



John L. Webster Elementary School

3602 Winter Canyon Road Malibu, CA 90265

Webster Weekly

August 8, 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Webster Families,

This is Principal Daruty welcoming you to the 2021-2022 school-year. I hope that you are doing well and have had a joy-filled summer. We look forward to welcoming our students back to campuses on August 19th, 2021. Santa Monica Malibu Unified intends to return all students for in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year. We will continue to follow all guidelines from the California and Los Angeles County Departments of Public Health and update our health and safety protocols throughout the school year as-needed.

The purpose of this email is to provide you some useful information for the upcoming school year. Please review the information below carefully. Additionally, please review the latest email from Dr. Drati regarding his [updates on safety and health protocols](#) for the school year. I look forward to the 180 days you share your children with Webster Elementary. My hope is that each and every one of those days, we at Webster, will provide your children an opportunity to feel loved and supported in a safe and enriching, learning environment. As always, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your proud principal,

Ms. Daruty





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UPCOMING EVENTS:

NEW and RETURNING PARENT INFORMATION MEETING: Please join Principal Daruty on Thursday **August 12th at 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.** to share important updates and information. These meetings will be held via zoom and serve as an opportunity for me to do my very best to address all matters pertaining to the start of school. [Join Zoom Meeting](#) Meeting ID: 740 600 0734 Passcode: WHALES.

NEW to WEBSTER Walking Tour on Friday, August 13th at 10:00 a.m.! If you would like to participate in a brief walking tour of our campus, prior to the start of the school year, please [RSVP here](#). This tour is reserved for NEW students and families in grades 1st – 5th ONLY.

TK/K MEET and Greet: TK and K students and their parents are invited to the Webster campus on **Wednesday, August 18th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.** Please park in the lower lot and enter campus using the front gate. All students and families will take a health screening and must be masked. You will begin by heading to your child's classroom to meet your teacher and learn about the classroom. At 2:00 pm, we will ask all families to say goodbye to their teachers and join us in Poets Park near our cafeteria for a brief, informal reception (15-30 minutes). This experience really allows our young students to feel comfortable walking in on the first day of school. Finally, the playground will be available for exploration and the Boys and Girls Club will be available to visit as well.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: School commences **Thursday, August 19th at 8:30 am** and will be a minimum day for all students. Please drop off your child between 8:15 and 8:30 am. We will continue with health



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screenings. PreK and TK will enter using the curbside valet adjacent to the Prek/TK yard gate. Kinder will use the curbside valet in the front of the school. Grades 1st- 5th may elect to either 1) Park and walk-up (accompanied by an adult) in the lower parking lot or 2) Use the curbside valet and front gate entrance. We will no longer have a curbside valet in the lower lot. School staff will be available to guide students to the various classroom locations. Parents will not be permitted on campus and should say their goodbyes at the screening gates. Dismissal for grades TK and K is at 12:30 p.m. and 1st-5th at 1:15 p.m. Friday, August 20th is an early release day. Grades TK-5th will be dismissed at 1:15 p.m. every Friday.

SCHOOL NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CLASS LISTS: Class assignments will be emailed Friday, August 13th. We ask that you present a positive attitude and use words of encouragement. Children look to us for guidance and if they see you are excited about their new school year, they too will feel the same way. No changes to class assignments will be made during the first few weeks. A written appeal form can be completed in the office and any changes that can be made will happen on September 6th.

An INDEPENDENT STUDY OPTION will be available for students and families who are unable to return for in-person learning. If you are interested in signing your child up for the [Independent Study option](#), rather than sending them back to school, please read through the linked memo. If you would like to schedule a call with me to discuss this decision, please do so, I am happy to help.





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TRANSPORTATION: School bus transportation will resume for the school year at limited capacity. Please apply for a bus pass NOW, to reserve your spot. <https://www.smmusd.org/domain/306>.

SMMUSD DISTRICT CALENDAR: The district calendar is available online. Please note the start of school, end of school, and all holidays. Please plan vacations and absences of a personal nature around the school/district calendar. Daily attendance at school is extremely important. <http://www.smmusd.org/calendar/>.

WEBSTER BELL SCHEDULE: Our school schedule is available for viewing at our website. Please click here to view the schedules. [Bell Schedule / Bell Schedule \(smmusd.org\)](#)

MINIMUM DAYS: Students will be dismissed early on the First Day of School (8/19), and for Back to School Night (8/24 and 8/31). Additional minimum days are: 11/3, 11/4, 11/5, 3/31, 6/8 and 6/9.

EARLY RELEASE FRIDAYS: Every Friday, beginning August 20th students in grades TK-5th are dismissed at 1:15 p.m. The remainder of the school day is for teacher and staff development meetings and trainings.

BACK TO SCHOOL: Tuesday August 24th for grades TK-2 and Tuesday August 31st for grades 3rd- 5th. The event will be held via zoom. Your teachers will send you the zoom link and information as the day approaches.

STAFFING UPDATES:





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LEAVING WEBSTER:

- Mrs. Merryl Cronrod (K) retired. We wish her a joyous and relaxing retirement and thank her for her many years of service to the Webster community.
- Ms. Lara Eldan (SAI) has moved to Michigan to be closer to her family. We will miss her!
- Ms. Leslie Topanta (LLI) has accepted a full-time position at SMASH/MUIR. We wish her the best; they are lucky to have her.

NEW TO WEBSTER:

- Mr. Alex Merrit is our new Speech and Language Pathologist.
- Our new (SAI) teacher has been hired. I will share more information once it is official next week!

Health and Safety Measures: Layers of Mitigation

The California Department of Public Health issued new [Guidance for K-12 Schools on July 12, 2021](#). The new guidance applies to the 2021-22 school year. Since the beginning of the pandemic, SMMUSD has implemented multiple layers of mitigation to protect our students and employees. We continuously update our health and safety measures based on guidelines from the California and Los Angeles County Public Health Departments.

Webster will continue with the following current health and safety protocols include:

- Masks and physical distancing according to Public Health guidelines.
- Daily health screening.
- Frequent hand washing.
- Cleaning and disinfecting protocols.





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- MERV-13 and HEPA filters in all classrooms and workspaces.
- Voluntary asymptomatic testing.
- Quarantine, isolation, contact tracing, and notification protocols.
- Updated Mask Guidance. Masks continue to be required for all children and adults while indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

PTA INFORMATION:

Visit our PTA website <https://websterpta.com/>. Please see all the important fundraising and children's events that are coming up! Webster is a great school but we cannot be an AMAZING school without Parent Involvement. Please [join the PTA](#) and please support the [Annual Giving Campaign](#). Membership is just \$15 and allows you to vote at meetings, but more importantly is a symbol of unity between teachers and parents. The Annual Giving Campaign website will show you where your voluntary donation goes. The services on this list are so important and allow our school to move from good to great. Thank you for your consideration! Lastly, the PTA website lists many local parent and child resources they have gathered. I cannot thank the PTA strongly enough. Our PTA is helping all of us stay connected and helping our school to be great.

For the latest PTA news from Webster, follow us on twitter, Facebook and Instagram @ptawebster.

