

# PRESS RELEASE



**Manhattan Beach Unified School District**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Fire Breaks Out at MBUSD Property**

**Manhattan Beach, CA, December 21, 2017**

At approximately 8:00 a.m. this morning, an isolated fire at the Manhattan Beach Preschool campus was reported. It was located in a building currently being rented from the District by an outside educational organization. The organization was already on winter recess, and none of that organization's staff or students were present in the classroom at the time of the fire. The Manhattan Beach Fire Department responded quickly, along with firefighters from El Segundo and Los Angeles fire departments. They quickly extinguished the fire, contained the scene, and ensured that all was safe. Some students were relocated or sent home due to smoke in the air, and some students were asked to delay their arrival to school. However, by 9:00 a.m., the MBPS campus was back to normal operations.

Unfortunately, there is significant damage to the portable classroom where the fire was located, as well as smoke damage to the three adjoining rooms. We are still assessing the extent of the damage in order to determine whether or not these rooms can be repaired and re-occupied. MBFD and the District are also still investigating possible sources of the fire.

Dr. Michael Matthews, MBUSD Superintendent, stated, "We are grateful that no one was hurt during this incident. The District thanks MBFD, LAFD, ESFD, our preschool staff, and our maintenance and operations staff for their quick and effective response."

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### **ABOUT THE MANHATTAN BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

MBUSD serves approximately 6,800 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Robinson Elementary School and Grand View Elementary School were recently recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School in 2013. Six MBUSD schools have been honored as California Gold Ribbon Schools since 2015. In 2012, Grand View Elementary was named a National Green Ribbon School, joining just 77 other schools in the United States so honored that year. In 2016, MBUSD was named as a National Green Ribbon District. MBUSD's Michael Hayden and Maggie Mabery were the *California* Teachers of the Year in 2015 and 2016. In addition to outstanding students and excellent teachers, MBUSD is extremely fortunate to have a high level of parental involvement in the schools and very strong partnerships with community partners such as the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation, PTAs/PTSAs, MBX—Beyond the Classroom, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Continental Development, the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce, and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at [www.mbusd.org](http://www.mbusd.org).