

FREE

School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Paramount Unified School District

Volume 1, Issue 2

December 2016 / January 2017

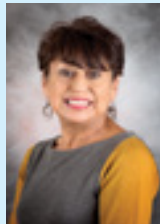
Early Childhood Education Students Celebrate the Harvest Season



Board of Education



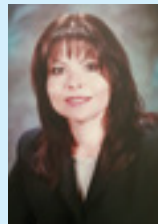
Tony Peña
President



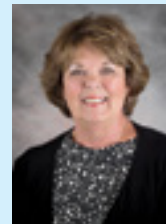
Linda Garcia
Vice-President / Clerk



Alicia Anderson
Member



Sonya Cuellar
Member



Vivian Hansen
Member

Superintendent's Message

Mensaje de la Superintendente

Our school year is well underway and we have carried the positive momentum created by all the wonderful work of our teachers, staff and students. What began in August with District-wide training that prepared us to inspire our young learners, has continued with impactful programs that have provided our community with newfound opportunities to thrive.

We were excited to offer free PSATs to high school students and eighth-graders in October as we strengthen our college-ready culture. We were able to waive all registration fees for test takers as we strive to break down barriers between students reaching their goals. To ensure success, we will review test results with students in January and offer SAT prep classes in February.

Three of our high school students provided a shining example of college preparedness and academic excellence when they were named Commended Students by the National Merit Scholarship Program. Gabriel A. García, Joanne Charlene D Robielos and Jason Wong earned the honor by achieving exceptional performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) and were among the 50,000 highest scoring test-takers out of a pool of 1.6 million. The fantastic recognition this trio has garnered is a triumph for the entire District!

We have much to celebrate, and in October I had the privilege of attending a Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration staged by Mokler Elementary School. The event featured art projects dedicated to prominent Latino men and women, and a priceless performance of our students dancing ballet folklórico. I was able to share my own story of growing up as an English language learner and was reminded of the importance of reading to our children.

Of course, one of the first steps to developing exceptional readers is ensuring our students have healthy vision. Through our partnership with Vision To Learn, we offered free eye exams to K-5 students at Los Cerritos School. Those in need will be given free eyeglasses. It's a wonderful program, and I can't wait to expand it to reach all of our kids throughout the District.

The community partnerships we have established are helping us push students to new heights. Let's continue to work together to educate and inspire our kids. There are truly no limits to what they can achieve!



Dr. Ruth Pérez
Superintendent

El año escolar está en marcha y lo hemos iniciado con el impulso creado por el trabajo maravilloso de nuestros maestros, personal y estudiantes. Lo que comenzó en agosto con entrenamientos a nivel distrito que nos prepararon para inspirar a nuestros jóvenes, ha continuado con programas impactantes que han proporcionado a nuestra comunidad nuevas oportunidades para sobresalir.

Estamos emocionados de proporcionar gratuitamente el examen PSAT a estudiantes de secundaria tanto como a estudiantes de octavo grado en octubre, mientras continuamos reforzando nuestra cultura de preparación para la universidad. Hemos podido anular la cuota de registración a quienes tomen esta prueba, tratando de romper las barreras a estudiantes que quieran lograr sus metas. Para asegurar el éxito, revisaremos los resultados junto con los estudiantes en enero y además ofreceremos una clase de preparación para el examen SAT en febrero.

Tres de nuestros estudiantes demostraron ser un gran ejemplo de preparación universitaria al ser reconocidos nacionalmente por su mérito por el Programa Nacional de Merito Estudiantil. Gabriel A. García, Joanne Charlene D Robielos y Jason Wong lograron este honor al lograr puntuación excepcional en el examen nacional SAT y calificar para (PSAT/NMSQT) y estuvieron entre los 50,000 estudiantes con más alta puntuación de los 1.6 millones que tomaron esta prueba. El fantástico reconocimiento de este trio nos dio el triunfo a todos en el distrito.

Tenemos mucho que celebrar, y en octubre tuve el privilegio de asistir a la celebración del Mes de la Hispanidad en la escuela primaria Mokler. El evento contó con proyectos de arte dedicados a prominentes hombres y mujeres latinos, y un rendimiento inestimable de nuestros estudiantes bailando ballet folklórico. Tuve la oportunidad de compartir mi propia historia de haber crecido como estudiante aprendiendo inglés y recordé la importancia de leerles a nuestros niños.

Y claro, uno de los primeros pasos para tener lectores excepcionales es asegurar que tengan visión saludable. A través de nuestra asociación con "Vision To Learn," ofrecemos exámenes de la vista gratis a estudiantes de la escuela Los Cerritos desde kínder a 5to grado. Es un plan maravilloso y espero pronto poder expandir el programa a través de todo el distrito.

La asociación que hemos establecido con la comunidad nos ha ayudado a empujar a nuestros estudiantes a nuevos logros. Continuemos trabajando para educar e inspirar a nuestros niños. Evidentemente no hay límites a lo que puedan lograr.

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

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES:
562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim DeLacy

COPY EDITORS:
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia
Netragrednik by Neta Madison

 @SchoolNewsRC

 SchoolNewsRollCall

 SchoolNewsRollCall



SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The school district does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



The Superintendent's message on the previous page is informative of the programs to inspire and help students reach their goals.

In this issue you will also read about the AVID program, the NED Show, Spirit Week, Number Talks, Get Your As Up (GYAU), the importance of attendance, parent involvement and much more...



As you enjoy the holidays please remember our men and women in the armed forces. We appreciate their service.

After the holidays please consider donating your holiday cards to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. They recycle the cards to support their programs and services for abused, neglected and homeless children, young adults and families. The Operated by Kids' Corp. children and volunteers make the "green" cards Vist their web site for specifics www.StJudesRanch.org.

Our next issue is February 8, 2017. In the meantime, have a fun Winter Break, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

Early Childhood Education Program

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



Dr. Elida Garcia
Director

Celebrating the Harvest Season

The weather in Paramount did not feel like it was autumn time, however, our preschool students got opportunities to still experience the harvest season. At Mokler State Preschool, the classes worked together to create their own pumpkin patch with paper stuffed pumpkins, beaded corn cobs, hay bales, and scarecrows. The class

also grew vegetables in their own school garden, and in the process, learned about the plant life cycle, seasons, and group effort. At Wirtz (Jackson) State Preschool, preschoolers practiced their math skills by measuring, sorting, and counting while making pumpkin pies. The Gaines State Preschoolers drew their plans before they painted their pumpkins to practice organizational skills. All in all, the preschoolers enjoyed learning about the harvest.



Alondra Middle School

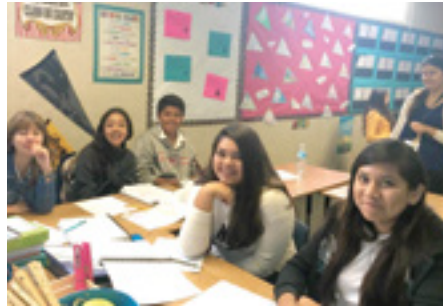
16200 S. Downey Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8004 • <http://alondra-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Carolynn Butler
Principal

Adventures with AVID

Alondra Middle School prides itself in making a difference in the lives of some of Paramount's finest: our students! One way Alondra is supporting the district-wide initiative of supporting a college- and career-ready culture is the



implementation of the AVID program (Advancement Via Individual Determination).

This program began at Alondra last year with seventh-grade students, and it has expanded to include the eighth grade this year. AVID focuses on teaching students through writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading. By integrating tutorials, field trips, guest speakers, and parents, the program has proved to be extremely successful.

Alondra currently has four AVID tutors that are college students. The tutors meet with students twice a week and provide guidance and mentoring. In addition, field trips to colleges provide valuable experiences for AVID students. Our first field trip will be to Cal State Fullerton, where

students will have an opportunity to experience first hand what it is like to be on a college campus. Speakers are also invited to present to our students. These include college professors, business owners, and career professionals. Our first presenter was Gwen Ancetil, a biology teacher from PHS, who shared her amazing personal story

and emphasized how future success depends on current studies.

A final piece in the AVID puzzle is parent involvement. This year we hosted the first annual AVID breakfast. New and returning parents gained a deeper understanding of the purpose and goals of the AVID program. Parents had a chance to mingle with our AVID team, which included AVID elective teachers, Ms. Humble, Ms. Enciso, counselor Mr. Dawson, and AVID coordinator Mrs. Griffith-Wu. Amid the smiles and pastries, our parents realized that AVID extends beyond the classroom, and that they are essential to the success of the program.

Our goal is to continue to expand AVID to all grade levels at Alondra. Stay tuned for more adventures in AVIDLand!

Buena Vista High School

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



Morrie Kosareff
Principal

Exciting Changes

Spirit Week brought musical chairs, a three-legged race, sports activities, twins, throw-back clothes, sports team representation, and a general feeling of fun and togetherness to Buena Vista High School for the first time in a long time. With the continuation of Freagles (Free Eagles) trips, our students have had opportunities to enjoy different experiences in the surrounding

areas, such as Dockweiler Beach, the Irvine Global Village festival, Palos Verdes, and the California Science Center.

Opportunities for student leadership have dramatically increased in the first quarter of the 2016–2017 school year. A new student leadership class has begun, and with it, our students have stepped into many different leadership roles. This includes serving on the WASC Committee, School Site Council, district board meetings, and running student activities at lunch, announcements, and welcoming families to Back to School Night.

With a renewed emphasis on college and career readiness this year, our new college and career counselor has completed the first module of the Naviance program with each student. All ninth- through eleventh-grade

students successfully completed the PSAT. Additionally, Cerritos College representatives have presented in the senior classes. El Camino, Long Beach City College, and the University Technical Institute representatives will also be sharing information about post-secondary options to the seniors. These visits will culminate with field trips to the colleges. Students also had the opportunity to visit a showcase put on by ACE Clearwater, introducing them to the manufacturing world.

As we prepare our students to be college and career ready, we are increasing the ways in which we recognize them for their academic achievement. Students are recognized every four weeks if they have A's, B's, or C's in all classes. Teachers are also selecting a student of the week, and students of the quarter. The students also attended a guidance lesson where their transcripts were reviewed. They received their current grades, and were given strategies about how to improve their grades before the semester's end.

To learn more about current and upcoming events at Buena Vista High School, follow us on Twitter at @eaglesnestBV. This is just the beginning of the monumental changes coming to Buena Vista.

Collins Elementary

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



Scott Law
Principal

A Love for Reading

We all know how reading is an important part of every student's day. But we also know how reading at home can do amazing things for all our learners.

Did you know that a 2013 study published in *Perspectives on Psychological Science* concluded that reading to a child in an interactive style raises their IQ by over six points? Reading with your children teaches them critical thinking skills at an early age. They can learn to understand cause and effect, consequences of actions, and the basics of what is right and wrong. Young children learn colors, shapes, numbers, and letters, while older children discover an expanding world of knowledge around them.

The Collins community was excited to extend its love of reading to all of its families at a recent Back to



School Night. All children who attended chose a brand-new book to take home and start their own libraries. This event was an extension of the support from the Community Grace Brethren Church reading volunteers, who have been working with our first-graders for over a year by reading with them twice a week.

The Church members also looked for more ways that they could support our young learners, and recently wrote a grant to a local medical group asking for books for our students. In all, 450 students excitedly picked from high-interest titles such as *The*

Avengers, *Frozen*, *Star Wars*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *The Secret Lives of Pets*.

We appreciate our community partners, and look forward to more opportunities to enhance our students' love of reading.

Gaines Elementary

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



Michael Naruko
Principal

The NED Show

Students at Wesley Gaines School are building a growth- mindset community by participating in The NED Show.

The NED Show is a student-friendly assembly designed to teach students about the importance of kindness, hard work and perseverance. NED is a cartoon character whose name stands for Never give up, Encourage others and Do your best.

During the assembly, Andrew the presenter incorporated magic tricks and a yo-yo to engage students and to teach important life skills. Students watched in amazement as Andrew performed a magic rope trick to teach students how to solve problems at school. Students also cheered



when Andrew took a yo-yo from his pocket and performed the famous around-the-world trick.

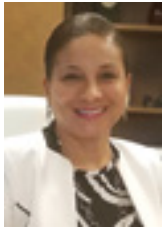
Christian Madrid, a first-grader, said, "I liked the yo-yo tricks, and I learned that you need to try your best whenever you learn something new."

Wesley Gaines was provided The NED Show free of charge as part of the NED program's

pay-it-forward concept. In turn, Wesley Gaines has the opportunity to pay it forward and support future NED Show events by selling official NED Show yo-yos. Thanks to NED, Gaines students will always do their best.

Hollydale K-8

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



Hollydale Students Buzz During Small Group Instruction

Hollydale School is developing academically, emotionally, and socially healthy students through small group instruction. Small group instruction is a student-centered practice that teachers use to provide reading and writing experiences for

students on their instructional level. Small group instruction occurs daily in grades TK-5 during a designated time created by each grade level team. Students know that this is a time where the teacher focuses on a particular group while other students in the class work on meaningful assignments on their levels. These student groups are formed and reconfigured as needed to allow for maximum flexibility and support for all students. During small groups, students gain the advantage of taking part in collaborative conversations that are deep and meaningful while creating a positive learning team environment.



Lisa Nunley-Macon
Principal

Jackson Middle School

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



Get Your As Up!

Jackson Middle School continues to promote enrichment opportunities for all students. This past September, the Knights teamed up with University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to launch our first annual Get Your As Up (GYAU) Literacy Academy for all of our sixth- through eighth-grade African American students.

This enrichment program is designed for students to experience the enjoyment and power of literacy through a variety of team building, reading, dialogue, and problem-solving activities. The goal of this intensive course is to help raise student achievement and assist students in achieving the critical literacy skills needed to be successful in high school and college.

Families of participants were invited to learn more about the GYAU Literacy Academy at our Kick-Off Dinner and Parent Forum. Dr. Tyrone Howard, UCLA Associate Dean of Equity and Diversity, shared data and discussed the importance of this program. He noted that all stakeholders play a vital role in the progress and success of our African American students.

Every Friday, students meet with Ms. Anderson-Byrd,

UCLA Director of Center X, to discuss one of the assigned program texts. These text a variety of themes, from perseverance to justice. Students utilize comprehension, vocabulary, and critical-thinking skills to navigate through the literature and participate in rich academic discussions.

Participant Joshua Williams values the lessons he's learned. "Our teacher told us we have to work twice as hard and reach higher than the standards set for us, no matter what," he said. "At first, I wasn't sure I needed this program, but it has helped me at school and with life problems."

The program culminates with a field trip to UCLA and a literature celebration, where our students will share their insights and growth with family members, teachers, and special guests.



Jefferson *Elementary*

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



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. 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!



Kelly Williams
Principal

Keppel *Elementary*

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



Number Talks: Mathematical Discourse

Number Talks are making a difference in math classrooms here. Many teachers recognize the need for students to be fluent in math strategies but know that not every child thinks about math in the same way. That's where Number Talks come in. There are two purposes to these talks: they're an effective method for students to work on their computational fluency and

mental mathematics, and they engage students in math discourse with their classmates to prove or disprove their mathematical thinking.

Number Talks are 10-to-15-minute problem-solving lessons that help students make sense of mathematics, develop efficient computation strategies, communicate mathematically, and provide opportunities for students to reason and prove solutions. Mental math is a key part of Number Talks because they encourage students to build on number connections to solve problems instead of memorizing procedures. The students focus on number connections and use them to

solve problems. Communication is also a key component; students may be asked to share their strategies and also respond to other students' strategies. This communication helps establish productive conversation around mathematics.

In the primary grades, students use dot images, rekenreks, ten-frames and strategies for solving to build their knowledge of how numbers work together. In the upper grades, students solve arithmetic problems and discuss the different strategies they used to solve them. These strategies build on each other to help the students develop mental-computation skills. Questions such as *How did you solve that?* and *Can this problem be solved a different way?*

help students communicate their mathematical thinking. This allows the teacher to understand how the students are making sense of mathematics and offer necessary support.

It's so exciting to hear students talk about their thinking and learn from one another. Through the use of these standards-based problem-solving strategies, teachers are fostering little mathematicians at Mark Keppel School.



Lincoln *Elementary*

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



Dr. Topekia Jones
Principal

Coffee with the Coaches

What does it mean to be smart? Parents delved into this provocative question during Coffee with the Coaches, a series of informational parent meetings organized at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School. The first one of this school year was held on October 25.

Coaches Mandy Murrietta and Joyce Taylor, with support from our intervention teacher, Rebecca Mercado, and our counselor, Priscilla Villa, asked parents to take an informal self-assessment to determine their mindsets. Attendees responded to true-or-false statements, such as “People are born either smart or dumb” and “People who are truly smart don’t need to try hard.” The coaches then explained that brain research shows that intelligence is not fixed, meaning people are not born smart or dumb. Instead, intelligence is malleable and grows with effort. Using good strategies, asking questions, practicing, and persevering often lead to increased achievement and a growth mindset!

Parents then watched “A Secret about the Brain,” a ClassDojo video about brain plasticity, and listened to “You!” an inspirational story written by Sandra Magsamen

about dreaming big and trying hard. The meeting closed with tips for participants to help develop a growth mindset at home, with suggestions on how to respond when children declare that they are not smart enough or want to give up. Parents were encouraged to reply, “This may take time, but you will learn” or “Try a different strategy!”

Upon hearing that all Lincoln teachers and students have been trained to develop a growth mindset, parent Valerie Salazar shared that her second-grade daughter, Juliana, is already internalizing the concept. “My daughter said, ‘Mom, it’s normal to make mistakes. We learn from our mistakes!’” Juliana’s statement confirms that the Lincoln Lions are empowered learners indeed!



Los Cerritos *Elementary*

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



Hilda Verdugo
Principal

Attendance Counts

You’ll find very few Los Cerritos Elementary School Bulldogs in the attendance doghouse, thanks to our newly adopted attendance incentives. Every morning, students arrive on time and gather on our north playground, eagerly anticipating the daily Morning Rise and Shine Raffle.

After a patriotic recitation of the flag salute, students wait with baited breath with each turn of the raffle drum in the hopes that their names will be called to win free dress passes, free hat passes, front-of-the-line cafeteria passes, or front-of-the-line tetherball/handball/basketball passes. Cheers are heard all around as Principal Hilda Verdugo selects the six Transitional Kindergarten through fifth-grade winners of the day.

Students and teachers then head to their classrooms to participate in our Spell It Out to Succeed incentive, which involves flipping over a letter each day based on each class’s perfect attendance. After 20 days and the successful reveal of the phrase Los Cerritos Bulldogs! students can lay claim to a school-sponsored classroom pizza party on the day of their choice.

Winning the attendance game doesn’t stop there. Students’ individual efforts are rewarded with our Monthly Count Down Calendar, whereby students track their daily attendance, including no early outs. Reward comes in the form of an invitation for qualifying students to attend a special end-of-the-month food and fun celebration with the principal at lunch time.

No bones about it—the Los Cerritos Bulldogs make attendance count!



Mokler *Elementary*

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



Working Together

Great things have been happening at Major Lynn Mokler School, and the first quarter of the 2016–17 school year was no exception. Our great team of teachers, students

and exceptional parents has been hard at work preparing students for future success as well as creating an engaging environment for learning.

Parent involvement has been cited by educational researchers as one of the most influential factors affecting student achievement. At Mokler School, parents participate in ongoing curriculum-based parent meetings, assist teachers in their classrooms, and help organize schoolwide events. Quarter 1 events included pledging to be drug free, celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and dressing up for fall festivities.

The rest of the school year will not be any different as



we continue to host activities that build school spirit and a college-and-career-ready environment. Students have the opportunity to participate in teacher- and parent-led after-school groups such as Student Council, Running Club, Spirit Squad, Ballet Folklórico and Performing Arts. Curriculum and

parenting meetings will continue to be conducted by the school counselor and instructional coaches to help parents support learning at home.

To develop productive citizens, we will continue to provide schoolwide activities that include anti-bullying education, musical performances, fund-raising opportunities, celebrating African-American and Asian Pacific American cultures through home-based inquiry projects, and much more. It is never too late to volunteer your time and talents. If you are interested in assisting us, please contact our office. We look forward to your support.

Paramount *Adult School*

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



Continuing Fall Tradition

In October, Paramount hosted the Harper 5 sixth annual Adult Transition Consortium Fall Dance. It was held at Progress Park and attended not only by our district's adult transition students but also students from several similar programs in communities surrounding us. It was packed! Students ate and danced and talked and had a great time. Teachers and aides were there, too, as were district-level personnel.

The Harper 5 is named after Maurice Harper, who used to attend our Paramount Adult School Transition program (PAT). He moved out of his parents' apartment and into an assisted-living house in Bellflower. PAT teacher Renee Aguilar and Larry Davis from Bellflower started putting activities together so that Maurice could stay in touch with his friends in Paramount. Two districts grew into five, now also including Norwalk-La Mirada, ABC and Downey.

A former student said, "To get ready for the Fall Dance, our class worked really hard. We baked cupcakes, cut up the lettuce and veggies, made decorations and punch, plus we greeted our guests and served them lunch. Afterwards, we got on the dance floor and didn't stop until the DJ turned off the music."



What a great way to celebrate the independent living skills our students are learning—and what a way to put them to use! Hopefully, we will see you there next year. Just remember—when the autumn leaves start to fly, it's time to celebrate—the Paramount Adult Transition way!

Paramount Park *Middle School*

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



Kevin Longworth
Principal

The Crux of the AVID Program

This school year, Paramount Park Middle School has embarked on its second year of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. The AVID program's driving purpose is to prepare students to be successful in the areas of organization, problem solving, and critical thinking in order to promote academic success and college readiness. Students in

the program are seventh- and eighth-graders who take specified AVID classes in the areas of language arts, math, science, social studies, and AVID elective. In their AVID elective, students have the opportunity to address an

area of content where they may be experiencing difficulty through peer tutoring. The tutorials, that take place weekly are the crux of the AVID elective class.

Tutorials are very similar to Socratic seminars. Students present a "point of confusion" to their group. Students then work together to solve the problem guided by questions from group members and an AVID tutor. Peers will act as facilitators in the discussion, asking open-ended questions and providing evidence to guide the understanding of the concept. This creates great discussion among students and an opportunity for a struggling student to hear content in a relevant and helpful manner. AVID tutors also play their part in facilitating tutorials. These college students have the privilege of sharing their knowledge and expertise with

our students, in accordance with AVID goals. And our AVID students have the privilege of being guided and mentored by the tutors.

Next year, Paramount Park Middle School is looking forward to implementing the AVID program for sixth-graders. Our staff and teachers are excited to give our incoming students an earlier opportunity to experience the world of AVID.



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

College-Going Culture

One October morning, all sophomores and juniors at Paramount Senior High School were hard at work taking the PSAT. This was the first time in history when Paramount High School administered the PSAT during the school day to 2,512 students at no cost to the students' families! And while sophomores and juniors attentively worked on the test, seniors participated in college-going activities. Seniors completed college applications, learned about the financial aid process, and had the opportunity to build their Naviance college resumes.

At PHS, we have a college-going culture, and the PSAT is just an example of the many wonderful things that are taking place at our school. It is very important and worth sharing why taking the PSAT is so important for our students.

First, the PSAT is a test used nationwide and is designed to help prepare students for the SAT. Also, by having our students take the PSAT, we are preparing and building their confidence for the SAT. And because the PSAT is quite similar to the SAT, our students will start getting used to the format of the SAT questions. This

will give them multiple opportunities to identify areas of strength and challenge before taking the SAT.

The PSAT also supports our students in meeting the requirements that are needed for the college-admissions process; the scores on the PSAT are used for awarding many scholarships, including the National Merit Scholarship status; and the test fosters a college-going culture at our school and in the community!

We are very proud of our students' achievements and of their college-going attitude! Throughout the year, our students will participate in many college-going activities, and we look forward to sharing those with you!



Paramount High School - West Campus

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



On Track with Their Future Paths!

Elizabeth Salcido
Principal

As part of the October National Manufacturing Day, 180 ninth-grade CTE engineering-design students attended an event hosted by a local aerospace manufacturing company. The event included an explorative tour of the facility, where students interacted with manufacturing professionals at different stations. Students had opportunities to experiment with state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment, discuss the latest trends in design, and interact with other area high school students.

Later in October, 25 of our ninth-grade CTE engineering-design female students participated in the Women Engineers at the Beach event hosted by California State University, Long Beach. Our students joined other area female engineering students to listen to keynote speeches and college engineering programs. Once the



speeches concluded, our female engineering students participated in hands-on activities such as flying paper airplanes to learn how to track and direct air traffic on the computers and create chemical reactions to power up batteries.

Also in October, 16 of our ninth-grade CTE food service and hospitality students participated in the Culinary Arts Extravaganza and Job Expo hosted by Cerritos College. Students observed alumni and current students in the culinary program compete in a cooking contest and also participated in a chef panel in which the experts answered questions posed by the student audience.

With the Class of 2020, career technical education is thriving, with over 700 students participating in the four pathways of design, visual and media arts; engineering design; patient care; and food service and hospitality. Students are gaining career knowledge and participating in hands-on learning from experts in their pathways before graduation.

Roosevelt Elementary

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



Community Building

Susan Marilley
Principal

Promoting activities which involve our families and community is important to Roosevelt School. Activities and events are designed to encourage our most important stakeholders to join in and become involved in the life of our school. This is critical to the development of a strong school culture.

On Thursday, October 27, Roosevelt School hosted its annual "Trunk or Treat Spooktacular." Teachers decorated their cars and dressed in costumes as the students and their families enjoyed an evening of fun, food, and spooky music! This is the fourth year that Roosevelt School has held this event, and each year it is an outstanding success.

The school principal, Mrs. Marilley, handled the "Troll Photo Booth," providing families with the opportunity to



have their picture taken with her dressed as a troll; think Santa Claus but scarier! One of the highlights was the "Do You Dare?" area. Guests handled "witch eyes" (really cold grapes!), "vampire brains" (spaghetti!), and also enjoyed an assortment of other creepy experiences.

Our Student Council and PTA sold refreshments and provided invaluable support, ensuring that a terrific evening was enjoyed by our families. Former Roosevelt Roughrider students also returned to visit and share with their teachers

and staff members. A wonderful time was had by all!

Events such as our "Trunk or Treat Spooktacular" are much more than just fun occasions. They bring the school community together and remind us all of what a family truly is. We come together on special occasions to enjoy each others' company, to reminisce, and to reconnect.

Tanner Elementary

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



Holly Hennessy
Principal

Science Brought to Life

Science came alive for the students at Tanner Elementary in October when a traveling school-assembly company brought their portable science museum to our school. Using hands-on interactive STEAM exhibits, students freely explored the museum, immersing themselves in the fun. By participating in this experience and having opportunities such as creating their own movie reels, learning about 3-D printing and how the world of desktop prototyping manufacturing works, and controlling a bike generator that converted their potential



energy into electrical energy, students learned how science fits into the real world they live in. In addition, students experienced the world of motion and force with a domino race, conductivity through a maze, and geometric shapes and pattern mapping.



As we continue to foster their creativity, enhance their critical-thinking skills, and broaden their minds with these types of interactive workshops, we will not only help to strengthen their knowledge as 21st century learners but we will also heighten their curiosity and help them to become career and college ready. As one student said, "I can't believe this is science, and I love it!" I think that says it all.

Wirtz Elementary

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



Connie Toscano
Principal

Trunk-or-Treat:

On Thursday, October 27th, Wirtz held its first Trunk-or-Treat event. From ghosts and goblins to witches and zombies, Wirtz staff, students and families showed their support and made the night a true success. Students and families enjoyed fun games, great music and delicious snacks.

Upon entering the school, each student was given a trunk-or-treat bag to use as they went from trunk to trunk collecting candies and playing games. Among the 'spooktacularly' themed trunks were, Hotel Transylvania, Mrs. Peralta; Day of the Dead, Mrs. Elizondo, Mrs. Kaing and Ms. Figueroa; Hogwarts Express/Station 9 ¾, Mrs. Bruland and Mrs. Avalos, Queen of Hearts, Mrs. Lujan, Leonardo/Ninja Turtle, Ms. Thompson; Shark Attack, Mr. Caruso; Fairytales/Super Heroes, Mrs. Ramirez and family; The Little Mermaid, Mr. & Mrs. Bronder; Beware: Hazardous Materials, Mrs. Eugenio; Colorful Crayons, Ms. Curmi; Time for Fall, Mrs. Armendariz and family; Pirate's Cove, Mrs. Reno; and Spooky Scarecrow, Mrs. Martin and family.

All in attendance were treated to ghostly music by our DJ, Andrew Caero, as they waited to participate in our



costume contest. Congratulations to our following contest winners: (all winners received a certificate and goody bag)

Amy Samano – Poison Ivy, Adriana Altamirano – Day of the Dead, Camila Diaz – Ghostly Bride, Darren Lozano - Jester, Jason Ayala – Headless Scientist, Sergio Gutierrez - Zombie

A big thank you to Mrs. Reno and Mrs. Martin for coordinating the event. We hope a 'spooktacularly' good time was had by all.

Zamboni Middle School

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



Sue Saikaly
Principal

Making our Voices Heard!

This past October, several high schools and middle schools throughout the state participated in an opportunity to cast their votes and report their final voting numbers for President, U.S. Senator and several propositions to California Secretary of State Alex Padilla.

Zamboni students had the extraordinary privilege of participating in this process by conducting a mock election, thus making their voices heard. Our Social Studies Department planned and delivered relevant lessons that addressed several issues of the 2016 election, such as immigration, the military, gun control, the nation's safety, and the current propositions and candidates for Senate and President. In addition, our students learned about the system of democracy, and the importance of casting their votes.

This election helped our students discover the importance of voting, and how significant it is to democracy. Not only did they learn the process it takes to



vote and why it's important, they also experienced it first hand. It was exciting to hear our students encouraging others to vote and make their voices known.

Many staff and student volunteers worked together to organize and conduct a realistic polling place. They had students checking in voters, guiding them to an available seating area to vote,

and, finally, having them turn in their ballots and receive an "I Voted" sticker. Several students also participated in tallying sections of the ballots to enable the reporting of the overall results.

Students eagerly awaited the news! Zamboni's results, as well as the votes from all participating schools, were reported on the State of California's website.

It was a truly unforgettable educational experience. Our students will surely remember this event when they cast their first real vote at the age of eighteen. Our mock election was a great success! Thank you to all Zamboni staff and students who made it happen.

Whole Health Everyday 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 December 30, 2016

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

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| ALKALINE | MINERALS |
| ALMONDS | NATURAL |
| APPLES | NOURISH |
| CARROTS | NUTS |
| CHICKEN | PROTEIN |
| FIBER | SALMON |
| FRUITS | SEEDS |
| HEALTH | VEGETABLES |
| HUMMUS | VITAMINS |
| KALE | WATER |
| LEMONS | |



Congratulations Yoxziel Graciano Winner of Our October Word Search Contests!

Parent To Parent



No Digital for Toddlers Isn't Bad

Q. My 20-month-old son goes to a mom's day out program twice a week. Many of the moms volunteer a couple of times a month in the classroom. I've noticed that during free time some of the kids have iPads and seem to really enjoy various types of educational games and material on them. My son loves to play and touch the screen on my phone and computer. Could you recommend apps that are fun but also teach our kids?

A. If you search online for "free apps for toddlers," an abundance of choices of apps and games will come up. I do want to point out that The American Academy of Pediatrics recently released a report that says that parents still need to "avoid digital media for toddlers younger than 18 to 24 months other than video chatting." Of course, they still limit screen time for all kids at different ages, but from age two to five, one hour a day of "high-quality programming" is recommended. The report gives tips and guidelines but also explains why there "continues to be evidence of harm from excessive digital media use." See <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2016/10/19/peds.2016-2591> for the full report. Read the recommendations and then base your decision on how much one on one time you currently give your son. He is at an age where everything is fun, regardless if it's digital or a book or you and him just playing together, etc. He will get into the electronic world soon enough. But for now, there's nothing that can substitute human interaction, talking, touching, laughing, listening and just letting him be a kid.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 15 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check www.ParentToParent.com for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.

Michael's Book Review



Michael H.

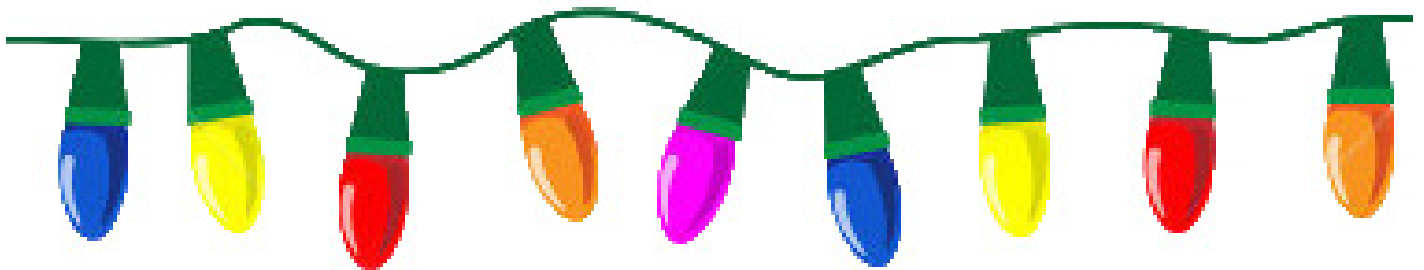
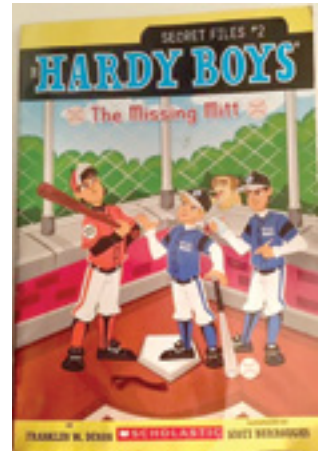
The Missing Mitt

This Hardy Boy case is about Joe and his brother Frank. They try to figure out who took Jason Prime's baseball mitt. Their team, the Bayport Bandits, were ready to win the final little league game of the season using their good luck charm. Jason's mitt was special because his dad, Winner Prime, had used it to win the world series. Right before each game the whole team would touch it for luck.

Jason thought it was Conner Hound from the opposing team, because he had seen him snooping around their bags while they were practicing. Jason was upset and did not want to play until the mitt was found. After some detective work they figured out what had happened to the missing baseball mitt. They remembered that earlier that day Mr. Mack's dog Lucy had jumped on Jason. Lucy loved to play fetch especially with things that people threw on the ground. You had to be very careful around her because anything thrown might end up buried somewhere. They decided to throw another mitt. Lucy immediately picked it up and began to run. Jason, Joe and Frank chased her. When Lucy stopped she dug a hole and there in the hole was Jason's mitt. The Hardy boys were very happy. Secret File Case #2 was solved.

I give this book 4 stars I really enjoyed the mystery. The only thing that would have made this book more exciting was if Lucy the dog wasn't the one who had taken Jason's mitt.

Michael H. is a 4th grade student. Besides his love for reading, he also enjoys Karate, playing guitar and sharing new adventures with his mom. He will rate the books 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest.



Happy Holidays!

School News

Education+Communication=A Better Nation



Join Our Sales Team!

Work from Your Home

**Perfect for:
Stay-at-home Moms/Dads
Retirees...You!**

- **Name your own hours**
- **25% Commission**
- **Sales experience helpful**



Kay 562-493-3193
kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

SWITCH

to one of the

BEST 529 PLANS IN THE NATION*

and

GET UP TO \$500.**

(We'll even fill out the paperwork for you.)

**Minimum balance required; see chart. Promotion ends 7/1/2017.

Bonus paid by ScholarShare as a deposit into account.

Transfer your 529 college savings account to ScholarShare today at ScholarShare.com/Switch.

Your kids are growing fast and your 529 college savings account needs to keep up. Luckily, right now you can give it a boost by transferring your 529 account into a ScholarShare account—one of the best 529 plans in the nation. Depending on your current balance, we'll give you up to \$500 to switch to ScholarShare (see chart below).* You are permitted to transfer funds from another 529 college savings plan to an account in ScholarShare for the same beneficiary once within a 12-month period without incurring federal income tax. The 529 college savings plan from which you are transferring funds may be subject to differences in features, costs and surrender charges. You should consult your tax advisor or the other 529 college savings plan. State and local taxes may apply.

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



SCHOLARSHARE
529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANSM

scholarshare.com/switch

*ScholarShare has received a Silver rating from Morningstar, making it one of the best-rated plans in the nation. In an annual review (10/20/2015) of the largest 529 college savings plans (64 total), Morningstar identified 29 plans that rose above their typical peers, awarding those plans Gold, Silver, and Bronze Morningstar Analyst Ratings for 2015. These forward-looking, qualitative ratings signal Morningstar's conviction in the plans' abilities to outperform their relevant benchmark and peer groups on a risk-adjusted basis over the long term. Morningstar evaluates college savings plans based on five key pillars — Process, Performance, People, Parent, and Price. For more information about Morningstar's overview of ScholarShare, go to 529.morningstar.com. Past performance does not predict future results. Source: 529.morningstar.com



Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Visit ScholarShare.com for a Plan Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed, and there is a risk of investment loss. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Plan Manager. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Taxpayers should seek advice from an independent tax advisor based on their own particular circumstances. Non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to federal and state taxes and the additional federal 10% tax. Non-qualified withdrawals may also be subject to an additional 2.5% California tax on earnings. Before investing in a 529 plan, consider whether the state where you or your Beneficiary resides has a 529 plan that offers favorable state tax benefits that are available if you invest in that state's 529 plan. Neither TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., nor its affiliates, are responsible for the content found on any external website links referenced herein.