

# PUSD EDUCATION NEWS

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

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MARCH 2015

## Hollydale Hornet Families Pack the Hive

Hornet families swarmed the Hollydale cafeteria on a beautiful Thursday evening. Our families were at school for the Pajama Read Night Party and the capacity crowd filled the room and spilled out into the hallway.

The night kicked off with a performance by Annie Banannie. Annie engaged our families with inventive storytelling and punctuated the stories with balloon creations that represented elements of the tales that she told. The stories became interactive as audience members were brought up on stage to participate by helping Annie to develop stories and make balloon creations. Annie brought an end to her storytelling by stepping into a giant balloon to become a human size snow globe. That was unique to see a person envelop themselves in a balloon. And then with a loud POP, the bubble burst to let Annie out again.

After Annie's fabulous storytelling, our Hornet families flew off to a series of rooms for more stories and activities. Our wonderful staff members eagerly read some of their favorite stories to the crowds filling the rooms. In addition to great stories, our staff led students and their families through a series of activities that tied together fluency, writing, and fun. It was great to see so many families engaged in academic pursuits with their children. It was



also great that the children were able to see the fun in reading, sharing, writing, and creating stories.

Story time concluded, but the night was not over. Our Hornet families made their way to the front of the school where they were greeted by more Hollydale staff members passing out milk and cookies. Students also got to browse a large selection of books and everyone was able to go home with free books which made all of our little Hornets happy.

Pajama Read Night was a success as the storytelling was fun, the treats were tasty and the book give-away created lots of smiles.

There was something for everyone at Read Night and the buzzing from our happy Hornets was heard throughout the crowd as everyone made their way out at the end of the evening.

A huge Hornet thank you goes out to the wonderful Hollydale PTA for their support and help in organizing this wonderful event. Thank you to the participating staff and teachers that brought the energy and made the night fun

A sincere thanks to all of our Hollydale families for attending this event and being such great supporters of our students and the school.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day Writing Contest



"From the minute I arrived at the event, I was thrilled to see such a festive and respectful celebration. I saw such a wide variety of people who were there not only to celebrate a great man's holiday, but they were also there to hear me deliver a poem." These were the thoughts of Gabriel Garcia, a sophomore Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (JROTC) cadet at Paramount High School, upon reflecting on his experience on January 5, 2015 when he was awarded first place for the City of Cerritos Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Writing Contest. Gabriel was accompanied by Sargent Brayboy, his JROTC teacher, and several other cadets including 2nd place writing contest winner, Joanne Robielos. Gabriel reflects, "When I read my poem, I felt a sense of pride and nerves all at the same time and after everything was said and done, I was happy that I was able to participate in such a great event!"

Gabriel Garcia aspires to be an Internal Medicine physician and hopes to explore joining the Airforce in his future. The summer of 2015 will mark his 2nd year in the SMASH summer program at UCLA that focuses on math and science enrichment including access to SAT preparation online resources, college counseling, financial aid workshops and more. He additionally serves as a Young Senator for the 33rd district and participates in the Associated Student Body at Paramount High School Senior Campus. It's plain to see that Gabriel Garcia and his teammates in the JROTC program have been influenced by their dedicated instructors to become involved and seek "greatness," similar to the leadership and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

### "Greatness"

By: Gabriel Garcia

The eternal desire,

Constantly chased but never defined.

Generations after generations have moved mountains, crossed seas, and shook the earth to achieve such a title,  
But what does it really mean to be "Great"?

We all want to be important and we all want to be recognized.  
We love to hear our name attached to something that people are proud of,

But in our blinding fervor we miss the most important thing of all, the service.

Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., a man who changed the world, said that the greatest one of all of us would be a servant  
But what does that mean?

This means that greatness does not come from having a PhD,  
This means that greatness does not originate from knowing the Ancient philosophy or mathematical theorems, No!

Greatness pours out of a person when they are able to serve their community,

Able to serve their friends, And even able to serve loved ones.  
Greatness is not a onetime deal.

Greatness is not something that occurs from succeeding at one deed but instead,

Greatness is a lot of little things done well.

Greatness is an iron lock that only service can free.

You do not require money, or a college degree, or any materials for greatness.

Because greatness can only come to rise with love and compassion.  
Greatness is in your service.

## Get Ready... Get Set... Enroll!

Registration for the 2015-16

Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten year begins March 16<sup>th</sup>

Children who have their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday between September 2 and December 2, 2015 are eligible to attend Transitional Kindergarten (TK) at their home schools. TK bridges the path between preschool and kindergarten and gives students a jump start that will yield huge payoffs in future academic success. Paramount Unified School District offers TK at ten schools. Parents must enroll their children for TK at their designated school during the Kindergarten Enrollment period beginning March 16, 2015. Transportation for TK must be provided by parents.

Contact your local school for registration information.

Collins School 6125 Coke Ave Long Beach, CA 90805 (562)602-8008	Gaines School 7340 Jackson St Paramount (562)602-8012	Hollydale School 5511 Century Blvd South Gate, CA 90280 (562)602-8016	Keppel School 6630 Mark Keppel St Paramount (562)602-8028	Lincoln School 15324 California Ave Paramount (562)602-8036
Los Cerritos School 14626 Gundry Ave Paramount (562)602-8040	Mokler School 8571 Flower Ave Paramount (562)602-8044	Roosevelt School 13451 Merkel Ave Paramount (562)602-8056	Tanner School 7210 Rosecrans Ave Paramount (562)602-8060	Jefferson School* Wirtz School 8535 Contreras St Paramount (562)602-8068

\*Jefferson School TK students will attend and register at Lincoln School for TK only.

In addition, if your child will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2015 and you are a Paramount Unified School District resident, contact your local school for registration information. The Kindergarten enrollment period also begins March 16, 2015.

## SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATE

March 11, 2015 \* March 25, 2015

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

## SSC & ELAC visit classrooms at Collins School



Collins Schools is a Safe & Civil School where we welcome our parents to Collins School. We have a School Site Council as well as an English Learner Advisory Committee who meet with Mrs. Spelker-Levi, principal of Collins School, to discuss and review our school wide plan.

On Monday, January 26th, parents were invited to come to observe classroom instruction, in action. The morning began with reminding parents of our school wide initiatives for the year: Thinking Maps for writing in all content areas as well as our new writing program Write From the Beginning, collaborative group work and discussions. As well as the focus on our Investigation boards in order to understand what students have been working toward in the English Language Arts units. Each Investigation board contains an inquiry question which students will have to understand and explain by the end of the unit.

During the last two years, we have been talking to our parent groups about the Common Core Standards and the shift that is taking place in classrooms and with teaching. We no longer use the direct teaching method where students listen to the teacher lecture. We have been teaching our teachers to engage in facilitation of the common core standards via classroom discussions which include strategies such as: Talk Moves (guiding questions), as well as Standards of Math Practice (SMP's) which allow for students to develop inquiry skills as they learn about math. Students work more with partners and teams in order to explain their learning.

Collins School is preparing students for the 21st century as we engage students in the 4 c's: collaborating, communicating, critical thinking, and fostering creativity. Our parents were very impressed with the evidence they observed on January 26th.

**Beatriz Spelker-Levi**  
Principal

## An Early Decision to attend Stanford University

The first time I remember falling in love with Stanford was when I was in the 5th grade and I can honestly say I have no idea why it became my dream school at that time. Once I came to high school, I found the justification I needed to truly say that Stanford was my #1 choice.

When you research Stanford, one of the first things you come across is their phenomenal academic programs. I've always known that I wanted to go into the scientific field and the research opportunities I would be able to take advantage of at Stanford would be some of the best in the world. When I was a freshman, this caliber of academics was the only reason I needed to decide where I wanted to go to school. However, as the years have passed by, different aspects of a school have become important to me and Stanford has been able to fulfill all my requirements. Stanford is located in Northern California which is a region where I've always wanted to live. Not only is it a different environment than Los Angeles, but it is also a liberal region and I want to be able to experience being around individuals with that mindset.

Being in ASB the past four years has also made me a person that enjoys spending my Friday nights at football games, going to school dances and having as much school spirit as possible. Stanford is known to have a stimulating community, as well as spectacular athletics. Being able to go to a football game in a 50,000 person arena, joining a variety of different clubs, or displaying pride for my school alongside my peers is something that is extremely important to my college experience. Another characteristic that attracted me to Stanford was the type of people that are there. Knowing how prestigious the school is, I was afraid of having to deal with pretentious individuals who would patronize me. But after speaking to multiple current and former students, I realized that the people that are there are incredibly humble and genuinely kind to one another. Ultimately, Stanford would be able to provide me with all the resources necessary to be successful in all aspects of life.

Because I was certain that Stanford was the right choice for me, I decided to apply through their Restrictive Early Action process. As part of this commitment, it was expected that I only apply to one school through early action. Unlike other early admission processes though, Stanford's program is non-binding. This means that if you are admitted, you are not obligated to go there. The Early Action application was due No-



vember 1, which was 2 months earlier than the normal deadline. Apart from grades and standardized tests scores, part of the application included 1 long personal statement and 7 short answer questions. In addition, I had to answer 3 short essay questions that were intended to challenge me and allow the readers to see who I am as a person, rather than just the type of student I am. These, of course, were the most difficult to answer. The biggest perk of applying to a school through Early Decision is that you find out their decision for your admission extremely quickly and early. Going into the application process, I knew that although I was a good candidate, Stanford's admission rate is still only around 5%, which made me skeptical. On December 12, I received my admission decision through email and as a pleasant surprise, I was accepted! A few days later, I received a packet in the mail in which I was given my financial aid information. The cost of tuition and room and board is about \$64,000 and as of now, Stanford will provide me with around \$59,000. With that information in hand, I decided to accept my admission and I have officially become a cardinal!

Ever since then, Stanford has been nothing less than completely supportive throughout this entire process. Whether it would be welcoming me to the Stanford family, or ensuring that I am as informed as possible, they are there to assist me. Within my admissions packet, there was an inscription that truly represents how amazing this school has treated me and how much they value their students. It reads: "for all the times you stayed up late to get it right; practiced, rehearsed, and gave it your all; studied something because you loved it, not because it would be on the test; took a risk instead of following the easy path, volunteered your time, talent and energy."

**Judith Santano,**  
PHS Senior Student

## Tdap Booster Requirement

Schools across the country are dealing with outbreaks of measles, whooping cough and other communicable diseases. As a safeguard for all students, parents are required to provide evidence that their child has been immunized. California Law requires all 7th grade students show proof of a Pertussis (whooping cough) Tdap Booster before starting the 2015-16 school year.

Paramount Unified School District is

recommending that parents of 6th grade students contact their family physician to get a whooping cough shot (Tdap Booster) before the 2015-16 school year begins. Immunizations may be given by family physician or health clinics. If parents have questions about this law or other mandatory immunization requirements, they are asked to contact their child's school.

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



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*Great things are happening in Paramount Schools*

**PUSD Education News**

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# West Campus JROTC on the Move



In December of 2014, the freshmen JROTC cadets competed at a Rookie Drill Competition at Katella High School in Anaheim. These 35 Paramount High School West Campus students made up the majority of the JROTC rookie Pirate team. The Pirate rookies dominated the competition by placing in seven of the nine events.

Sergeant First Class Dannie Brayboy, the ninth grade instructor, was very proud of his freshmen. He stated, "Throughout their training we always stressed and impressed upon them the importance of teamwork. 'One team, one drill' is our motto; and on the day of competition, they truly lived up to our motto." Brayboy went on to state that every command was executed to perfection by the Pirate rookie team. Principal Morrie Kosareff had this to say about the ninth grade JROTC instructor, "The work that Sergeant Brayboy does with our freshmen cadets amazes me on an almost daily basis. He is an important member of our school community and is helping to transform our students into dedicated and disciplined young men and women."

**West Campus cadets placed in the following events:**

- Unarmed Drill Team (12 Students)**
- Exhibition** 1st
- Inspection Drill** 1st
- Regulation Drill** 2nd
- Tap Out** 2nd
  
- Armed Drill Team (12 Students)**
- Regulation Drill** 3rd
- Tap Out** 1st
  
- Color Guard (4 Students)** 1st

As part of the Unarmed Drill Team and Armed Drill Team, the marching units perform routines based on basic military drills. The Color Guard has cadets precision marching as they would in an official ceremony.

Simultaneously, at Santiago High School in Garden Grove, Colonel Guild and 12 members of the Pirate JROTC participated in the West Coast State Championship. Overall, twelve teams from various high schools competed at the event where West Campus freshman were part of the two six member teams that the Pirate JROTC had participating. Teams in the event competed in a variety of events including knot tying, first aid, archery, and a one and a half mile run. Additionally, the teams also had to run a gauntlet which had such activities as the tire flip, mud crawl, and water carry. Moreover, the cadets had to run the timed gauntlet twice. Our Pirate alpha team ran the gauntlet in 4.5 minutes and placed first in the JROTC Raider Challenge Mixed Team award. The alpha team included four freshmen from the West Campus. Colonel Guild remarked that he was very proud of both Pirate teams which placed in the top of the competition. This is the second year that our JROTC Raider Team has won the West Coast State Championship. He also commented that the Pirate JROTC Battalion was involved in a total of three events that day with another team at the City of Paramount's Breakfast with Santa.

# Superintendent's Message: Career Technical Education (CTE)

Our District motto states Great Things are Happening in Paramount Schools and indeed we have many examples to be proud of that support the statement. When our students graduate, we want to ensure that our students are ready to enter college without the need for remediation classes, so that they are ready to hit the ground running toward that 2 or 4 year degree.

We know that career demands presently and in the future require an individual who is knowledgeable and skilled. Additionally, preparation around what have been identified as the 4 Cs is essential - these are the skills of collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking.

A number of years ago, through the foresight of our Board of Education and staff, we established the Career Technical Education (CTE) program pathways as a way to prepare our students for college and career, and the 4Cs.

Currently, we have three pathways in the Engineering, Medical and Media Industry Sectors. All three pathways demonstrate robust local and national job market growth projections- an important factor when deciding and developing a pathway. In a little over 5 years, our Career Technical Education programs have grown from two hundred students at the West Campus to just under two thousand students (540 at the West Campus and 1400 at the Senior Campus). The student interest in these programs is very high and we are in process of developing a fourth pathway.

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) notes the following benefits of CTE.

### CTE Works for High School Students

- High school students involved in CTE are more engaged, perform better and graduate at higher rates.
- A person with a CTE-related associate degree or credential will earn on average between \$4,000 and \$19,000 more a year than a person with a humanities associate degree.

### CTE Works for the Economy

- Investing in CTE yields big returns for state economies.
- In Connecticut, every public dollar invested in Connecticut community colleges returns \$16.40 over the course of students' careers. That state's economy receives \$5 billion annually in income from this investment.

### CTE Works for Business

- CTE addresses the needs of high-growth industries and helps close the skills gap.
- The skilled trades are the hardest jobs to fill in the United States, with recent data citing 806,000 jobs open in the trade, transportation and utilities sector and 293,000 jobs open in manufacturing.
- Health care occupations, many of which require an associate degree or less, make up 12 of the 20 fastest growing occupations.
- To learn more about our CTE program, we invite you to visit the following website: <http://phs-pusd-ca.schoolloop.com/CTE>

## Early Childhood Education

Preschool helps set the stage for school success in the future. Children learn some of the fundamental skills in preschool that are needed later on to be able to read, write, use reasoning, and problem solving. The District will begin the enrollment period for preschool in the Spring depending on the type of early childhood education program. The District offers preschool programs under the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) and the Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP).

State Preschool	Full-Day 7:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Part-Day 3.5 hours sessions AM & PM	Enrollment Period Begins
Eligibility	Based on family income and size. May need to pay family fees. Employment, job training, going to school, or seeking employment.	Based on family income and size.	<b>March 16, 2015</b> at 8:00 a.m. at the ECE Office, 7340 E. Jackson St. Paramount, CA (562) 602-6900. Please bring proof of family income (i.e. check stubs).
Ages	3 to 5 years	<b>Must be 4 years before or on September 1, 2015.</b>	
State Preschool Sites	Gaines Preschool	Collins School Gaines Preschool- AM Keppel School Mokler School Wirtz School	

Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) 3.5 hours sessions (AM & PM)		Enrollment Period Begins
Eligibility	Los Angeles County resident. Families may need to pay a fee depending on income level.	Enrollment information will be forthcoming in April due to grant funding.
Ages	<b>Must be 4 years before or on September 1, 2015</b>	
LAUP Preschool Sites	Alondra Middle School Gaines Preschool-PM Hollydale School Zamboni Middle School	

# Lion PRIDE Day at Lincoln!



Lion PRIDE day was a huge success at Lincoln School! Balloons and new PRIDE posters greeted students and parents as they entered the gates. Everyone understood that something special was about to happen! The PRIDE acronym was created with input from all stakeholders. Student representatives served as members of the Principal's Advisory Club, in which their responsibility included surveying all students to see which character traits they thought would make them successful students. Staff members and a core group of parents also contributed their ideas. Collectively everyone agreed that students should demonstrate the following traits:

- Positive Attitude
- Respect
- Integrity
- Determination
- Enthusiasm

At the general assembly in the morning, our principal Mrs. Jones kicked off the activities by welcoming students, parents, PTA members, and PUSD Superintendent, Mr. Mendez. Lincoln Student Council representatives then led the school in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Mendez highlighted the morning by speaking about the meaning of PRIDE! To close, ELA Coach Mrs. Murrietta and members of the Principal's Advisory Club led the student body in the PRIDE cheer!

After the exciting morning activities, students attended a character-building assembly by the ACME Balloon Company. Everyone rolled and laughed while learning about traits important to being "the best me I can be!"

**Topekia Jones**  
Principal



## Winter Sports

Paramount High School athletic teams are in the last month of their seasons. Led by the boys' and girls' soccer teams, the Pirates are doing well in the tough San Gabriel Valley League. The lady Pirate soccer team is currently 15-5-1 overall and 5-2 in league. With three games to play, the team is in second place and hoping for the opportunity to play Warren on the last day of the season for the championship. The team is also looking forward to the playoffs with a goal of competing at the highest level. The boys' soccer team is a half of a game behind Warren for first place. They have an overall record of 12-3-4 and are 5-0-2 in league. They are currently ranked number 6 in the latest division one CIF polls. With a strong finish in league they are looking forward to the CIF playoffs with the hopes of bringing home another CIF championship.

As for the rest of the winter sports teams, our girls' basketball team is having one of the best years in Paramount history. They are currently 12-6 and tied for third place in the San Gabriel Valley League. A third place finish will guarantee the lady Pirates a berth into the CIF playoffs. With games at Lynwood, Downey and Warren, the girls look to finish strong and continue to build on their success. The boys' basketball team started

the season on a bumpy road, but has since recovered and need to win three out of their next four games to qualify for the playoffs. Wrestling finished their dual meets and are now preparing for the league finals. Winners of the San Gabriel Valley league finals qualify for the CIF prelims and prelim winners qualify for the CIF finals. Our girls' wrestlers are sending seven athletes to the CIF qualifying meet with the hopes of qualifying for the CIF finals. Girls' water polo finished up their season with two hard fought matches against Downey and Warren. With continued hard work the girls are looking forward to next season.

As the winter season comes to an end, the spring season is about to start. With baseball, softball, boys' volleyball, boys' tennis, track & field and swimming, Paramount High School will have many athletic events taking place over the course of the next couple of months. With all of the teams in full swing and preparing for the upcoming season, spring sports promises to be fun and exciting for all Pirate fans.

The entire Pirate family would like to thank the community and all who come out to support athletics at Paramount High School. We look forward to seeing our entire fan base at many athletic events this spring. GO PIRATES!!

## Jefferson Hosts a Successful Parent Night

One evening this past December, as students watched the latest DVD and chowed down on churros in the school's multi-purpose room, their parents and other family members were divided into two equal groups and sent to either the computer lab or the library.

The group in the computer lab learned about the various methods to solve a given math problem and to still come up with the same answer. They learned how to "break apart" a number to add or subtract rather than by just using the traditional algorithm method that most of us grew up with. They also learned how to use the "whole to part" or "part to whole" to solve word problems. Most importantly, they learned how they can support their child's learning and to assist them as needed with their homework. This discussion was led by Jefferson's new math coach, Claudia Ramos.

The group in the library had our literacy coach, Malis Pech, inform

them about the District's new and exciting reading program, "Write From the Beginning...and Beyond". Ms. Pech discussed how students from kindergarten and above are learning teachers use focused modeled writing to teach the basic writing structure for narrative writing. Samples of students' writings are displayed in the school's office and families were able to see the improvements their students are making after they rotated from the library to the computer lab, or from the computer lab to the library, after each approximately thirty minute session.

This family night was a huge success. At the end of the evening, each attendee received a packet of information to assist them with helping them with their child's homework.

Parents enjoyed this workshop so much, that they are requesting future events like this and plans are in the works to fulfill this request.

**Toni Sawyer**  
Teacher

