

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 May 4, 2009

Dear Members of the Mt. Diablo USD Community,

I expect you have heard by now that Shore Acres Elementary School in Bay Point was closed as of this morning, Monday, May 4, because lab tests indicated that one of the students, who had been out ill last week, had a probable case of the H1N1 virus ("swine" flu).

We learned of the test results late last Friday afternoon and immediately informed Shore Acres families and staff that Contra Costa County Health Department protocol required us to close their school to students. I informed the other families and employees in our District shortly afterward using our phone notification system. (If you should have received this message and did not, please notify Sue Berg in my office, 925-682-8000, x4010.)

Initially Shore Acres was to be closed for two weeks. Today the health department informed us that the school can re-open in one week, on Monday, May 11.

This is the first confirmed "probable" case of the H1N1 virus in the Mt. Diablo USD. Since the media reported an outbreak of this flu on April 24, District staff, including the school nurses, have been following up on reports of any students or employees who experience flu-like symptoms.

So far, the illness has been mild to moderate and the number of cases relatively low: as of today, 30 in California and 279 in the U.S. as a whole. Local health officials are working closely with the school districts in their area as well as with state and federal health authorities to make the public aware of this health issue so everyone takes extra steps to prevent the spread of germs. To that end, the Public Health Department suggests the following:

- Wash hands frequently with a lot with soap and water.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow.
- Keep children who are sick at home. Don't send them to school.
- If someone in the household is experiencing flu-like symptoms including a fever, contact a health care provider.
- Anyone who is sick should stay home from work or school and stay away from other people until they are better.

For more information

- Mt. Diablo USD website: www.mdusd.org. See "District News."
- Contra Costa Health Services Department website: www.cchealth.org

- Health Emergency Line: 1-888-959-9911

Here's wishing you good health.
Dick Nicoll, interim superintendent

Reminder: Employee Recognition Dates

- California Day of the Teacher: Wednesday, May 13
- Classified Employees Week: May 17-23
- District Retirement Reception: We will honor our retirees at a reception on Wednesday, May 13, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Pleasant Hill Community Center.

Some Summer School Sessions Still Scheduled

Extended Year Program (EYP)

Changes in the District's summer program offerings may have confused families of Special Education students who are eligible to participate in the Extended Year Program. That program will be offered this summer. Dates for specific program components are as follows:

June 22-July 31

- Woodside Autism Camp
- High Schools Alliance
- Families First
- Bridge Program

July 6-31

- Elementary and Middle School
- Robert Shearer Preschool
- Shadelands/Sunrise Center

It is not too late to register. Call Sharon Krell in the Extended Year Program Office for information and registration forms: 925-682-8000, 4172.

CARES Program

From July 6-31, the Collaborative for Academics, Recreation and Enrichment for Students (CARES), an afterschool program during the school year, will be offered at the schools listed below each weekday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Program location	For students at:
Bel Air Elem.	Bel Air, Shore Acres
Cambridge Elem.	Cambridge, Fair Oaks
Delta View Elem.	Delta View, Rio Vista
Meadow Homes Elem.	Meadow Homes
Sun Terrace Elem.	Sun Terrace, Holbrook
Wren Avenue Elem.	Wren Avenue
Ygnacio Valley Elem.	Ygnacio Valley Elem.
El Dorado Middle	El Dorado
Oak Grove Middle	Oak Grove

Riverview Middle

Riverview, Mt. Diablo HS

Registration cards are available at each site as of today, May 4. Application deadline is Friday, June 5. For more information contact Afterschool Program Administrator Ali Medina at medinaa@mdusd.k12.ca.us or (925) 691-0351.

Certificated Layoff Hearing Held

As part of the process outlined in California Education Code for laying off certificated staff, an Administrative Law Judge held a two-day hearing on April 23 and 24 for both the District and the Mt. Diablo Education Association (MDEA) to present relevant data and to resolve issues that may have arisen during the notification process. In addition to their data both parties also had witnesses and respondents testify on a variety of topics.

The Administrative Law Judge has until May 7 to issue a decision on the concerns that the parties were not able to resolve during the hearing. That decision will be brought to the Board of Education for approval at its May 12 meeting. After the Board's action, the District will send out Final Layoff Notices to affected certificated employees as directed by the Board.

In others' words . . . Salud!

"Thousand upon thousands of persons have studied disease. Almost no one has studied health." ~ Adelle Davis, nutritionist, 1904-1974

"Health is a blessing that money cannot buy." ~ Izaak Walton, English writer, 1593-1683

"An imaginary ailment is worse than a disease." ~ Yiddish Proverb

"The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not." ~ Mark Twain, American author, 1835-1910

**Dick Nicoll
Interim Superintendent
Mt. Diablo Unified School District
Web Site: www.mdusd.org**

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