

EYE ON EDUCATION

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

15110 CALIFORNIA AVE., PARAMOUNT, CA 90723 • TEL: 562-602-6000 • FAX: 562-634-6029

MARCH 2010

Integrating Art and Math at Jefferson

The 3rd graders in Mrs. McDonald's class at Jefferson School were recently taught a special lesson integrating Art and Mathematics by Art Consultant, Robin Kiss. Mrs. Kiss is a member of her local Arts for All Community Arts Team and has completed her training through Los Angeles County and the Music Center to provide children with standards-based works of art.

The lesson was entitled "The Colors for Geometry" and was inspired by the work of artist, Paul Klee. Students made a clear connection between this lesson and the third grade Open Court unit of "Imagination." Students were also pre-taught geometric concepts and vocabulary such as area, perimeter, and angles before beginning their new math topic.

Additionally, students learned about the seven elements of art: line, form, shape, value, texture, color, and space. Mrs. Kiss discussed the color wheel, composition, and pri-



Mrs. Kaetlin McDonald and some of her 3rd graders share their masterpieces from an integrated Art and Geometry Lesson, taught by Art Consultant, Mrs. Robin Kiss.

mary and secondary colors. Students were excited to mix primary colors of paint (red, yellow, blue) to create sec-

ondary colors (green, purple, orange). They then mixed their secondary colors with either white or black to create a tint

or a shade of that color. Students were engaged in producing their new colors, and they were thrilled to complete their

geometric masterpieces!

Kaetlin McDonald
Jefferson School

Community Helpers Came to Preschool



During the last month the Preschool students have had many visitors from the community. "Community Helpers" has been the theme of study for the District's Preschool students using

the Open Court curriculum. Police officers, Firefighters, Doctors, Nurses, Librarians and Mail Carriers have all come to preschool over the past two months. Many of these professionals were

parents or family members of the students. Other visitors were members from our Paramount community.

The purpose of this study unit was to help the children think about the community

workers who help them in a variety of ways. The District's youngest students were engaged in activities that helped them expand their understanding of the different kinds of community workers and what their work involves.

Although the children may have begun to recognize different workers and associate them with certain clothing and tools, they now have an understanding of what they do and how they provide services that make communities better places to live.

Parents of preschoolers are always welcome in

the classroom. This creates a climate for a working partnership that benefits all involved, especially the children. This partnership helps ensure that the learning and growth will also be supported at home. Parents and family bring a specialized knowledge and experience to the classrooms.

If you would like information regarding how to enroll a child in one of the District's Preschool Programs, please call Gaines Early Childhood Education Office at (562) 602-6900.

Preschool enrollment is now taking place for the 2010-2011 school year.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

March 9, 2010 & March 23, 2010

Board of Education meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at the District Office, 15110 California Avenue, Paramount, and are open to the public

Perfect Attendance Has Its Rewards



Every student knows that the first step in achieving academic success is attending school each day. At the high school level, missing one day of school is like missing six because a student will fall behind in each of his/her six classes. The link between academics and attendance is clear—those students who regularly attend school have better grades, more credits toward graduation, and are more connected with the campus compared to students who do not make positive attendance choices.

At Paramount High School, students are encouraged by teachers, counselors, and administrators to maintain excellent attendance. For example, in order for students to participate in activities such as dances they must maintain regular school attendance. Saturday school sessions are assigned to students with unexcused absences.

Each month, the Perfect Attendance Team visits classrooms

to distribute treats to students with perfect attendance for that month. In December, there was a very special opportunity for outstanding attendance students. All students with perfect attendance from the start of the school year until Winter Break were entered into a raffle to win a Nintendo Wii video game system. The winner was Jose E. Marquez, a sophomore, who was very appreciative of this wonderful prize. According to Jose, perfect attendance is not an option—it's necessary for him to be the best student that he can be. The ironic thing about Jose is that he was a previous owner of a Nintendo Wii, but had given it away to another family to enjoy. We at PHS are very proud of the positive choices that Jose has made and congratulate him for being an attendance role model.

**Gregoire Francois &
Jean Law,
Assistant Principals**

BOLSA CHICA WETLANDS FIELD TRIP



Collins School third grade classes had the opportunity to explore the Bolsa Chica Wetlands recently. They did so as a culminating activity to their Open Court Reading, City Wildlife unit. Students were able to see different birds, such as egrets, cinnamon teals, and mallards in their natural habitats. The children and staff enjoyed lunch at the Huntington Beach Park. While at the park, there were small animals such as mallards,

rabbits and squirrels that the children were able to feed.

Concrete experiences, such as these, reinforce and extend students' learning. The students had an exciting time during their experience at the wetlands and were able to make connections to what they learned in the City Wildlife unit.

**Katie Hwang and
Maria Trujillo**

PHS West Campus ASB Serves the Community

Associated Student Body is a group of students that represent the student body of Paramount High School West Campus. It is an organization that provides students a place to voice their opinions and suggestions regarding their school. ASB also encourages students to succeed in their classes and attend school regularly through providing various rewards and celebrations. In addition to motivating the student body to achieve academically, ASB also encourages them to serve in their community.

Recently ASB, together with Su Casa, a non-profit organization, made Christmas more enjoyable for abused children by donating gifts and helping them forget about their recent family problems. Gifts were collected in first period classes and many teachers made raising money more fun and exciting by turning it into a competition between

their classes and where winning classes received a prize.

Also ASB participated in a canned food drive during Thanksgiving to help the less fortunate in the community so they could appreciate the holiday and count their blessings. Cans were collected through first period classes and Mr. Almada and Ms. Catalan made boxes of complete Thanksgiving dinners for some of the families in the community so they would have one less thing to worry about during the holiday season.

In March, ASB plans to be part of the Pennies for Patients, which is a charity that raises money for Leukemia and Lymphoma patients. Over the years, ASB has raised several thousand dollars for the cause. It is the commitment of PHS West Campus ASB to not only serve its school community but the outside world.

Crystal Estrada, ASB President

**Eye On Education is a monthly Publication of the
Paramount Unified School District**

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Good things are happening in Paramount Schools

Eye On Education

Editor-Nancy Smith
Paramount Unified School District
15110 California Ave., Paramount, CA
(562) 602-6000 • Fax (562) 634-6029

Lion "Cubs" With Big Hearts



The Lincoln Lions have roared once again, to the tune of \$1,225.00! This is the amount of money raised this year for the American Heart Association. Our students were inspired by the story of little Cory, who had to have 5 operations on his heart by the age of six. His mother shared his story in the video shown during the kick off assembly for Jump Rope for Heart.

Our goal was for everyone to bring a dollar to donate for research and for the families of heart patients in need of financial assistance. Our students surpassed that goal! In recognition of their fine efforts the Heart Association has rewarded them with thank you gifts. Those raising \$50.00 received two free tickets to a Clippers Game! Aside from getting a good exercise that day, most importantly though, our students learned the value

of getting involved for a good cause. All the students celebrated by rope jumping during the recess time of January 27, 2010.

Thanks to the Student Council member helpers for the event. They were Morgan DeYoung, Ninethe Villafuerte, Fernanda Corona, Keith Garcia, Yoana Martinez, Joycelyn Romo, Natalie Moreno, Kayla Harris, Elizabeth Valber, Czarina Chy, Alberto Antonio Meza, Sienna Aceves and Ashley Jerez. My thanks to Ashley Jerez and Abilene Robles for helping me count all that money! As the Counselor of Lincoln School, I find it a privilege to work with such amazing children with big hearts everyday.

**Charlene Ornelas, Counselor
Lincoln School**

Pirate Physical Fitness Goals

California Physical Education Standard 2.2 states that high school students should "participate in challenging physical fitness activities using the principles of exercise to meet individual needs and interests." At Paramount High School our students' physical education interests are a priority; as a result, at the beginning of each semester students are given a variety of options when selecting the sports and physical activities of interest to them. Some students choose activities such as weightlifting, flag football, Frisbee, hockey, volleyball, basketball, softball, yoga, basketball, gymnastics, paddle tennis and more. Sophomore Britney Stokes says that "students are more interested and involved in physical education when they are given choices."

Many P.E. students at Paramount High School participated in creating their own SMART goals for the semester. SMART is an acronym that stands for goals that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely. Isabel Zayas, a 10th grader, explains that "we set SMART goals and we evaluate our goals with the teacher one-on-one to make them more realistic for each individual." All students have different physical fitness strengths and the fitness test results help both teachers and students to assess what components of

the fitness test should drive new fitness goals.

Mr. Kaskela, a P.E. teacher at Paramount High School, uses the physical fitness test results to help students set and adjust goals to improve fitness. Not only can teachers help students to make, achieve, and revise fitness goals, but setting goals is also a skill that can be used throughout life. According to Casandra Ornelas Ortega, a 10th grader, "setting goals helps me to overcome obstacles and can help me to improve lifelong skills. Staying in shape takes effort and goals help me to stay on track."

Angelica Ramos, a sophomore student in Mr. Chinn's PE class, stated the following about goal setting: "when weightlifting we try to improve every week." The students in Mr. Chinn's class regularly document their progress in the weight room to track their development. Another student, Julie Gandarilla, proudly declared that "we run the mile every week in Ms. Vargas' class in order to improve our mile time from the week before." Her classmate Gaby Rojas added, "Ms. Vargas shows us our mile times from previous weeks to discuss how we can improve our times."

Creating fitness goals extends beyond class time as well. Junior Jose Espinoza from Ms. Yasuhara's class says, "I love working out beyond P.E.

Superintendent's Message:

BUDGET INFORMATION UPDATE California State Fiscal Crisis

Dear Paramount Unified School District Community,

During my tenure as your Superintendent, I have made it my goal to communicate to our stakeholders on a timely basis the seriousness of our State's Fiscal Crisis and its impact on Paramount Unified School District.

No doubt you have recognized the fact that virtually every segment of our State's economy has been significantly affected by our Governor's and Legislators' inability to propose and act on solutions to this fiscal crisis. The Governor's most recent proposal to reduce our State's fiscal deficit targets even more "cutbacks" to K-12 education and will not protect our children, our teachers, our school districts nor our future.

The District has thoroughly re-examined our most recent three-year Fiscal Stabilization Plan, and in addition, we have taken action to review and further reduce any and all resources that do not impact vital and valued programs, faculty and staff.

Unfortunately, as a result of the Governor's Budget reductions, there remains a significant shortfall which must now be dealt with by other measures if we expect to remain solvent and in a position to protect our future.

Therefore, I will be recommending to the Board of Education that we examine and consider additional future reductions such as and not limited to the following:

- Freeze all vacancies (with the exception of safety and welfare related positions);
- Do not replace District administrative positions;
- Eliminate K-8 summer school (with exception of Special Education extended school year);
- Raise Class Size Reduction (K-3);
- Request employee concessions (Four Furlough Days);



- Study classified employee work year schedules; and
- Review the use of categorical funds.

I want to reiterate that at no other period in the history of our school district has there been a greater desire and need to mutually assist each other in ensuring the goal of fiscal solvency, saving positions and continuing student achievement to the greatest degree possible.

I have communicated and informed each of our respective employee association presidents my considerations for reductions and the timeframes relating to any March 15, 2010 employment dismissal notifications that would be required if we are not successful in generating a balanced budget for 2010-11 and beyond. I believe we can work through these difficult and unprecedented harsh economic times if we remain united and connected to each other for the support, encouragement and guidance that will be required during these challenging times.

Our District must now draw on that unique American spirit that we call "perseverance" if we expect to protect and serve our Nation's greatest asset and treasure "our children".

It is my intent to keep in constant contact and update our educational community on a regular basis of any decisions that are determined or affect our Fiscal Stabilization Plan.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Sincerely,

**David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.
Superintendent**

class by running on the treadmill and playing soccer." Jose understands the importance of creating a regular fitness routine in order to reach his soccer goals. He values the importance of constant cardiovascular workouts in order to play competitive soccer. Junior Alvinson Rabaneles also understands the lifelong benefits of fitness routines when he explains, "running is good because it makes me healthier so that I can live a longer life."

Setting goals not only can improve physical health but it can also improve emotional and psychological well being. Senior Michael Villanueva commented, "I like setting goals to feel a sense of achievement when I look back and see

all the improvements I have made." When all students create personal goals, they tend to encourage and support one another because they have a better understanding that everyone is unique and will have different ability levels. Moreover, setting goals helps students to celebrate all of the hard work that it takes to achieve a goal and it prompts others to revise goals as needed. Goal setting is a great lifelong skill and many Pirate P.E. students are developing the goal setting skills that it takes to reach their fitness targets in their Physical Education courses.

**Anna Yasuhara,
PHS P.E. Teacher**

Howard Takes Over Paramount Football; Winter Sports Wind Down

Paramount social studies teacher and coach Matt Howard accepted the position of head football coach on Feb. 2nd. Mr. Howard has been at PHS since 2003 and has coached in the Pirate football program in all but one of the ensuing seasons. He is a graduate of Lakewood High School, where he was a Press-Telegram football Dream Team member in 1993, and played collegiately at Long Beach City College (where he was a member of a national championship team in 1995) and in West Virginia. Mr. Howard has also coached at Long Beach Wilson and at Long Beach Community College. Over fifty applicants submitted paperwork for the head coaching position; the extremely strong field included ten candidates who qualified for initial interviews at PHS. Paramount High School looks forward to Mr. Howard's tenure with enthusiasm and support as he takes over the reins of

Paramount football.

Winter sports teams look forward to completing league competition with several in the running for playoff spots. Pirate wrestlers finished third in the San Gabriel Valley League and will qualify several wrestlers for CIF individual competition. As of this writing, the PHS boys' basketball and boys' soccer teams were still competing for league titles with two games to play. The Pirate hoopsters had run off several wins in a row to remain in contention, while boys' soccer had a big 2nd round win over Downey to stay in the race. Other Pirate teams with playoff possibilities were girls' water polo and girls' soccer. Soccer squads have had to scramble to complete their schedules due to winter rains which forced some cancellations. All the best to our winter programs as their seasons come to a close.

"A Celebration of Young Writers" at Mark Keppel

Several of our Mark Keppel students participated in the "A Celebration of Young Writers" Creative Communication's 2009-2010 poetry and essay contest. This is a nationwide competition established to motivate and inspire young writers. This year, we have two students whose poetry entries were selected to be published. Congratulations to fifth grade students Gissel Ruiz and Nayeli Vallecillo for their outstanding work on their poems titled "War" and "Competition".

We invite you to enjoy their award-winning poems.

War
 War
 Precarious, despicable
 Running, hiding, fighting
 Contradiction, collision, capacity, injury
 Collapsing, fading, vanishing
 Fatal, inhumane
 Disaster, atrocious
 By: Gissel Ruiz

Competition
 Tick, tick, tick
 The time is running
 Drip, drip, drip
 Your palms are sweating
 Go! Go! Go!
 The fans are cheering
 No one knows who'll win
 But if you lose your name will go in the recycling bin
 Time to announce the winner
 Silence takes hold
 Everyone standing tall and bold
 Congratulations!
 The winner has been chosen
 And he is thrilled with mixed emotions
 By: Nayeli Vallecillo

Thank you to 5th grade teacher, Anita Kaing, for working with our students and providing them support in submitting their entries. Congratulations again to Gissel Ruiz and Nayeli Vallecillo, we are all very proud of you!!

Counselors Present Parent Night on "Bullying Prevention"

On Monday, January 25th, the counseling team at Hollydale School presented information to parents on the prevention of bullying. Two presentations were scheduled to accommodate the busy lives of our parents: one at 8:30 a.m. and the second at 5:00 p.m.

Our counselors, Mrs. Edwards and Ms. Ornelas, attended a training on bullying prevention at the Los Angeles County Office of Education earlier in the fall and were able to bring information back to the school to share with all stakeholders. The purpose of the presentation was to help parents and students understand the concept of bullying and the impact it can have on our children.

Bullying is quickly becoming a public health concern. In the United States, 10 to 13 percent of school-age children experience some sort of rejection by their peers, often in the form of bullying.

As presented by Mrs. Edwards and Ms. Ornelas, bullying is any action targeted to hurt someone less powerful. Bullying oc-

curs most frequently from 6th to 8th grade, but anyone can be the victim of bullying.

There are many types of bullying including:

Physical: hitting, kicking, or pushing

Verbal: name calling, teasing, threats

Sexual: unwanted sexual comments or actions

Social: spreading rumors, isolating someone, telling lies

Cyber: offensive text messages, voice mails

Maintaining a safe and secure environment is one of our District priorities. At Hollydale School, students are taught to tell an adult when they are being bullied. Bullying is also addressed through our "Safe and Civil Schools" program and the intervention support of our counseling team.

Thank you, Mrs. Edwards and Ms. Ornelas for a job well done!

Susan Marilley
 Principal, Hollydale School

Board Honors First Graduate from the Alternative Education Center



The Board of Education acknowledged Manuel Rivera as the first graduate from the Alternative Education Center. Manuel was awarded a certificate and his name was engraved on a special perpetual plaque commemorating him as the first graduate from the Alternative Education Center. The Alternative Education Center was established to help support students

who are not able to complete all the credits required to graduate by their senior year. Students can continue to enroll in classes and earn the necessary credits needed to graduate. The Alternative Education Center can also help 11th and 12th grade high school students make up credit deficiencies in a direct and independent study mode.

Paramount Unified School District

Parent

Workshops

LOCATION: Jefferson School
 8600 Jefferson Street
 Paramount, CA 90723

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

March 11, 2010 Preparing for Independence
 March 25, 2010 Teaching Etiquette in Different Cultures
 April 15, 2010 Protecting your Kids/Internet Safety
 April 29, 2010 Understanding Street Drugs
 May 13, 2010 Preparing for the Summer
 May 27, 2010 Kinship Orientation
 (Linking caregivers to resources)

Spanish Translation will be available.
 Co-sponsored by Paramount Unified School District
 and Cerritos College

Babysitting available for children ages 3-12 (must be toilet trained)
 Must pre-register for babysitting one week in advance;
 MAY pre-registration for individual workshops
 Call: Myra McGinnis at 562-602-6035