Greetings from Dr. Jacqueline Elliot, President & CEO

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I hope we can all reflect on and feel gratitude for the many moments of joy we experience on so many levels as a result of our very important work. Watching our students thrive, collaborating with exemplary professional colleagues, seeing the pride in the eyes of our PUC parents as their children graduate from PUC high schools and move on to college, and watching so many of our PUC alumni teach, coach and tutor current PUC students or serve as campus assistants, office managers, office clerks, inclusion assistants and more, are all experiences to be grateful for that we will never forget. Let’s also remember to enjoy the may joyous, light hearted moments that working with children provides for us. On that note, please enjoy the pictures from the Halloween festivities from our three PUC elementary schools, PUC Milagro, PUC Community Charter, and PUC iPrep. Last but not least, I am sincerely grateful to all of you for your dedication and commitment to our students, families, and communities and I appreciate and thank each and every one of you.
WHOLE. Health to Every Part of You

The sugar rush of Halloween has ended and the hustle and bustle of the Holiday season has not yet gone into full swing. We find ourselves preparing for Thanksgiving. While this holiday may sometimes feel overlooked, we can embrace the idea of thankfulness to benefit from it all year long!

Expressing gratitude or “giving thanks” on a regular basis will make you a happier and healthier person! Whether you say your thanks out loud, write in a journal or send thank you notes, doing these things consistently cultivate gratitude, which is a cornerstone of happiness! Studies show that you can also experience the following health benefits:

- Improved sleep, especially if your mind has a tendency to go into overdrive with negative thoughts and worries at bedtime
- Higher levels of happiness and a more optimistic outlook on life
- Greater likelihood to engage in healthy activities such as exercise
- Higher relationship satisfaction
- Higher work performance**

Don’t let Thanksgiving pass this year without committing to continue expressing gratitude daily! Next year, when it’s your turn at the Thanksgiving table to share what you are thankful for, you express thanks for a happier and healthier version of you!

Jada

**information taken from Mercola “Gratitude Increases Happiness and Health” Nov. 2016
Introducing the Influence of Socrates to our 7th Grade Scholars

Rachel R Kovach  
7th Grade Inclusion Specialist  
PUC Lakeview Charter Academy

As our 7th graders have transitioned to their new school year, first year teacher, Adrianna Raya, has introduced the impacts of the Sudanese Civil War through the novel, A Long Walk to Water, written by Linda Sue Park. Through the first unit, our scholars began exploring the world of Nya and Salva, two children like in age surviving the effects of the war; however, Salva’s story is set in 1985 and Nya’s begins in 2008. Our scholars are going to be exploring the themes of survival, resilience and character development throughout their seventh grade year, and had a chance to discuss their initial perspectives and opinions of Nya and Salva’s experiences. Each cohort was provided the opportunity to discover Socrates’ purpose in sharing of ideas and insights through open discussion and apply those skills by moving their tables into an oval throughout the English Language Arts classroom. As the scholars used sentence frames for reference, Ms. Raya was tracking the order in which students participated in the discussion, which lasted up to thirty-five minutes. The webs of conversation that developed were awe inspiring. As our scholars venture into Unit 2 and begin engaging with the writing process, their shared Socratic discussion will help serve as a strong foundation for further growth and connection with Nya and Salva’s journeys.
Achievement Night at PUC Excel Charter Academy

Students, families, and teachers came together for PUC Excel’s first Achievement Night of the year! Together, students, families, and teachers reviewed students’ MAP, Lexile, and Quantile data to set goals and craft plans to support students to achieve our second commitment of ensuring that students are proficient after being with a PUC school for four years.

After students, families, and teachers set goals and created action plans, families had the opportunity to meet with members of our clinical counseling team to practice having accountable conversations with their children in culturally relevant ways. Thank you for the support of Mr. Zenzontl Kuauhtzin, Mr. Richard Bonhama, and PUC Excel’s Clinical Counseling team for supporting our families in this way!

A family shared in their feedback, “This is the first time that a school has taken the time to tell me where my child is at and to offer to help her to catch up. It’s very important to me to be part of my child’s schooling, and this is the first time that a school has showed me how I can help her.”
Our parents, staff and scholars were giving their input on different themes that are very important to us. We wanted their input on math supports, in school and at home, reading supports, in school and at home, fundraising ideas, and the vision for our school as parents. We are very excited to do this work alongside our families and staff.
PUC Helps Stop Cancer

Greatness happens when everyone participates. Whether you have a little or a lot, give what you can; bringing that together can turn into something amazing. This idea, along with Commitment #3 to uplift our communities now and forever, is the driving force behind PUC’s participation in the annual Stop Cancer Run Walk and our My Drop in the Bucket Campaign. Students and employees were invited sign up to run OR to join in and give one dollar each to benefit Stop Cancer (www.stopcancer.org).

The 2017 goal was 50 runners for TEAM PUC and the Stop Cancer Run Walk and $5,000 in donations. This was a bit of a lofty goal considering last year we had 31 runners and $3,400 in donations, but we decided to go for it! It was amazing to see our students jump right in and enthusiastically participate. Schools launched grade v. grade collection competitions, teachers signed up to run and walk in the race, leaders committed to matching the class with the highest donations!! It was amazing to see the creativity and excitement around giving to help someone else.

This year we exceeded our goals. 52 runners sign up as a part of TEAM PUC. We gave over $5,800 in donations to Stop Cancer through My Drop in the Bucket! We also had over 70 student and parent volunteers at the Stop Cancer Run Walk.

Thank you to everyone who gave, ran, walked and volunteered. Special recognition to PUC Schools and PUC National Home Office, PUC Community Charter Elementary, PUC Community Charter Middle School, PUC Lakeview Charter Academy, PUC Lakeview Charter High School, PUC Nueva Esperanza Charter High School, PUC Santa Rosa Charter Academy and PUC Milagro Charter School for their generous giving! Special recognition to PUC Community Charter Early College High School, PUC Lakeview Charter High School, PUC Triumph Charter High School and PUC Nueva Esperanza Charter High School for giving their time to volunteer the day before and day of the event. It was my honor to do this with you again, and I can’t wait until next year!!

Your Health and Fitness Manager,

Jada Kelly
Misconceptions about Flu and Flu Vaccines

Karren Jackson RN
Health and Wellness Advocate

Autumn is here and the holidays are around the corner….and so is flu season. Despite the effectiveness of flu vaccines, there are several reasons why someone might get a flu-like illness, even after they have been vaccinated against the flu:

- People can become ill from other respiratory viruses such as rhinoviruses, which are associated with the common cold, causes symptoms similar to flu, and also spread and cause illness during the flu season. The flu vaccine only protects against influenza viruses, NOT other viruses.

- Possibility of exposure to influenza viruses, which causes the flu, shortly before getting vaccinated or during the two-week period after vaccination that it takes the body to develop immune protection. This results in the person becoming ill before protection from the vaccine takes effect.

- People may have been exposed to a flu virus that is very different from the viruses the vaccine is designed to protect against. There are many different flu viruses that spread and cause illness among people.

Unfortunately, the flu vaccine doesn’t always provide adequate protection against the flu. This is more likely to occur among people that have weakened immune systems or people age 65 and older.

**BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF REASONS TO GET A FLU VACCINE EACH YEAR:**

- It keeps you from getting sick from the flu. Protecting yourself by being vaccinated also protects the people around you who are more vulnerable.

- It may make your illness milder if you do get sick.

- It reduces the risk of serious flu outcomes like hospitalizations, especially for those with chronic health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and chronic lung disease.

- It helps protect women during pregnancy and their babies for up to 6 months after they are born. One study showed that giving flu vaccine to pregnant women was 92% effective in preventing hospitalizations of infants for flu.

- It can help protect people who are at greater risk like older adults and young children (especially infants younger than 6 months old who are too young to get vaccinated).

*information taken from Center for Disease Control, 2015*
Trunk or Treat

This year, PUC Community Charter Elementary School held its first annual Trunk or Treat Fall Event! For the past several years, PCCES has typically held a Fall Festival during the school day, usually on Halloween. Although this has been a time for students (and teachers!) to show off their costumes, and take a spin through the parade, PCCES staff thought that we should hold a larger, more eventful function where families can enjoy a variety of activities, while still showcasing their costumes.

Trunk or Treat is an event that involves using cars as stopping places for kids to pick up a treat. Cars or trucks are parked in the yard, their trunks (and the rest of the car!) are decorated in a specific theme, and kids go car-to-car trick-or-treating! It is a fun, safe way to trick-or-treat, as well as creates community for our school. We had a car represent each of our classrooms, each decorated in a different theme, and many of the cars had interactive games for kids to play at each stop. Our themes ranged from Emojis, to Nightmare Before Christmas, to Day of the Dead, to Disney Princesses. To say the least, there was something for everyone.

In addition to the fabulously decorated cars and games, there was also a haunted house, face painting, an interactive bubble area, cotton candy, a DJ, and tacos for sale! It was an event that was loved by students, families, and staff alike, and surely is an event PCCES will like to add to their annual traditions!
This month, on November 2nd, PUC TCHS had the opportunity to visit the Pantages Theatre to watch the highly esteemed Broadway show, Hamilton. Last year, TCHS’s principal, Emily Biddle, entered the school into the #EduHam program, but forgot about the submission until she received an email stating that our school had been chosen. Students, with the help of Triumph’s well-loved U.S. History teacher, Nallely Cordero, worked tirelessly and endlessly during the month of September and October to complete the necessary assignments in order to be chosen for the show. Along with these assignments, students were asked to create original performances based on their historical knowledge of Hamilton’s life; they had the option to write either raps, songs, poetry, or skits. Because the performance was paid for by donors across L.A. county, only 80 students out of the 104 juniors on campus were invited to attend the show. The students were chosen, and voted for, by teachers and staff based on their original performances.

There were high stakes and expectations set so many of the students made sure to deliver their best original pieces. These performances were submitted to the Hamilton production company and PUC TCHS was one of the schools chosen to perform, in front of a live audience, on stage, at the Pantages in front of all the other students who were invited to the show! This was exciting to the students and they delivered some of the most amazing performance I have EVER seen! Our students, Trinity Campbell, Kimberly Fonseca, and Stephanie Sanchez, all juniors, were chosen to perform a skit based on Abigail Adams that embedded the theme of women empowerment and received an awesome applause from the audience.

The PUC TCHS students, both performers and attendees, were incredible and a group to be remembered by all, not only for their snazzy and very dapper dress attire, but for their outstanding behavior and engagement in the play. Many students sang along to the songs in the musical while others connected with characters in the story and shed tears with them. This play will forever be a moment remembered and shared by not only the teachers who had the opportunity to chaperone but by the students who attended.
Glassdoor and Indeed

PUC is on the Glassdoor and Indeed job site where you can leave a review about your experience here at PUC!

In case you’re not familiar with the job sites they are similar to Yelp!

See our links below:
http://www.glassdoor.com/Overview/Working-at-PUC-Schools-EI_IE465918.11,22.htm
http://www.indeed.com/cmp/Puc-Schools

Leave us a review!
Social Media

We’re here! Follow the Recruitment Team on social media to stay updated on events, new openings, and much more!

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Open Positions

Discounted Software Available For Home Use

Exclusive for your company, get the completely NEW Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2016 suite for your home. Or if you use a Mac, get Office Home and Business 2016 for Mac for the same low price, $9.95.

The link below provides the details as well as the new program code necessary to purchase Office.

Human Resources Employee Perks Program

Working Advantage

Human Resources is pleased to announce a new employee benefit. All employees now have exclusive access to the Working Advantage discount network which allows you to save up 60% on ticketed events and online shopping. Through Working Advantage you can save on: Movie Tickets, Theme Parks, Ski Tickets, Broadway Shows, Sporting Events, Hotels and Travel, Health and Fitness, Museums and City Passes, Merchant Gift Certificates, Online Shopping...and much more! To subscribe, you may access the Working Advantage website by clicking here: www.workingadvantage.com. When opening an individual account you will need the PUC Schools ID #413401740.

Working Advantage offers 24-hour online shopping and customer support Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM Eastern time. If you have specific questions regarding the site, please contact Working Advantage at 800-565-3712.

AMC

Human Resources has AMC tickets available for sale. As of August 1, 2016, AMC will no longer sell Silver, Gold or Green Tickets; they have decided to move to one ticket going forward which will be the Black Ticket. PLEASE NOTE: May be subject to surcharge. All restrictions are listed in back of ticket.

AMC tickets have no expiration date. The price for a black ticket is $10.25 per ticket.

PAYMENT METHOD: ONLY CASHIER’S CHECK, PERSONAL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER. NO CASH! Please make check or money order to: PUC Schools. If you are interested in purchasing AMC Black tickets, please contact hr@pucschools.org.

T-Mobile Advantage Program

T-Mobile offers exclusive discounts for PUC Schools Employees. Click on the T-Mobile logo above to visit T-Mobile’s promo website. To enroll by phone, contact Advantage Direct at 866-464-8662 and use promotional code 20356TMOFAV.

Sprint

Sprint is pleased to offer monthly service discounts to eligible employees, students and organization members.

Click on the Sprint logo above to visit Sprint's promo website or visit the PUC Intranet, Employee Perks under the Team Member Tools tab.

Any questions regarding our employee perks program, please contact hr@pucschools.org or (818) 559-7699
PUC Polo Shirts and Laptop Bags for Sale

You can now purchase PUC Polo Shirts and PUC Laptop bags! Items can be purchased throughout the year. Please contact HR at hr@pucschools.org to place an order. Please be sure to indicate your shirt size. We have men’s and women’s sizes.

**PUC Polo:** $20 for either the male or female cut.

**PUC Laptop Bag:** $40