



2017-18 : The Year In Review

Aid Cleveland Texas (ACT) - In a monumental effort, MBUSD combined with City Staff, churches, and other South Bay groups to collect and pack items, then drive six moving vans full of supplies to aid victims of Hurricane Harvey in Cleveland, TX. Cleveland is the hometown of Mira Costa principal Dr. Ben Dale. Click [here](#) for more details.



Sandy Casey - The MBUSD and Manhattan Beach communities are still reeling from the deaths of MBMS teacher Sandy Casey and MBPD employee Rachael Parker. Both were killed on October 1, 2017 in Las Vegas. The candlelight vigil at the Pier was powerfully symbolic of their impact on the community. [Click here for more information.](#)

Continuous Improvement - MBUSD's already high student scores improved last year!

- Advanced Placement. In 2010, 48% of Mira Costa seniors passed at least one AP test, last year, a record 64.5% passed at least one. See Board Presentation [here](#).
- Math SBAC. The percentage of students who were proficient or above on the state math test went from 73% to 75%.
- ELA (English Language Arts) SBAC. The percentage of students who were proficient or above on the state ELA test went from 82% to 84%. See Board Presentation for SBAC Math and ELA [here](#).

Inclusion Commitment - The MBUSD Board approved the [Inclusion Commitment](#). It is intended to remind us all that we can play an important role in helping all in our community to feel included. We will be reminding families and community organizations about this next fall.

Speaking with Astronauts - We had a great day back in September where science teacher Joanne Michael arranged a ham radio conversation between MBUSD elementary students and an astronaut on the space station travelling 254 miles above MBMS. [See Dr. Matthews' blog about that spectacular experience here.](#)



New School Websites and Calendars - Through a whole lot of behind the scenes efforts, we worked with PTA communication volunteers to completely revamp our school websites and online calendars so that all schools and the District are now on the same system.



Measure EE - We have finalized our plans for the Mira Costa Gym and we have submitted those plans to the state architects' office. We have already hired a contractor and we are ready to bid out the project once the state approves the design.



Measure C - We have finalized our conceptual plans for Measure C. Current plans include Air Conditioning for all classrooms, perimeter fencing for all schools, modernization for many elementary classrooms, and new buildings at Pennekamp and Grand View. Please click [here](#) to see the slides from the board presentation.

Social Emotional Wellness (SEW) - Employees, parents, and students from all schools are talking about how we can improve the social emotional wellness of our students. [Dr. Matthews wrote a blog on this which you can find here.](#)

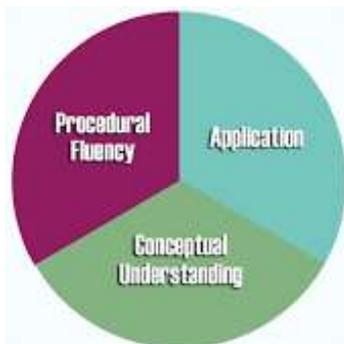
SOS (Signs of Suicide) Day at Mira Costa - Our amazing school counselors and mental health professionals organized a powerful day at Mira Costa where students watched a film about suicide prevention, then the students had the opportunity to ask to talk to someone or to recommend that one of their friends talk to someone. Our counselors had the opportunity to speak with with dozens of students, and any one of those conversations could have been life-changing.



MakerSpace - A few years ago, a group of parent volunteers started a lunchtime program at Pacific Elementary called MakerSpace. MakerSpace creates an opportunity for student to use tools and supplies on hand to create, build, try, fail, succeed, collaborate, and so much more. It was so successful that MBEF raised funds to hire people to lead MakerSpace in all our elementary schools. Now it's part of what we do, and lots of educators are coming to MBUSD to see what we are doing here.

PBIS - Schools across the state and the nation are working to implement Positive Behavior Intervention Systems. Assistant Superintendent Megan Atkins is leading teams from all of our schools as they began PBIS training this year. Schools are working on making student behavior expectations clearer than ever. Also, when students fail to meet those expectations, there are steps that schools take before resorting to school suspensions. MBUSD has a very low suspension rate (less than 1% of students are suspended), and our expulsion rate is one of the lowest in the state as well.

Aeries - In this era where data is so critical, we must have a data system that is both highly usable and highly reliable. We have spent the last 18 months preparing to move and then actually moving to a new student information system - Aeries. This is the system that holds student grades, attendance, schedules, and transcripts. It is the backbone for our parent emails and texts, our IEPs, our lunch orders, Canvas, E-Backpack, and so much more. Dr. Murakawa-Leopard led a small but mighty team who did this work and did it very well. I hope that we can stay with Aeries for years to come.



Math Enters Year Two - Teachers in graders TK-12 completed their second year of in-depth math training. Many of them expressed wishing they learned math this way, as it emphasizes a balance between procedural skill & fluency, conceptual understanding, and application. Across the district, math teachers are learning together and visiting each other's classrooms to observe students in action. At the elementary level, schools have hosted Parent Math Workshops so that our families have a better understanding of the instructional shifts and how best to help their children at home. We are excited

about the work ahead!

Safety - It was a tough year for schools in the United States. There were too many incidents, but the events in Parkland, Florida and Santa Fe, Texas hit all of us hard. Here in MBUSD, we changed some of our emergency drills based on what was learned in those incidents. We worked closer than ever with new MBPD Chief Derrick Abell to look at how we can improve safety in our schools. The City of Manhattan Beach generously set aside \$1 million to help us move quickly on some safety improvements. We have approved designs to complete perimeter fencing in all of our schools, to purchase radios for schools that can communicate throughout the city and with the police, and to improve cellular service in our schools so teachers can receive texts in emergencies.

Newsletters and Social Media - This year we have sent out 13 newsletters to 8,349 subscribers, and over 308 social media posts since August 2017 with an 18% growth in Facebook followers and a 179% growth in Instagram followers. Speaking of which ... follow us!



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Measure MB - We did it! Thanks to a herculean effort led by Jen Fenton, Jeff Serota, and a small army of 150+ volunteers who went house to house, made phone calls, and led the information campaign to help our community understand how vital this was to our schools. Thanks to the work of parents, school and district leaders, students, city council members, and pro-MBUSD people in our community, we have long-term financial support from all of our homeowners that will make an incredible difference in our schools. THANK YOU!