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SAN MATEO-  
FOSTER CITY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Newsletter

## Superintendent's Update - December 2018

Dear San Mateo–Foster City Community,

The Trustees conducted their **Annual Reorganization** during the December Board Meeting. While there are no new faces on the Board as none of our Trustees were up for election this year, they have taken on different roles for the year ahead:

- President – Shara Watkins
- Vice President –Noelia Corzo
- Clerk – Rebecca Hitchcock
- Trustee – Kenneth Chin
- Trustee – Audrey Ng



On Thursday, December 6, the Elections Office certified that **Measure V passed!** On behalf of the San Mateo–Foster City School District, I want to thank you for your support of this Measure. This funding will ensure that staff who provide essential

programs for our students will continue with their work without disruption. Through this funding, the District was also able to provide an increase in salary for our classified and certificated staff members. In addition, much needed funding will be available for arts and STEM programming and innovation throughout the District.

In regards to **salary negotiations**, both CSEA (classified staff) and SMETA (certificated staff) have reached Tentative Agreements for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. A 3% increase for 2018-2019 and a 2.5% increase coming from the Measure V parcel tax for 2019-2020 have been negotiated. Staff is working on their ratification processes and these agreements should come to the Board for approval in January.

**District Calendars for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021** have also been negotiated. Again, staff will engage in their ratification process and calendars should come to the Board for approval in January.

As you know, the Trustees are committed to equity and ensuring that all students in the District succeed. They have adopted the National Equity Project's Equity Definition and are forming an **Equity Task Force**. There was a call for applications for candidates to serve on the Task Force and over 60 applications were received. These applications will be separated into the representative groups: students, classified staff, certificated staff and community members and reviewed by a team consisting of classified, certificated, management, community and Board members. This team will select a subset of the original set of applicants for follow-up interviews. It is expected that the Board will be able to seat the Equity Task Force in January. Also in January, the Board will align the Equity Definition to the District's Vision and Mission.

Wishing you much joy and peace for the holidays,  
**Joan Rosas, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

## Upcoming Events



Join Superintendent Rosas for coffee and conversation. Meetings are designed to provide an avenue for school families and community members to stay informed about District initiatives and learn more about the great things taking place in San Mateo-Foster City schools. We hope to see you there!

## Important Dates

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**Fri, Dec 21 - Mon, Jan 7**  
Winter Break - No School

**Thu, Jan 10**  
School Board Meeting,  
6:30 pm - District Office

**Mon, Jan 21**

Meetings are held in different areas of our District. Parents and community members are welcome to attend any or all Chats.

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**- 2018-2019 SCHEDULE -**

**Tuesday, January 29, 2019**

6:30-7:30 pm

Abbott Middle School

600 36th Avenue, San Mateo

\*Spanish translation provided

**Thursday, March 28, 2019**

5:30-6:30 pm

Baywood Elementary

600 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo

\*Spanish translation provided

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Holiday  
No School

**Thu, Jan 24**

School Board Meeting,  
6:30 pm - District Office

**Tue, Jan 29**

Superintendent Coffee  
Chat,

6:30 pm - Abbott Middle  
School

Thank You for Your Support of Measure V!



## SMFCSD New Student Registration Process



Registration for new students in the San Mateo-Foster City School District for the 2019-2020 school year has begun! The steps to register are:

1. Determine your child's school of assignment.
2. Collect all required registration documents.
3. Bring required registration documents to your school of assignment for address & document verification in November.
4. Obtain a 15-character Snapcode after document verification.
5. Fill out the PowerSchool online registration form to complete the registration process - the priority registration window opened on December 3rd and closes on December 20, 2018 (4:00 pm).

Please visit [www.smfcSD.net](http://www.smfcSD.net) and navigate to the [Registration & Enrollment](#) page of the District website for more information about the 2019-2020 new student registration process.

## SchoolMessenger Text Message Opt-In



The Trusted Platform  
for School Community Engagement

### Parents and Guardians You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can participate in this free service\* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number, **67587**.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with **"Stop"**.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



**Opt-In from  
your mobile  
phone now!**



**Just send  
"Y" or "Yes"  
to 67587**

**i** *Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:*

*SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a "text message". Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as "short code" texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you've ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.*

## Padres y Tutores

### Ustedes pueden aprovechar nuestro Servicio de Mensajes de Texto

Nuestra escuela utiliza el sistema de SchoolMessenger para entregar mensajes de texto, directamente a su teléfono móvil con información importante sobre eventos, cierres de escuelas, alertas de seguridad y mucho más.

Usted puede participar en este servicio gratis\* con sólo enviar un mensaje de texto de "Y" o "Yes" al número de código corto de nuestra escuela, **67587**.

También puede optar por no recibir estos mensajes en cualquier momento simplemente respondiendo a uno de nuestros mensajes con "Stop".

SchoolMessenger es compatible con el **Student Privacy Pledge™** (Compromiso Con La Privacidad de Los Estudiantes). Puede estar seguro que su información es segura y nunca será entregada o vendida a nadie.



**Opte por recibir mensajes de texto en su teléfono móvil ahora!**



**Sólo tiene que enviar "Y" o "Yes" a 67587**

**i** *Información sobre los mensajes de texto SMS y códigos cortos:*

*SMS significa "servicio de mensajes cortos" y comúnmente se conoce como un "mensaje de texto". La mayoría de los teléfonos celulares son compatibles con este tipo de mensajes de texto. Nuestro proveedor de notificación, SchoolMessenger, utiliza un cierto protocolo SMS desarrollado por la industria de las telecomunicaciones específicamente para enviar mensajes de texto en masa, referido como mensajes de texto "código corto." Este método es rápido, seguro y muy confiable, y está estrictamente regulado por los proveedores de servicios inalámbricos y sólo permite el acceso a los proveedores aprobados. Si alguna vez ha enviado un voto de texto para un programa de televisión a un número como 46999, usted ha usado los mensajes de texto de código corto.*

## PTA Reflections - Heroes Around Us



Heroes Around Us

[Foster City Elementary](#) 3rd grade student, **Adam Beg**, painted this picture of long-time school crossing guard, Suzi Ferrari as part of the [Parent Teacher Association \(PTA\) Art Reflections Contest](#). He won First Place in the Intermediate Division and will move on to the Regional Competition. Congratulations Adam, what a beautiful tribute!



## SMFCSD Schools Participate in Hour of Code Week

Over 200,000 #HourOfCode events happened around the world during the week of Dec 10-14. Our Bayside STEM, Fiesta Gardens, LEAD & Meadow Heights students used Computer Science in fun, interactive ways like building galaxies with code & color-coding different types of software! #WeAreSMFCSD #STEM



Meadow Heights Elementary



LEAD Elementary



Fiesta Gardens



Bayside STEM

## Vision to Learn Van Visits LEAD Elementary



Vision to Learn Van a Success!

Did you know that more than 2 million children in the U.S. do not have the glasses they need to see the board, read a book, or participate in class? To help combat this problem, the *Vision to Learn* mobile van visited [LEAD Elementary](#) last month and served more than 65 students; each receiving a free eye exam and glasses from the program.

Many thanks to the LEAD Elementary school staff, teachers and families who worked together to ensure that students who needed corrective lenses had the opportunity to visit the mobile van. We are looking forward to the VTL van visiting two more school sites in 2019.

*Vision to Learn* is a non-profit designed to support students with a free comprehensive eye exam and free glasses. For more information visit - <https://visiontolearn.org/>

## Sing Along with Fiesta Gardens International School!



Winter Wonderful!

[Fiesta Gardens'](#) Winter Sing-along is almost here! The Sing-along includes 9 songs that the staff carefully selected with inclusion in mind. The songs are: Pasen a tomar atole, Arbolito de navidad, Las velitas de hanuka, Un millon de amigos, Stand By Me (bilingual version), De colores, Paz y libertad, Funga Alafia, and El latido de mi corazón. What a wonderful way to start the holiday!

## Teacher Spotlight: Joe Spina



Bayside Academy Teacher Joe Spina

[Bayside Academy](#) Teacher Joe Spina recently had a story published in the San Mateo Daily Journal newspaper. The article highlights the importance of art clubs in our schools, he states, "My call to action is simple, but profound: Teachers — start an art club and allow students to create art pieces that they desire, without any boundaries or restrictions." Read the full article [\*The Importance of Art Clubs in Schools - 11/12/18 Guest Perspective.\*](#)

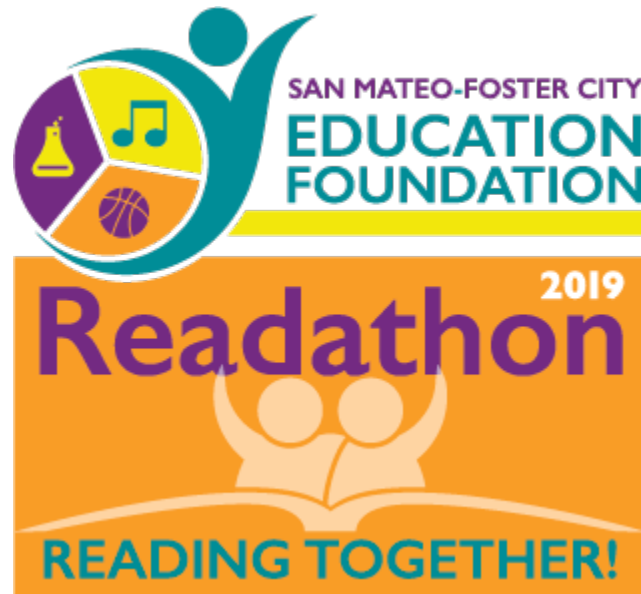
## California Healthy Kids Survey



**Attention Parents of 5th and 7th Grade Students:** The San Mateo-Foster City School District will be administering the California Healthy Kids Survey for 5th and 7th grade students, parents and school staffs during the month of February 2019. The California Healthy Kids Survey, commonly known as CHKS, is an online, anonymous and confidential questionnaire for students that focuses on school climate, safety, learning supports and barriers, youth development, health and well-being. Parents and staff are asked similar questions in the areas listed above.

Data from this annual survey is one way schools and the district learn about how students, parents and staff feel about their schools. We will be asking 5th grade parents to provide consent for their child to participate in this survey. Consent forms will be available online and hard copies in school offices beginning January 2019. For our 7th grade students, the survey only requires documentation from parents if they do not want their children to take the survey.

## San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation News



As 2019 approaches, we look back with gratitude for the support we've received from our community and from corporations that have provided unique grants to expand STEM opportunities, art, new musical instruments, science room supplies and athletic uniforms to more of our students.

Looking forward, we eagerly anticipate our 3rd Annual Readathon. The event will run from January 26 through February 8 and will benefit all 17 of our elementary schools. We have collaborated with local libraries to host kick-off read-aloud events and our website will feature read-aloud videos representing each of our schools. We hope this Readathon creates a sense of community across our diverse district while raising educational funding for all of our students. **Our aim is to raise at least \$25 per student towards our \$75,000 goal.**

Details will be sent home after Winter break and will also be available at [smfcedfund.org](http://smfcedfund.org).

SMFCEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, donations are tax-deductible. Tax ID 94-3110731

## School Board Meeting Highlights



To review board presentations, upcoming agendas, and previous meeting minutes - go to the [Board Agenda & Summaries page](#) of the SMFCSD website.

### Highlights of Recent Meetings

#### At the December 6, 2018 Board Meeting, the Trustees:

- Held annual reorganization meeting and conducted elections, the outcome is as follows:
  - President - Shara Watkins
  - Vice President - Noelia Corzo
  - Clerk - Rebecca Hitchcock
  - Trustee - Kenneth Chin
  - Trustee - Audrey Ng
  - Trustee Representative - Kenneth Chin
- Made appointments to the following:
  - Secretary of the Board - Dr. Rosas
  - Legislative Representative - Trustees Ng & Corzo
  - Liaisons to San Mateo City Council - Trustees Watkins & Chin
  - Liaisons to Foster City Council - Trustee Watkins & Ng
  - Liaison to the San Mateo - Foster City Education Foundation - Trustees Ng
  - Liaison to PTA Coordinating Council - Trustee Hitchcock
  - Liaison to the District Special Education PTA - Trustee Watkins
  - Liaison to the District English Language Advisory Council - Trustee Ng & Corzo
  - Liaison to the Sanctuary Task Force - Trustee Corzo
  - Liaisons to Enrollment Growth Study Group - Trustees Watkins & Chin
  - Liaisons to the Equity Task Force - Trustees Watkins & Corzo
  - Liaison to the Home Room Committee - Trustee Chin
  - Liaisons to the Communication Committee - Trustees Chin & Hitchcock
- Held a celebration for the passage of the Measure V parcel tax
- Discussed the Equity Task Force selection of candidate process
- Assigned District staff members Aleyda Barrera-Cruz and Patrick Hurley to the Equity Task Force



- Discussed Facilitators for the Equity Task Force
- Discussed the alignment of the Task Force Equity Definition and SMFCSD Vision and Mission
- Discussed the Equity Data Use Process for the Equity Task Force
- Received information on the California School Dashboard
- Received budget information from School Services of California
- Approved the First Interim Financial Report 2018-19

**At the November 15, 2018 Board Meeting, the Trustees:**

- Recognized teachers who have successfully completed 2 years probation and are now eligible for permanent status
- Reviewed the Equity Task Force Appointment Process
- Received information on the Achievement Initiative Report: Attention to Attendance End-of-Year Report 2017-18
- Received information on Student Support Teams and interventions for students needing more intensive behavior supports
- Received the Final Report from the Measure L Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee

All Board Meetings are open to the public and held at the San Mateo-Foster City School District Office - 1170 Chess Drive, Foster City at 6:30 pm. Community members are encouraged to attend.

## 2018-2019 SMFCSD Student Calendar

**PLEASE NOTE:** The District has begun the process of negotiating the calendar for the 2019-2020 school year with SMETA. In past years, a proposed calendar was presented to the Board for approval around December/January. We hope to do the same this year.

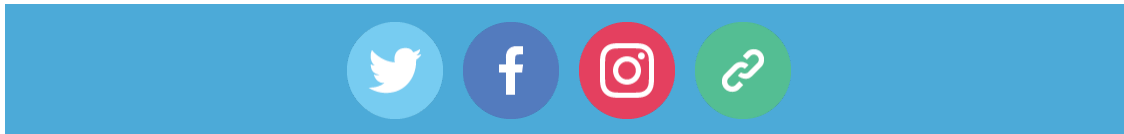
- August 14 - First Day of School
- August 31-September 3 - Labor Day Holiday
- October 5-19 - Fall Break
- November 12 - Veteran's Day Holiday
- November 21-23 - Thanksgiving Break
- December 21 - January 7 - Winter Break
- January 21 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday
- February 18 - President's Day Holiday
- March 11 - Teacher PD Day - No School
- April 1-12 - Spring Break
- May 27 - Memorial Day Holiday
- June 20 - Last Day of School



**[2018-2019 SMFCSD Student Calendar](#)** (pdf)

Parents - tired of manually entering important district dates into your calendar? Now

you can export the SMFCSD Student Calendar to your device. Go to our [District Calendar](#) page and click on Export the SMFCSD Calendar.



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As a member of the SMFCSD community, you are automatically subscribed to receive our district newsletter. If you would like to opt-out, please follow the unsubscribe directions listed on the bottom of this newsletter. We look forward to keeping you informed of the great things happening in our district!

