



SAN MATEO-
FOSTER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newsletter

Superintendent's Letter - June 2017

Dear San Mateo-Foster City Community,

A demanding but productive school year has drawn to a close. As we move into summer break, it is fitting to take a moment to reflect on how far we have come and to enjoy the end of the year activities.

To the families of eighth graders, I send you warm congratulations and appreciation. Thank you for the privilege of educating and nurturing your children in order to prepare them for their high school careers. Thank you for your efforts in supporting them and their schools in such significant ways.

I also want to recognize each of our staff members for the talent, energy and care they bring to their work. Together, they are making a visible difference for our students, families and community.

Last but not least, I would like to wish our retirees all the best in their next endeavors. Their service and dedication to our students and community will be appreciated for years to come.

Measure X Facilities

We are full steam ahead with our Phase 1 projects which include a new elementary school in Foster City, the gyms and classrooms at Abbott and Borel Middle Schools, and a gym at the Bayside Academy. Phase 2 projects are slated to begin in 2019 and include

replacing and adding classrooms at Bowditch Middle School, new classrooms and multipurpose rooms at Sunnybrae and George Hall Elementary Schools and a new neighborhood elementary school on the undeveloped portion of the College Park/Turnbull campus. Please continue to follow our progress on the Measure X page of the SMFCSD website.

Special Meeting: Parcel Tax/Budget Study & School Board Candidate Info. Session

On Thursday, June 8, 2017 Trustees for the San Mateo–Foster City School District held a special meeting to review the budget shortfall created by the loss of the Measure Y Parcel Tax and escalating STRS and PERS costs. This structural deficit must be addressed, as a balanced, three-year budget must to be submitted to the San Mateo County Office of Education for approval this June. Trustees examined reductions that will be made in the 2017-2018 year as well as potential reductions needed in the 2018-2020 years. They also examined potential revenue enhancements over the same three year period.

A renewed effort to pass a parcel tax was discussed by the Trustees with the parent and community members who were in attendance that evening. As you know, Measure Y was narrowly defeated by a 1.47% margin. The District thanks our volunteers and those who came out in support of the Measure for bringing it so close to renewal. Further discussions regarding a ballot measure will be placed on upcoming Board agendas.

The evening ended with an opportunity for the assembled group to hear why our Trustees chose to run for election to the School Board and to ask questions about the process and their roles and responsibilities. This November 2017, three of the present Trustees on the San Mateo–Foster City School Board have decided not to run for re-election. If you were not able to attend the Candidate Forum and have questions about the process, please contact our Board President, Chelsea Bonini, or any member of the Board of Trustees. Additionally, if you would like to know more about the work of the District, you can contact me at jrosas@smfcsd.net. I would be happy to discuss our special projects with you!

Thank you for your devotion, individually and collectively, to our schools as we educate and inspire students to live, lead, and learn with integrity and joy. Best wishes for your summer!

Sincerely,
Joan Rosas, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Congratulations Retirees!



Upcoming Events

Thu, Aug 10
Board Meeting 7:00
pm
- District Office

Tue, Aug 15
First Day of School

San Mateo Park Saving Lives One Step at a Time!

Students at San Mateo Park Elementary are making the world a better place one step at a time! This year they participated in the UNICEF Kid Power program which motivates kids and families across the United States to get active and help save lives. Here's how it works: Kids wear a UNICEF Kid Power Band, a child-friendly fitness band they can use with the free Kid Power companion app. Kids go on missions through the app, learn about new cultures and earn points for completing activities and challenges. These points unlock therapeutic food packets that UNICEF delivers to severely malnourished children around the world. The more kids move, the more points they earn, and the more lives they save! Students are not only enhancing their own physical health, but



they are also motivated how they are helping others in the world.

Students at San Mateo Park Elementary School have been averaging, per class, over 22,000 steps per day in their physical

education classes! Students are now motivated to exercise as they try to increase their number of steps every day. Because of their motivation, their school has earned and provided over 16,500 ready-to-use-therapeutic food packets for malnourished children in South Sudan. One student said, "I feel good about myself when Mr. D reminds us that not only are we active and having fun, but helping people in the world. I look forward to P.E. everyday." [Read More about the Kid Power Program at San Mateo Park...](#)

Baywood Raises \$2,400 for Children's Tumor Foundation



Each year the Student Council of Baywood Elementary School, as part of Pursuing Noble Goals, organizes a fundraising campaign. This year's fundraiser, organized by Baywood's Student Council, benefits the Children's Tumor Foundation (www.ctf.org). CTF's mission is to find a cure for

neurofibromatosis (NF), an under-recognized genetic disorder that affects one in every 3,000 people and millions worldwide. NF can lead to tumor growth along nerves, vision impairment (and loss of sight), and bone abnormalities, among other issues. CTF supports a number of NF-specific clinical trials to find effective treatments. In addition to helping fund 50 NF clinics nationwide, CTF provides resources and support to affected families.

As part of this fundraiser, donation jars were distributed to each classroom and the classroom in each grade with the highest donations will receive a popsicle party. The donations were tallied and more than \$2,400 was raised for the Children's Tumor Foundation! This fundraiser will conclude with a fun walk in Los Gatos' Vasona Park on June 24, 2017 (<http://www.ctf.org/events/san-jose-walk>). Great job Baywood!

Parkside Student is a Star!

Parkside Elementary has much to be proud of in student AJ Heinicke. Not only does AJ perform motorcycle stunts for fun but he also gives back to his community.

AJ has been riding a motorcycle since the age of 3. He can do wheelies across the parking lot and jump through fire over as many as 15 people. He rides with a team of 3 other adults most of the time but has branched off to do his own show in Las Vegas.

AJ volunteers monthly at local food distribution centers and raised over \$1,100 for school supplies and backpacks for kids in need by selling calendars of himself to local friends and community members.

Most recently, he just finished a huge fundraiser where he raised \$3,175.00 for kids with cancer by asking for \$25 donations on his Instagram page. As donations came in he placed thumb tacks on a huge map detailing his support. The money will be donated to two different children's hospitals towards kids with cancer - Lucille Packard children's Hospital and St. Jude's Hospital. [Read more about AJ's story...](#)



Borel Middle School Celebrates the Arts with *Fame, the Musical*



Borel Drama Dream Theatre performed FAME, directed by Borel drama teacher Alyssa Goldrath May 12-14. *Fame, the Musical*, is a full-throttle journey exploring the struggles, fears and triumphs of young artists navigating the worlds of dance, music, and

theater. At New York City's legendary School for the Performing Arts, *Fame* follows a group of students as they learn to master their craft and grow alongside each other, rising to the various challenges that face them. Conceived from the unforgettable movie and award winning television series, this unmistakable story has been brilliantly transformed into riveting musical theatre!

Over 120 students participated in the musical this year, both on and off stage to sold out crowds. Participants cast in the musical began rehearsing in February and attended to a rigorous rehearsal schedule while maintaining high academic standards. For more information about the program, see the [Borel Drama Program](#) website.

Abbott Middle School Presents *High School Musical, Jr.*



On May 18, 19 and 20, Abbott Middle School students performed *High School Musical, Jr.* for hundreds of theater goers. The production was the 35th and final for Director Holly Stone. The Saturday show concluded with heart-felt thank yous and special gifts for Ms. Stone as well as for Musical Director Matthew Mattei, Choreographer Murlene Watkins, Set Designer Debra Torke, and Stage Manager Autumn Angel.

Numerous Abbott drama alumni turned out for the performances and to honor Ms. Stone and her team. It was clear that Stone's commitment to the performing arts has inspired, encouraged and positively influenced generations of students.

"High School Musical was the perfect choice for my final show," said Stone. "I love that it celebrates the joy and freedom of learning NOT to conform to the status quo." Thank you Holly for sharing that important message and so many others with our children. You will be missed!

Samaritan House Needs You!

It's summer closet cleaning time! Samaritan House - a nonprofit that helps people living in poverty in San Mateo – needs children's clothing. Hundreds of low-income children use the free children's clothing store, the Kids Closet every month. They desperately need gently used clothing and shoes with no rips, tears or stains for children ages 2-17.



Every month, Samaritan House gives out 4,000 items, including underwear, socks, shoes, pajamas, clothes and accessories. That means they need to receive 4,000 items every month.

When you are shopping for your own child, think of these children and buy an extra t-shirt or pair of shoes on sale to donate. It is incredibly exciting for our clients to receive something new!

Samaritan House accept donations Monday-Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm at the main branch - 4031 Pacific Boulevard, San Mateo (near the intersection of 42nd Avenue and El Camino Real). For more information see the [Samaritan House](#) website.

Make this your... BEST. SUMMER. EVER.



[Summer Reading program.](#)

The Summer Learning Challenge is here! This means reading, playing, doing, and lots of chances for prizes through it all.

Sign up at your [local library](#) or online at [summerlearners.org](#) to be part of this exploring, discovering, playing, experimenting, reading, talking, singing, smiling, laughing, can't-do-it-wrong program that combines the fun of new experiences with library programs and prizes.

This annual, crowd-pleasing program runs until August 30th and is chock full of opportunities for fun and discovery (and prizes!). Read more about the

San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation Update



SMFC Education Foundation Read-A-Thon Success!

Is it really possible to turn pages into dollars? The answer is a resounding, "YES!" Students across our district have collectively read an astounding 500,000 minutes and have raised well over \$30,000 to

help fund our TK-5 music programs and various Middle School programs.

High praise to our schools who were able to join the Ed Foundation in this pilot endeavor: Brewer Island, College Park, Fiesta Gardens, Foster City, Highlands, Laurel, San Mateo Park, Abbott, Bayside STEM, Borel and Bowditch. Your teachers, students and families have been tremendous partners in this educational and engaging fundraiser! We look forward to working with these schools and many more next February for our 2nd Annual Read-A-Thon. SMFCEF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, donations are tax-deductible. Tax ID 94-3110731



School Board Meeting Summaries & Upcoming Agendas

Board Meeting Summary - June 1, 2017

The San Mateo-Foster City School District Board of Trustees:



- Recognized San Mateo Park Elementary School Kent Award winning program
- Recognized District Retirees
- Received information regarding agenda planning for the June 8, 2017 Special Board Meeting
- Conducted a Public Hearing regarding the 2017-2018 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)
- Conducted a Public Hearing regarding the 2017-2018 Fund Balance in Excess of Minimum Reserve Level
- Received information regarding the Middle School Gyms/Classrooms Project – Budget
- Received update on the Governor’s May Revise
- Accepted the gifts as approved by the Superintendent
- Approved Crossing Guard Agreements with the City of San Mateo and the City of Foster City

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

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 7:00 pm. Community members are encouraged to attend.

2017-2018 San Mateo-Foster City School District Student Calendar

- August 15 - First Day of School
- September 1-4 - Labor Day Holiday
- October 6-20 - Fall Break
- November 10 - Veteran's Day Holiday
- November 22-24 - Thanksgiving Break
- December 22 - January 8 - Winter Break
- January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday
- February 19 - President's Day Holiday
- March 12 - Teacher PD Day - No School
- April 2-13 - Spring Break
- May 28 - Memorial Day Holiday
- June 21 - Last Day of School



[2017-2018 SMFCSD Student Calendar](#)

[2018-2019 SMFCSD Student Calendar](#)



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