

Pacifica Press

PSD Family & Community Newsletter Sept. 12, 2025

Message from Dr. Carisa J. Bowman, Interim Superintendent

Hello PSD Families and Community,,

From classrooms to community events, here's what's happening across our schools. Thank you for being an important part of our district!

I've truly enjoyed connecting with families at our recent Back-to-School Nights and family events. These gatherings remind me how strong and supportive our community is, and I am grateful for the partnership we share in building a positive school year for our students.



I am also proud to share that our district has been awarded over \$800,000 in After School Education and Safety (ASES) funds. This important investment allows us to expand after-school opportunities that keep students engaged, safe, and learning beyond the classroom.

In addition, we are continuing our partnership with The Big Lift, now in its second year. Through The Big Lift, our district is receiving customized support to strengthen literacy, which includes:

- Coaching for literacy specialists to help teachers deliver evidence-based instruction
- Leadership support for administrators to guide systemwide literacy improvements
- Instructional materials, training, and professional development rooted in the science of reading
- Use of a common assessment tool (DIBELS) to monitor student progress and inform teaching
- Assistance in creating and implementing a districtwide Literacy Action Plan
- Collaboration with other districts through professional learning communities

We are proud to announce that Ortega School has been selected to participate in the Big Lift Multi-Language Learner Cohort for 2025–26. This year long professional development and coaching program, led in partnership with Dr. Elsa Cardenas-Hagan, will help TK–3 teachers and leaders strengthen multilingual literacy instruction through evidence-based strategies and on-site coaching. Ortega’s selection reflects the school’s commitment to supporting all students in developing strong language and literacy skills.

Thank you for your ongoing support, energy, and commitment to our students.

With gratitude,

Carisa

Board of Education Meeting

2025-2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATES:

October 1, 2025
October 22, 2025
November 19, 2025
December 17, 2025
January 21, 2026
February 11, 2026
March 11, 2026
April 1, 2026
April 29, 2026
May 20, 2026
June 10, 2026



Elizabeth Bredall



Kai Doggett



Lynda Brocchini



Laverne Villalobos



Bridget Hardt

Board of Education Meeting September 10, 2025

Highlights of the September 10th, 2025 Regular Board Meeting:

9/10/25 Board meeting highlights

Highlights of the September 10th 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Presentations:

- LSEA sunshined their proposal for 2025-26 negotiations, including their interest in negotiating: calendar, compensation, hours, class size and safety conditions
- Dr. Joel Rabin presented information regarding state assessment scores for the district for the 24-25 school year
- Ms. Ladd presented a report on student enrollment
- Ms. Ladd presented information about the election costs involved with a potential recall in response to requests for information from the public
- Mr. Bayat presented updated and new technology policies for board review during their First Read

Resolutions adopted:

- A resolution assuring that there are sufficient textbooks and instructional materials for our students
- A resolution declaring that the appropriations in the Budget for 24-25 and 25-26 fiscal years do not exceed the limitations imposed by Proposition 4 (the "Gann Amendment")
- A resolution recognizing Hispanic and Latine Heritage Month (Sept 15, 2025-Oct. 15, 2025)

Business

The board approved the unaudited financial statements ("Unaudited Actuals") for fiscal year 2024-2025

Workforce Housing:

After discussing the options, the board rejected all general contractor bids from August and passed a motion to rebid the project in different parts/phasing options.

Governance

The board approved policies regarding Volunteer Assistance, School Sponsored Trips, and Transportation for School-Related Trips in the Consent Agenda in their second read.

Recognition

Marilyn Wisegarver was recognized for her support of the students of Vallemar as a PSV volunteer, working one-to-one on math with many, many 4th graders, for over 10 years! Many, many thanks, Marilyn!



Next Board of Education Meeting – October 1, 2025

Next Board Meeting: October 1, 2025

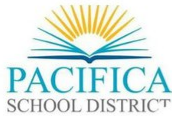
NOTE: All presentations and supporting documents to the items/actions noted are available on our agenda platform by clicking on the "Link to Agendas" below, selecting the meeting (listed by date) you wish to view, and then clicking on the individual agenda item.

[Link to Agendas](#) [Link to view Zoom recordings of Board Meetings](#)

[Link to Agendas](#)

[Link to Youtube meetings](#)

[Link to Zoom recordings of Meetings](#)



2025-2026 PACIFICA SCHOOL DISTRICT THEME

PSD staff have reflected and voted for the theme for the 2025-2026 school year.



Oceans of Potential, Waves of Hope

Oceans of Potential describes the belief that:

- Every student has limitless possibilities
- Every staff member has hope and knowledge to assist students in reaching their fullest potential
- Every family and community member sees boundless potential waiting to be discovered and nurtured.

Waves of Hope represents the resilience, support, and positivity that move us forward together, no matter what challenges we face.

As we "dive" into this school year PSD is committed to an environment where everyone can grow, thrive, and make "waves" of their own.



2025-2026 Oceans of Potential, Waves of Hope

**We are excited to launch two creative contests for this year's district theme:
"Oceans of Potential, Waves of Hope."**

Logo Design Contest (Grades K-8)

All K-8 students are invited to submit original artwork for the district theme logo.

☆ Categories:

- Grades K-2
- Grades 3-5
- Grades 6-8

📅 Deadline: September 24, 2025 by 4:00pm

✉ Submit to: Brenda Watterson, Educational Support Services Office, bwatterson@pacificasd.org

🏆 Recognition: Winning entries will be displayed at the PSD Booth during this year's Fog Festival. Additionally, winners in each category will be recognized at a Board of Education meeting (October 22, 2025) and featured in district communications.

📝 Essay Contest (Grades 3–8)

Students in grades 3–8 are invited to write an essay reflecting on the theme:
“Oceans of Potential, Waves of Hope.”

☆☆ Essay Guidelines:

- Length:
 - Grades 3–5: 1–2 pages
 - Grades 6–8: 2–3 pages
- Essays should explore:
 - What does “Oceans of Potential, Waves of Hope” mean to you?
 - How does this theme inspire you, your school, or your community?
 - Examples from your own experiences, hopes, or goals.

📅 Deadline: September 24, 2025 by 4:00pm

✉ Submit to: Brenda Watterson, Educational Support Services Office, bwatterson@pacificasd.org

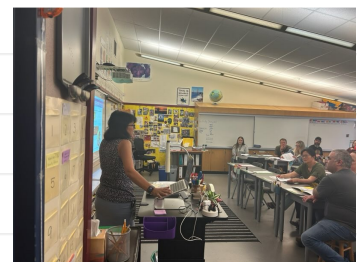
🏆 Recognition: Winners in each category will be recognized at a Board of Education meeting (October 22, 2025) and featured in district communication.

Back to School Night 2025–2026

Celebrating a Successful Back to School Nights!

We are thrilled to share that this year’s Back to School Nights across the Pacifica School District were a wonderful success! Families joined us in large numbers to meet teachers, learn about classroom expectations, and explore the exciting learning opportunities ahead for our students.

Thank you to all the staff, volunteers, and families who made these evenings engaging and informative. Your participation helps ensure every student has a supportive and connected school community.





Pacifica Fog Fest – September 27th & 28th

Fog Fest Volunteer Survey

The Fog Fest is coming up and we need PSD volunteers for our recruitment booth on both Saturday & Sunday, September 27 & 28. If you are interested please complete the Google Form here: [Fog Fest Survey](https://forms.gle/9K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K). The form closes on Wednesday, September 24 at noon. Volunteers will be contacted by Friday, September 26 at noon. Here is the link for the event: <https://pacificcoastfogfest.com/>



Student News

Proud of our Students

Good Luck, Hazel!

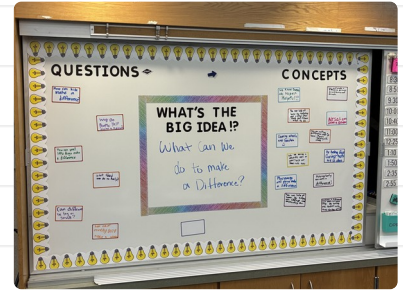
We're incredibly proud of our IBL student, [Hazel Hooper](#), as she prepares to travel to the East Coast to compete in a Stephen Curry Golf Championship Tournament in New Jersey! What an amazing opportunity and accomplishment. [Follow her progress!](#)

Best of luck, Hazel—your Pacifica School District family is cheering you on all the way!



A Strong Start in ELA

PSD recently launched a new, high-quality English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum aimed at strengthening literacy, deepening student engagement, and promoting equity in every classroom. After a month of implementation, we're pleased to share that everything is going well.



State Assessment Results: CAASPP & ELPAC 2024–25

At the September 10th Board Meeting, Dr. Rabin presented the **state assessment results** for the 2024–25 school year. These include the **California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP)**, which measures readiness for college and careers in English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science, as well as the **English Learner Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)**, which evaluates English learners' progress in acquiring English.

CAASPP Highlights

- **ELA Growth in Upper Elementary**
 - 4th grade: 41% → 53% meeting/exceeding standards
 - 5th grade: 49% → 56%
- **Math Growth**
 - 4th grade: 54% → 57%
- **English Learners** were the only group with increased Math performance in 2025 compared to 2024.

District-Level Trends

- Just over half of students met or exceeded standards in **ELA (~53%)** and **Math (~50%)**.
- ELA remained steady; Math declined slightly compared to 2024.
- **School results varied:** Vallemar and Ocean Shore scored above district averages; Sunset Ridge scored below.
- **4th graders** were among the strongest performers in both ELA and Math.
- **Attendance matters:** students with 95%+ attendance performed much better than peers with less than 90%.
- **Achievement gaps persist:** Asian, White, and Multiracial students were about twice as likely to meet standards as African American and Economically Disadvantaged students.

ELPAC Highlights

- **76% of English Learners scored at Levels 3 or 4**, a **9% increase** from 2024.
- Nearly half reached **Level 4**, the highest English proficiency level.
- Stronger performance in **Oral Language** (especially Speaking), with a 5% gain.
- **Written Language improved by 7%**, but remains an area of challenge, especially in Reading.
- Districtwide, scores improved **1% from 2024** and an impressive **25% since 2023**, with major contributions from **Ortega Elementary and Sunset Ridge**.

Areas for Growth

- **Written Language** continues to lag behind Oral Language, mirroring state trends.
- **Achievement gaps** remain a significant challenge.
- **Attendance** is strongly linked to success – emphasizing the importance of consistent student attendance.

Looking Ahead

We celebrate the progress made in 2024–25—especially the **gains in upper elementary ELA and ELPAC proficiency among English Learners**. At the same time, we remain focused on improving writing, closing opportunity gaps, and supporting every student's success.

Together, as a community of educators, staff, and families, we are committed to ensuring that **every student has the opportunity to thrive**.

Read the full report here: [Pacifica 2024-25 Assessment Results](#)

Hispanic Heritage Month and Latiné Heritage Month (September 15–October 15)

From **mid-September to mid-October**, Americans celebrate the heritage, history, traditions, and cultural diversity of Hispanic and Latiné communities whose roots trace to Spain and 19 countries and territories across Latin America and the Caribbean—including México, Central and South America, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic.

The observance begins on **September 15** to coincide with the independence anniversaries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile follow with their independence days on September 16 and 18, respectively. The 30-day celebration also includes **Día de la Raza / Indigenous Peoples Day** in mid-October.

First established in 1968 as a weeklong celebration under President Lyndon Johnson and later expanded to a month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988, Hispanic Heritage Month has been honored annually through presidential proclamations. Each year, the **National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers (NCHEPM)** selects a theme for the national celebration.

This year's theme is:

Herencia Colectiva: Honrando el Pasado, Inspirando el Futuro

(Collective Heritage: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future)

Recognizing Hispanic/Latiné Heritage Month carries **special significance here in California, San Mateo County, and in Pacifica School District**, where Latiné students represent the largest ethnic student group. This observance provides us with a meaningful opportunity to celebrate not only the achievements, but also the cultural, linguistic, and community contributions of the Latiné community—locally and nationally.

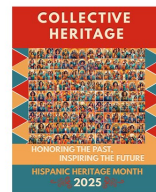
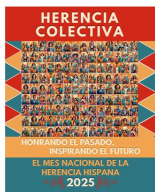
To help bring this celebration to life, here are a few resources with events, teaching tools, and stories you may want to share with our community:

- [KQED Bay Area Events Guide](#)

- [Smithsonian Latino Center Resources](#)
- [Colorín Colorado Book List](#)

2025 Hispanic Heritage Month poster designed by the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers (NCHEPM) (reprinted with permission).

Thank you for helping us **honor, celebrate, and uplift** this important month together!



2025 Hispanic Heritage Month poster designed by the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers (NCHEPM) (reprinted with permission).

Resolution 2025-09-10-C
Approved by Pacifica School District on
September 10, 2025

2025 Hispanic Heritage Month poster designed by the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers (NCHEPM) (reprinted with permission).

Cultural Calendar

October 2025

- LGBTQIA+ History Month
- Bullying Prevention Month
- Islamic Heritage Month
- 1–2 – Yom Kippur
- 1 – International Day of Older Persons
- 5 – World Teachers' Day
- 6–13 – Sukkot
- 6 – World Cerebral Palsy Day
- 8 – National Depression Screening Day
- 9 – National Stop Bullying Day
- 10 – World Mental Health Day
- 11 – National Coming Out Day
- 13 – Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 14–15 – Simchat Torah
- 15 – White Cane Safety Day
- 17 – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- 20 – Diwali
- 23 – Birth of Baha'u'llah
- 25 – International Dwarfism Awareness Day

PE Update

Teachers in grades TK–6 have already received their SparkPE subscriptions, and the equipment has arrived and will be delivered to schools shortly. Get ready for a fantastic year of movement and learning!



The Big Lift

**THE BIG
LIFT**

San Mateo County's [The Big Lift](#) is an initiative aimed at ensuring children are reading proficiently by third grade. It integrates high-quality preschool programs, summer learning opportunities, and family engagement to support early literacy. Emphasizing attendance and school readiness, The Big Lift seeks to close the achievement gap and boost academic performance. Through partnerships with schools, community organizations, and families, the program creates a strong foundation for lifelong learning. We are excited that the Pacifica School District is part of The Big Lift,

bringing valuable resources to our TK-3 students, families, and teachers. [Here is the link to the September Reading Wave Newsletter.](#)

Attendance Update

We are one month into our attendance campaign and over 2100 Pacifica students have perfect attendance from the first day of school through 9/10/25. Thank you, teachers and staff for making our students feel welcome at school!

DID YOU KNOW...

- Missing 10% of the school year — just 1–2 days per month — is considered chronic absenteeism.
- Chronic absenteeism can seriously impact learning:
 - Students who miss this much school are less likely to be reading at grade level by 3rd grade.

- If your child has a doctor or other appointment, bring them to school before or after — they'll still be counted as present for the day.
 - Every day counts — consistent attendance not only supports student success but also helps secure important funding for our district.
 - In the 2023–24 school year, the chronic absence rate for kindergarteners in California was 26%, even higher than the rate for high school students.
 - Source: [*Unpacking California's Chronic Absence Crisis Through 2023–24*](#)
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Health, Wellness, and Safety

School Safety

There has been an increase in coyote sightings in Pacifica during school hours. If a large animal, whether it's a coyote, mountain lion or loose dog, is on one of our school sites, the principal will put the campus on a "Shelter in Place" status. This is one of San Mateo County's Big 5 Protocols. The Shelter in Place protocol happens as a response to environmental hazards such as poor air quality or a coyote. The procedure is to go inside immediately and close doors and windows. Instruction continues if during class time; if during recess, students will have recess inside the building. If you are interested in learning more about San Mateo County's emergency response protocols, please see the attached pdf.

[The Big 5 Community Packet](#)

[Paquete de las cinco grandes acciones](#)

[Be Coyote Aware](#)

[Conozca a los coyotes](#)

Health & Wellness: Discussing Violence

Gun violence remains an upsetting part of life in the United States. It can be challenging to know what to tell children when they ask about shootings or other violent events that they've heard about. As with any potentially troubling topic, it's important to ask your child what they have already heard and to correct any misinformation they may have. Next, ask your child what questions they have and answer those questions to the best of your ability. Often their questions are very different than we, as adults, think they will be. [Healthychildren.org](#) is an information-packed website sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Here is a link to one of their articles and a video on this topic. [How to Talk With Kids About Tragedies & Other Traumatic News Events - HealthyChildren.org](#). Remember, you are not alone. If you or your child is struggling, please reach out to your principal or school counselor and they will help you find the resources that you need.

Public Health Resources

California Department of Public Health Guidance for Common Signs and Symptoms

Unsure what to do when a student is showing signs of illness? Use this useful table from the California Department of Public Health to determine when students should be sent home. Learn more. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/>

After School & Extended Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP)

City of Pacifica Childcare Services

@ Cabrillo, Ocean Shore/Sunset Ridge & Vallemar

The [City of Pacifica Childcare Services](#) offers year-round preschool and school age childcare options providing this friendly, accepting, supportive and safe environment.

Boys & Girls Clubs

@ Cabrillo, Ingrid B Lacy, Ortega, Ocean Shore/Sunset Ridge & Vallemar

[The Boys & Girls Clubs](#) offer a wide array of after-school and summer programs across multiple clubhouses, focusing on academic success, health, life skills, and character development, with a long history of community involvement.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

This year PSD in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club will be offering:
[Sports and Theater Performances](#) in our middle school program.

Happy Hall Schools

@ Ortega & Ocean Shore/Sunset Ridge

[Happy Hall Schools](#) emphasize experiential learning for early childhood and school-aged children, providing a holistic educational approach with various programs and locations.

Media Literacy – For Students and Families

Media literacy, as defined by the National Association for Media Literacy Education, is the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create, and act using all forms of communication.

[Students Tips to Detect Fake News](#) (Educators Technology): Find 10 actionable steps to help you evaluate the veracity and credibility of online content—be it news stories, blog posts, or social media updates.

[Evaluating Websites: Identifying Fake News Sources](#) (Maxwell Library): Learn how you can identify fake news articles.

[A Parent's Guide to Media Literacy](#) (National Association for Media Literacy Education): Learn how to start conversations on media literacy at home.

Food & Nutrition

Menus

Parents can pre-pay for additional meals online at www.ezschoollpay.com
A \$3.00 fee will be applied. Payments are credited to accounts within minutes.

- [Menus and Nutritional Information](#)
- [Allergy Statement and Medical Statement Form](#)
- [EZMealApplication](#)
- [EzSchoolPay Parents Help](#)

- [Food Service Policy](#)
- [2025-2026 Free and Reduced Eligibility](#)
- [AR 3551 Food Service Operations/Cafeteria Fund](#)
- [U.S. Department of Agriculture Civil Rights and Complaints Website](#)

Free and reduced lunch form is so much more!

Please fill out the [free and reduced lunch form](#) online even if you don't think you qualify and even though lunch is free again this year. One of the ways that the Pacifica School District directly receives funds is through families completing the Free & Reduced Application Form. Filling out this application will help our schools receive more funding for learning, discounts on bus passes, internet providers, summer camps and other programs. This can be completed online or on paper. When families complete this form, it helps generate funds directly for our schools, and it may also qualify your children to participate in free after school programs, or help families qualify for discounted rates for utilities at home. This information is reported to the state of California on October 1st, so please complete the form asap. Thank you for helping Pacifica receive the funding it needs to support our students!

Leadership Changes in Pacifica School District

Pacifica School District is pleased to announce new leadership and staff in new roles. These adjustments continue to reflect our ongoing commitment to strong communication, transparency, and growing together as a community.

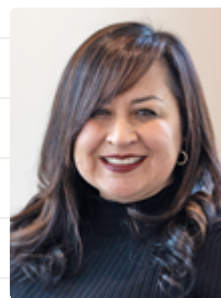
- **Ms. Rachel Romo** will join the District Office as the Interim Director of Human Resources. Rachel brings 14 years of experience as a teacher, principal, and district administrator. Her career reflects a strong commitment to supporting staff, advancing equity, and creating systems that help both educators and students succeed.

Before leading HR, Rachel served as Principal at Cabrillo and Ortega Elementary, where she oversaw staff hiring, evaluations, and professional growth. She placed a strong focus on recruiting and developing talented, student-focused teachers, strengthening school culture, and ensuring compliance with district policies. As



Interim HR Director, she is dedicated to strengthening employee recruitment and support systems, expanding professional learning opportunities, and fostering a positive, collaborative district culture.

- **Dr. Carla Chávez Torres** will transition to the role of Interim Director of Educational Support Services. Dr. Chávez Torres brings more than 25 years of experience in K–12 public education, serving as a teacher, principal, cabinet-level administrator, and human resources executive.



Throughout her career, Dr. Chávez Torres has launched dual-language programs, MTSS frameworks, and school culture initiatives as a principal, and is widely recognized for her collaborative approach, her ability to build trust, and her unwavering focus on equity, inclusion, and staff and student success.

As Interim Executive Director of Educational Support Services, Dr. Chávez Torres looks forward to working closely with district leadership, staff, and community partners to strengthen services, expand access, and ensure that every student and educator has the resources and support they need to thrive.

- **Dr. Bindy Grewal** will be leaving the District on September 12, 2025. We wish her the best and hope she visits often. We are extremely thankful for her leadership and assistance during her time here in PSD. We would like to thank SMCOE for their support with this position.

Cabrillo Leadership Update

We are excited to announce that Robin Pang-Maganaris will be Cabrillo's Interim Principal and Jeanne Bellinger will be the Interim Assistant Principal.

Robin lives in Belmont with her husband of 35 years, Gary, and their labrador, Gracie. She holds a B.S. in Psychology from Santa Clara University, a M.A. in Elementary Education from San Jose State, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Cal State East Bay. She is a National Board Certified Teacher in Elementary Education. She spent 16 years teaching (5 years in 4th grade and 11 years in kindergarten/1st grade) and 14 years as a principal (9 of those years at a TK-8 school) before retiring in 2022. Since retirement, she's served in two interim principal roles, and Cabrillo is her third.

District Office Relocation Update

On Friday, September 12, eleven District Office members met to discuss the relocation of the district office from 375 Reina del Mar to 411 Oceana Blvd. There were members from different departments including Students Services, Special Education, Finance, Educational Services, Technology & Human Resources. The team identified the values that are currently at the District Office and developed a plan to ensure they continue at 411 Oceana while brainstorming wishes for

the new space. The group developed a detailed timeline of the relocation and assigned departments to tasks.

IT Department Update

New Mac Mini Lab and 3D Printer Installed at IBL

The IT Department is proud to announce that 16 new 2024 Mac Mini devices have been installed in the Career and Technical Education lab located in the IBL library.



These devices are designed to give students hands-on experience with professional applications such as Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, InDesign, GarageBand, and more, helping prepare them for high school, postsecondary education, and careers in various fields. We also have the capability to add additional advanced applications, such as Visual Studio, IntelliJ, or Eclipse, to support further coding and computer science opportunities.

In addition, a 3D printer has been installed in the lab to enhance learning and provide opportunities for creativity, with teacher approval.

Students can log in to any of the Mac Minis using their PSD email and password. A local account is automatically created for each student, allowing them to save their files and data securely without other students having access.

We're excited to introduce these resources to IBL, with Cabrillo set to receive them later this year. We look forward to seeing the creative and innovative ways students and teachers will put them to use.

Helping Families Stay Connected

To better assist parents and visitors at our school sites and the District Office, we have installed two kiosk-mode devices at each location.

These kiosks allow visitors to access web applications or check their accounts if they do not have a personal device available.

To save money and make the best use of our existing resources, we repurposed desktop computers that could not run Windows 11. By installing Chrome Flex, we transformed them into secure, reliable Chrome devices designed specifically for visitor use.

We hope this new resource makes it easier for families and visitors to stay connected and access important information when needed.

Business Department

The 2024/25 Unaudited Actuals Financial Report was presented to the board at the September 10, 2025 board meeting. The General Fund ending balances was \$478,000 lower than expected back in June; however, Pacifica School District maintains a 4.143% reserve balance in the General Fund as of 6/30/2025. The next budget report will be presented to the board in December.

Bond Update

We're excited to share progress on several key projects that are helping to enhance our schools' learning environments and outdoor spaces:

- **Cabrillo School Courtyard Renovations:** The outdoor improvement project at Cabrillo is currently underway. The two interior courtyards are on track for completion by **October 15th**.
 - **Ingrid B. Lacy Portable Replacement:** Construction to replace a portable classroom at Ingrid B. Lacy began on **September 2nd**. The new portable classroom is scheduled to be delivered on **October 11th**, with full project completion anticipated by the **end of October**.
 - **Additional Projects in Progress Across the District:**
 - District-wide **exterior painting**
 - **Linda Mar Educational Center** roof replacement
 - **Ortega School** upper-grade play yard asphalt improvements
 - **Vallemar School** D-wing yard asphalt improvements
 - **Ortega School** sports field and outdoor improvements (DSA closeout)
 - **Ocean Shore School** D-wing addition (DSA closeout)
 - **Sunset Ridge-Ocean Shore** library step guardrail modifications and window shade installations
 - **Sunset Ridge-Ocean Shore** permanent school signage
 - **Sunset Ridge-Ocean Shore** prefab building canopy factory inspections
 - **Vallemar School** D-wing and E-wing intercom repairs
 - **Vallemar** art room floor replacement
 - **Ortega School** play structure repairs
 - **Pacifica School District Workforce Housing:** This important project is currently in the **contract awarding phase** and continues to move forward.
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Pacifica School Volunteers

Pacifica School Volunteers is a non profit organization whose mission is to: inspire a love of learning to advance students' academic achievement and to promote students' well being. Towards these ends, we recruit, train and place adult and high school volunteers in literacy, math and other programs in the schools. [Pacifica School Volunteers](#)



Pacifica Education Foundation



We at the Pacifica Education Foundation (PEF) are excited to welcome our new and returning families in the Pacifica School District back to school! PEF is a membership-based nonprofit run by volunteers that supports music, art and science programming across the district. The 2025 - 26 programs that are either partially or fully funded by PEF include the TK through 5th grade music program at our elementary schools, the middle school band

program at Cabrillo and IBL, performance poetry workshops throughout the year for all fifth graders, and a new hands-on science program for all 6th graders across the district in which trained scientists visit the classroom and work with students on hands-on STEM demonstrations. To learn more about PEF, please visit www.pacificaef.org.

San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE)

Teacher Residency Information Sessions (TK-12 Parents, Community Members) *New!*

September 3, 17, or October 1, 4:30 p.m.

Join us virtually for an info session to learn about our one-year paid Master's and Teacher Residency program through Alder Graduate School of Education. Residents earn their teaching credential and Master's in just one year, while getting hands-on experience with students in a school, working closely with a mentor teacher, and learning alongside other residents through seminars. [Learn more](#). Use the [Teacher Residency Program Promotional Toolkit](#) to help spread the word.

International Walk to School Day (TK-12 Students, Families, School Staff) *New!*

Register by September 12 | October 8, 2025

International Walk to School Day is a global event that encourages students, families, and communities to celebrate walking and biking to school while promoting safer, healthier routes. It raises awareness about the importance of physical activity, pedestrian safety, and reducing traffic congestion around schools. Join in the fun this year! [Learn more](#).

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act Training (TK-12 McKinney-Vento Liaisons, Front Desk School Staff, Administrators) *New!*

September 16, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; October 27, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Learn about McKinney-Vento, the federal law that ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness. Become better informed about student rights, liaison responsibilities, registration, and transportation. [Learn more.](#)

Arts Education Conference (TK-12 Educators, Administrators, Teaching Artists)

Register by September 22 | October 1, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Join educators, leaders, and teaching artists from across the county for a full day of learning, inspiration, and collaboration. This conference will uplift, energize, and equip you with arts-integrated strategies to bring back to your classroom and community. [Learn more.](#)

Getting Reading Right: Filling in the Gaps in the Secondary Classroom (6-12 Teachers, Instructional Coaches, Teachers on Special Assignments, Administrators) *New!*

Select Tuesdays Beginning October 7, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Build secondary educator knowledge on the research behind addressing reading deficiencies in older students. Each session, focus on a specific reading skill as it pertains to secondary students. Leave each session with a toolkit of vetted resources to address specific reading issues in older learners and put new educator learning into practice. [Learn more.](#)

Ongoing Services and Resources

Seeds to Solutions™ (K-12 Educators)

Seeds to Solutions™ is a set of free instructional resources on environmental challenges and solutions for grades K–12. Students engage in sense-making as they work together to investigate real-world environmental issues. Teachers can use these supplemental resources to meet standards and integrate them into existing curriculum. [Learn more.](#)

Back to School with Safe Routes to School

Start the school year off right with Safe Routes to School's Back to School Toolkit! This online guide is packed with ready-to-use resources, tips, and templates to help schools encourage safe walking, biking, and rolling from day one. Let's make safety a top priority this year. [Explore the toolkit.](#)

E-Bike Toolkit for Schools

With e-bikes growing in popularity among students, schools need clear strategies to promote safe, responsible riding. Safe Routes to School's new [Online E-Bike Toolkit](#) includes guidance on laws, education, and safety tips, plus materials schools can share directly with parents and students. [Access the toolkit.](#)

Youth Unlimited (K-12 Students)

SamTrans provides free bus travel for eligible students. [Learn more.](#)

Anne Campbell Child Development Center (Families with Preschool-Aged Children)

The County Office of Education is currently accepting new registrations for its new preschool program, the Anne Campbell Child Development Center. The program serves children aged two years and nine months to five years old from all families. [Learn more.](#) ([Access a marketing toolkit. Translated materials will be included.](#))

Additional Non-SMCOE Events, Programs, and Resources

Roots and Wings: Celebrating Asian American Youth with the Power of Community (Students aged 14-21, Parents/Guardians, Educators)

September 6, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Join us for a dynamic, multifaceted event bringing students, parents, and educators together to celebrate and empower Asian American youth. "Roots and Wings: Celebrating Asian American Youth with the Power of Community" offers a unique opportunity for dynamic and meaningful conversations and community-building, with music, entertainment, and delicious Asian treats.

[Access a media kit.](#)

Coastal Clean Up Day (TK-12 Schools, Students, Community Members)

September 20, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

It's time for the 41st annual Coastal Cleanup! Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or new to the cleanup event, this is your chance to protect San Mateo County's environment, neighborhoods, and wildlife by reducing litter. [Learn more](#). [Schools can sign up](#) to receive gloves, trash and recycling bags, and data collection cards. [Access a promotional toolkit](#).

Community News

E-Bike Safety

Redwood City, CA — The San Mateo County Office of Education has announced a new e-bike toolkit for schools. The County Office will also host an e-bike safety webinar on Wednesday, September 3, at 5:30 p.m.



With e-bikes growing in popularity among students, schools need clear strategies to promote safe, responsible riding. The new [Online E-Bike Toolkit](#) includes guidance on laws, educational materials for families, and safety tips for students. It also features materials that schools can share directly with parents and students. These include a slide deck for presentations and information on California e-bike laws and the three e-bike classifications. Resources are available in both English and Spanish.

The webinar will be hosted in partnership with [The Parent Venture](#) and [E-Bike Sense](#). Sponsored by the [California Office of Traffic Safety](#), this event is designed for both parents and students to learn about e-bike laws, safety tips, and responsible riding. In this interactive workshop, [Megan Lamb](#), founder, and Stephen McCall from [E-Bike Sense](#) will help parents, caregivers, and educators "make sense" of e-bikes to ensure the safety of youth in our communities. This is a free event, open to all parents/caregivers, students, educators, and community members are welcome. Simultaneous Spanish interpretation will be available. Anyone who is interested may register [here](#).

"Nothing is more important than the safety of our kids," said San Mateo County Superintendent Nancy Magee. "I hope that educators, families, and community members will take advantage of these valuable e-bike safety resources."

Links

[Print Version](#)

[Online Version](#)

Pacifica Resource Center

PRC is available to assist our community with groceries, emergency financial assistance for rent and mortgage, homeless services, and other critical services. [Neighbors Helping Neighbors](#)

Sanchez Art Center

The [Pacifica Center for the Arts](#) is a multi-use complex made up of visual and performing arts organizations as well as individual artist studios.

City of Pacifica PLAY Activity Guide

The City of Pacifica Parks, Beaches, and Recreation has an activity to offer for almost any interest and skill level. Hone your skateboarding, Pilates, or dancing skills. Embark on exciting adventures with us by joining Summer Adventure Camp or learn how to surf the waves at Linda Mar Beach with one of our Surf Camps. Have fun while you improve your talents with a favorite hobby or join a league for friendly competitive play. If the kids need swimming lessons, or the teenagers a safe and exciting way to socialize, then don't worry, we have something for everyone in your family!

[PLAY](#)

Tenants Protections and Rights

AB 1482, also known as the Tenant Protection Act, caps the amount that rent can be increased each year in many residential units. the rent in **covered rental units** can be increased by no more than 5%, plus the change in CPI (as calculated from April 1 of the prior year to April 1 of current year) or 10%, whichever is lower, during any 12-month period. This does not apply to all housing, see below for excluded housing. [Know Your Rights](#)

Pacifica Beach Coalition

Pacific Beach Coalition (PBC) is led by our President and a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of corporate and community leaders who donate their time and talent to running PBC's current education and field programs in the most impactful and rewarding way.

The [Pacific Beach Coalition](#) is dedicated to preserving the ocean, coastal habitat, and wildlife and ending litter through advocacy, education, community building, and citizen action.



Youth Unlimited (K-12 Students)

Youth Unlimited

SamTrans provides free bus travel for Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (SED) students. School districts and individual schools distribute free passes to eligible students. Contact your school if you are eligible to receive a pass.

The SamTrans Youth Unlimited Pass is valid from August 1st of the current school year to August 31st of the next school year. [Learn more](#).

San Mateo County Health Vaccine Guidance

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) provides guidance on when to get COVID-19 vaccines and boosters in their Vaccine Timing Guide (English | Spanish).

<https://www.smchealth.org/vaccines>

San Mateo County Health COVID-19 and Other Health Information

San Mateo County Health COVID-19 and Other Health Information

SMC Mobile Clinic Schedule

In Response To Your Feedback

Content & Topics

We have recently updated the newsletter content to include detailed information on student performance, specifically focusing on the latest results from the CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress) and ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessments for California). These updates aim to provide families with a clearer picture of academic progress and areas of growth across our schools.

Design & Accessibility

Our team is actively working on enhancing the overall design and readability of the newsletter. In particular, we are focusing on optimizing the layout and text formatting to ensure the newsletter is more user-friendly, especially when viewed on mobile devices. These updates are intended to improve accessibility and ensure a more seamless reading experience for all members of our community.

Community Connection

We sincerely appreciate the thoughtful feedback, questions, and comments we continue to receive from our community. Your engagement helps guide our efforts to provide timely, transparent, and meaningful updates. We remain committed to maintaining strong lines of communication and keeping you well-informed about important developments, initiatives, and opportunities throughout the school year.

Pacifica Press – PSD Community Newsletter

[Google Form Sept. 12th, 2025](#)



Smore Templates

Smore is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters