

Webster Weekly 6-8-2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Dear Webster Parents,

It is hard to believe, but this week marks the end of the 2019-20 school year. What an eventful year it was! On Wednesday, you will receive an email from your teacher which will include your student's report card. Please visit this link regarding the district's correspondence on grading.

[Parent Information](#)

Given the continuing concerns around health and social justice in our nation, I know the start of summer break comes with mixed feelings. I am incredibly proud of the resiliency of our staff, teachers, parents, community and most importantly our students. I look forward to ending our year strong and celebrating our promoting 5th graders. Webster is a remarkable place for learning and I am grateful to be your proud principal. Thank you for your continued patience, understanding and support. Please take a moment to read the results from our SSC and ELAC distance learning parent survey. As decisions are made regarding the offer for programming in the fall, I will be in touch. Please continue to check your emails after this week. I will be working throughout June, should you need to contact me.

I will spend the upcoming weeks reflecting on everything that well and finding solutions for our areas of growth. I recently came upon a poem which encapsulates my sentiments on this past year.

Breathe

Breathe, said the wind

How can I breathe at a time like this

When the air is full of the smoke of burning tires, burning lives?

Just breathe, the wind insisted

Easy for you to say, if the weight of the injustice is not wrapped around your throat, cutting off the air.

I need you to breathe.

I need you to breathe.

Don't tell me to be calm when there are so many reasons to be angry, so much cause for despair,

I didn't say to be calm, said the wind,

I said to breathe.

We're going to need a lot of air to make this hurricane together.

-Lynn Unger

Have a wonderful summer! We will see you in the fall. Whether that may be virtually or in person, we will welcome our students and families back for another year of learning and memories!

Warmly,

Ms. Daruty

PTA NEWS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT WEBSTER:

Monday, June 8th @ 10:00-1:00 p.m. 5th Grade Essential Supplies Drop-Off and Pick-Up Day

Wednesday, June 10th LAST DAY OF SCHOOL. Report cards will be emailed home to families and parents.

Wednesday, June 10th @ 6:30 p.m. 5th Grade Video Premiere Celebration Party. This event will take place on zoom. Feel free to invite friends and family of your honored fifth grader. This virtual event will be an opportunity to view the phenomenal 5th grade video and celebrate our outstanding students before they leave for middle school. These are unprecedented times and my hope is that this will sprinkle some needed JOY on the special **Webster Whales Class of 2020.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7406000734?pwd=dXYrZC83eU1ud0tFV2YwV2ltQW1adz09>

Meeting ID: 740 600 0734

Password: 884062

UPCOMING EVENTS:

HVAC Installation: The construction is ongoing and we are excited to have air conditioning by the end of August.

Materials Pick-Up: At this time, we cannot welcome families back to campus to retrieve classwork or personal belongings that were left prior to school closure. We will keep everything until next year and plan to have a materials pick-up day before we start the next school year. If you need anything of importance please contact your teacher or Ms. Daruty.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2020: This program will still continue but will be provided through a virtual platform. There is no cost for your child's participation in IISS. IISS will take place: Thursday, June 18 – Wednesday, July 15 from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm each day. Families who have confirmed their attendance in our district summer programs will receive an information letter shortly notifying them as to the specific format of our district summer programs.

Malibu Middle School Summer Reading



Please use this [LINK](#)

1) Students should read at least one book of their choice. The book may be one you borrow from the public library, purchase, or you may find hundreds of free books using [Sora](#) (under "resources" on our website's library page; please use student ID to login).

2) When school starts in August, students should be able to participate in a discussion about their book and why they would or would not recommend the book to peers.

3) No written assignment or grade will be attached to summer reading.

Here is the link: <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/5928>

DISTANCE LEARNING UPDATES and INFORMATION

Thank you for your participation in the Webster Parent Distance Learning survey. As our district and Webster school work towards re-opening for the next school year, your feedback is valuable. As a member of the District Administrator re-opening school task force, the data you provided will prepare me to provide Webster specific data. Thank you very much to our School Site Council and English Language Learner Committee for both creating and subsequently reviewing the data. We noticed the following themes:

- 46% of our parent population responded to the survey. Parents with students in grades first, second and third provided 81% of the feedback.
- On nearly all of the 5 point Likert scale questions, we noticed a natural bell curve with most data falling within the middle range assigning a score of "3".
- 73% of parents reported a score of 3, 4 or 5 (scale was from 1-5) on their overall experience with the Distance Learning Model providing a continuation of learning since school closure.
- 76% of our students have a two adult household assisting with distance learning. 13.2% had one adult at home providing support.
- 38% of parents DID NOT feel adequately equipped to be the primary facilitator of their children's learning at home. The main drivers for these responses were: 43% have parents working full-time at home, 40% felt their children were too young to work independently and a notable 28% felt their children have not adapted to Distance Learning.
- 86% of parents felt their children were provided the adequate amount of lessons/assignments to maintain a continuity of learning.

- Parents reported a preference that assignments were located on a digital home-base and that they were emailed both daily and weekly.
- 78% of parents shared that they received regular and consistent feedback on their students' progress during the distance learning model of instruction.
- The Boys and Girls Club Programming and the Webster Distance Learning link on our website were the TOP two resources used by families.
- The 2020-21 school year will begin on August 20, 2020. Understanding that all decisions will be made with guidance from the district, LACOE and DPH:
 - 44% of Webster parents felt comfortable with their student(s) physically attending school with improved safety and health precautions.
 - 19% of parents would be most comfortable with a hybrid model of instruction for the fall.
 - 15% were still unsure if they would allow their student(s) to return to school.
 - 11% would not feel comfortable sending their child to school at this time.
 - 7% would prefer the Distance Learning Model.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

CENSUS2020: Due to COVID-19, the U.S. Census Bureau has recently extended the self-response period to October 31. **It is more vital than ever for our communities to be counted as funding the next 10 years are impacted and it's not too late to receive these funds to continue your Census outreach efforts.** Overall Santa Monica-Malibu School District area's self-response reporting numbers are well. Yet, in particular the area of Malibu is far below the California rates. See percentages below as of May 5.

Self-Response Rates:

- California 58.5%
- LA County 53.8%
- Santa Monica 56.8%
- Malibu 32.6%

Schools in our district with low self-response rates:

- Webster Elementary – 31.0% (Census Tract: 8005.04) **WE CAN DO BETTER!**

Did you know the #2020census is required by the U.S. Constitution? It consists of 10 short questions and is used to count every person living in the United States, the five inhabited territories and the District of Columbia? Respond online now www.2020census.gov

Resources for Low Income/ Homeless families:

- A resource about [EBT and P-EBT](#). This could be helpful for our low-income and homeless families.
- NAEHCY has released the recording of their 4 sessions of "*Troubleshooting Services Delivery During the COVID-19 Outbreak*". Check out [COVID-19 Resources and Guidance](#).
- [Great Ed Source article](#)
- Alliance for Children's Rights had some [great information](#) about the CalFresh Expansion and childcare.
- [Emergency Dental during COVID-19 for Medi-Cal](#)
- [SchoolHouseConnection.org – FAQs on COVID-19 and Homelessness](#)

- Housing Rights Center is offering [ongoing webinars and support for our families](#).
- Cellphone support for our families – [please see this linked document](#)
- Quick reference list of a directory of services in LA – [please see this link](#)

[California Department of Social Services: Pandemic EBT](#)

Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19), children who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals at school will get extra food benefits. These food benefits are called Pandemic EBT or P-EBT benefits. P-EBT benefits help families in California buy food when schools are closed because of the coronavirus emergency.

District Announcements <https://app.peachjar.com/flyers/all/schools/58471> SMMUSD posts information on the MES homepage with information parents may find valuable. Please use the link above to quickly access this page.

Meal service: Children enrolled in any SMMUSD school or program will be able to pick up free breakfast and lunch from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Monday-Friday. at the following schools: Santa Monica High School, McKinley Elementary, Will Rogers Learning Community in Santa Monica and Webster Elementary in Malibu. SMMUSD families may go to any of these schools even if not enrolled there. All students under the age of 18 will be served. A parent or guardian must be present, except high school students may participate on their own. We are providing grab-and-go bagged meals. If you or your child are sick, do not come to school. **This will continue through the summer.**

Visit the SMMUSD [Family Resources](#) website that contains instructional materials by grade span in all core subjects that will continue to be updated with additional resources and materials to support parents who are supporting students at home during this extended closure. Visit the Distance Learning, Instructional Resources or Community Resource pages in the link above for important and helpful information.

The Wellness Center at The Boys & Girls Club of Malibu The Wellness Center continues to offer and provide much needed counseling to all Malibu public school children and their families via video conference during this time. If you would like to request and schedule a video conference therapy session with one of our clinicians, please call or email:

Wellness Center Director
 Randi Goodman, LMFT#52964
[310-691-6523](tel:310-691-6523)
wellnessinfo@bgcmalibu.org

Weekly Sessions Available: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday @10:00am to 3:00pm.

Upon scheduling your appointment, you will receive an email with a link to Zoom conferencing and details on how to initiate your scheduled session. Please take advantage of these 15-20

minute consultations to take care of your mental health. We encourage these sessions as a great opportunity to spend some quality family time together.

Being a Better Listener

ARTICLE FROM THE BGCM : How to Talk About Race

There's no doubt that these are challenging times. At the Wellness Center, we want to help you talk to your children about racism and how it divides our country. It can seem daunting to bridge these topics with children, and many parents feel the need to shield young children from the violence and racism happening in the world. But, the truth is that children as young as 1 year can notice race, and children as young as 3 years old can show racial bias when it comes to things like choosing dolls or picking who to play with on the playground. If we want to raise the next generation of children to be more inclusive and accepting, a powerful way to do so is by controlling and initiating the conversation about race. Here are a few tips on starting the conversation:

Develop meaningful and authentic relationships with people that are different from you. Then encourage your children to do the same. One of the most powerful ways to combat stereotypes and encourage acceptance is to have meaningful relationships with people that are different from us. Personal connections are often the starting point for change.

Develop self-awareness about racist beliefs. This is a difficult one, but if we truly want our children to think deeply about the complexities of race and understand systematic bias that exists in our society, we have to first look at our own biases as parents.

We need to examine our own behavior and ensure that we are acting as a model of inclusiveness. This means examining how we interact with others, and thinking critically about the language we use.

Learn how to intervene

When some of us suffer or are treated unfairly, we all suffer. Show your children that antiracist action can be accomplished in many ways. It can mean volunteering or making a donation to a group with a mission of diversity and inclusiveness (and discussing it with your child. You might even bring them along). It can mean speaking out publicly against injustice, or attending a demonstration against discrimination (again, with your children).

Talk to your children about different ways they can safely intervene and how to stand up and not be bystander to injustice.

Keep talking about it

There will come a time when you are at a loss for words. If you are caught off guard by a question your child asks, don't be afraid to say, "let me think about that and get back to you" – but make absolutely sure you do just that. Don't worry if you stumble. Bring it up again, revisit the conversation, and keep talking about race. Avoid tropes such as "colorblindness," which erases the specific experiences and differing cultures of people of color.

Talk about fairness and unfairness

This is a good place to start with kids. Many young children deeply understand the idea of something being “fair” or “unfair.” When you witness discrimination, label it, and address it as being “unfair.” Ask children how they might feel if they weren’t allowed to go to school with their friends just because of the color of their hair, eyes, or skin? Would they want change to happen? Would they fight for change?

Start young

When we suggest starting young, we mean immediately, and as soon as possible. Include books and toys for your child that are representative and diverse. There are lots of great books (including board books for babies) that you can purchase or get from a library. Some wonderful examples are: "Shades of People" by Sheila M. Kelly, "The Skin You Live In" by Michael Tyler and "A Rainbow of Friends," by P K Hallinan. Try playing civil rights monopoly with older children: The rules are basically the same, except that some players start with more money than others, and some players aren’t able to own property until half way through the game. Afterwards you discuss how this impacted the game and each player.

Above all else, inspire your children. Let children know that they can be part of change too. Starting early can help them navigate bullies in school as well as develop great empathy skills for others. Reassure them that protests and riots are actually a big part of American history, and that times like these can lead to amazing change that needs to happen!

If you’re looking for more resources on understanding race in America for adults and children, here are some further reading suggestions:

For adults and teens:

- The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander
- So You Want to Talk About Race? By Ijeoma Oluo
- Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

For kids:

- [“Hair Love,”](#) by Matthew A. Cherry.
- The Youngest Marcher by Cynthia Levinson
- All American Boys by Jason Reynolds

SAFETY UPDATES AND REMINDERS:

As the public health situation around Coronavirus evolves, we would like to provide you with some important information.

SYMPTOM UPDATE: A wide range of symptoms from mild to severe may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and now include: Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, *chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.* Call your doctor if you experience these symptoms.

HEALTH OFFICER ORDERS:

- **Isolate at Home orders ([updated](#)):**

At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

AND

At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND** improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).

- **No “play dates” or gatherings (including in cars).**
- [FAQs](#)

RECOVERY

- [LA’s Roadmap to Recovery](#)

Schools still remain closed except for essential business or services. To access a campus for **essential business**, an appointment must be approved by the site administrator. [Meal service](#) at designated school sites continues without appointment.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS:

- **Testing**
 1. Free testing is now available. To schedule, click [here](#).
- **Face Mask**
 1. Required for everyone older than 8 years when in public.
 2. Children 2-8 should wear them with adult supervision.
 3. Click here for [more information](#) and [how to make a mask](#)

Social/Physical Distancing:

- Maintain 6 ft. distance when in public

Hand Hygiene:

- Wash hands or use Hand Sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol)

Additional resources and information can be found at

<http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>

If you need assistance finding a medical provider or for mental health services, call 211.

OTHER INFORMATION:

New Student Enrollment: Spread the word, we are enrolling NOW for the 2020-21 school year. It will be all done electronically. Please read the [Webster Enrollment Process](#) memo or reach out to Michael Ward, michaele.ward@smmusd.org for more information.