

# EYE ON EDUCATION

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

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MAY 2009

## Read Across America Day



**R**ead Across America Day is better known to our students as Dr. Seuss Day. Dr. Seuss Day is a wonderful and interactive time of year for our students here at Tanner School. We love kicking off the week-long celebration with getting the kids to wear crazy clothing with their uniforms, something the Cat would do if he were here. We also have

on-going contests of Dr. Seuss in the library and the winners receive prizes. As the week progresses we continue our celebration with a contest to see which student knows the Dr. Seuss books better. Our kindergarten students welcome Cat in the Hat with their very own Cat in the Hat hats, later Cat in the Hat has the privilege of reading to them one of his favorite stories

from Dr. Seuss.

To end our celebration we invite a guest reader to our school and request for them to kindly read to our students a Dr. Seuss book. This year we were very fortunate to get

our former city Mayor Gene Daniels come read to our students and talk to them about being a mayor for the city, the students got to ask him many questions about his job as mayor.

As you can see we ALWAYS have a **Seusspendous** week of celebration for our students here at Tanner.

**Patricia Brent, Principal  
Tanner School**

## Adult Ed—We Are From Everywhere



One of the first things you'll see at Paramount Adult Education Center is a map of the world. It's on your right as you walk down the newly remodeled hallway next to the parking lot.

But it's not just any map.

Take a closer look.

There are pins stuck into it. Tons of brightly colored pins. A bunch of them here, not so many there.

Each represents the answer to one of the first questions new ESL students learn as they introduce themselves in their new language: "Where are you from?"

We're from as far north as

Quebec, Canada. They extend as far south as Valparaiso, Argentina. There's a pin between the Black and Caspian Seas. Pins are in India, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Korea. The list of cities sounds like a traveler's dream: Cali, Lima, Havana, and San Juan. They extend all the way east to American Samoa, until finally the pins gather again here in L.A.

"Where's yours?" a student asks another as her class swarms around the map. "Here," comes the proud reply. "That green one." Each class takes a mini field trip to the hallway during class. They've already dis-

cussed the project briefly in the classroom, and when they're done here, they'll return for a wrap-up led by their teacher.

All in all, a vivid example of the quality "real life English" lessons offered at our adult school.

Do you know someone who would benefit from learning English? Getting their GED or high school diploma? Honing their computer skills, becoming a citizen, becoming a better parent? How about learning a high-paying profession such as residential/commercial electrician?

They're all free or virtually

free.

What color will your pin be? Where will you put it?

Like the rest of the staff and students, you won't be able to hold back a smile when you see this map. "It makes you proud," Yvonne Sanchez said recently. "You'd never imagine people have come from so many different places to be here at our

school."

What a great way to expand your world. To learn. To tell a new friend, "Look, there. That's where I'm from."

Welcome to adult education here in Paramount. We are from everywhere.

**By Jerry King, Teacher  
on Special Assignment**

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

**May 12, 2009 - May 26, 2009**

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

# Growth, Progress, Hard Work, & Success



8<sup>th</sup> vs. 7<sup>th</sup> Rope Run



Fun with Friends

On Friday, March 20, 2009 many Collins 6-8<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in an outdoor celebration. What were we celebrating? Growth, progress, hard work and success! Every student who passed the Quarter Three Math Benchmark and/or the Quarter 2 Language Arts Benchmark was invited to attend the celebration. Students who scored intensive (well below grade level) on previous benchmarks but who worked hard and showed improve-

ment on the current benchmark were also invited to attend. Food Services rolled out the BBQ grill and had a spread of fun food including hamburgers, hot dogs, and chips. Students sprawled out on the grass and ate picnic style. Volleyball, relay races, tug of peace and dancing were some of the extended lunch time activities. It was a great afternoon for all.

**Nancy Manning**

## PHS Spring Sports Competing Well

With a long Spring Break jutting into the middle of the PHS spring sports' season, it's a good time to evaluate how the program is doing so far. Some fine performances are leading into what should be an exciting early May as the six programs vie for CIF playoff spots.

Pirate Track and Field and Swimming programs both offer rewards for team and individual excellence. As of this writing, the Track and Field program is poised to (once again) sweep to league championships on both varsity levels. A satisfying sweep of Gahr on April 8 solidified the Pirates' hold on first place and set the stage for a final home dual meet against Lynwood and the league prelims and finals here at PHS in early May. Paramount Aquatics are also on the cusp of CIF individual competition in Long Beach next month while the Pirate boys await the BIG meet against Warren in late April that will all but decide the league championship.

The boys' tennis program will give Coach Curtis Mu a sweep of both the girls (fall 2008) and boys' SGVL titles. With two solid victories over defending league champ Gahr, the Pirate boys are in position to go undefeated in league play and earn a home match in the first round of the CIF playoffs next month. The two championships will be a major "feather in the cap" for Coach Mu and show that Pirate tennis is back to the high level of play and expectations it enjoyed for years under former Paramount AD Paul Castillo.

Pirate boys' volleyball is in great shape to compete for a playoff spot this spring after sweeping Gahr on April 9. While big matches against Lynwood, Downey, and Warren loom, the experienced Pirates are a becoming a challenge to all the teams they play against and could enjoy a breakthrough season if they get into the playoffs.

Lady Pirate softball took a big step toward qualifying for the playoffs by knocking off Warren on April 9, 1-0. The Varsity just missed defeating Downey in the 1st round of league play, and a big game at Gahr on April 23 will be a huge indicator of any momentum the ladies have that could carry them on into the second round. The still-young team is getting great pitching and is showing that experience gained last year is beginning to pay off.

Finally, Pirate baseball enjoyed a fine Anaheim Lions tournament over Spring Break, winning 4 of 5 games and getting some momentum after disappointing losses to Gahr and Downey in early April. The Pirates will be in the thick of the race for the top three spots with the Gladiators and Vikings - after pairs against Warren and Dominguez, the big Gahr week will be May 5 and May 8. Those games will decide much about the SGVL race and Paramount's place in it.

Good luck to the Paramount spring teams as they head down the home stretch for the May playoffs!

**Mark Kemp, Athletic Director**

## Achieving Student Success Through Interventions

What do teachers do when students are not learning what we teach them? You won't find the "I taught it, they didn't get it, too bad" attitude at Leona Jackson School.

Teachers and administrators at Leona Jackson School are committed to ensuring all students are achieving success by implementing the latest research based on the Pyramid Response to Intervention model (PRTI). PRTI can be described as a pyramid of learning that provides additional time and support to students who experience difficulties in learning. PRTI has been demonstrated through scientific research to produce outstanding results in student achievement.

Intensely focused instruction and strong interventions in place at our school are specifically designed to meet the needs of struggling students. Students needing additional help are identified by their level of

performance using assessment data. Teachers from each grade level or content area work collaboratively to monitor student progress according to the established common instructional "smart goals." Goals are based on data from assessments with a focus on particular areas of weakness.

Daily language arts and math interventions take place before, during and after school. Every student's progress is monitored often through formative assessment data. As students progress and meet the established goals, they are exited from the intervention but continue to be carefully monitored. By implementing the most up-to-date proven methods, we are confident these interventions will allow struggling students the opportunity to succeed.

**Kathleen Mackinnon  
5th Grade Teacher**

### 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

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# TRADITIONAL ARTISTS GUILD ART SHOW



The Traditional Artists' Guild of Paramount and the City of Paramount recently co-sponsored their Annual Panorama Traditional Open Art Show and invited District students to participate. John Nowlin, co-chairman of the show, coordinated the event with the schools and proudly announced that several hundred District student paintings were showcased at the show. I would like to thank Mr. Nowlin for his continued support of our students in the area of visual arts and Jeanette Larson, President of the Traditional Artists Guild.

The following students received awards for their participation:

## FIRST PLACE WINNERS:

- First Grade: Kevin Perez, Hollydale School
- Second Grade: Axel Suazo, Gaines School
- Third Grade: Maritza Fregoso, Roosevelt School
- Fifth Grade: Jason Rodriguez, Hollydale School
- Sixth Grade: Nick Villanueva, Collins School
- Seventh Grade: Alejandra Rojas, Lincoln Park
- Eighth Grade: Benjamin Roche, Hollydale School
- Ninth Grade: Rashad Harris, Paramount High School-West
- Eleventh Grade: Dayanna Castellanos, Paramount High School
- Twelfth Grade: Erica Reynozo, Paramount High School

## WINNING SELECTIONS BY THE JUDGE

- Best Use of Color: Neredia Siordia, Third Grade, Hollydale School
- Best Composition: Jose Ramirez, Fifth Grade, Hollydale School

## SPECIAL AWARDS:

- Chamber of Commerce Award: Ruby Galindo, Third Grade, Tanner School
- Superintendent's Award: Victor Cervantes, Twelfth Grade, PHS
- Chairman's Award: David Gamboa, Third Grade, Tanner School
- Commissioner's Award: Amy Jimenez, Eleventh Grade, PHS
- Mayor's Award: Bryan White, First Grade, Collins School

# Ready By Five Preschool Enrollment

Starting April 1, 2009, Ready By Five began preschool enrollment for three- and four-year-olds for the Los Cerritos Preschool for the 2009-2010 school year. The Los Cerritos Preschool provides quality preschool education to students utilizing the Open Court and Growing with Mathematics curriculum. Preschool services are free, with no income eligibility requirements for enrollment, however, parents of enrolled children are required to participate in two program activities monthly. Ready

By Five provides several additional services to Los Cerritos Preschool families including LAFF (Learning And Family Fun) Nights, Read with Me (early literacy backpack program), Parenting Pathways (parenting education classes), You Make the Difference (parent-child interaction and education classes), Child Development Review screening (developmental assessment), hearing and vision screenings, and other family-oriented services. Enrollment packets can be picked up at Jackson School located at 7220 E. Jackson St. in Paramount.

# Superintendent's Message:

## Administrative Professional's Day Secretary's Day



Administrative Professional's Day, formerly known as "Secretary's Day," was observed on April 22nd. Here in Paramount Unified School District we have for the past 10 years traditionally celebrated and recognized the work of our secretaries, administrative assistants, receptionists, and other support professionals at a very special luncheon.

I cannot begin to express the gratitude and appreciation that we all share towards the secretaries and support staff in the Paramount Unified School District. Their contribution towards the well-being of our students, staff, families and teachers is unique and widespread. Without their individual and collective support, we as an organization could

not survive. Their responsibilities and wide-ranging roles are truly valued by all the lives they touch on a daily basis.

Next time you are at a school site, next time you cross through a school office, don't forget to say "thank you" to those who support all of us all of the time – our Administrative Professionals!

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

# Math Night at Theodore Roosevelt

Forget about a night at the museum, how about an evening at Theodore Roosevelt School participating in a variety of math study sessions for students and parents? That's what a large number of people did last month as Mr. Varela, the mathematics coach, and several teachers demonstrated a variety of math activities to be enjoyed at home.

Miss Quintero and Mrs. Ontiveros shared addition and subtraction games using dice, dominoes, math mats, and toothpicks. Students and parents were eager to finish up, head for home and work on their own.

First grade families worked with Mrs. Diaz discovering activities that supported the concepts of telling time, counting money and delving deeper into concepts of addition.

Mrs. Manglicmot, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Chavarria stressed the importance of mastering basic math facts by sharing flashcards, creating multiplication spinners, and foldables for student use at home.

A roll of the dice and a quick deal of the cards provided by Mrs. Black and Miss Baltazar gave fourth and fifth graders an opportunity to apply critical thinking skills to place value and other concepts of number sense. Parents and students enjoyed their time and left with several ideas and games to support math learning in the time away from school.

Throughout the school year parents have attended grade level meetings on a weekly basis and their involvement has had a positive impact on student performance in reading and mathematics.

# Kindergarten Registration Begins!

It is time to register your child for Kindergarten! Children who are five (5) years old on or before December 2, 2009 are eligible to attend Kindergarten. Registration for the school year 2009-2010 begins April 21, 2009. To register your child the following documents are required:

- Proof of birth, such as birth certificate
- Current immunization records
- Proof of residency

Further information about registration is available at your school. The contact numbers are the following:

- Alondra 562/ 602-8004
- Collins 562/ 602-8008

- Gaines 562/ 602-8012
- Hollydale 562/ 602-8016
- Jackson 562/ 602-8020
- Jefferson 562/ 602-8024
- Keppel 562/ 602-8028
- Lakewood 562/ 220-8032
- Lincoln 562/ 602-8036
- Los Cerritos 562/ 602-8040
- Mokler 562/ 602-8044
- Paramount Park 562/ 602-8052
- Roosevelt 562/ 602-8056
- Tanner 562/ 602-8060
- Wirtz 562/ 602-8068
- Zamboni 562/ 602-8048

# Alondra School Reopens Wax Museum



**A**londra School's annual Wax Museum presentation opened again on Open House evening, Thursday, April 2, with a larger cast and more spectacular costumes than ever before. Equally impressive were the performances by the students. Not one of the nearly forty actors needed to take along note cards to help them remember the lines to their presentations which lasted from two to four minutes in length. Wax Museum is

a dramatic performance where students dressed in historical costumes "come to life" when tapped on the shoulder. They then present information on a character of their choice with drama and flair using props and costuming for added effect. The timeline of history includes the periods studied from the sixth, seventh and eighth grade curriculums, which ranges from pre-historic times to the very early 1900's. Egyptian, ancient Greek and Romans were portrayed

from the sixth grade curriculum. Monica Perez, chose to portray Hypatia, a famous mathematician. From the seventh grade curriculum, students portrayed many characters from Medieval and Renaissance times. Sydney Roumeliotis portrayed Catherine de Medici. From the eighth grade US History curriculum two students chose to portray characters indirectly linked to our own Paramount Unified School District. After having read a first hand account of an actual Civil War letter written by John Keppel (uncle to Mark Keppel, as in Mark Keppel School) Brianna Gallardo and David Vega chose to portray Nancy Keppel and John Keppel, respectively.

The Wax Museum presentation was hailed as a tremendous success by Superintendent Dr. David Verdugo who was impressed by

the dedication of the performers in learning their lines, and to the inclusivity of the project as students from all facets of Alondra life were included in this project. The teacher leaders, Language arts teacher, Mr. Joe Lopez who acted as Master of Ceremonies and helped the students with the writing of their presentations, and History teacher, Ms. Margaret Nelson, who organized the production and costumed most of the cast were moved by the level of commitment and follow through shown by their students. Both Mr. Lopez and Ms. Nelson expressed their tremendous sense of reward in witnessing their students succeed in such a public presentation.

**Story by Margaret Nelson, professional photography by David Nelson (both class of '67)**

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Parent involvement is typically cited by educational researchers as one of the most influential factors affecting student achievement. Students whose parents take an active role in their education have higher achievement levels than their peers whose parents are not involved. And, the earlier in a child's educational process that the parent involvement begins, the more powerful is the effect. According to research sponsored by the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA), when parents are involved, their students have:

- Higher grades, test scores and graduation rates
- Better school attendance
- Increased motivation, better self-esteem

- Lower suspension rates
- Decreased use of drugs and alcohol
- Fewer incidents of violent behavior

Joyce Epstein, of Johns Hopkins University, has created a framework that defines six different types of parent involvement:

1. **PARENTING:** Parenting skills are promoted and supported through parent education.
2. **COMMUNICATING:** Meaningful, two-way communication between home and school.
3. **VOLUNTEERING:** Parents as school and classroom volunteers.
4. **LEARNING AT HOME:** Parents play an integral role.
5. **DECISION MAKING:** Parents

actively involved in decisions made by PTA, School Site Council (SSC), English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC), Gifted and Talented Education (GATE), and other groups.

6. **COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY:** Community resources used to strengthen schools, families and student learning.

In Paramount Unified School District, parents have the opportunity to participate in decision making at both the school and District level. Parent committees at the schools (SSC, ELAC, and GATE) meet regularly to discuss issues related to their students' education. Representatives from those committees also meet regularly at the District Office

with representatives from other schools to discuss issues on a District wide level. Those committees include District Advisory Council (DAC), District English Learner Advisory Council (DELAC), and Gifted and Talented Education. Please speak to your school administration for information on parent committees and meeting schedules.

According to Joyce Epstein, "There are many reasons for developing school, family and community partnerships. The main reason to create such partnerships is to help all youngsters succeed in school and later life."

**Randy Gray, Director Curriculum & Instruction**