

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

JUNE 2007

PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR: 2007 CELEBRATION

District staff, members of the Board of Education, and community leaders joined in the celebration of each school site's Teacher of the Year at Jackson School on Wednesday, May 9th from 3:30 until 5:00 p.m. The program was moderated by Assistant Superintendent Stella Toibin and the Board of Education Trustees awarded the recipients their plaque. Teachers don't always realize the impact they have had or can have in the life of a student, but this day's program provided evidence in the form of testimonials from students, teachers, and administrators that teachers have an effect on the lives of students each and every day.

Each year, teachers at each school site are asked to select one outstanding teacher who will represent that school in the District-wide Teacher of the Year selection process. In making that selection, teachers are asked to consider the following criteria: a teacher who is committed to continued professional development training, one who supports his/her colleagues to improve their skills, a teacher who is involved in educational activities beyond the school, a positive problem solver, one who delivers a high quality instructional program, and a teacher who communicates positively with students and parents.

Once the District-wide Teacher of the Year has been determined through a Selection Committee of teachers and administrators from across the District, that one District-level recipient has the opportunity to apply for the Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year competition. If the candidate is identified as a County winner, their name moves forward to the State level of competition.

This year's Teachers of the Year and their school sites are as follows:

Early Childhood Education
Dianne Ewing

Alondra School
Shauna Marie Grover

Collins School
Lisa M. Mouri

Gaines School
Yvonne Barrera Poole
Hollydale School
Cecily M. Patterson

Jackson School
Kimberly Goforth

Jefferson School
Eileen T. Aparicio

Mark Keppel School
Michele Diane Lewis

Lakewood School
Lynessa M. Vaughn

Lincoln School
Morgan Bannister
Los Cerritos School
Stephanie Mei-li Ribitzki

Mokler School
Mariza Rivera Besina

Paramount Park School
Felicia Akuamoah

Roosevelt School
Mia Tryon

Howard Tanner School
Britain Bombard

Harry Wirtz School
Jeanine Cardullo

Frank Zamboni School
Nora A. Castillo

Paramount H.S. Academy
Daniel Hasheminejad



Board of Education members Tony Peña, Sonya Cuellar, Vivian Hansen and Superintendent David J. Verdugo are pictured with Teacher of the Year Jeanine Cardullo.

Buena Vista High School
Angelina J. Sandoval

Paramount High School West
Autumn M. Lovin
Paramount High School
Lynn Fairbanks

Adult Education Center
Maria Elena Murillo

This year's District-wide Teacher of the Year is Jeanine Cardullo, a grades 6-8 teacher, from Wirtz School. Jeanine is an educator who has been teaching Language Arts for four years in public education but who also taught paraplegic, quadriplegic and autistic children for many, many years as a therapeutic specialist. She shares that she loves the teaching profession and loves teaching middle school students. She observes that an adolescent student puts forth spectacularly heroic efforts to remain cool, unaffected and nonchalant. What they don't know is that their eyes give them away every time. She believes strongly that her goal is to provide lessons structured in such a way that the students will be intrigued despite themselves. She works very hard to include and encourage families as an integral part of her students' educational growth. One of her favorite memories of teaching is a rainy day during recess when students were talking about what jobs they could foresee for themselves in the future. One student, Edwin said, "Mrs. Cardullo what is your job?" She responded, "Being your teacher is my job!" Edwin blushed and grinned and said, "Oh yeah! I knew that! I made a mistake. People aren't supposed to like their job or want to go to work. So I kind of forgot for a second that teaching was your job."

Stella Toibin
Assistant Superintendent
Educational Services

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

June 12, 2007 • June 26, 2007

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

College Board Inspiration Award



The Board of Education and Superintendent presented a certificate to the counselors at Paramount High School to recognize their work in earning the College Board's Inspiration Award.

The College Board is a national organization whose mission is to support high schools in their work to increase the number of students who leave high school ready to enter college. Each year the College Board invites high schools to apply for its Inspiration Award, which recognizes schools that make significant progress in increasing the number of students who are academically prepared for college. After reviewing applications in which each school was required to show data that demonstrated how it increased the number of students preparing for and entering college, the College Board select-

ed eight finalists in the nation, and Paramount High School was one of these eight.

Paramount High School cited some of the following statistics in its application:

- Between 2000 and 2006, the number of students completing A-G requirements increased 300%, from 50 students to 161;
- Between 2000 and 2006, the number of students enrolled in Algebra 2, doubled, from 218 students to 546.

Paramount High School has been awarded \$1,000, which will be given to the school's counseling department to fund activities that promote college awareness.

Ready By Five Brings Books and Reading to Paramount Families!

For parents of young children, the thought of having a child that loves books and enjoys reading instead of watching television may be more like a dream rather than reality—until now.

The Ready By Five program, a grant funded school readiness program that is part of Early Childhood Education programming within Paramount Unified School District, offers two exciting and fun early literacy programs for children and families. Ready By Five's mission is to help children and families be healthy and successful for school. We believe that families that read together, starting at an early age, do better in school—and these two programs help families make reading a fun priority.

The Read with Me backpack program is exclusively for enrolled PUSD preschool children. Read with Me aims to increase early literacy development and skills of children through the use of a themed backpack filled with books, literacy activities, and materials that parents can check out for free. Over eight weeks, children can borrow a different backpack each week, and parents can participate in two meetings, where they will learn more about the

importance and benefits of reading, how to read best with their child, activities and games that can be done at home with their child to help them read and write.

Let's Read literacy parties are for parents of children ages 2-5 within the community to learn more about how they can share reading in fun ways with their children. Our goal is to provide parents the awareness, knowledge, and tools to share early literacy experiences with their child at home. Our Literacy Party Coach will come to your home to share with you and your guests the importance and benefits of early literacy and demonstrate reading tips and fun early literacy activities. As a bonus, free books will be given to guests and a free box full of early reading goodies (example: books, games, crayons, alphabet magnets, puzzles, etc.) will be given to the host.

To learn more about these two programs for young children and families, or other programs and services offered by Ready By Five, please call (562) 602-6913 for more information.

Nancy Kelley-Kuhn
Program Director, Child Development Centers

Roosevelt's Second Annual Career Day



Roosevelt School's Second Annual Career Day was a very busy and exciting day! This event provided a wonderful opportunity for our students to become more aware of various professional careers and gather information to help them explore options for their futures. This year some presenters were organized by professions that connected to specific Open Court themes. For example, Jake Bailey; a Paleontology/Geo-biology Ph.D. candidate from USC, presented information on the extinction of dinosaurs and encouraged our second grade students to go to college and become researchers and scientists some day! This tied in to the second grade Open Court Unit, "Fossils". Another presenter, Anna Gomez; U.S. Bank Teller Supervisor, spoke about her career to our Third Grade classrooms for their Unit on "Money". And, the Red Cross and CARE Ambulance were here for Fourth Grade's Unit on "Survival".

Our Kindergartners were visited by Captain Powell and the crew of Ladder Truck 31. They were told the Fire Fighters' job description, got to see the huge ladder truck up close, and experience what it's like to wear a Fire Fighter's gear before receiving their very own replica badges from the Fire

Department!

Our Middle Grade students participated in classroom discussions with U.S. Probation Officers, Emergency Medical Technicians, and college representatives from Cerritos College, El Camino College, and USC. Paramount Unified School District's own Chris Stamm; Director of Nutrition Services, gave a presentation on his career and treated some students to Chocolate Covered Strawberries! Special "thanks" goes out to CARE Ambulance, the Red Cross, and James Rudd; Vehicle Maintenance Manager and Defensive Driving Instructor, for staying all day to visit classrooms and especially to Guillermo Mireles; Manager of Hamburger Hamlet in Hollywood, who stayed all day to present without any previous notice.

These were just some of the presenters here at Roosevelt that day. The turnout was great and our appreciation and respect for all of the presenters to come share their career experiences with us is greater. These professionals participating in our Second Annual Career Day are sure to inspire the students of Roosevelt School!

Jeff Barrios
Counselor, Roosevelt School

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



Board of Education
Linda Garcia, President
Vivian Hansen, VP/Clerk
Alicia Linden-Anderson, Member
Sonya Cuellar, Member
Tony Peña, Member

District Superintendent
David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.

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

Superintendent's Message:

Dear Parents and Community Members,

On behalf of our Board of Education and myself, I wanted to take this opportunity to express our sincere congratulations to our Paramount High School 2007 Graduates. Many of our graduates have been accepted to various colleges and universities across our state and nation. We are very proud of all of our seniors and their parents who supported them throughout their years of education.

A special thanks to our school staff members. I know that our teachers and coaches have provided and prepared our students for life beyond high school and successful futures. Please recall that you need to take your gifts and talents and employ them to the best of your ability everyday.

Again, congratulations to our sen-



Superintendent David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.

iors and to all of our students and families. I hope you have a pleasant and restful vacation.

David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Art Comes Alive at Lincoln School



Middle school students in Mrs. Kraft's class produced these examples of Pablo Picasso's work.



Lincoln School's wall of art.

Lincoln School's 6th – 8th Grade G.A.T.E. students had the experience of going through an intensive art workshop with Ms. Kraft during the Spring break. Over the 15-hour workshop, students analyzed the backgrounds of artists and compared the richness of their unique styles. The artists chosen for study were Jan Vermeer, a Renaissance contemporary of Rembrandt; Gustav Klimt, the founder of the Art Nouveau Movement; Pablo Picasso, a trend setter of many contemporary movements; and Thomas Kinkade, the most published artist of current day. The students attended lectures, took extensive Cornell notes and wrote informative biographies of the artists.

The "studio days" were the most exciting part of the week long workshop. Students created 18 X 24 drawings using oil pastel in the style of the artists. You could feel the excitement in the air as students successfully captured the technique and uniqueness of individual artists.

Students left the sessions with a reformed attitude towards ART. Students, when asked about the class, offered comments such as: "It was an experience like no other! It was the best ever!" (Ana H.) "Phenomenal class of art and learning!" (Andrew B.) "It made me discover my creative side." (Angie P.) "It was amazing to see the difference in my artwork before and after." (Omar R.) "I discovered I have some art skills." (Rosibell D.) "Art is inside me and I can do it." (Gladys M.) "It was hard and stressful but I didn't give up." (Isabela C.) "It let me try new styles of art I've never used before." (Taylor V.) "It helped me begin to appreciate the art that I didn't like before." (Rebekah L.) The last day of the workshop concluded with students making an impressive wall of art that could be enjoyed by all.

Joyce Kraft
6-8 Teacher
Lincoln School

Talented Artists Recognized



The Board of Education and Superintendent congratulated the first place winners of the Traditional Artists' Guild show.

The Traditional Artists' Guild of Paramount and the City of Paramount recently co-sponsored their 25th 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 over 580 District student paintings were showcased at the show.

The following students received awards for their participation:

SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD

Daisy Vega, 5th grade, Lincoln School

Chairman's Award

Sandra Lopez, 7th grade, Alondra School

Judge's Award-Best Use of Color

Cynthia Mercado, 6th grade, Hollydale School

PRINCIPALS' AWARDS

Alondra School: Lilliana Illan, 6th grade

Collins School: Steven Turbis, 3rd grade

Gaines School: Janet Diaz, 3rd grade

Hollydale School: Sidney Smock, 3rd grade

- Jefferson School: Monica Ramirez, 6th grade
- Keppel School: Jorge Cardenas, 4th grade
- Lakewood School: Ranesha Samuels, 8th grade
- Lincoln School: Sasha Castanon, 8th grade
- Los Cerritos School: Daniel Hernandez, Kindergarten
- Mokler School: Adam Vega, 6th grade
- Paramount Park School: Ayesha Burks, 8th grade
- Roosevelt School: Ana Rodriguez, 3rd grade
- Wirtz School: Alberto Soto, 3rd grade
- Zamboni School: Danella Martinez, 3rd grade
- Buena Vista High School: Eduardo Madriz, 12th grade
- Paramount High School Academy: Damaris Diaz, 10th grade
- Paramount High School-West: Yasmin Vega, 9th grade

JUDGES' AWARDS

- Kindergarten: Ashley Rodriguez, Gaines School
- First Grade: Melody Fu, Lincoln School
- Second Grade: Victor Fu, Lincoln School
- Third Grade: Sujiet Rodriguez, Wirtz School
- Fifth Grade: Isavra Hernandez, Roosevelt School
- Seventh Grade: Angel Alvarez, Paramount Park
- Eighth Grade: Grace Gonzales, Wirtz School
- Eleventh Grade: Nora Juarez, PHS Academy
- Twelfth Grade: Miguel Guzman, Buena Vista High School

Appreciating Art at Buena Vista

Looking at Miguel Guzman's artwork, one might think that he has been formally studying art for many years. His attention to detail and the creativity he imparts though color and balance make viewers look carefully at his work. Miguel is a 12th grade student at Buena Vista High School and this semester has been a very busy one for him. Not only is he taking a full load of coursework at Buena Vista, but he has represented the school in prestigious art competitions.

Earlier this semester, Miguel worked on a pencil drawing entitled "King Aztec" for the Traditional Artists Guild (TAG) show at Progress Park. The drawing won first place for the 12th grade division. Miguel was awarded a ribbon for his efforts, and was honored at the April 24th PUSD School Board of Education meeting.

On April 28, 2007, Miguel attended the Fifth Annual Congressional Art Competition at Sycamore Plaza in Lakewood. The event was sponsored by Congresswoman Linda T. Sanchez, who was present at the reception. For this competition, Miguel experimented with various materials in his colored pencil, ink, and pastel drawing entitled "Aztec Empire." At the reception Miguel was awarded a certificate and his artwork was on display in a gallery-style setting.

Miguel draws inspiration from his



Miguel Guzman

heritage for his artwork. He is proud of his ancestors and uses imagery from the Aztec civilization to educate and inspire viewers. Miguel plans to attend El Camino College with the intent to transfer to Chapman University and pursue a degree in Fine Arts. We at Buena Vista are very proud of Miguel's accomplishments and his artwork is currently on display in the front office.

Mrs. Law, TOSA

“Volunteers Plant the Seeds of Kindness”



Principal Beatriz Spelker-Levi recognizes one of Jefferson School's volunteers.

Jefferson School hosted a special breakfast in honor of our Parent volunteers on April 18th during National Volunteer Week. The theme this year was “Volunteers Plant the Seeds of Kindness.” Thirty-two parents that have either volunteered as part of PTSA, School Site Council, ELAC, classroom volunteers of faithful participants in our parent education workshops offered at the school were honored.

At Jefferson, we recognize that every

effort made contributes to their children's success. Without our parent volunteers, many school wide programs and events would not be possible. Their time, efforts, and commitment are truly appreciated.

We look forward to having more parents volunteer and invest in their children's fruitful accomplishments.

Dolores Barrios
Counselor
Jefferson School

Track and Field Marches On - Baseball Breaks Through -

The waning of the spring sports season at Paramount High School produced some memorable moments as familiar faces enjoyed perennial success and another spring sport poised itself for an historic finale to its season. CIF playoff competition loomed for boys' tennis, track and field, swimming, and baseball, while strong efforts by boys' volleyball and golf (with young teams) held promise for a more successful future.

Pirate Track and Field, led by coach Chris Barboza and her dedicated staff, produced league champions for both the boys' and girls' varsity and the boys' frosh-soph teams. The dual varsity titles were the first in program's long history of success. CIF prelims would be the weekend of May 11-12, and the Pirates are expected to make their usual strong showing in that venue.

Paramount Varsity baseball won its first San Gabriel Valley League title since 1998 and sat in first place with a 13-0 record, with an historic opportunity to run the table if successful against Gahr the final week. Coach Cameron Chinn's program also had the chance to win championships at the JV and freshman levels; the Gahr games would tell the tale. The CIF 4th-ranked Pirates would begin the Division III playoffs on May 18.

Pirate swimming enjoyed a stellar season, with the Varsity boys narrowly missing the school's first league title in the sport. Coach Robert Guerrero's large boys' and girls' squads will be heard from over the next few years as fifteen Pirate swimmers - the most in school history - qualified for the CIF prelims at Belmont Plaza Pool in Long Beach on May 8. The PHS boys' tennis team, coached by Curtis Mu, finished third in league play, qualifying for the Division IV playoffs at Morro Bay on May 8.

Coaches Jimena Vargas (boys' volleyball) and Jason Sewell (golf) led young teams to the edge of league success this season as they build their programs with young players. Boys' volleyball, featuring three freshman starters, played every match tough, frequently taking opponents to four and five sets before the more expe-

rienced squad prevailed. Coach Sewell had a Pirate sophomore golfer qualify for the second day of the league finals, the first such advance by a Pirate golfer in some time.

Lady Pirate softball struggled with tough losses in league play, but with six freshmen on the Varsity gaining valuable experience, the future looks brighter for Coach Bill Barton's program. Seniors Christine Gonzalez and Sarah Barton, holdovers from Paramount's 2005 CIF-finalist team, will be sorely missed due to their leadership and hard-nosed example on the field. They are true Pirates.

Mark Kemp
Athletic Director, PHS

Paramount Kindergarten Students Stick to It!

Mark Keppel and Los Cerritos Kindergarten classes introduced their new unit (Sticking to It) at Paramount Iceland. The unit teaches the importance of perseverance (sticking to a task and giving it your all). What better way to demonstrate perseverance than to learn how to ice skate.

The children were very excited and quickly learned that to accomplish this task, it would take practice and determination - perseverance. Despite a few falls, students quickly learned, with the help of their teachers and parent volunteers, how to remain on their feet. It looks like Paramount has quite a few Olympic hopefuls in their midst!

All in all, this experience gave students the opportunity to realize that practice and perseverance against any obstacle pays off. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we hope to make this trip a yearly unit opener for “Sticking to It!”

Connie Toscano
Principal, Keppel School

Hollydale Shows Its Patriotism



Hollydale School kindergarten students proudly show their patriotism in their parade.

The kindergarten students at Hollydale School have been learning about the United States of America. Throughout their unit, titled “Red White & Blue”, the students have examined ways to show patriotism, learned about national symbols and holidays, and gained an understanding of what it means to be a good citizen.

As a part of their end of the unit celebration, the kindergarten students invited their families to attend a parade and family picnic. The students entered the playground carrying flags and banners, sang several patriotic songs and

ended the parade by marching around the field with instruments. The parents and their children then enjoyed an All-American barbecue.

The students and teachers worked hard to make this event a success. There were over 300 people in attendance, spanning three generations. The students were so excited to have their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and little brothers and sisters participate in this event and be a part of their education.

The whole event is best summed up by Natalie Corrales, “I love my country and I love parades!”

A Taste of Art

Imagination is the creative images and ideas of the mind transferred to the real world by us. A short time ago at Alondra School, third grade students were able to express their imagination through the medium of art. The students were able to experiment with Picasso's Cubist Painting style. Mr. Baeza, an art expert, taught and guided them on this artist's extraordinary and unique art style.

The third graders gathered in the cafeteria for a culminating art experience for the unit on Imagination. They had previously read a biography about 20th Century artist, Picasso. They were able to use paints to create cubist paintings of Picasso. Students were given copies of different periods of his artwork to use as guides and were excitedly anticipating using their own arty imagination to create their own artistic works. The third grade students spent the morning expressing themselves by painting self-portraits of Picasso and some of his other famous painting such as The Three Musicians, Dora Maar, and The Old Guitarist.

Many students demonstrated a cre-



Erick Quintana proudly displays his artwork, “Self Portrait of Picasso.”

ative flair for the art of painting. Our up-and-coming artist enjoyed the morning dabbling in the arts.

Laura Megofna
Teacher
Alondra School