

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Paramount Unified School District



Volume 5, Issue 14

May 2021



Engagement through Distance Learning



WE HELP MAKE SCHOOL EMPLOYEES HOMEOWNERS

Our School Employee Mortgage Program¹ can help make the dream of owning a home a reality:

- Down payments as low as 5%
- No Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI)
- No loan processing fee through Dec. 31, 2021²

And get up to a 20% rebate on your real estate agent's commission through SchoolsFirst FCU Home360SM.³

LEARN
MORE



DR. SHEELA H.
Department Chair & Counselor
Member Since 2014



CALL 800.462.8328, ext. 8288

IF YOU'RE NOT A MEMBER, IT'S EASY TO JOIN.
VISIT [SCHOOLSFIRSTFCU.ORG/NEWDIGITAL](https://www.schoolsfirstfcu.org/newdigital)



Insured by NCUA.

Eligibility for Membership subject to verification and ChexSystems review. Minimum \$5 deposit required to establish Membership. All loans subject to approval. Programs, rates, terms and conditions subject to change without notice. **1.** School Employee No PMI Fixed Rate Mortgage available on loan-to-value range from 80.01% - 95%; minimum down payment of 5% on loan amounts up to \$850,000 and 10% on loan amounts up to \$1,000,000; eligible properties are primary residence single-family homes and condominiums; condominium subject to additional rate adjustment. Property must be located in the state of California. Must be an eligible school employee to qualify for School Employee Special No PMI Fixed Rate Mortgage. Please contact a home loan consultant for details. **2.** Available for all primary residence loan types, including School Employee Mortgage Program and First Time Home Buyer. Application must be dated no later than 12/31/21. Fully executed purchase contract on an identified property must be submitted no later than 12/31/21. Does not apply to equity loans or first mortgage refinances. The amount of the processing fee waived is \$550 for School Employee Mortgage Program and \$995 for all others. **3.** Rebate payment is made by First Team Real Estate or HomeSmart Evergreen Realty. Rebate is credited to your benefit at the close of transaction. Commission will vary. To be eligible for the 20% rebate, Member must complete the transaction with the agent assigned by SchoolsFirst FCU Home360SM. Using SchoolsFirst FCU for a mortgage loan is not a requirement to earn the rebate. Purchase price must be greater than \$150,000 after all credit adjustments. All rebates are subject to limitations, lender guidelines and other requirements. Certain properties may not be eligible for rebates. Rebate is 20% for purchase only of a residential property in California. Please consult a qualified tax professional for advice on tax implications from receiving a rebate. First Team Real Estate and HomeSmart Evergreen Realty are not affiliated with SchoolsFirst FCU.

Governing Board



Yesenia Cuarenta
President



Sonia De Leon
*Vice-President /
Clerk*



Linda Garcia
Member



Carmen P. Gomez
Member



Diane J. Martinez
Member

Thank You Paramount USD Community!

By Ruben Frutos, Interim Superintendent

As we approach the end of the 2020-21 school year, we can reflect on the many events and everchanging circumstances that we have experienced this year. We were welcomed at the beginning of this year hopeful that we would soon return to in-person instruction, and every month we continued to believe in the conclusion of the pandemic and the eventual return to some sense of normalcy. Our entire staff continue to provide excellent services for our students, with amazing and innovative teaching, caring and ongoing support to our students and families, and a constant effort to provide assurance and strength during these uncertain times.

In past issues, we have enumerated the many efforts and initiatives that the district has put forth to provide the best possible distance learning experience for our students, the support and guidance of the Board of Education to assure that the necessary resources are readily available, and the constant collaboration and partnership seeking that continues to showcase our district as an amazing service-driven organization. To our parents we not only say thank you, but we also want to assure you of the careful planning and safety-first mentality that is driving our return to school plans. And to our students, all we can say is that we cannot wait to welcome you back, our schools have been missing their most important element for too long.

Our partnerships with our PTA, City, County and State, including the Department of Public Health and the County Office of Education, have provided great services like vaccinations, technology access, and support systems that have benefited our district as we have navigated this most unique school year. And now, as we prepare for end-of-year activities and graduations, and welcome back our students for Summer School, we are hopeful again that our district will be able to resume all the wonderful services that we are known for. We invite you to visit our website for the latest information about our district.

With renewed hope for an amazing summer session and a great new school year!

¡Gracias a la comunidad de Paramount USD!

By Sr. Ruben Frutos, Superintendente Interino

A medida que nos acercamos al final del año escolar 2020-21, podemos reflexionar sobre los muchos eventos y las circunstancias cambiantes que hemos experimentado este año. Fuimos recibidos a principios de este año con la esperanza de que pronto regresaríamos a la instrucción en persona, y todos los meses seguimos creyendo en la conclusión de la pandemia y el eventual regreso a algún sentido de normalidad. Todo nuestro personal continúa brindando excelentes servicios a nuestros estudiantes, con una enseñanza asombrosa e innovadora, con cariño y apoyo continuo para nuestros estudiantes y familias, y un esfuerzo constante para brindar seguridad y fortaleza durante estos tiempos de incertidumbre.

En ediciones anteriores, hemos enumerado los muchos esfuerzos e iniciativas que el distrito ha presentado para brindar la mejor experiencia de aprendizaje a distancia posible para nuestros estudiantes, el apoyo y la guía de la Mesa Directiva del Distrito Escolar para asegurar que los recursos necesarios estén disponibles y la búsqueda constante de colaboración y asociación que continúa mostrando a nuestro distrito como una organización increíble impulsada por el servicio. A nuestros padres no solo les damos las gracias, sino que también queremos asegurarles la planificación cuidadosa y la mentalidad de seguridad primero que está impulsando nuestros planes de regreso a la escuela. Y a nuestros estudiantes, todo lo que podemos decir es que estamos ansiosos por darles la bienvenida nuevamente, nuestras escuelas han estado perdiendo su elemento más importante durante demasiado tiempo.

Nuestras asociaciones con nuestra organización del PTA, la ciudad, el condado y el estado, incluido el Departamento de Salud Pública y la Oficina de Educación del Condado, han brindado excelentes servicios como vacunas, acceso a tecnología y sistemas de apoyo que han beneficiado a nuestro distrito mientras navegamos por este año escolar. Y ahora, mientras nos preparamos para las actividades de fin de año y las graduaciones, y damos la bienvenida a nuestros estudiantes a la escuela de verano, tenemos la esperanza nuevamente de que nuestro distrito pueda reanudar todos los maravillosos servicios por los que somos conocidos. Lo invitamos a visitar nuestro sitio web para obtener la información más reciente sobre nuestro distrito.

¡Con renovada esperanza de una increíble sesión de verano y un gran año escolar nuevo!



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the

PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES: 562/493-3193

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:

Emily Ung

COPY EDITORS:

Kate Karp, Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

Netragrednik by Neta Madison



@SchoolNewsRC



SchoolNewsRollCall



SchoolNewsRollCall



SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
562/493-3193

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The Paramount Unified School District does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.

As this school year comes to an end in many ways it feels like the beginning. It is wonderful to see a bit of normalcy returning to our lives. The word Zoom took on a whole new meaning to children as they spent hours in front of a computer screen instead of in a classroom. There are many milestones in a child's life, but none of us were prepared for anticipating the next milestone of not wearing a mask. That will be a happy day.

Ruben Futos, Interim Superintendent, begins this issue on page 3 with his message of thanks to the Paramount USD community. Also, in this issue you will read how

each school has continued to engage during distance learning.

Be sure to enter the word search contest on page 14 (all ages may enter).

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is October 27.

Have a fun summer!

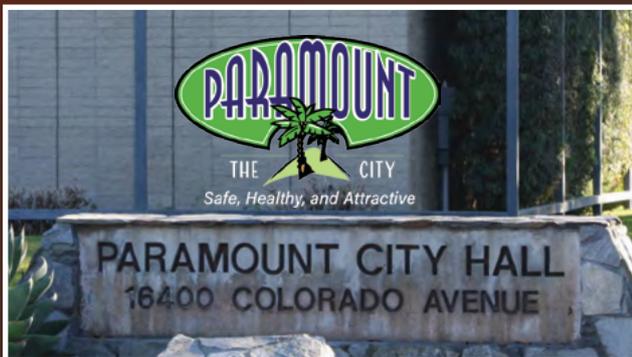


**Congratulations
Class of 2021!**

Congratulations Paramount High School,

for again being named one of America's best high schools, according to US News & World Report!

The City is proud of our Pirates, as always!



Early Childhood Education Program

7340 E. Jackson St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-6900 • www.paramount.k12.ca.us



Rita Cruz
Director

Preschool Celebrates Literacy

Family engagement and literacy are two important parts of the Paramount USD preschool program. Storytime Read Night was a great way to highlight the benefits of reading together. It has been a challenging year being in full distance learning but that did not stop teachers, children, and families from gathering

together virtually for some reading fun. In December, the preschool program shared Winter stories and songs. The feedback was so positive that two more Read Nights in March were planned. The first night was to celebrate Read Across America. The second night highlighted a theme that the students have been studying in class: Nutrition and Exercise. Teachers read the book called *Why Should I Eat Well?* written by Claire Lewellyn. The book was shared in both English and Spanish.

To culminate the evening, the children engaged in some exercise by dancing to a song about body parts and ended the night with a freeze dance. The preschool program looks forward to having more virtual family nights in the future. A lasting memory was? when the children smiled and all waved good-bye to each other. Although physically distanced, the family and program remained connected.



Lindsey Santiago, preschooler from Gaines Room 2, shares her healthy food project.



Attention Paramount Unified School District Class of 2021!

ENROLLMENT FEES* PAID FOR TWO YEARS!

Enrollment fees for the first two years will be paid for eligible full-time students who enroll in the **COMPTON COLLEGE PROMISE PROGRAM**.

To be eligible, Paramount Unified School District high school students must complete the Steps to Enrollment and complete a **COMPTON COLLEGE PROMISE** application by **June 30, 2021**.

COMPTON COLLEGE PROMISE students receive priority registration, access to Summer Bridge classes, and additional support through student success programs and services.

*\$46/unit enrollment fees additional fees are required. Oliver W. Conner College Promise students are required to enroll in a minimum of 12 units per primary term.

For more information, go online:

www.compton.edu/student/comptonpromise



OLIVER W. CONNER COLLEGE PROMISE

MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Safety is Key to a Fun-Filled Summer!

By Chantel Rothenburger and Danny Luna, coordinators
Injury Prevention Program,
MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Temperatures are rising and summer is around the corner! As COVID-19 restrictions lift and friends and family begin to gather outside, make sure to keep safety top of mind. Follow our tips to have a safe and fun summer:

Sun Safety

Sunburns are caused by overexposure to UV rays and can increase the risk of skin cancer.

- Seek shade. UV rays are strongest and most harmful during midday.
- Wear hats that shade the face, scalp, ears and neck.
- Apply sunscreen with at least SPF 15 and UVA and UVB (broad spectrum protection) 30 minutes before going outside and reapply as needed!

Water Safety

Every day, about 10 people die from unintentional drowning.

- Never leave your child in the water without adult supervision, no matter how shallow.
- We recommend using US Coast Guard-approved flotation devices.
- Enroll your child in swimming lessons.
- Install barriers, such as fencing around a swimming pool.

Bug Safety

Protect your family by preventing bites and diseases, like West Nile virus and Lyme disease, which can be transmitted by insects.

- Avoid areas where insects congregate, such as stagnant pools of water.
- Use insect repellents containing DEET.
 - The CDC recommendation for children older than 2-months-of-age is to use 10% to 30% DEET.
 - DEET should not be used on children younger than 2-months-old.
 - Avoid applying DEET on hands, around eyes or mouth.
 - Do not allow children under 10 years of age to apply repellent by themselves.
- When outside in the evenings, cover up with long-sleeved shirts, pants and socks



2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806
800-MEMORIAL (636-6742)
millerchildrens.org/Injury Prevention



From routine to rare, Jordan's access to care is covered.

With quality care close by, Jordan has access to a full-service children's hospital just minutes away. Whether she is due for a routine check-up or requires a pediatric specialist, we can meet Jordan's needs as she grows. With specialty care close to home, from the South Bay to Orange County, Jordan and her family never have to travel far to get the best for her.

Access to elite care. When you need it.



MemorialCare™
Miller Children's & Women's
Hospital Long Beach



800-MEMORIAL (636-6742) | millerchildrens.org/Elite

Alondra Middle School

16200 S. Downey Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8004
alondra.pusdschools.net



Dr. Viola Scott
Principal

Mindful Middle Schoolers

The 2020-2021 school year may be remembered as one of the biggest growth opportunities in the history of education. The Alondra staff and students have embraced every obstacle and challenge this year and they have enthusiastically delivered some truly amazing results.

One challenge that we tackled this year was how to make students feel connected to school during distanced learning. Our teachers, instructional coaches, counselors and social worker launched a variety of initiatives to address this obstacle head on. Student outreach via Schoology messaging, phone calls, invitations to office hours and virtual clubs are just some of the ways Alondra staff has connected with students this school year.

One initiative however, has received rave reviews from our students. Mindful Mondays, started by our Social Worker, Ms. Melissa Montez gives students an opportunity to interact with each other around positive topics on their very own Schoology student page. Every Monday, Ms. Montez posts a high-quality video and newsletter with mindfulness tips and challenges for students to complete. Students have an opportunity to receive prizes each week for participating in the challenges and interacting on the Schoology page.

The outcome of this initiative is that our students have created an encouraging virtual community where they can get support from other students as well as our support staff. They post comments sharing the mindfulness tasks they plan to try out for the week, they congratulate each other, and also show support by “liking” each other’s comments.

This has been an amazing growth opportunity for both students and staff as it challenges us to think outside the box to continue to meet students’ social emotional needs during this unique school year. Our students have also undoubtedly received more direct instruction around mindfulness and other mental wellness topics this school year than any other time.

Buena Vista High School

3717 Michelson St., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/602-8090 • bv.pusdschools.net



Morrie Kosareff
Principal

ASB: Leadership in Action

Buena Vista High School’s Associated Student Body (ASB) is comprised of students who work tirelessly to provide leadership and activities for the students at BVHS. Under the leadership of Katherine Thomas, ASB carefully plans activities to promote and reinforce the Buena Vista family connections and spruce up the learning environment, all while being taught skills that will last a lifetime.

During this very unusual school year, our ASB students have had to be extra creative in their thinking. While away from school, they have organized several virtual school-wide Pep Rallies in order to keep our students connected to one another and to our school. ASB students have regularly provided inspiration, recognized student achievement, organized virtual competitions, and facilitated discussions via their Pep Rallies.

During the first semester, ASB students worked with the Los Angeles County Register-Recorder County Clerk Office to educate students on Voter Registration requirements and to encourage them to become registered voters. Working through our Advisory classes, ASB also sponsored several activities during the holiday season where all students participated in events which provided food and other items for families within our Paramount Community.

In addition to the community involvement activities, ASB plays an important role in our Student of the Quarter recognitions where teachers and counselors invite students to recognize academic growth, success and improvement during each grading period. ASB students are further demonstrating their developing leadership skills by their work with Restorative Practices. Our students spend time learning how to work cooperatively with their peers and help others work through difficulties.

ASB students are becoming equipped with skills in leadership, organization, time management, and a true definition of teamwork. These are qualities that every student needs to succeed throughout their academic career and life. ASB students are leaders in action.



Learn about
World History
US History
Videos • Art • Music
Study Habits

FREE
Enjoy!
History Buffs
Teachers
Students

HistoryDepot.com

BAYRIDGEEQUESTRIAN.COM
EST 2017
Pony Rides & Riding Lessons for all ages!
562-405-2134

Collins *Elementary*

6125 Coke Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/602-8008 • collins.pusdschools.net



Lynn Butler
Principal

Celebrating Attendance

By Nancy Manning, Assistant Principal

Each online school day has reminded us how precious our students are and how much we miss them! As we thought about getting all students online every day for class, we wanted to celebrate the ones who “come” to school and brighten all our days. Recognizing each student with a physical award and treat voucher in the “snail” mail was our first step.

The attendance team at Collins has made every effort to reach out to and serve our students and families. In addition to sending physical awards and treat vouchers, we have been able to form mentor groups that reach out to our community of students and provide one-on-one support including delivering hot spots to homes, and daily phone calls to remind students we care and we want them to log into class each day.

Gaines *Elementary*

7340 E. Jackson St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8012 • gaines.pusdschools.net



Karen Sullivan
Principal

Finding Focus During Distance Learning

During these extraordinary times, the Paramount Unified community came together to focus on what is best for our students. Early planning put technology devices in the hands of our students as we navigated this new path of Distance Learning. We worked together to focus on safely staying connected, engaging students in high quality online learning and using

new tools to apply evidence-based best practices.

Our Gaines family quickly learned that working as a team was a critical element to our success. The school put together the tools that students needed and parents picked up those important supplies and established a space for their children to learn. As we worked through the process of logging on, everyone learned new ways to communicate efficiently. The home-school team knew that they were most effective when problem solving together. Meetings that were once held in the cafeteria moved to an

online platform. Notices and special event flyers were all distributed electronically. Weekly assemblies that were once part of a morning blacktop routine became video messages. We knew that as a connected team, we were stronger.

Teachers went above and beyond to find ways to engage students in rigorous learning using strategies that they knew were effective and incorporating new tools as needed. They understood that students could think deeply whether in the physical or virtual classroom. Active participation strategies were still a staple of learning. Students showed their work by holding whiteboards up or tilting the camera toward the written page. Students unmuted and shared orally or all responded by typing in the chat. Options for collaborating in a virtual room or on a shared whiteboard opened up even more possibilities.

Through the focused efforts of our Gaines family, our CUBS have learned many new skills to prepare for their future. Go Grizzlies!

Hollydale *K-8*

5511 Century Blvd., South Gate, CA 90280 • 562/602-8016 • hollydale.pusdschools.net



Lisa Nunley-Macon
Principal

Kindness Makes Everyone A Winner!

Unexpectedly and as a complete surprise, a national non-profit organization gifted Hollydale's elementary teachers with \$5,000! Each teacher received \$200 to spend using online accounts at various popular stores. The gift came at a perfect time because the school board had just made the decision to continue with distance learning for the rest of the school year. A teacher's wish list

during the pandemic has revolved around technology, which can be very costly. Although Hollydale teachers have been teaching virtually for months, the donation allowed them to purchase additional distance learning must-haves from their wish lists. Teachers purchased surge protectors with charging ports, blue light blocking glasses, headphones with microphones, computer docking stations, various teaching supplies, and many other resources that will allow them to successfully teach from home. Kindness makes everyone a winner!

Jackson Middle School

7220 E. Jackson St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8020 • jackson.pusdschools.net

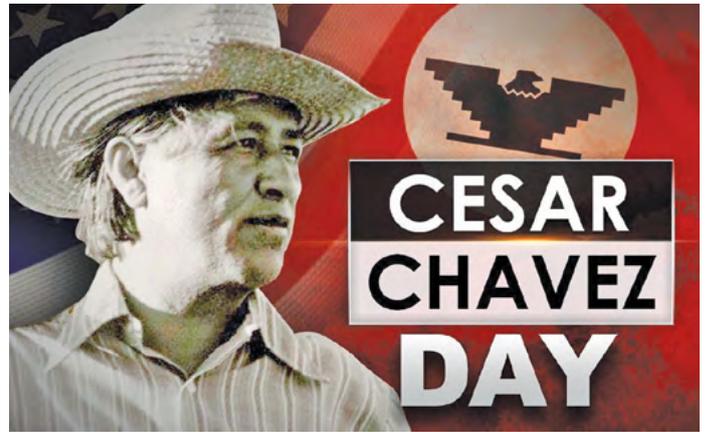


Kelly Anderson
Principal

Celebrating Our Heroes

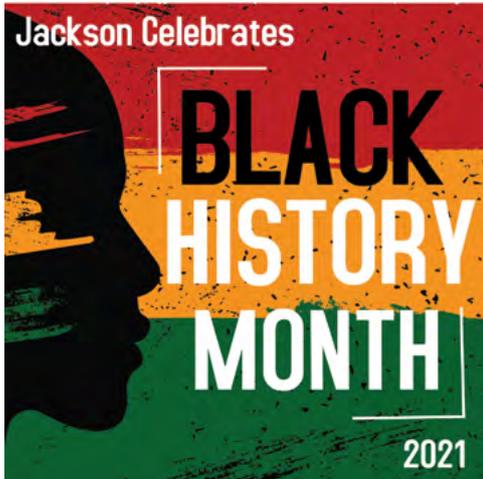
In honor of Black History Month and Cesar Chavez Day, Leona Jackson School took the time to honor, reflect, and celebrate the contributions of black Americans and our Latino heroes.

Black Americans have contributed to every facet of life, including leading, inventing, and trailblazing. Jackson School highlighted Black History Month by showcasing the achievements of many “Courageous Black Americans” who have changed history. We chose three black Americans to



showcase weekly and spotlighted their accomplishments. For example, we chose current black Americans, such as Michelle Obama, Misty Copeland, and Amanda Gorman who broke barriers in spite of the racism and discrimination they encountered.

Jackson also celebrated Cesar Chavez Day by highlighting his legacy and contributions towards shaping history, breaking barriers, and practicing a non-violent approach for human rights. Furthermore, the counseling team will be delivering classroom lessons on empathy and tolerance to address discrimination and equity for all.



Jefferson Elementary

8600 Jefferson St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8024 • jefferson.pusdschools.net



Kelly Williams
Principal

Bon Voyage Jiji!

Have you found that distance-learning has caused a wedge between your students and their motivation to accomplish goals you set for them? Do you find it difficult to reward your students for all of their hard work because of the physical distance between you? The Jefferson Jaguars were definitely feeling the distance-learning blues before Jiji got her passport! Each

new week, the Jaguars need to solve at least 10,000 new puzzles, collectively, to help get Jiji to her next destination! Our students have each been working hard to contribute their part in meeting the school-wide goal and to date, the Jaguars have solved over 330,000 puzzles, exceeding 10,000 new puzzles solved each week! We couldn't be more proud of their tenacity and goal-getter mentalities!

#teamwork #jaguars #stmth #AVIDelementary
#alwayslearning #alwaysgrowing



Jiji in Venice



Jiji on Safari

Keppel *Elementary*

6630 Mark Keppel St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8028 • keppel.pusdschools.net



Michael Naruko
Principal

From Poems to Programming

At Keppel Elementary School, students are exploring the world of poetry and computer programming. Ms. Sarah Tatro and Mrs. Christina Soto began these after-school clubs to give students an opportunity to learn and grow in unique ways. In Poetry Club, students learn about different types of poetry and have had the opportunity to share their poems and collaborate with other poetry clubs. Mary Davis, a third grader shares, “I love acrostic poetry, but I also enjoy coding because you can design games.” Evan Hernandez, a third grader, has learned how to sequence programs to complete different tasks. He is also a student poet who has written several poems including haiku, shape poems, and limericks. In Coding Club, members work to create and debug computer

programs while playing games. Scarlet De Lira, a fourth grader, says, “The biggest challenge in coding is when something does not work, and you have to change the code.”

Third grade teacher Ms. Tatro, an avid poet, is extremely proud of her students and the excitement they bring to their virtual classes. She shares, “My hope is to expose students to something they might love and have them see things in a different way.”

Through her vision and inspiration, students across the campus will become future poets and computer programmers. All the excitement around poetry and coding has inspired other teachers to join Ms. Tatro and Mrs. Soto. This Spring, Keppel will expand their after-school enrichment program to include a Science Club, a Cooking Club, and an Art Club. Go Keppel Pumas!

Lincoln *Elementary*

15324 S. California Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8036 • lincoln.pusdschools.net



Dr. Topekia Jones
Principal

Lincoln's STEAM Night Goes Virtual

Kirsten Albert, Teacher

Lincoln's STEAM Night is back after last year's COVID-19 hiatus, but this year we are going virtual! STEAM Night will be held May 20, and it will offer students the opportunity to explore science, engineering, and art related concepts from the safety of their own homes. Throughout COVID-19 school closures, we realized the importance of keeping Lincoln's students and families connected as a school community while still adhering to safety protocols that prevent us from gathering together on campus. As a result, we tried to offer the same fun Family

Night experiences, like Read Nights and STEAM Night, but in a safe way.

For this year's STEAM Night, Lincoln's teachers will lead students virtually on Google Meets through the Scientific process as they expose students to a grade-level appropriate scientific idea. Students will then make a hypothesis and test their ideas as they follow along with the teacher, conducting the simple experiment from home. They will record their observations and follow up with their conclusion on whether their predictions were correct. Anyone who wants to participate will pick up the supplies from school beforehand. We are hoping for a fun and engaging night of scientific discovery!

Mokler *Elementary*

8571 E. Flower St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8044 • mokler.pusdschools.net



Linh Roberts
Principal

Ready for Success

Mokler Pilots are getting ready for College, Careers and Success! Students participated in a variety of lessons and activities to help them prepare for their future today. Students dressed for their careers during Career Pathways Week, learned about types of colleges and college going myths during College Week. Pilots enjoyed dressing to impress as they learned about interviews

and the importance of making a good impression. Students learned what it takes to be an entrepreneur during the Young Entrepreneurs Unite Forum where they shared creative ideas and business plans. Not only did they learn about the benefits of being their own boss, they also learned the importance of failure on the journey to success. Although failure is not fun most successful people failed many times. That's why Counselor Ms. Holland teaches the 3 P's: Passion, Practice and Perseverance. They are the secret to success in College, Careers, and life.

Los Cerritos *Elementary*

14626 Gundry Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8040 • loscerritos.pusdschools.net



Hilda Mapp
Principal

Read Across America 2021

Los Cerritos celebrated NEA's Read Across America this year in a different, yet memorable way. The week kicked off with an interactive spirit week flyer where families were able to click on various books and listen to read alouds together. The Principal, Mrs. Mapp, celebrated and shared the daily spirit week activity and books during the virtual assembly. Students not only read

books about famous Americans, influential athletes, and different cultures, they also had the opportunity to dress up and celebrate a bit more. This sparked great conversations throughout the entire week as teachers shared favorite books and authors with their students. A Read Across America slide show with pictures of students and families reading and participating in the spirit week was created and shared with all. It was a wonderful way to end our celebration and continue to encourage Los Cerritos students and families to find the joy in reading.



Julissa Varela celebrates her family culture.



Rosie the Riveter portrayed by Bella Perez.

Odyssey *STEM Academy*

3701 Michelson Street, Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/602-8032 • odyssey.pusdschools.net



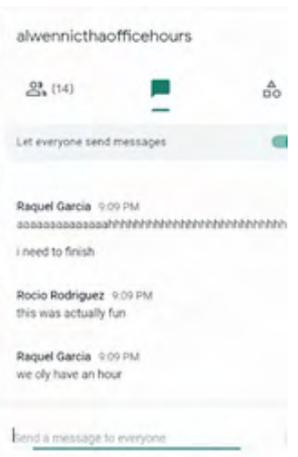
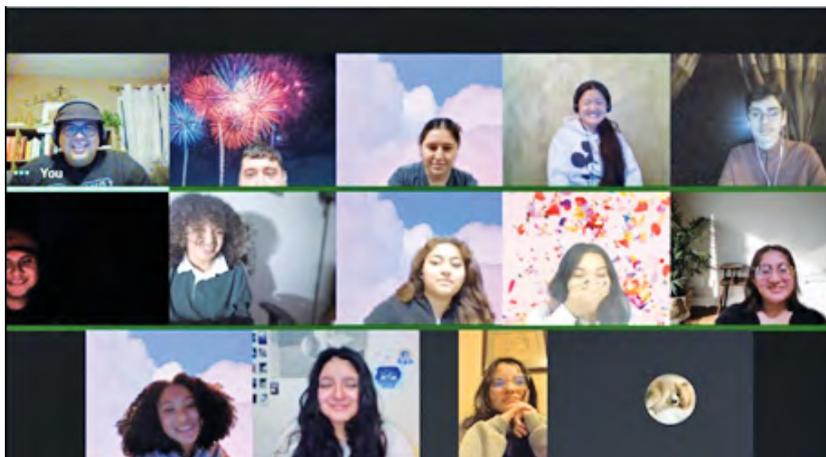
Rebecca Perez
Principal

Math Modeling Challenge

Eleven Odyssey STEM Academy (OSA) scholars participated in this year's virtual and international MathWorks Math Modeling Challenge on February 27, 2021. This year's real-world problem asked contestants to work in teams for fourteen hours straight to analyze a problem and devise a mathematical model to

previously unknown problem and each wrote 18+ page solution papers, complete with executive summaries, tables, graphs, and citations. OSA scholars enjoyed the demanding experience and cited being prepared for this experience through the collaborative and inquiry based mathematical approach at school. Entries were judged in April and all teams received feedback from professional mathematician judges by the end of the month.

calculate the cost of internet bandwidth over the next ten years, predict a given household's need for internet in one year, and develop a plan for distributing and placing cellular nodes in a given region. Three Odyssey teams collaborated online to tackle this



OSA teams tackle math problem virtually.

Paramount *Adult School / Community Day School*

14507 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8080
pas.pusdschools.net



Dr. Yvonne Rodriguez
Principal

Adult Basic Education Flourishes through Distance Learning

On a particular evening, Paramount Adult School assistant principal Mr. Hector Lujan completed a classroom observation in the evening Adult Basic Education class. During the session, he heard from students presenting their past, present, and future goals. One young lady, as she presented, told the story of leaving high school to go live with her boyfriend. As she told her story, she stopped to pick up her toddler on the floor and continued with her presentation. She is one of the several individuals who would not attend school if not for distance learning.

As Mr. Lujan listened, he was moved by the stories as one student after the other shared how they had overcome adversity. These students ranged in ages from teenagers to adults in their forties and fifties who had dropped out of school for various reasons, including the need to work, becoming pregnant, or too busy partying. Many students explained how they regretted not listening to their parents or others. Their hopes for their future were earning a high school diploma or High School Equivalency Certificate, attaining employment, attending college, or purchasing a home. Several mentioned that they wanted to be an example for their children who were toddlers or high schoolers.

During the pandemic, Paramount Adult School's Adult Basic Education course attendance doubled during the online instruction due to the Governor's Stay at Home Order. Instructors Jacqueline Okeke, Olukemi Davies, and Gabriela Romero have found students to be positive and flourish during this time as school is accessible to many more through Distance Learning. According to Ms. Okeke, "Distance Learning helps the students feel more supported, and childcare is no longer a factor for them. It is giving them the option to attend from home and allowing them to be more focused."

Paramount Park *Middle School*

14608 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8052
paramountpark.pusdschools.net



Kevin Longworth
Principal

Women's History Month

Following an exceptional Black History Month that included guest panels, speeches, music and movies, the team at Paramount Park Middle School sought to live up to its reputation of community building and opportunities for its students by presenting a Women's History Month that was full of celebration and exciting virtual events!

To celebrate the accomplishments and appreciation of women, March started with a Game Night, followed by a Family Movie, featuring a virtual screening of *Hidden Figures*. The Femineers then hosted two guest panels in which female professionals spoke about their careers in STEM and addressed questions by our Femineer moderators. Students learned about careers with NASA, Boeing, Intel, and many other STEM organizations.

Late in the month the school counselors hosted "Celebrating Her." This gathering allowed students and staff to express their appreciation for women in their lives. Participants shared cards, pictures, letters and/or just spoke from the heart as they thanked the women who have made a difference in their lives. The event included so much good will, but not many dry eyes!

To cap off the month's activities, another STEM guest panel visited the Panthers. This time it was hosted by AVID. In preparation for the Event, "Reaching for the Microscope," 8th Grade AVID students studied the various college pathways to reach their dreams (i.e. community college, public and private universities, trade schools, etc.). AVID students specifically focused on the colleges that the panelists, Leandra Gonzalez and Kayla Rayford, attended, and formulated specific college and career questions to be answered at the event. During the event, AVID students were able to welcome the guests and introduce the panelists. By the end of the event, guests learned about two different college and career experiences in the pursuit of Science and the importance of passion and perseverance.

Paramount *High School - Senior Campus*

14429 S. Downey Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-6067 • phs.pusdschools.net



Christiana Kraus
Principal

4 A'S Student Leadership Workshops

Over 300 students participated in the four-day workshops held March 8-11. Students learned how to create a culture of collaboration and use their influence to help make Paramount High School stronger together from the 4 A's of academics, activities, arts, and athletics. Students learned about their strengths, areas to grow, and areas of influence. Student leaders led small breakout rooms where they discussed how to

make connections, be courageous, and contribute to our community — both at home and school. We were joined by teachers, counselors, social workers, staff members, and administrators who participated with our students in meaningful discussions about the purpose of connection, courage, and contribution. Students and staff shared and learned about the similarities, dreams, fears, and goals that they had with each other. Students were reflective and empowered on how they could use their influence to make Paramount a better place in the areas of school, home, social media, and extracurricular activities.

Paramount High School - West Campus

14708 Paramount Blvd., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8073 • phswest.pusdschools.net



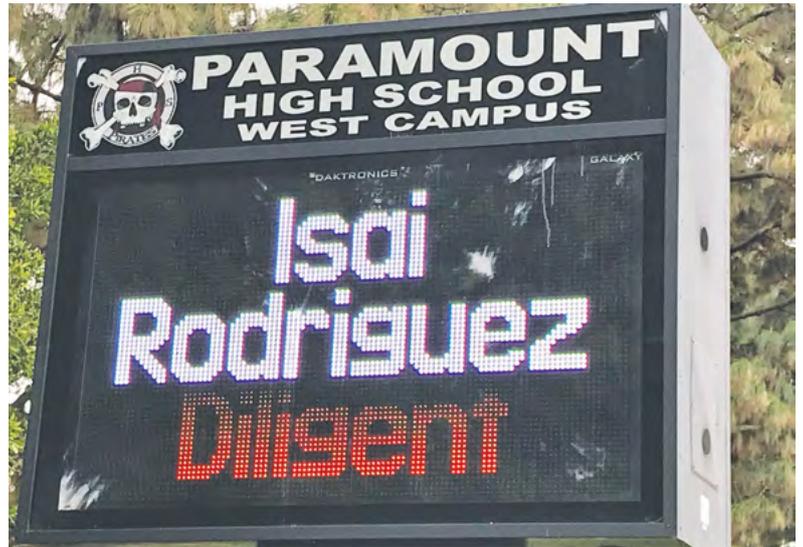
Elizabeth Salcido
Principal

Show your PRIDE!

Distance learning has not stopped Paramount High School West Campus from continuing their PRIDE program. The PRIDE program is designed to recognize students that display the characteristics of being Productive, Respectful, Inquisitive, Diligent, and Empowered. Each week, teachers submit the names of students

that demonstrate one or more of these qualities and provide an explanation of how the student displayed the quality. PHS West ASB designed certificates to send by email and suggested that students might like to see their name in lights. Nominees receive a student-created personalized certificate with their teacher's comments by email. In addition, they can see their name on the marquee and receive a shoutout on the morning announcements. The response to continuing this program virtually has been overwhelmingly positive. One student's reaction to receiving the recognition was, "Wow, I can't believe it, I won't forget this!" Teachers have been excited for the

opportunity to praise their students and one staff member commented, "We are proud of our students and their dedication to their education during distance learning. I'm glad I get to acknowledge my students hard work!" Keep up the great work Pirates!



Student's name in lights!

Roosevelt Elementary

13451 Merkel Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8056 • roosevelt.pusdschools.net



Margie Domino
Principal

Playworks in Action

The need for play has become more important than ever due to the limitations brought on by COVID-19. Roosevelt is proud to partner with Playworks to provide students with opportunities to do just that. Every Tuesday and Thursday, all Roosevelt students can join the Recess Team and

Mrs. Domino, Principal, before class for music, games, community and connection during morning recess. In addition, teachers may request the Playworks Coach, Diana, to join their classes for brain breaks or class game times. With the support of the Playworks Team, Roosevelt is "Harnessing the power of play to bring out the best in every student." So, get ready...set...play!



Coach Diana leading games with a kindergarten class.

Tanner *Elementary*

7210 Rosecrans Ave., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8060 • tanner.pusdschools.net



Holly Hennessy
Principal

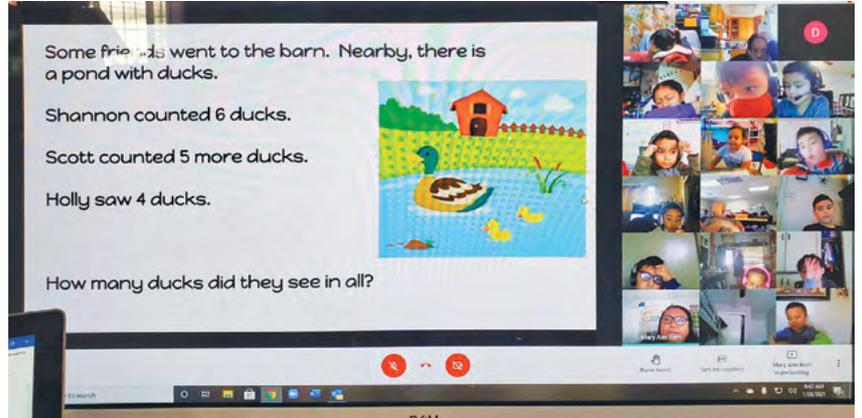
Working Together

This is a challenging time for teachers, parents, and students. However, when we all work together, we can still be successful and move forward. In addition to standards based academic skills, Distance learning needs to incorporate assignments that highlight practical learning, creativity, and self-discovery. At Tanner, that is our goal each day. Teachers design their curriculum

to be tied to a specific learning skill and many assignments allow for individualized work that can be adapted from one student to the next. As a school, we also make sure to highlight students' success, though schoolwide programs such as Student of the Month, Math Olympics, and Attendance Incentives, in addition to teacher incentives provided. Lastly, each child's areas of need are met through small group instruction, individualized attention, on-line programs, and innovative, interactive assignments in each classroom. Working together is the key.



Celebrating Student of the Month



First Grade Math with Ms. Rem

Wirtz *Elementary*

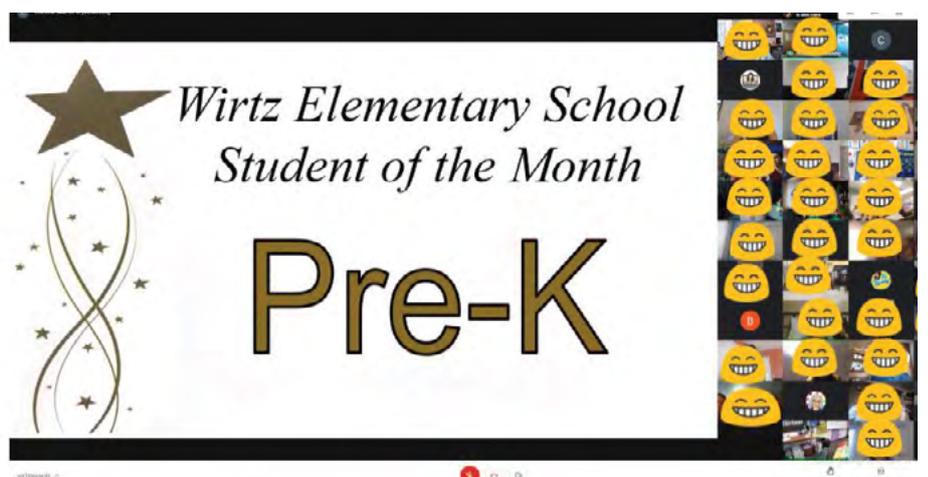
8535 Contreras St., Paramount, CA 90723 • 562/602-8068 • wirtz.pusdschools.net



Roxanne Alessandro
Principal

Recognizing Wizards' Work

To help keep Wirtz students engaged and working hard through Distance Learning, we recognize our students in a variety of ways. Our TOSA, Christie Martin, visits virtual classrooms every two weeks to award students with perfect attendance. Our instructional coach, Sara Hernandez, also visits classes to award students on their Lexia and ST Math achievements. This allows our students to be celebrated at least once a week. Our principal, Mrs. Alessandro, also conducts a Wirtz Star Student of the Month assembly as well. This award goes to students who were nominated by their teachers for showing up every day for synchronous



Celebrating STAR Students

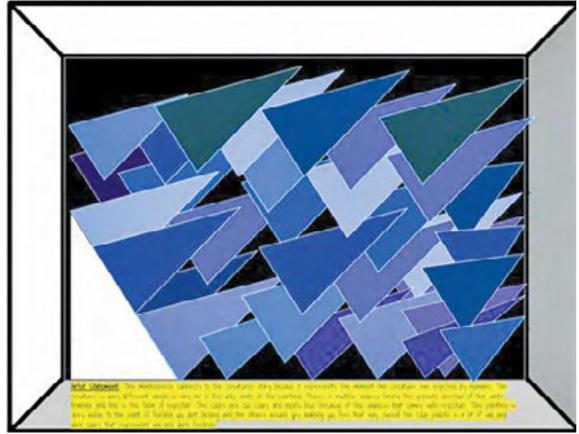
instruction, who are completing their asynchronous work, and are continuously working hard. Parents, staff and students come together virtually to celebrate our STAR Students. We are extremely proud of our Wizards and all that they have accomplished during this difficult time.



Kim Chavez
Interim Principal

The Arts...Not Just Electives Anymore

At Zamboni, Wildcat scholars are experiencing The Arts; visual art, music, and dance, in their content courses under the guidance of Turnaround Arts. Using their understanding of color value and warm versus cool colors, Language Arts scholars make connections to the illustrations in their Frankenstein graphic novel to describe the mood/feeling of “Creature.” Applying the musical concepts of major and minor keys, scholars make the connection to the good and bad sides of “Creature.”



Depicting “Creature’s” rejection

Social Studies scholars, inspired by the Deer Dance of the Aztec culture, create their own dance using body language to communicate their understanding of the Aztec clothing, weapons, food, and ways of giving thanks. Math scholars demonstrate stronger understanding of functions when music is used to relate an increase or decrease in tempo to the change in a function. Wildcats are benefiting academically and social-emotionally from making natural connections via Arts Integration.



Student’s artistic interpretation

Milestones and Firsts–Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put Paramount in the subject line.

Entries must be received by July 15, 2021
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 Barnes & Noble gift card!

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| BIRTH | RECITAL |
| KISS | CAR |
| HIGH SCHOOL | DISNEYLAND |
| GRADUATION | TRAVEL |
| COLLEGE | AIRPLANE RIDE |
| DATE | BALLOON RIDE |
| LOVE | CRUISE |
| ENGAGEMENT | FIRST TOOTH |
| MARRIAGE | |
| HOUSE | |



Parent To Parent



Jodie Lynn

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, often our kids were on their devices upwards of eight hours per day. What can parents do to keep them safe online and on their cell phones? It seems like more than ever, kids are getting spam emails, calls and texts from unknown sources. This is not acceptable, quite scary and exhausting to try to constantly monitor.

COVID-19 has isolated the majority of us and leaves us with levels of uncertainty, unusual scariness and frequent loneliness. Individuals are in a vulnerable place, especially our kids. This is the perfect time for sexual predators to approach them as it can come in many forms.

Give your kids a set of online safety rules that they will understand with explanations that they will believe and take to heart.

It's important for you to know which online games that your kids are playing. Many are multiplayer games where several online players can be together playing at once or just watching. These games have text and voice chat capabilities from around the world. This is highly dangerous because people can pretend to be someone else and of a certain age and can expose kids to unsuitable and unacceptable predatory language and content. These individuals can develop friendships with kids and eventually encourage them to meet in real life. It's important to recognize that each game has specific settings which you should check out and change for better online safety.

Remember not only to talk with your kids frequently about staying safe online, but also explain that anyone at any age can be cyberbullied. If a person or group want them to chime in about someone, tell them to ignore the request and don't return to that area and group. Explain why it's so important to think about what they are going to post at any given time or in any area before doing so, to keep their passwords safe, to always log off and not to click on links from people that they don't know. The right thing to do is to report the cyberbullying to an authoritative figure as well. They may just save a life.

You could also take their electronic devices away for a few hours each day, but for those hours that they're on them, rules and guidelines still need to be in place. Even if your kids seem to have level heads on their shoulders and you feel like you can trust them, they can still be sneaky.

It's easy to hide all kinds of online activities from parents with various apps:

Snapchat is a program where people can send images, videos, etc. to friends which will disappear within 10 to 30 seconds. It's pretty popular among teens. The hidden danger is that those "private" moments are not really deleted. They're hidden in files on most phones. Even more devastating and scary is that if someone takes a screen shot, the message, image or whatever can be posted anywhere.

Finsta is a fake Instagram account where anyone can create photos, conversations, etc., staying anonymous and keeping everything private through sharing with a few close friends and can be hidden on devices. But again, just like anything else, if a screen shot is taken, boom, it can show up anywhere online.

Be sure to read about popular apps and arm yourself with knowledge for options that you as the parent can do to help your kids be safe. Below you'll find a few but there's many others that you can find by doing an online search: Instagram, YouTube, Kik, Telegram, TikTok

There's also several phone apps offered to parents to help them monitor their kids' phone and online activities.

For unwanted calls or texts, it's simple to register landlines and cell phone numbers with the office of your state Attorney General's No-Call list for unwanted calls or texts. It's available online, free and will cut down on both. While it does take a few weeks to actually go into effect, it's best to get that done straight away. Do a little research and you'll also find several other government agencies where complaints can be made. Unfortunately, it's not going to totally eliminate them and that is even truer for robot calls. Learning some basic rules to share with your kids can also help.

For example: Don't answer any calls that are not in your contact list. If it's truly someone trying to reach you, they'll leave a message. If they don't, the number can quickly be blocked. The same goes for unwanted texts. The exception in this situation is going to be from "Unknown" or "Private" numbers, which are really hard to trace because no number shows up. However, there are phone apps to help with this. As far as spam email goes, if it's opened, don't click on any links. Look up how to set up filters and teach your kids how to recognize, delete and block it.

As you are well aware, this whole cyber safety situation is extremely exhausting. But, there's no way of getting around it if you're going to be proactive in protecting your children.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 20 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites including *School News Roll Call* and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* www.ParentToParent.com