. As co-teachers, Real and Cowser literally co-instruct their fifth-period class together. That means they plan together, present lessons together, and grade assignments together. The students have two teachers in the room to help them develop their skills and reach new heights.

Co-teaching can serve any student well. In this arrangement, students with learning disabilities join students in the general education setting to increase

learning opportunities for everyone. Students benefit from this class because they get different viewpoints on a subject, and also get more one-on-one attention. The teachers say that the students are more engaged in the classroom and have more opportunities for positive growth. Student Noe Leon remarked that, "Amplify helps by improving on my sharing and typing skills. It helps by doing partner work also."

In terms of inclusion and a positive school environment, Ms. Real says that "The co-teaching model has reduced the negative stigma associated with pull-out programs or self-contained classrooms. Students with learning disabilities are now more connected with their peer groups."

Although the teachers cite the hard work, they are also noticing other benefits. They said co-teaching is like a marriage. Ms. Cowser put it this way, "It has been amazing! Patty and I really understand our strengths and weaknesses, and have learned to uplift one another in class. Patty also gets me out of my comfort zone as a teacher, and I try different strategies."

Paramount *High School - Senior Campus*

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



Mike Ono
Principal

Silver-Medal Winners

Three Paramount High School Senior Campus Future Homemakers of America (FHA) club members were invited to compete in the Family and Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Leadership Conference this summer. Maximillian Chau, Daniela Veliz Soriano and Eloisa Carlos, led by FHA advisor Aileen Tanimoto, traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, this summer in

July. The students were invited to participate in this national event after having won both local and statewide competitions.

All three students competed against thousands of other FCCLA fellow members from the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Junior Maximillian Chau and senior Daniela Veliz Soriano participated in an entrepreneurship competition that required concept development and business-plan organization. Senior Eloisa Carlos participated in

an illustrated talk competition, producing a persuasive argument and deliverin a speech. All three students earned silver-medal honors. Way to go, Pirates!



Paramount High School - West Campus

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



Elizabeth Salcido
Principal

Pirate Pride, and Chromebooks!

West Campus welcomed 1,218 ninth-grade students, and success is definitely in the cards for the Class of 2021!

Our second Pirate Pride Day was held to connect our students to Paramount High School. After attending all six classes on a modified schedule, students then returned to their first period to learn about the Pirate Pride Day.

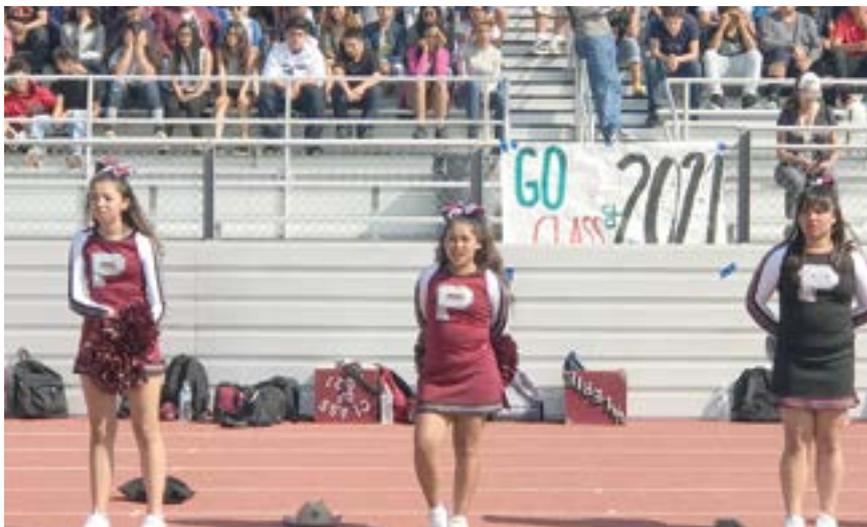
Our counselors also promoted school spirit by showing the “Guidelines for Success” and sharing information on how to get involved in school.

Our administrators also shared our school-wide “Safe and Civil School” expectations. The ASB hosted students in the grassy quad, where they were able to enjoy a treat, meet new people, and listen to music. The students rotated to learn what it means to be a Pirate on their first day of high school.

Learning the Pirate Way continued when our students received their Chromebooks

beginning on September 1st. Our students will use the Chromebooks for group projects, research, and turning in their assignments with a touch of a button. They are also able to use ClassLink to access Schoology for their assignments, grades, and collaboration with others.

With the use of technology, our Class of 2021 is preparing for college by developing 21st-century skills. Way to go, Pirates!



Roosevelt Elementary

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



Margie Domino
Principal

Move to Chromebooks!

You get a Chromebook, you get a Chromebook, and everybody gets a Chromebook! That was the feeling in September as each third-grade student went to the library to pick-up the Chromebook that was checked out to them for the year.

Roosevelt’s third-grade teachers volunteered to be a part of the district’s trial use of Chromebooks in an effort to make technology an integral part of every student’s educational experience. Parents had two opportunities to attend an informational meeting where they were able to ask questions and complete paperwork.

It was an exciting day for Roosevelt Roughriders! Teachers posted an assignment that night and were thrilled the following morning to see the conversations the students were having on their class’s Schoology page! Who knows where this opportunity will take them?



Tanner Elementary

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



Holly Hennessy
Principal

Voyage of Learning

Everyone knows the old saying that “it takes a village to raise a child.” At Tanner Elementary, we believe this is true, and we know that instruction and instructional practices inside the classroom are only part of the picture.

It’s the outside influences and the people at home that also play intricate roles in helping our students succeed.

During the 2017–2018 school year, Tanner will provide many opportunities in a variety of ways for families to work and learn together. From activities in the classroom to cultural celebrations to family nights and events to field trips and on-campus activities, our goal is for all parents to have

a chance to sit down and learn with their children. Just recently, parents of kindergarten students joined their children for a writing activity inside the classroom.

This is only the beginning as we set sail for a voyage of learning in the 2017–18 school year at Howard Tanner.



Wirtz Elementary

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



Connie Toscano
Principal

Chromebooks Rollout

Third-graders enthusiastically awaited the Chromebook distribution at Wirtz Elementary that took place in September. Students use these Chromebooks both at school and at home to enhance their learning experience.

A Chromebook isn’t a computer—it’s a web browser that quickly launches apps, allows fast web browsing, and efficiently manages battery power. Students are completing several modules that will teach them how to use their Chromebooks safely at home and school. These modules will cover handling technology, security skills and practice, communication and safety, and intellectual property. After each module, students will complete an activity related to each one. Finally, they’ll begin to use their Chromebooks to support their instruction.

When students open their web browser on their Chromebook, they’ll automatically be taken to their Classlink login page. Classlink is a single sign-on to thousands of applications, including

district websites. The benefits of a single sign-on means that students spend more time learning and less time logging in—once logged in, they have instant access to their applications.

We’re excited to have our students using Chromebooks. They’ll enhance the instruction they are receiving in the classroom and will help give students the information they need to be successful in school and in life.



Zamboni *Middle School*

15733 Orange Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8048 • <https://zamboni-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Sue Saikaly
Principal

Hurricane Harvey Help

Hurricane Harvey has devastated the Texas Gulf Coast. So Zamboni's AVID and CJSF students have joined the effort to generously support the victims by partnering with a middle school in the Houston, Texas area to donate school supplies for students who have been affected by the devastation.

The AVID Center has set up a link that enables AVID coordinators to go on and

“adopt” another AVID school in need. Student leaders at Zamboni are also hosting school-wide events and activities to collect donations for the school supplies and necessities.

By dedicating themselves to service projects, our students learn to show empathy and compassion. Our CJSF and AVID families are coming together to spread kindness and leave a positive impact in this time of need. The Zamboni community believes that our students are future leaders, and we are proud of this opportunity to show their leadership skills, kindness, and compassion.



Early Childhood Education Program

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



Dr. Elida Garcia
Director

New Literacy Curriculum

The District adopted a new literacy curriculum, Big Day for PreK by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, for preschool and Transitional Kindergarten (TK). The curriculum includes interactive lessons that foster social emotional skills, letter recognition/sounds, vocabulary, and early writing.

The teachers participated in professional development over the summer and to get acquainted with the curriculum materials. The students are already enjoying the hands-on lessons. The curriculum also offers online parent resources via “Family Space” to reinforce the concepts children are learning at school. To find out more information about the new curriculum resources and preschool, please visit the preschool section on the District website or call the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Office at 562-602-6900.



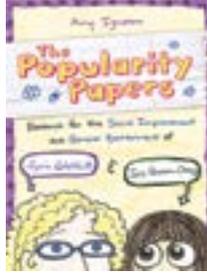
Richard's BookReview



Richard J.

Funny Book with a Message

The Popularity Papers is a book by Amy Ignatow. It's written like a diary by two middle school girl authors Lydia and Julie writing about their "observations"



and very funny results on their attempts to be popular. They go through many things to be popular, trying and failing in a funny way at hair bleaching, joining the popular sports teams, and even pretending to like boys, which really backfires, and many other things, too. The results are funny, unpredictable, but don't make them popular. They learned in the end that it's important to be yourself and be liked by your friends, not the people who everyone says are cool and popular. This is a really funny book written and drawn in a way I would have done with markers, pens and pencils, and the story is relatable in the way that they work so hard to be liked and noticed.

I give this book a 5 out of 5 stars, with 5 being the best.

Richard J. is a third grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding and running, reading and spending time with his family.

Marissa's Movie Mentions



Marissa Aldegarie

The Dark Tower

Lots of readers who follow Stephen King's series of books would now know the movie as "The Dark Tower." The book that started the movie off was filled with sci-fi and fantasy imagery. Our protagonist is Jake Chambers (Tom Taylor), who is a troublemaker from New York. Jake has visions of a tower which keeps the universe in order. He also has visions of two people: Gunslinger, Roland (Elba) and the Man in Black, Walter (McConaughey). Walter wants to demolish the tower and he knows a very powerful kid could help him. Jake has a lot of that power which lets him read minds. He doesn't realize how powerful he is. The part in the movie where Jake enters a house with a demon starts the beginning of his adventures and meeting other characters.

I enjoyed watching this movie because it kept me interested. However, if you did not read the book, you may lose a lot of details and it may be hard to follow. I would give this movie a 4 out of 5 because it had a great plot.

Marissa is a 8th grader who loves to watch movies, especially action films. She would love to be an actress or news anchor woman in the future. She rates movies on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest.



Weather Terms –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.

TORNADO	TSUNAMI
CYCLONE	CHILLY
EARTHQUAKE	COLD
RAIN	HOT
THUNDER	FREEZING
LIGHTNING	FROST
SNOW	SANDSTORM
SLEET	THAW
WIND	FLOOD
STORM	HURRICANE
HEAT WAVE	

Entries must be received by December 15, 2017

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!



Isabella's Book Review



Isabella A.

Adventure and Fun

The book *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by Wendy Mass is about a 13 year old living in Manhattan with his mom and his friend Lizzy. Together, they convinced the mailman to give them a package. Inside,



they find a letter and a box. The letter indicated that the box once had keys that were now lost. They decide to set out to find the keys. In the process, they sneak into a business and vandalize it. A policeman makes them do community service, as punishment they have to deliver packages. They ride around the city delivering antiques to the people who had once pawned those items. Almost all was planned by his dead dad

The friends must now do this the entire summer. Will they find the keys before Jeremy's birthday? Or ever?

I give this book 4 stars because it is full of fun and adventure.

Isabella is a 6th grader who loves to read, write, volleyball and plans on becoming an author of children's books. She rates books 1-5 stars with 5 being the best.

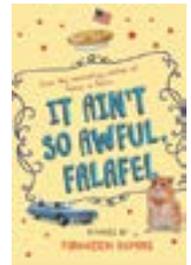
Katie's Review



Katie C.

A Heartwarming Story

Author: Firoozeh Dumas
It Ain't So Awful, Falafel is a book about an Iranian girl named Cindy (who lives in the U.S) who goes through a turmoil of thoughts, challenges, and problems--big ones.



In Iran, there are political problems that the U.S is now involved with. The Iran government takes hostages from the U.S, making Americans hostile to Iranians. As if things can't get any worse, Cindy's dad loses his job. Cindy's parents give Cindy heartbreaking news to her: they must move back to Iran. Cindy is torn. She does not want to leave the city where she has just started to find new friends. Just as the family is about to leave, good news comes. Her father is offered a job in the U.S! Cindy can stay! Cindy is overjoyed at the news. With humor and relatable scenarios, this heartwarming story is sure to win your heart. I give this book a five out of five stars.

Katie is a 8th grader that loves to read and write. Fictional books are her favorite. Besides writing and reading, she loves soccer, acting, dancing, and playing the violin. She hopes to publish her own book someday.

Keira's Book Nook



Keira

A Page Turner

Joplin, Wishing by Diane Stanley is an extraordinary page turner! It really makes you feel like you are there with the characters. This fantasy novel is about a 12 year old girl named Joplin who finds an antique



platter with a picture of a girl at a pond and wishes she could be her friend. The next day Joplin sees a girl in the garden. When she goes to say hello, she learns that the girl, Sofie, is new to the neighborhood. Curiously, when Joplin goes back to her room the girl in the platter is gone! When Joplin discovers everything Sofie has been through, she comes to the conclusion that she must help her. Later when Sofie meets Joplin's mom, they think they recognize each other which made me think, "Is there a story behind this?" You'll just have to read the book to find out! I give this book 5 out of 5 apples.

Keira F. is a sixth grader. In addition to her love of books, she enjoys art, crafts, traveling and playing with her cats. She rates books from 1 to 5 apples with 5 being the highest.

Christina's BookReview



Christina J.

A Dangerous Secret

Belly Up is a story of a boy named Theodore Fitzroy solving what happened to the popular zoo mascot Henry the hippopotamus. One sad day Henry died at the zoo.



Everyone seems convinced that it was just a natural cause, but Theodore feels that something shady is going on. While investigating, Theodore found out somehow the only person willing to help and interested to find out the truth is Summer McCracken, the daughter of the owner of the FunJungle zoo. Unfortunately, after the hippo there are a few other deaths of animals – the jaguar, panther and a python. What the teenagers end up discovering is a very dangerous secret, which you will need to read about to find out. I like that this book was a light hearted mystery with interesting writing and a unique plot. I give this book out of 5 stars

Christina J. is an 8th grader. Christina is a hard-working student who did a community service project "Quilts for the cold" last school year. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

Lucy's Book Review

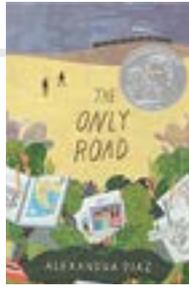


Lucy Davis

The Only Road

Author: Alexandra Diaz

Life in Jaime's small Guatemalan village is pretty peaceful, excluding one group: the Alphas. Drug dealers that ask for 'favors' and new recruits.



If you refuse, you die. So when Jaime's beloved cousin, Miguel, is murdered for that very reason, the whole family is devastated. And the death comes with something else: a request for Jamie and Miguel's sister Angela to join them.

The only way Angela and Jamie can escape is to leave Guatemala, and that might be harder than it seems. Train hopping, refugee churches, immigration officials, and lost dogs are all part of their journey, and hopefully they can make it to the other side. The U.S. is promising safety, but the road to get there isn't.

I really enjoyed this book. It talks about serious topics while still keeping the mood as light as possible. Five of five stars are well earned in this wonderful story.

Lucy is a 6th grade student. When she isn't immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

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2 games in 1!

Novelist – 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.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| COMPUTER | PEN |
| EDITOR | BROWSER |
| IPAD | GOOGLE |
| SPELLCHECK | INTERNET |
| PRINTER | BING |
| PUBLISHER | ASPIRIN |
| NOTEPAD | KEYBOARD |
| READERS | TELEPHONE |
| PENCIL | WIFI |
| IDEAS | IMAGINATION |

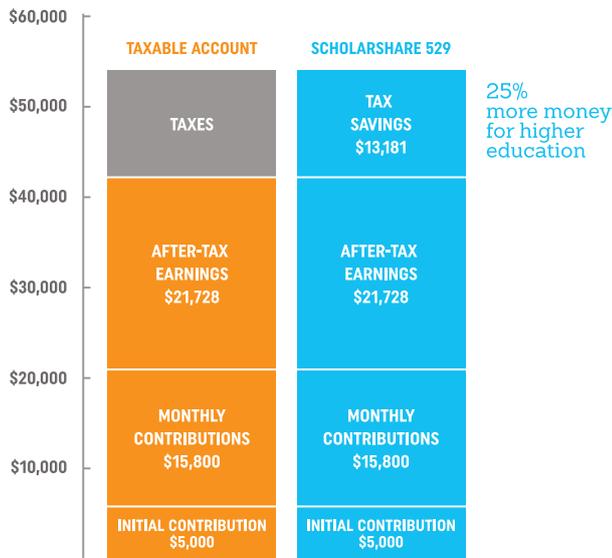
Congratulations to: Leonor Castillo
Winner of our July Word Search Contest!

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



Sure,
piggy banks are nice.
But do they give you
**100% TAX-FREE
GROWTH?**

JAMES, FINANCIAL GURU



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This hypothetical example assumes a \$5,000 initial deposit, \$50 per month subsequent deposit for 18 years and 7% annual ROI. Tax calculations assume the maximum federal tax capital gains tax rate of 20% and the maximum CA marginal tax rate of 13%. This hypothetical example is for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect past performance or guarantee future performance of the ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan or investment portfolios offered through the ScholarShare 529 College Savings Plan. These illustrative results also do not reflect any reduction for expenses.

TIAA To learn more about the California 529 College Savings Plan, its investment objectives, tax benefits, risks, and costs, please see the Disclosure Booklet at [ScholarShare529.com](https://www.ScholarShare529.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 the risk of investment loss. 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. 277543