

# The Panther Paw

A Newsletter Celebrating Park Century's Best and Brightest



## Park Century is Ready for Summer!

We wish all of our students and families a wonderful summer holiday filled with relaxation, tons of fun, and maybe a little learning too!

In this second issue of *The Panther Paw*, our bi-annual PCS newsletter, we are thrilled to highlight a busy spring semester filled with celebrations, graduations, and plenty of remarkable achievements from our PCS community.

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SEPTEMBER 3

### Ice Cream Social

Meet your student's new classroom teacher and enjoy a sweet treat before the first day of school

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SEPTEMBER 4

### First Day of School & Parent Coffee

First day back for all our students and welcome coffee for all our parents

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SEPTEMBER 22

### All-School Welcome Barbecue at PCS

Join us for our annual Welcome BBQ for our current PCS families



This year, PCS sent three students to the Empowerment & Engagement Conference for Black Boys & Girls in Independent Schools where they met and shared with 125 of their student peers.



"The Juice Group," Park Century's first adoptee affinity group, created a documentary about what it's like to be adopted, which they screened for the whole school at the end of the school year.



PCS Trustee Dr. Sally Shaywitz and her husband Dr. Bennett Shaywitz received a Genius Award from the Liberty Science Center for their lifelong work on dyslexia research and changing the public attitude about dyslexia.

## PARK CENTURY'S FIRST COMMUNITY EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

This spring, our Student Council, with the help of the 8th graders, hosted our first Park Century Community Earth Day Festival. On April 29, students and faculty started their day by gathering in Panther Parties and visiting several community project stations set up in our parking lot to celebrate Earth Day. Festivities included planting succulents and seeds, building structures out of recyclable goods donated by community members, and painting a mural on the back of our building.

Our wonderful Parents Association teamed up with our Student Council to provide a coffee cart for the event, inviting parents to come and enjoy a cup of coffee while students completed their Earth-centered art projects. As part of a Student Council-led initiative, all funds raised from the coffee cart went toward the installation of an eco-friendly filtered water fountain in our school that can fill reusable water bottles, eradicating the use of plastic water bottles on our campus. Our PA also sold custom Park Century steel reusable water bottles to help raise funds for the new fountain.

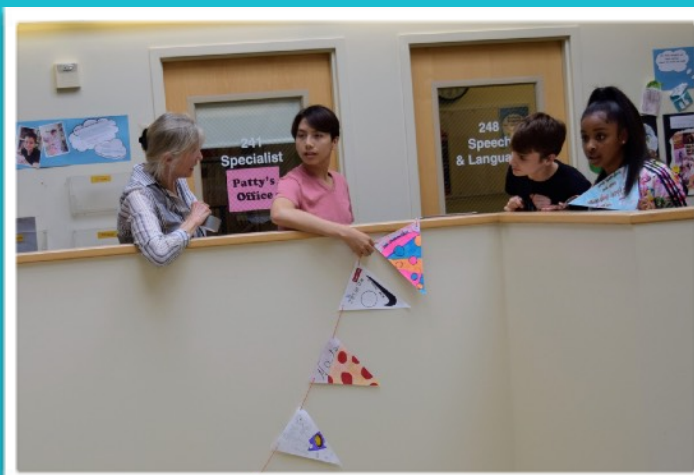


## PARK CENTURY COMMUNITY ART PROJECT - THE STORY OF US

Throughout the school year, faculty have incorporated our Council program into Panther Parties, our community character education program that focuses on the values of The Panther Way: Kindness, Respect, Responsibility, Cooperation, Honesty, and Resilience. In February, all students gathered in our gym after their usual Monday Morning Assembly to divide into their Panther Parties and hold a Council on the theme of Respect. After a brief introduction from faculty members explaining how we must learn to respect ourselves before we can fully understand how to respect others, students discussed their names as part of their individual identities and stories, taking turns saying their full name, their name meaning, and sharing the story of how they got their name.

After their discussion, each student and teacher made name flags to tell the story of their names through art. Using colors they felt best portrayed their individual identities, they added words or phrases to describe

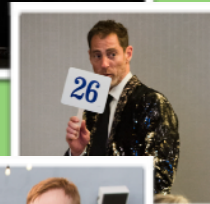
themselves, symbolic representations of their families or cultures, or drawings of animals and plants they felt represented them. The finished name flags were collected and strung together as a community art project. As our 8th grade class hung these flags from our atrium overlooking the Lower School hallway, 4th and 5th grade students searched for their flags from below, pointing excitedly when they found their unique stories embedded in the banner - a visual representation of how individual stories become woven together as important, respected, and celebrated parts that form a greater whole: community.





## SPRING GALA: A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Saturday, May 11th, our community celebrated Park Century's 50th Anniversary with our Spring Gala in honor of our Golden Anniversary. The evening, emceed by PCS parents Dan Bucatinsky and Don Roos, began with cocktail hour and a silent auction on the rooftop at The London Hotel, followed by dinner in the ballroom featuring performances from PCS parent Katey Sagal as well as The PCS Mamas and Papas- a band made up of parents and faculty! Current and alumni parents, faculty members, cherished alumni, trustees, and long-time friends of Park Century enjoyed the premiere of our 50th Anniversary Tribute film created by PCS parent CJ and Mike Bigelow, a rousing Live Auction, and a remarkable and unprecedented Paddle Raise towards the Panther's Play Campaign to "Put the Park in Park Century," raising more than \$472,000 and getting us that much closer to building our outdoor play space. Thank you so much to those who donated so generously, many thanks to Gala Chair Carrie Crossman, and the biggest thank you to ALL who celebrated our 50th year!



# COMMUNITY NOTES

**Our Park Century community members make us proud every day- here's what some of them have been up to lately!**

Interested in being featured in the next edition of Community Notes or know someone who should be? Send an email to [alumninews@parkcenturyschool.org](mailto:alumninews@parkcenturyschool.org) and tell us about your accomplishments, successes, or anything else you want to share. We can't wait to hear from you!

**Emma Taylor, Class of '08**



PCS alum Emma Taylor, Class of '08, was recently featured on the front page of the LA Times speaking out about the grit, determination, and combination of specialized education and valid accommodations that helped her succeed. In the article, Emma described her road to achievement despite struggles with a lifelong learning disability, explaining how specialized educational services helped her first understand how she learns. Emma's story lends a necessary perspective in the wake of the damage the recent college admissions scandal has done for students across the country who are affected by LDs. We are so proud of Emma for sharing her story, and we're honored that she mentioned her time at PCS as the "biggest light spark" for her education. Emma is currently finishing her first year as a special education teacher in Sherman Oaks and preparing to go to grad school at Loyola Marymount University.

**Rose Lebow, Class of '18**



2018 Park Century graduate Rose Lebow was recently featured in the Santa Monica Daily Press for organizing a community service initiative at New Roads School and helping spark student interest working with a non-profit, Miriam's House, that helps low-income mothers recovering from substance abuse. Because of Rose's efforts, New Roads has now forged a partnership with the non-profit, planning to continue working with them for upcoming community service opportunities in all grades. We are so proud of Rose for her consistent passion to make a difference in her surrounding community and for her inspiring dedication to others, just a few of many attributes that made her uncommonly bright light shine during her time at Park Century.

**Taylor Tabb**



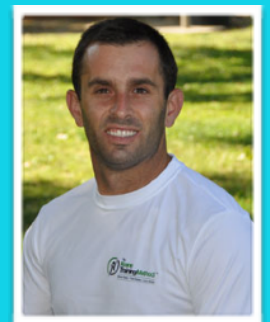
**Former PCS Student**

Congratulations to former PCS student, Taylor Tabb, who received his master's degree from Carnegie Mellon this spring!

**Ryan Krane, Class of '94**

Ryan returned to PCS this year to share his story about recognizing strengths through his learning differences. Ryan credits PCS and his mother for putting him on the right track to his success today as a health/wellness business owner and entrepreneur.

Ryan has owned his own business for the past 15 years, specializing in corrective exercise, injury prevention, and helping people reduce inflammation in their bodies. He founded The Krane Training Method, custom tailored to fit clients' needs and lifestyles. Ryan has also given lectures all around the world teaching his methods and innovative ways of exercise. To date, he has been featured on ABC World News, NBC News Radio, Prevention Magazine, The Tennis Channel, and Yahoo!





## GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY



In March, Park Century celebrated our beloved annual tradition of Grandparents and Special Friends Day. After a hearty breakfast for our special guests, the students performed the year's first and only musical showcase featuring both choral and instrumental performances with their classes, including classics like *Stand By Me* and *Pearly Shells*, more recent tunes *Under Pressure* and *Three Little Birds*, a selection from the hit musical *Hamilton*, and a sample of some West African traditional drumming! After uproarious applause, students had the opportunity to guide their guests through a school-wide art show and show off their hard work during tours of their classrooms. Grandparents and Special Friends Day is one of our most cherished traditions at PCS- we love seeing students celebrate the springtime culmination of all of their creative and educational efforts.



## IDALA: GREAT MINDS DON'T THINK ALIKE

The Los Angeles branch of the International Dyslexia Association (IDALA) has been a long time supporter of Park Century School and vice versa! With so many overlapping members of our community- shared board members, PCS parents, and so many more- the missions of IDALA and PCS go hand-in-hand. IDALA puts on a number of educational workshops and community events that are open to all, one of which is the annual Great Minds Don't Think Alike fundraising event. Taking place in the fall, last year's event honored longtime PCS trustee and parent to Zach (class of '02), Josh (class of '01), and Janey, who is currently enrolled, Paul Jennings. Paul's creative mind has helped him to achieve great success as an entrepreneur and real estate developer, and his extraordinary philanthropy and partnerships with organizations has made him an inspiring ambassador for dyslexia awareness, education, and research. We are so grateful that Paul has been such a long-standing member of the PCS community- he is truly a leader and champion of our mission, and we congratulate him on this honor.







8th graders pose with a statue of Albert Einstein during their trip to Washington D.C. this spring.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2019

We are so proud of this year's class of 8th grade graduates. Endlessly talented in so many ways, our 16 graduates will go on to great success in anything they do! Their laughter and larger-than-life personalities will be missed in our hallways, but we want to share the many schools that our graduating 8th grade students were accepted to this year:

**Independent Day Schools-** *Pacifica Christian High School, Tree Academy, de Toledo High School, New Roads High Schools, Westmark High School, Crespi Carmelite High School, Mary McDowell Friends School (New York), Fusion Academy*

**Boarding Schools-** *Salisbury School, Proctor Academy, The Dunn School, Idyllwild School of the Arts*

**Public School Programs-** *Los Angeles County High School of the Arts, Santa Monica High School*



What a year it has been! Take a look at some of our favorite snapshots from this year at PCS, and make sure to follow us on Instagram @ParkCenturySchool and on Facebook to stay up to date!

