

August 4, 2006

Dear DMUSD Parent(s):

The Board of Trustees and our entire DMUSD staff are eagerly waiting the beginning of the 2006/2007 school year. On behalf of our entire staff, I expect the 2006/2007 school year to be very successful. The District's employees appreciate the continuing strong support from our parent community that enables us to provide our students with a strong academic program, as well as enrichment opportunities in science, technology, art and music.



On June 28, 2006, the Board approved the District's \$34 million General Fund budget for the 2006/2007 school year. Local property tax revenue provides more than 75% of the \$34 million General Fund budget, with various State revenues providing about 24% of the District's revenue. Did you know that the Federal government provides less than 1% of Del Mar's revenue?



The District is looking forward to receiving the 2006 STAR test results from the California State Department of Education very shortly. We anticipate that the 2006 DMUSD STAR test results will be published in local newspapers in early or mid-August. Once the 2006 STAR test results have arrived at the school sites, principals and teachers will begin a process to analyze the 2006 STAR test data so that we can improve student achievement in the future.



The 2006/2007 daily bell schedule at all schools is unchanged from the 2005/2006 bell schedule. The 2006/2007 calendar and bell schedule are online at the DMUSD website (www.delmarschools.com).



The 2006/2007 electronic class lists will be posted on the District website on Friday, August 25th at 5:00 p.m. through Monday, August 28th. Parents who lack Internet access at home are encouraged to visit a public library to gain Internet access at no charge.

The District is mailing a letter to DMUSD parents that will provide parents with information to access the 2006/2007 electronic class lists on the District website. With the child's Student ID number and birth date parents will be able to access the following: teacher name, room number and the first names with last name initial of the other students in the class. This information will be available on the website (www.dmusd.org/locator) beginning Friday, August 25th at 5:00 p.m. and will remain posted 24 hours a day on August 26, 27 & 28. Parents who lack Internet access at home are encouraged to visit a public library to gain Internet access to the DMUSD

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Parents who experience **“technical difficulty” only** in accessing the 2006/2007 class lists should call the District’s technical help line at 858-523-6048 on Saturday, August 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Webmaster is NOT able to help you with correspondence, nor is he

able to answer any questions about class lists or student placement; **he is available for technical help only.**

When parents access the 2006/2007 class lists at the website, both new and returning parents will be asked to provide the District with a current e-mail address. We are optimistic that every DMUSD parent will register their e-mail address so that we can provide all DMUSD parents with important electronic communication during the 2006/2007 school year, including site/district newsletters, Board meeting information, site PTA information, DMUSD Child Care information, and other important information. *Please Note: The District maintains the same confidentiality with e-mail addresses as it does with all other student information provided on student enrollment forms. The District does NOT distribute parent e-mail addresses to other organizations.*



The District’s Maintenance and Operations staff has nearly completed their annual “deep cleaning” of all classrooms throughout the District. In addition, the Maintenance staff has completed a variety of deferred maintenance projects across the District.



District staff completed the 2006/2007 certificated hiring process by the end of July, but we anticipate that several new teacher positions may be created by last minute resignations and/or additional student enrollment. The District received over 400 teacher applications and interviewed over 150+ well-qualified teacher candidates during the 2006/2007 hiring process. To date, the District has hired 11 new teachers for the 2006/2007 school year.



Governor Schwarzenegger and the elected leadership in the State Assembly and State Senate agreed to the 2006/2007 State budget during the last week of June 2006. The 2006/2007 State budget did not attack basic aid school districts, like Del Mar. The 2006/2007 State budget provided significant new one-time funds that will help students and teachers at the site level. The District is still studying the rules and regulations for the 2006/2007 one-time state funds, and plans to share the information about these funds early in September.



Congratulations to DMUSD Child Care Director Charlene Komosinski and her staff for their successful Children’s Creative Workshops (CCW) program during July, as well as the Summer Camp program which takes place during July and August at Del Mar Hills Academy. The CCW and Summer Camp program served about 550 students during the summer of 2006.

Congratulations are also in order to Carmel Del Mar teacher, Bill Porter, for serving as the Principal to the District’s Special Education Extended Year Program.



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Parents of four and five year olds are invited to attend the Del Mar Union School District's Preschool Program, offered at no cost to parents. There are three preschool classrooms designed for students with special needs. Each classroom has an Early Childhood Special Education teacher with 3 or 4 aides. We are looking for 4 and 5 year olds who will be good role models for our students in all areas of development, especially language skills and social/play skills. Preschoolers need to be toilet trained. There are a limited number of openings, and a screening process. Wait listing is available if the class is filled.

The preschool is located at Sycamore Ridge School and runs Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon beginning August 28, 2006.

Please call Marilyn Wyman in the Pupil Services office for more information. (858-523-6192).



The Del Mar Schools Education Foundation (DMSEF) is looking forward to another successful year. Since the DMSEF came into existence five years ago, it has contributed more than \$1.9 million to the District's vibrant enrichment program. In advance, the District wants to thank each parent for your generous 2005/2006 donation to the DMSEF.



The District is pleased to report that the Board of Trustees approved 12 of the 16 construction contracts for Ocean Air School on July 24, 2006. The remaining four contracts are being re-bid and will be awarded in the next few weeks. The District expects that grading will begin about August 15. We also anticipate the construction of Ocean Air School will be complete by August 15, 2007.



Congratulations to Ashley Falls, 1st grade teacher, Julie Lerner, who was appointed to the vacant Assistant Principal position at Sage Canyon School. The Ashley Falls students, staff and parents, will miss Julie but she is excited about her new administrative position.



During the summer months, negotiators for the City of Del Mar and the DMUSD met three times to discuss possible terms and price for the 5.3 acre Shores property (current location of the DMUSD District Office and Employee Child Care). The City of Del Mar remains very interested in purchasing the Shores property, but to date the City and the District have not been able to agree on price and terms.

During the early part of the summer, the City filed a lawsuit against the DMUSD regarding the application of the Naylor Act, which is a State law that regulates the sale of surplus school district property. The City lawsuit has complicated the negotiations and slowed down the disposal of the Shores property. The Board continues to explore responsible options for the Shores property that will benefit Del Mar's current and future students.



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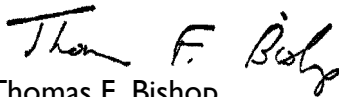
On July 24, 2006, the Board approved a one-year Food Service Agreement with the San Dieguito Union School District (SDUHSD). Under the terms of this agreement, the SDUHSD staff will prepare the nutritionally balanced lunches that meet or exceed all State and Federal nutrition guidelines and requirements. DMUSD staff will pick-up the lunches from the Carmel Valley Middle School kitchen, where they are prepared, and deliver the lunches to each of our school sites.

The 2006/2007 DMUSD lunch program will cost students \$3.00 per meal (including milk) with improved nutrition and safety standards. The District anticipates that revenue from food sales and additional State/Federal revenue will pay for the on-going food service costs. By joining the National School Lunch Program, the District's new food service program will meet all State and Federal nutrition requirements. Studies have shown that children whose nutritional needs are met have fewer attendance and discipline problems and are more attentive in class.

More information about the new DMUSD lunch program will be sent home with students in the first day packet on August 28th.

Best wishes to all students and staff for a stimulating and productive year in 2006/2007.

Sincerely,



Thomas F. Bishop
District Superintendent

TFB:sf