

# MDUSD MONDAY MEMO

A Weekly Update of District Activities and Education-related Issues  
from the Superintendent's Office, Mt. Diablo Unified School District

Week of March 9, 2009

## New play boxes are surfacing

The May 2000 settlement in the case of Spieler v MDUSD resulted in a Consent Decree to improve facilities and programs over the course of ten years for students with disabilities in the Mt. Diablo school district. One of the ancillary issues in this case concerned the surfacing material used in play boxes at the elementary schools. After years of dialogue, the District agreed last fall to make changes in 18 play areas at a number of school sites. All will get play boxes surfaced with rubberized matting rather than the traditional engineered wood product (FIBAR) in the fall zones. All will also get new play equipment. In some cases, the new structures are necessary to replace problematic or non-compliant ones. In others, the existing equipment might be fully compliant, but trying to salvage and reuse it in a new, compliant installation is not cost effective.

Presently in the design phase, the projects are expected to be completed within two years. The following elementary schools are included: Ayers, Cambridge, Fair Oaks, Holbrook, Meadow Homes, Mt. Diablo, Pleasant Hill, Sequoia, Shore Acres, Strandwood, Sun Terrace, Valhalla, Walnut Acres, Westwood, Woodside, Wren, and Ygnacio Valley.

## March 21 conference focuses on special needs

Families with children who have special needs will have an opportunity to talk to other families, attend workshops, and learn about helpful resources on Saturday, March 21, at a morning mini conference offered by the Mt. Diablo Adult Education Parent Education Program. The informative and lively event takes place at the Loma Vista Adult Center, 1266 San Carlos Avenue, Concord, from 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Registration is \$20 per person. More information is available by calling (925) 685-7340, #2771.

## Student and Staff Successes

### Concord has wrestling champ

Concord High has its first state wrestling champion! **Nick Pica**, a 215-pound senior, scored a 10-4 win on Saturday, March 7, to capture the California Interscholastic Federation title in his weight class. As quoted in the *Contra Costa Times*, Pica credited his friends and family with helping him win. He said, "Everything they said made me drive and made me do as much as I could to beat [my opponent]." In addition to his championship title, Pica has been named the No. 1-ranked 215-pound wrestler in the state according to [thecaliforniawrestler.com](http://thecaliforniawrestler.com). Congratulations, Nick!

*In others' words . . . at the start of Daylight Savings Time*

*"Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you."--Carl Sandburg*

*"Time has come today."-The Chambers Brothers*

*"Time, time, what is time? The Swiss manufacture it, the French hoard it, the Italians want it, the Americans say it is money, and the Hindus say it doesn't exist."--Truman Capote*

*"Right now a moment of time is fleeting by! Capture its reality. . . become the moment."--Paul Cezanne*

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