# School Rews &



Education + Communication = A Better Nation
Covering the Paramount Unified School District

Volume 3, Issue 10 May 2019

Students Extend their Learning Beyond the Classroom





Students Share their Musical Talents

## **Governing Board**



**Carmen Gomez** President



Yesenia Cuarenta Vice-President / Clerk



Linda Garcia Member



Vivian Hansen Member



Sonia De Leon Member

As we begin the spring season, we have continued the positive momentum that has guided our children to flourish. We are inspiring our Pre-K through Adult Education students to future success in college and career through a variety of programs that continue to build.

Students at Odyssey STEM Academy remain energized by the school's internship program that taught them secrets to success in various career pathways. On March 14, Odyssey showcased the work of students for the Paramount community during an Exhibition of Learning event at the school's campus. This gathering gave us an opportunity to share the magic that happens inside our classrooms, as well as to thank the community for its vital role in the District's success.

I am pleased to announce that our Board of Education meetings are now available for viewing online. Our meetings champion the achievement of students and staff, while discussing proposals and initiatives that affect the Paramount community. Making these public meetings accessible online will increase our District's engagement with the surrounding area as we all pursue the best for our children. The online link is http://bit.ly/ ParamountBoardMeetings

Lastly, I am excited to acknowledge our Paramount Adult School, which has recently begun its 12-week phlebotomy program. This is a wonderful program that has allowed students to find a career path that allows them to triumph outside of the classroom. Good luck to the new class of students!

Thank you for your constant support of Paramount Unified School District. Together, we are helping to nurture the future leaders of tomorrow.



Dr. Ruth Pérez Superintendent

A medida que comenzamos la temporada de primavera, hemos continuado el impulso positivo que ha guiado a nuestros hijos a florecer. Estamos inspirando a nuestros estudiantes desde el Pre-K hasta la Educación para Adultos para el éxito futuro en la universidad y la carrera a través de una variedad de programas que se continúan a construir.

Los estudiantes de Odyssey STEM Academy siguen energizados por el programa de pasantías de la escuela que les enseño secretos para el éxito en varias vías profesionales. El 14 de marzo, Odvssev mostró el trabajo de los estudiantes para la

comunidad de Paramount durante un evento de Exhibición de Aprendizaje en el plantel escolar. Esta reunión nos dio la oportunidad de compartir la magia que ocurre dentro de nuestros salones de clase, así como de agradecerle a la comunidad por su papel vital en el éxito del Distrito.

Me complace anunciar que nuestras reuniones de la Junta Directiva de Educación ahora están disponibles para ver en línea. Nuestras reuniones abogan por el logro estudiantil y del personal, mientras se discuten propuestas e iniciativas que afectan a la comunidad de Paramount. Hacer estas reuniones públicas accesibles en línea aumentará el compromiso de nuestro Distrito con el área circundante, ya que todos buscamos lo mejor para nuestros hijos. El enlace en línea es http://bit.ly/ ParamountBoardMeetings

Por último, me complace reconocer a nuestra Escuela de Adultos de Paramount, que recientemente ha comenzado su programa de flebotomía de 12 semanas. Este es un programa maravilloso que les ha permitido a los estudiantes encontrar un camino profesional que les permita triunfar fuera del salón de clases ¡Buena suerte a la nueva clase de estudiantes!

Gracias por su constante apoyo al Distrito Escolar Unificado de Paramount. Juntos, estamos ayudando a nutrir a los futuros líderes del mañana.

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

## School News www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

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

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION: Gerald Villaluz and Emily Ung

COPY EDITORS:

562/493-3193

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder Netragrednik by Neta Madison



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**Kay Coop** Founder/Publisher





The end of this school year is in sight and the students are focused on their academic goals.

In this issue you will read articles on the topics Makerspace Lab, AVID, College & Career Day, Civic Learning, Round Table Reading, and much more!

Our next issue is October 23. Have a wonderful summer!









#### Alondra Middle School

16200 S. Downey Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8004 • alondra.pusdschools.net



Carolynn Butler Principal

#### Here's the Scoop

During Alondra's PEP fundraising. science teacher Ms. Latorre wanted to find a "cool" and educational way to raise money for college

scholarships. And so Ms. Latorre thought serving up liquid nitrogen ice cream would be a great way to mix science and fundraising.

She first interviewed and "hired" students, and came up with a business plan that let the customers be a part of the process. A cashier greeted the customers and gave them a bowl, spoon, and gloves. The liquid nitrogen was poured into the ice cream mix and the students were

in awe of how quickly it evaporated and turned into a big cloud of smoke. Because liquid nitrogen is so cold, the milk particles stay very small without forming into ice crystals, creating an ultra-smooth creamy texture.





Kudos to Ms. Latorre and her team for creating the biggest scoop during Alondra's PEP fund-raising efforts!

## Buena Vista High School

3717 Michelson St., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/602-8090 • bv.pusdschools.net



**Morrie Kosareff** Principal

## **SOARing to New Heights**

Strive, Organize, Attend and Respect are the Guidelines for Success at Buena Vista High School. Buena Vista is a second chance for many of our students who have not experienced success in a traditional high school setting. Our guidelines allow them to SOAR as Eagles through high school and beyond to success in college and their chosen career.

We started our spring semester with a series of minilessons designed to have students reflect on each guideline and determine how they can implement it in their life. During Strive Week, we asked students to define what it meant to strive, read and analyze quotes related to the importance of striving, and set goals for themselves. Teachers shared times in their lives where they faced a difficult challenge or setback and had to recover through hard work.

During Organize Week, we looked at various aspects of organization, including time management. We had students determine which phone apps help a person stay organized and manage their time and which apps waste time. During Attend Week, we asked students to examine how their attendance affects their grades, using their report cards as illustration. We held class discussions about the importance of attending not only physically but also mentally. During Respect Week, we discussed the ways we respect ourselves, others, the learning environment and our future. Students participated in an activity that modeled how a person's respect or disrespect ripples through a community. Finally, students identified areas to make a commitment to and develop a plan.

Our Guidelines for Success have allowed for our strong start to our second semester. As we continue through the semester, we will be recognizing students that exemplify the guidelines and continue to use them as a teaching tool to support our students.

#### Collins Elementary

6125 Coke Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/602-8008 • collins.pusdschools.net



Theresa Diaz Principal

#### **Community Tree Planting**

In February, Captain Raymond Collins School, located in the city of Long Beach, hosted a community tree-planting event. Collins School collaborated with Collins Neighborhood Association President Juanita Dopplemore to work with over 200 local community volunteers to plant over 100 trees in the Collins neighborhood.

The exciting day began with Long Beach City Councilman Rex Richardson, a Collins neighborhood resident, kicking off the event with a moving speech that thanked the collaborative efforts of the school administrators, the Collins Neighborhood Association, several city organizations, and the many volunteers that came out to help. In all, more than 15 community organizations came out to plant over 100 trees in the nine-block area that comprises the Collins School neighborhood. Some of the organizations included Long Beach Development Services, I Dig Long Beach, Girl Scout

Troops 1353 and 1363, a health-care corporation, CAL Fire, City of Long Beach Department of Public Works, the Port of Long Beach, a credit union, D13N Key Club and Sunburst Youth Academy.

The exciting event culminated in a tasty luncheon provided by State Assemblyman Anthony Rendon's office. The hardworking volunteers were happy to sit down to a delicious lunch in the shady quad of Collins School as they listened to music and enjoyed their sandwiches from a local restaurant and drinks provided by the Collins Neighborhood Association.

Captain Raymond Collins School hosts community events and neighborhood polling places and also works in collaboration with the Collins Neighborhood Association to create bonds that support students, families and community members. "We look forward to many more events where we can engage our community with unity for the benefit of our students, their families and our community members," Principal Diaz said.

## Gaines Elementary

7340 E. Jackson St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8012 • gaines.pusdschools.net



Michael Naruko Principal

#### **Makerspace Lab**

Makerspace is the newest afterschool enrichment program at Gaines Elementary School, providing students with hands-on learning experiences based on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). What is a makerspace lab? It is a high-tech or low-tech work space that encourages students to work collaboratively as they

explore, design, build, and share ideas to solve real-world problems.

In the Gaines Makerspace Lab, students turn everyday household items into creative projects. Gaines teachers Leah Cortez and Maira Rodriguez teach their junior engineers the process of asking, imagining, creating, and improving as they build hurricane-proof homes and cities and design and launch rockets that can travel through space.



Second grade students design and build a hurricane-proof home.



Third grade students experiment with rocket designs and fuels that will improve flight.

## Hollydale K-8

5511 Century Blvd., South Gate, CA 90280 • 562/602-8016 • hollydale.pusdschools.net



Lisa Nunley-Macon Principal

#### **Club Rush**

What's the best way to get middle school students excited about school? Start a club! The middle school teachers at Hollydale decided to offer nine clubs to students to build community, self-esteem, and school spirit. "As a School

to Watch, clubs allow our school to be more developmentally responsive to the needs of students," says English Language Arts teacher and Glee Club moderator, Samantha Valdivia. During club rush, students were able to join the Girls Club, Internet Game Design Club, Drama Club, Journalism Club, Book Club, Game Club, Photography Club, or the Props Club. Student Abraham Nuno, shared, "I joined a club because I like to code, and I plan to become an engineer one day." Clubs are a great way to meet the unique needs of middle school students.



## Jackson Middle School

7220 E. Jackson St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8020 • jackson.pusdschools.net



**Kelly Anderson** Principal

### **Round Table Reading**

Jackson Knights pursue their quest for knowledge daily, and now they are bringing their parents along for the ride! Recently, a group of Jackson parents set out on a journey to learn how to share their family stories and instill a lifelong love of reading in their children. The Latino Literacy Project consists of hands-on workshops led by Jackson counselors and where parents

participate in bilingual book units that help them establish a family reading routine. Each week, parents read a bilingual book and take part in activities that encourage families to share their own stories as part of the learning process.

Throughout the program, participants have also been creating personalized photo albums chronicling their unique family stories. Our parents have really enjoyed coming together to learn about engaging with their children through literature.



## Jefferson Elementary

8600 Jefferson St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8024 • jefferson.pusdschools.net



**Kelly Williams** *Principal* 

#### Jaguars Do It Again!

"Congratulations! Your school is a Los Angeles County Top School!" What exciting words to read! Based upon the results of the first annual report, Top Los Angeles Public Schools for Underserved Students, Jefferson Elementary is one of the 279 schools being recognized based our strong results in Math proficiency for low-income Latino students

in 2017-18. At Jefferson school, we believe in the incredible potential of every child and we are very fortunate to have been recognized for our scores that support that belief. We appreciate the recognition, as it validates our dedicated, hardworking teachers and staff that truly make a difference in the lives of our students on a daily basis. We will pause shortly to celebrate our accomplishment; however, we will return to our mission to continue to show it is possible to educate all students at high levels!



Fourth grade students collaborating on a math inquiry lesson.



Compared to our scores in 2017-2018 Jefferson made a 9.4-point increase.

## Keppel Elementary

6630 Mark Keppel St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8028 • keppel.pusdschools.net



**Darrenn Platt** *Principal* 

### **Reading Across Keppel**

Reading is foundational to the success of every student. One of the many ways we help foster a passion for reading is by creating special reading "moments." This year we turned Read Across America into "Read Across Keppel!" We started the week on Monday with our Reading Buddies. Students from 3rd, 4th and 5th grade met with their

buddies from Kinder, 1st and 2nd grade and spent 20 minutes sharing a good book. On Wednesday, we hosted a family read night. Students came and listened to stories and watched some of their classmates perform a Readers Theater as they enjoyed milk and cookies. They then made crafts based on the stories that were read. We finished the week with our Books and Blankets event, where parents came on campus and read with their students. It was a great week.





## Lincoln Elementary

15324 S. California Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8036 • lincoln.pusdschools.net



Dr. Topekia **Jones** Principal

#### Top School Designation

Out of 2,068 traditional public schools in Los Angeles County, Lincoln Elementary School is one of 279 schools being recognized as a 2019 Top Los Angeles Public School for Underserved Students.

A report, published by Innovate Public Schools in conjunction with the University of Southern California Rossier School of Education, highlights the accomplishments of schools that are successfully closing the

achievement gap for traditionally underserved students. According to the 2018 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) results, Lincoln outperformed statewide averages in English language arts and math by nine percent and 14 percent respectively.

Lincoln is dedicated to student achievement and is proud to provide a quality education for all children. Lincoln and other Top School honorees were celebrated with a ceremony and reception on May 4 at University of Southern California. Go, Lincoln Lions!



## Los Cerritos Elementary

14626 Gundry Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8040 • loscerritos.pusdschools.net



Hilda Verdugo Principal

#### 4th Grade Goes to Knotts!

On Friday, March 29th the three fourth grade classes of Los Cerritos Elementary School took a study trip to Knott's Berry Farm to learn about early California history. The students learned about fur trapping, spinning cotton into thread, and saw a horseshoe being made by a blacksmith. The classes also saw replicas of many of the California missions. The highlight of the trip was riding the Log Ride. The day concluded with a picnic lunch.



Ms. Cheryl explaining how she makes thread with her spinning wheel.



Students learning about what a blacksmith does.

## Mokler Elementary

8571 E. Flower St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8044 • mokler.pusdschools.net



**Linh Roberts** *Principal* 

#### **After-School Enrichment Opportunities**

At Mokler, we recognize the value of after-school enrichment opportunities in the development of our students. Our teachers and parents provide their guidance and talents on topics that allow the students to explore their various interests, such as STEM, dance, music, theater, sports, and cooking.

These activities promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills, allow students to

navigate group environments to build social skills, teach how to live healthy life-styles, and give children the chance to explore their interests. This can open up even more options for careers and hobbies as they grow older.

This year our Pilots performed in a musical, entertained during school and city-wide dance performances, learned how to code, engaged in hands-on mathematics while cooking, monitored their endurance while running, became active citizens and school advocates through the Student Council and more. The future is bright for our Pilots.



Third-Fifth grade students perform in the musical, The Elephant's Child.

## Odyssey STEM Academy

3701 Michelson Street, Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/602-8032 • odyssey.pusdschools.net



**Keith Nuthall** *Principal* 

## **Powerful Learning**

Odyssey STEM Academy strives for excellence by seeking feedback and reflecting and refining our work.

We pause three times throughout the school year to exhibit our work. These exhibitions of learning call on our scholars to tell their story of growth to families, advisors, and mentors. Their writing, mathematical thinking, and projects serve as examples.

Exhibition guests provide kind, specific, and helpful feedback to many scholars. They encourage their journey and help them grow as individuals. Exhibition reaches beyond the standard parent-teacher conference to include families and community as valued and trusted participants in the learning process. Making scholar work public breaks down barriers among our community and makes scholarly academic and personal development visible to all.



Hearing how much our learners have grown over the past 12 weeks never gets old. Our scholars are special people with infinite potential. Join us for our next Exhibition at the end of May.

## Paramount Adult School / Community Day School

14507 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8080 • pas.pusdschools.net



**Yvonne** Rodriguez Principal

#### CTE Expands

Career Technical Education continues to grow at Paramount Adult School (PAS). In February, PAS added Cosmetology 10 in partnership with Compton College. The class is the first course in a program which leads to a certificate of achievement in cosmetology. Through Cosmetology 10, students learn the basic principles and operations of cosmetology equipment procedures and techniques. Classes are taught by Compton

College teachers who have a wealth of industry experience. Cosmetology 10 is a five-hour class that runs Monday through Thursday for 16 weeks. According to student Nadia Marguez, a mother of three who recently received her high school equivalency certificate, PAS is helping her to reach her dream of owning her own hair salon.

In addition, PAS offers phlebotomy on Tuesday evenings. This is the second year that PAS has offered this course, which prepares students to become certified phlebotomy technicians. Phlebotomists collect blood samples in hospitals, clinical laboratories, and medical offices. Students learn about the circulatory system and venipuncture technique as well as specimen collection. Phlebotomy offers 48 hours of classroom instruction in addition to 40 hours of hands-on externship, where students receive on-the-job training. At the end of the course students are prepared to take the national certification exam. This spring, PAS had 19 students enrolled in phlebotomy.

PAS continues to offer the medical assistant program, which provides students with the knowledge and experience necessary to work in a clinic or doctor's office. This program has been offered for many years and has prepared a number of students for the medical field. PAS also has three programs in the field of business, including accounting bookkeeping clerk, computerized office clerk, and Microsoft Office proficiency. PAS continues to work to meet the needs of adults in the Paramount community by providing a variety of CTE offerings.

## Paramount Park Middle School

14608 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8052 • paramountpark.pusdschools.net



**Kevin Longworth** Principal

#### **Panthers Work to Bridge Barriers**

The staff of Paramount Park continues to rise to the challenge in finding effective ways to support all students!

The Panther Student Union (PSU) was created to provide support for African American students by modeling Black Excellence and giving students a voice within the school. Recently, coordinators and mentors Ms. Akuamoah and Mrs. Hunt invited a special panel to visit the school.

This group of 10 professionals included business owners, musicians, actors, and artists, and they spoke about success, obstacles, and support.

The interactions were amazing. For instance, one of the questions the panel explored was, "Has the color of your skin hindered or helped you in any way concerning your dream?" A former student also talked about who influenced her while at Paramount Park, and she had this to say about those people: "They were my color ... my kind." The PSU is working to bridge social barriers.



**Professionals Visit Paramount Park** 

#### Paramount High School - Senior Campus

14429 S. Downey Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-6067 • phs.pusdschools.net



**Mike Ono** *Principal* 

#### **Achievement Via Individual Determination**

"AVID gave me a family to turn to for questions. It gave me a class to support my mental health," said Kayla Hood, an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) senior at Paramount High School. Although AVID's mission is "to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness," AVID students at Paramount High School resoundingly

affirm that AVID's major impact is feeling that they have a school family and ongoing support at school. Additionally, AVID prepares students for college and career readiness through focused note taking, organizational skills, college and financial application guidance, scholarship searches, student-led tutorials, and more.

Of this year's 58 AVID seniors, 12 have post-secondary education plans and 43 applied to four-year colleges with a

100-percent acceptance rate! Students applied to a variety of colleges, including California State University, University of California (UC), community colleges, and private universities. The AVID class of 2019 has worked arduously for these acceptances, with 45 students boasting Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors classes during their tenure in high school. Most of the students have taken more than six of these advanced classes, and some have taken as many as 10 to 12. AVID students are enrolled in the AVID elective class to support their success in these rigorous classes.

Senior Rickya Burnaugh shared, "AVID has made high school an easier experience. AVID is always a resource when I need help with absolutely anything, and, without AVID, I wouldn't be where I am today." Senior Ruth Rivera added, "AVID has impacted my life by helping me get through these difficult last two years. The teachers and counselors have continuously pushed me to do my best and never give up."

### Paramount High School - West Campus

14708 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8073 • phswest.pusdschools.net



**Elizabeth Salcido** *Principal* 

## Ready for the Future

On Monday, April 1, 2019, Paramount High School West Campus AVID students visited Long Beach City College.

Class of 2022 Pirate Scholars were given a personalized experience on dual enrollment, community college, honors, and transferring process to four-year universities. During their visit, our eighty-six AVID students learned firsthand about their interests through a campus tour based on their future career through classroom walk-throughs and observations of students in action. Additional incentives for students attending Long Beach City College are: participating in college field trips to fouryear colleges and receiving free tutoring for all subjects as needed. Class of 2022 is focused on their future.



AIVD students learning how to choose college classes based on their interests



AVID students receiving information on Honors and transferring to four-year universities

#### Roosevelt Elementary

13451 Merkel Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8056 • roosevelt.pusdschools.net



**Margie Domino** Principal

#### **College and Career Day**

Theodore Roosevelt students participated in an exciting day of learning about the many options that they have ahead of them! Roosevelt Rough Riders had a chance to listen to guest speakers share stories about their jobs and careers.

Our guests explained why they picked their career paths and the effort they needed to put forth to achieve their career goals.

Students were able to hear from a doctor, our district nurse, law enforcement, UPS employees, two presenters from ST Math, and even students from our very own Paramount High School! All students were able to hear from at least three presenters.

It was an exciting day for students, teachers and the presenters. Our community worked together to help students in Paramount see the many places they can go in life and hear how they can work each and every day toward the career path they think will interest them most.





### Tanner Elementary

7210 Rosecrans Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8060 • tanner.pusdschools.net



**Holly Hennessy** Principal

## Weaving in Civic Learning

Civic learning is an important part of a student's education here at Howard Tanner Elementary. Promoting participation through outside-the-classroom opportunities as well as inside the classroom activities and special programs helps our students to become productive members of their community. In addition, it allows teachers an avenue of instructional focus to teach their students

social responsibility, appreciation of diversity and applied real-world learning.



Through this variety of specialized instruction, students can weave real-life experiences into their dayto-day learning at school. In addition, students build that connection between home, school and community, and the value of being in class each day becomes more important to them.

Working together as a team, we will be able to prepare our students for the world outside our school walls. And it's never too early.



Education gives us the understanding of the world around us.

#### Wirtz Elementary

8535 Contreras St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8068 • wirtz.pusdschools.net



**Connie Toscano** *Principal* 

#### **Testing has Met Its Match!**

We are The Incredibles, and "Testing Has Met Its Match!" This phrase will greet each Wirtz student as they arrive to school, helping to inspire them as we begin the CAASPP testing period this year. At Wirtz, we strive to not only prepare our students academically, but to also motivate them to succeed.

Parents can help support us with motivating their students by sending their child a testing gram, which includes a personal message of encouragement



**Testing has Met Its Match for the Wirtz Wizards!** 

and treats. During the testing period, students also receive incentives for arriving to school on time and for attending every day. The testing period culminates with a free dress day for all students.

We are confident in the ability of our students, and in the hard work and dedication of our

teachers to help them succeed. We are the Wirtz Wizards, and we know that "Testing Has Met Is Match!"

#### Zamboni Middle School

15733 Orange Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8048 • zamboni.pusdschools.net



Sue Saikaly Principal

#### **Zamboni ROCKS the Arts**

On Thursday, March 21st, the visual arts, theater, and music came together at Zamboni Middle School.

The evening began when those in attendance were treated to two showcase performances. The Zamboni band performed with the Jazz Angels, and, as always, they made us proud. Next up, members of the Mighty Z Annie cast presented, through song

and dance, two of the routines they are preparing for our musical performance, which "opens" on May 30th.



Rounding out the evening, P.S. Arts, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving children's lives through art education, partnered with Zamboni for a funfilled family art-making workshop. P.S. Arts teacher-artists led families in a hands-on art project that encouraged the artists to design a symbolic representation of themselves as they created stained glass artwork.

It was great to see our school community enjoy Family Arts Night!





Have a fun summer and remember "Readers Rule!"

Be sure to include the library in your summer activity choices.





## Early Childhood Education Program

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



Dr. Elida Garcia Director

#### **Preschool Art Walk**

The Gaines and Wirtz (Jackson) State Preschools recently hosted art walks to showcase all of the creative projects made throughout the curriculum theme of "Using My Imagination".

Students worked collaboratively to create group projects. Preschoolers also learned

about the different tools used by artists. Students got opportunities to paint portraits, still life, and abstract art. They also used their imagination to make 3D art. Preschoolers experimented with the use of paint, watercolors, chalk, sand, and clay to create their art. The literature read in class was also aligned with the art projects. The parents were invited to view the children's art pieces during the engaging art walks.





## Office 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.

#### Entries must be received June 30, 2019

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!

LAPTOP	GOOGLE
WINDOWS	PRINTER
APPLE	FAX
KEYBOARD	CELLPHONE
WIFI	ICON
BETA	EMOJI
URL	<b>EMAIL</b>
FACEBOOK	MICROSOFT
TWITTER	DISK
MOUSEPAD	PHOTOSHOP

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## MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

## **Helping Children Manage End-of-School-Year Stress**



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

It's the beginning of spring, the air feels warmer and the excitement of summer is present. However, as the school year winds down, anxiety can ramp up.

The end of the school year is a time of transition. Children and parents internalize stress in different ways and finding ways to alleviate anxiety will help families have a more enjoyable summer.

There are various stressors that can impact their well-being, including:

- Changes to sleep and diet along with other routine activities
- Changing schools or needing to attend summer school
- Leaving a friend or beloved teacher behind
- Moving to a larger campus
- Studying for and taking exams

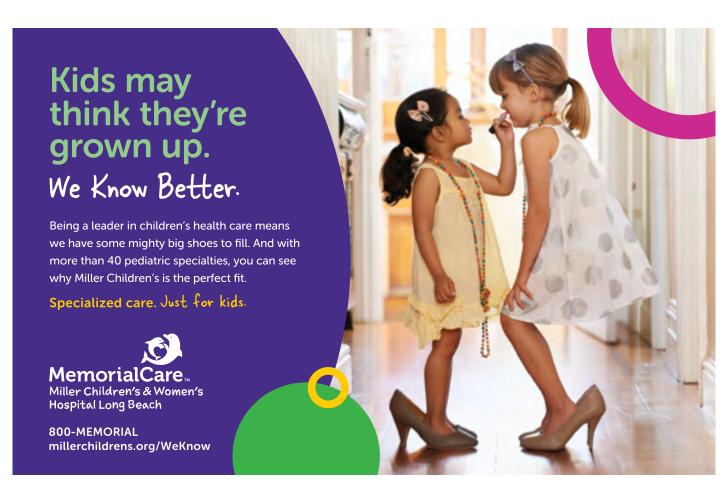
Although it's difficult to predict how a child will respond to change, it's important to communicate. Parents can help with their child's transition by creating closure, so that their child doesn't assume the worst about the upcoming year. With any transition, it's important to have a meaningful conversation, so parents can be aware of how a child is handling the situation.

Some tips to deal with stress and anxiety, include:

- Encouraging involvement in non-verbal activities, like sports, reading, writing and art
- Establishing coping skills they can engage in when they're feeling overwhelmed, such as taking the dog for a walk, playing a video game or talking to someone
- Celebrating the completion of milestones
- Highlighting the independence they'll gain because of the new transition
- Scheduling a walk-through at the new school or sit-down with their next teacher
- Writing a card to a beloved teacher they're leaving



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