

# PRESS RELEASE

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

## **MBUSD to Appoint Dr. Karina Gerger as Principal of Pennekamp Elementary School**

**Manhattan Beach, CA, May 31, 2017**

The Manhattan Beach Unified School District is pleased to announce the recommendation of Dr. Karina Gerger as the new principal at Pennekamp Elementary School. Dr. Matthews will bring this recommendation to the Board of Trustees at the June 7, 2017, Board Meeting. Dr. Gerger will be replacing Dr. Toni Brown, who is leaving to explore career opportunities in higher education.

Dr. Gerger joined the Manhattan Beach Unified School District in 2004 and has served in several positions throughout the District including elementary teacher, English Learner Coordinator, a teacher on special assignment for 21<sup>st</sup> Century teaching and learning, and a vice principal at Manhattan Beach Middle School. For the last two years, she has been a vice principal at Mira Costa High School overseeing the counseling department. Prior to joining MBUSD, Dr. Gerger taught multiple elementary grades in Riverside, CA.

Dr. Michael Matthews, Superintendent, stated, "Dr. Gerger brings to Pennekamp a wonderful variety of experiences in our District and a deep knowledge and passion for curriculum and instruction. She is known for her great rapport with students, staff, and families and I couldn't be happier about her taking on a leadership role at Pennekamp."

Dr. Gerger is delighted to become a part of the deep traditions and community of Pennekamp Elementary. “To be selected as the next Pennekamp Elementary principal is an amazing honor! I am passionate about MBUSD and now extremely excited to be a devoted member of our Pennekamp family. I am so eager to begin this journey and look forward to getting to know and work with everyone at Pennekamp soon! Go Dragons!”

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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).