

August 6, 2007

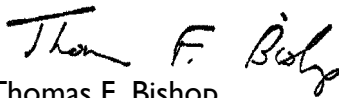
Dear DMUSD Parent(s):

The Board of Trustees and our entire DMUSD staff are eagerly waiting the beginning of the 2007/2008 school year. On behalf of our entire staff, I expect the 2007/2008 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. Please visit our website at www.dmusd.org for more start of the school year information.

The following highlights the summer activity in the DMUSD!

Best wishes to all students and staff for a stimulating and productive year in 2007/2008.

Sincerely,



Thomas F. Bishop
District Superintendent



On July 25, Board President Annette Easton announced that the Board had reached a tentative agreement to sell the 5.3 acres Shores site (home of the current district office, employee child care, maintenance dept., and the Winston School) to the City of Del Mar for \$8,500,000. Since the tentative agreement was announced, the DMUSD and the City have signed a purchase agreement and opened escrow. It is anticipated that this complex real estate transaction that involves surplus DMUSD property will be completed by March 1, 2008. As part of the real estate agreement, the DMUSD programs currently housed at the Shores property can remain at the Shores property for three years while the Board of Trustees evaluates the costs and benefits of relocating the district administrative center to another location within the DMUSD. Once the Board has determined the location, staff will begin creating a timeline that will result in the creation of a new administration center.

District staff and the Board will also be reviewing state law regarding the use of proceeds from the sale of surplus property. Initially staff and the Board will be studying the district's capital facility needs that comply with state law. During the next few months, staff will be evaluating the square footage necessary for the following district level programs: Curriculum/Instruction and Staff Development; Business Services, including Payroll, Accounts Payable and CFDs; Personnel; Special Education; Technology; Food Service; Superintendent/Board of Trustees; Child Care; Maintenance; and Facility Planning.

DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Welcome Back 2007



I am particularly pleased to inform staff, students, and parents, that the construction of Ocean Air School should be complete within the next ten days. Congratulations to DMUSD Director of Facilities, Rodger Smith, for the early completion of Ocean Air School. Soon the Ocean Air staff will move into their new facility, which will give them adequate time to be fully prepared for the approximately 500 students on August 27th.



On June 27, 2007, the Board approved the District's \$35 million General Fund budget for the 2007/2008 school year. Local property tax revenue provides more than 75% of the \$35 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 recently received the 2007 STAR test results from the California State Department of Education. We anticipate that the 2007 DMUSD STAR test results will be published in local newspapers in early or mid-August. Very shortly the principals and teachers will begin a process to analyze the 2007 STAR test data so that we can improve student achievement in the future.



The 2007/2008 daily bell schedule at all schools is unchanged from the 2006/2007 bell schedule. The 2007/2008 calendar and bell schedule are online at the DMUSD website www.dmusd.org. (www.dmusd.org).



The 2007/2008 electronic class lists will be posted on the District website on Friday, August 24th at 5:00 p.m. through Monday, August 27th. 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 2007/2008 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 24th at 5:00 p.m. and will remain posted 24 hours a day on August 25, 26 & 27. Parents who lack Internet access at home are encouraged to visit a public library to gain Internet access to the DMUSD

Parents who experience **“technical difficulty” only** in accessing the 2007/2008 class lists should call the District's technical help line at 858-523-6048 on Saturday, August 25 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.**

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Welcome Back 2007

When parents access the 2007/2008 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 2007/2008 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. Thank you to all maintenance and custodial employees for your cleaning and repair efforts during the summer months.



Thank you to all staff, parents, and students who completed the Harris Interactive surveys that were distributed during the last two weeks of the 06/07 school year. Currently we are waiting for the written results from the Harris surveys, which are expected to arrive at the DMUSD by the end of August. The results will be shared with each site, and will also be used by the Board as it moves forward with long-range strategic planning in October 2007.



The district is pleased to inform our community that we have completed the hiring of 99% of the district's 07/08 certificated staff. During the past decade new home construction in Carmel Valley resulted in the addition of about 2,500 new DMUSD students that required the Board to construct five new K-6 elementary schools during the past nine years. Our "new" Carmel Valley schools include: Ashley Falls (1998), Sage Canyon (2000), Torrey Hills (2002), Sycamore Ridge (2005), and Ocean Air (2007). This massive surge in student growth necessitated the hiring of more than 150 expansion teacher positions and five expansion principal positions. The growth in Carmel Valley homes has definitely slowed down during the past 12-18 months, which means that the hiring process within the DMUSD is getting back to normal. It is anticipated that the district will have about 15 "new to the DMUSD" teachers when school begins in August. The DMUSD principals, directors, and grade level teams are excited about the outstanding candidates that have been hired for 07/08.

Our certificated staff are committed to continuous improvement that improves student achievement. Teachers and principals at all eight sites will be continuing to assess the achievement level of each student so that instruction is always geared to meeting the needs of students. On Wednesdays after students are dismissed, our teachers are engaged in the analysis of student achievement and discussion of particular instructional strategies that promote significant achievement gains. Our teachers are using common assessments across grade levels to identify achievement levels and to create interventions that will raise achievement levels on local and state assessment programs.



DEL MAR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
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The District completed the 2007/2008 certificated hiring process in June, 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 2007/2008 hiring process. To date, the District has hired 20 new certificated employees for the 2007/2008 school year.



Unfortunately the governor and the leadership in the State Assembly and Senate have not yet agreed to a new state budget for the 07/08 fiscal year. Currently the DMUSD expects to receive about \$3,000,000 in state funds during 07/08, and we are hopeful that the governor and the leadership in the Assembly and Senate will reach a budget agreement in the next few days. The 07/08 state budget is already more than one month late and we get anxious when the state's leaders fail to meet constitutional deadlines. Hopefully this matter will be resolved by August 27 when school begins. I will have more on this topic in a future web front-page story.



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 1,000 students during the summer of 2007.

Thank you to Ashley Falls teacher, Julie Geisbauer, for providing Principal leadership to the District's Special Education Extended School Year during July.



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 27, 2007.

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 six years ago, it has contributed significantly to the District's vibrant enrichment program. In advance, the District wants to thank each parent for your generous 2006/2007 donation to the DMSEF.

