



Manhattan Beach Unified School District

Superintendent's Newsletter

October 9, 2018

Dr. Michael D. Matthews, Superintendent



For years, I have informed our community about the Skechers Pier to Pier Friendship Walk. This year, I am pushing it hard. This is something that our MBUSD community should wholeheartedly support. Let's look at the reasons:

- The Friendship Foundation supports some amazing students in our schools. It provides friendships and social supports, and it truly changes lives.
- The Friendship Foundation embodies everything about our [Inclusion Pledge](#). If you believe in that, you believe in the Friendship Foundation.
- The sponsors of this event help the Friendship Foundation, and every other donation and registration from MBUSD and Manhattan Beach supports MBEF.
- The event is based in our wonderful town, yet we are not even close to being the biggest supporter of it. Palos Verdes has by far the most participants. Redondo has more than we do. Torrance and Hermosa are next on the number of participants. Manhattan Beach was fifth. I would like to change that this year. We are better than this!
- Even if you can't participate, you can be a "virtual walker," paying a \$30 registration fee and sending the message that this is important to our community.

- Still want to learn more about this spectacular event? Check out this short video [here!](#)

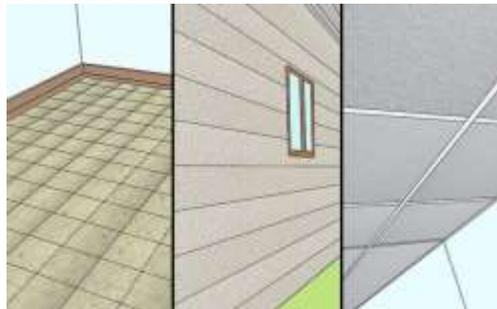
So, please. Let's quadruple our normal participation level. Sign yourself up. Sign up your family. Let's get to a really, really high number this year.

To sign up as a registered OR virtual walker, click [here](#)

Environmental Update

Over the last eight weeks, we have experienced two distinct environmental challenges in our district. I have written you before about the Mira Costa library and the sanding of the tile floor. On top of that, we have experienced mold in a number of our classrooms. To date, six classrooms at Mira Costa and eleven classrooms at MBMS tested for unacceptable levels of mold.

In terms of the library, we have completed the abatement work in the library, and we are working on the final steps needed to get approval from AQMD and LA County. We are also awaiting direction from the Department of Public Health regarding the use of stored instructional and personal items. Believe me, the minute we hear from these agencies, Dr. Dale or I will let the Mira Costa community know about next steps.



In terms of mold in our classrooms, we have tested 78 rooms at MBMS and Mira Costa to date. 17 of those classrooms tested positive for levels of mold higher than the air outside and have been remediated. If you would like more detailed information about the testing, possible causes, and next steps, please click [here](#).



Our Board of Trustees is examining our current board policy on the student dress code. There have been recent criticisms of traditional dress codes, because in practice, they target female students more than male students. Our Board has now discussed a revised dress code that is more clear and more gender-neutral three times, and they are looking for feedback before they schedule a vote. Some parts of the proposed dress code would be less strict than the current dress code. To see the proposed Dress Code draft that was presented to our Board of Trustees on October 3rd, click [HERE](#). To see the current MBUSD board policy regarding dress and grooming, click [HERE](#). I welcome your feedback.

School Fences



I have been trying to keep you posted on the progress of our new exterior fences. Thanks to the City of Manhattan Beach, we have funding that will allow us to complete perimeter fencing around four of our schools, which means that when these projects are finished, all of our schools will have full perimeter fencing. Here is the schedule for the fencing work:

- Current-10/10/18 – MCHS Part 1
- 10/9-10/29/18 – Pennekamp
- 10/30-11/13/18 – Pacific
- 11/13-11/21/18 – MCHS Part 2
- November/December – Grand View
- December/January – MCHS (East)

TRAIL BLAZERS

November 3, 2018 9:00am to 3:00pm • Mira Costa High School

TEDxManhattanBeach is back for the 9th year! This year's event, "Trailblazers," will be held on Saturday, November 3rd. MCHS senior Stephanie Sala and Manhattan Beach dad and sleep specialist Dr. Michael Breus, will be two of the speakers. I took my son last year and it was an incredible day - amazing speakers, fun, interactive exhibits, and delicious food. I hope to see you there. If you are a member of MBEF or planning to donate to the annual appeal, use the promo code MBEF18 for \$10 off the gold ticket. To buy tickets and for more information, click here www.TEDxManhattanBeach.com

Let's have a great October!



Mike Matthews
MBUSD Superintendent

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