

Pacifica Press

PSD Family & Community Newsletter February 13, 2026

Message from Dr. Carisa J. Bowman, Interim Superintendent

Dear Pacifica School District Community,

Dear Pacifica School District Families and Staff,
Many of our students, families, and staff are currently experiencing a range of emotions including grief, fear, and concern in response to recent events across the country. I want to begin by acknowledging the weight of this moment and the very real impact it has on our school community. During times like these, it is especially important to pause, listen, and care for one another.

At Pacifica School District, we are guided by our commitment to compassion, dignity, and mutual respect. Even when national conversations feel heavy, we remain dedicated to coming together to support our students and ensuring that every child feels seen, valued, and safe in our classrooms. Our collective focus remains on student safety, emotional well-being, and learning. As a TK-8 district, we see these moments as opportunities for "civic learning" helping our students understand the importance of empathy, respectful dialogue, and peaceful engagement.



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," and 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: Black History Month

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. 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.



We are here to support you and your children as we navigate the world around us together. Thank you for your continued support and for making Pacifica such a special place to learn.

Warmly,

Dr. Bowman

Link for Family Resources

<https://www.ilrc.org/resources/community/immigration-preparedness-toolkit>



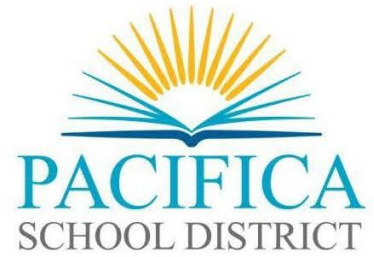
Schools are closed in honor of President's Day
Monday, Feb. 16, 2026 thru Friday, Feb. 20, 2026

Schools reopen on Monday, Feb. 23, 2026

Workforce Housing Project

Workforce Housing Update from Dr. Bowman

The Pacifica School District (PSD) Workforce Housing Initiative has reached a pivotal transition from planning to active development. As of February 2026, the project—located at the former Oddstad Elementary School site (930 Oddstad Blvd)—is officially moving into the physical construction phase.



Workforce Housing - Photos

Play Structure Replacement

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

Play Structure Replacement at Sunset Ridge Ocean Shore School, Vallemar School and Ortega School: The playground layout and play structure selection has finalized with all sites. The play structure manufacturer is currently working on detailed drawings. The project will be submitted to the Division of the Architect for approval. Target construction start date is Summer 2026.



✨ Spotlight on Staff ✨

In the Spotlight

Cabrillo - Ms. Elsbernd

A dedicated 7th-grade Social Studies teacher, Meghann expertly organizes and coordinates monthly First Friday assemblies, uniting students across all grades to strengthen our school community. Beyond the classroom, Meghann has been a steadfast advocate for certificated employees for the last five years, always seeking ways to offer support. As President of the LSEA, she provides caring and supportive leadership for her constituency, ensuring every member feels heard. We deeply appreciate her continued efforts to bring our students together and her tireless commitment to her colleagues.



Vallemar Spotlight - Vada Courtney

We are thrilled to nominate Vada Courtney for the Spotlight Award. In just her first year with PSD, she has seamlessly balanced the demands of serving two school sites while making a profound impact at Vallemar. She has gone above and beyond by taking the helm of the 4th and 5th-grade leadership program and successfully piloting our new Check-In/Check-Out (CICO) intervention for students. Her contributions to our COST team have been invaluable, offering insightful support where it is needed most. Vada is a true team player who has already built meaningful, positive relationships with both students and staff. We are so grateful to have her on our team.



✦ Exceptional Staff Spotlight: Kate Snyder

The Educational Support Services department is proud to recognize Kate Snyder, our TOSA and TK-3 Big Lift Literacy Lead. Kate wears many hats, most notably leading professional development sessions that equip our staff with data-driven literacy strategies. As we gear up for BLIS 2026, her

extraordinary attention to detail ensures every logistical piece is in place. Kate also works closely with Pacifica public libraries to connect families with vital local resources. Her caring demeanor and dedication to our youngest learners truly help us turn "Hopes and Dreams" into academic success.



✨Spotlight on Students✨



Cabrillo Students

Cabrillo's Leadership Team comprised of middle schoolers is always working to uplift our community – whether it be leading our First Friday assemblies or working in classrooms to provide support, we rely on our Leadership Team to be there helping to make our school the best it can be.



2nd grader Helen Greer uses a few minutes of her lunch recess every single day to help Ms. Karina and Ms. Sara clean up the cafeteria from the 2nd and 3rd grade lunchtime. Helen is in Ms. Neutz's class and loves to read in her downtime. We appreciate her amazing commitment to helping to clean up for the next group of students while also lending a helping hand to our team.

Leadership in Action at IBL

This month, we are launching a new spotlight feature to recognize students who go above and beyond to make our schools better. We are incredibly proud to kick this off by recognizing the 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Leadership Classes at Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School!

These students recently participated in our Student LCAP Mid-Year Engagement sessions, where they provided honest, thoughtful, and highly valuable feedback on their educational experience. From sharing ideas for more "hands-on" learning and project-based assignments to suggesting ways to improve campus culture and student engagement, these leaders demonstrated exactly what it means to be an active participant in their own education.

We also want to extend a huge thank you to the teachers who facilitated this engagement and empower these students every day: Rachel Merlo, Kate Sosnowski, and Jessica Parque. Your support ensures that our middle schoolers feel safe and confident enough to share their voices. The feedback gathered from these leadership classes will directly inform our planning and priority-setting for the 2026-27 school year. Thank you, IBL Leaders, for helping us shape the future of the Pacifica School District!



Sofia Salinas was recently recognized and interviewed by the IBL Times, where she shared with her classmates what her daily routine looks like—balancing school, sports, academic commitments, volunteering, and being an active member of our PURE Mentor Group on campus. In addition, Sofia serves as an office aide and continues to show up as a kind, dependable, and well-rounded student. IBL is incredibly proud to call Sofia one of our own!



Valleymar Students

We would also like to spotlight our students this month, who have been nominated for shining bright and setting a wonderful example for their peers. These students are recognized for demonstrating our core character traits of generosity and positivity. Whether it was being a good friend or bringing a hopeful attitude to a

challenging task, they embody the spirit of our school. Way to go to the following star spotlight students: Jackson H, Layla G, Leon B, Naomi E, Fritz S, Eloise M, Hailey T, Maddy J, Isla C, Saoirse C, Luella W-S, Diana C, Ally C, Hermione P, Iris H, Ashton R, and Mabel N.

Photo Album

PHOTOS - What's been happening at your school?

Board of Education Meeting

2025-2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATES:

2026: | February 25, 2026 | March 11, 2026 | April 29, 2026 | May 20, 2026 | June 10, 2026 | June 24, 2026



**Lynda Brocchini,
President**



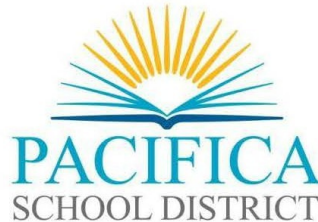
**Kai Doggett, Board
Member**



**Elizabeth Bredall, Board
Member**



**Laverne Villalobos, Vice
President**



Bridget Hardt, Clerk

District Office Department Updates

Calendars of Interest

Cultural Calendar: March 2026

March 1 – Read Across America Day (Dr. Seuss Day)

Read diverse books and explore different cultures through stories.

Resource: Seussville <https://www.seussville.com>

March 2 – World Book Day

Host a book swap and read folktales from around the world.

Resource: World Book Day <https://www.worldbookday.com>

March 3 – Women's History Focus: Innovators

Introduce female scientists and inventors; create a "Women Who Inspire Us" wall.

Resource: <https://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

March 8 – International Women's Day

Discuss global achievements of women; draw portraits of inspirational women.

Resource: United Nations <https://www.un.org/en/observances/womens-day>

March 13-14 – Purim



Learn about the Jewish holiday celebrating the story of Esther.

Resource: PJ Library <https://pjlibrary.org/big-ideas/holidays/purim>

March 14 – Pi Day / Math & Cultures

Explore Pi and highlight cultural contributions to mathematics.

Resource: <https://www.education.com/activity/article/pi-day-for-kids/>

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day / Irish Culture

Learn about Irish traditions, music, and folklore; create shamrock art.

Resource: <https://www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day>

March 20 – International Day of Happiness

Discuss cultural expressions of happiness; practice gratitude activities.

Resource: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/happiness-day>

March 20 – Nowruz (Persian New Year)

Explore traditions, crafts, and foods that welcome spring and the new year.

Resource: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Nowruz>

March 22 – World Water Day

Study water conservation and cultural connections to water around the world.

Resource: <https://www.worldwaterday.org>

March 25 – Holi (Date may vary)

Discover the Hindu festival of colors celebrating love and spring.

Resource: <https://www.history.com/news/holi-festival-colors>

Late March – Eid al-Fitr (Tentative – moon sighting)

Marks the end of Ramadan; date determined by moon sighting.

Resource: <https://ing.org/eid-al-fitr/>

March 30 – Cultural Arts Day

Showcase art, music, or dance from cultures studied throughout the month.

Resource: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

Education Support Services News



A Message of Gratitude: Shaping Our Future Together

The Pacifica School District would like to extend a heartfelt thank you - muchísimas gracias to every community member, parent, and staff member who participated in our recent Mid-Year Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) engagement sessions. Your insights are vital as we review our progress and begin planning for the 2026-27 school year.

A special shout-out goes to our middle school students who joined these sessions and shared their perspectives through our

LCAP Panorama Surveys. We heard clearly that while our students feel safe and supported by the adults on campus, there is a desire for learning to feel even more engaging and relevant, particularly in grades 6–8. Elevating student voice in this way ensures that our Educational Support Services and instructional goals remain centered on the learner.

What We're Learning Together: The feedback from these sessions, combined with our mid-year data, has highlighted several strengths and "signals" for growth:

- Strong Foundations: We are seeing growing academic progress, with over half of our students meeting or exceeding standards in ELA and Math.
- Supportive Relationships: Families and students report high levels of trust and strong relationships with school leadership and staff.
- Areas for Focus: You've asked for clearer communication regarding academic expectations and more consistent feedback for both students and staff.

Missed the Session? Your Voice Still Matters! If you were unable to attend a mid-year engagement session, you can still participate:

- Review the Presentation: See what was shared regarding our progress and data by viewing the [Community Engagement Presentation here](#).
- Share Your Feedback: Provide your input via our [online feedback form here](#).

Your responses will help directly inform our planning and priority-setting for the next school year, helping us build a more responsive and effective educational environment for all students.

Thank you for partnering with us to ensure every student in Pacifica has the resources and support they need to thrive.

LCAP Catch-up

- LCAP Catch-up: If you missed our mid-year engagement sessions, you can use a few minutes of the break to review our progress and share your feedback. See what was presented and fill out the form at bit.ly/4k4Wr9A.



President's Week Break: Safety and Exploration (Feb 16–20)

As a reminder, there will be no school from Monday, February 16, through Friday, February 20, for President's Week break. Whether you are staying local or heading out on an adventure, this is a

great time for students to recharge.

Based on our recent community feedback and safety initiatives, here are a few ways to make the most of the week off while keeping safety top of mind:

🚲 Master Your "Safe Route"

With no school in session, it's the perfect time to practice walking or rolling around Pacifica.

- The "Practice Run": If your student is moving to a new school next year or starting to bike alone, use this week to test out the "Safe Routes" to school. Check out the new high-visibility crosswalks and flashing beacons installed near our campuses.
- Check the Gear: Use the break to ensure helmets fit correctly and e-bikes are in good working order. Remember, most student e-bikes are Class 2 (with throttles)—ensure your student knows how to handle the speed safely on city trails.

🚌 Ride SamTrans for Free

Planning a trip to the library, the pier, or even over the hill to a museum?

- Youth Unlimited: If your student has a Youth Unlimited Pass, their bus rides are free all week!
- Be a "Smart Rider": Remind students to board through the front, exit through the back, and keep aisles clear of bags and gear while traveling to their favorite hangouts.

🌊 Local Engagement & Learning

- Whale Watching: It is migration season! Head down to the Pacifica Pier for a "living science" lesson.

- Student-Led Planning: In the spirit of our "Student Voice" initiative, let your student lead the way. Ask them to plan one local outing or a "home-made" science project in the kitchen.

We hope all our families have a restful, safe, and fun President's Week! We look forward to seeing everyone back in class on Monday, February 23rd.

Safety First: Walking, Rolling, and Riding in Pacifica



As more students in our district choose to walk, bike, or take the bus to school, the Pacifica School District (PSD) is committed to ensuring every journey is a safe one. Thanks to our ongoing partnership with Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and the City of Pacifica, we've implemented major safety upgrades across all our campuses, including new high-visibility crosswalks, curb extensions, and flashing beacon (RRFB) systems.

To keep our community safe, please review these essential safety tips with your students:

E-Bike & Wheeled Safety

With an increase in e-device use—nearly 47% of students at some of our schools now "roll" to class—safety on two wheels is more important than ever:

- Know Your Class: Most middle school students use Class 2 e-bikes (with throttles). Be aware that illegal "e-motos" (without working pedals) are not permitted on campus.
- Gear Up: Always wear a helmet. PSD schools have collaborated with SRTS to provide helmets to students who need them.
- Be Alert: Watch for pedestrians and follow all rules of the road. Students are encouraged to participate in upcoming events like the Safe Moves Bike Rodeo on March 20th.

Riding SamTrans Like a Pro

For students using public transit, being a "Smart Rider" ensures a smooth trip for everyone:

- Board & Exit Correct People: Always board through the front door and exit through the back to keep the aisles moving.
- Be Courteous: Treat others with kindness. Keep noise down by using headphones and speaking quietly, and always keep the aisles clear by stowing bags under your seat.
- Stay Safe & Alert: Let the driver focus by avoiding unnecessary conversation. Wait for the bus to pull away completely before attempting to cross the street.
- Respect the Rules: Prohibited items include weapons, vaping products, or any behavior that puts others at risk.

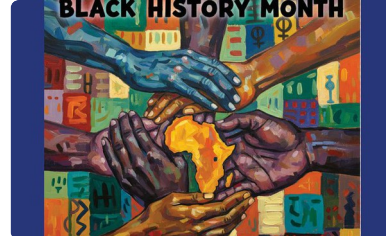
Mark Your Calendars!

- March 17–19: "Perfection on Wheels" BMX Show at Ortega and IBL.
- March 31 – April 4: Crossing Guard Appreciation Week—let's thank those who keep our intersections safe!

By following these tips and utilizing the new safety infrastructure in our city, we can ensure a safe and active school year for every Pacifica student!

*** **Have safety concerns or lost an item on the bus?** Report safety issues to SamTrans at **1-800-660-4287** or visit [_samtrans.com/lost](https://samtrans.com/lost).

As we continue through the month of February, the Pacifica School District is proud to join the nation in celebrating Black History Month. This is a time to honor the rich history, culture, and enduring contributions of Black Americans who have shaped our nation through leadership, innovation, and advocacy for justice.



In a special commitment to this celebration, the Pacifica School District Board of Trustees officially passed and adopted a formal resolution on February 11, 2026, recognizing February as Black History Month.

Honoring Iconic Figures and Role Models The resolution highlights the extraordinary legacies of several Black Americans whose courage and brilliance have transformed our society:

- **Pioneers of Justice and Equality:** We honor the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the bravery of Rosa Parks, and the resilience of Ruby Bridges. We also recognize the leadership of Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and John Lewis, as well as the historic milestone of President Barack Obama's election.
- **Trailblazers in STEM and Sports:** The District celebrates the mathematical genius of Katherine Johnson, the courage of Dr. Mae Jemison (the first Black woman in space), and the barrier-breaking career of Jackie Robinson.
- **Voices of Culture and Leadership:** We recognize the profound impact of authors and activists like Maya Angelou and James Baldwin, along with the political leadership of Shirley Chisholm and the judicial legacy of Thurgood Marshall.

Our Commitment to Equity and Belonging The resolution emphasizes that teaching the full and honest history of our nation strengthens student learning and promotes empathy. Affirming the identities and lived experiences of all learners—including our Black students—is essential to building schools where every student feels seen and valued. This dedication is woven into our district-wide LCAP goals, focusing on:

- **Educational Excellence:** Ensuring every student has access to high-quality, culturally responsive learning.
- **Inclusive Environments:** Reaffirming our commitment to creating safe schools where every learner feels a strong sense of belonging.

Engaging Together Throughout the remainder of the month, we encourage our students, educators, and families to engage in learning experiences that celebrate Black history and leadership. Whether through classroom discussions or community events, let's work together to ensure our students are prepared to participate in a diverse democracy with respect and understanding.

The Pacifica School District values the contributions of our Black students and families and remains dedicated to the pursuit of excellence for all.

Big Lift Inspiring Summers (BLIS) Summer 2026

Unlock a Summer of Discovery: Enroll Now in the BLIS Program!

Enrollment is now officially open for The Big Lift Inspiring Summers (BLIS), a free and engaging summer program designed to ignite a love of learning in our youngest students.

What is BLIS? BLIS is a full-day, four-week program for students entering Kindergarten through 3rd grade in Fall 2026. It focuses on strengthening literacy skills through joyful, hands-on "Maker" explorations and high-quality instruction.

Proven Success Recent data shows that the program works! 89.3% of previous BLIS participants either maintained or grew their literacy scores during the following school year. Additionally, over

10% of these students saw a direct increase in their overall performance levels.

Program Highlights:

- Cost: Completely FREE for eligible families.
- Dates: June 15 – July 10, 2026 (No program on June 19 or July 3).
- Location: Vallemar School.
- Hours: 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM.
- Meals: Complimentary breakfast and lunch are provided daily.

Why Choose BLIS? Our program is designed to prevent "summer slide" by keeping students curious and active. Your child will work with classroom teachers and San Mateo County Libraries facilitators in a supportive, student-centered environment.

How to Apply: Priority enrollment is based on student need, utilizing literacy and kindergarten readiness assessment data.

- Take Action: Space is limited, so we encourage you to apply early!
- Contact: For questions or to begin the application process, please reach out to Kate Snyder at ksnyder@pacificasd.org.

Don't miss this opportunity to give your child a summer filled with "Hopes and Dreams" and a strong headstart for the upcoming school year!



Pacifica Pipeline Project

Cabrillo

Cabrillo CTE Engineering is excited to offer a fun simple machine curriculum along with career exploration opportunities. Mr. Uribe has the students participating in hands-on lab based sequence of desktop mini simple machine labs then move it outside for large scale hands on demonstrations. We use inclined planes with books and rulers to find forces and work; then move outside to model the scale of an ADA ramp needed to get to the upper deck. Small scale levers and fulcrums are used to calculate mechanical advantage then move outside for a full scale seesaw lab. We use large pulleys and hoist students up to the top of the basketball hoop. Students move water in small scale Archimedes Screws then move up to a large scale 10 foot long water screw! Firewood splitting wedges and wheel and axle calculations wrap up the foundations of Simple Machines. All the students' hard work comes together with a Mousetrap Car Design challenge bringing together their understanding of compound simple machine mechanics .

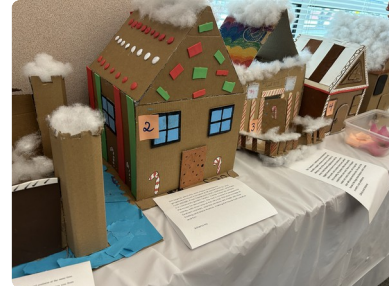
Ingrid B. Lacy

Gingerbread House Bonanza

By: EJ

For this winter season, Ms. Twomey's fifth-period class, career exploration, is in the process of becoming real estate agents by making and selling D.I.Y. cardboard models of gingerbread houses.

They're planning to fully build and furnish the houses to create real estate ads to sell to an imaginary buyer. They have to describe the price, design and curb appeal, (what it looks like from the outside.) And, have actually learned that curb appeal is the most important part about real estate to capture the buyers attention. All of the houses were very intricate and unique, with each one being different from the others. For example, one of them has a very abstract shape with multiple stories, each one of them with the idea of living in. The last one was a castle with a moat surrounding it. It even had a real working drawbridge! Not only did these students get to make fun crafts, but they also got a valuable life skill that could possibly help them in the future as well.



It's National CTE Month!. CTE plays a vital role in the Pacifica Pipeline preparing students for success after school by providing hands-on learning, career exploration, and industry-aligned skills. Students who participate in CTE are often more engaged in school and graduate at higher rates. We're proud to offer programs that help students discover their interests and build pathways toward college and meaningful careers.



The Big Lift

📧 The Big Lift TK-3 Community Newsletter – February 2026 ✉
Supporting Literacy for Pacifica's TK-3 Families

🌞 Big Lift Inspiring Summers (BLIS) – Registration Is Now Open

Big Lift Inspiring Summers (BLIS) is a FREE, full-day summer program for students entering Kindergarten through 3rd grade in Fall 2026. The program is designed to strengthen literacy skills through joyful, engaging learning experiences. Program Details:

📍 Location: Vallemar School

📅 Dates: June 15–July 10 (No program on June 19 or July 3)

🕒 Hours: 8:00 AM–3:30 PM

🍽️ Breakfast and lunch provided daily

📋 Attendance: Students are expected to attend daily and miss no more than two days
Enrollment opened Monday, February 2, and spots are limited. Priority enrollment is based on student need, using literacy and kindergarten readiness information. We appreciate families' patience as we thoughtfully identify students and families with the greatest need.

👉 Apply here:

English: https://thebiglift.formstack.com/forms/inspiringsummerspacifica_english

Español: https://thebiglift.formstack.com/forms/inspiringsummerspacifica_espanol

👥 District Literacy Implementation Team (DLIT)

We're looking to expand our District Literacy Implementation Team! This cross-role team supports PSD's TK-3 Literacy Action Plan and meets the first Wednesday of each month. Please reach out to Kate Snyder at ksnyder@pacificasd.org if interested.

📖 Supporting Reading Growth at Home

Children build strong reading comprehension by talking about books, asking questions, and

making connections. Reading together every day — even for a short time — makes a big difference. Try asking questions like: What happened in the story?, Who was your favorite character and why? and What would you have done in that situation? For younger readers, retelling a story using characters, setting, and events is a fun way to build understanding. Acting out stories or drawing favorite scenes also helps children deepen comprehension.

Community Library Resources

San Mateo County Libraries offer many free resources and events for families, including library cards for all ages, story times for babies, toddlers, and families, Reading Buddies programs, Museum passes through Discover & Go, and special events, crafts, and performances throughout the month. These programs support literacy, creativity, and family learning — all at no cost.

District Literacy Connections

Pacifica School District continues to support early literacy through high-quality classroom instruction, literacy assessments that help teachers understand student strengths and needs, and ongoing support for students who may need additional reading help. Families are important partners in this work, and your support at home makes a meaningful difference.

Thank You, Families & Community

Thank you for supporting reading at home and for being active partners in your child's learning journey. If you have questions about literacy resources or summer programs, please don't hesitate to reach out. Wishing you a joyful month of reading and learning!

Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELOP)

SPINDRIFT CAMP THIS WINTER BREAK!
Musical Theatre Showcase!



Expanded Learning Opportunity

Inspired by the hit Broadway Musical and Movie!

Step into the spellbinding world of Wicked, where young performers will sing, dance and act their way through the untold story of Oz.

*** Ages 4-7**

Two Sessions February 16-20, 2026

Morning: 9AM-Noon

Afternoon: 1PM-4PM



*** Ages 8-12**

February 16-20, 2026

9:00am-3:00pm

Inspired by the hit Movie! Dive into a blocky world of adventure in our brand-new Minecraft Musical, where kids get to sing, dance, and act their way through epic quests and creative challenges.

Extended Care available for no additional cost: 8am-9am & 1pm-6pm

Both camps offer a wonderful chance to sharpen both reading & math skills!

If you would like to register for these programs at no cost, please click the QR code and fill out the form. Space is limited

Location: Spindrift School of Performing Arts

1053 Crespi Dr., Pacifica CA 94044

REGISTER ONLINE: www.spindriftschool.org or call 650-738-8648

Special Education News

Ingrid B. Lacy

Our Ingrid B. Lacy students recently participated in a baking activity over two consecutive Fridays, providing them with a meaningful, hands-on learning experience.

During this activity, students practiced following step-by-step directions, taking turns, and measuring ingredients. Students had a great time and yes teamwork was the secret ingredient!



Ortega Preschool

Ms. Trainor's little astronauts celebrated 100 days of school and made rocket ships for Transportation Month!

Ortega

Ms. Howe's third graders at Ortega had a blast exploring the power of wind, watching their pinwheels spin and learning science in action.



San Mateo County Family Resource Center

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.

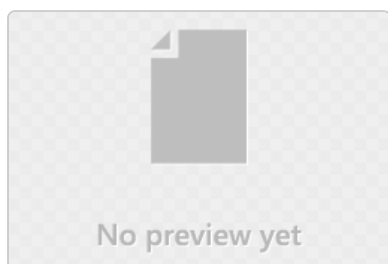
FRC/FEC: My child's early intervention ends at age 3 – what's next? (La intervención temprana de mi hijo termina a los 3 años – ¿Qué sigue?)

February 26, 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://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/6uFi90fpSnOlBUKZH7-HJw>

Note: This training would be presented in Spanish only, please feel free to share the attached flyer for more information!



Calendar - Family Resource Center

Calendar

smcfrfc.org

Student Services News

2026-2027 TK/Kinder Lottery Update

The 2026-2027 TK/Kinder Lottery was held on Friday, February 6, 2026. Lottery results are posted on our website at www.pacificasd.org and near the front entrance of our District Office. Placement confirmation letters will be sent home for all lottery participants later this month.



All residents who live within the Pacifica School District's boundaries are guaranteed placement in a PSD school.

The 2026-2027 PSD Waitlist/Transfer Form will be available to residents within our district's boundaries starting on Monday, March 9, 2026. The form will be available on our website under the Student Services Department and in hard copy at our District Office.

Online registration for the 2026-2027 school year is scheduled to begin in mid-March 2026.

For questions, please contact the Student Services Department at (650) 738-6606 or nortega@pacificasd.org

MTSS/PBIS Corner

MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports)

This year, we are continuing to use PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) in all our schools to help our students thrive. Instead of just focusing on rules, PBIS is a proactive way to teach and celebrate the behaviors that make our school a great place to be.

How PBIS helps our students:

- **Clear Expectations:** We use a common language across the whole school—from the yard to the classroom—so every student knows exactly what success looks like.
- **Encouragement First:** We prioritize "catching students doing the right thing." Highlighting positive choices builds confidence and encourages others to follow suit.
- **Focus on Growth:** When mistakes happen, we treat them as moments to reteach skills, ensuring students feel supported rather than discouraged.

By focusing on these positive habits, we create more time for learning and a kinder, safer, more predictable environment for everyone.

To continue to grow in learning, our school PBIS teams will be receiving professional development on February 24th.

AB 49: The California Safe Haven Schools Act

[Assembly Bill 49](#) is a new piece of legislation focused on school safety and emergency preparedness that goes into effect March 1, 2026. AB 49 focuses on streamlining how schools handle emergency protocols to ensure they are consistent, clear, and—most importantly—supportive of our students' well-being. The main ideas are:

- **Thoughtful Drills:** Safety exercises will be conducted calmly and in an age-appropriate way to keep students feeling secure and not stressed.
- **Better Communication:** This bill helps us stay even more connected with you regarding our campus protocols.
- **Focus on Learning:** By having these clear plans in the background, we ensure our classrooms remain a focused, happy space for your children.

The goal is to ensure all schools have clear, consistent, and student-friendly safety plan

samTrans Resources for Students

samTrans

samTrans offers discounted rates for ALL students under the age of 18 and has multiple ways for students to ride for FREE. Students who are Foster Youth or qualify as McKinney Vento can receive free passes through their school, but other students may qualify as well. See the links below for more information to see if your student qualifies.

Youth Unlimited: Free bus travel for Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students

Way2Go Pass Program: Older students who take 1 or more college credits

For more information about having your student ride the bus, you can get [more information here](#). To review the rules on how to be a safe rider while on samTrans, please visit [this page here](#).

Mental Health Resources

For parents and caregivers, a child's health and happiness are top priorities. It is completely normal for young children to experience "big feelings" that can sometimes feel overwhelming. Whether it involves frequent tantrums, trouble sleeping, or difficulty adjusting to change, these behaviors are often a child's way of communicating emotional struggle.

It is important to remember: if a child is struggling, it is not the fault of the parent. Mental health is just as vital as physical health, and seeking support is a brave, proactive step for any family. Early intervention can make a significant difference, helping children develop the tools needed to navigate emotions and build long-term resilience.

When to consider extra support: Keep an eye out for persistent changes in a child's behavior, such as:

- Extreme difficulty being calmed down or frequent, intense crying.
- Significant changes in eating or sleeping patterns.
- Withdrawal from play or exploration.
- Difficulty forming close bonds or reacting to affection.

Resources are available. There are many ways to understand child development and connect with professional support. For more information on navigating early childhood mental health, accessing services, and supporting parental well-being, explore the "Big Feelings" resource hub from First 5 San Mateo.

Learn more here: [First 5 San Mateo: Big Feelings](#)

Facilities

Cabrillo

Construction is currently in intermission. The project inspector has discovered the existing concrete walkway from the street sidewalk leading to the school's main entrance ramp is not ADA compliant. The design team is currently working on a solution. Additional work to reconstruct the pedestrian walkway might be added to the construction this summer.

Linda Mar Educational Center

The Linda Mar Educational Center Roof Replacement is in preconstruction phase. Project team walked the site to coordinate construction logistics. Coordination is also in progress with the

building tenants to ensure minimal disruption and safety. Contractor is preparing for material procurement. Construction will start in late February and will last approximately 90 days.

Ocean Shore/Sunset Ridge

School library enlargement is currently actively under DSA project close out.

Valleamar School

Art/ Science room floor replacement contract is under processing. Bidding process has started for the playground asphalt replacement at the D wing basketball court. Both projects are scheduled for Summer 2026.

Ortega School

Bidding process has started for the playground asphalt replacement at the upper grade yard. The improvement is scheduled for summer 2026.

375 Reina Del Mar

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

District Wide

Bidding process for the Exterior Painting project has started. Meanwhile, the architect team is financializing on the drawings. Existing school murals are carefully being documented for the ones desired for preservation. See link below for the District Standard color palette as well as conceptual color renderings for each site.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Jn2wbWOvnJsSxqzXQ7FYmxExVwaLhb?usp=drive_link

Work is scheduled for summer of 2026 at the following sites: Sunset Ridge, IBL, Valleamar, Cabrillo and Ortega.

District wide, 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. The company representative walked the site and conducted feasibility assessments. 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.

The District is currently coordinating the summer construction projects with proposed summer schools at the District sites, as well as miscellaneous facility use requests for this summer.

Instructional Technology Department News

We are excited to share some great news with our Pacifica School District community!

Our new district website, which was published on November 26, 2025, has already seen tremendous engagement. Our analysis shows over 25,000 visits and more than 3,500 clicks, an impressive achievement that would not have been possible without your continued support and dedication.

Building on this momentum, we are pleased to announce that we are planning to launch the first-ever Pacifica School District mobile app for both iPhone and Android users in mid-February.

Your January performance on Google Search



<https://www.pacificasd.org/>



3.65K
Clicks (web)



25.2K
Impressions (web)



66
Pages with first impressions (estimated)

Additional details, including what to search for in the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, will be shared closer to the launch date.

The initial release of the app will focus on improving communication and providing easy access to district news, calendars, events, and important updates. In future phases, we plan to add two-way communication features to support easier interaction between teachers and families.

In addition, users who download the app will receive push notifications directly on their phones for emergency alerts and important announcements, ensuring timely communication beyond other platforms.

We will continue moving forward to support 21st-century technology, strengthen transparency, and enhance communication across our district. This progress is only possible because of your ongoing support and commitment, thank you for being such an important part of our community.

Child Nutrition Department

February 2026

Lunch

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2	3	4	5	6
Entrees • PEPPERONI POCKET • PRETZEL, YOGURT, STRING CHEESE Fruits & Vegetables • CAESAR SALAD • BLUEBERRIES, FRESH Milks • CHOCOLATE MILK • 1% MILK	Entrees • CHICKEN TERIYAKI & RICE • CHEESY BREAD STICKS Fruits & Vegetables • BROCCOLI • CUCUMBER SLICES • PEARS Milks • CHOCOLATE MILK • 1% MILK	Entrees • BEEF HOT DOG • MACARONI & CHEESE Fruits & Vegetables • CORN • ORANGE Milks • CHOCOLATE MILK • 1% MILK	Entrees • BBQ PULLED PORK SANDWICH • CHEESY PULL APART BREAD Fruits & Vegetables • APPLE • BABY CARROTS Milks • CHOCOLATE MILK • 1% MILK	Entrees • CRISPY CHICKEN SANDWICH • BREAKFAST 4 LUNCH IW (V) Fruits & Vegetables • CHERRY TOMATOES • MANDARIN • BEANS Milks • CHOCOLATE MILK • 1% MILK
9	10	11	12	13
Entrees • CHICKEN NUGGETS • YOGURT PARFAIT w/ CRACKERS & STRING CHEESE Fruits & Vegetables • CAESAR SALAD • BLUEBERRIES, FRESH Milks • CHOCOLATE MILK • 1% MILK	Entrees • CHICKEN CORN DOG • CHEESE QUESADILLA Fruits & Vegetables • BROCCOLI • CUCUMBER SLICES • PEARS Milks • CHOCOLATE MILK • 1% MILK	Entrees • CHICKEN TENDERS W/ MASHED POTATO • FRENCH BREAD PIZZA Fruits & Vegetables • CORN • ORANGE Milks • CHOCOLATE MILK • 1% MILK	Entrees • BREAKFAST FOR LUNCH/PORK SAUSAGE • BREAKFAST 4 LUNCH (V) Fruits & Vegetables • BABY CARROTS • APPLE Milks • CHOCOLATE MILK • 1% MILK	Entrees • BEEF TAQUITOS • GRILLED CHEESE Fruits & Vegetables • CHERRY TOMATOES • BLACK BEANS • MANDARIN Milks • CHOCOLATE MILK • 1% MILK
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
Entrees • PEPPERONI POCKET • PRETZEL, YOGURT, STRING CHEESE Fruits & Vegetables • CAESAR SALAD • BLUEBERRIES, FRESH Milks • CHOCOLATE MILK • 1% MILK	Entrees • TERIYAKI CHICKEN & RICE • CHEESY BREAD STICKS Fruits & Vegetables • BROCCOLI • CUCUMBER SLICES • PEARS Milks • CHOCOLATE MILK • 1% MILK	Entrees • BEEF HOT DOG • MACARONI & CHEESE Fruits & Vegetables • CORN • ORANGE Milks • CHOCOLATE MILK • 1% MILK	Entrees • PEPPERONI PIZZA SLICE • CHEESE PIZZA SLICE Fruits & Vegetables • BABY CARROTS • APPLE Milks • CHOCOLATE MILK • 1% MILK	Entrees • CRISPY CHICKEN SANDWICH • BREAKFAST 4 LUNCH IW (V) Fruits & Vegetables • CHERRY TOMATOES • BLACK BEANS • MANDARIN Milks • CHOCOLATE MILK • 1% MILK

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School News



Cabrillo News

Last week we celebrated the 100th day of school with teachers leading various activities to celebrate with their students. Cabrillo School's 7th and 8th grade students will be hosted a cereal box drive from January 19th to February 5th. We accepted donations of unopened cereal boxes to be donated to the Pacifica Resource Center. We created a cereal box domino chain during our First Friday Assembly and all classes gathered in the hallways and

cafeteria to watch the boxes fall. It was a slightly stressful feat to set up the boxes without triggering the domino effect. It was a lot of fun and enjoyed by all.

Cabrillo students turned giving into incredible fun with our Cereal Box Domino Challenge. Families donated cereal boxes for the Pacifica Resource Center to support local families in need. Students then used the boxes to create a school-wide domino challenge that spread across campus. It was exciting, joyful, and a great example of our community coming together for a good cause.



Ingrid B. Lacy News

The Great Kindness Challenge took place last week, and it was a huge success! We were honored to be recognized by the Great Kindness Challenge organization, which officially approved IBL's participation.

Our campus was filled with kindness in action—students created posters, bracelets, painted rocks, and other projects that brought everyone together with a shared purpose. These activities helped spread positivity throughout the school and truly strengthened our sense of community.

We felt the impact of that collective kindness all week long, and it was incredible to see our students supporting one another and contributing to such a welcoming, caring environment.

We had a great Jumanji movie night with the seventh grade class as a fundraiser, and it was very successful! All participants had a great time, and we're already looking forward to the next one.





Ocean Shore/Sunset Ridge School

On January 22, we celebrated reading and kicked off our Book-A-Thon fundraiser with Ocean Shore and Sunset Ridge. Our students spent the evening reading around the school in creatively themed rooms, including camping, Elephant & Piggie, friendship, space, and more.

We wrapped up the night with milk and cookies, and every student went home with a free book - the perfect ending to a fun, cozy celebration of reading!

Ortega News

Ortega has had a busy and exciting time in January! Students enjoyed an EarthCapades assembly, where they learned about caring for our planet through engaging and interactive lessons. We also held PBIS refresher assemblies to review expectations in shared spaces like the lunchroom/MPR and bathrooms, helping everyone stay safe, respectful, and responsible.



Our campus was filled with kindness during The Great Kindness Challenge. One highlight was students making friendship bracelets at recess with our Peacemakers, which they proudly shared with friends and classmates. Students also teamed up with their buddy classes to create bracelets together, building connections across grade levels and spreading kindness throughout our school community. Also found around campus were free compliment and kindness messages that kids could tear off and take with them.

We also had a spirit week in January where each day highlighted belonging and kindness. Future You Day - Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's message of dreaming big, dress as who you hope to be one day!

Rainbow Day - Grade level colors - Each grade wears a different color to show that we are all unique. Together we make a rainbow!

Wacky Sock Day - Wear your wacky or mismatched socks - Our differences make us special!

I have a Dream Day (PJ day) - Wear your PJ's and dream big about kindness, friendship and inclusion.



Vallemar News

Our fifth graders are spending this week at Camp Jones Gulch for their outdoor education adventure from February 2-6! This is an experience they look forward to every year, and we can't wait to hear all about their adventures and what they've learned.

During the last week of January, we promoted a lot of kindness in our school, and we will continue to focus on kindness throughout the year. This month, we are

highlighting kindness as our character trait. Our school is all about kindness! During our Kindness Week, families joined us in decorating squares for our Kindness Quilt. Together, we took a fantastic school-wide photo, wearing rainbow colors representing each grade. We also read a kindness book and had heartfelt discussions on what it means to be kind. It was a wonderful celebration of our school's values!

[Upcoming Events in February:](#)

- 2/10: PTO Meeting.
- 2/11: School Assembly focused on Kindness.
- 2/25: Biblio Spectacular Show with Brian Scott, an assembly blending magic and education.
- 2/26: Family Math Night. Join us for a free event for all families! Enjoy math learning games designed for TK-5 students. Complete your passport for a prize! Time: 5:30 - 6:30 PM. Location: Vallemar MPR.
- 2/27: Variety Show Prescreening. Still time to sign up! February 13 is the deadline. Save the date for our show on March 27!
- 2/27 We encourage you to join us for Vallemar's Auction Night at the Oscars at the Mildred Owen Concert Hall from 7:00 - 11:00 PM. There will be great prizes and activities to bid on. It's always a fun time getting dressed up for the night with our community! [March Events](#)

We're participating in the Golden Sneaker Contest from February 2nd to February 13th! This challenge encourages our community to walk, bike, carpool, and take public transit to promote healthy habits, better air quality, and reduce cars on the road.

We welcome Ms. Boland to our team as our new RSP teacher! She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in special education to our school, and we are lucky to have her in our community.

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.

Teachers and staff at Pacifica School District work collaboratively to foster strong attendance habits through a comprehensive approach that includes proactive campaigns, diligent monitoring, and personalized support for students and families.

What Is School Attendance? | Fact Snacks



FACT SNACKS



Flyers

FUN FULL-DAY VOLLEYBALL CAMPS 9AM-3PM & CLINICS 3:30PM-5:30PM

ENCORE.

YOUTH

SPRING 2026

CAMPS

**GIRLS & BOYS
GRADES K-8TH**

SPRING BREAK CAMP DATES:
FEB 17-20 | MAR 30-APR 2 | APR 6-9

CLINIC DATES:
MAR 27 | APR 10 & 24 | MAY 1

Serve up a full day of volleyball at our Spring sessions! Campers learn the basics, level up their game, and have a blast with mini matches and skill games.

- Age-appropriate skill stations and activities
- Character development and sportsmanship focus
- Fun games and competitions throughout the day!!

**SCAN TO
REGISTER AND
GET ALL THE
DETAILS**

2575 E BAYSHORE RD
REDWOOD CITY CA 94063

ENCORELEADERSHIP@ENCOREVOLLEYBALL.COM



Rooms for Rent Feb 2026 Eng & Spa.pdf

Download

479.3 KB

San Mateo County Office Of Education News

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.](#)



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](#))

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](#)).

Food Resources

[The County of San Mateo provides resources for families facing food insecurity. Learn more.](#)



Smore Templates

Smore is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters