

Pacifica Press

PSD Family & Community Newsletter May 1, 2026

Message from Dr. Carisa J. Bowman, Superintendent

Dear Pacifica School District Community,

As we welcome the first signs of spring, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude and excitement for the future of our schools. It is a profound honor to address you today not only as your partner in education but, following the Board of Trustees' announcement, as your permanent Superintendent of Schools. This community's dedication to our students is unmatched, and I am eager to continue our work together to ensure every child in Pacifica feels seen, supported, and challenged.



As we move into May, our students will begin California State Testing. These assessments help us understand how our students are progressing and where we can provide more support.

Assessments: ELPAC and CAASPP

- ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessments for California): These are specifically for our students whose primary language is not English. They help us measure their growth in listening, speaking, reading, and writing to ensure they are receiving the right level of support to excel.
- CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress): Often referred to as "Smarter Balanced," these tests in English Language Arts and Mathematics provide a snapshot of student achievement relative to California's high standards.

To help your child feel confident and prepared, please keep the following in mind:

- Check Schedules: Your individual schools will be sending out specific information regarding their testing schedules shortly. Because every site manages its own calendar to minimize

disruption to learning, please keep an eye out for a direct message from your school principal.

- **Rest & Nutrition:** Ensure your child gets plenty of sleep and a healthy breakfast.
- **Take Breaks:** Encourage your child to do their best, but remind them to breathe. Their well-being is always our top priority.

Transparency is key to our partnership. I encourage all families to review our district's data through the California School Dashboard.

What is the Dashboard? Think of it as a "report card" for the entire school district. Instead of just one grade, it uses a color-coded system (ranging from Red for lowest to Blue for highest) to show how we are doing in areas like test scores, English learner progress, and graduation rates. It's designed to be easy to read so you can see exactly where we are shining and where we are focusing our improvement efforts.

You can explore our data at www.caschooldashboard.org.

Thank you for your continued partnership, your feedback, and your shared commitment. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming board meetings and school events this month. With appreciation and District pride,

Dr. Bowman

Fiscal Stability Plan

Managing a school district's budget is a complex balancing act that requires long-term vision. To ensure the district remains on a solid financial path, Pacifica School District is developing a **Fiscal Stability Plan (FSP)**.

Below is an overview of what this plan entails and how it is being shaped for our community.

What is a Fiscal Stability Plan?

A **Fiscal Stability Plan** is a strategic roadmap used by school districts to ensure they can meet their financial obligations over a multi-year period. It is more than just a budget; it is a commitment to fiscal health that balances the district's educational mission with its economic reality.

A typical FSP focuses on:

- **Balancing Expenditures:** Aligning the cost of programs and staffing with actual revenue.
- **Protecting the Classroom:** Prioritizing resources that directly impact student learning while identifying operational efficiencies.
- **Addressing Structural Deficits:** Solving long-term financial gaps caused by declining enrollment or rising mandated costs.
- **Ensuring Solvency:** Maintaining the necessary reserves to handle economic shifts or emergencies.

A Collaborative Expert Approach

The Pacifica School District is not developing this plan in isolation. To ensure the highest level of accuracy and transparency, the district is working with three key external partners:

1. **San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE):** As the primary oversight agency, SMCOE provides technical support and ensures the plan meets all state-mandated fiscal requirements.
2. **Independent Auditors:** Professional auditors review the district's historical financial data to identify trends and ensure the FSP is built on a foundation of verified, accurate numbers.

3. **Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT):** FCMAT is a statewide agency of financial experts. They are providing an unbiased "deep dive" into the district's finances, offering specific recommendations to help the district achieve long-term sustainability.

Important Upcoming Dates:

Transparency with our community is a top priority. The progress and details of the Fiscal Stability Plan will be shared publicly during the following session:

Presentation Date: June 10, 2026

Location: Pacifica School District Board Meeting

Context: The Fiscal Stability Plan will be presented alongside the **Proposed 2026-2027 Budget**.

By presenting these two documents together, the Board of Trustees and the public will have a comprehensive view of both the immediate spending plan for the next school year and the long-term strategy to keep the district fiscally strong.

Why this matters: These proactive steps ensure that Pacifica School District can continue to provide a high-quality education for every student, regardless of the economic climate.

May 2026 PHOTOS - Making Memories

May 2026 FLYERS - Local Happenings

✨ Spotlight on Students ✨

Ortega Elementary School

It was a busy month of reading here in Ottertown. The Ortega Read-A-Thon ran from March 2nd through March 22nd. The students were invited to create bookmark designs and Ms. Shauna, our School Librarian, picked 2 winners, Avery Trapani in 2nd Grade and Emmaline Chew, in 3rd Grade. Our Otters raised over \$30,000 with over 141,000 total minutes in reading. There were 32 Gold Readers. Gold Readers are students that reached their grade level reading goals for 3 weeks in a row. Gold Readers earned a picture on the "We Love Reading Wall of Fame" and a chance to win lunch with Ms. Shauna. Collectively the school earned enough money that Mr. Koenigsberg will dress up as the Cat in the Hat! Ms. Franco's 5th grade class read the most minutes, Mrs. Abulencia's 3rd grade class had the highest participation and Ms. Fare's 1st grade class raised the most funds.



The excitement didn't end there. Many performers had the opportunity to take the stage again in front of their peers at a school-wide assembly the following day. Our teachers and staff even joined the fun, performing a dance medley, a standout highlight of the evening. To keep the joy going, a few performers even shared their talents with the broader community at our annual Spring Fest. We are so proud of everyone who participated and grateful to all who helped make this event such a success.



Family Day – Earth Day Celebration

Our recent Family Day at Vallemar was celebrated with engaging learning discussions and an educational craft focused on Steelhead trout, highlighting their fascinating life cycle and their connection to Pacifica. Students and staff wore green and blue to show their school spirit and support for Earth Day. Students deepened their understanding of ecosystems and recognized the importance of protecting our planet.



Recent Events

- **Scholastic Book Fair:** Our science-themed Scholastic Book Fair showcased an impressive selection of science-themed books and resources, sparking excitement about reading and learning.

- Science Night: April 21, we hosted an engaging Science Night with hands-on experiments conducted by *Science from Scientists* and displays of 3rd through 5th grade student projects. The event was a huge success!
- Steelhead Trout Assembly: On April 20, students learned all about the Steelhead Trout from the Pacifica Beach Coalition, highlighting the importance of preserving our oceans and safeguarding our ecosystems and fish populations.
- Therapy Dog Visit: We were delighted to have Deputy Martinez and her therapy canine, Ben, visit our fourth graders, offering comfort and joy to our students.
- Fourth Grade Squid Dissection: Our fourth graders had the opportunity to dissect squid, providing them with a hands-on learning experience.
- Talent Show: The recent Talent Show was a fantastic success, bringing together our students for an evening of amazing performances that showcased their talents and creativity. It was wonderful to see our community come together in support of our Star Stallions!
- Open House and Art Show: Families joined us on April 30 for an evening that showcased our students' incredible work along with a silent auction.



Field Trips and Learning

Our students have had a fantastic time with all of the field trips and hands-on learning experiences this month!

- Students participated in gardening activities, planting seed starters, and learning about the life cycle of plants.
- The third graders enjoyed an educational field trip to the Woodside Store and San Mateo County History Museum.
- The fifth graders explored the science exhibits at the Exploratorium.
- Our students have also been learning about raising chickens, ladybugs, and butterflies!
- We held Behavior Review Assemblies this month, reinforcing our expectations and promoting positive behavior throughout the school.

Schoolwide Cleanup and Eco Fest

From April 20 to 24, we organized a schoolwide cleanup to promote environmental stewardship among our students. Vallemar proudly participated in the Eco Fest at Linda Mar Beach on Saturday, April 18, where we hosted a booth highlighting our school's commitment to ecology and environmental education. A huge thank you to Mrs. Huffman and Mrs. Baptista for running the Vallemar table and teaching about steelhead trout.



Character Traits and Awards

In March, we celebrated empathy as our character trait, recognizing our Popstar Students: Wyatt E, Audrey K, Kayden G, Sadie D, Michael T, Effie B, Tilly R, Chase Y, Amelia G, Felix B, Ember F, and Tristan for their outstanding kindness.

We also celebrated the Golden Spatula Award, recognizing students for doing an amazing job cleaning up after themselves and following lunchroom expectations.

In April, our character trait focus shifted to Critical Thinking, encouraging students to develop effective problem-solving skills.



Attendance and Recognition

🎉 We were thrilled to report a fantastic attendance rate of 96.4% this month!

Community and Upcoming Events

- Plan to attend our annual PEF Gala themed '80s Prom on May 16 at the Farallon Room at Skyline College, filled with music, a live auction, hors d'oeuvres, adult beverages, and casino-style games, with proceeds benefiting the Pacifica Education Foundation supporting our Pacifica schools.
- The "Gold Dust or Bust" event showcasing our 4th graders is scheduled for May 7.
- We celebrated our Read-a-thon success!

Golden Sneaker Award

Congratulations to Ms. Barasch's fourth-grade class for winning the Golden Sneaker Award for their outstanding school spirit!

As we move closer to summer, it has been heartwarming to witness the engagement and enthusiasm from all our students. Let's continue to support one another, embody kindness, and cherish the community spirit that makes Vallemar so special.

Cabrillo Elementary School

Pacific Beach Coalition came out to Cabrillo and introduced their animal of the year, "Steelhead Trout." Students learned all about Steelhead Trout and also made commitments to keeping our earth as healthy as possible.

4th graders put on their annual Gold Dust or Bust show for our school and parents. Everyone enjoyed the dancing and the singing. Special thanks to our PTO for supporting annual showcase and to Spindrift for the collaboration.

Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School

Our 8th grade Bulldogs are gearing up for an exciting end to their middle school journey! As the year comes to a close, students are eagerly preparing for a series of memorable milestones, including their trip to Great America, the 8th grade dinner and dance, and, of course, graduation. It's a special time filled with celebration, reflection, and Bulldog pride as we honor their hard work and get ready to send them off to high school.

IBL is excited to be building our Junior Olympics team! During PE, students have been learning and practicing a variety of track and field events, building skills, teamwork, and confidence along the way. We are proud of their hard work and dedication, and we can't wait to showcase what our school brings to the competition!

IBL Families and Future Bulldogs,

Thank you so much for joining us and becoming part of IBL's Bulldog Pack! It was truly a joy to see so many families and up-and-coming students come together. The energy in the room was incredible—our staff loved connecting with each of you, and the excitement from our future Bulldogs was felt throughout the entire event. Moments like these remind us what makes our school community so special. We are already looking forward to an amazing 2026–2027 school year and cannot wait to welcome you all back on campus! Thank you again for your time, enthusiasm, and support. Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog!

✨Spotlight on Staff✨

Ocean Shore/Sunset Ridge Elementary School

This month, we want to shine a bright spotlight on the incredible staff at Ocean Shore/Sunset Ridge school. From our tireless educators and administrators to our essential support teams, these individuals do more than just "work" here; they invest their hearts into the success and well-being of every student.



Vallemar Elementary School - Amazing Staff

We are happy to shine a spotlight on some of our incredible classified staff members who are the heart and soul of our school! Their unwavering dedication and positivity make our campus a wonderful place for everyone.

Kudos to Margit and Megan, our outstanding Administrative Professionals, who work tirelessly to provide essential resources and support to our students, staff, and families. Their commitment and support ensures the smooth operation of our school.

We also want to celebrate our wonderful Paraprofessional and Crossing Guard, Bonnie, who wears countless hats with a smile! Her vibrant energy and warmth can be felt all over the campus, as she spreads positivity and encouragement to everyone she meets.

And let's not forget our fabulous Library Media Technician, Julie! Her infectious laughter and kindness inspire a love for learning in our students, creating a cozy, welcoming atmosphere in the library where imaginations can flourish.

We are immensely grateful for all our staff members who go above and beyond every day to make our school community shine!

Board of Education Meeting

2025-2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATES:

2026: | April 29, 2026 | May 20, 2026 | June 10, 2026 | June 24, 2026



**Lynda Brocchini,
President**



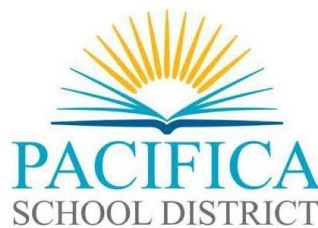
**Kai Doggett, Board
Member**



**Elizabeth Bredall, Board
Member**



**Laverne Villalobos, Vice
President**



Bridget Hardt, Clerk

Highlights of the April 29th, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Presentations:

- Students of Ingrid B. Lacy lead the flag salute, read the Land Acknowledgement and shared their latest newsletter noting students who exemplify B.A.R.K. values (Belonging, Achievement and Accountability, Respect and Kindness).
- Cabrillo PTO presented its annual financial report to the board
- Dr. Stauffer presented information regarding SMCOE's Lack of Going Concern letter and letter confirming the district's qualified certification in its Second Interim Report
- Dr. Stauffer presented information regarding the district's summer programs
- Dr. Stauffer also presented the first read for updated Facilities and Business policies and regulations
- Ms. Ladd presented the first read for updated Student policies and regulations, including possible policy changes regarding mobile phones pursuant to AB 962, a new cell phone law
- Ms. Romo presented the first read for updated Personnel policies and regulations

Highlighted Board Actions:

The board adopted/approved the following:

- Resolutions of appreciation for certificated and classified staff

- Acceptance of the 2024-2025 Audit report which was presented by independent auditor, Chavan & Associates
- Awarding of the general contractor contract for the district's Workforce Housing Project to James E. Roberts Obayashi Corp
- Contract with TeamCivX for work on renewal of Parcel Tax D which expires in June of 2027 and currently helps fund Outdoor Education week for 5th grade students, school gardens, and salaries for: teachers, teacher support, counseling program, and Library Media Techs
- A resolution authorizing the County Superintendent to make transfers at the close of the school year as necessary for payment of the district's obligations incurred during the year
- The hiring of Rachel Romo as Director of Human Resources
- The hiring of Katherine Prescenzi as Director of Educational Support Services
- The job descriptions of Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives and Grant Management and Supervisor of Maintenance, Operations, and Bond Operations
- An updated management salary schedule to include the two new approved positions
- Contracts for school exterior painting this summer at Sunset Ridge/Ocean Shore, Ingrid B. Lacy, Vallemar, Cabrillo and Ortega
- A contract for playground asphalt replacement work at Ortega and Vallemar



Recognitions

Sonya Sarcos was recognized for her service and contributions to the Ingrid B. Lacy School community.

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!

NOTE: All presentations and supporting documents to the items/actions noted in these highlights and the full agenda 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

Education Support Services News

Please Welcome Our New Director of Educational Support Services!

We are thrilled to announce that **Katherine Prescenzi** has joined our leadership team as the new **Director of Educational Support Services**.

Katherine brings a wealth of experience and a deep-seated passion for student success to this vital role. With her extensive background in developing inclusive learning environments and her "student-first" philosophy, Katherine is perfectly positioned to lead our support initiatives into their next chapter.

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Introduction: Director of Educational Support Services

Dear Pacifica School District Colleagues and Community,

I am honored to introduce myself as the newly appointed Director of Educational Support Services for the Pacifica School District. This is my 25th year in education, including over 17 years in this district. My work has spanned both elementary and middle school classrooms, as well as nearly a decade at the district office, where I had the opportunity to collaborate across all school sites in support of instructional programs and districtwide initiatives. Most recently, I have spent the past five years at Ortega Elementary, reconnecting with the daily work of teaching and learning in the classroom.

These varied experiences have shaped my understanding of education from multiple perspectives: student, teacher, site, and system, and have prepared me to serve in this role with both depth and balance. My career has consistently centered on curriculum, instruction, and assessment, with a strong focus on improving student outcomes and supporting educators in their practice.

In this role, I look forward to working in partnership with site leaders, teachers, staff, and families to strengthen instructional coherence across the district, support high-quality programs, and ensure that all students have access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed. I am especially committed to maintaining strong communication between school sites and the



district office, and to ensuring that the voices of our educators and community members continue to inform our work.

While I step into this leadership position, I remain, at my core, a teacher. My recent classroom experience has deepened my appreciation for the complexity and demands of teaching, and I carry that perspective with me as I work to support our schools in meaningful and practical ways. It is a privilege to serve the Pacifica School District in this new capacity. I look forward to continuing our shared work on behalf of students and to building on the strong foundation that already exists across our district.

Sincerely,

Katherine Prescenzi, M.A.
Director of Educational Support Services
Pacifica School District

The Big Lift

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

The Reading Wave – April Edition

Our April issue of The Reading Wave features spring literacy resources for families, including Earth Day read-aloud recommendations, a link to the Cooperative Children's Book Center multicultural book list, and simple ways to build phonological and phonemic awareness at home through playful everyday routines like clapping syllables, rhyming, and stretching out sounds.

Big Lift Inspiring Summers (BLIS) – Summer 2026 Update

We're excited to share that BLIS has expanded by two additional classes this summer – one more rising 1st grade class and one more rising 3rd grade class. Thank you for your interest, patience, and support. BLIS is a free, full-day summer learning program for students entering kindergarten through third grade in Fall 2026 that strengthens literacy through engaging and joyful learning.

 **NEW LOCATION:** Sunset Ridge/Ocean Shore School

 **Dates:** June 15–July 10, 2026 (no program June 19 or July 3)

 **Hours:** 8:00 AM–3:30 PM

 **Attendance:** Daily participation expected; students should miss no more than 2 days

 **Breakfast and lunch** provided daily

 **Priority enrollment** based on student need using literacy and kindergarten readiness data

End-of-Year Literacy Assessments

K–3 students are also participating in end-of-year mCLASS/DIBELS assessments during the spring assessment window. These one-on-one assessments help teachers better understand each child's reading development and help guide instruction and support.

Library & Community Literacy Connections

San Mateo County Libraries continue offering free programs and events for families, including story times, author visits, arts activities, Paws for Tales, and other literacy-rich community events

throughout April at Sharp Park and Sanchez libraries. Families can also access helpful resources such as library cards, Discover & Go museum passes, the Library of Things, and adult literacy/ESL supports.

♥ 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 continue working together to support strong readers and joyful learners.



Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELOP)

We are thrilled to remind our families about the **Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP)**. This initiative ensures that **TK through 6th-grade students** have access to enrichment and care for a total of 9 hours a day (including school hours) and during school breaks.

What is ELOP?

ELOP provides **Transitional Kindergarten (TK) through 6th-grade students** with access to academic support and enrichment activities at no cost for qualifying families. Unlike a typical classroom setting, ELOP focuses on "expanded learning"—hands-on, student-centered experiences that build social-emotional skills, physical health, and academic confidence.

Why Your "Meal Application" Matters for Everyone

Every school year, we ask all families to complete the **Free or Reduced-Price Meal Application**. We encourage **every family** to submit this form, regardless of whether you think you will qualify. These forms are much more than a request for lunch; they are the primary tool used by the state to determine our district's total funding.

The more completed forms we have on file, the more resources our schools receive for programs like ELOP, classroom technology, and student support services. By taking a moment to fill it out, you are directly helping our district secure its fair share of state funding to benefit **every** student.

Local Program Partners

To provide the best variety of activities, our district partners with trusted community organizations. We are proud to confirm that both the **Boys & Girls Club** and **Spindrift School of Performing Arts** are ELOP-approved providers!

- **Boys & Girls Club:** Known for their "Formula for Impact," they provide a mix of academic support, leadership development, and high-energy sports and recreation.
- **Spindrift School of Performing Arts:** Perfect for students interested in the arts, Spindrift offers ELOP families creative outlets in theater, dance, and music to build confidence and self-expression.

What is Included?

ELOP families can access these programs during:

- **After-School Hours:** Engaging care from school dismissal until 6:00 PM.
- **Intersessions:** Full-day programming during Winter, February, and Spring breaks.

- **Summer Break:** Comprehensive summer sessions to keep kids active and learning.

Who is Eligible?

ELOP is designed to close the opportunity gap. While programs are available to many, **priority enrollment and no-cost access** are guaranteed for:

1. Students qualifying for Free or Reduced-Price Meals.
2. English Language Learners.
3. Foster Youth and students experiencing housing instability.

3 week Camps

BROADWAY BOUND AGES 4-9



Madagascar: A Musical Adventure KIDS is a fun, fast-paced 30-minute musical that brings the beloved characters from the DreamWorks film to the stage. Young performers bring Alex, Marty, Gloria, Melman, and friends to life through catchy songs, playful storytelling, and big ensemble moments. This lively production celebrates friendship, teamwork, and the excitement of discovering the world beyond your comfort zone, perfect for younger campers taking the stage for the first time. **Tuition: \$700**



Session 1

June 8-26 | 9a-12p

Session 2

July 6-24 | 9a-12p

3 week Camps

SPOTLIGHT STARS

AGES 8-12



Junie B. Jones: The Musical JR is a high-energy, family-friendly musical production with a big cast and many roles, telling the story of Junie and her classmates as they navigate friendship, school, and growing up together.

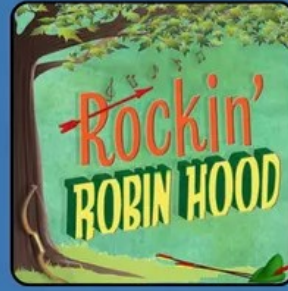
Tuition: \$995

Session 1

June 8-26 | 9:15a-3:15p

Session 2

July 6-24 | 9:15a-3:15p



Rockin' Robin Hood is a high-energy musical production with a large ensemble and many roles, following Robin, his sister Hazel, and their friends as they outsmart the Sheriff of Nottingham through action-packed songs and humor.

Tuition: \$995

Session 2

July 6-24 | 9a-3p



Every Student Matters

At the end of the day, our goal is to ensure that every child in our district has the tools, environment, and support they need to thrive. Whether it is through a hot meal, an extra hour of math help, or a lead role in a play, we believe that **every student matters**. By participating in these programs and completing your school forms, you are helping us build a stronger, more inclusive community where every child has the chance to shine.

Student Services News

We hope you had a restful and enjoyable Spring Break and that your family is returning refreshed for the final stretch of the school year. As we head into these last few months, regular attendance remains incredibly important. Consistent participation helps students stay engaged, maintain academic progress, and finish the year strong.



2026-2027 Online Registration and PSD ParentVUE Accounts

Student Services is excited to share that the 2026-2027 online registration portal is now open and ready for families to begin the enrollment process. You must have an active PSD ParentVUE account to complete your child's enrollment.

To access the PSD ParentVUE Portal use the appropriate link below:

- Currently enrolled families: https://ca-psd-psv.edupoint.com/PXP2_Login.aspx
- New families: https://ca-psd.edupoint.com/PXP2_OEN_Login.aspx

If you have a currently enrolled student or a child who previously attended school in our district, your information is already in our system and you will need a PSD ParentVUE activation key to set up your PSD ParentVUE account. Please contact Nicole Ortega at nortega@pacificasd.org for assistance.

Once logged into your PSD ParentVUE account, click on the Online Registration tab in the upper right-hand corner and select 2026–2027 School Year New Enrollment or Enrollment Verification. Please be sure you are entering your information in the 2026–2027 portal, as entries submitted in the 2025–2026 portal will not carry over.

To ensure a smooth process, please have the following documents ready to upload before beginning:

- Student's original birth certificate or passport
- Student's immunization record (showing all required vaccinations)
- Parent/guardian government-issued ID (driver's license or ID card)
- Proof of residence:
 - Two current documents (within 30 days) if your ID reflects your current address
 - Three current documents (within 30 days) if your ID does not reflect your current address
- Any applicable legal or court documents (e.g., custody paperwork)
- Most recent IEP or 504 Plan, if applicable

If uploading more than two Parent IDs or proofs of residence, please combine the second and third documents into a single file.

If your child previously attended school in our district, the enrollment process may differ slightly. Please reach out for guidance on next steps.

During school selection, you will see **"Faux School"** listed—this is a temporary placeholder used in our system and is the only selectable option during enrollment.

If completing enrollment for an incoming kindergarten student, please select 00 as the grade level.

We kindly ask that all families complete enrollment by the end of May. Timely enrollment helps us ensure accurate staffing, appropriate school placements, and a smooth start to the upcoming school year. All submissions will be reviewed. We will let you know if additional information is needed.

If you have any questions or need support at any stage of the enrollment process, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help and look forward to welcoming your family for the 2026–2027 school year.

Upcoming Open House Events

While school tours have concluded, families are still welcome to visit campuses during Open House:

- Cabrillo School – Thursday, May 21 at 6:00 PM
- Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School – Thursday, April 23 at 6:00 PM
- Ocean Shore School – Thursday, May 21 at 5:30 PM
- Ortega School – Tuesday, May 19 at 5:30 PM

- Sunset Ridge School – Thursday, May 21 at 5:30 PM
- Vallemar School – Thursday, April 30 at 6:00 PM

Intent to Return Surveys

Each school site has shared its Intent to Return Survey with families. Completing this survey helps our district plan effectively for the upcoming school year, including staffing and classroom placement.

We ask that you please complete the survey as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact your school's main office for assistance.

Local Wellness Policy

Every three years the Wellness Policy is reviewed and updated. This is the year to review and update. The different groups to have voice are the Nutrition Department, Physical Education and Health teachers, Counselors, and is overseen by Student Services. We also open the plan to the public for feedback as well.

If you would like to read through the plan and provide general feedback for the committee to review as they update the plan, please respond in the space below. We value your input. The feedback has been broken down by section but does not require you to respond to each section.

[Wellness Policy can be found here](#)

[Provide Feedback!](#)



MTSS/PBIS Corner

MTSS/PBIS Corner: PBIS Learning Walks - A Look Inside Our Classrooms

As a reminder, PBIS is our framework for teaching kids social and emotional skills, just like we teach them academics. And, recently, our leadership teams conducted PBIS Learning Walks across the district. But what does that actually mean for your child? It means we stepped into over 20 classrooms and spoke with more than 50 students to see how our "Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports" are working in real-time.

We are proud to share that every school demonstrated growth in how they support students. Specifically, every classroom hit the mark in these three vital areas:

- Effective Physical Space: Classrooms are organized so that every student—from our TKers to our 8th graders—can move, learn, and stay focused comfortably.
- Predictable Routines: Teachers have built "rhythms" for the day. When students know exactly what to expect next, their anxiety goes down and their learning goes up.
- Clear Expectations: Each room has 3–5 positive "rules" (like Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe) that are clearly posted and actively taught.

What does this mean? Our schools aren't just places to learn math and reading; they are predictable, positive environments where students know exactly how to succeed.

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[Provide Feedback!](#)



5-1-26 SELPA Resources - Google Drive

drive.google.com

Instructional Technology Department News

Technology Update – MPR AV System Upgrade at Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School

The IT Department is excited to share an important improvement underway at Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School. We are in the process of implementing a new Audio-Visual (AV) system in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR), where previously there was no dedicated AV setup in place.

This upgrade will greatly enhance the experience for both students and staff. For students, the new AV system will support creativity through presentations, performances, assemblies, and multimedia projects, creating a more engaging and interactive learning environment.

For staff, the system will provide reliable tools for presentations, school events, and communication, making it easier to manage activities and utilize the MPR effectively.

In addition, this improvement creates an opportunity for the district to rent the space for outside events, generating additional revenue while showcasing our upgraded facilities.

Our goal is to complete this project by the end of June, ensuring the space is fully equipped and ready for expanded use.

This initiative reflects the IT Department's ongoing commitment to improving technology resources and supporting both creativity and collaboration across the district.

Child Nutrition Department

Links to Breakfast and Lunch Menus

Pacifica School Districts Child Nutrition Department operates 5 student cafeterias, one in each school where we provide a daily breakfast and lunch. Our school kitchens have a team of highly trained staff, with food safety and customer service as the highest priority. The Child Nutrition Services team works together to develop healthy and appetizing meals for the students. These meals are analyzed, and the recipes are adjusted to ensure they meet USDA nutrition guidelines for each age group for calories, sodium, saturated fat, and whole wheat flour.

Community News

Pacifica Education Foundation

🕺 Get ready to go back to prom - 80's style! 🕺

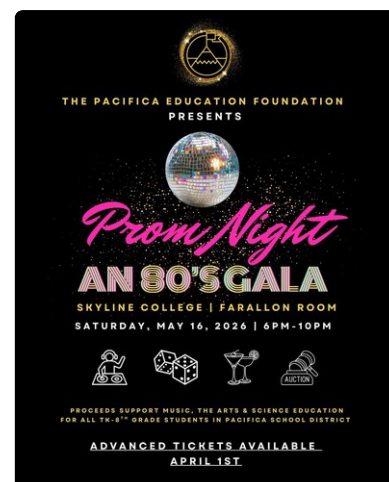
The Pacifica Education Foundation is hosting [Prom Night: An 80's Fundraising Gala](#) on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 6 - 10 PM at the Farallon Room at Skyline College.

Enjoy a totally tubular night of celebration and fundraising featuring a DJ spinning all the '80s hits, casino-style fun, a live auction, and adult beverages - all while supporting a great cause!

Tickets are on sale [here](#).

Proceeds support music, the arts, and science education for TK-8th grade students in the Pacifica School District.

Dust off your taffeta, grab your friends, and don't miss this prom for a purpose!



Prom Night: An 80s PEF Fundraising Gala

Family Resource Center of San Mateo County

Dear Providers and Professionals,

Happy Monday and warm greetings from the Family Resource Center!

As we head into May, the upcoming summer break, and the close of FY 2025–2026, we'd like to remind you about our final two training sessions. We would greatly appreciate your help in sharing these opportunities within your community and network. Please find the training details below, along with attached flyers for your reference. We are working to maximize outreach so more families can benefit.

Thank you for your continued support. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Exciting Trainings You Can't Miss!

FINAL CALL!!!

Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County: In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Benefits / Beneficios de Servicios de Apoyo en el Hogar (IHSS)

May 7, 2026 | 6:00–7:30 PM | Zoom

This training covers applying for IHSS, required paperwork, and gathering key documents, helping families feel supported throughout the process.

Register:

English & Español: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/d6UYb0h_QDeUSs1MvnVgJg

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?)

May 14, 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:

English: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/law4yvcpTU69RDj_oxMoeQ

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.

Questions?

Phone: 650-259-0189

Email: info@smcfrc.org

Best regards,

Family Resource Center of San Mateo County

Pacifica Beach Collation

Huge congratulations to **Lynn Adams** and everyone involved in making the **Lynn Adams Switchbacks** official.

It's hard to think of anyone more deserving of a permanent place in the Pacifica landscape. Lynn has been the heartbeat of environmental stewardship in town for decades, and naming that specific trail—with its sweeping views of the coastline she's worked so hard to protect—is a perfect tribute.



San Mateo County Office Of Education News

Foster Youth Awareness Month Recognition Honoring Resource Parents including Relative Caregivers (Educators, Students, Families, Community Partners, County, District and Site Leadership)



May 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

May is Foster Care Awareness Month, a time to recognize the resilience of children and youth in care, and to honor those who support them every day. Across our communities, resource/foster parents (including relative caregivers) work together with teachers, social workers, therapists, advocates, and community partners to create safe, stable, and nurturing environments where young

people can grow and thrive. They open their homes and hearts offering consistency, compassion, and love.

[Learn more and register.](#)

San Mateo Youth Commission accepting applications for 2026-2027 cohort

Apply by May 3, 5:00 p.m.

The San Mateo County Youth Commission is seeking applicants ages 13-21 who live in San Mateo County and who are passionate about elevating youth voices in local government. This leadership opportunity will provide perspectives on issues such as civic engagement, equity, education, environmental justice, immigration, and health and wellness. [Learn more and apply.](#)

California State Parks Adventure Pass (Fourth Grade Students)

All fourth graders in California can now get a free California State Parks Adventure Pass that will give them the opportunity to explore 19 select state parks free for a year. This Pass is valid for the one year during which the child is a 4th grader or 4th-grade equivalent, until August 31, 2026. [Learn more.](#)

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.](#)

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