

Pacifica Press

PSD Family & Community Newsletter January 23rd, 2026

Message from Dr. Carisa J. Bowman, Interim Superintendent

Dear Pacifica School District Community,

As we step into February, I am filled with pride reflecting on the incredible resilience and dedication shown across our schools. This month is not only a time to celebrate our history and diversity, but also a vital window for planning the future of the Pacifica School District.

Academic News & Expanded Partnerships

We are currently in a busy season of growth and transition. I am thrilled to announce the renewed partnership with the Pacifica Education Foundation (PEF). PEF has been instrumental in bringing high-quality programs to our students, and we are excited to share that they will be expanding their offerings next year. This partnership ensures our students continue to have access to enriched learning experiences that go above and beyond the standard curriculum.

Celebrating our Students: Multilingual Excellence

We recently celebrated our Multi-Language Learners (MLL) who have successfully reclassified. Mastering a second language is truly a "superpower." Seeing our students bridge cultures and languages is inspiring. To the families who support these students every day: thank you for being our partners in this achievement.

Looking Ahead

As we celebrate Black History Month, I encourage our community to engage deeply with the stories, achievements, and contributions that have shaped our nation and our local neighborhoods.



In our classrooms, this month is an opportunity to explore the rich legacy of Black innovators, leaders, and artists who continue to influence our world today. Our educators are committed to weaving these narratives into our curriculum year-round, ensuring our students see themselves reflected in their learning. I invite you to join us in these conversations at home, honoring the past while working together to build a more inclusive and equitable future for every student in Pacifica. Thank you for your continued support and for making Pacifica such a special place to learn.

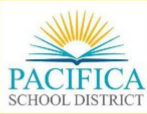
Warmly,

Dr. Bowman

An Evening of Reflection, Connection, and Visioning - Interim Superintendent Roundtable

**Wednesday
February 4, 2026
6pm - 7:15pm**

LOCATION: PACIFICA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDROOM
411 OCEAN BLVD., PACIFICA



Join the Superintendent and members of the Cabinet for an interactive roundtable conversation focused on Pacifica School District, where we are today and where we want to be tomorrow.

Participants will meet in small groups with the Superintendent and Cabinet members to:

- Reflect on current strengths and opportunities within PSD
- Share perspectives and experiences
- Help shape a shared vision for the future of our schools and community

Your voice matters. Together, we can build clarity, trust, and a strong path forward for our students, staff, and families.

We look forward to learning and listening together.



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

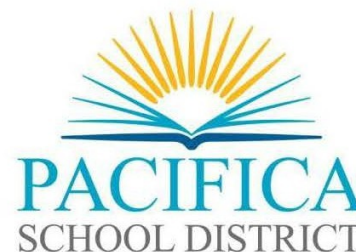
2025-2026 Budget Collaborative Invitation

Workforce Housing Project

Workforce Housing Update from Dr. Bowman

Dear Pacifica School District Community,

At Wednesday night's Board of Education meeting, 1/21/2026, the Pacifica School District Board took an important step forward in addressing staff recruitment and retention challenges by approving the budget and selecting a general contractor for the District's Workforce Housing project.



This action reflects months of careful planning, fiscal review, and community input. Workforce housing is a long-term strategy designed to help stabilize our schools by supporting the educators and staff who serve Pacifica's students every day and who are increasingly impacted by the high cost of living in our region.

What was approved

- Authorization of the Workforce Housing project budget
- Approval of the general contractor selected through a competitive bidding process
- Direction to proceed with the next phase of development, including final design and permitting

Why Workforce Housing Matters

Pacifica School District continues to experience staffing challenges driven by regional housing costs. Workforce housing allows the District to:

- Improve recruitment and retention of teachers and classified staff
- Reduce turnover and vacancy rates
- Strengthen school stability and continuity for students
- Use District-owned property responsibly to directly benefit the school community

Fiscal responsibility

The project has been structured to be financially responsible and sustainable. The housing development is designed to be self-supporting, with rental rates intended to benefit District employees while ensuring long-term operational stability. The Board carefully reviewed projected costs, revenues, and risk mitigation measures before taking action.

What's next Over the coming months, the District will:

- Finalize design and permitting
- Continue to engage with staff and the community
- Share additional details regarding timelines, eligibility, and rental information

We recognize that projects of this scale generate questions and interest. The District remains committed to transparency and ongoing communication as this work continues.

We have created a FAQ for Workforce Housing that is posted on PSDs.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support as we take meaningful steps to strengthen Pacifica School District for our students, staff, and community.

Sincerely,
Carisa

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Workforce Housing project?

The Workforce Housing project is a Pacifica School District initiative to build affordable rental housing for district teachers and staff on surplus District-owned land located on Oddstad Boulevard. The project is designed to help attract and retain high-quality educators and essential staff while strengthening the broader Pacifica community.



2. Why is the District building workforce housing?

Many Pacifica educators and staff currently pay more than 30% of their gross income on housing, making them “rent-burdened.” High housing costs negatively impact recruitment, retention, and staff stability. Providing affordable housing helps improve work-life balance, reduce turnover, and ensure continuity for students.

3. Where will the housing be located?

The project will be built on surplus District-owned property on Oddstad Boulevard. Using District land allows the project to move forward without purchasing private property and ensures the land continues to serve a public purpose.

4. How many housing units will be built?

The Board of Trustees approved Phase 1, which includes:

- 45 workforce housing units

- Three required amenity buildings

- Rehabilitation of the existing sports field

All amenities and field improvements are required as part of Phase 1 and will be completed during this phase.

5. How is the project funded?

The Board approved a maximum project budget of \$55 million in December 2024

Funding includes voter-approved Measure G (March 2024)

The project is financed through bonds and rental revenue

No General Fund dollars are required to build or operate the project

Any net revenue may be returned to the General Fund to support District programs and services

Classroom funding is not reduced as a result of this project.

6. What rents can staff expect?

Rents are targeted at 60–70% of market-rate housing costs

At the lowest rent levels, staff are projected to save at least \$1,500 per month compared to market rents

The rent structure is designed to be affordable for staff while remaining financially sustainable for the District

7. Who will be eligible to live in workforce housing?

The units are intended for Pacifica School District teachers and staff, including certificated and classified employees. Eligibility criteria, prioritization, and the application process will be shared closer to project completion.

8. How does this project benefit students and the community?

Improves recruitment and retention of educators

Reduces costly staff turnover (estimated at \$20,000 per teacher)

Helps educators live closer to the schools they serve
Strengthens community connections
Stabilizes schools and supports long-term educational quality

9. Who approved the project?

Pacifica voters approved Measure G in March 2024

The City of Pacifica approved rezoning in May 2023 and the Development Agreement in December 2024

The Pacifica School District Board of Trustees approved the project budget, bid results, and general contractor following multiple public meetings

10. How was the general contractor selected?

The District conducted two competitive bidding processes

Four bids received in August 2025 exceeded cost limits and were rejected

The project was re-bid using phased construction options to control costs

James E. Roberts / Obayashi submitted the lowest responsive and responsible bid for

Phase 1

The Board of Trustees approved the contract award based on cost, qualifications, and compliance with the approved budget

11. When will construction take place?

Demolition of existing buildings: January 2026

Construction start: February 2026

Anticipated first occupancy: Summer 2027

Construction updates will be shared throughout the project.

12. Will the project increase traffic or strain local infrastructure?

Traffic, parking, and infrastructure impacts were reviewed and approved through the City's entitlement process. The project includes:

On-site parking

Professional property management

Controlled access

Design elements intended to integrate with the surrounding neighborhood

13. Will the project require future tax increases?

No. The project is funded through existing, voter-approved financing and rental revenue. It does not require new taxes beyond those already approved by voters.

14. How can staff and community members stay informed?

Updates will be shared through:

Board of Trustees meetings

District website postings

District and community communications as construction progresses

Play Structure Replacement at Sunset Ridge Ocean Shore School, Vallemar School and Ortega School

The playground layout and play structure selection is currently under design. The proposed design attends to the fitting of the play component, number of students of each age group, and ADA compliance. We are currently gathering feedback from the District leadership team and school principals. See link below for work under progress.



Play Structure Replacement - Ocean Shore/ Sunset Ridge, Vallemar, and Ortega

2026-2027 PSD Lottery Information

2026-2027 TK/Kinder Lottery Reminder

Please note that current 2025–2026 TK students will automatically roll over to kindergarten at the school they currently attend and do not need to participate in the 2026–2027 lottery. However, if parents wish for their child to attend kindergarten at a different school next year, they may choose to enter their child into the 2026–2027 lottery.

Lottery packets for Pacifica residents living within PSD boundaries are available at the Pacifica School District Office (411 Oceana Blvd.) and at the following school sites: Cabrillo (601 Crespi Dr.), Ocean Shore (340 Inverness Dr.), Ortega (1283 Terra Nova Blvd.), Sunset Ridge (340 Inverness Dr.), and Vallemar (377 Reina Del Mar Ave.).

To participate in the TK/Kindergarten Lottery, families must reside within PSD boundaries or be PSD employees (minimum FTE: Classified .625 / Certificated .75).

- Sibling/Priority kindergarten lottery cards are due at the District Office by 12:00 p.m. on February 2, 2026. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- TK lottery cards and New Enrollment kindergarten lottery cards are due by 4:30 p.m. on February 4, 2026. NO EXCEPTIONS.

The 2026–2027 TK/Kinder Lottery will be held on Friday, February 6, 2026.

Lottery results will be posted on our website and at the District Office by 6:00 p.m. the same day. Placement confirmation letters will be mailed by the end of February 2026.

2026-2027 New Student Registration

As many of you know, our District proudly launched online registration at the end of March 2025—an exciting step forward for our community! If you'll be enrolling new students for the 2026–2027 school year, we're thrilled to share that online registration for 2026–2027 will open in mid-March 2026. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer!

2026-2027 6th Grade Lottery Reminder

2026-2027 6th Grade Request to Transfer Forms are due back to the District Office by 4:30pm on 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 at the District Office by 6:00 p.m. that same day. Placement confirmation letters will be mailed home in February 2026.

Oceanlight Charter Petition Update

As part of our commitment to offering diverse learning opportunities within Pacifica, we want to provide an update on the status of Ocean Light Charter School.

Recently, the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) reviewed Ocean Light's application for a county-wide benefit charter. After a thorough review process, the SMCOE Board reached a decision to deny the county-wide application. While this specific regional pathway was not approved, the Pacifica School District remains deeply committed to a positive path forward. We are looking forward to building a strong, transparent relationship with the Ocean Light community. We believe that by working together, we can best serve the families who have expressed interest in this model while maintaining the fiscal and operational health of our entire district. We look forward to the conversations ahead as we define this local partnership.

✨Spotlight on Staff✨

IBL Spotlight

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.





Cabrillo Spotlight

Principal Maganaris's leadership, dedication, and commitment to the Cabrillo community truly makes a difference each day. Through thoughtful guidance, clear expectations, and genuine care for students and staff, she creates a positive, inclusive environment where everyone feels supported, safe, and motivated

to succeed. She continuously inspires collaboration between students, families, and teachers, celebrates achievements, and leads with integrity. She has strengthened the Cabrillo culture and fostered a shared sense of purpose. We are deeply grateful for Principal Maganaris's hard work, vision, and the countless ways she goes above and beyond to ensure the Cabrillo community continues to thrive.

Ortega Spotlight

Ortega would love to give a special shout out to Mrs. Bailey, our TK-1 SDC teacher. Her dedication to her students shines daily. Whether it's providing extra support, celebrating small victories, or advocating fiercely for her students, she leads with heart and purpose. We are grateful for all she does!



✨Spotlight on Students✨

Cabrillo Spotlight

Congratulations to Cabrillo students who participated in SPARC's Battle of the Beach Poetry Slam and who took home the trophy! So proud of Francesca Reinero, Wyatt Owens, Teddy Lipyansky and Maddy Vassar!



Great Kindness Challenge

From January 26-30, all schools will participate in the Great Kindness Challenge, themed "Show Us Your Kind." This initiative encourages students to complete acts of kindness, with resources provided to enrich their experiences.



Photo Album

PHOTOS - Singspiration, Multilingual Reclassification Night, and school fun

Board of Education Meeting

2025-2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATES:

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



**Lynda Brocchini,
President**



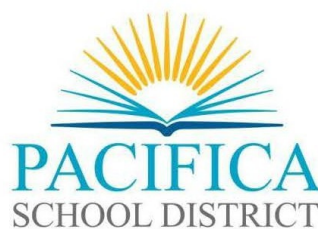
**Kai Doggett, Board
Member**



**Elizabeth Bredall, Board
Member**



**Laverne Villalobos, Vice
President**



Bridget Hardt, Clerk

Highlights of the January 21, 2026

Presentations:

- Students of Sunset Ridge and Ocean Shore schools lead the flag salute, read the Land Acknowledgement and shared their goals for the year which included ensuring that fellow students feel heard, safe, and included.
- Sunset Ridge and Vallemar PTOs presented their annual financial report to the board
- Martha Ladd and Rachel Romo presented a report on projected enrollment and staffing for 2026-2027

Highlighted Board Actions:

The board approved the following:

- Awarding of the general contractor contract for the district's Workforce Housing Project to James E. Roberts Obayashi Corp
- A Project Labor Agreement for the district's Workforce Housing Project
- School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) for each school site which contain site-specific information including: student achievement, parental involvement, services funded, etc.
- An update of the title of the Child Nutrition Manager position to Wellness & Child Nutrition Coordinator and the description of the position to include new Wellness duties
- An updated Classified Management Salary Schedule for 2025-2026 reflecting changes to Child Nutrition Manager title and a salary adjustment based on additional duties
- A contract to replace the roof at Linda Mar Educational Center

Recognitions

Sunset Ridge PTO Co-Presidents Alexa Standfield and Daniel Nhan and Ocean Shore PTO Co-Presidents, Kristel Hsiao and Robin Marquardt, were recognized for their service to students and staff. Thank you for all you do!

Next Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 11, 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](#)



District Office Department Updates

Calendars of Interest

Cultural Calendar: February 2026

- **Black History Month (US & Canada)** – Celebrates the contributions and history of Black communities.
- 🌿 **Feb 1–2 – Tu B'Shvat (Jewish New Year for trees)** – Celebrate nature & planting traditions.
- 🐻 **Feb 2 – Groundhog Day (US folklore)** – Will the shadow predict spring?
- 🌐 **Feb 4 – World Cancer Day** – Global awareness event for cancer prevention and support.



- 📅 **Feb 10 – Safer Internet Day** – Promoting responsible online behavior.
- 📅 **Feb 11 – International Day of Women and Girls in Science** – Celebrates female achievement in STEM.
- ♥ **Feb 14 – Valentine's Day** – Celebration of love and friendship worldwide.
- 📅 **Feb 17 – Random Acts of Kindness Day** – Encourages generosity and goodwill.
- ⚖️ **Feb 20 – World Day of Social Justice** – Promotes equality and fairness globally.
- 🌐 **Feb 21 – International Mother Language Day** – UNESCO observance honoring linguistic diversity.

Academic Calendar: February 2026

- **Feb. 4** - Superintendents Roundtable
- **Feb. 11** - PSD Board of Trustees Meeting
- **Feb. 14** - Valentine's Day
- **Feb. 16** - President's Day
- **Feb. 16 - Feb. 20** - President's Week - No School

Education Support Services News

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Community

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of our students, families, and staff for your active participation in the recent Panorama Surveys. Your feedback is invaluable and will directly inform our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). By sharing your perspectives, you are helping us ensure that our district goals and resources remain aligned with the needs of our entire community.

Honoring Our History and Moving Forward

This month, we take a moment to reflect on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. following the recent holiday in his honor. As we move into February, our schools look forward to celebrating Black History Month, recognizing the profound contributions and achievements of Black Americans throughout history and within our own community. These observances provide vital opportunities for our students to engage with themes of equity, leadership, and integrity.

Literacy Leadership in Action

Dr. Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan Site Visit On Wednesday, January 14, we were honored to host Dr. Elsa Cárdenas-Hagan for a special site visit at Sunset Ridge and Ocean Shore School. As part of The Big Lift Multilingual Learner (MLL) Cohort, Dr. Cárdenas-Hagan joined our leadership team—including Director of Educational Support Services Dr. Carla Torres and Literacy TOSA Kate Snyder—to observe classroom instruction.

During the visit, teachers demonstrated instructional strategies from the Open Court Reading curriculum, specifically designed to support our multilingual learners and enhance literacy outcomes for all students. It was a wonderful opportunity to see high-quality instruction in action and to receive expert feedback on our collective efforts to support student success.



Advancing Literacy Leadership

Principal Training Initiatives Our district leaders are deeply engaged in professional learning to champion high-quality literacy instruction across all schools. This January, our principals and administrators participated in two key training initiatives:

- **Instructional Leadership Training:** At our January 15 Leadership Meeting, principals worked with experts from CORE Learning and Literacy TOSA Kate Snyder to deepen their expertise in our adopted curricula, Open Court Reading (Grades K-5) and Amplify (Grades 6-8). Leaders focused on instructional "look-fors," mastering curriculum routines, and strategic planning to prioritize daily literacy blocks.
- **The Big Lift Reading Fundamentals for Leaders Principal's Institute:** On January 16, our leadership team launched a three-part series titled the Reading Fundamentals for Leaders Principal's Institute. This institute provides administrators with advanced training in the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy. The first session covered evidence-based practices in Print Awareness and Phonological Awareness, equipping leaders with the technical knowledge to support and monitor effective reading instruction in every classroom.

By participating in this rigorous training, our leaders are better equipped to provide meaningful feedback, support teacher growth, and ensure every Pacifica student becomes a skilled, confident reader.

Strengthening Community Partnerships: Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Update

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) continued its important work this month, holding a key meeting on January 15 to solidify leadership and review district priorities. This committee serves as a vital advisory body, ensuring that parent and caregiver voices are at the heart of district decision-making regarding student achievement, school climate, and equity. During our most recent session, we were proud to hold our official leadership elections and would like to congratulate our new PAC officers:

- Karen Kee (President)
- Nicole Fletcher (Vice President)
- Debrah Sherwin (Secretary)

The committee has also begun a deep dive into the 2025–2026 Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), reviewing goals and data to identify how we can further strengthen support for all Pacifica students.

Community Participation and Public Comment

To ensure broad community participation, the district will inform the community of all upcoming PAC meetings at least one week in advance. This notification period allows community members to prepare any public comments they would like to make during the meeting or submit them via a digital Google form. Additionally, PAC representatives will be bringing information back to their respective school PTO meetings to facilitate further discussion and gather public comments. We are grateful to these dedicated volunteers for serving as a critical communication bridge between our families and the district.

Upcoming PAC Meeting Schedule All future meetings are currently scheduled to be held virtually and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

- February 26, 2026
- March 26, 2026
- April 23, 2026
- May 21, 2026
- June 18, 2026

Virtual Meeting Access:

- Link: [PSD ESS Zoom](#)
- Meeting ID: 854 0962 2303
- Passcode: 617611

Elevating Student Voice

A critical component of our LCAP development is ensuring that the students themselves have a seat at the table. The Educational Support Services Department is currently working closely with our school sites to coordinate LCAP Input sessions with each school's student leadership teams in the coming weeks. These sessions are designed to capture direct feedback on student needs and priorities, allowing us to incorporate authentic student voice into our goals for the 2025–26 school year.

Your Voice Matters: Upcoming LCAP Engagement Meetings

How should district resources be used to support our students? We want to hear from you. The Pacifica School District invites all families, staff, and community members to our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Engagement Meetings next week. Your feedback directly shapes our district goals, priorities, and budget for the coming year.

January Engagement Schedule

How to RSVP

To help us prepare materials and meeting space, please RSVP at least one day prior to your chosen session:

-  Email: ess.department@pacificasd.org
- (Please include your name and which meeting date/session you plan to attend.)

How to Join

-  For In-Person Meetings: All in-person sessions will be held at the District Boardroom: 411 Oceana Blvd., Pacifica, CA
-  For Virtual Meetings (Zoom): All virtual sessions use the same link: [Join the Zoom Meeting Here](#)
 - Meeting ID: 857 6286 6314
 - Passcode: 230020

Why your voice matters

These meetings are a vital step in our planning process. We combine the data from our current Family Surveys with these live discussions to refine the goals and services for the 2025–26 school year and inform 2026-27 goals and services. We look forward to collaborating with you!

January Engagement Schedule

Please find the session that best fits your role or school:



Assessment Update: Winter/Spring 2026

Supporting Students with ELPAC Practice Tests

The Summative ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessments for California) window opens on February 2 and runs through May 29, 2026. This annual assessment measures the progress of our English Learners in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Teachers and families can support students by accessing the ELPAC practice tests to build confidence and familiarity with the assessment format.

- Access the Site: Visit the [ELPAC Practice and Training Test Site](#).
- Step 1: Click "Continue as Guest".
- Step 2: Click "Guest Session".
- Step 3: Select your child's grade level.
- Step 4: Click "English Language Proficiency Assessments (ELPAC) Practice Test".

Using these tools in class or at home helps students understand the types of questions they will encounter and ensures they feel prepared for the testing window.

Winter Literacy Screening: DIBELS 8 The DIBELS 8 (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) winter assessment is currently underway for all Kindergarten through 3rd-grade students. The winter window runs from December 8, 2025, through January 30, 2026. This short, 1-on-1 assessment helps our teachers monitor foundational reading skills such as phonemic awareness, letter naming, and fluency.

- To learn more about how DIBELS supports early literacy, visit: [DIBELS - About the Assessment](#).

i-Ready Winter Diagnostic

Our students are currently completing the i-Ready Winter Diagnostic, which took place from January 5 to January 23, 2026. These assessments in Reading and Math provide teachers with critical data to understand student growth since the fall and to tailor instruction to meet individual learning needs.

Maximizing Growth with Interim Assessments (CAASPP/SBAC)

As we look toward the state CAASPP/SBAC summative testing window in late April, our schools are utilizing Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs). These short, standard-specific checks (approx. 35–60 minutes) are used by teachers to:

- Inform Instruction: Identify specific areas where students may need a short reteach before moving on.
- Predict Success: Predict where students might struggle on the end-of-year summative tests.
- Practice the Format: Familiarize students with the computer-based testing tools and question types used by the state.

Key Upcoming Testing Dates:

- ELPAC Summative: Feb 2 – May 29, 2026
- Physical Fitness Test (Grades 5 & 7): March 2 – May 8, 2026
- i-Ready Spring Diagnostic (Grades 3-8): April 1 – April 30, 2026
- CAASPP/SBAC (Grades 3-8): April 27 – May 29, 2026

By working together—families, students, and staff—we can ensure every learner has the support and preparation they need to demonstrate their best work.



History-Social Science (HSS) Curriculum Adoption Update

The Pacifica School District is moving forward with the K–5 History-Social Science curriculum adoption process, guided by our commitment to high-quality, standards-aligned instruction. Our goal is to ensure all students have equitable access to engaging, inclusive, and literacy-rich instructional practices.

Progress to Date The HSS Adoption Committee, composed of teachers and administrators, held initial review meetings on January 5 and January 8, 2026. During these sessions, the committee:

- Established Shared Goals: Aligned the review process with LCAP Goal 1, focusing on equity, inquiry, and representation.
- Reviewed Guardrails: Analyzed Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 6161.1 to ensure materials are accurate, standards-aligned, and inclusive of diverse perspectives.
- Began Curriculum Evaluation: Started the initial review of several state-adopted programs.

Curriculum Programs Under Review The committee is currently evaluating several state-adopted programs for potential adoption, including:

- TCI: Bring Learning Alive!
- Studies Weekly
- Savvas: My World Interactive California History–Social Science
- McGraw Hill: Impact California Social Studies

Next Steps: Selecting Pilot Programs A key milestone in this process is occurring this week. On January 23, 2026, the committee will meet with representatives from these curriculum publishers. We have also invited publishers from Discovery, Cengage, and Houghton Mifflin to present. This meeting is critical, as it will provide the committee with the opportunity to ask deeper questions about alignment and accessibility before deciding which programs will move forward to the classroom pilot phase. Following the selection process, designated teachers will begin piloting the chosen programs to gather direct feedback on how they perform in our Pacifica classrooms.

Join Our Team: Become a DELAC Representative!

Are you passionate about supporting the success of our multilingual students? The Pacifica School District is looking for dedicated parents and guardians to serve on the District English Language Advisory Committee (DELAC).

As a DELAC representative, you play a vital role in ensuring that the voices of our multilingual families are at the heart of district-level decisions. You will work alongside district leaders to advise on programs, services, and goals that directly impact English Learners.

Key Criteria for DELAC Representatives

- Parent/Guardian Status: The primary requirement is being a parent or guardian of an English Learner (EL) student currently enrolled in the district.
- Majority Requirement: To ensure authentic community voice, parents and guardians of English Learners must always form the majority (at least 51%) of the overall DELAC membership.
- Commitment: Representatives should be prepared to attend regular meetings, participate in training, and provide input on how to best support English Learners and their families.

Your Advisory Role DELAC members provide essential input on the district's Master Plan for English Learners, reclassification procedures, and the development of our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). By serving, you help establish goals that ensure every student has the resources they need to thrive.

How to Get Involved If you are interested in representing your school community at the district level, please contact the Educational Support Services Department directly to express your interest:

-  Email: ess.department@pacificasd.org
-  Call: 650-738-6617 (Hablamos Español / We speak Spanish)

Interested in learning more? Please join us at the Multilingual Learners Information Night on Monday, January 26, where we will discuss ELPAC support and future participation in DELAC.

Multilingual Family Corner News

✳ Multilingual Learners Information Night

Pacifica School District invites parents and guardians of Multilingual Learners (MLs) identified as English Learners (ELs) to attend a special Virtual Information Night.

This session is aligned with the District's LCAP goals and is designed to support families by:

- Supporting ELPAC Success: Learning how to help your child excel on the upcoming Summative ELPAC assessment.
- Understanding Results: Gaining insight into what the ELPAC measures and how results guide daily instruction and the reclassification process.
- Learning about DELAC: Discovering the role of the District English Language Advisory Committee (DELAC) and how parent voice drives continuous improvement for our programs. Information on how to become a DELAC representative will be shared during this meeting.

Event Details:

- 📅 Date: Monday, January 26, 2026
- ⌚ Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- 💻 Format: Virtual via Zoom
 - Link: [Join PSD ESS Zoom](#)
 - Meeting ID: 854 0962 2303
 - Passcode: 617611

Families interested in future DELAC participation are encouraged to attend or email ess.department@pacificasd.org for additional information.

We value our family partnerships and look forward to supporting student success together!



✳ Celebrating Multilingual Excellence: Reclassification Ceremony 2026

On Wednesday, January 14, the Pacifica School District gathered to honor a remarkable group of students at our annual Multilingual Learner Reclassification Ceremony. This event celebrates students who have reached a significant academic milestone by demonstrating English language proficiency while maintaining the "superpower" of their home languages.

We were honored to welcome Pacifica Mayor Christine Boles, who joined Interim Superintendent Dr. Carisa Bowman and the Educational Support Services team to personally present certificates and medals to our student recipients. Mayor Boles' presence highlighted the immense pride our entire city takes in the dedication, resilience, and cultural identity of our multilingual families. A highlight of the evening was a presentation on the Pacifica Pipeline Project (P3). This initiative connects our students' current academic success to future college and career pathways, ensuring that their multilingualism serves as a foundation for leadership in a global world.

- View the Presentation: [Pacifica Pipeline Project \(P3\) – Career & College Pathways](#)
- Congratulations to all of our reclassified students—your hard work inspires us all!





Thank you Mayor Boles.pdf

drive.google.com

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

Ingrid B. Lacy

Walk into the CTE Engineering classroom at IBL this trimester and you might hear laughter, focused conversation, and the unmistakable sound of creativity at work. Very early on, students dove into one of the most exciting and memorable projects of the year: the ukulele build, better known as *“Uke Can Do It!”*

The journey began with a look at real ukulele craftsmen through a documentary that highlighted the care, skill, and artistry behind these instruments. Inspired, students were given templates and a simple set of materials—cardboard, glue, twine, and tacks—and challenged to create instruments of their own. As pieces were carefully measured, cut, and assembled, the room quickly filled with unique interpretations of the same design.

Even though everyone started with identical templates, no two ukuleles looked quite the same. Some students swapped twine for rubber bands to experiment with sound, while others reimaged the shape or added personal design touches. Through trial, error, and a lot of problem-solving, students learned firsthand how precision and attention to detail matter in engineering—but just as importantly, how creativity and inspiration are often the spark behind innovation.

With their ukuleles complete, students were ready for their next challenge. Enter **“Just Shoes It!”** After learning the story behind Nike and the rise of Air Jordan, students shifted gears into the

world of product design and branding. Using what they had learned about engineering and creativity, they designed custom sneakers that reflected both function and personal style.

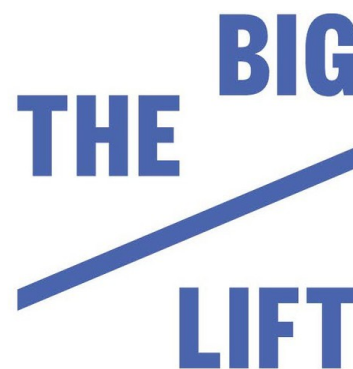
From cardboard instruments to custom footwear, students in CTE Engineering at IBL are discovering that engineering is more than building—it's about imagining, designing, and bringing ideas to life. And this is only the beginning.



The Big Lift

Pacifica School District | Early Literacy & Learning

We're excited to share a few updates about how Pacifica School District is supporting young readers and families this winter!



Winter Reading Assessments

During the winter months, K–3 students are participating in short, one-on-one reading check-ins to help teachers understand each child's strengths and next steps in reading. These assessments help schools provide the right support at the right time.

Ongoing Reading Support

After winter assessments, schools continue monitoring student progress from February through early April. Teachers focus on supporting students who need extra practice so all children continue growing as confident readers.

Support for Multilingual Learners

Pacifica teachers continue participating in professional learning focused on supporting multilingual learners. This includes coaching and classroom support to strengthen reading, vocabulary, and comprehension for students who are learning English—strategies that benefit all students.

Strong Reading Instruction Across Schools

Teachers across the district continue working together to strengthen reading instruction using our adopted reading program, Open Court Reading. Teachers are meeting as site teams to plan

lessons, share strategies, and ensure students receive consistent, high-quality reading instruction.

🌀 Big Lift Inspiring Summers (BLIS) – Summer 2026

Thanks to those of you who were able to attend our BLIS Family Information Night on January 13. BLIS is a free, full-day summer learning program for students entering kindergarten through third grade. The program focuses on reading, enrichment, and school readiness. Enrollment opens February 2. Space is limited, and priority is given to students with the greatest literacy need. Families will be notified of their enrollment status by late April. Key information:

- 📍 Likely location: Vallemar School
- 📅 Dates: June 15–July 10, 2026 (no program June 19 or July 3)
- 🕒 Hours: 8:00 AM–3:30 PM
- 🍽️ Breakfast, lunch, and snacks provided
- 🎒 Includes reading instruction, hands-on learning, and enrichment

📖 FREE Reading Tutoring (Grades 1–5)

San Mateo County Libraries is offering a free 12-week small-group tutoring program at the Pacifica Sharp Park Library to support reading and writing skills.

- 📅 Required assessment: January 20
- 📅 Tutoring runs February–May
- 📍 Location: Pacifica Sharp Park Library
- 📄 Registration required: <https://forms.office.com/r/1Fb5n5T0yc>

📖 The Reading Wave Family Newsletter

The January issue was shared with families via ParentSquare earlier this month. Our monthly Reading Wave newsletter shares:

- Book recommendations
- At-home reading tips
- Local library events and resources

💖 Thank you for being such an important part of your child's learning journey. We're grateful for our Pacifica families and community partners as we work together to support strong readers and joyful learners.



Special Education News

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San Mateo County Family Resource Center

January and February Trainings - Entrenamientos del FRC en Enero y Febrero

The Family Resource Center offers parent-to-parent support, outreach, information, and referrals for families of children and youth with developmental disabilities or who are neurodiverse, as well as for the professionals who support them. Our team consists of parents or family members who understand the journey and are dedicated to connecting families with resources, trainings, support groups, and guidance as they navigate educational and developmental systems.

El Centro de Recursos Familiares ofrece apoyo entre padres, información, derivaciones y servicios a familias con niños y jóvenes con discapacidades del desarrollo o neurodiversidad, así como a los profesionales que les brindan apoyo. Nuestro equipo está formado por padres y familiares que comprenden la situación y se dedican a conectar a las familias con recursos, capacitaciones, grupos de apoyo y orientación para que puedan desenvolverse en los sistemas educativos y de desarrollo.

JANUARY- Offered in English

My Child's Early Intervention Is Ending at Age 3 – What's Next?

January 22, 2026 | 6:00–7:30 PM | Zoom

Guidance for families transitioning from Early Start services to school-based and community support options at age three.

Register: <https://www.smcfrf.org/events/my-childs-early-intervention-is-ending-at-age-3-whats-next-9/>

Understanding Respite Services (Organized by Disability Rights California)

January 22, 2026 | 6:00–7:30 PM | Zoom

Learn what respite services are, who qualifies, and how families can access caregiver support.

Register: <https://www.smcfrf.org/events/what-is-respite-and-how-can-it-help-my-child-and-my-family-2/>

FEBRUARY – Offered in English

Medi-Cal Basics (Organized by Disability Rights California)

February 3, 2026 | 10:00–11:30 AM | Zoom

Introduction to Medi-Cal eligibility, covered services, and how to apply or maintain benefits.

Register: <https://www.smcfrf.org/events/medi-cal-basics/>

Medi-Cal Waivers (Organized by Disability Rights California)

February 19, 2026 | 6:00–7:30 PM | Zoom

Explanation of Medi-Cal Waivers and how they expand access to home and community-based services.

Register: <https://www.smcfrf.org/events/medi-cal-waivers/>

FEBRERO - Offered in Spanish

Lo Básico de Medi-Cal (Organizado por Disability Rights California)

5 de febrero de 2026 | 6:00–7:30 pm | Zoom

Información básica sobre Medi-Cal, incluyendo elegibilidad, servicios cubiertos y cómo aplicar o mantener beneficios.

Registro (Zoom): <https://www.smcfrf.org/events/medi-cal-basics/>

Exenciones de Medi-Cal (Organizado por Disability Rights California)

17 de febrero de 2026 | 10:00–11:30 am | Zoom

Descripción general de las exenciones de Medi-Cal y cómo apoyan los servicios en el hogar y la comunidad.

Registro (Zoom): <https://www.smcfrf.org/events/medi-cal-waivers/>

La Intervención Temprana de mi Hijo Termina a los 3 Años – ¿Qué Sigue?

26 de febrero de 2026 | 6:00–7:30 pm | Zoom

Taller para familias sobre la transición de Intervención Temprana (Early Start) al cumplir 3 años y las opciones de servicios disponibles después.

Student Services News

Happy New Year from the Student Services Department

Happy New Year! We hope your winter break was restful and rejuvenating. As we kick off 2026, the Student Services Department is excited to welcome our students and families back to campus. A new year brings a fresh sense of possibility. Our team is here to ensure every student feels supported, empowered, and ready to thrive as they dive back into their routines. Let's make 2026 our best year yet!



MTSS/PBIS Corner: Supporting Every Student with COST

As part of our commitment to Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), we are excited to introduce COST (Coordination of Services Team) to our school this term. While this initiative is being introduced by the district, it is managed right here at the school level by our own dedicated staff.

What is COST? It is a collaborative team of counselors, teachers, and specialists who meet regularly to provide a "safety net" for students. By looking at the whole child—academics, behavior, and social-emotional health—we ensure that extra support is delivered quickly and effectively to those who need it most.

Our goal is simple: to make sure every student has the right tools to thrive in a positive school environment.

Vaping and Nicotine is Still Trendy

Educating yourself and your child is the first step toward prevention. Youth vaping and nicotine use remains a significant concern and these facts highlight how nicotine uniquely targets and alters the developing brain.

Vaping Facts:

- **Brain Rewiring:** Nicotine "hijacks" the brain's reward system, changing how cells communicate; this can lead to permanent issues with memory, learning, and the ability to focus in class.
- **Mental Health Cycle:** While many kids use nicotine to "relax," it actually triggers a cycle of anxiety and depression; the "relief" they feel is often just the temporary end of nicotine withdrawal.

Impulse Control: Because the prefrontal cortex isn't fully developed until age 25, nicotine exposure makes it harder for middle schoolers to control their impulses and increases the risk of future addiction to other substances.

How to Spot the Dangers:

- **Disguised Devices:** Many vapes are designed to look like everyday school supplies—such as highlighters, USB drives, or markers—making them easy to hide in plain sight. Some students are now also using nicotine patches. More information about those can be [found here](#).
- **High Potency:** One single disposable vape can contain as much nicotine as several packs of cigarettes, which can lead to addiction in youth much faster than in adults.
- **Physical Warning Signs:** Watch for unexplained coughs, increased thirst (nicotine dehydrates the mouth), or sudden changes in mood and irritability when they aren't using their device.

Local Resources & Support:

[San Mateo County Office of Education:](#) Substance Tobacco Use Prevention & Education (TUPE+) - find classes linked at the bottom of the page

[American Lung Association:](#) Talk to your child about Vaping

[Catch My Breath:](#) Parent and Community Resources & Handbook

National Support: Text "QUIT" to 202-804-9884 (Truth Initiative) for free, anonymous help specifically for middle and high school students.

E-Bike Safety

With more students choosing e-bikes for their morning commute, we've received several questions about the different "classes" and how to keep riders safe. Since e-bikes are heavier and faster than traditional bikes, understanding these basics is key for middle school parents.

Understanding the Three Classes of E-Bikes

E-bikes are categorized by how the motor provides power and how fast they can go. Most e-bikes have a sticker on the frame (usually near the motor or pedals) that lists its class.

- **Class 1: Pedal-Assist Only**
 - The motor only provides power while the rider is actively pedaling.
 - The motor stops assisting once the bike reaches 20 mph.
 - Best for Middle Schoolers: These are generally considered the safest and most intuitive for younger riders.
- **Class 2: Throttle-Assisted**
 - Includes a throttle (button or twist-grip) that allows the bike to move without pedaling.
 - The motor stops assisting once the bike reaches 20 mph.
 - Note for Parents: Throttles can be tempting for "racing" friends; ensure your student knows how to use the throttle responsibly.
- **Class 3: High-Speed Pedal-Assist**
 - Provides motorized assistance up to 28 mph.
 - Usually equipped with a speedometer and sometimes a throttle.
 - Important: Must be at least 16 years old to operate a Class 3 e-bike.

Essential E-Bike Safety Tips for Students

- **Wear the Right Helmet:** Because e-bikes travel at higher speeds, a standard bicycle helmet may not offer enough protection. Look for helmets that are "NTA 8776" certified, which are specifically designed for e-bike speeds.

- **Check Your Speed:** Middle school campuses and residential sidewalks are high-traffic areas. Students should keep speeds low (under 10 mph) when pedestrians or other bikers are nearby.
- **Practice Braking Early:** E-bikes are much heavier than traditional bikes. This extra weight means they require a longer distance to come to a full stop. Encourage your student to practice braking in a safe, empty parking lot.
- **Be Visible, Not Just Seen:** Cars often misjudge how fast an e-bike is approaching. Students should always use front and rear lights—even during the day—and wear bright or reflective clothing.
- **No "Passengers" for Minors:** By law, riders of Class 3 e-bikes are prohibited from carrying passengers. Even on Class 1 or 2 bikes, we strongly discourage "doubling up," as most student e-bikes are not engineered for the weight of two people, making them difficult to balance and stop.
- **Avoid Distractions:** Middle schoolers should never wear headphones or use a phone while operating an e-bike. Staying alert to traffic sounds is a critical safety skill.

Links for more information:

San Mateo Police Department: [Understanding Electric Vehicles](#) (video)

The Parent Venture: [E-Bike Safety-What Every Parent Should Know](#) (video)

Resources and Strategies to Prevent Bullying and Cyberbullying and Support Student Mental Health



Bullying and cyberbullying can have significant negative impacts on K-12 students, including physical, psychological, social, or educational harm, as well as increased risks of substance use, violence, and suicide. K-12 schools, however, can take a range of actions to both prevent bullying and cyberbullying and promote student mental health.

SchoolSafety.gov's latest [issue brief](#) offers actionable strategies to help K-12 schools build a multi-faceted approach to this critical issue. The [new issue brief](#) includes information on the impacts of bullying and cyberbullying on student mental health, as well as related resources to help schools recognize warning signs, promote positive student interactions, and support affected youth.

See a preview of the key actions below and [download the full issue brief](#) for more.

- **Create school environments that foster safety and positive interactions.** Consider how elements of the school building and classroom routines can affect student interactions and relationship building, and actively monitor areas where bullying is more likely to occur.
- **Educate the K-12 community about how they can prevent and respond to bullying and cyberbullying.** Provide information on bullying and cyberbullying warning signs and include strategies to help students know how to report bullying concerns and help others.
- **Involve students and families in developing a plan for responding to bullying.** Help students build confidence in standing up to bullying by leading them in a role-play activity to understand how to react if they experience bullying.
- **Institute everyday practices in the school environment that support student mental health.** Incorporate dedicated spaces and techniques, especially in the classroom, to help students de-escalate safely from intense emotions or situations.

[Download the Issue Brief](#)

To learn more and find additional resources, please visit SchoolSafety.gov's [bullying and cyberbullying](#) and [mental health](#) topic pages. If you have questions, please contact SchoolSafety@cisa.dhs.gov.

ICE: Know Your Rights and What To Do

As we continue to enjoy a vibrant and busy school year, we want to ensure our families remain prepared and supported regarding potential immigration enforcement (ICE) activities and that we are committed to maintaining a safe, welcoming environment where every student feels secure and ready to learn.

Family Support Resources

- [Know Your Rights \(KYR\) Guides](#): Available in multiple languages, these guides explain your constitutional rights during interactions with immigration officials.
- Emergency Contact Updates: Please ensure your child's emergency contact list is up to date in the front office. We recommend including a secondary trusted adult who has authorization to care for your child if you are unavailable.
- [Family Preparedness Plan](#): Organizations like the [Immigrant Legal Resource Center \(ILRC\)](#) offer step-by-step templates to help families organize important documents and childcare plans.

Rights and Protocols

- Can ICE enter the school grounds? Per our district policy and state law, enforcement agents cannot enter non-public areas of the school (classrooms, hallways, etc.) without a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge.
- Does the school share our family's information? No. We do not ask for, keep, or share information regarding the immigration status of any student or family member. Your private information is protected by law.
- What happens if a parent is detained and cannot pick up their child? We will always refer to your child's Emergency Contact Card. We will only release your child to the individuals you have authorized. Please make sure those contacts are current and that those individuals have a plan in place.
- What is the best way to stay informed? We will communicate any verified updates through our official school text and email system. We encourage families to rely on these official channels rather than rumors on social media.

Links for resources:

[Rapid Response Hotline](#): Call 203-666-4472 in San Mateo County if you see or hear ICE

San Mateo County Office of Education: [Supporting Immigrant Families Page](#)

[Red Cards](#): Print your own red cards (56 languages available) to know what to say in the moment
[Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#) (ILRC) for a comprehensive site of resources

Facilities

District Wide

The design work for repainting project is ongoing. Work is scheduled for summer of 2026. The District is currently working with Willdan Energy Solutions for replacement of gas water heaters to electrical water heaters with \$0 cost for the District. We are also working with the same company for methods of lighting upgrades so that energy cost savings will offset the cost of the work.

Cabrillo School

Construction is currently in intermission. Construction will resume this Spring and entire project is scheduled to be completed before school starts. Remaining Scope includes work in the main parking lot, ADA improvements, playground asphalt improvement and new stripping, and remaining fence work. The fence work includes two new gates at the new fenced area along Crispi Drive in front of school's building A. For student and public safety, the work cannot be done during school due to their proximity to the two main entrances the school uses for drop off and pick up.

Ingrid B Lacy Middle School

The replacement of the portable classroom has been completed and is ready for occupancy. The project is currently in the **Division of the State Architect (DSA)** closeout phase. The District is also evaluating options for the replacement of the gymnasium roof.

Linda Mar Educational Center

The Linda Mar Educational Center Roof Replacement is in contract award phase. Construction will start in April 2026 and will last approximately 90 days.

Sunset Ridge and Ocean Shore School

The contract for the existing school monument sign replacement is under review. The sign includes a new school ID sign and an electronic marquee sign. The library reading corner guard rail modification has been completed. For the outdoor canopy replacement project, the manufacturer of the pre-fabricated aluminum canopy that failed inspection is doing re-engineering work in order to satisfy code requirement.

Vallemar School

Art/ Science room floor replacement is under contract award. Bid documents for the playground asphalt replacement at the D wing basketball court is in the works. Both projects are scheduled for summer 2026.

Ortega School

Bid documents for the playground asphalt replacement at the upper grade yard is in the works. The improvement is scheduled for summer 2026.

District Office - 375 Reina Del Mar

Project has kicked off. The District is currently obtaining proposals for asbestos and lead base paint testing, as destructive investigation is required for the evaluation work.

District - 411 Oceana Site

The D wing addition project is currently waiting for DSA processing for project close out. The proposals for the District Office signage is under review.

Instructional Technology Department News

Interactive Display Demo (DMO)

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving our work and enhancing the technology provided to staff and students, we are excited to announce a **one-month Interactive Display Demo (DMO)** taking place at **Sunset Ridge / Ocean Shore** in **February**.

The purpose of this pilot is to give teachers the opportunity to use interactive display devices provided by vendors in their classrooms for a full month. During this time, teachers will be asked to share feedback on:

- What they like and dislike about the devices
- How students feel about using them
- Whether the displays help improve student engagement during class

So far, **two vendors have agreed** to provide demo units, and we are currently in discussions with several additional vendors who are interested in participating. We are hopeful that more demo units will be available as these conversations continue.

This pilot is a great opportunity for teachers to help guide the selection of classroom technology. The feedback collected will play an important role in choosing the interactive displays that best support teaching and learning as part of our **classroom technology improvement plan for the next school year**.

School News

Ortega News

December was filled with lots of excitement leading up to winter break. Ortega had a Spirit Week that highlighted Inclusive Schools Week, where each day was a new theme celebrating friendship, inclusion and kindness. We also had a Winter Singspiration where the 4th and 5th graders along with Mr. Stafford, led a sing-a-long of winter songs with the entire school.



New Principal

In January, Ortega welcomed our new principal Mr. Koenigsberg! Mr. Koenigsberg comes to us from Roy Cloud Elementary School in Redwood City. He hit the ground running and has been busy visiting classrooms and getting to know our students. We are very excited for him to join our Otter Community.



Ocean Shore/Sunset Ridge News



This morning Ocean Shore and Sunset Ridge celebrated Family/POD Day, a special combination of our traditional Family Day and POD Day. Each Family/POD is made up of one student from every grade level, creating a “school family” that comes together throughout the year to build relationships, strengthen community, and collaborate on meaningful projects.

For this Family/POD Day, we dressed our best to honor and continue the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students watched Dr. King’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech and then gathered together at the Elephant Steps to sing “This Little Light of Mine,” filling our campus with unity and hope.

We strive to embody the values Dr. King championed: community, teamwork, equality, and inclusion.

Vallemar News

Happy New Year! Here are the latest updates for January, highlighting activities happening at Vallemar.



Valentine The Cow

Vallemar had a dairy assemble this week. TK through third grade engaged in learning about Valentine the cow.



EarthCapades Assembly:

We kicked off January with an inspiring assembly presented by EarthCapades, which combined environmental education with engaging theatrics. Our K-5 students watched and participated in performances that inspired learning about our Earth and promoted advocacy and environmental awareness.

Positivity Focus:

Our character trait this month is positivity, and during our assembly this week, Principal Vuskovic and the fifth-grade leadership team emphasized its importance. They held the monthly star stallion raffle, and several students walked away with prizes for their positive actions and behavior.

Martin Luther King Jr. Focus:

Classes discussed Martin Luther King Jr. this week, and our classrooms celebrated his legacy through lessons in kindness, perseverance, love, justice, respect, and dreaming big.

School Spirit Shoutout:

A special mention to Mrs. Petrone's class for showing off their school spirit by wearing 49ers gear ahead of the wildcard games! It's inspiring to see our students excited about their favorite teams and our school community.

Upcoming Events:

- Yearbook Sale: Early bird sales run until January 31. Encourage your students to order now for a discount!
- Talent Show Save the Date: Don't forget to mark your calendars for our upcoming Talent Show on March 27!
- Family Day is on the calendar for January 28.

Stallion Store:

Students continue to participate in our Stallion Store, where they spend their earned Star Stallion. Many cool prizes were given this month at the store and the raffle. It is so great to see students motivated for kindness and positive behavior!

Thank you for creating a positive, supportive environment for our students. Let's make January a month filled with kindness, learning, and community!



Cabrillo News

At Cabrillo, we kicked off the 2026 school year with K-4 and 5-8 Positive Behavior Interventions Supports (PBIS) assemblies focused on setting clear expectations and building a positive school culture from day one. These assemblies gave students a shared understanding of what respectful, responsible behavior looks like across campus and why it matters. Starting the year this way helps prevent issues before they start, creates consistency for students and staff, and sets a strong, supportive tone for learning all year long. We are looking forward to a great 2026 year!



We celebrated Fun Friday on 1/9 with a schoolwide assembly in the yard. TK–8th grade students gathered as Principal Maganaris reviewed ORCA Power behavior expectations following our long winter break. Students and teachers faced off in a friendly game of Hula Hoop Pass, and the students won by a landslide! The assembly was a fun and positive way to bring our school community back together.

Family Day coincided with our Spirit Day on 1/16, with students and families dressing in “Decades” themes. Families joined together to play Yahtzee, and fun was had by all. The event was a great energy booster and a wonderful way to kick off the weekend while strengthening our school community.

Cabrillo School’s 7th and 8th grade students will be hosting a cereal box drive from January 19 to February 5 . During this time we will be accepting donations of unopened cereal boxes to be provided to the Pacifica Resource Center.

As we approach the end of January, our school will be celebrating several exciting events, including World Kindness Week, the 100th Day of School, and the 7th and 8th Grade GeoBee. These celebrations highlight our commitment to kindness, learning, and academic achievement, and we look forward to a fun and engaging end to the month for our students.

Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School

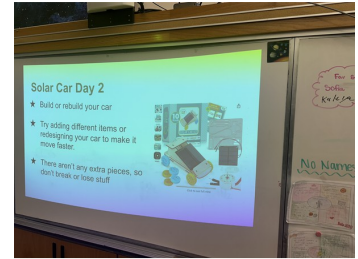
The students in 7th grade science built these solar cars and changed gears to see which one go faster.



7th Grade Students



Solar car



7th Grade Science

Math Night at IBL was a huge success!! Over 90 participants came, multiple schools, all ages. So fun the kids didn't want to leave. Great job Math teachers!!



IBL Math Night



IBL Math Night



IBL Math Night

REMINDER - 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

How Centering Systems and Education in Place Can Improve Our Well-Being

February 4, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Learn how reorienting people's daily lives around the places where they live can address our growing environmental and social crises.

The program features Matt Biggar, Ph.D., a strategy consultant, researcher, and former school district and school administrator in San Mateo County, discussing his recent book, *Connected to Place: Regenerating Nature, Community, and Local Economies through Systems Change*, and local educational leaders. Following his talk, Matt will moderate a panel discussion on place-based education. [Learn more.](#)



Smore Templates

Smore is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters