



Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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## Superintendent's Newsletter

April 20, 2017

Dr. Michael D. Matthews, Superintendent

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### MBMS Employee Named L.A. County Employee of the Year!



I am so proud to announce that Leticia Salceda, Office Specialist at Manhattan Beach Middle School, has been named L.A. County Classified Employee of the Year in the category of Office and Technical Support! Ms. Salceda, known fondly as Letty by her colleagues, is being recognized for being at the top of her game in her role in the front office. In addition to supporting office personnel, she supports the Special Ed program at the site and does so with finesse, expertise, and a calm demeanor. As MBMS principal Kim Linz says, "Letty is a bright spot in the office. She is always willing to lend a hand and support her fellow employees, and greets everyone with a friendly hello in the morning." Congratulations, Letty ... you make us proud!

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## Board Workshop on MCHS Gym Design - April 26

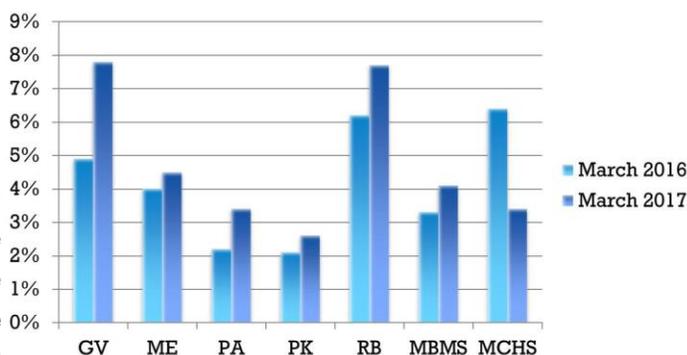
Please join the Board and administration in the District Office Board Room next Wednesday at 5 pm for a presentation and discussion on the initial design and layout concepts for the **new Mira Costa Gym** complex. The architectural team from Gensler has integrated the ideas and input gathered during the pre-design focus groups, visioning sessions, and open houses into the initial design that they will share at this Board Workshop. Please click [here](#) for more information.



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## Student Attendance

It probably comes as no surprise to you that public school districts' state revenue is based on students' average daily attendance, or ADA. Many people were surprised, however, at our April 5



board meeting when our deputy superintendent presented a report on current attendance rates in MBUSD. To date this year, 296 students have missed 10% or more of the school year. Not only does MBUSD lose about \$45 for **each day** that a student is absent *regardless of whether the absence is excused*, but research strongly suggests that good attendance is correlated to student achievement, performance on tests and graduation rates. In short, it is best for all of us if your child attends class as often as she or he can. To see Dr. Murakawa-Leopard's complete presentation, please click [here](#).

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## AP Testing

# AP

®For many high school students, the month of May means warmer temperatures and getting your nerves up to ask that special someone to Prom. For our college-bound students, May can also mean many hours spent preparing for that AP Euro exam, AP Bio exam or any of the other 25 Advanced Placement exams offered at Mira Costa. My goal for all students going to a four-year college is that they take at least one AP class before graduating. For more of my thoughts on AP classes and student stress, [please click here](#).

# School Safety

All too often, we hear about incidents of school violence across our nation and the world. The recent incident at North Park Elementary School in San Bernardino hit close to home for many of us. Our hearts go out to all students, staff, parents, and community members who were impacted by this traumatic event. We know that reports of violence can be troubling for students and parents alike. While there is no foolproof method for addressing such a difficult topic, there are many resources available to help us speak with children after a school shooting and manage their distress. Please click [here](#) for our new webpage of useful links and articles that may be helpful when a crisis occurs.



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## New Positions Added in our Schools

At the April 5 Board Meeting, the MBUSD Board of Trustees voted to add two positions beginning in the 2017-18 school year. Pacific and Grand View Elementary Schools, our two largest elementary schools, will split a **full-time assistant principal**. There are an average of 700 students and 90 employees at each of these two schools, and the extra support is long overdue. We are also going to add an additional **half-time elementary music teacher**. This teacher will help create some smaller classes for our outstanding elementary music program and will have a very positive impact on this nationally-recognized music program. Both of these positions were requested by parents and employees at board budget workshops, and both of the positions will be **fully funded by MBEF**. Thanks, MBEF!

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## MBUSD Loses Another Family

### Member

It is with sadness I inform you that Meadows' long time crossing guard and noon duty supervisor, Pam Drury, passed last Saturday. She died of neuroendocrine cancer. Her death was sudden and unexpected. Her family is struggling through this both emotionally and financially. Some of you have asked how you can help. Her son has set up this [GoFundMe page](#). Every day 'Miss Pam' kept children safe in and around campus. She will be greatly missed by the many students, staff members, and families that she helped over the years. Any support we can show as a community will be greatly appreciated.



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Follow Us!



Do you want to keep up on District happenings? See pictures from our school sites? Follow us, Like us and tell your friends about us!

Facebook: @ManhattanBeachUnifiedSchoolDistrictMBUSD

Instagram: @manhattanbeachusd

Twitter: @MBUSDnews

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## Happy Earth Day!



MBUSD is proud to be a National Green Ribbon School District. Be sure to drop by [Polliwog Park](#) to celebrate Mother Earth this weekend. Click [here](#) to read about all the green initiatives taking place in our schools.

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Thanks for all you do to support our students and our schools. And thank you for striving for great attendance rates through June 15!

Mike Matthews

MBUSD Superintendent



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