



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

December 18, 2024

Dear Parents,

The holiday season and the end of 2024 is fast approaching. As I look back on this year, I think of all the things we have accomplished in our department. We have hired some amazing staff members, delivered workshops in various content areas, and connected families with other families throughout the district through Parent Resource Network Events. Most importantly, our students are doing well in their respective school settings. If you need a smile, during this week before break, I encourage you to attend a Holiday Sing Along or another Holiday event. Students make me smile every day.

Malibu:

Last week was challenging for our students, families and staff who live and/or work in Malibu. We are very happy that school is resuming this week. Due to some fire damage at Webster, our students will be attending school at Malibu Elementary School. I couldn't be more grateful for the principals of the sites, who are working collaboratively to successfully run two elementary schools simultaneously. Our department reached out by phone/email to each family and everyone was looking forward to returning to school this week. If you would like to help out families impacted by the fire, we are doing a Ralphs Gift Card Drive. You can deliver the cards to the offices at MES, MMS , MHS or the special education office at the district office in Santa Monica.

Staffing:

I am thrilled to announced that we are fully staffed with certificated teachers.

Damion Morbley joins our Malibu Middle and High School team. He will be teaching the Life Skills class. We are onboarding Damion at the district office and school site this week and he will take over the class on January 6th, 2025.

Additionally, on January 6th, 2025, **Kevin Dobbins** will be the SAI teacher at JAMS for Math. Kevin has been subbing in this position for the first semester and will officially continue in that capacity in January.

PRN Meetings:

PRN members serve as resources for parents at each school. If you, as parents, have questions or concerns about IEP issues, resources in the community or want to talk to other parents with students with special needs, please reach out to them. The updated list of PRN contacts is on the website. We are still searching for a PRN rep for Olympic High School and Webster Elementary. Our next PRN meeting is via zoom on January 16th at 9:30 am via zoom.

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Board of Education: Jon Kean • Maria Leon-Vazquez • Laurie Lieberman • Alicia Mignano

Stacy Rouse • Jennifer Smith • Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

Superintendent: Dr. Antonio Shelton

Parent Workshops:

What happens to students who have an IEP after they leave high school?

Find out when you join our Parent Workshop on January 28th at 1:30 pm at the board room and hear from representatives from West LA College, SMC and Westside Regional Center. This workshop is appropriate for parents of all levels.

Progress Notes:

If you have an elementary student and did not receive your student's progress report for November, please contact your teacher and coordinator of special education. Secondary progress reports are slated to go home on January 6th, 2025. Please communicate with your Teacher of Record if you have additional questions.

SELPA Update:

A Holiday newsletter from the SELPA is attached to this email communication. Please review and save the date for our SELPA Resource Fair on February 22nd. The event will take place at SAMOHI.

Office Closed:

Our department is closed and on break December 21, 2024 to January 5, 2025. I firmly believe in our staff not working during breaks. They work very hard and need this time to rest and recharge. Please do not expect them to return email communication during this break.

Coordinators:

Here is the current contact list for our coordinators

Carmen Durand (cdurand@smmusd.org) (Elementary Schools in Santa Monica)

Brenda Clarke (bclarke@smmusd.org) (Malibu Middle and High, SMASH, JAMS and LMS)

Hilda Salas (hsalas@smmusd.org) (SAMOHI, OCLC, PBL)

Melodi Johnson (Malibu ES, Webster, Preschool, Private, RTC, and NPS students)

May you enjoy the holiday season with your friends and family.

See you in 2025.

With much gratitude,

Victoria

Victoria Hurst,

Director of Special Education, SMMUSD