



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 14, 2025

Dear Parents,

I am unable to put into words the emotional that we have all experienced this past week. Everyone in our community was impacted by the fires in LA. Some of our families and staff have lost everything they own and are beginning to figure out how to pick up their pieces. If you have experienced such loss, my deepest sympathy is being sent your way. I have also been truly humbled by the outpouring of love, support and resources available to those in our community. One of our own teachers lost everything but contacted me with donations of toys she wanted to make to a family. May the generosity and human spirit that we have seen in the last week continue.

As a SMMUSD leadership team, we have been meeting multiple times per day to prepare for our students return. We know that all families experienced grief and trauma this week and we have skilled therapists, psychologists and mental health staff clinicians available to support your students. Please do not hesitate to reach out if your children need support. We also know that our students need school and routines right now. We welcome your students back to our open arms this week.

**Staffing:**

We have had a few staffing switches at the beginning of January.

**TK Co-Taught Classroom:** A beloved retired SMMUSD preschool teacher, Laura Collin, has returned to teach the TK class at Franklin for the rest of the school year. Laura brings over 25 years of teaching in SMMUSD. She is loving the new experience and working with our students in the class.

**SLP at MMS/MHS:** We had a change in Speech and Language Pathologists at Malibu Middle and High School. Kristen Schneider has come back to our SMMUSD team. She also will be supporting some students at Webster. Her district email is [kristenschneider@smmusd.org](mailto:kristenschneider@smmusd.org)

**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 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am via zoom.

**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 28<sup>th</sup> 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:**

Secondary progress notes were to be sent out by January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Due to the events last week, teachers may be delayed getting them out to you. Please check in with your child's case manager if you did not receive the progress note.

**ESY:**

Summer school dates on the district calendar are incorrect. Extended School Year (ESY) will run from June 23<sup>rd</sup> to July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. More details to follow.

**Coordinators:**

Here is the current contact list for our coordinators

Carmen Durand ([cdurand@smmusd.org](mailto:cdurand@smmusd.org)) (Elementary Schools in Santa Monica)

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

Hilda Salas ([hsalas@smmusd.org](mailto:hsalas@smmusd.org)) (SAMOHI, OCLC, PBL)

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

Thank you for reading this letter during times that are overwhelming for our community. Please reach out if you need assistance. Thank you.

With much gratitude and respect,

Victoria

Victoria Hurst,  
Director of Special Education, SMMUSD