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Parents of 5th and 6th Grade Students:

For several years, the District has presented a Growth and Development talk for 5th and 6th grade students in the Spring of each year. This year the District will begin a new practice of providing the Growth and Development talks only to 5th grade students. This change is being made because the State has mandated the 7th grade as a year of emphasis for such topics, with information presented through the 7th grade Life Sciences curriculum. However, because certain information related to growth and development becomes pertinent to some students earlier than the 7th grade, Del Mar Union School District will continue to address these matters through annual talks with 5th grade students.

The District recognizes that this may be news to some parents who had intended for their 6th grade student to participate in the talk this year. To address this concern during the transition year, the District will provide 6th grade students the opportunity to attend an evening presentation of growth and development information with their parents. Two 90-minute presentations are scheduled, one for **6th grade girls on March 21 and one for 6th grade boys on March 29.** Both presentations will begin at **6 pm in the multi-use room at Ocean Air School.** The information for girls will be presented by a local pediatrician and health educator, Dr. Chrystal de Freitas. The information for boys will be presented by local psychologist, Dr. Christopher Miller.

Parents are invited to **preview materials** used in all presentations on **March 10, 2011 at either 8:30 am or 12:30 pm in the multi-use room at Ocean Air School.** Topics include personal hygiene and changes related to puberty. HIV/AIDS, sexual orientation, and sexually transmitted diseases are not presented in either the 5th or 6th grade growth and development talks.

5th grade growth and development talks are presented to girls and boys separately **during the school day.** The schedule for 5th grade growth and development talks at each school is listed below:

Ashley Falls	Tuesday, March 15
Sycamore Ridge	Wednesday, March 16
Del Mar Heights	Friday, March 18
Ocean Air	Tuesday, March 22
Torrey Hills	Tuesday, March 22
Carmel Del Mar	Tuesday, March 29
Del Mar Hills	Tuesday, March 29

Growth and development talks are presented on an opt-out basis. If you **DO NOT** want your 5th grader to attend the talk, please sign, detach, and return the form below to your child's teacher.

I DO NOT give permission for my 5th grade child, _____, to participate in the growth and development talk scheduled at my child's school.

Teacher's Name: _____

 Print Parent Name

 Parent Signature