

Pacifica Press

PSD Family & Community Newsletter December 19, 2025

Message from Dr. Carisa J. Bowman, Interim Superintendent

Dear Pacifica School District Community,

As we begin a new year, January offers us a meaningful moment to pause, reflect, and celebrate the many positive things happening across the Pacifica School District. This year, we are guided by a shared theme **Waves of Hope, Oceans of Potential**, a reminder that even small actions, when carried out with care and intention, can create powerful momentum for our students, schools, and community.



Every day, I witness waves of hope in action. I see it in classrooms where students are engaged in hands-on learning, collaborating with peers, and taking pride in their growth. I see it in our teachers and staff, who consistently go above and beyond designing innovative lessons, supporting social-emotional learning, and building strong relationships with students and families. From literacy and math instruction strengthening foundational skills, to arts, science, and enrichment opportunities sparking curiosity and creativity, our schools are alive with possibility.

Moving into 2026, a special focus for PSD this year is community building, across school communities, including Ocean Shore School and Sunset Ridge. Sharing a campus gives us a unique opportunity to strengthen connections, deepen understanding, and create a unified sense of belonging. By approaching this work with empathy, collaboration, and open communication, we can

ensure our shared spaces reflect respect, care, and partnership for students, staff, and families across both programs.

To support this important work, we are looking forward to several upcoming community-building opportunities, including:

- Community evenings designed to bring families, staff, and partners together for connection, listening, and dialogue
- Collaborative planning efforts that include staff, labor partners, parents, and community organizations
- Professional learning days focused on shared practices, relationship building, and supporting the whole child

These opportunities are designed to create space for listening, learning, and working together because strong communities are built through shared experiences and collective care.

I am deeply grateful for the partnerships that continue to strengthen our schools, including our labor partners, parent organizations, and community groups. Your collaboration helps ensure our decisions are thoughtful, inclusive, and centered on students.

As we move forward into the new year, I remain hopeful. The ocean of potential within the Pacifica School District is vast, and it is realized every day through the dedication of our staff, the resilience of our students, and the support of our families and broader community. Together, we are creating waves that matter.

Thank you for all that you do to make the Pacifica School District a place where students thrive and where connection, hope, and possibility are present in every school.

With appreciation,

Dr. Carisa J. Bowman
Interim Superintendent
Pacifica School District
411 Oceana Blvd
Pacifica, CA 94044
cbowman@pacificasd.org
(650) 738-6625

"Real and lasting change is achieved incrementally." Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Table Top Meeting With the Superintendent

PACIFICA COMMUNITY CENTER



Let's Discuss Your Concerns



Wednesday

February 4, 2026

6pm - 7pm

Dr. Carisa J. Bowman, Superintendent
Martha Ladd, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Carla Chavez Torres, Director of Education
Support Services
Dr. Stacy Stauffer, Interim Director of Finance
Rachel Romo, Human Resources





**PHOTOS - Movie nights, field trips, social emotional learning,
and gardening**

✨Spotlight on Staff✨

Ocean Shore/Sunset Ridge Teachers

Our 3rd-grade teaching team has been implementing an innovative instructional structure that they call Friday Rotations. The teachers design the rotations to maximize engagement and provide truly hands-on, multidisciplinary learning experiences for all students.

These weekly sessions have students rotate through four curricular areas: Science, Social Studies, STEAM, and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL). The rotations move beyond traditional worksheets and foster deeper exploration through activities. The kids love spending time with different teachers and doing the unique activities that are presented. We are incredibly proud of our 3rd-grade teachers for adopting this flexible, growth-minded model that



directly supports deeper learning, creative problem-solving, and the holistic development of every student. It has also supported the 3rd grade community coming together.



We are also celebrating two exceptional educators: Isa Elmore (Sunset Ridge) and Niki Sims (Ocean Shore). Their classrooms were visited during our recent multilingual learner site visit, and both teachers were recognized for creating warm, welcoming spaces where every child feels seen, supported, and excited to learn.

In Isa's classroom, observers noted her remarkable calm, kindness, and curiosity when supporting students through moments of frustration or conflict—modeling empathy in real time for the whole class. In both her literacy and content lessons, Isa encouraged students to speak in complete sentences and share their thinking confidently.

Niki was celebrated for the way she invited students to connect new learning to their own lives and languages—such as comparing English and Spanish vocabulary or describing weather in different places. Her classroom was filled with rich student discussion, turn-and-talks, and joyful participation.

Both Isa and Niki were also quick to try out new strategies from recent professional learning, skillfully weaving in vocabulary routines, equitable talk structures, and supports for multilingual learners. Their classrooms beautifully demonstrate what it looks like when strong relationships, purposeful instruction, and student voice come together.

♥ Thank you all, for the care, expertise, and joy you bring to PSD students every day.



PGA Jr. League National Championship

The PGA Jr. League National Championship is the top team golf event in the U.S. for players ages 13 and under and took place in November at PGA Fields Ranch in Frisco, Texas.



Only 12 teams nationwide qualified through regional tournaments, making it a highly competitive national showcase that was aired on ESPN.

Hazel Hooper competed as part of Team California, representing the Western Region, with her dad, Brian Hooper, serving as the assistant coach.

Team California won the 2025 National Championship, defeating Team Ohio 5.5–2.5, highlighted by a dramatic eagle chip-in to secure the victory.

The tournament brought together 144 of the nation's top junior golfers, showcasing leadership, resilience, and high-level youth athletic achievement.

We are so proud of the things Hazel is doing both on and off campus. She is a very strong and driven student with such a great positive attitude.



Board of Education Meeting

2025-2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATES:

2026: January 21, 2026 | February 11, 2026 | March 11, 2026 | April 29, 2026 | May 20, 2026 | June 10, 2026 | June 24, 2026

Highlights of the December 16th 2025 Annual Organizational Board Meeting

Presentations:

- Ocean Shore School PTO presented their annual financial report to the board
- Dr. Stauffer presented information about PTO guidelines for supporting district goals

Highlighted Board Actions:

Board Reorganization:

The board elected its Officers for 2026 as follows:

President: Lynda Brocchini

Vice President: Laverne Villalobos

Clerk: Bridget Hardt

and appointed Dr. Bowman Secretary to the Board.

As part of its annual reorganization, the board also adopted and approved:

- Resolution 2025-12-16-A Delegation of Authority
- Approval of Resolution 2026-12-16-B re Authorized Signature
- The 2026-2027 SY Regular Board Meeting Calendar
- Board of Trustees Committee Assignments for 2025-2026 SY

The board approved the following:

- Certification of First Interim Report for 2025-2026
- Approval of Superintendent Search Timeline and Leadership Profile Injury and
- An employment agreement for Interim Director of Finance, Dr. Stacy Stauffer
- An employment agreement of Interim Executive Director of Educational Support Services, Dr. Carla Chávez Torres
- The hiring of Jason Koenigsberg as Principal of Ortega Elementary School
- CSEA and LSEA Seniority Lists
- Changes to 2025-2026 Regular Board Meeting Schedule (removing the April 1st meeting and adding a meeting on June 24th.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 21, 2026

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](#)



**Lynda Brocchini,
President**



**Kai Doggett, Board
Member**



**Elizabeth Bredall, Board
Member**



**Laverne Villalobos, Vice
President**



Bridget Hardt, Clerk

Play Ground Structure Update

Playground Safety Update

Pacifica School District is committed to providing safe and well-maintained play spaces for all students. As part of our regular facilities review process, recent inspections identified playground areas at several schools that require attention to ensure they continue to meet current safety standards.



During this school year's Facilities Inspection Tool (FIT) review and follow-up PlaySafe Inspections, it was determined that portions of the protective playground surfacing (underlay) at some sites had hardened over time and no longer provide adequate impact protection. As a result, certain play areas have been temporarily closed to prioritize student safety.

Schools affected include:

- Ortega Elementary School

Inspections identified surfacing concerns in playground areas, including equipment originally approved for older students. Portions of the playground have been closed, and plans include replacing one 5–12-year-old structure with a 3–7-year-old age-appropriate structure, along with new underlay. Here is the [Playground Surface Test Report for Ortega](#).

- Sunset Ridge / Ocean Shore Schools

Playground areas were closed following inspection findings that the surfacing beneath play structures no longer met safety standards and requires replacement. Here is the [Playground Surface Test Report for Sunset Ridge/ Ocean Shore](#).

- Vallemar Elementary School

Inspection results showed damaged and hardened surfacing under play structures. These areas have been closed pending replacement. Here is the [Playground Surface Test Report for Vallemar](#).

Safety & Replacement Plan

The Board of Trustees has approved the Director of Finance, Facilities and Maintenance and the Bond Manager to develop a comprehensive plan to replace the unsafe playground underlay and the

associated play structures at Ortega, Sunset Ridge/Ocean Shore, and Vallemar Elementary Schools. Here is the November Board Meeting [Playground Update](#).

Timeline Update

We understand families are eager to know when this work will be completed. As shared at the most recent Board meeting, a specific timeline was not yet available. Once the full plan has been finalized and includes a definite timeline, the District will immediately update the community. We appreciate the patience and understanding of our families as we take these necessary steps to ensure playground safety.

Oceanlight Charter Petition Update

While the Oceanlight charter petition was not granted by the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE), Pacifica School District views this moment as an opportunity to move forward together as a community. We appreciate the thoughtful review process led by SMCOE and the input shared by families, educators, and community members throughout. We know parents care deeply about having strong, responsive educational options for their children, and we share that commitment. Our focus now is on listening, learning, and working collaboratively with families, staff, and community partners to strengthen our neighborhood schools and ensure every student feels supported, inspired, and able to thrive. Together, through trust and shared responsibility, we can continue building schools that reflect the values and hopes of our Pacifica community.

The Great Kindness Challenge Week: January 26–30, 2026

The California Department of Education, in partnership with the Great Kindness Challenge (GKC), encourages California school communities to participate in the GKC Week, January 26-30, 2026. Schools that register and participate will be recognized as a Kindness Certified School and receive a certificate to proudly display on campus.



Great Kindness Challenge 2026.pdf

Download
149.9 KB

NEW PSD WEBSITE



Our New District Website Is Live!

We are excited to announce that our **new district website is now active**, giving parents, staff, and our community easier access to the resources and information they need. The updated design is fully compatible with all types of devices, desktops, tablets, and cell phones, making it simple and convenient to navigate on the go.

We are continuing to update content across the site to ensure the best possible user experience. Our goal is to provide a modern, accessible, and user-friendly platform that supports the needs of our parents, community, and staff.

Website Links

Here are the URLs for all school sites and the district website:

- **District:** www.pacificasd.org
- **Valleamar:** val.pacificasd.org
- **Ingrid B. Lacy:** ibl.pacificasd.org
- **Cabrillo:** cab.pacificasd.org
- **Ocean Shore:** oss.pacificasd.org
- **Sunset Ridge:** sr.pacificasd.org
- **Ortega:** or.pacificasd.org

Partnerships

Pacifica School District & Pacifica Collaborative: Working Together for Our Community

Pacifica School District is proud to partner with the Pacifica Collaborative, a community partnership that brings together social service agencies, city staff, and school district personnel with a shared goal: better supporting the people we serve. The Collaborative meets once a month at the District Office to share ideas, coordinate efforts, and identify ways to best meet the needs of students, families, and community members.

The Pacifica Collaborative includes organizations such as the Pacifica Resource Center, Pacifica Library, HIP Housing, and the Pacific Beach Coalition, among others. Through this ongoing collaboration, the Pacific School District and its community partners are strengthening connections, reducing barriers, and building a more supportive network for our entire community.

District Office Department Updates

Education Support Services News

Meet the Educational Support Services Team

The Educational Support Services (ESS) Department supports teaching, learning, and student success across Pacifica School District. While our team works closely together, each member brings a unique role and expertise to support our schools, staff, students, and families.

- Dr. Carla Chávez Torres, *Interim Executive Director of Educational Support Services*
Dr. Torres oversees the ESS Department and all of its work. She supports professional development for leaders, teachers, and staff related to curriculum and instruction, oversees the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) cycle, and supports family engagement through the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC).
- Sean Manning, *Coordinator of the Pacifica Project Pipeline*
Sean coordinates all aspects of the Pacifica Project Pipeline Grant, supporting career exploration, pathways, and future-focused opportunities for students.
- Kate Snyder, *Teacher on Special Assignment – The Big Lift*
Kate coordinates all programmatic areas of The Big Lift Grant, supporting early literacy initiatives, professional learning, and partnerships that strengthen student outcomes.
- Angie Acuña, *Administrative Secretary, Educational Support Services*
Angie provides administrative support across all areas of the ESS Department, helping ensure smooth communication, organization, and day-to-day operations.
- Brenda Watterson, *Grant Clerk*
Brenda supports all grants awarded to the ESS Department, assisting with grant documentation, reporting, and compliance to ensure funds are used effectively to support student learning.

If you need to communicate with the Educational Support Services Team or have questions about our work, please contact us at ess.department@pacificasd.org . We look forward to partnering with you in support of our students and schools.

Multilingual Family Corner News

Multilingual Family Virtual Meeting – Save the Date

Multilingual families are warmly invited to attend a Virtual Multilingual Family Meeting on Monday, January 26, 2026, from 6:00–7:30 p.m. This meeting will focus on how families can support student success on the Summative ELPAC assessment and will also include information about the Pacifica Project Pipeline, highlighting future college and career opportunities available to students. Interpretation support will be available.

Pacifica School District is proud to celebrate and support our multilingual students and families throughout the school year.

Upcoming Summative ELPAC Testing Window

The Summative English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) testing window for English Learners will take place from February 2, 2026 through May 29, 2026. School principals will work closely with their staff to coordinate and administer the assessment at each school site. This annual assessment helps the district understand students' progress in learning English and informs instruction and reclassification decisions.

Families can support their children by exploring ELPAC practice tests at home. Practice tests are available online—families can access them by using the link provided, clicking the “Guest” button, and selecting the student’s grade level. Practicing together can help students feel more confident and prepared.

- [ELPAC Practice and Training Test Site](#)
 - [Click Continue as Guest](#)
 - [Click Guest Session](#)
 - [Select Your Child’s Grade Level](#)
 - [Click English Language Proficiency Assessments \(ELPAC\) Practice Test](#)

Language Support for Families: Language Link

Pacifica School District is committed to clear and meaningful communication with all families. Language Link interpretation services are available to support multilingual families during meetings with district teachers and staff, including:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings
- Student Study Team (SST) meetings
- 504 meetings

Language Link provides professional interpreters in over 240 languages, offering native-level language skills and high-quality vocabulary to ensure families can fully participate in conversations about their child’s education. Interpretation is available by phone and helps ensure equitable access, understanding, and partnership between families and schools.

Celebrating Reclassification Success 🎉

This year, we are excited to share that over 50 multilingual students will be reclassified as Fluent English Proficient. These students and their families will be invited to a Districtwide Reclassification Ceremony on Wednesday, January 14, where students will be honored with certificates and medals and recognized for their hard work and perseverance. Reclassification marks an important milestone—students have demonstrated proficiency in English as an additional language, opening doors to expanded academic opportunities and future success.



Investing in Excellence: Professional Learning Across Pacifica School District

Pacifica School District continues to make strong investments in high-quality professional development to support excellent teaching, strong school leadership, and positive learning environments for all students.

Throughout the year, teachers, administrators, and staff across roles have participated in districtwide and targeted professional learning focused on curriculum implementation, student support, leadership capacity, and innovation. During our Districtwide Professional Development Day, staff engaged in collaborative learning aligned to their roles, including literacy instruction (Open Court and Amplify ELA), professional learning communities by content area, workplace safety training, and leadership learning around the thoughtful use of artificial intelligence to improve efficiency and school systems.

Our school and district leaders have also taken part in extended leadership learning focused on budgeting, instructional priorities, assessment, and alignment with the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). These sessions support site leaders in strengthening systems, aligning resources to student needs, and ensuring instructional coherence across schools.

Educators are continuing to deepen instructional practice and innovation through ongoing initiatives. This includes curriculum-specific training to support effective implementation of Amplify ELA, with an emphasis on lesson design, differentiation, assessment, and the use of data to guide instruction. In addition, our Project-Based Learning (PBL) team is collaborating with PBLWorks to expand authentic, real-world learning experiences for students across grade levels.

Upcoming K–5 Open Court ELA Professional Development

As we continue our first year of implementing Open Court Reading, we want to recognize and thank our K–5 teachers for their dedication and professionalism during this district wide curriculum transition. We are grateful for the time teachers took to complete the Pre-Professional Development Feedback Survey and for the thoughtful input shared.

Last year's Open Court adoption included a cross-site teacher committee, classroom pilots, and a unanimous recommendation to adopt the program based on its strong research foundation and alignment with the Science of Reading. Teacher voice and classroom experience were central to this decision.

We look forward to continuing this work through upcoming site-based professional development sessions, led by each site's Literacy Liaisons and designed to support consistent, effective instruction across all grades. Please save the following dates:

- Ortega School: Monday, January 26
- Vallemar School: Thursday, January 29
- Cabrillo School: Friday, January 30
- Ocean Shore / Sunset Ridge Schools: Tuesday, February 3

Teachers will continue to have access to a robust collection of Open Court instructional resources, including pacing guides, model lessons, assessment tools, Home Connection Letters, and ELD Kit training materials.

Together, these professional learning efforts reflect Pacifica School District’s commitment to continuous improvement, strong instructional support, and ensuring educators have the tools, collaboration, and coaching needed to best serve students and families.

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🌱 Early Learning Spotlight: SEEDS of Learning in Transitional Kindergarten

Pacifica School District is committed to building strong foundations for our youngest learners. As part of this commitment, Transitional Kindergarten (TK) teachers participate in monthly professional development through SEEDS of Learning (Strategies for Early Education & Developmental Success).

SEEDS of Learning is a comprehensive, evidence-based professional learning framework designed specifically for TK and preschool educators. This ongoing professional development focuses on strengthening:

- Oral language development
- Early literacy skills, including phonics and print concepts
- Social-emotional learning and self-regulation, key skills for kindergarten readiness

Through hands-on training, instructional coaching, and professional learning communities, SEEDS of Learning is grounded in the science of reading and supports educators in creating literacy-rich, inclusive classroom environments. This approach empowers teachers to meet the developmental needs of young learners and has been shown to lead to significant improvements in early literacy skills and overall school readiness.

By investing in high-quality, ongoing professional learning for TK teachers, Pacifica School District is ensuring that students begin their educational journey with the skills, confidence, and support they need to thrive.

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History–Social Science Curriculum Adoption Underway

Pacifica School District is currently engaged in a History–Social Science (HSS) curriculum adoption process during the 2025–26 school year. This important work will result in the selection of an updated, standards-aligned History–Social Science curriculum for implementation in the 2026–27 school year.

The adoption process is grounded in the California History–Social Science Standards and Framework, with a strong focus on inquiry-based instruction, multiple perspectives, literacy development, and civic engagement. As part of this work, the district is carefully reviewing instructional materials to ensure they reflect current standards, legislative updates, and the diverse histories and experiences of our students and community .

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the History–Social Science Adoption Committee, made up of dedicated teachers and administrators from across the district. Committee members are contributing their expertise and classroom perspectives through curriculum review, pilot implementation, and collaborative discussion, with the goal of identifying high-quality instructional materials that best serve Pacifica students.

The committee will conduct classroom pilots and analysis throughout the spring, with a final recommendation expected to be presented to the Board of Trustees in May 2026. We are grateful for the time, care, and professionalism of the committee members as they guide this thoughtful and inclusive adoption process.

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Parent Advisory Committee (PAC): First Meeting Highlights & What's Next

The Pacifica School District recently held its first Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting, bringing together parents and caregivers from across the district to begin meaningful consultation around the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). We are grateful to the families who joined us and helped launch this important advisory group focused on elevating family voice in district decision-making

We are still seeking parent and caregiver representatives from Sunset Ridge School and encourage interested families to get involved. PAC membership is a wonderful opportunity to help shape district priorities related to student achievement, school climate, and family engagement. Materials from our first meeting—including the PAC presentation and LCAP overview—are shared below with the community so families can review and prepare for upcoming engagement opportunities.

- [PAC Meeting #1 Slides](#)
- [LCAP Overview: Calendar, Survey Timeline, Meetings, and Communications](#)

Upcoming PAC Meeting & Officer Elections

Our next regular PAC meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. ([virtual via ZOOM](#)). At this meeting, we will hold elections for PAC officers:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary

Families are encouraged to nominate themselves or others for one of these leadership roles. PAC officers support the work of the committee and help guide meetings, communication, and collaboration with the district.

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Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Survey

LCAP Review & Community Input

The most recent LCAP, adopted by the Board of Trustees on August 20, 2025, is shared below for community review. This document—along with new data from the LCAP survey—will help inform family input during the January LCAP engagement sessions.

- [2025–26 PSD LCAP Board Approved 8/20/25](#)

LCAP Survey Update & About Panorama Education

As part of our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) development, Pacifica School District invites families to share their perspectives through the **LCAP family survey**. During our recent

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting, thoughtful questions were raised about the survey, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide additional clarity.

Skipping Questions

Families should know that all survey questions are optional. Respondents may skip any question they choose—none of the questions are required.

Survey Development Process

The Family–School Relationships Survey was developed by Dr. Hunter Gehlbach (Panorama research advisor) in collaboration with Dr. Karen Mapp and Dr. Richard Weissbourd from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Additional research-backed topics were developed by Dr. David Kowalski.

The survey was created using a rigorous, six-step research process, including a literature review, focus groups, synthesis, expert review, and cognitive pre-testing—aligned with modern best practices in survey design.

How the Data Is Used

Survey results are used to inform LCAP goals and help the district strengthen school climate, culture, and family engagement. Responses provide valuable insight into family experiences and help guide continuous improvement efforts across schools.

Panorama Education does not share identifying information with the district. Results are reported only in aggregate to protect confidentiality. For additional details about data privacy and security, families may review Panorama’s privacy policy at:

<https://www.panoramaed.com/privacy>

We hope this information is helpful. If additional questions or feedback arise, please let us know. If more resources become available, we will be sure to share them with the community.

Your Voice Matters: Pacifica School District Family Survey Now Open!

The Pacifica School District values your feedback—and we want to hear from you! Our 2025 Family Survey is now open, and families are invited to share their perspectives on school and district effectiveness.

Your input helps us understand what’s working well and where we can grow, so we can continue providing high-quality, rigorous learning experiences that support all students and prepare them for college and career. The survey is conducted in partnership with Panorama Education, which keeps responses confidential. It takes just a few minutes to complete and makes a meaningful impact.



🎁 Participation Incentive

The school with the highest percentage of combined student, staff, and family survey responses will win a Dance Party with the School Principal! Your participation helps your school—and ensures family voices are heard.

📅 Survey Window: December 18, 2025 – January 20, 2026

📱 How to Participate: Complete the survey online using a computer, tablet, or smartphone at:
<https://surveys.panoramaed.com/pacifica/family/surveys>

Thank you for taking the time to share your voice and partner with us in strengthening our schools and community.

Have Your Say: LCAP Engagement Meetings & Community Input – January 2026

The Pacifica School District invites families, staff, and community members to participate in our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Engagement Meetings this January. These meetings are a key opportunity to share your voice and help shape district goals, priorities, and actions that support student learning, well-being, and equity.

Community input—along with student, staff, and family survey data—directly informs the LCAP, which guides how district resources are allocated to meet the needs of all students. We encourage you to attend one or more sessions that work best for your schedule.

 January LCAP Engagement Schedule

Monday, January 27

 6:00–7:30 PM — All Educational Partners (Virtual)

Tuesday, January 28

 4:30–5:30 PM — Parent Advisory Council (Virtual)

 5:30–7:00 PM — In-Person School Meetings

- Sunset Ridge
- Ocean Shore
- Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School

Wednesday, January 29

 3:00 PM — California School Employees Association (CSEA) & Chapter #128 (Virtual)

 3:30 PM — Laguna Salada Education Association (LSEA) (Virtual)

 4:30 PM — District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) (Virtual)

 5:30–7:00 PM — In-Person School Meetings

- Vallemar
- Cabrillo
- Ortega

Thursday, January 30

 5:30 PM — Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) (Virtual)

 Meeting Locations & Access

In-Person Meetings

All in-person sessions will be held at:

Pacifica School District Boardroom

411 Oceana Blvd., Pacifica, CA

Virtual Meetings (Zoom)

All virtual sessions will use the same Zoom link:

 Zoom Link:

<https://pacificasd.zoom.us/j/85762866314?pwd=VUpxMUFSZlFo2NmxydUxXYVVRYVF0dz09>

 Meeting ID: 857 6286 6314

 Passcode: 230020

 How This Connects to the LCAP

These engagement meetings align with the district’s LCAP development process, which includes:

- Reviewing student, staff, and family survey data (survey window: December 18 – January 20)
- Partnering with labor groups and advisory committees
- Using community feedback to refine goals, actions, and services for the 2025–26 school year

We look forward to hearing from you and partnering together to strengthen our schools.



Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP)

Spindrift

Spindrift Winter Camp: WICKED (Musical Theatre Showcase)

- **Ages 4-7** : Two Sessions
 - **Dates:** February 16-20, 2026
 - **Morning:** 9:00 AM–12:00 PM
 - **Afternoon:** 1:00 PM–4:00 PM

Spindrift Winter Camp: Minecraft Musical Part 1

- **Ages 8-12**
 - **Dates:** February 16-20, 2026
 - **Time:** 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Location & Registration

- **Location:** Spindrift School of Performing Arts, 1053 Crespi Dr., Pacifica CA 94044
- **Extended Care:** Available for an additional cost (8:00 AM–9:00 AM & 1:00 PM–6:00 PM).
- **No Cost Registration:** Families can click the QR code in the poster and fill out the form to register for free.
- **Online Registration:** www.spindriftschool.org or call 650-738-8648.



Pacifica Pipeline Project

Cabrillo

Our team attended **The Pet Connection Pet Adoption Event**, part of Supervisor David Canepa's *Loneliness to Light* series. Supervisor Canepa shared an inspiring presentation on how animals support social-emotional wellness and self-care.

If you're interested in adopting or supporting animal welfare in our community, visit the **Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA** at www.phs-sPCA.org to learn more and explore available pets.



Help make a difference — you might even find your new best friend.

Ingrid B. Lacy

Ms. Twomey's Career Preparedness class put design thinking into action!

Her students partnered with Ms. Trelogan's 3rd grade class at Sunset Ridge, who served as "clients" and shared their ideas for custom pillow monsters. Using empathy, concept sketches, and ultimately feedback, the Career Prep students designed and created personalized pillow monsters based on each younger student's vision.

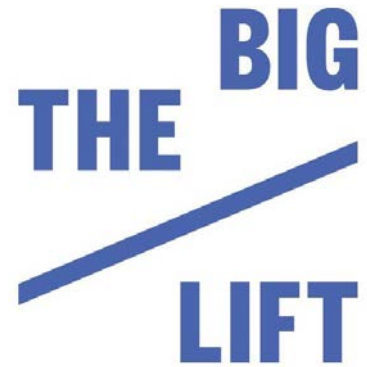


The collaboration was a huge success, and our big buddies are excited to reconnect with their little buddies soon to reveal the finished creations. It's a wonderful example of creativity, teamwork, and authentic problem-solving in action!

The Big Lift

Mid-Year Reading Assessments (mCLASS/DIBELS)

Between December 8 and January 31, TK–3 students will participate in our mid-year literacy assessments. These 1:1 check-ins help teachers understand how your child is growing as a reader and what supports may be helpful. This assessment window includes RAN (Rapid Automatized Naming) for grades K–2. These tools give teachers a more complete picture of each child’s reading progress.



Universal Reading Screening (SB 114)

California now requires all school districts to screen K–2 students for early signs of reading difficulties. PSD meets this requirement through the mCLASS/DIBELS assessments. Our goal is early identification and early support. If results show that a child may be “at risk,” schools provide additional support, which can include:

Targeted small-group or one-on-one instruction

Frequent progress checks

Extra tutoring or deeper evaluation, if needed.

Reading Assessments for Grades 4–5

This year, PSD is expanding mCLASS/DIBELS to grades 4–5. Teachers received full training and assessment kits in early December. Teachers and families will receive more information soon about assessment dates and what to expect.

Supporting Multilingual Learners

This fall, PSD educators participated in professional learning with Dr. Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan, a national expert in teaching multilingual learners. Teachers observed lessons, learned new strategies, and explored ways to support language and literacy growth for all students. Our next learning sessions with Dr. Hagan will take place January 12–14, 2026.

TK SEEDS of Learning

Our TK teachers continue their professional learning with the SEEDS of Learning early literacy program.

Open Court Reading: Program Update

This is PSD’s first year using Open Court Reading, a research-based program aligned with the Science of Reading. Last year, teachers from all schools reviewed and piloted materials, and the district selected Open Court because of its strong evidence base and structured approach to teaching phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing. In the new year, teachers will continue to participate in additional training sessions to strengthen and support consistent reading

instruction across all schools. Families can also access Home Connection Letters (K–5) in English and Spanish to see what students are learning and how to support at home.

✚ District Literacy Implementation Team (DLIT)

DLIT is PSD's cross-school group of parents, caregivers, teachers, and leaders who work together to strengthen our district's TK–3 literacy plan. Next meeting: January 7, 2026. Please reach out to Kate Snyder (ksnyder@pacificasd.org) if you're interested in joining us!

📖 The Reading Wave Family Newsletter

Our December Reading Wave was shared via ParentSquare on December 3. Inside you'll find Books of the month, Local library events, and Easy literacy activities to do at home (English & Spanish). **SAVE THE DATE:** Big Lift Inspiring Summers Family Information Meeting on Tuesday, January 13 from 6-7pm at the District Office Boardroom.

☆☆ Thank you for partnering with us to support your child's reading journey! We are grateful for your ongoing engagement and wish your family a joyful start to the winter season.



Big Lift Inspiring Summers Family Information Night

We invite you to join us for a **Big Lift Inspiring Summers Family Information Night** to learn more about our **FREE, full-day summer program** for students who are currently in **TK–2 (rising K–3 students)**.

- Tuesday, January 13, 2026
- 6:00–7:00 PM
- Pacifica School District Boardroom
- Translation will be provided

Please **RSVP** using the **QR code on the flyer** or by clicking this link:

<https://forms.gle/YTc1EWvPQzw9neps7> We hope to see you there and look forward to sharing more about this exciting summer opportunity for your child!



Ms. Perl's WAVES Class Hard at Work at IBL

Students in Ms. Perl's WAVES class have been busy this season! From tending to the school garden and keeping it looking its best, to crafting festive ornaments, their creativity and dedication have been on full display. In addition, the class has been actively engaged in their fundraising efforts by designing and selling handmade bracelets.



Student Services News



Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays from the Student Services Department

We extend our warmest wishes for a joyful, peaceful, and restorative holiday season. We are grateful for our students, families, and staff, and we appreciate your continued partnership and support throughout the year. May this time bring you rest, connection, and renewal as we look forward to the year ahead. We

look forward to seeing you back after Winter Break on Monday, January, 5, 2026.

Resources for the Holidays

The holidays can be joyful, and sometimes challenging, for our students and families. Our District is here to support every child's well-being, helping them feel safe, connected, and cared for. If your child or family could use extra support this season, please contact your school office—we're here to help and connect you with resources. In addition, below are some resources for you, your family, or someone you know if they are in need of support during the break.

Pacifica Resource Center: <https://www.pacresourcecenter.org/>

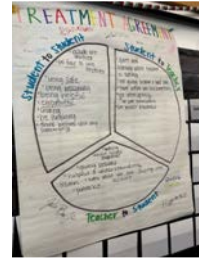
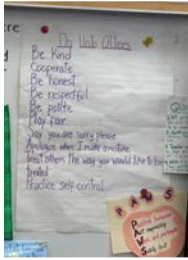
Trevor Project: 1-866-488-7386 or text START to 678-678

Crisis Text Line: 741-741

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988

MTSS/PBIS

The Student Services team did walk throughs of all the schools to see how school staff are positively interacting with and supporting your students in class. These are how some teachers share their classroom and community agreements with their students. Thank you to our teachers for having such inclusive and supportive spaces for our students to learn.



2026-2027 PSD Lottery Information

2026-2027 PSD Lottery Information

If your child will be a 2026-2027 TK, Kinder or 6th Grade student, please see the lottery information below:

2026-2027 TK/Kinder Lottery

2026-2027 TK and Kindergarten Lottery Packets are available to Pacifica residents residing within our District's boundaries at the Pacifica School District Office located at 411 Oceana Boulevard and at the following school sites:

Cabrillo School - 601 Crespi Drive

Ocean Shore School - 340 Inverness Drive

Ortega School - 1283 Terra Nova Boulevard

Sunset Ridge School - 340 Inverness Drive

Vallemar School - 377 Reina Del Mar Avenue

You must be a Pacifica resident residing within PSD boundaries or a PSD employee (Minimum FTE: Classified: .625 FTE and Certificated: .75 FTE only) to enter your child in the TK/Kinder Lottery.

Sibling/Priority lottery cards are due at the Pacifica School District Office no later than 12 noon on February 2, 2026. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Transitional Kindergarten and New Enrollment lottery cards are due at the Pacifica School District Office no later than 4:30pm on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

The 2026-2027 TK/Kindergarten Lottery will be held on Friday, February 6, 2026.

Lottery results will be posted on our website and near the front entrance of the District Office by 6pm on February 6, 2026. Placement confirmation letters will be mailed to the home of lottery participants by the end of February 2026. New Student Registration for the 2026-2027 school year will begin in March 2026.

Please note that current 2024-2025 TK students will automatically rollover to kindergarten at the school they are enrolled in without having to go into the 26-27 lottery. If those parents can place their students in the lottery if they want to place their child in the lottery to attend kindergarten at a different school for the 2026-2027 school year.

2026-2027 6th Grade Lottery

2026-2027 6th Grade Request to Transfer Packets will be mailed home for all currently enrolled 5th grade students that reside within our district's boundaries by the end of this month, November 2025.

Current 5th graders attending Cabrillo School that reside within our district's boundaries are guaranteed a spot in 6th grade at Cabrillo School for the 2026-2027 school year. Current 5th graders attending Ocean Shore School, Ortega School, Sunset Ridge School and Vallemar School that reside within our district's boundaries are guaranteed a spot in 6th grade at Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School for the 2026-2027 school year. You only need to return your 5th graders request to transfer form if you are seeking a change in placement.

You must be a Pacifica resident residing within PSD boundaries or a PSD employee (Minimum FTE: Classified: .625 FTE and Certificated: .75 FTE only) to enter your child in the 2026-2027 6th grade lottery. 2026-2027 6th Grade Request to Transfer Forms must be submitted to the District Office no later than 4:30pm on Wednesday, January 21, 2026. The 2026-2027 6th Grade Lottery will be held on Friday, January 23, 2026. Lottery results will be posted on our website and near the front entrance of the District Office by 6pm on January 23, 2026. Placement confirmation letters will be mailed to the home of lottery participants in February 2026. New Student Registration for the 2026-2027 school year will begin in March 2026.

Business Department News

Over the last month, the Business Department has focused on enhancing transparency and fiscal accountability through several key initiatives:

- **New Website Launch:** We have successfully published a new department website to make information more accessible. This includes consolidated sections for Bond information and Staff Housing. Look for more updates to come in January!
- **Fiscal Reporting & Grants:** The department has been diligently working on year-end reporting for grants such as The Big Lift and the First Interim Report. The First Interim Report was presented to the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. The Board voted for a positive self-certification.
- **Audit Preparation:** We have been coordinating with external auditors for the 2024-25 Annual Audit.

Facilities

Workforce Housing Project Update: Fencing & Demolition Beginning

Pacifica School District is moving forward with the next phase of the Workforce Housing Project at 930 Oddstad Boulevard. As part of this work, temporary fencing will be installed to secure the site, followed by the demolition of the former school building once required permits and utility disconnects are complete .

The Board of Trustees approved awarding the demolition contract to RB Environmental, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, to complete this work . Demolition activities will include the removal of existing structures and the on-site stockpiling of concrete and brick in accordance with project recycling and environmental mitigation requirements.

Safety remains a top priority. Fencing will secure the site during demolition, and all required mitigation measures—including dust control and environmental protections—will be implemented as part of the permitted work .

We understand the community is eager for timelines. Demolition will begin once PG&E service is disconnected and the City of Pacifica issues the demolition permit. As additional milestones are reached and timelines are finalized, the District will continue to provide updates.



Cabrillo School

The Cabrillo Outdoor Improvement Project is nearing completion for this phase, with the final component—turf installation—scheduled to finish the week of December 15. The remaining phases of the project are slated to begin in summer 2026.

Cabrillo Outdoor Learning Spaces

Cabrillo is now enjoying full use of our new outdoor learning spaces created during this round of construction. Students will now be able to work not only in their classrooms but also in these new outdoor learning spaces adjacent to their classrooms. Exciting times ahead!



Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School

Construction on the replacement portable classroom is 99% complete. The final fire alarm test is being scheduled, and District IT will complete internet testing the week of December 15. The new classroom is expected to be ready for occupancy on January 5, 2026.

Linda Mar Educational Center

The roof replacement project is currently out to bid. Contractor prequalification has been completed, with seven roofing contractors approved to participate. Bids are scheduled to open on December 18, and construction is expected to begin in April 2026.

Sunset Ridge and Ocean Shore Schools

The District received six proposals for the monument sign replacement project, which includes a new school ID sign and electronic marquee. The best-value proposal has been selected and will go to the Board for approval.

- Library Reading Corner: Guardrail modifications are scheduled for installation the week of December 22.
- Outdoor Canopy Replacement: The canopy manufacturer is conducting additional independent testing to verify results.

Vallemar School

Proposals are being gathered through the CMAS program for the Art/Science room flooring replacement, scheduled for summer 2026. New signage for the play structure near the D Wing will arrive on December 18 and will be installed shortly after. Bidding for the playground asphalt replacement at the D Wing basketball court will begin soon, with work planned for summer 2026.

Ortega School

Bidding will soon begin for the playground asphalt replacement at the upper yard, with construction planned for summer 2026.

District Office

The Board has approved the contract for the District Office Facilities Conditions Assessment, and the project is now moving forward.

411 Oceana Site

The D Wing addition project is in the final stages, awaiting DSA processing for closeout. The District has received three proposals for new District Office signage, which are currently under review.

Instructional Technology Department News

Enhancing Student Safety: Parent Access to Online Activity Reports

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we are excited to announce a new feature that allows parents to review and filter their child's online activity on their district account. This option is available for all grade levels, and our team is ready to support you if you choose to enable it for your child.

Below are links that provide an overview of the product:

- [Securly Home for Parents – Video \(English\)](#)
- [Securly Home for Parents – Video \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Securly Home – Parent Letter](#)

If you would like access to this tool and wish to view your child's online activity, please contact the school site your child attends, and they will submit an access request on your behalf.

Thank you for your partnership in supporting student safety and success.

Use Our AI Chat Box for Quick Answers

To help you find information even faster, we encourage you to use our **AI Chat Box** available on the website. This tool can quickly guide you to forms, resources, contacts, and answers to common questions, saving you time and improving your overall experience.

School News

Ortega News

Ortega students created a Kindness Quilt for Kindness Week to show what kindness is to them. Ortega's annual Global Village Celebration was held on Thursday 12/11 where families hosted tables with foods and information representing their cultures and everyone can get stamps in their "passport" as they visit each table. Students designed paper dolls to represent their cultures and are now proudly hanging up in the school.



Every school has someone who makes the halls a little brighter - ours is Tiffany Hanna. Tiffany goes well above and beyond every day. Tiffany's energy, warmth, and constant smiles bring sunshine to our entire community.

Vallemar News

December has been a fun filled month with changes and positivity! Our Vallemar TK and Kindergarten students have started enjoying lunch in the cafeteria, as they are now here for a full day.

Tonight we had an exciting event with a Holiday Gift Shop and Movie Night. Friends, Food, Crafts and Live Scan was available for parents. It was a fun night for everyone who came!

This month, our school community has focused on the character trait of generosity. Families have participated in our Giving Tree Program, choosing apples from our tree that represent local families in need. We have received many toys and gifts that will be donated to the Pacifica Resource Center. We are grateful for our Vallemar family showing up for our local community.

Our principal, Mrs. Vuskovic engaged our students this month with a heartfelt read aloud of the book Thank you, Omu! By Oge Mora which emphasizes the theme of generosity. A huge shout out to all of our staff and teachers, families and students for contributing to our wonderful welcoming community.



Looking ahead, we are excited for inclusive spirit week! We have planned:

Monday: Superhero day

Tuesday: Neon day

Wednesday: Sports day

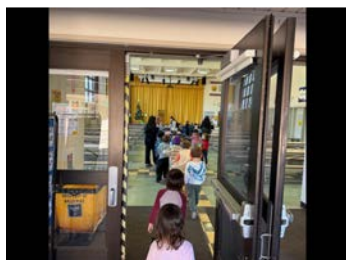
Thursday: Squad day

Friday: Pajama day

This spirit week is all about celebrating respect, kindness, and anti-bullying and we're excited to see our School show their spirit!

Some additional fun events that happened this month was our TK students had a blast, making butter, Masa tortillas and quesadillas, which were a hit! Our fourth graders enjoyed a memorable field trip to the Pacifica Sanchez Adobe, which was a highlight of the year.

We would like to give a shout out to our Vallemar PTO and parent volunteers that helped launch our new Winter session of afterschool V Academy activities. These fun afternoon activities offer something for everyone to enjoy! This session has a wide range of activities from Pickleball and tennis to cooking, Lego building, poetry, art, drama and dance.



Cabrillo News

Cabrillo started off December with a fun First Friday Assembly. December's theme is kindness. Of course, it's always important to be kind to each other, but it's especially impactful at this time of year. We never know what burdens others carry. Sometimes a kind word, a joke or pointing out a silly holiday sweater can make a big difference in someone's day. Watching Ms. Mustille's class performing a holiday poem about a snowman and construction work, and the 6th classes competing in an antler ring toss, certainly brightened the day for all of us at Cabrillo.



We also enjoyed a variety of musical performances, from the 6th-8th grade band to the TK-2nd grade Holiday concert. There is art everywhere celebrating the winter holidays, lots of snowflakes, paper and ceramic as well as gingerbread houses and snowmen. One of the most original was Ms. McCabe's 4th grade ugly sweater art competition. The Cabrillo Community is proud of it's creativity and this time of year allows all of our artists and musicians to really shine!

Congratulations to our 6th through 8th grade band students who put on an incredible performance to a packed house at IBL. All kinds of appreciation goes out to Mr. Gallegos who has turned our students into musicians that mesmerized the audience. Such a great night!!

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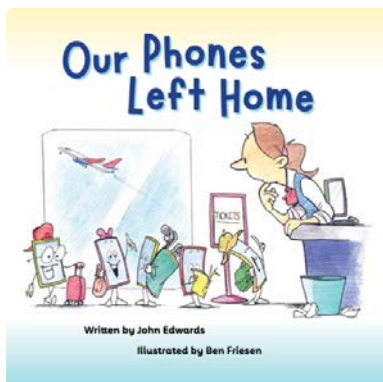
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Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School

IBL school continues to provide engaging and rigorous learning experiences. Upon returning from break, students will participate in "Race to Cuzco," an academic game facilitated by Mr. Westbrook that supports the study of the Inca civilization through interactive inquiry. Additionally, students enrolled in the Exploring Medical Careers program will examine foundational concepts in pharmacology during 4th, 5th, or 6th period as part of a structured Mock Pharmacy Lab experience.



IBL Spotlight: Mr. Edwards

This month, we're excited to spotlight IBL teacher **Mr. Edwards**, whose passion for inquiry, creativity, and real-world problem solving extends beyond the classroom and onto the bookshelf. Mr. Edwards is the author of the children's picture book *Our Phones Left Home!*, a thoughtful and humorous story that invites young readers—and their families—to imagine what might happen if smartphones took a break.

Aimed at children ages 5–9, *Our Phones Left Home!* follows a silly but meaningful premise: one Monday morning, the phones decide to go on vacation. At first, the world feels chaotic without apps, scrolling, and selfies. But as the week goes on, something surprising happens—people begin talking, playing, laughing, and truly connecting again. Through gentle humor and engaging illustrations, the book opens the door to conversations about balance, attention, and life beyond screens.

The book feels especially timely. As smartphones become more ubiquitous, research continues to show that constant connectivity can impact attention, social skills, and well-being. Mr. Edwards'

story doesn't reject technology; instead, it encourages families to think critically about how and when we use it—an approach that aligns perfectly with the inquiry-based learning we value at our school.

Following the story, *Our Phones Left Home!* also includes practical tips from organizations around the world to help families build a healthier “digital diet.” It’s a warm reminder that while technology is here to stay, some of the best connections don’t require Wi-Fi.

We’re proud to have educators like Mr. Edwards in our community—teachers who inspire curiosity, reflection, and meaningful conversations both inside and outside the classroom.

Ocean Shore/Sunset Ridge News

Our students at Sunset Ridge and Ocean Shore have been loving the exciting field trips happening this year! Field trips have long been a meaningful tradition at Ocean Shore, and it’s been wonderful to build on those experiences and share that same spirit of exploration with all of our students.



We’re also getting creative with how we attend our field trips. This week, our third graders traveled to San Francisco using public transportation to watch The Velveteen Rabbit. They had an amazing time and learned so much about navigating public transit along the way.

Our first and second graders enjoyed a walking field trip through our local community, visiting Starbucks, Safeway, Banfield Pet Hospital, and The Cheesesteak Shop to learn all about how local businesses operate.

These hands-on learning adventures are creating lasting memories and meaningful experiences for our students!



San Francisco Boys Chorus.pdf

Download
10.6 MB

Calendars of Interest

Cultural Calendar: January 2026

- [Multicultural Calendar](#)
- January 1 – New Year's Day
- January 4 – World Braille Day
- January 19 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 24 – International Day of Education
- January 26 – International Customs Day
- January 27 – International Holocaust Remembrance Day



Academic Calendar: January 2026

- Dec. 22-Jan. 2 - Winter Recess
- Jan. 8-Jan. 23 - mClass/DIBELS MOY Assessment
- Jan. 14 - EL Reclassification Ceremony
- Jan. 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday



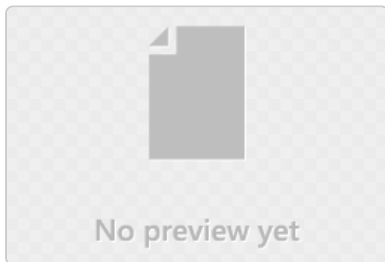
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Family Notice: Understanding ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) Protocols

Please take a moment to review the information in the slides below, which outline our district's procedures in the event that ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) comes to a school site. Our goal is to ensure that all students and families feel safe, supported, and protected while on campus.

These guidelines help our staff understand the appropriate steps to follow so that we can uphold the rights and well-being of every member of our school community.

Thank you for staying informed and for partnering with us to keep our schools safe and welcoming for all families.



Immigration Resources - Know Your Rights - Pacifica Community/ Recursos sobre inmigración - Conozca sus derechos - Comunidad de Pacifica

Immigration Enforcement and the Pacifica School District: Know Your Rights Presented by: Edward Sklar (Lozano Smith) & Dr. Carla Chávez Torres (Pacifica School District) Pacifica School District Community | November 6, 2025 Click to add Title, Presented by, Location and Date 1

docs.google.com

[Know Your Rights! Conozca sus derechos](#)

[Know Your Rights! \(English\)](#)

- I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, or sign or hand you any documents based on my 5th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution.
- I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th Amendment rights under the United States Constitution unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate with my name on it that you slide under the door.
- I do not give you permission to search any of my belongings based on my 4th Amendment rights.
- I choose to exercise my constitutional rights.

These cards are available to citizens and noncitizens alike.

Usted tiene derechos constitucionales:

- NO ABRA LA PUERTA si un agente de inmigración está tocando la puerta.
- NO CONTESTE NINGUNA PREGUNTA de un agente de inmigración si el trata de hablar con usted. Usted tiene el derecho de mantenerse callado.
- NO FIRME NADA sin antes hablar con un abogado. Usted tiene el derecho de hablar con un abogado.
- Si usted está afuera de su casa, pregunte al agente si es libre para irse y si dice que sí, váyase con tranquilidad.
- ENTREGUE ESTA TARJETA AL AGENTE. Si usted está dentro de su casa, muestre la tarjeta por la ventana o pásela debajo de la puerta.

SMC Línea de respuesta comunitaria: 203-666-4472

English

Spanish



👋 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!!!!👋

News Media Contact: Paul Laustsen, plaustsen@smcgov.org, 650-465-9977

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 9, 2025

Volunteers Needed for 2026 One Day Homeless Count in San

Mateo County

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — The County of San Mateo's Human Services Agency, in partnership with local community organizations, is seeking volunteers for the 2026 One Day Homeless Count taking place Thursday, January 29, 2026.

The One Day Count, required by federal law, provides vital data to help San Mateo County and its partners understand homelessness in the community and guide decisions about funding, programs, and long-term solutions that support people experiencing homelessness.

"Community volunteers are essential to the success of this effort," said Claire Cunningham, Director of the Human Services Agency. *"Each volunteer helps ensure we have an accurate picture of homelessness in our county so we can better direct resources where they're needed most."*

Event Details

- **Date:** Thursday, January 29, 2026
- **Time:** Approximately 5:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- **Activity:** Observational count of unsheltered individuals using a mobile app
- **Perks:** Breakfast and coffee provided for volunteers
- [Register here](#)

Volunteers will be assigned to a designated area (census tract) and will walk or drive through their section to record observations using their personal smartphone. Free virtual training will be provided and is required to participate.

Community members of all backgrounds are encouraged to join, especially those familiar with local neighborhoods or passionate about supporting efforts to end homelessness.

Accommodations are available for volunteers with limited mobility, transportation, or technology access.

How to Volunteer

Sign up using the 2026 One Day Count General Volunteer Registration Form: [Click here to register.](#)

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

Pacifica School District would like to thank [Attendance Works](#) for sharing research, resources and best practices.

What Is School Attendance? | Fact Snacks



San Mateo County Office Of Education News

BayREN's EASE Program (All Families, School Staff, Community Members) New!

The EASE (Efficiency and Sustainable Energy) program helps income-eligible residents upgrade their homes to improve comfort and lower energy bills. We'll evaluate your home and install recommended improvements like attic and wall insulation, weatherstripping, smart thermostats, duct sealing and repairs, and some minor health and safety fixes (mold remediation, leak repair). [Learn more](#).



Ayudanado Latinos A Soñar Food Distribution (TK-12 Families, Educators, Community Members) *Multiple Dates*

In need of food? Ayudanado Latinos A Soñar (ALAS) is hosting multiple opportunities for families and community members in need to receive healthy, fresh food at the ALAS Cultural Wellness Center. Please bring your own cart or bags. [Learn more](#).

High Impact Tutoring Summit (TK-12 Families, Educators, Community Organizations, Researchers, Funders)

December 11, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Join this summit to explore how tutoring can close learning gaps. The High Impact Tutoring Summit will bring together families, educators, community organizations, researchers, and funders to explore how tutoring can help all students thrive. [Learn more](#).

Youth Unlimited (K-12 Students)

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

Public Health Resources

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](#).

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](#)).

San Mateo County Health COVID-19 and Other Health Information:

- [SMC Mobile Clinic Schedule](#)
- Health Coverage Enrollment Assistance for Low- to Mid-income Residents or San Mateo Medical Center Patients (in [English and Spanish](#))

Safety Tips for Students

SamTrans prides itself on its record of passenger safety. We put together some commonsense tips to stay safe on SamTrans. [Learn more](#).

Upcoming Holiday Breaks

The Holiday Season is upon us. As a reminder there is no school December 22-January 2 with school resuming January 5. We wish everyone a festive holiday season.



Smore Templates

Smore is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

