



Manhattan Beach Unified School District

Superintendent's Newsletter

January 23, 2019

Dr. Michael D. Matthews, Superintendent

Lockdown Drill - January 30

In our continuing quest to provide a safe learning environment for all students and all staff, all schools will be holding a lockdown drill on Wednesday, January 30. A lockdown drill occurs when there is a clear threat to safety on a campus. The worst case of that threat would be an active shooter on campus. All of our employees received emergency training before the start of this school year. The biggest difference in how we do a lockdown now is that if students are on the PE field or outside of class when a lockdown is called or if there is a disturbance on campus,

we will be training students and staff to run to leave the campus, as opposed to running back to a classroom, which could take them back into the path of danger. We are in the process of changing exterior gates to be push bar gates, as opposed to having to unlock them with a key. For now, all adults who might need that key have it.



We are fortunate in Manhattan Beach that we are small community with extraordinary police and fire department support. We fully expect that once any disturbance on campus is reported, we will have first responders on campus within one to two minutes. So it is that first few minutes that we have to train for. Locking doors to a classroom, creating barriers for anyone to enter, and for those who are not in a classroom, running away from a dangerous situation, provide the best safety possible for our students.

We will be age sensitive in how we prepare for this drill. Words describing the drill for elementary school students will be very different from how teachers describe this in middle school or high school. At the high school level, we will have an extended drill with police on campus. This will be a much longer drill than in the other schools, and we expect extensive police presence on campus. MBPD and MBFD will use this as a training opportunity, and it will help us all to learn. Dr. Dale will send out a reminder so that people passing by won't be alarmed. Principals will be sending out information from each site prior to the drill, but I wanted to inform all of us about this upcoming day. For more information about MBUSD safety procedures click [here](#).

What We Are Working On in 2019 . . .



As we enter the second semester of the 2018-19 school year, we are working on a number of projects and changes for this year and beyond:

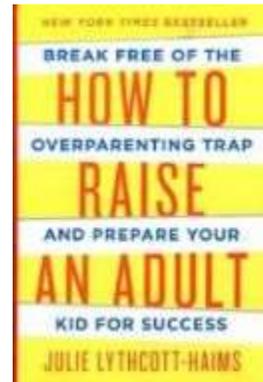
- We welcome our new Kindergarten parents this Saturday from 9:30 to 11:00 at our annual [Kindergarten Information Day](#) event.
 - We are starting the process of reexamining middle school technology devices and middle school math pathways. You can see our [board agenda](#) for details on what we are discussing.
 - We have started implementing our [Indoor Air Quality Management Plan](#) by inspecting all classrooms in the district for any environmental concerns.
 - We are training personnel on using the new radios that we have, funded by the City of Manhattan Beach, which, for the first time ever, allow all schools to communicate with each other and with the District, even if phones and email do not work.
 - We are building our new gym (see groundbreaking event info below) - and finalizing plans for Measure C construction. [Click here for more info.](#)
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On November 8, 2016, voters in MB approved Measure EE, a \$39 million bond measure to replace the outdated and undersized gym. In last month's newsletter, I outlined the planned construction timeline. Abatement was completed over the winter break, demolition is currently underway, and on February 15, we will finally break ground! The ceremony will take place at 12:30 p.m. at the site. If you would like to join us, please check in at the front office first.

Hear the Author - March 24 & 25

The Manhattan Beach Education Foundation is bringing Ms. Julie Lythcott-Haims to our community for the benefit of our youth and all of our families. Talks are March 24 and 25. I had the chance to hear her speak near Stanford University in 2016. She is a highly enthusiastic person who has seen first hand the impact of children who are raised with helicopter parents. This book is about trying to avoid that helicopter syndrome, and helping your child to lead an independent and strong life. I loved it and I say it's a must-read for all parents. If you want to read more about my impressions after meeting with her, [I wrote a blog entry here](#). Tickets for the events will be on sale early February.



Thanks for your support of our schools!



Mike Matthews

MBUSD Superintendent

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