

# PUSD EDUCATION NEWS

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

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

NOVEMBER 2013

## Captain Raymond Collins School



Great times here at Collins School! We were very excited to have had an event here at Collins school that honored Hispanic Heritage Month. Our dedicated P.T.A members planned and organized an eventful celebration that consisted of Tacos, Mariachis, Folklórico dancers, and lots of fun. We were excited to have invited Mokler's Folklórico student

dancers here at Collins School. Mokler's dancers performed with elegance in their traditional colorful attire and music. Also in attendance were our nearby neighbors, STAR students, parents, and Collins' staff along with their families. Many of our students were able to share in the fun as they danced along and listened to the live Mariachi Singers. Several

Collins teachers and their families were able to share in the excitement as they enjoyed the music and food.

We congratulate our P.T.A volunteers who made this event possible through their hard work and dedication. The Collins Colts continue to look forward to having more of these wonderful events throughout the school year.



## Jackson Knights Develop Knightly Character



The Knights at Leona Jackson School are learning to be courteous and civil in a fun learning environment. The administration and counseling team have developed several initiatives to foster a positive culture of courtesy and orderliness on campus among all students.

The behavior expectations are made clear to every student at the beginning of the school

year at the Safe and Civil Schools assembly. Bright and positive signs line the main hallway, serving as a visual reminder to show respect, be polite, be prepared to learn, and to be responsible. Recently, a school-wide focus was for all members of the school community to say "please" and "thank you."

After the school-wide behavior expectations are made clear

at the beginning of the school year, students are recognized for putting what they've learned into action. Throughout the week, students earn Knight Coupons for demonstrating one or more of the five pillars of Character Counts: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. On Fridays, over a dozen students win a prize and are cheered for

demonstrating knightly character in a Knight Coupon drawing. Teachers are also recognized for modeling safe and civil conduct with weekly Safe and Civil Instructor coupons.

At Jackson, all students are valued members of the school community. Once a month, one student from each homeroom class is randomly chosen as a Champ of the Month. Each Champ's biography and photograph is proudly displayed on a bulletin board in the main office.

School spirit is another important component of building a positive school culture. The monthly Homeroom Challenge provides an opportunity for each

homeroom class to work as a team in a competitive and exciting way to meet a community service or school spirit goal, like collecting cans for a food drive. Winning classes receive a trophy and an ice cream party.

At Jackson School, the staff believes that students are more motivated to learn when they feel safe and when they have fun. Most importantly, students will need to learn more than academics to be successful adults. At Jackson School, students are prepared to become productive and positive citizens in their communities.

**Rebecca Perez**  
Language Arts Coach

### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATE

**November 13, 2013**

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

## ROOSEVELT SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS



An important role for schools is to develop student school leaders and to provide opportunities for students to perform in leadership positions.

The Student Council of Roosevelt School is comprised of students in grades 4 and 5. The Student Council consists of a President, Vice President, Historian, Secretary, Treasurer, and classroom representatives from each fourth and fifth grade class.

Principal Mrs. Marilley and the classroom teachers introduced the concept of Student Council to the students at the beginning of the school year. Students who were interested in participating in the leadership group were required to write an essay which they presented to fifth grade teacher advisors, Mrs. Baltierrez and Mr. Varela. Academics and attendance were also considered for potential candidates. Students participated in the campaign process which included posters and making speeches in front of their peers.

Elections were held on October 3rd and the results were announced by the principal on October 4th.

Roosevelt School is pleased to announce the following officers and classroom representatives for our 2013-2014 Student Council:

President	Monica Caldera (Mrs. Wedrall, 5th)
Vice President	Samantha Rivera (Mrs. Wedrall, 4th)
Secretary	Samantha Ochoa (Mrs. Manglicmot, 5th)
Treasurer	Sylvia Hernandez (Mrs. Wedrall, 5th)
Historians	Valerie Ceja (Mrs. Wedrall, 5th) Adriel Gama (Mrs. Wedrall, 5th)
Representatives	Alexa Angel, Stephany Perez (Mrs. Baltierrez, 5th) Melanie Vasquez, Briana Ortiz (Mrs. Bias, 5th) Destiny Barragan, Farid Himede (Mrs. Manglicmot, 5th) Elizabeth Ramirez, Yuridia Ramirez (Mr. Varela, 5th) Valeria Montero, Aiden Martinez (Mrs. Wedrall, 4/5) Ruby Vega, Brandon Vega, Albert Dominguez (Mrs. Caero 4/5 SDC) Yadira Santiago (Mrs. Black, 4th) Desdeny Mariscal, Desiree Mariscal (Mrs. Chung, 4th) Briseyda Guillen (Mr. Lane, 4th)
Events and Activities Leaders	Melanie Vasquez, Henessy Ochoa, Emelin Cervantes (Monitor Leaders) Jordan Roach, Monica Payares (Snack Bar Leaders) Giselle Castaneda, Atziri Carrillo, Gabriela Gonzalez (Activities Leaders) Sonye Garcia, Madisyn Rodriguez (Campus Leaders) Danielle De La Torre (Tutor Leader)

Congratulations to all of our fourth and fifth grade students who participated in the election process.

**Mrs. Susan Marilley, Principal, Roosevelt School**

## Paramount JROTC Excels at Athletic Field Meet



Over 70 members of Paramount High's JROTC squad traveled to Troy High School to compete in the 19th Annual Troy JROTC Athletic Field Meet on September 13, 2013. JROTC stands for Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps. There were over 900 JROTC students from several high schools participating in the competition. Besides bringing home the 5th place overall trophy, nine other trophies were awarded to Paramount High for excelling in various events, including tug-of-war, volleyball, rope bridging, wheel barrow racing, torpedo run, and endurance runs.

A good deal of responsibility to make sure Paramount's cadets were prepared and ready to perform fell on 12th grader Nancy Vallecillo, Executive Officer of the Pirate Battalion and second in command. Besides holding a leadership position in JROTC, Nancy is involved in student government and enrolled in four Advanced Placement courses at PHS. In regards to a better overall finish than the previous year, Nancy shared that "all of our hard work and teamwork is not put to waste because all it takes is one step at a time to make it to the top." At the end of the competition over 900 cadets from participating high schools gathered and waited patiently to see which school won each event, as well as each school's overall placement.

Nancy Vallecillo stated that "we heard a lot of schools being called up to get their trophies and we were anxious to hear Paramount. When we were called up for the first trophy we all cheered at the top of the lungs!" PHS was able to celebrate nine more times by finishing with ten trophies overall.

Karen Apodaca, a 12th grader at PHS, was part of the Torpedo Run event. She said that "when we finished my arms and shoulders were shaking, but it was worth it because we finished in 4th place." Karen is a senior at PHS and holds the rank of Cadet Captain. Besides a 4th place finish in the torpedo run, some of the other awards Paramount earned included a first place trophy in the wheelbarrow race, fourth in rope bridging, and eighth place in the tug-of-war contest. Other events PHS participated in were volleyball, Frisbee golf, extreme leap frog, two relay races, and the football target throw.

Paramount's JROTC program is headed by Colonel Robert Guild at PHS senior campus, and Sergeant at PHS's West Campus. Undoubtedly, these two, as well as the entire Paramount High community, are proud of the hard work PHS cadets put in to bring honor and pride to the Paramount High School Pirate Battalion.

**Jeff Beahn, TOSA**

**Report any suspicious behavior school authorities and the Paramount Sheriff Station at (562) 220-2002, Lakewood Sheriff Station at (562) 623-3500, Long Beach Police at (562) 570-9800 (Collins School) or South Gate Police at (323) 563-5400.**

**PUSD Education News is a monthly Publication of the Paramount Unified School District**



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*District Superintendent*  
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*Great things are happening in Paramount Schools*

**PUSD Education News**

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# Hollydale School Math Whizzes!



Fifth graders testing while Mr. Longworth, Mrs. Stewart, Ms. Yu and two parent volunteers (Katherine Daigle and Dianne Seals) look on.



Mrs. Stewart's class, working hard, as she and Maria Flores (parent) look on.

Hollydale School administrators, faculty, staff, and parents are all contributing their part to school-wide efforts in Basic Math Facts. Basic Math Facts are emphasized because mastery of these facts is essential to future success in middle school math. For this reason, the efforts being made in Kindergarten through fifth grade are taken seriously. Fluency in the basic facts provides a foundation for recognizing patterns and readily solving problems, particularly in algebra and geometry. Mastering addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts also allows students to apply this knowledge to number sense (such as computation), probability, statistics, and problem solving.

Teachers regularly implement the district Basic Math Facts program, and they supplement it, as well, with worksheets and games. Parents support the program at home with flashcards and extra worksheets. Teachers also provide additional practice through application practice at grades 3, 4, and 5 with two-digit multiplication and division problems, as well as with problem solving instruction during Problem of the Day.

Hollydale School has taken things a step further with our quarterly Math Challenge. One grade level at a time assembles in the cafeteria for timed tests in each operation. Our principal, Mr. Kevin Longworth, our assistant principal, Ms. Maria Cervantes, our math coach, Ms. Grace Yu, our teachers, and several staff members and parents attend these testing sessions. The excitement of the competition creates great enthusiasm in the students. There is a great deal of energy in the room as each class competes against the others for first place.

The real work happens after the students finish the four tests. Our parent volunteers score each one and then scores are calculated for each class, based on the percentage of students who pass all four tests. Once the tally is in, results are announced and all students who pass receive a certificate and a "Math Whiz" pencil from Mr. Longworth and Ms. Yu. Students and classes are also recognized on bulletin boards in the school hallways. The real rewards happen for every student as they move on to middle school with more tools for success in higher

## PUSD Provides Teachers and Parents Use of Technology to Improve Students' Academic Progress!



Paramount Unified School District is pleased to announce the implementation of ParentVue at Hollydale School and Alondra and Zamboni Middle Schools. This new communication tool allows parents to log on to their computers at home to monitor their child's school information. Parents have access to class schedules and current academic progress and also provide up-to-date attendance and demographic informa-

tion. In addition, parents have the ability to communicate with their child's teachers via e-mail.

Parents were provided information and instructions on how to activate their accounts. The Student Information Systems Office works closely with teachers and school administrators to ensure continuous support is provided. Parent Vue will be provided at all PUSD middle schools by spring, 2014.

## Superintendent's Message:

Governor Brown recently signed into law Assembly Bill 484, which prepares the path for California's schools to align its state tests to the new Common Core State Standards, which focus on preparing our students to be career and college ready.

The new law, authored by Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla, suspends most Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) assessments for the current school year, allowing school districts to prepare for and transition to the new California Measurements of Academic Performance and Progress (MAPP) assessments, which are slated for administration statewide in the 2014-15 school year.

The new assessments will be computer-based, allowing for a much broader range of test questions than the multiple-choice exams given under STAR. As a result, the new assessments are expected to emphasize critical thinking, reasoning, and problem-solving, modeling the kind of teaching and learning needed to prepare all students for the demands of college and the modern workplace.

For the current school year, AB 484 requires districts to administer field tests of the Smarter Balanced assessments—with half of the students taking math and the other half taking English-language arts. Field tests serve as "tests of the tests" allowing experts to discern the accuracy and reliability of individual test questions before finalizing the assessments for full-scale use. As such, no field test scores will be produced or reported during the field test year.

Despite the changes created by AB 484, Paramount Unified School District will continue to monitor students' academic progress with district assessments in mathematics and Language Arts as well as other core subjects in middle and high school. Students are given these assessments quarterly, with more frequent assessments provided in between each quarter. This district wide approach to monitoring and measuring students' learning has been one of the factors that have led to PUSD's continued academic growth over the past eight years.

**Herman M. Mendez**  
Superintendent



## PHS West Campus Girls Participate in Women Engineers at the Beach

Over 20 ninth grade girls from Paramount High School West Campus attended the "Women Engineers at the Beach" program sponsored by California State University Long Beach's College of Engineering in October. In total, 200 high school and middle school girls from the Long Beach and Montebello districts as well as Paramount participated workshops meant to develop girls' interest in the fields of engineering, computer science, mathematics, science, and technology.

These students were challenged at a variety of workshops, which included "Rocket Launch" and "Spaghetti and Marshmallow Bridge." One of the most challenging workshops was "The Build a Battery from Household Materials" where girls learned how to build a battery from lemons, pennies, nails, and wires. All workshops were taught by faculty members and student engineer majors from CSULB as part of the university's efforts to encourage more females to major in the mathematics and science disciplines.

Additionally, students were exposed to lessons built on the common core standards as they applied their learned knowledge in workshops throughout the day. For example, in the prosthetic hand workshop, students had to complete the lab with little input from the instructor. The workshop leader gave

students a set of written of instructions, materials for the lab, and then coached them through the process. Students were given the task of building a prosthetic hand with nothing more than popsicle sticks, tug depressors, yarn, and beads. Following creation of their design, students were challenged to pick up a water bottle with the prosthetic hand they had built.

The Pirate freshmen girls who participated in the event are presently in enrolled in the Engineering course at PHS West Campus. Engineering instructor, Mr. Brent Rummell, and Projects Facilitator, Ms. Alicia Megofna, accompanied the young ladies to the all day event. According to Mr. Rummell, he wished that his students had many more opportunities like this one while Ms. Megofna stated that she like the female students was inspired by the keynote note speaker, an engineer for the city of Long Beach, who addressed the students on perseverance and pursuing your dream in a male dominated field.

All in all students enjoyed the camaraderie of the day as they were able to meet and speak with other female students about their shared career interests in mathematics and science.

**Dr. Yvonne Rodriguez**  
Assistant Principal

# Fall Into Sports



Fall sports at Paramount High School kicked off to a great start when the varsity football team opened up their season with a 3-1 winning record and are currently ranked #10 in the Southeast Division. The football team celebrated classroom victories with a student-faculty luncheon where each varsity player formally invited one distinguished teacher to thank for their dedication to education. The shared meal is one great way for the football program to recognize the efforts of the Paramount High School teachers who make a difference and promote life-long-learning into the lives of student athletes. The athletic department is extremely grateful to Autumn Lovin-Bignami and the ASB students who fueled the event and did a spectacular job. Additionally, a big thanks is owed to the Cheer, Song & Dance teams, powered by advisors Rocio Lopez and Lourdes Aguayo, who cheered on each football player, coach, administrator and teacher as they entered the event. Thank you so much for all of the support at special events like the football-teacher luncheon and beyond!

The varsity girls' tennis team entered league play with a winning record and had a great start by opening with a 3-0 league record. The boys' water polo team continues

to diligently work under the leadership of new coaches Arthur Cunningham and Rachel Dominguez. The varsity girls volleyball team started their season with a bang and currently hold a 8-4 record and are eager to enter league play. The girls volleyball program now proudly holds varsity, junior varsity and frosh soph teams within the San Gabriel Valley League. The boys and girls cross country teams are committed to caring for their bodies as they spend countless hours in ice baths preparing for upcoming meets and intense workout programs. They completed cluster 1 of league competition and look forward to 2 more league clusters competing against runners from Warren, Downey, Lynwood, Dominguez and Gahr high schools.

The Paramount High School community sends a big congratulations to West Campus physical education teacher and activities director, Frank Bignami, who was named as the Paramount High School Head Varsity Baseball Coach. Coach Bignami has dedicated 9 years to the baseball program under the direction of former coach Cameron Chinn. We look forward to his enthusiastic approach to emphasizing the spirit of pirate athletics. **Congratulations to Coach Bignami** and as always, GO PIRATES!

# VAPSS Going Strong at Wesley Gaines



A new volunteer registration process has been embraced by the Wesley Gaines community. VAPSS, or Volunteers Assisting Paramount Students and Staff is off to a strong start in the 2013-2014 school year. The Curriculum and Instruction- Special Projects office has assisted schools with an aligned and streamlined process for recruiting school volunteers and assuring the safety of all Paramount Unified School District students. Volunteer candidates fill out an application, read and agree to guidelines for volunteers, and submit I.D. and T.B. clearance.

This is the first year that a uniform procedure for recruiting volunteers has been set in place for all Paramount schools. The response from the Wesley Gaines community has been great. Our volunteers are being processed by the Special Projects office as fast as we can recruit them. We conducted training courses for our new volunteer recruits because like all schools, we are committed to making our volunteers successful in the classroom for the benefit of all students. The volunteers went through three training classes on successive Fridays. They have been to an orientation class led by Principal Bowers where they got background on the expectations of those working on the Grizzly campus. The orientation also included guidance on working with students

and teachers. The following week, volunteers were introduced to some elements of the language arts program by Mrs. Varela, our Instructional Coach. The third week, Mrs. Varela led a workshop on portions of the math program that will allow our volunteers to assist the students and the teachers within the classroom setting.

Our volunteers are committed to the students of Wesley Gaines and for that we thank them. There is a room set aside as the Volunteer Center that is being whipped back into shape by parent and staff volunteers. In mid-October- after a couple of weeks of working in the classrooms- volunteers will determine what they need in order to continue to grow as a vital member of the educational program at Wesley Gaines. What they identify as needs will direct the content of the next series of trainings for VAPSS at the Gaines campus.

Thank you to our wonderful Gaines Grizzly VAPSS pictured from left to right; William Medlock, Haydee Hernandez, Guillermina Gonzalez, Santos Hernandez, Maria Lopez, Bobbie Salazar, Elvia Gonzalez, Lilia Tellez, Isadora Candelario, Valerie Zarinana, Nusley Romero, Valeria Oropeza Juana Rivera, Jennifer Gonzalez, and not pictured; Celia Garcia, Claudia Garcia, Herminia Gomez, Yolanda De La Cruz and Rosa Villarruel.

# MESA Program



Pictured are Councilmember Hansen, Vice Mayor Martinez, Board President Hansen, Board Vice President Cuellar, Mayor Daniels, Board member Anderson, and District Curriculum Specialist Mr. Jackson.



The future shined bright in Paramount on Saturday morning, October 19, 2013, as approximately 600 middle and high school students, parents and teachers gathered at Paramount High School for the annual MESA kickoff event.

Paramount Unified School District partners with California State University Long Beach to bring Math Engineering and Science Achievement Program (MESA), to our middle and high schools to prepare students to graduate college with degrees in math, science, and engineering. MESA takes place after school free of charge and offers students college/career counseling with opportunities to apply their math, science, and engineering knowledge and skills at

local competitions.

Paramount Unified School District Board of Education members in attendance included Board President Vivian Hansen, Vice President Sonya Cuellar and member Alicia Anderson as well as some of the City's most influential members including Mayor, Gene Daniels and Councilmember Diane Martinez to recognize and support students. The kickoff event is the first of four academies this year that involve students attending classes at California State University Long Beach.

Before boarding buses to California State University Long Beach with their teachers, students were treated to breakfast and a motivational speech by Mayor Daniels.

## Paramount Unified School District



### Workshops

LOCATION: Jefferson School  
8600 Jefferson Street  
Paramount, CA 90723

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Nov. 7, 2013	Obesity, Health and Wellness
Nov. 21, 2013	Building Self Esteem
Dec. 5, 2013	Healthy Eating During the Holidays
Jan. 16, 2014	Mental Health 101
Jan. 30, 2014	You Hear Me, But Are You Listening?

Spanish Translation will be available.

Co-sponsored by Paramount Unified School District and Cerritos College (FKCE Program-Certificates for renewal hours)

Child care available for children ages 3-12 (must be toilet trained)

MUST pre-register for child care one week in advance;

MAY pre-register for individual workshops

Call: Myra McGinnis at (562) 602-6035

**Workshops Open to all PUSD Parents**