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Superintendent's Newsletter

November 2017

Dr. Michael D. Matthews, Superintendent

In this issue:

John Jackson

Our Teachers in the News

Meet Your Lawmakers

MCHS West Field

Measure C

Mr. Jackson

Robinson principal John Jackson sent an email Wednesday to his school community, announcing that he will soon be taking a medical leave of absence. [You can find that message here.](#) Over his 13 years in Manhattan Beach, John has made tremendous contributions to our district. His warmth, humor, and deep connections with students and their families are evident in every interaction on the playground, in the classroom, and at every event he attends. He has supported countless students during their middle school journeys and, now, at the elementary level as well. He is beloved throughout the district by families and staff alike. He is an amazing man and an extraordinary

leader who has given so much to our students and to our District, and all of us will be forever grateful. He will be greatly missed, and I know that we will all be sending him our best wishes as he takes some time to focus on his own health. I look forward to celebrating John's career in MBUSD in the near future, and I will keep you informed about these plans.



Manhattan Beach MS Principal wins national award!

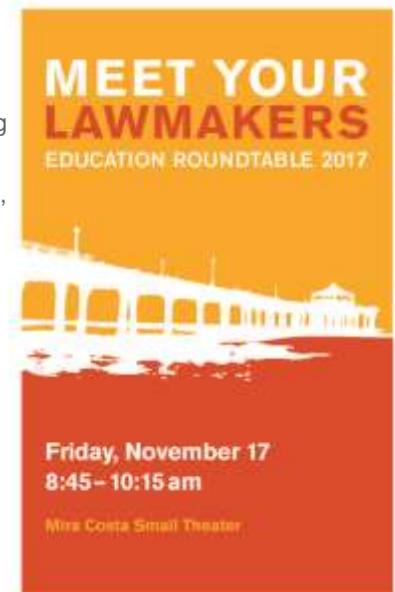


Our Teachers in the News

Teachers are appreciated by so many, but I don't think most people truly understand what it takes to be an outstanding teacher. I am grateful for the efforts of local journalist Mark McDermott of [The Easy Reader](#), who has taken the time to try to understand and articulate what makes our District's Teachers of the Year so amazing. He's done a thorough and excellent job. To read the special 2-part cover article on Pacific Elementary special education teacher Chau Ly, click here: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#). He has also introduced our new administrative team in an article, which you can read [here](#). As recent MCHS Hall of Fame inductee Paul Silva exhorted in his passionate speech to our student body, keep journalism relevant and subscribe to (and pay for!) your local media and media sources you trust! To subscribe to [The Easy Reader](#), click [here](#). To receive the weekly [Beach Reporter](#) e-blast, click [here](#).

Hear and Be Heard

I hope that many of you can join me this Friday at 8:45 AM for our 3rd annual "Meet Your Lawmakers" event. MBEF has done a terrific job of educating our community about funding in the state of California. As you have likely heard, MBUSD is 4th from the bottom in state in funding, a fact that will soon result in financial challenges for our district. This roundtable, hosted by our Manhattan Beach PTAs, will give you an opportunity to let our legislators know how important school funding is to you. For the third year, Senator Ben Allen and Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi will be here to discuss all things education. I appreciate their commitment to our students and our parents. The event will be moderated by Paul Silva. See you there!





MCHS West Field is Officially Open!

Thanks to over \$2 million from MBX, and approximately \$4 million from MBUSD, we now have a beautiful new field on the west side of the Mira Costa campus along Meadows Avenue. Dr. Dale was happy to put his ribbon-cutting scissors to work at the November 1st official opening of the Meadows field. Building this field was not easy. It has taken almost a decade to plan, raise the funds, and make it happen. It is absolutely beautiful! Three AYSO games can happen at one time on a Saturday. Our baseball team and the marching band can practice at the same time. It is a fantastic addition to Costa, though it does point out how out of date our gym looks juxtaposed against this beautiful new facility. That's next.

District-wide Priorities for Measure C Projects

A little over a year ago, voters approved Measure EE and Measure C. Measure EE gym plans are well under way. We have a gym design and our architect is in the process of completing all drawings, which will be submitted to the state for approval early next year.

The \$114 million Measure C project is devoted to improving our classrooms across the District. Specific project scopes will be based on the [Facilities Master Plan](#) (FMP) developed in 2015. In May, the Board selected the DLR Group as the Master Architect for Measure C projects.

At our November 6 board meeting, DLR proposed a [Measure C project scope](#) and provided preliminary costs based upon the information they have received to date. Here are the central elements of that scope.

All campuses will receive the following:

- Classroom air conditioning
- Improved perimeter fencing
- Roofing replacement.

On top of that, there will be extensive modernization and infrastructure repair at all elementary campuses.

Two campuses, Grand View, and Pennekamp, will also undergo significant new construction. Grand View's Ladera campus will be demolished and a new classroom building will be constructed. Pennekamp will see 16 portable classrooms removed and replaced by a classroom building. Both campuses will receive new play fields.

We will have a workshop on Tuesday, November 28 to discuss all projects related to Measure C. This will be your opportunity to see the current status of the project scope, provide feedback and ask questions. I hope to see you there.



Grand View Elementary School



Pennekamp Elementary School

I am increasingly grateful for every single student, teacher, parent, employee, community member, and caregiver whose support of each other and the community helps create the outstanding, compassionate, young people who matriculate at our schools every day. Thank you, one and all, and I hope you and your families have a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Mike Matthews
MBUSD Superintendent

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