



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 14, 2018

Nationwide Walk-Out Activities -- A Message from the SMMUSD Superintendent

Dear SMMUSD staff, parents, students and community members,

Today, our students at each of our schools engaged in educational activities in support of the nationwide walk-out. Our students stand in solidarity with Douglas Stoneman High School students in Parkland Florida, where 17 students and staff lost their lives a month ago.

Elementary school activities included children at Edison Language Academy rallying on the field in support of a peaceful and kind school climate, and students at Webster Elementary School gathered on the field forming a peace sign. After a morning PRIDE gathering at McKinley Elementary School, fifth graders participated in a walk carrying signs that promoted world peace, kindness and love, within the school perimeter. Similar activities promoting kindness, peace, love and inclusion took place at elementary schools throughout our district.

Students at Malibu High School participated in an ASB-led walk around the track and held a moment of silence, naming all the Parkland victims. Students at John Adams Middle School gathered on the lawn outside the auditorium and shared the biographies of the 17 victim and to protest gun violence. Students at Lincoln Middle School wore orange to demonstrate their support. At Samohi, more than 1,000 students gathered peacefully on the football field, some with signs, chanting about their right to feel safe at school and protesting gun violence.

At each secondary school, alternatives were provided for students who did not want to participate in the walk-out that included facilitated discussions of protest as a form of community expression.

I am proud of our students, faculty, staff, parents and community partners who supported this national expression of free speech, school safety, peace and kindness. Our Board of Education passed a [resolution](#) in support of common sense gun laws, on March 1, 2018. I thank students for demonstrating in powerful and peaceful ways. I also thank the faculty and staff who supported our students and ensured their safety at all times.

The student-led activities today demonstrated their determination, passion and ability to take appropriate action to affect change in a positive way, locally, regionally and nationally.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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