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SAN MATEO-
FOSTER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Newsletter

Superintendent's Letter - September 2017

Dear San Mateo-Foster City Community,

I hope you have enjoyed the opening of school in spite of the recent unpredictable weather. Even though we are only four weeks into the year, classes are well underway and special school activities have started.

Emergency Preparedness and Communication Protocols

Our thoughts are with those that have been affected by catastrophic hurricanes over the past two weeks. While hurricanes, and typhoons in the Pacific, are not typical here, California is susceptible to other disasters. I wanted to offer information regarding the San Mateo County Alert system as well as our emergency preparedness protocols. Student and staff safety is paramount and our schools are ready to deal with an emergency should one occur. Please take a moment to review the articles below on San Mateo County Emergency Preparedness and the San Mateo County Big Five Immediate Response Protocols.

Labor Negotiations

The San Mateo Elementary Teachers Association and the San Mateo–Foster City School District jointly requested the support of a mediator to bring a positive resolution to our on-going negotiations. Three meetings have been held and we are hopeful that this process will result in a successful package.

Budget

Many of you have expressed interest in knowing more about the District's structural deficit resulting from the loss of parcel tax funding combined with escalating costs of the retirement systems and other necessary services. In order to make this information more accessible, we have joined with other districts in the County in uploading information on a user friendly platform called Open Gov. The new platform will be shared with the Board of Trustees at their regular meeting on September 28 and then will be made available to the public on our website. We will alert you when this platform is live.

Education Foundation

We are thankful to the San Mateo Foster City Education Foundation for their generous donation to the District of \$70,000. These funds will be used to off-set the cost of the K-5 Music Program this year. Don't forget that the **RUN2FunD** event is coming on **Sunday, September 24** from 2:00–5:00 pm at the Hillsdale High School track. It will be a fun event and a much needed fundraiser for the Foundation. I hope to see you all there!

National School Attendance Awareness Month

September is National School Attendance Awareness Month. Chronic absenteeism, when a student is absent more than 10% of the school year, negatively affects a student's academic performance and is a serious concern in schools across California. The [Attendance Works](#) website shares important facts about absenteeism and states that when students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and graduation rates. Please support our efforts in ensuring that our students are in school and ready to learn!

Student Achievement

Speaking of student achievement, while individual students who took the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) last spring have received their scores, the District is still awaiting the release of the aggregate scores for the District and each

school site. The CAASPP is a point in time exam that does provide trend data for analysis in the on-going effort to improve student achievement in our District. As we know more about the scores and respective student needs, we will work with schools and district-wide stakeholders to develop actions for our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

Differed Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

I know there is concern in our community about the welfare of our undocumented children of immigrants. Please remember that all students have a right to be in school and to feel welcome and safe. For this reason, we maintain school environments where our staff and students can learn and work together safely. Should you have concerns regarding your child's safety, please let your classroom teacher and/or administrator know. We will continue to provide updates as we learn more about the recent developments regarding the DACA Program.

Candidates for School Board

We are pleased that seven individuals are interested in the three upcoming open seats on our School Board. The California Secretary of State's office has held their random alphabet selection. The candidates that are running in order of appearance on the ballot are: Shara Watkins, Noelia Corzo, Alexander Haislip, Rebecca Hitchcock, Shiraz Kanga, Jacob Thiel and Thomas Morgan. It is an exciting time in the San Mateo-Foster City School District and we welcome new team members. Please watch for local forums to learn about our candidates.

Superintendent Coffee Chats

We will continue to host Coffee Chats during the 2017-2018 school year. This year we will host four chats in English at each middle school and one for Spanish speaking families at College Park Elementary. Please note the schedule below and join me to share your ideas and discuss the latest topics impacting SMFCSD and public education. All parents and community members are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Joan Rosas, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Superintendent Coffee Chats

You are invited to share coffee and conversation with San Mateo-Foster City School District Superintendent Joan Rosas. Come share your ideas and discuss the latest topics impacting SMFCSD and public education. All parents and community members are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there!

2017-2018 Schedule

All Coffee Chats are from 6:30-7:30 pm

Monday, September 18

Bowditch Middle School
1450 Tarpon St, Foster City



Monday, November 6

Borel Middle School
425 Barneson Ave, San Mateo

Monday, December 11

Abbott Middle School
600 36th Ave, San Mateo

Wednesday, January 17

Bayside Academy
2025 Kehoe Ave, San Mateo

Tuesday, February 27*

College Park Elementary
715 Indian Avenue, San Mateo

****Please note, this Coffee Chat is for Spanish-speakers only.***

Upcoming Events

Mon, Sep 18

Coffee Chat 6:30 pm
Bowditch Middle School

Sun, Sep 24

Run2FunD Education
2:00 pm
- Hillsdale High School

Thu, Sep 28

Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- District Office

Wed, Oct 4

International Walk to
School Day
- All Schools

Fri, Oct 6 - Fri, Oct 20

Fall Break - No School

Grab Your Sneakers & Friends and Head to the SMFC Ed Foundation RUN2FunD Education



Sunday, September 24, 2017 - Hillsdale High School

Track - 2:00-5:00 pm

Get a Homework Pass (elementary students) or a PE Mile Pass (middle school students) just for participating! Support us by RUNNING, DONATING or VOLUNTEERING.

RUN!

2:00pm ~ TK, K, 1st & 2nd grades

3:00pm ~ 3rd, 4th & 5th grades

4:00pm ~ 6th, 7th & 8th grades, community teams

Suggested Donation: \$20/runner

Prizes for most participation by school, most \$s raised & best costume!

FUN & FAIR!

Join us for some fun classes including Zumba, yoga & hip-hop. Kids can try our Adventure Race Challenge course! Suggested Donations for non-runners: \$10/adult, \$5/child. Need a break? Stop by our health & wellness booths.

Visit the SMFC Foundation website at www.smfcdfund.org/run2fund. If you would like to help with the event, please email volunteer@smfcdfund.org. SMFCEF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, donations are tax-deductible. Tax ID 94-3110731

Renew Student Meal Applications by September 26th - Schools Benefit When YOU Complete Your Application

Having every family complete a Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application not only helps ensure all students in need have the opportunity to receive nutritious school meals, but also helps determine the District's and each school site's LCFF Supplemental Grant funding. We encourage you to fill out an application every year either through a paper application or online at <https://smfcsd.rocketscanapps.com>.



Students who were receiving free or reduced-price meal benefits at the end of last school year **must fill out a NEW meal application** for the 2017-18 school year. Students who have NOT submitted a NEW meal application, but qualified last school year, **will be required to pay full price for school meals starting Wednesday, September 27, 2017**. Students who did not receive free/reduced-price meals last school year and apply this year, will need to pay for their meals until the meal application is processed. [Read more about the Meal Application program...](#)

International Walk to School Day is Wednesday, October 4th!



Join people worldwide in promoting health and community by walking to school on International Walk to School Day, Wednesday, October 4! Walking or bicycling to school is an opportunity for kids to be outdoors and provides time to connect with parents, friends and neighbors. It also helps kids develop their sense of responsibility and independence. [Read more about](#)

[National Walk to School Day...](#)

San Mateo County Emergency Preparedness

September is Emergency Preparedness month. Recent weather disasters provides a stark reminder for us to be prepared for all types of natural disasters, including fires and earthquakes. You can stay connected to what is happening in our county by visiting the [San Mateo County Alert](#) website and signing up for the [SMCAAlert](#) system. SMCAAlert is an alert notification system used to immediately contact you during urgent or emergency situations with useful information and updates by sending text messages to your email accounts, cell phones or smartphones/handheld devices. You can register for a particular geographic region of San Mateo County or for the entire county.



Get Prepared

Find out what essentials you need to be prepared for an emergency and make a plan for your family by visiting the [San Mateo County Health System](#) website. Follow the Health System on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to receive critical information before, during and after a disaster.

SMFCSD Big Five Protocol - Immediate Action Response



The San Mateo–Foster City School District has joined all other school districts and the emergency support systems in San Mateo County in using a common protocol for what we term “The Big Five”, read more here [San Mateo County Big Five Protocol](#) | [en español](#). These five emergencies have related protocols which all districts in the county and our police and fire services utilize in order to coordinate our responses.

Schools are safe places: Principals, teachers, and other school staff work closely with public safety officials to ensure that all children are safe at school. All schools have detailed emergency plans (The Big Five), and school employees are trained in these protocols.

Parent cooperation is necessary in any emergency and in the student release

process: Learn your school's student-parent reunification plan as well as the school's parental notification methods. To best support your child's safety in a school emergency, remain calm and follow the plan.

Open communication is critical: Open communication between home and school is critical to the safety and well-being of our students and your children. If you have any questions about school safety policies, please contact your child's teacher or school principal.

Talk with your children: Be sure to talk with your children about school emergency response plans and review "The Big Five" periodically. Teach your children to follow the lead of school staff in the event of an emergency.

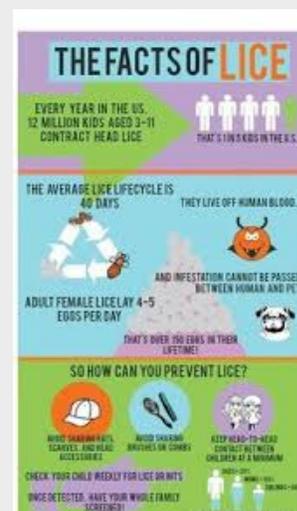
Learn more about The Big Five and emergency preparedness by visiting the [San Mateo County Office of Education](#) website.

The Facts of Lice

We are seeing increasing numbers of students with lice and nits. Please remember that this is not a health issue so much as a nuisance issue. Please examine your child's head as well as all members of your household. You may use the information below to help identify lice. Anyone can get head lice. They are most common in young school-age children, but teens and adults can have it as well.

What to Look For:

- *Nits on the hair shaft.* Nits are the eggs which are oval, whitish-gray objects glued to the side of the hair shaft. . Nits are most



often found near the nape of the neck, behind the ears, and at the crown.

- *Lice in the hair.* Lice are usually brown, but can vary in color. They are the size of a sesame seed. They move quickly and keep out of the light.

ALL NITS MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE A CHILD RETURNS TO SCHOOL

Please refer to the following link for more information:

<https://archive.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/HeadLice.aspx>

School Board Meeting Summaries & Upcoming Agendas

Board Meeting Summary - August 24, 2017

The San Mateo-Foster City School District Board of Trustees:

- Accepted a \$70,000.00 donation presented to the District by the San Mateo-Foster City Education Foundation
- Thanked Trustee Lory Lawson for her twelve years of service on the Board upon her resignation.
- Received information regarding District Summer Programs for 2017.
- Received information regarding a modification to the Educator Effectiveness program.
- Approved the Non-public Schools/Non-public Agencies contracts.
- Received information about the San Mateo-Foster City School District budget, including the scope of the deficit, reductions, and revenue enhancements for 2017-18, as well as reductions and revenue enhancements for consideration in the 2018-20 school years. The option of a parcel tax as a revenue enhancement was also discussed (budget reductions and enhancements made in 2017-18 totaled \$4,093,881. The scope of deficit for the 2018-2020 school year is \$9,000,000).
- Received an update on the exterior and interior color scheme and finishing for the New Elementary School in Foster City.



Board Meeting Summary - August 10, 2017

The San Mateo-Foster City School District Board of Trustees:

- Held a public hearing on the adequacy of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the new elementary school in Foster City.
- Received information on the response to the Grand Jury regarding Epinephrine Auto-Injectors (Epi-Pens).
- Received information from the Education Services Department on how they will be seeking funds/partnerships through local corporations' grant programs that support education.
- Received information on the new elementary school in Foster City project budget.
- Received information on the Program Specialist-Education Services Job Description.
- Approved the contract for the new Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

To review board presentations, upcoming agendas and previous meeting summaries - go to the [Board Agenda & Summaries page](#) of the SMFCSD website.

All Board Meetings are open to the public and held at the San Mateo-Foster City School District Office - 1170 Chess Drive, Foster City at 7:00 pm. Community members are encouraged to attend.

2017-2018 SMFCSD Student Calendar

- August 15 - First Day of School
- September 1-4 - Labor Day Holiday
- October 6-20 - Fall Break
- November 10 - Veteran's Day Holiday
- November 22-24 - Thanksgiving Break

- December 22 - January 8 - Winter Break
- January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday
- February 19 - President's Day Holiday
- March 12 - Teacher PD Day - No School
- April 2-13 - Spring Break
- May 28 - Memorial Day Holiday
- June 21 - Last Day of School

[2017-2018 SMFCSD Student Calendar](#) | [2018-2019 SMFCSD Student Calendar](#)

NEW! Parents, tired of manually entering important district dates into your calendar? Now you can export the SMFCSD Student Calendar to your device. Go to our [District Calendar](#) page and click on Export the SMFCSD Calendar.



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