Next school year will be the 20th year in the life of PUC Community Charter Middle School. I can’t believe that almost two decades have passed since we opened the doors of our little school on the campus of CSUN (because our Celis site was not yet ready) with 100 pioneering families and our wonderful 6th grade students.

Twenty years is a long time and last night I met a former student from Community Charter Middle School. I was his principal and he is now 28 years old and an administrator in a hospital. He said he still remembers starting 6th grade on the campus of CSUN and graduating from 8th grade on that campus also. He has wonderful memories of his middle school years.

It validated something that I have always known – that the work you are doing in each of your roles has positively impacted and brought joy to thousands of students who go on to become contributing members of society who do not forget our PUC commitments and who have beautiful memories of their years in K – 12. On that note, I am always deeply moved by the seniors I interview right before graduation. Every one of them communicates with respect and confidence and is committed to uplifting our communities. That which our students learn from us today is passed on to those they interact with for years to come. Each of you is creating a legacy that will positively impact the future of our communities and our society overall. Thank you!
Summer is HERE! So many wonderful things come along with the summer season, including a change in routine. Kids are out of school, families change their schedules to accommodate the season and sometimes, your time that you once had dedicated to movement and exercise might get lost! Here are a few tips to find a NEW routine during this summer season and keep your movement going strong.

1. START WHEN YOU FEET HIT THE FLOOR—
   When you get out of bed and your feet hit the floor, take the first 5 minutes and get moving! 5 squats, 5 reach up then touch your toes, 5 side to side lunges, 5 pushups and finally, hold a plank for 50 seconds. What a great way to start your day!

2. PLAN YOUR WORKOUT APPOINTMENTS—
   When we have a meeting set for work or even a time set with friends, we put it on our calendar and plan everything else around that activity. I challenge you to treat your workouts in the same manner. Book workout appointments with yourself and don’t miss them! These can be anything from your favorite group exercise class to setting aside 15 minutes at home and following along to a youtube workout video!

3. ENJOY THE FOODS OF THE SEASON—
   So many wonderful fruits and veggies are in season during the summer! Help keep your body fueled and your meals exciting by checking out your local farmer’s market and grabbing seasonal melons, peaches, nectarines, watermelon, corn, zucchini, mangos, papayas and strawberries! The more variety, the better. If you don’t have a farmer’s market close to home, your local grocery store should have the summer goods as well.

Keep moving and eating well this summer! Even with the changes of the season, you can be determined to continue towards a healthier you!

Jada Kelly
Julia Brown-Bernstein, PUC LCA 8th grade history

Halfway through the morning on Friday, March 16th, the iconic Los Angeles based rapper, Medusa, told an audience of nearly four hundred student youth, “Y'all can't just live in your community, you have to invest in your community.” Her message, along with the inspiring words of a wide-range of other dynamic speakers, resounded in the ears of twenty-four PUC LCA eighth graders who sat in the back of the auditorium at USC’s Mark Taper Hall. The excitement of the audience was palpable as students from all-across Los Angeles county roared with chants of “Rise-Up” and applauded with boundless exuberance. On that granite day in South Los Angeles, it was crystal clear to all the educators in the room that this was a watershed moment; we were witnessing the genesis of an increasingly aware and politicized generation of student leaders, poised to confront our society’s greatest ills and injustices.

PUC LCA’s journey to the Rise-Up Youth Conference began four years ago when our 8th graders first read Luis Rodriguez’ memoir Always Running in my U.S. History Class. Back in October 2014, the onset of the Common Core, I sought ways to integrate alternative texts into my class. Having read the memoir and subsequently discovering that its author lived and worked in Sylmar, I decided that Always Running would befit not only the scope of my curriculum but also my approach as an educator of history. Luis Rodriguez’ prose keenly connects to our exploration of the United States as an imperfect nation, whose realities sorely contradict its values.

Reading Always Running for the last four years has allowed our 8th grade team at LCA to foster a meaningful partnership with Luis Rodriguez, his son, Ramiro Rodriguez, and many of the other staff members at Tia Chucha’s Centro Cultural. Every Fall since 2014 we have taken a field trip to Tía Chucha’s and participated in a panel discussion with Luis Rodriguez. These visits have left an indelible mark on our students who, due to his vivid depiction, grow to intimately connect with Luis’s story. Over the years, the staff at Tia Chucha’s have graciously embraced our students and our partnership has evolved into mentorship. Mayra Zaragoza, the Director of Tia Chucha’s Young Warriors program, has encouraged many of our alumni to join the Young Warriors and this year, one of our alumna is thriving under Mayra and Ramiro’s tutelage.

In late February 2018, Tia Chucha’s Young Warriors conducted healing circles with all our 8th graders. Rooted in indigenous theory, the healing circles deftly guided our students to a greater awareness of many customs endemic to Mesoamerica. The amalgamation of the healing circle and PUC’s signature community circle spawned a transformative experience for all. It was here that the Young Warriors recommended that LCA participate in the Rise-Up Youth Conference on March 16th.
After a couple weeks fundraising on GoFundMe, we raised enough money to sponsor 24 students to the Conference. Eager to seize this unique opportunity, 50 students wrote essays detailing why the myriad workshops—from #MeToo to Environmental Justice to Immigration Reform—were particularly pertinent to their interests. Although only twenty-four were selected to attend, the interest was rampant and generated a fervor of activism on campus. At 7AM on Conference day, we boarded the school bus and headed towards USC. Despite being the only middle school students, our precocious 8th graders demonstrated tremendous self-reflection, maturity, and poise. The highlight of the day came at the end when our students helped lead a traditional African dance circle in front of the entire auditorium of participants. Our Warriors led with gusto, confidence, and conviction and it was an honor to be their chaperone.

Indeed, the Rise Up Conference did serve as a watershed moment back on campus. In the weeks that followed, the students who attended helped host the International Denim Day, raising awareness of sexual and gender-based violence. They collected donated deans for an installation piece, disseminated information about sexual and gender-based violence to other students during nutrition and lunch, managed a pledge poster, and spoke to their peers incessantly about the importance of gender equity. I am over-the-moon with pride for these students and know that they will be at the levers of change for years to come.
California Agriculture, Settlers, and Missions, Oh My!

Our 4th graders at PUC Community Charter Elementary were so excited to begin working on their California Missions project. We began the Social Studies unit studying the early life of Californian settlers. Our students learned about California’s agriculture, settlers, and of course, the California Missions. Students then transitioned into research, they used technology and their learned skills to browse the web and gather thorough information about the purpose and the locations of California missions.

After the students became experts on their selected California mission, they began their fun filled, educational project. The students were given creative freedom to construct the mission of their choice and were not limited whatsoever. What we received was phenomenal! The students and their families worked together to create missions that were well built, labeled, and well researched. Some students even did PowerPoint presentations! The students presented their projects in front of their peers and the PCCES staff; they spoke about their findings and what it took to create their missions.

We are so proud of our 4th graders and their hard work!
5th Grade Scholars Take on Pali

In early March, 5th grade CCES scholars went to Pali Institute, an outdoor science school located in the San Bernardino Mountains. For many students, this was their first time away from home, and while many were nervous, they were also excited to see what adventures they would take on.

When students first arrived at Pali, many scholars were both shocked and thrilled to see snow—something many had never encountered before. Throughout the three days, students were exposed to many engaging activities that built both their leadership skills, as well as enhanced their content knowledge. Some of the activities students participated in included high ropes, archery, squid dissection, team building, hiking, and astronomy lessons.

The first activity, high ropes, proved to test the students’ confidence and trust in themselves, and many students conquered their fear of heights that day. Other activities that were popular among students were archery and the squid dissection. Even though this was the first time for archery for many, by the end of the session, many of the scholars were hitting the bullseye! Students were also able to continue building their content knowledge of astronomy, in that during their hikes their camp counselors would share stories about the stars and planets. Students were able to make connections to what they had previously learned in class, which made the learning even more meaningful. Overall, our 5th grade scholars had a great time, and as one student best put it, “I will remember this trip forever!”
This year, several 4th grade students from PUC Community Charter Elementary School participated in an art exhibit and art competition put on by the Sylmar Neighborhood Council and Sylmar Equestrian Coalition. This event, which is titled, "Make Your Horse Count Day" is an annual event since 2012 where community members can bring their horse to get licensed or microchipped, as well as other services. The event took place on Sunday, May 20th, and also included a petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, and other numerous activities for all community members to enjoy. As part of this event, 4th grade students from the community were invited to participate in a horse-themed art contest, where the 1st place winner would be featured on next year's poster for this same event. PCCES had 11 students enter the competition, with two of our students placing in the top 4! Our very own Sebastian Delgado received 2nd place, and Viviana Torres received an honorable mention for 4th place. We are very proud of all of our scholars who participated in this awesome community event!

Sebastian Delgado, 2nd Place  Viviana Torres, Honorable Mention, 4th Place
On Thursday, May 24th, PUC Schools’ Class of 2018 seniors (463 students) attended the annual Senior Send-Off Event at the Sylmar Educational Complex. This annual event provides future graduates with a variety of presentations, resources and networking opportunities to prepare them for higher education success.

The event kicked off with Dr. Elliot’s motivational welcoming ceremony speech congratulating seniors on their high school, higher education admissions and scholarship award achievements, and reminding seniors to uphold the 3 PUC commitments as they embark into their future plans. Dr. Elliot also urged students to register to vote and be proactive citizens. Nicole Murphy, Director of College Access & Financial Aid, presented the following celebratory facts regarding the Class of 2018’s awesome achievements:

- 3,116 college applications were submitted
- 93% of Seniors were admitted to a 2-year or 4-year school
- 75% of Seniors were admitted to at least one or more 4-year college/university
- 71% of Seniors committed to a University of California (UC) school
- 42% of Seniors committed to a California State University (CSU)
- 33% of Seniors committed to a community college
- 4 Seniors committed to trade schools: FIDM, Make-up Designe and Academy for Salon Professionals
- 4 Seniors committed to jobs: LA Fire Department, LA City, SoCal Gas Company and a construction position

Additional Class of 2018 items to celebrate:

- 2 seniors were selected as NCAA College Athletic Teams: CSU Fresno Women’s Soccer Team and CSU Monterey Bay’s Men Soccer Team
- The Class of 2018 earned a whopping $3,238,437 in scholarships, with 7 seniors earning more than $100k each!
Thanks to Ms. Jada Kelly, PUC National Fitness Manager for leading a session titled “Let's Talk about Sex & Dispelling College Myths”, which addressed a variety of young adult health issues. In addition, she facilitated an alumni panel discussion where PUC Alumni Teach Project (ATP) and PUC College Liaisons shared their college and young adult experiences, shedding light about the realities of college life, young “adululating”, and tips to stay safe and health.

Bank of America’s Better Money Habits Champions volunteered their time and presented on the importance of savings, budgeting, credit cards, and other financial literacy tips, leaving the students with information regarding their free online Better Money Habits tools: https://bettermoneyhabits.bankofamerica.com.

The last presentation had seniors splitting off into Transition Success Workshops, where they had the opportunity to meet with their fellow PUC peers who have committed to their same higher education/military/career commitments. These workshops were led by PUC Schools’ terrific College Counseling team, College, University and a U.S Navy representatives, who all provide seniors with vital information to support their transition from high school to their higher education commitment.

Seniors ended the event with a networking lunch where they mingled with their new network and continued the conversation with the presenters.

The College Counseling Department thank Dr. Elliot, the Superintendents, the Sylmar Education Complex school leaders and staff, Ms. Daniella Ponce, Campus Operations Manager and her team and PUC home office staff. Without everyone’s outstanding support this event would not be possible!
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

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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 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.

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 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