Pacifica Press
November 2026



Superintendent's Message

Dear Pacifica School District Community,

As we enter November, I am reminded of how much we have to be grateful for in our school community. The fall season offers us an opportunity to pause, reflect on our progress, and recognize the students, staff, families, and community partners who make the Pacifica School District such a special place.

Our schools continue to be places of learning, growth, connection, and discovery. Every day, our dedicated teachers and staff work to create meaningful learning experiences, support students' individual needs, and ensure that every child feels welcomed, valued, and encouraged to reach their full potential. I am grateful for their commitment and for the partnership of our families in supporting student success.

November also provides an opportunity to reflect on the importance of belonging and connection. When schools, families, and communities work together, we create stronger support systems for our students. Whether through volunteering, participating in school activities, attending district events, or simply taking time to connect with a student or staff member, each contribution makes a difference.

We are also excited to share an important milestone in our workforce housing project. Completion is anticipated in October 2027, and by this time next year, we expect residents will be able to move into their new homes. This project represents a meaningful investment in our employees and our community, helping create housing opportunities for the dedicated professionals who serve our students every day. We look forward to seeing this vision become a reality and will continue to share updates as we approach completion.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I want to express my sincere appreciation to our entire Pacifica School District community. Thank you for your trust, collaboration, and continued commitment to our students. I am especially grateful for the many ways our community comes together to help ensure that every student has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

I encourage everyone to take time during this season to rest, reconnect with loved ones, and celebrate the people and experiences that bring meaning to our lives.

Thank you for being an important part of the Pacifica School District. I look forward to all that we will continue to accomplish together.

With gratitude,

Dr. Carisa J. Bowman
Superintendent
Pacifica School District

A Positive Milestone for Pacifica School District: Moving Beyond the Lack of Going Concern Designation

We are pleased to share encouraging news regarding the financial outlook of the Pacifica School District.

The San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) has officially identified that Pacifica School District is no longer under the "Lack of Going Concern" designation.

This is an important milestone for our district and our community.

What does this mean?

A "Lack of Going Concern" designation signals serious concerns about an organization's ability to maintain its financial operations and meet its obligations over the foreseeable future. Moving beyond this designation indicates meaningful progress in addressing those concerns and improving the district's financial outlook.

We should celebrate this progress, but we must also recognize that our work is not finished.

While this is encouraging news, it does not mean that all of the district's financial challenges have been resolved. We must remain focused, disciplined, and committed to the work ahead.

The district will continue moving forward with its **Fiscal Stabilization Plan**, which remains essential to strengthening our financial position, ensuring responsible use of public resources, and protecting the long-term sustainability of our schools.

Our priorities remain clear:

Maintaining responsible and transparent financial management.

Continuing to implement the Fiscal Stabilization Plan.

Monitoring expenditures and aligning resources with available revenues.

Protecting educational programs and services to the greatest extent possible.

Rebuilding financial stability and community confidence.

To our families, staff, educators, students, and community members: thank you for your continued engagement, patience, advocacy, and commitment to Pacifica's public schools.

This milestone is an opportunity to acknowledge how far we have come while staying focused on where we need to go.

Together, we will continue working toward a financially stable, sustainable, and strong Pacifica School District for our students and future generations.

Today, we recognize progress. Tomorrow, we continue the work.

Highlights of the September 30, 2026 Board Meeting

Presentations:

Positive Behavior Intervention Supports Gold Award

Shannon Lane, Coordinator of Student Services, presented certificates to Cabrillo, Ingrid B. Lacy, Ortega, Sunset Ridge, and Vallemar, that received gold status from the State in recognition of their implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Framework (“PBIS”)

Pacifica Education Foundation

PEF presented information about it’s organization, core program benefiting district students, fundraising and ways to support PEF

Fiscal Stabilization Plan

Superintendent Bowman presented the updated Fiscal Stabilization Plan, noting it will be updated when the budget is approved and when there are priorities and recommendations from the budget collaborative. Draft recruitment plan was included.

Enrollment Update

Hana Jarrah presented updated information regarding enrollment, including current and historical enrollment data and status of online enrollment

Ignite Tutoring

Cathy Alderson, Coordinator of Strategic Initiatives and Grant Management, discussed the grant-funded reading tutoring program, Ignite Tutoring,

Technology Policy

Cathy Alderson presented updated technology policy BP6163 and Exhibit

Highlighted Board Actions:

The board adopted Resolutions:
2026-09-30-A assuring the adequacy of pupil textbooks and instructional materials, with the removal of Health Connected curriculum:
2026-09-30-B recognizing LGBTQ+ History Month
2026-09-30-C recognizing Filipino American History Month

The board also approved the following:
The revised 2026-27 budget which was presented during public hearing at the September 23, 2026 board meeting. The budget was approved by a vote of 4-0.
The hiring of Hana Jarrah as Director of Special Education and Student Services
Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with LSEA regarding a temporary hiring incentive for the position of Music Teacher and support for one teacher with a class size over 33
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CSEA regarding compensation for completion of mandated training
Prior to approval of the Consent Agenda Item 11.c. was removed

Policy Updates:

The board approved the following updated policies:

BP - 4119.1/4219.1/4319.1 - Civil and Legal Rights

Exhibit - 4119.1/4219.1/4319.1 - Civil and Legal Rights

BP - 4131/4231/4331 - Staff Development

Link to Agendas

Link to Board Policies

Link to view Zoom recordings of Board Meetings

Highlights of the October 21, 2026 Board Meeting



Recognition: Michael Dougherty was recognized for his service to the Cabrillo Elementary School students and community.

Presentations:

Celebration and Recognition of Staff Achieving Permanent Status

Staff who recently achieved permanent status were recognized and celebrated

District Library Media Technicians and Counselors

District Library Media Technicians and Counselors, and their services to students, were highlighted and celebrated. These positions are paid for by the expiring Measure D parcel tax. Measure T, on November's ballot, seeks to renew the expiring funding of Measure D.

Fiscal Stabilization Plan

Dr. Bowman presented the updated Fiscal Stabilization Plan, noting that the District recently received a letter from SMCOE that we are no longer under a "Lack of Going Concern" designation

CAASP and ELPAC Student Achievement

Katherine Prescenzi presented information regarding student testing achievement trends (2022-2026)

2026-2027 Curriculum Overview

Kather Prescenzi presented a curriculum overview of recent adoptions and next priority - adoption of our updated 6-8 Math, Social Studies and Science curricula

Strategic Initiatives and Grant Management Overview

Cathy Alderson presented an overview of the district's strategic initiatives and grant-funded programs supporting literacy, expanded learning, arts, career pathways; investments, including math intervention and environmental stewardship; and new grant applications for Give Forward.

Workforce Housing Update

Jose Quintana presented a construction update on Workforce Housing, noting the concrete foundation has been poured for the 27 apartment units and the foundation for the 18 townhouse units should be completed next week

Highlighted Board Actions:

The board adopted/approved the following:

2026-10-21-A authorizing the district to file applications for State Allocation Board ("SAB")–Administered Programs and/or applications for funding under the School Facility Program

2026-10-21-B authorizing the district to file applications for SAB–Administered facility hardship and/or facility hardship seismic mitigation programs

2026-10-21-C authorizing the district to file applications for SAB–Administered Small School District Program

2026-10-21-D authorizing district staff who can sign and submit applications administered by SAB or the California Department of General Services (DGS) and submit applications through the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) online portal

2026-10-21-E Recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day and Native American Heritage Month and Honoring Indigenous People and Tribal Communities

The board also approved:

A contract with Maverick Development for construction management services for the Oddstad Workforce Housing Project

A contract with JAMs Pathways for Interest-Based Bargaining ("IBB") facilitation services for district and LSEA negotiations with the addition of a clause allowing the district to get out of the contract after 3 months if the services aren't working

Policy Updates:

The board approved the following updated policies following recommendations by California School Board Association ("CSBA"):

BP 6163.4 Student Use of Technology Exhibit 6163.4-E(1) Student Use of Technology

Next Regular Board Meeting: Wednesday, November 18, 2026

Tentative upcoming agenda items:

Celebration of current board members

Recognition of Rebecca Slater

Monthly Budget Update

School Climate - Mental Health and Discipline

Teaching and Learning: Student Achievement - iReady & DIBELS

SPED/Student Services Update

Policy Updates

Facilities Specialist MOU/job description update

District's Initial Proposal for LSEA Negotiations

Supervisor of Maintenance, Operations, and Bond Management contract

Selection of Annual Organizational Mtg date

Resolution re Authorized Signers

Inverness Campus Facilitation Contract

Next Regular Board Meeting: November 18, 2026

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

Work Force Housing

PACIFICA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

WORKFORCE HOUSING PROJECT

Housing for the educators
and staff who serve our students.

45
NEW RESIDENTIAL UNITS

18 Townhome-style
27 Apartment-style
Ranging from 1 to 3 bedrooms

ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION
OCTOBER 2027



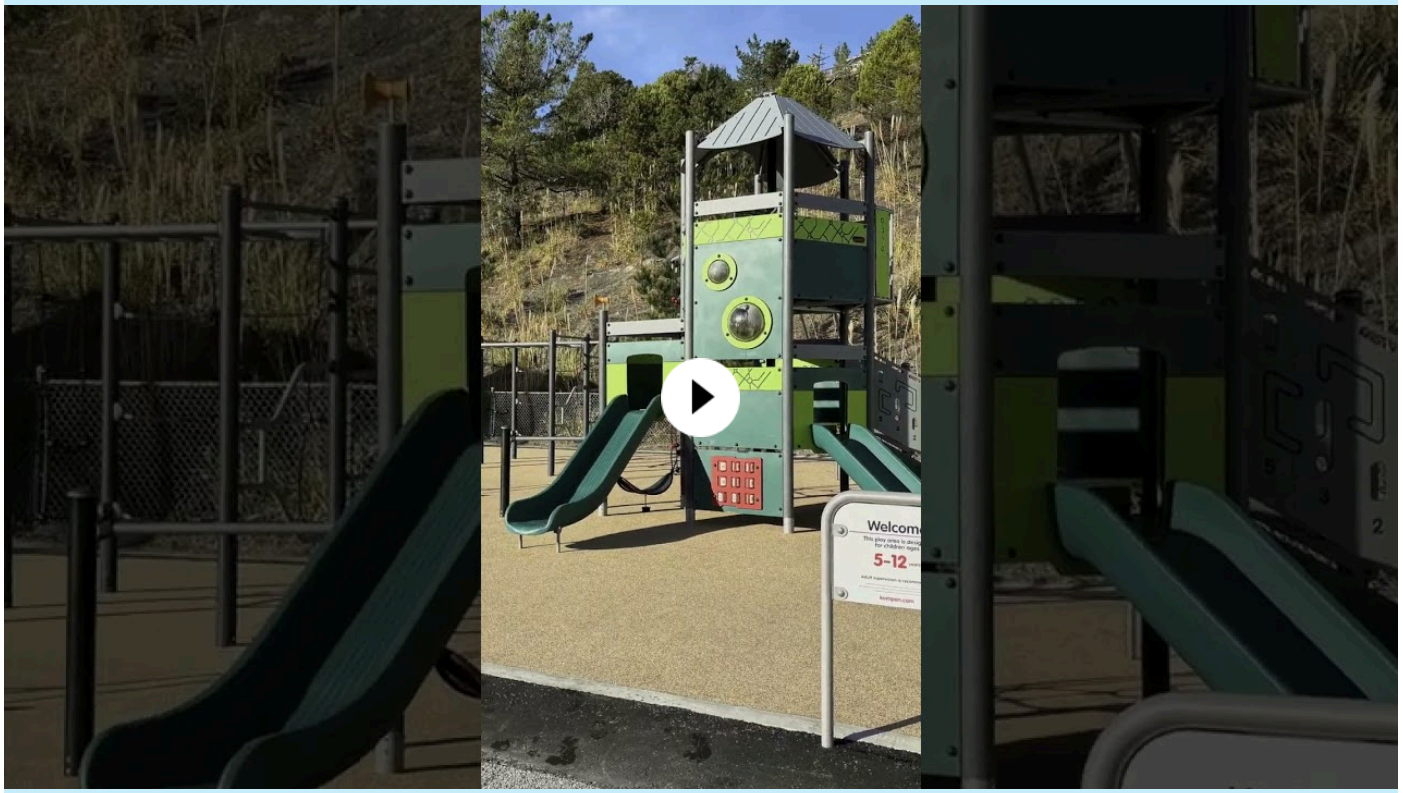




Pacifica School District | Supporting Our Teachers, Staff & Community

WFH Progress Presentation 10-21-2026

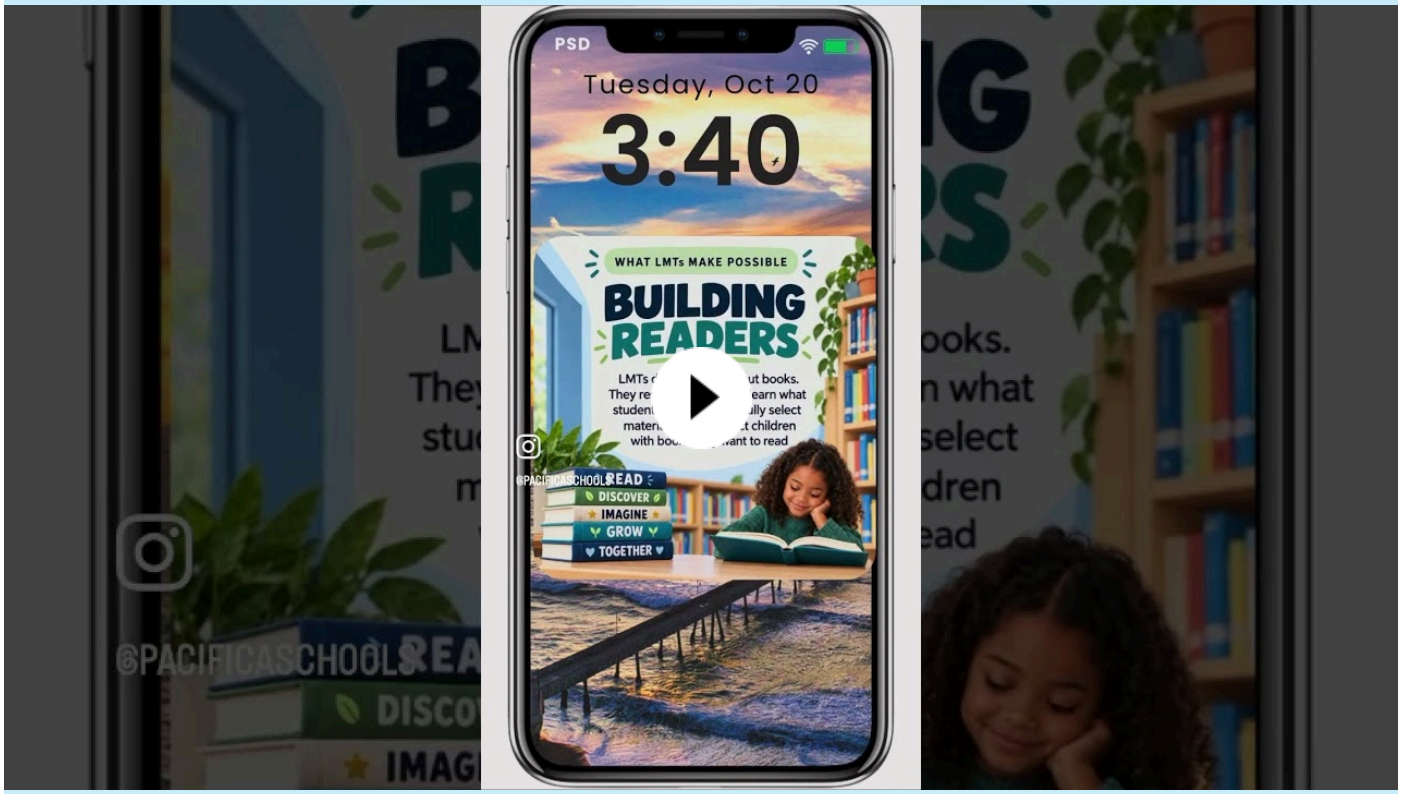
Ortega's New Playground



Let the fun begin! Ortega's new playground is officially open!

With a new play structure for ages 2–5 and another for ages 5–12, there's something for everyone to climb and explore! We're excited to see our students making memories and having fun on their new playground for years to come!

Family Literacy Tips



Family Literacy Tips: Supporting Your Child's Reading Journey (Birth–Grade 5)

Wondering what reading and writing skills your child should be developing and how you can support them at home? Let's Read San Mateo County offers families helpful reading milestones, practical tips, and fun activities for children from birth through fifth grade!

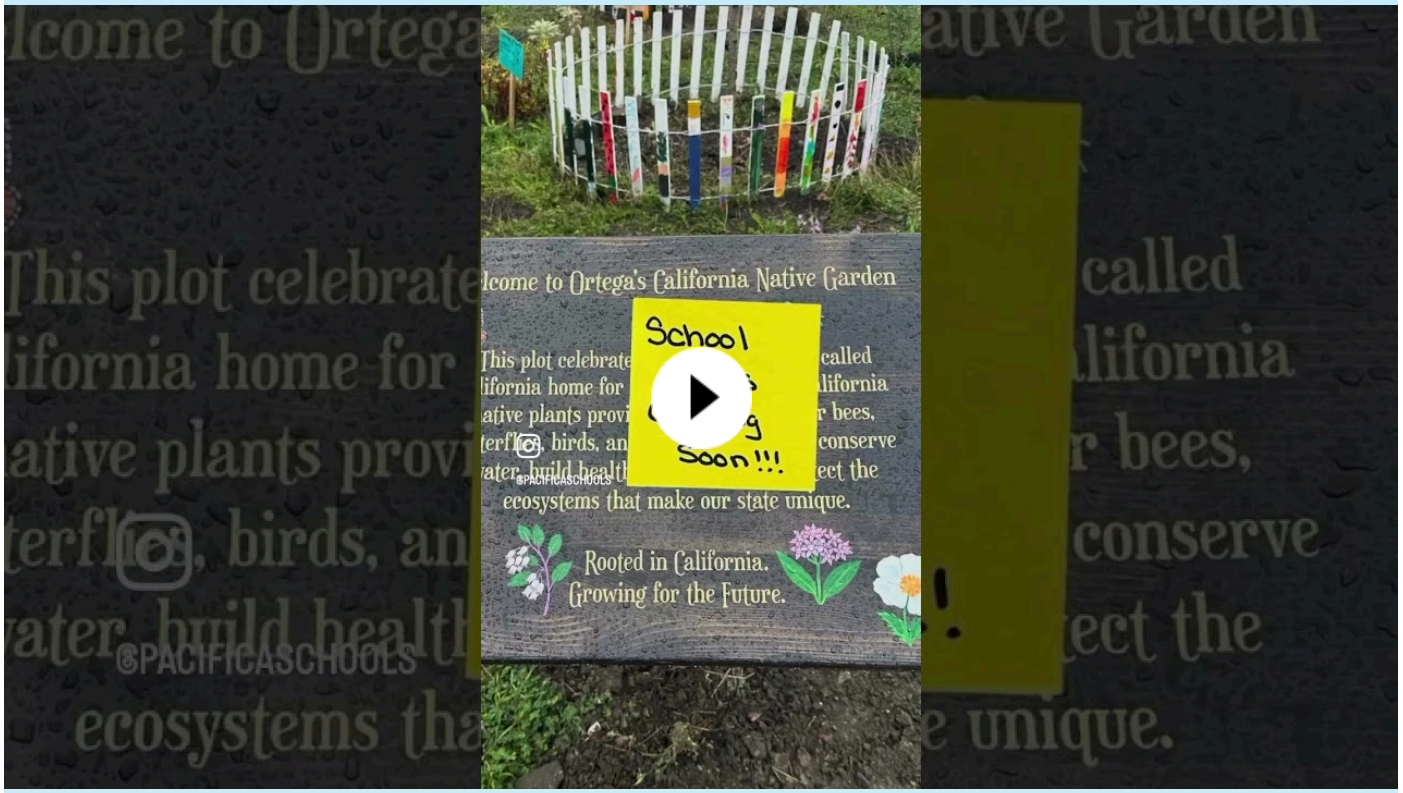
Explore age- and grade-specific resources to learn what reading looks and sounds like at each stage. Resources are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Tagalog.

TK–2 Literacy Tip: Play with Sounds! Strong reading skills begin with hearing and playing with the sounds in words. Try rhyming games, clapping syllables in family members' names, or asking your child what sound they hear at the beginning of a word. These quick, playful activities build important foundations for reading.

Grades 3–5 Literacy Tip: Talk About What You Read! As children become more independent readers, conversations help strengthen comprehension and critical thinking. Ask questions like, "What surprised you?" or "What do you think will happen next?" Encourage your child to explain their thinking and make connections to their own experiences.

Explore more: Visit Let's Read San Mateo County for age- and grade-specific reading milestones, family activities, and resources to support your child's literacy development and Pacifica School District's TK-2 Reading Wave!

2027–2028 TK, Kindergarten, and 6th Grade Enrollment Lottery



PACIFICA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026-2027 SCHOOL TOUR SCHEDULE

Join us for a tour, open to both prospective and current families, to visit our campuses and experience our community firsthand before the upcoming TK, kindergarten and 5th grade lotteries.

Tours are not mandatory, but are highly recommended. Tours will be limited to 20 people maximum and last for approximately one hour. **6th grade tours are listed in bold print.**

**Aligned tour dates can make it possible for families to visit more than one campus on a specific day.*

PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL DIRECTLY TO REGISTER FOR A TOUR. TOURS ARE IN-PERSON.
TOURS RUN FROM NOVEMBER 2026 TO JANUARY 2027

CABRILLO SCHOOL (TK-8) (650) 738-6660

November 19	8:45 am
December 2	10:30 am*
December 9	10:30 am*
January 8	10:30 am
January 11 (6th grade)	**1:00 pm**
January 21	8:45 am

OCEAN SHORE SCHOOL (TK-5) (650) 738-6687

November 5	9:30 am*
November 9	10:00 am*
December 3	10:00 am*
December 10	9:30 am*
January 7	10:00 am*
January 14	9:30 am*

ORTEGA SCHOOL (TK-5) (650) 738-6670

November 10	9:00 am*
November 12	9:00 am
December 4	9:00 am
December 10	9:00 am*
January 12	9:00 am*
January 14	9:00 am*

SUNSET RIDGE SCHOOL (TK-5) (650) 738-6687

November 5	9:30 am*
November 9	10:00 am*
December 3	10:00 am*
December 10	9:30 am*
January 7	10:00 am*
January 14	9:30 am*

VALLEMAR SCHOOL (TK-5) (650) 738-6655

November 3	10:00 am
November 16	10:00 am
December 1	10:00 am*
December 15	10:00 am
January 12	10:00 am*
January 19	10:00 am

INGRID B. LACY (6-8) MIDDLE SCHOOL (650) 738-6665

December 1	**1:30 pm***
December 2	**9:30 am***
December 10	**1:30 pm***
December 17	**1:30 pm**
January 7	**1:30 pm***
January 14	**9:30 am***

2027–2028 TK, Kindergarten, and 6th Grade Enrollment Lottery

The 2027–2028 Transitional Kindergarten (TK), Kindergarten, and 6th-grade lotteries are completely automated and hosted on our website. This digital system streamlines the application process, increases transparency, and eliminates paper entries.

1. Age Eligibility & Rollover Rules

Please review the age requirements and automatic placement rules below to determine if your child needs to participate in the lottery.

Transitional Kindergarten (TK): If your child's date of birth falls between September 2, 2022, and September 1, 2023, they qualify for the TK program offered at Cabrillo, Ocean Shore, Ortega, Sunset Ridge, and Vallemar Schools.

Kindergarten: If your child will be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2027, they are eligible for Kindergarten. (Please Note: Kindergarten is coded as 00 in our system).

TK to Kindergarten Rollover: Current TK students residing within district boundaries automatically roll over to kindergarten at their current school. If you are happy with this placement, you do not need to enter the lottery.

5th to 6th Grade Guarantees:

Current in-district 5th graders at TK–5 schools (Ocean Shore, Ortega, Sunset Ridge, and Vallemar) are guaranteed a spot in 6th grade at Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School.

Current in-district 5th graders at Cabrillo are guaranteed a 6th-grade spot at Cabrillo School.

If you are happy with these placements, you do not need to enter the lottery.

2. How to Apply

Parents will need a PSD ParentVUE account to submit a lottery entry.

Current PSD Parents/Guardians: Log into your account at ParentVUE Portal.

Prospective (New) PSD Parents/Guardians: Create a ParentVUE account.

Application Steps: After you log in, click on the Online Registration Tab and select the applicable 2027–2028 lottery option.

3. Important Policies & Deadlines

No Late Entries: Make sure to complete and submit your application by the deadline. No partial or late lottery submissions will be allowed or included in the lottery.

Placements are Final: Accepted lottery placements are final. Direct transfers are not allowed. Any subsequent transfer requests must follow the waitlist process.

Post-Lottery Enrollment: Families residing within district boundaries who do not participate in the lottery will still be able to enroll their children after the lottery concludes.

4. School Tours & Questions

School Tours: The 26-27 School Tour Schedule is available on our website on the Student Services Department page. Please call the schools directly to sign up.

Contact Us: If you have questions, please contact Nicole Ortega in our Student Services Department at (650) 738-6606 or by email at nortega@pacificasd.org.

5. Key Dates
TK & Kindergarten Timeline

Portal Opens: Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Portal Closes: Wednesday, February 3, 2027, at 4:30 PM

Lottery Held: Friday, February 12, 2027

6th Grade Timeline

Portal Opens: Monday, November 30, 2026

Portal Closes: Wednesday, January 13, 2027, at 4:30 PM

Lottery Held: Friday, January 22, 2027

E-Bike Safety

PSD IS PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES FOR E-BIKE SAFETY



Student safety remains a top priority, and we are seeing an increase in the number of students using E-Bikes as transportation to and from school. We would like to partner with families to reinforce safe riding practices, review expectations, and help ensure all students arrive safely each day.

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

LEGAL E-BIKES

- Maximum power: 750 watts
- Class 1 and 2: max 20 mph
- Class 3: max 28 mph
  (riders must be at least 16 years old).

E-MOTOS

- Two-wheelers without working pedals, or with motors over 750 watts or that operate above 20 mph.
- **Not legal** e-bikes and require the applicable license and DMV plates to operate on public streets, sidewalks, or school property.

E-SCOOTERS

- Under 16 may not operate (learner's permit or driver's license required).
- Helmet required under 18.

All e-bikes must have a permanent manufacturer classification sticker posted.

5 SAFETY CHECKS BEFORE EVERY RIDE

1. **Practice control and stopping.**
   E-bikes are heavier and faster than standard bikes.
2. **Follow traffic laws.**
   Stop signs, lane use, and signals; no speeding or reckless riding.
3. **Wear a properly fitted helmet.**
   Required under 18, including passengers.
4. **RIDE SOLO.**
   Never give another student a ride on your e-bike.
5. **Stay alert and visible.**
   No headphones/earbuds; red reflector or red light visible from about 500 feet at all times.

E-BIKE RESOURCES

- What Parents Should Know (English)
- Lo que los padres deben saber (Spanish)
- Electric Wheels, Real Responsibilities (English & Spanish)
- E-Bike Handbook (English, Spanish, Chinese)
- Webinar: "E-Bike for The Holidays - How to Buy Smart and Ride Legal"

Learn. Prepare. Ride Safe!

The district has partnered with Daybreak Health to offer confidential, school-connected teletherapy for students ages 5–19. Trusted by 190+ schools nationwide, Daybreak's clinicians help students strengthen focus, manage stress, improve communication, and build healthy routines.

Individual schools will be reaching out to families.

How it works:

Virtual sessions, **Monday–Saturday 8 AM–8 PM**, from home or school

Confidential support 9/10 parents recommend

Younger students: parents join to learn strategies together

Older students: one-on-one personalized support

Daybreak is an approved partner of CYBHI, offering no-cost therapy for eligible families. Most families qualify.

Get started with teletherapy - https://care.daybreakhealth.com/patient/create-account

Special Education

We are excited to welcome our new Program Manager/BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) Krystal Potter to our team. Please give her a warm welcome when you see her around campus helping students, staff, and families.

Highlighting Vallemar School: Celebrating Student Success & Achievements

So many wonderful things are happening at Vallemar this year! Here are a few highlights so far:

We're shining bright as a PBIS Gold Award school, recognizing our work to build a safe, supportive community around our STAR values: Safety, Teamwork, Accountability, and Respect. We're also working with each grade level to create classroom behavior matrices that help students understand what our STAR expectations look and sound like in different settings.

Our TK and kindergarten students are settling into longer days, giving them more time to learn, play, and grow with their classmates.

Teachers are deepening their literacy practice through a district literacy grant and our partnership with CORE Learning, bringing new learning and support into classrooms.

Our fifth graders had a wonderful time at Outdoor Ed, making memories, learning together, and enjoying time in nature.

Our student leaders are representing Vallemar with pride. At the October board meeting, they shared our Family Day traditions and what makes those gatherings special to our school community. Fourth graders have also helped teach our school about sorting compost, recycling, and landfill waste at our monthly Star Stallion behavior assembly.

Our students showed their support on Stomp Out Bullying Day, with many wearing blue to stand for kindness and help make Vallemar a safe, supportive place for everyone.

We've enjoyed memorable community events, including Walk and Bike to School Day, the EarthCapades water conservation assembly, and our Fall Fun Fest and Pony Plop—a wonderful community builder and an important fundraiser for our school.

We're rebuilding our play structure, with the goal of welcoming students back in mid-November.

Most of all, our students, staff, and families continue to make Vallemar a caring, joyful place to learn and grow.



Photo Album



PSL
AQUATIC CLUB

Join us at PSL for a swim tryout!
We welcome swimmers ages 5 and up with a basic understanding of freestyle and backstroke.

Practice group assignments are determined by our coaching staff who consider the following factors:

- Chronological age
- Physical age
- Mental age (Maturity)
- School age (Grade)
- Training ability
- Work ethic
- Commitment
- Achievement



To schedule a tryout or ask questions, please email:
coaches@pacificasealions.org

Location: Jean E. Brink Pool, Oceana High School, Pacifica
Visit www.pacificasealions.org

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Pacifica Sea Lions Aquatic Club seeks to inspire our members to achieve their maximum swimming potential through high quality coaching and self-motivation with the goal of team unity in a safe and supportive environment for all.

PSL
AQUATIC CLUB

Únete a nosotros en PSL para una prueba de natación.
Damos la bienvenida a nadadores desde los cinco años con conocimientos básicos de los estilos libre y espalda.

La asignación de los grupos de entrenamiento es determinada por los entrenadores, tomando en cuenta los siguientes factores:

- edad cronológica
- edad física
- madurez
- nivel de grado
- capacidad de entrenamiento
- ética de trabajo
- compromiso
- logro



Para programar una prueba o si tiene alguna pregunta, no dude en enviar un correo electrónico a la siguiente dirección:
coachesepacificasealions.org

Ubicado en Jean E. Brink Pool, Oceana High School, Pacifica
Visita www.pacificasealions.org

Nuestra Declaración de Misión:
El Club Acuático Pacifica Sea Lions busca inspirar a sus miembros a alcanzar su máximo potencial en la natación mediante un entrenamiento de alta calidad y la automotivación, fomentando la unidad del equipo en un entorno seguro, inclusivo y de apoyo para todos.

Pacifica Library - 11.2026 November

San Mateo County Libraries

Pacifica All School Elementary Choir



Pacifica Education Foundation



The Pacifica Education Foundation (PEF) is holding its annual Donation Days event on **Mon - Wed, Nov 16 - 18,** at school campuses across the district. PEF is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization whose mission is to ensure that children in Pacifica receive a high-quality education in music, the arts and science. As in past years, PEF is creating a healthy competition among our campuses so staff, teachers, and families can show their school pride and win one of three prizes. You can read more about the event and ways to support PEF during Donation Days here.

Important Dates

- Nov. 16 - 20 Ortega Conference Week
- Nov. 16 - 20 Ocean Shore/Sunset Ridge Conference Week
- Nov. 16 - 20 Vallemar Conference Week
- Nov. 23 - 27 Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL

Attendance Information

Let's make this year a success for your child! Studies show that regular attendance is crucial for academic and life success. Here are some tips to keep your child on track:

Prioritize attendance: Make sure your child is in school every day.

Address health issues: Work with your child's doctor to minimize absences.

Partner with the school: Stay involved and communicate regularly.

Remember: Chronic absence – missing just two days a month – can have a significant impact. Let's work together to ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive! Learn more on Attendance Works' website at www.attendanceworks.org.

San Mateo County Office of Education

Housing Support

HIP Housing offers a range of housing services including rental housing, supportive housing for low-income parents and former foster youth, home sharing, and senior programs. Learn more.

Food Resources

The County of San Mateo provides resources for families facing food insecurity. Learn more.

Youth Unlimited (K-12 Students)

SamTrans provides free bus travel for eligible students. Learn more.

Free Passes for Field Trips

SamTrans has a special program that gives students and chaperones from San Mateo County public schools, including charter schools, in grades K-12 free rides for field trips. Submit this form twenty (20) business days before the travel date. Trips take place on regular SamTrans service, meaning that SamTrans cannot guarantee a seat for each student, and bus capacity will be reviewed to determine if the trip can be approved. Learn more.

Public Health Resources

Unsure what to do when a student is showing signs of illness? Use this useful table from the California Department of Public Health to determine when students should be sent home. Learn more.

San Mateo County Health Vaccine Guidance:

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

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

SMC Mobile Clinic Schedule

Health Coverage Enrollment Assistance for Low- to Mid-income Residents or San Mateo Medical Center Patients (in English and Spanish)

Safety Tips for Students

SamTrans prides itself on its record of passenger safety. We put together some common-sense tips to stay safe on SamTrans and a youth safety video produced in partnership with the County Office.



Copyright © 2025 - Material published on this email is protected by copyright. | Unsubscribe