

February Newsletter 2022

Afterschool Programs

1617 E. 7th Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90021
 T: (213) 239-6605 www.paralosninos.org



AFTERSCHOOL PROFESSIONALS
 APPRECIATION WEEK

April 25-29, 2022

Celebrate, encourage, appreciate the #heartofafterschool!

Upcoming Events

Hello PLN Community,

I invite you all to read our February newsletter. Our students continue to engage in various experiences and collaborative partnerships during the After-School Program. Special thank you to all the staff for all their hard work and dedication to make it all possible.



Cecilia Hernandez
 Director of Extended Learning

Updates on our schools can be found here:

www.paralosninos.org



Girls Scouts Hosts a Paint Night



The Girl Scouts group at our charter elementary school has been fully engaged in various activities. They are currently two girls' scout groups in the afterschool program, a fourth and fifth grade group lead by Associate Teachers, Ms. Nemesio and Ms. Estrada. At the beginning of the fall 2021 semester, the group of girls selected their leaders and elected a



president and vice president, secretary and treasurer. They've been meeting on Fridays and doing weekly activities. In October, the girls decided to do a candy gram fundraiser, where students from all grades had a chance to purchase a gram and send it to a teacher or a friend. In December, the girls wanted to culminate 2021 with a "girl scouts paint night". The Girl Scout leadership group met, planned, voted on the activity and later proposed a plan, a budget and met with the Director of Extended Learning, Cecilia to propose their plan. The plan was approved and the girls had their paint night. Girls Scouts will continue to meet weekly with plans for different activities, fundraisers and fieldtrips.



Students at Gratts Primary Center Celebrate the Holidays

Students in the afterschool program at Gratts Primary Center displayed their dance skills during their winter performance. Students and teachers practice daily to master their performance and to proudly record it for their parents and love ones. Apart from developing their confidence and self-esteem during their winter performance, students also participated in activities such as making their own gingerbread houses using various edible materials and decorating their own Christmas tree.



Fridays at our Middle School is about Student Choice

In January 2022, the after school program at the middle school hit the ground running with our parallel programs. Every Friday starting at 3:15 pm, students from 6th grade meet with Robotics instructor Dylan, from Digital Dragon. For about an hour, students continue learning and reinforcing their 21st century skills as they use iPads to program robots constructed with legos. Students have successfully been able to make their robots spin around 360 degrees, have them travel in a straight line, and learned that the core body of their robots called "brains" will not travel if they sense something in their way even if they get programmed to move. Students have also quickly recognized that problem solving is crucial when programming their robots. Troubleshooting with a partner is highly encouraged as well before turning to the instructor when their robots aren't functioning properly. Overall students have shown a genuinely big interest when participating in the Robotics class that oftentimes they don't want it to end.



The Afterschool Program Spotlights former Lead Teacher



This month the afterschool team would like to highlight Ms. Ana Rojas. Ana started with us in the afterschool program as an Associate Teacher. After several years as an Associate Teacher, Ana was promoted as the Lead Teacher for the afterschool program where she developed her role as a leader guiding the ASP team. Ana supported staff and students alike, conducted teacher observations, debriefed with staff and carried a warm approach towards students, staff and our community. With hard work and dedication, Ana completed her degree from California State University, Los Angeles allowing her to aspire and meet one of her ultimate goals, to make a difference in her community and become a teacher. Last November, Ana took on her journey as a second grade charter teacher for the elementary school. She has gone above and beyond and acquired many skills for her to be successful in the classroom. She is a great example for our students and associate teachers and the opportunities Para Los Niños



for our employees. The afterschool program would like to thank Ms. Rojas for the time and dedication given to the afterschool program and we wish her success with her second graders.

Middle School Students make Friday a “FUN FRIDAY”

Over at the middle school after school program, students have grown to love what we call “Fun Fridays”. Every Friday closer to the end of day we have three different stations for our grade levels. These stations look like indoor sports in the gymnasium, outdoor activities on the playground, and board games in the classroom. Every week these stations get rotated by grade level to ensure that students all get a fair share of all the fun. It’s always great for our students to wind down from the week on a high note and rewarding for everyone when students remind us how much they enjoy this time with their peers before the weekend.



Students at Gratts Primary Center Participate in Dance and Coding



The disguise learning continued as students returned from winter break and rejoined the afterschool programs such as dance and coding. Students in second grade have been developing their coding skills by using the program Scratch which allows students to create digital stories, games, and animations. Through coding, second grade students are developing problem solving skills, self-expression, collaborations, and most importantly having fun in a different way. First grade students in Ms. Sanchez’s class have been learning about sculptures and how they are 3D objects that they can build or make using different materials. In her class, students used paper to create sculptures out of their imagination. Students in Transitional Kinder and Kinder with Ms. Nava and Ms. Valles have been working on developing their students’ fine motor skills. Students in T.K. and Kinder have cut, pasted, and molded various materials to develop their hand and eye coordination.

The Afterschool Program Welcomes a New Team Member



We want to take the time to welcome our newest addition to the team, Ms. Jennifer Marcial. Ms. Marcial comes to us with vast experience working with children. Jennifer is very excited and eager to embark her journey with us. Wishing Ms. Marcial the best of her success during her time with us.

