

FREE

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Paramount Unified School District**



Volume 6, Issue 15

November 2021–April 2022

## Pirates Back On the Field



## Governing Board



**Yesenia Cuarenta**  
*President*



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*Member*

## Greetings and a Warm Welcome Back to our Paramount USD family

We welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year, a year that will be remembered for the many changes, innovations, and adaptations we have made as a school community to help our students thrive under an environment that continues to change. Our district community of educators, classified employees, support teams and administrators continue to provide amazing services with an emphasis on safety, achievement, and caring support for our students.

This year, as we continue our quest to serve our students with all available services that can benefit and help them achieve to their individual potential, we celebrate the heroes in our school community, those whose perseverance and humanity help make our classrooms better and more inclusive, our district employees.

Their ongoing interest in providing great services includes innovative educational services such as the new career technical education (CTE) courses at our high school with Human Body Systems provided by the new Anatomage Table, which is the world's first 3D human dissection table. At the elementary level, we continue to enhance the district's arts programs with programs like Art Masters Legacy, dance programs and music programs like the Harmony Project. Our high school program has incorporated Data Science coursework, and we continue to provide rich augmentations to our educational program that enhance our academic achievement, emotional development, and civic engagement.



**Ruben Frutos**  
*Superintendent*

## Saludos y una Cálida Bienvenida a Nuestras Familias de Paramount USD

Bienvenidos al año escolar 2021-2022, un año que será recordado por tantos cambios, innovaciones y adaptaciones que hemos realizado como comunidad escolar para ayudar a nuestros estudiantes a prosperar en un entorno que continúa cambiando. Nuestra comunidad de educadores, empleados clasificados, equipos de apoyo y administradores continúan brindando servicios asombrosos con énfasis en la seguridad, el rendimiento y el apoyo afectuoso para nuestros estudiantes.

Este año, mientras continuamos nuestra búsqueda para servir a nuestros estudiantes con todos los servicios disponibles que puedan beneficiarlos y ayudarlos a alcanzar su potencial individual, celebramos a los héroes en nuestra comunidad escolar, aquellos cuya perseverancia y humanidad ayudan a que nuestras aulas sean mejores y más inclusivas, a nuestros empleados del distrito.

Su continuo interés en brindar excelentes servicios que incluye servicios educativos innovadores como los nuevos cursos de educación técnica profesional (CTE) en nuestra escuela secundaria con el sistema *Human Body Systems* proporcionado por la nueva mesa de disección humana *Anatomage Table*, que es la primera mesa 3D del mundo. En el nivel de primaria, continuamos mejorando los programas de arte del distrito como el programa de arte *Art Masters Legacy*, programas de danza y programas de música como *Harmony Project*. Nuestro programa de la escuela secundaria ha incorporado también un curso de ciencia de datos y continuamos brindando enriquecedores programas educativos que mejoran nuestro rendimiento académico, desarrollo emocional y participación cívica.

# Early Childhood Education Program

7340 E. Jackson St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-6900 • [ece.pusdschools.net](http://ece.pusdschools.net)



**Rita Cruz-Wahl**  
*Director*

## Preschool Rocks!

Preschool is a wonderful time to learn and explore about the world. The preschool curriculum provides a rich balance between foundational math concepts, social emotional development, and early language and literacy skills. However, there is one area that tends to go unnoticed and that is the time we call music and movement. Through singing songs, chants and rhymes, children develop a strong foundation in oral language.

Exposing children to music during early development helps them learn the sounds and meaning of words. Movement or dance supports children building motor skills while allowing for them to practice self-expression. According to research, movement increases blood and oxygen flow which positively affect cognitive development, physical health, and mental well-being. Children enjoy listening to music while staying active. Preschool teachers often play music softly during learning center time. One preschool teacher reported that her children have requested to have music during outdoor play.



**Children engaged in “The Freeze”**



**Grooving to the Chicken Dance**



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Netragrednik*

This is our 6th year publishing the Paramount Unified School District *School News*. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

In this issue you will read about Thinking Classrooms, the CalAPS program, Mentor Fair Day, Club Rush Day, photogynthesis, AVID and much more...enjoy!

Everything about this school year is different but the best part is being back in the classrooms. Now let's hope 2022 brings with it a healthy year and face masks will not be part of our attire.

Our next issue is May 11, 2022. Until then, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



# School News

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Covering the  
**PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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In 2019, the City of Paramount started a **Youth Sports Hall of Fame** recognition program for Paramount student-athletes. The student-athletes considered for this year's awards played high school sports between January and December of 2021. **Nominations are now open**, with a deadline of January 28, 2022, at 5:00 PM. To be nominated, the student-athlete must live in Paramount, attend a Paramount Unified School District High School, and be 18 years old or younger.

To learn more, please call (562) 220-2121 or visit [paramountcity.com/pyhof](http://paramountcity.com/pyhof).

## Identifying Prediabetes in Children Prevents Lifelong Issues



**Rebecca A. Hicks, M.D.,**  
medical director,  
Endocrine and  
Diabetes Center,  
MemorialCare  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach

Diabetes is a chronic medical condition in which sugar or glucose levels build up in the bloodstream. The hormone insulin helps move glucose from blood into cells, where it's used for energy.

With Type 2 diabetes, cells don't respond well to insulin, and in later stages of the disease, the body may not produce enough insulin. According to the American Diabetes Association, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated risk factors for diabetes in children due to limited physical activity and sedentary behaviors.

Most children diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes have prediabetes first. Prediabetes means that blood sugar is higher than it should be, but not high enough to be diabetes. Most of the time, the child will not have any symptoms. Prediabetes is a warning sign that a child is at risk for Type 2 diabetes.

Warning signs of prediabetes may include:

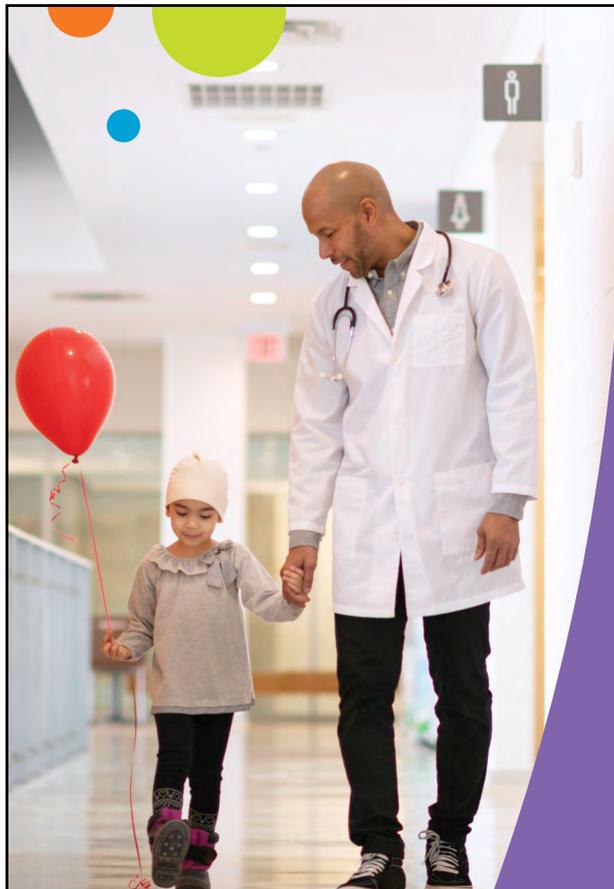
- Increased thirst
- Increased hunger
- Low energy levels
- Frequent urination
- Rapid weight loss
- Blurry vision

If a child has these warning signs, they should be evaluated by a doctor right away. If a child is diagnosed with prediabetes, it's important that the whole family makes healthy lifestyle changes to help support and prevent their child from getting Type 2 diabetes.

The Endocrine & Diabetes Center at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach offers programs designed to diagnose, treat and manage childhood conditions, such as diabetes. The team works with families to get a child's blood sugar levels back to a safe range and help them stay at a healthy weight. Learn more at [millerchildrens.org/Diabetes](http://millerchildrens.org/Diabetes).



2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806  
800-MEMORIAL (636-6742) • [millerchildrens.org/Diabetes](http://millerchildrens.org/Diabetes)



## Our physicians train longer so Erin's recovery is quicker.

With quality care close by, Erin has access to elite pediatric specialists. Pediatric physicians must go through additional schooling and more rigorous training than a typical doctor. This means Erin receives individualized treatment designed just for her growing body. Every child is unique, and so is their health, which is why we recruit and retain only the best pediatric specialists. Erin sees each member of her care team during one appointment and it's the same familiar care team she had at diagnosis.

Access to elite care. When you need it.



**MemorialCare™**  
Miller Children's & Women's  
Hospital Long Beach



800-MEMORIAL (636-6742) | [millerchildrens.org/Elite](http://millerchildrens.org/Elite)

## Alondra Middle School

16200 S. Downey Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8004 • [alondra.pusdschools.net](http://alondra.pusdschools.net)



**Dr. Viola Scott**  
Principal

### Diving into Math

Alondra Middle School Dolphins are starting strong by soaring right into our Thinking Classrooms in our 6th and 7th grade math classes. Last year during remote learning, our 6th grade teachers

implemented the Thinking Classroom to foster critical mathematical thinking. For the 2021-2022 school year, our Thinking Classrooms are executing three of the eleven tools – beginning lessons with a task, forming random groups (weekly), and using vertical non-permanent surfaces by applying the Open Up Resources curriculum.

Our Alondra teachers are facilitating and guiding discussions to ensure the mathematical takeaways are clear to all our students. Alondra students are carefully working on crafted and sequenced mathematic problems by collaborating using the white boards in groups of two or



**Collaborative Group Work**

three. While in groups, student are working diligently on making sense of the problems, selecting and using appropriate tools, and evaluating their answer's reasonableness. Alondra Dolphins are on the path to academic excellence!

## Buena Vista High School

3717 Michelson St., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/602-8090 • [bv.pusdschools.net](http://bv.pusdschools.net)



**Morrie Kosareff**  
Principal

### Starting Strong

The 2021-2022 school year has gotten off to a great start at Buena Vista High School! We are offering our students multiple ways to catch up on their credits to not only graduate, but to graduate on time.

As we continue with a quarter system for earning credits, students are enrolled into 4 academic classes plus an Advisory period allowing them the opportunity to earn 22.5 credits every quarter (9 weeks), or 90 credits during the school year. In addition to our regular program, Buena Vista High School offers our students additional opportunities to earn credits through Edgenuity and after school courses through our participation in the California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS) program.

Students participating in the CalAPS program have a wide range of CTE courses to choose from, including,

but not limited to Firefighting, Law Enforcement, Construction, Health Care, and Cyber Security. Students are able to earn 10 credits for every class completed. Students are also using Edgenuity, our online learning partner, to earn additional credits. Using a one to one approach, we pride ourselves in providing an individualized approach to counseling and instruction for every student.

Another big part of our individualized approach is the work doing through our College & Career Center. Students work to develop a plan that leads them to graduation and then takes them beyond into the world of College & Career. Using resources in our College & Career Center, students search for information and develop their very own College and Career plan. Buena Vista students will be provided the opportunity to virtually participate in job fairs, explore local college campuses and trade schools, all through the College and Career Center.

Buena Vista High School welcomes you to come and check out all the great things that are going on!

## Collins *Elementary School*

6125 Coke Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/602-8008 • [collins.pusdschools.net](http://collins.pusdschools.net)



**Margie Domino**  
Principal

### Collins' Colts in Action

Through play, kids learn to make friends, solve problems, and believe in themselves. Collins is proud to partner with a playground consultant to help create recess and play environments where every child can join in. Each day during recess, Collins students

have the opportunity to join in games with our playground coach, Coach Genchi. In addition, teachers can also request to have "Class Game Time" with the Coach where he will teach each class new organized games to play. With the support of the consulting team, Collins is "harnessing the power of play to bring out the best in every student." So get ready...set...play!



**Fun with Coach**

## Gaines *Elementary School*

7340 E. Jackson St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8012 • [gaines.pusdschools.net](http://gaines.pusdschools.net)



**Karen Sullivan**  
Principal

### Fun in the Recess Zone

We are thrilled to have students back on our playgrounds this year. In support of that return, we are partnering with our playground consultant, Coach Kait, to add to the recess fun. Students have

been learning new games, encouraging each other, and using problem solving skills.

Each class is able to rotate through two different areas each day. Our Noon Duty Aides are recess managers who set up inviting and exciting choices for students each recess. They set the stage by sharing the game options and set expectations for fun and safety. Students choose from several options each recess ranging from playground equipment to games such as soccer, tetherball, and Switch.

Our recess managers use our Safe & Civil strategies to bring students back together at the end of recess and prepare for a calm return to class.

Soon, student leaders will take on an active role to support others.



**Grizzlies at Play**

## Hollydale School K-8

5511 Century Blvd., South Gate, CA 90280 • 562/602-8016 • [hollydale.pusdschools.net](http://hollydale.pusdschools.net)



**Lisa Nunley-Macon**  
Principal

### Student Council Leadership

Hollydale School was excited to kick off elections for Student Council leadership during the week of October 18 through October 21. Student leadership is an integral part of our school culture. We believe that our students have the right for their voices to be heard. Students interested in serving as a student leader attended two informational meetings and filled out an application stating

the reasons for wanting to represent these important positions. Each candidate campaigned by putting posters around the school and giving a speech to the student body during lunches. Students voted for candidates on election day, which was Friday, October 22nd. The results from election day were announced over the loudspeaker so that the entire school could cheer on the winners. Student Council is one of the ways we teach students the democratic process and that positive changes happen through great leadership!



**Student Council Candidates**

## Jackson Middle School

7220 E. Jackson St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8020 • [jackson.pusdschools.net](http://jackson.pusdschools.net)



**Kelly Anderson**  
Principal

### Leading the Way

The Knights have returned to Jackson ready to set forth on a quest to become leaders on campus. In early October, students participated in our Student Council election. Advisor Linda Gudiel explained, "Students will learn collaborative strategies, leadership skills, and become advocates for the students of Jackson." Campaign posters were created, election statements were written and online ballots were counted.

The newly elected officers will join grade level senators in organizing opportunities for their fellow Knights to foster and promote the Jackson community.

In addition to Student Council, our 8th grade playground Junior Coaches are excited to take on leadership roles to support and encourage their 4th and 5th grade fellow Knights during lunch and afternoon recess as they teach and facilitate various playground activities. Junior Coaches were recommended and selected to be positive models of sportsmanship and teamwork. Keep up the great work, Knights!



**Playground Junior Coaches**



**Student Council Officers**

## Jefferson *Elementary School*

8600 Jefferson St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8024 • [jefferson.pusdschools.net](http://jefferson.pusdschools.net)



**Kelly Williams**  
*Principal*

### Watch Us Grow

“The seeds are growing! I can see them!” Excitement fills the air at Jefferson Elementary, in and around our new school garden space! Establishing our garden has been a lot of hard work, however it has also been very rewarding work. Every one of the Jaguars has had time in the garden. We have begun to learn about what a plant needs to be successful, the process in which a plant grows, the parts of a plant and how plants make their own food using photosynthesis. Each student has

had their hand in the garden in some way. On any given day, several students can be found helping in the garden. In fact, each and every seed planted in our garden was planted by a Jaguar! We are forecasting many lessons being learned in this garden and we can't wait to watch our seeds and our students grow this year.



**Establishing Our Garden**



**Hard at work!**

## Keppel *Elementary School*

6630 Mark Keppel St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8028 • [keppel.pusdschools.net](http://keppel.pusdschools.net)



**Michael Naruko**  
*Principal*

### Welcome Back

On behalf of the entire Mark Keppel staff, I would like to welcome everyone back to school. We are pleased to have our students, teachers, and staff back on campus as we build a stronger Keppel community. I would like to thank all our parents for their

dedication to their children's education during distance learning and their continued support to maintain a safe and healthy community.

At Keppel, we continue to provide all students with a high-quality education in a safe and civil learning environment. This year, Keppel students will experience Twig Science, a hands-on science program designed to promote

critical thinking and collaboration. Also new to Keppel is Playworks, an outdoor recreation program that builds student leadership, responsibility, and sportsmanship while learning new games and activities. The reopening of the Keppel campus has shown great promise for all students as they continue their journey of success.

education during distance learning and their continued support to maintain a safe and healthy community.

At Keppel, we continue to provide all students with a high-quality education in a safe and civil learning environment. This year, Keppel students will experience Twig Science, a hands-on science program designed to promote



**Students are back to learn and play.**

# Lincoln Elementary School

15324 S. California Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8036 • [lincoln.pusdschools.net](http://lincoln.pusdschools.net)



**Dr. Topekia Jones**  
Principal

## Cultural Day at Lincoln

On Wednesday September 15th, Lincoln Elementary held a school wide event called "Cultural Day". Students and staff were encouraged to dress in attire that symbolized their cultures. From sombreros to traditional dresses, students and staff proudly represented their cultural backgrounds and customs. At Lincoln Elementary we acknowledge the importance of embracing

cultural diversity in our community. We strive to create and maintain a school climate that encompasses inclusion and diversity, which then promotes students' academic and social/emotional development.



**Future leaders of tomorrow!**



**Staff celebrating the beauty of diversity!**

This event highlighted students' and staff's cultural backgrounds and gave our stakeholders the opportunity to highlight similarities and differences between one another. Teachers also provided students with videos, discussions, and other activities that promoted cultural awareness.

# Los Cerritos Elementary School

14626 Gundry Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8040 • [loscerritos.pusdschools.net](http://loscerritos.pusdschools.net)



**Hilda Mapp**  
Principal

## Guidelines for Success

Los Cerritos Elementary School takes pride in showing their PAWS daily. Students are reminded of the guidelines for success every morning as Mrs. Mapp, school principal, delivers the morning assembly. It's a wonderful way to begin the day hearing all the students and staff chant the following: "Don't forget to show your PAWS today by Persevering, Acting responsible, Working

with a winning attitude and Striving for success!" Teachers reinforce our guidelines for success and nominate students weekly based on showing their PAWS in class. Students are eager to listen to the Student of the Week nominees every

Friday morning during the assembly. Student nominees are awarded a certificate along with a goodie bag. We will continue to celebrate our students for their dedication to showing their PAWS here at Los Cerritos School!



**Guidelines displayed for students**



**Julissa strives for success .**

# Mokler *Elementary School*

8571 E. Flower St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8044 • [mokler.pusdschools.net](http://mokler.pusdschools.net)



**Linh Tran-Roberts**  
*Principal*

## We are AVID

Upon entering the front gates of Mokler School, through the hallways and into each classroom, AVID is present in the overall school culture. Here at Mokler, AVID is a way of life that promotes a college and career readiness culture.

Every TK-5 classroom adopts a college and creates a college bulletin board

to display their journey towards higher education.

Each year AVID students have the opportunity to show their creativity by competing in an AVID t-shirt design contest. After designing a shirt, students voted for their favorite design and proudly wear their shirts on Mondays.

Each AVID classroom includes an abundance of WICORized lessons as evidenced in the AVID binders, agendas, and student work samples. Through ongoing teacher collaboration and daily

parent involvement in reviewing the agendas, Mokler students have multiple opportunities to show how they are preparing themselves to be successful in a global environment.



**AVID Team**

# Odyssey *STEM Academy*

3701 Michelson Street, Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/602-8032 • [odyssey.pusdschools.net](http://odyssey.pusdschools.net)



**Rebecca Perez**  
*Principal*

## Scholars Learn Professionalism

Odyssey STEM Academy's juniors and seniors launched this year's career readiness program through a series of mentor fairs during the first week of October.

In preparation for Mentor Fair Day, scholars refined resumes and created and

rehearsed elevator speeches

about themselves. On mentor fair day, scholars dressed professionally and participated in three interviews with community organizations of their choice, like the City of Paramount and Aquarium of the Pacific. After formal introductions and sharing of resumes, scholars answered questions like, "Tell me about your background and experiences that make you a

strong candidate for this organization," and "What are your strengths and areas of growth?" Visiting mentors evaluated all of the scholar interviews throughout the day and then selected their mentees for the year.

Throughout the year, scholars learn about the world of professional work and develop the soft skills that they will need to succeed in the real world.



**Mentor interviews scholars.**

## Paramount Adult School / Community Day School

14507 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8080 • [pas.pusdschools.net](http://pas.pusdschools.net)



**Dr. Yvonne Rodriguez**  
Principal

### A Shining Star

Maria Perez is one of the shining stars at Paramount Adult School (PAS). Despite her fears, self-doubt, and a pandemic, Maria fulfilled her dream of becoming a Medical Assistant.

She began her journey nine earlier when she moved to Paramount so her son could get a better education. Her son graduated and completed the Medical Assistant program at PHS. With his accomplishments, Maria was motivated to pursue her own goals.

Maria entered PAS as an ESL student in hopes of enrolling in the Medical Assistant program. Following ESL classes, Maria earned a high school equivalency certificate before

entering the program. At first, Maria was overwhelmed, instructor Ms. Laura Galvan offered different strategies for students to learn. Maria states there were days when she asked herself, "Can I do it? Will I be quick enough to take vitals?" With Ms. Galvan's support and her fellow students, she accomplished her medical assistant goal.



**Graduation 2021 – M. Perez**

## Paramount Park Middle School

14608 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8052 • [paramountpark.pusdschools.net](http://paramountpark.pusdschools.net)



**Kevin Longworth**  
Principal

### Panthers Rush Clubs

When the Panthers learned of the new opportunities at Paramount Park Middle School, they rushed to sign up, making Club Rush Day a complete success! Teachers, who are dedicated to providing new opportunities, were as excited as the students to start these new experiences. The Clubs offered included MESA, a Dance & Drill Team, the Femineers, the Panther Student Union, and the Garden Club.



**The Garden Club**



**The Dance & Drill Team**

As the students learned about the new opportunities, each booth featured things to interact with related to the club. From pictures, to plants, candy, music, architecture, and projects, the main question students had was, "Can I join more than one club?" It was so refreshing to feel the excitement in the air.

The day was such a hit, that two new clubs are being created; a Video Production and a Chess Club. A special thanks to the Panther Student Union for generating the event! Panthers ROAR!

## Paramount High School - Senior Campus

14429 S. Downey Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-6067 • [pchs.pusdschools.net](http://pchs.pusdschools.net)



**Elizabeth Salcido**  
Principal

### New Ethnic Studies Course

The reopening of Paramount High School has been momentous as we welcome our students to new learning opportunities. Specifically, we are excited to introduce our own ethnic studies course this fall, in which students will be able to explore the valuable contributions

made by our Native American, African American, Latina(o)(x), and Asian American communities. In addition to our high school course on ethnic studies, we also offer a college-level ethnic studies course in partnership with California State University Long Beach. Students who earn a passing grade for the college-level ethnic studies course will earn 3 college units, as well as complete a required general education class for the California State University system.

A Paramount High School senior believes, “Students should learn about ethnic studies so that we have respect and knowledge for cultures other than our own. Learning can also prevent prejudice so we can celebrate our differences.”



**Ethnic Studies Class**

## Paramount High School - West Campus

14708 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8073 • [phswest.pusdschools.net](http://phswest.pusdschools.net)



**Dr. Damon Dragos**  
Principal

### Successful Chromebook Exchange

For the week of September 20, freshman students experienced a successful and efficient Chromebook exchange on campus. Staff served over 900 students in order to deliver upgraded Chromebooks that will support our students all the way through their senior year.

The Districts' Chromebook initiative started at the end of the 2016-17 school year. These Chromebooks have been a great addition to our students' educational experience. Students use them to collaborate with their peers while also focusing on individual tasks



**A happy Pirate**



**Chromes are exchanged**

simultaneously. In addition, the Chromebooks are easy to carry, durable and have a long-lasting battery life. Lastly, the Chromebooks improve learning by offering an array of apps that take teaching and learning to a whole new level.

Our young Pirates have all exchanged their devices and are ready for a successful 2021-2022 school year!

## Roosevelt *Elementary School*

13451 Merkel Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8056 • [roosevelt.pusdschools.net](http://roosevelt.pusdschools.net)



**Michelle Soto**  
*Principal*

### Structured Recess

Roosevelt Elementary is excited to welcome back our playground consultants for the 2021-2022 school year! This playground program is designed to provide a structured recess environment supported by an on-site coach. The coach uses recess time to facilitate core games, sports, skill-building activities, and cooperative games. In addition, the coach provides classroom teachers and students with Class Game Time (CGT). The purpose is to teach students and teachers the rules, expectations, and skills of the games and activities provided during recess in a safe and organized setting. In addition, the coach will

facilitate the establishment of a Junior Coach Leadership Program (JCLP). The purpose is to create student leadership within a school and build student ownership of some key recess functions. These students serve as role models on the playground during recess. We can't wait to see our student leaders take charge!

The representative who will serve as our coach is Don'Yai Green. On the playground, Don'Yai is better known as Coach Yai. She is a Paramount native and Roosevelt welcomes her back to her community! When she is not being a superhero on the playground, Coach Yai can be found behind her sewing machine creating a masterpiece. Don'Yai is excited to serve her third year as a member with this company. Please help us in welcoming Coach Yai to Roosevelt!

## Tanner *Elementary School*

7210 Rosecrans Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8060 • [tanner.pusdschools.net](http://tanner.pusdschools.net)



**Holly Hennessy**  
*Principal*

### Tanner Tigers "ROAR"

As we reopened our doors for the 2021-2022 school year, we could not have been more excited to bring our students back on campus. Our theme this year is "You do not need to be Great to Start, but you need to Start to be Great." This year, in addition to high quality, innovative curriculum in all grade levels, we will focus on maintaining a safe and caring environment that is conducive to student success, high expectations and creating opportunity for parent and community partnerships. Our 4th and 5th grade students will participate in the AVID program. AVID stands for Advancement via Individual Determination and is a designed to help close the achievement gap for all students, by focusing on higher order thinking skills, reading, writing, teamwork, and organization; skills they will need for post-high school education and success in the global society.



**Board Member Martinez reads to 1st grade.**

## Wirtz Elementary School

8535 Contreras St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8068 • [wirtz.pusdschools.net](http://wirtz.pusdschools.net)



**Roxanne Alessandro**  
Principal

### Recognizing STAR Wizards!

It is so great to have the students back on campus and we are able to celebrate our students' hard work with our monthly Wirtz Star Student of the Month Awards Assemblies. Every class in Pre-K through 5th grade rewards

two students each month: The Student of the Month and Wirtz STAR Student which highlights our guidelines for success: Success, Teamwork, Attend & Respect. We conduct our assemblies in a blended model. They are held on Google Meet, which allows parents to attend and celebrate their child and teachers join the



**Most Improved & Student of the Month Winners**



**Student of the Month**

## Zamboni Middle School

15733 Orange Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8048 • [zamboni.pusdschools.net](http://zamboni.pusdschools.net)



**Lisa Kirk**  
Principal

### Wildcats PowerUp

PowerUp is not just for video games anymore! This year, Zamboni implemented a new English Language Arts program by the name PowerUp! Teachers and students are very excited about the self-paced program, that allows delivery of personalized instruction to each student based on their diverse learning needs. The result is an increase in reading comprehension, analysis,

evaluation skills, and overall literacy. The self-paced nature of the PowerUp program challenges and encourages students to take ownership of their own learning. To support student success, teachers have created the PowerUp Club which allows students priority entrance at the gate and has them looking forward to joining their peers daily from 8 – 8:30 a.m. to further their literacy progress. Club participants benefit not only from increased minutes working in the program, but the reciprocity of encouragement shown by everyone as they celebrate one another's successes. Go Wildcats!



**Celebrating PowerUp Success**



**PowerUp for Literacy**

# GRANDMA, WHY DO YOU HAVE CRACKS IN YOUR FACE?



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*Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?* Is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.