

# In Pasadena

Stories directly from the source

## PUSD VOICE



Kindergartners at Burbank Elementary School plant radishes as part of the Mandarin Dual Language Immersion Program.

## Program teaches languages

### From the Pasadena Unified School District

At Burbank Elementary, teachers, parents and students are actively collaborating to enrich students' cultural understanding and experiences within the Mandarin Dual Language Immersion Program by planting seeds, making dumplings, and dancing with fans and lions.

Mandarin Dual Language Immersion students have been actively sharing their newly acquired knowledge with their peers during recess, lunch and in the PasadenaLEARNS after-school program.

In this way, the program enables all students at Burbank Elementary to learn a little Mandarin as a way to experiment with a second language and the cultural experiences that accompany it.

"Mastering two or more languages enhances creative thinking, increases listening and memory skills, and makes us more competitive in a global economy," said Superintendent Edwin Diaz. "PUSD's dual language immersion program helps students develop proficiency in a second language and instill an appreciation for other cultures."

The kindergarten and first-grade Mandarin classes gathered in the school's Pergola area last month to conduct a germinating project. Parent volunteers assisted students in planting seeds for bok choy, garden beans, scallions and radishes this month. The seedlings have been growing inside the classrooms and were recently transplanted into the school's raised garden beds.

### Gong Xi Fa Cai!

Last week, the Mandarin Dual Language Immersion

classes welcomed in the Lunar New Year, "Year of the Tiger 4708." The Lunar New Year is celebrated in countries and territories with significant Han Chinese populations, such as Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

Parents of a Burbank first-grader organized a dumpling-making party for the two Mandarin classes. A parent made a batch of dumpling filling, and mothers from both classes gathered together in the school auditorium to pre-fill dumplings with first-graders. The final product was boiled and/or fried by parent volunteers, and both classes returned to enjoy their first dumpling party with traditional Chinese dried fruits and candies.

Mandarin Dual Language Immersion families were eagerly preparing for the Chinese New Year Festival and 11th annual Dragon Parade in Los Angeles's Chinatown this past weekend. Burbank's native Mandarin-speaking parents will man a booth and reach out to the Chinese community members attending the two-day festival.

A kindergarten parent has created a 10-minute promotional video highlighting Burbank students' second language acquisition over the past 5½ months, featuring excerpts of students at a variety of district and school events.

"Parent participation is a key ingredient to the success of the Mandarin Dual Language Immersion Program," said Burbank Principal Kelly Lawson.

"Our parents are eager to draw upon their linguistic skills and cultural heritage to

## Dual immersion offered

PUSD offers dual language immersion programs in Mandarin at Burbank Elementary, and Spanish at San Rafael Elementary for kindergartners and first-graders.

In dual language immersion classrooms, English speakers and English learners receive instruction in English and a target language in the same classroom.

The goal is to develop academic proficiency in both languages, beginning in kindergarten.

English learners and English speakers are placed in the same classroom to promote oral and written fluency in two languages. All students are held to the same high academic standards.

Languages are not mixed. Instead, the language of instruction alternates during the school day.

To learn more about the Spanish and Mandarin Dual Language Immersion Programs, call 626-396-3600, ext. 88340.

provide hands-on learning experiences that bring China to life for our students."

On Friday, Burbank Elementary School will host its first Lunar New Year Assembly, featuring the Mandarin Dual Language Immersion classes performing a Chinese Fan Dance followed by a performance by the Immortals, Gung-fu Lion Dancers.

The students have been feverishly practicing with their teachers in preparation for their Chinese Fan Dance performance. The Mandarin Dual Language Immersion classes will be dressed in traditional Chinese New Year clothing: red dresses with gold accents for the girls and royal blue pajamas with gold accents for the boys.

Students will also learn the history behind Lunar New Year Festivals, who celebrates them, and a brief history of the Lion Dance. After the dancing demonstration, students will have an opportunity to dance with the dancers or play the ceremonial drum or cymbals.

## NONPROFIT NEWS

### PASADENA Women's Connection hosting fashion show

Pasadena Women's Connection invites women in the community to the Fashion Focus on Spring Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. March 10 at Brookside Country Club, 1133 N. Rosemont Ave.

Susan Sinclair of Cabi will present a spring fashion show designed for women of all ages by fashion designer Carol Anderson.

Motivational speaker Kathy Miller will speaking about overcoming past hurts and going "From Fear to Joy."

Tickets are \$20. For reservations, call Darlene at 818-353-2212 or Margaret at 626-574-0251.

### PASADENA Dodgers announcer to emcee fundraiser

Supporters of Elizabeth House — the only shelter for homeless pregnant women and their children in the San Gabriel Valley — who attend this year's annual gala benefit and silent auction, Where Love Embraces Life, on March 20 may at first wonder whether they're at Dodger Stadium or the University Club of Pasadena.

"We're so pleased that Eric Smith, announcer for the Dodgers, has agreed to join us as emcee at this very special event," said Debbie Unruh, founder and executive director of Elizabeth House. "With Eric's help, we have no doubt that we can hit a home run to build on 16 years of hope and raise the funds that will enable us to open a second house — a place where our 'graduates' will find affordable housing and supportive services as they transition into their new lives."

Wendy Modic, administrative assistant at Elizabeth House, knows firsthand the critical role affordable transitional housing can play in

the lives of those Elizabeth House serves.

"Thanks to Elizabeth House, my experience with homelessness has now come full circle," explains Modic. "My family is thriving, we are healthy, happy, and we are no longer homeless."

In addition, nationally syndicated radio talk show host Hugh Hewitt — heard locally on KRLA 870 AM — will appear as guest speaker at the gala. Hewitt may also be familiar to television audiences, having made appearances on such programs as "The Dennis Miller Show," "Hardball with Chris Matthews," "Larry King Live" and "The Today Show."

"I look forward to hearing Hugh's thoughts on the work we do at Elizabeth House and how we can continue to ensure that 'love embraces life,'" says gala co-chairman Mary Sue Scheidler, who is chairing the event with Maritza Smith and Rosalie Halverson.

Before the dinner and the program begin at 7:30 p.m., guests will have an opportunity to bid on an array of items at the reception and silent auction at 6 p.m. Items range from Lakers and Dodgers tickets to stays at private homes in Big Bear, Lake Tahoe, Newport Beach and Hawaii.

"Whether you prefer a getaway at the mountains or the beach, we have it," adds Rosalie Halverson with a smile.

Also generating a lot of attention is a painting donated by artist Joseph Stoddard, whose painting of Elizabeth House graces this year's invitation.

Individual tickets for Where Love Embraces Life are available for \$150 per person.

For more information about this year's benefit at the University Club in Pasadena, call 626-577-4434, or visit [www.elizabethhouse.net](http://www.elizabethhouse.net).

The University Club of Pasadena is located, 175 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena.



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## CHAMBER NEWS

### From the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce

### Chamber starts group for young professionals

Working people ages 21 to 40 are invited to join the Young Professionals of Pasadena. There are no initiation or membership costs to join this fun group for events and activities geared specifically for young professionals. Chamber membership is not required, although it is appreciated.

Events and activities will be fun and rewarding. The first Young Professionals of Pasadena event will be a Happy Hour Mixer at Bar Celona in Old Pasadena at 6 p.m. Thursday.

To get on the Young Professionals notification list, e-mail [Leanne@pasadena-chamber.org](mailto:Leanne@pasadena-chamber.org).

### Chamber hosting day at the races

Join Chamber members, families and friends for the first Pasadena Chamber of Commerce Day at the Races at Santa Anita Park on March 20.

Admission is \$28 for adults, \$22 for those ages 14 to 17, and



Courtesy Photo

Gateway Metro Tower hosted a Chinese New Year celebration for tenants.

\$14 for those under age 14. It includes parking, a racing program, gourmet buffet lunch and soft drinks.

The fun is free, but wagering and alcoholic beverages cost extra.

For more information or to download a sign-up sheet, visit [www.pasadena-chamber.org](http://www.pasadena-chamber.org).

Complete information or call 626-795-3355.

### Chamber planning March 30 open house

The Chamber Board and

staff host an Open House and Celebration for friends and family at the Chamber's new offices at 844 E. Green St., Suite 208, from 5 to 7 p.m. March 30.

Enjoy delicious food, soft drinks, wine and beer as the Chamber christens the new offices in the Prado Building on Green Street, between Hudson and Lake Avenues. There may even be a ribbon-cutting.

Plenty of free parking is available along Green Street. RSVP to Linda at 626-395-3355, or e-mail [linda@pasadena-chamber.org](mailto:linda@pasadena-chamber.org).