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Superintendent's Newsletter

December 2017
Dr. Michael D. Matthews, Superintendent

Teachers in the News

Every one of the 700+ employees in MBUSD works to create the best possible learning environment for our students. We all win when any of our employees is featured, and I love the Easy Reader's focus on our 2017 Teachers of the Year. The articles provide great insight into amazing people performing highly complex tasks that they absolutely love. Check out the stories on [Joanne Michael](#) (Meadows), [Chau Ly](#) (Pacific), and [Dina Moll](#) (Grand View).



I want to thank all of you who have taken the time to volunteer, who have donated to MBEF, PTA, and/or MBX, who have taken on leadership roles, and who have supported our children and helped them to succeed. MBEF's Annual Appeal has raised \$4.1 million dollars – that is 82% of the goal of \$5 million. If you have not already, please consider helping to reach the goal with a donation to [MBEF](#). It takes a village to help all of our children, and thanks to all of your efforts, we could not be in a better place than our MBUSD community.



Kindergarten Info Day - Jan. 20

Do you have friends or neighbors with pre-school aged children? If so, please tell them about our annual Kindergarten Info Day on Saturday, January 20, at Pacific. All of our elementary principals, along with a kindergarten teacher from each school, will join me to share what makes the first year, and all of the years in our Manhattan Beach public schools, so great.

Fire Safety

Nothing reminds us about fire safety more than an actual fire. I witnessed over twenty firefighters at our preschool this morning extinguishing a fire in one of our portable classrooms. You can read all the details in our [press release](#). Fortunately, no one was injured and all are safe. But it is a good time to remind all of us about fire safety, especially during the holidays. Please check out our [fire safety information sheet](#) here, and let's all stay safe! Thank you, MBFD!!



Ho Ho Ho-lidays!

We'd like to thank the Manhattan Beach Kiwanis Club for the opportunity to accompany Santa's Sleigh on its route through the Liberty Village neighborhood last Monday. What a treat to see the joy in kids' eyes as the sleigh made its way through town. Our school board elves were kept busy leading carols and making sure Santa's candy cane supply was well-stocked. Special thanks, too, to Leadership MB for building the new sleigh that accommodates more elves yet stays true to the decades-old tradition!

Connected Corner

This time of year can be a joyful one for many, but it can be very stressful, too. Final exams, peer issues, and family stressors can make the already angst-filled teenage years even more so. [MCHS Families Connected](#) is a student wellness resource for all MBUSD families and staff. There is important content for you to check out on the site, including a [video about stress](#) featuring our own students and those at Redondo Union High School, an article about our [students and sleep](#), and numerous other resources. I have one son out of school (how can I have a 27-year old son?) and one who is a freshman in high school. As a parent and as an educator, I highly recommend MCHS Families Connected and their resources that help us all work together to support our children and keep them on a safe and healthy path into maturity.





On behalf of the team, I'd like to wish you and your family a healthy and happy winter break. We look forward to an amazing 2018! Pictured with me under our iconic MB Pier: Dr. Dawnalyn Murakawa-Leopard, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Katherine Whittaker Stopp, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services; Megan Atkins, Assistant Superintendent, Student Services; and Dr. Brian Lucas, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources.

Mike Matthews
MBUSD Superintendent

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