



MALIBU, CA

# Principal's Message... Professional Learning Communities

Dear Cabrillo Families,

Summer is fading slowly towards Back-to-School time! I hope this

letter finds you enjoying the warm weather, family time and a renewed spirit! As I write this letter there is still a lot of preparations going on in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and Juan Cabrillo Elementary School. But as those store ads are probably reminding you the school year is just around the corner so this packet is put together by the PTA and office in an effort to help make that transition from summer to school as smooth as possible.

Please join with me in thanking the PTA Board for all they continue to do to make Cabrillo a great place to send your kids to grow and learn.

Without people, a school is merely wood, stucco, crayons and paper. People make a school a school. People share their dreams and visions of what will make a successful school for their children. Then together people set the goals and develop the policies and procedures that make the goals a reality! Then by working together people mold and form their visions and dreams into a school!

Last year we began to share our dreams and build our vision of what Juan Cabrillo School can strive to become in our efforts to continuously improve and meet the needs of all

students. Your involvement in your child's education made the

difference. Research shows and we have seen that parent involvement has a direct impact on student achievement.

New plans, procedures and equipment have been put in place to ensure kids have a safe campus in which to grow and learn. The gardens have been not only been revitalized but are growing rapidly as I write. A bucket-filling campus with a philosophy became the norm for students, staff and parents. The best part is inquiry based learning stepped outside of the classroom and into an authentic learning environments such as the garden because of parent-teacher partnerships and community involvement. Thanks to your involvement students participated in more field trips, did more project-based learning, participated in guest artist collaborative projects or listened to guest speakers help set the back-ground to a new concept, were involved in the visual and performing arts through our specialist programs, interacted with different forms of technology to learn and demonstrate their learning, and learned how to be social engineers through a variety of family or student fun events. These are the activities that making learning real-life by providing meaningful connections and making the process active and engaging going beyond being hands-on but making it minds-on.

It is because of our partnership that so much has been achieved here at Cabrillo.

Thank you for supporting all of the staff and PTA as we worked to provide a compassionate learning environment and excellence in education. Thank you ALL for **demonstrating attitude determines 90% of what happens**, for giving each other **respect** for our differences, and **courage** to deal with change allowing us to build our dreams and vision **TOGETHER!**

My appreciation to you for taking time out of your vacation to read this letter and prepare for the coming school year.

Ongoing two-way communication is the key to

success in providing our children with the best

educational program

possible.

Please know that my door is always open. Ask questions, give suggestions, share ideas and provide support to each other while having a good time being a part of your child's educational program.

*Imagine...Believe...Succeed!*

Sincerely,  
Dr. Pam Herkner

## SCHOOL FORMS

**Please go to our website to complete necessary forms for the start of school.**

**IF you are unable to complete them online paper copies will be available at the Back-to-School Picnic**

[www.cabrillo.smmusd.org](http://www.cabrillo.smmusd.org)

# CABRILLO VISION STATEMENT

Cabrillo emphasizes COMMUNITY, CHARACTER and an INCLUSIVE HANDS-ON, MINDS-ON CURRICULUM to meet the individual needs of the whole child. Believing in the power of working together, staff, parents and the community create an environment that is personalized and welcoming to all families. Everyone collaborates to provide a safe and compassionate environment where ALL children will reach their potential academically, socially, physically and emotionally. Children participate in a strong balanced core academic program, critical thinking and problem-solving skills using real-life settings, and access information they need to be productive members of society as well as lifelong learners with unlimited potential. A strong emphasis is put upon the belief that good character and positive attitudes are KEYS to success. Finally, the Cabrillo staff acknowledges that the rate and way at which our children acquire the above skills will vary but our expectations for their success will not!



*The right attitude is the root of success. It enables us to stand strong and prevail!*

## Common Core State

The Common Core Standards were developed to provide a vision of what it means to be a literate person in the 21st century. The mission of the Common Core State Standards is to provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills our young people need for success in college and careers. The goal behind the development of the Common Core was to create an educational system that would prepare American students for the future, and to be positioned to compete successfully with the global economy. Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. They help set clear and consistent expectations for students, parents, and teachers; build your child's knowledge and skills; and help set high goals for all students.

Of course, high standards are not the only thing needed for our children's success. But standards provide an important first step — a clear roadmap for learning

for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. Standards help parents and teachers know when students need extra assistance or when they need to be challenged even more. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare for future.

The Common Core is built around "Habits of Mind" which are embedded in the four C's of Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication and Collaboration all extremely important assets for students to be successful in our rapidly changing global economy. 21st century thinkers that are prepared for college and career have identifiable characteristics, "Habits of Mind", which attribute to their success.

As students advance through the grades and master the standards in reading, writing, listening, and language, they should be able to exhibit with increasing fullness and regularity the capacities of a literate individual. A few examples:

1. They demonstrate independence.
2. They build strong content knowledge.
3. They respond to the varying demands

of audience, task, purpose, and discipline.

4. They comprehend as well as critique.
5. They value evidence.
6. They use technology and digital media strategically and capably.
7. They come to understand other perspectives and cultures.

### Mathematical Practices

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.

More information will be shared throughout the year. For the standards and how you can support your child go to the SMMUSD website.

## Juan Cabrillo Code of Conduct

***Cabrillo Code of Conduct: So that all students are safe and free to learn, students will:***

Choose your own Character, Own your learning, Demonstrate Respect, Envision Success-**CODE**.

Follow the ABCs of Juan Cabrillo Pride-**CONDUCT**.

Be a Bucket-Filler not a Bucket Dipper.

Stand-Up to Bullies and Put Your Lid on Your Bucket.

### On the playground:

Respect the rights and needs of others;

Enjoy all equipment in a safe, respectful way, and for its intended purpose;

Play in designated areas only; and

Line up immediately and directly following recess and lunch.

children. Accordingly, student behavior is viewed in terms of an expression of *needs* and *intention*. Lastly, our staff is committed to creating a circle of support for every child whereby communication and shared knowledge between parents/guardians and school faculty is essential.

Furthermore, at Juan Cabrillo we believe the small, often overlooked and under-expected behaviors, matter the most in promoting a positive school climate. As such, the children, parents, and staff use "**Cabrillo Bucket-filling Manners**" on campus (and hopefully off campus too!). Cabrillo Manners refer to the way we communicate with each other (gesture, tone of voice, volume of voice, facial expression), the language we choose to use, how we care for each other and how we care for our campus. Cabrillo Manners may be a simple "*please*", "*thank you*", or "*excuse me*". It may be offering help to someone or returning a found item to the Lost and Found without being asked to do so. Ultimately, simple kindnesses will have profound repercussions for all of us.

In sum, four key terms with regard to the Juan Cabrillo approach in working with a child's behavior are important to become familiar with in instructing and managing student behavior. These terms are:

## CABRILLO PHILOSOPHY ON BEHAVIOR SUPPORT AND MANAGEMENT

The Juan Cabrillo staff believes, and research supports that when students feel both safe and connected to the adults at school, behavior problems decrease and positive student engagement rises. The phrase, "*connection before correction*" is used as a reminder to ourselves that the way to maintain a well-mannered, well-managed campus, is to always stay connected to our students. As part of an active, student-centered approach to behavior instruction and management, classroom and playground agreements are made collaboratively with staff and students at the beginning of each year. These agreements are alive and well on campus – visually, referred to specifically, and often discussed in classrooms, Friday Messages and school-wide assemblies, and whenever else appropriate.

It is our goal that, child behavior problems are addressed from the standpoint of the individual child (ren), special factors of the situation at hand, and the developmental level (age) of the child(ren). Additionally, Cabrillo staff has a collective understanding of the ideas behind Compassionate Communication and continues to develop our approach in working with

**Individual** – Includes such considerations as the child's history of conduct, personal situation or circumstances (if outstanding), temperament tendencies, (defined in Waldorf Education as Choleric, Phlegmatic, Sanguine, and Melancholic), and other knowledge of the child as an individual.

**Developmental** – The age of the child which guides general understanding of that child's capacity for controlling his/her behavior, how the child is capable of learning from the consequences of their behavior, and how a supervising staff member may work with the child in resolving a problem.

**Needs-Based and Intent** – What personal need the child was seeking to meet or what need was not met – the need to be heard, included? What was that child's intent in engaging in that behavior (i.e., to hurt another child, to get something away from another child, to stand-up for another child, etc.)

**Student-Centered** – Students are always a part of the problem solving process in some way. Students take an active role in talking through a problem, coming up with agreeable and worthwhile solutions, and in making amends for personal behavior.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3...

## PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOR THROUGH MODELING

As a *first* and *primary* method of behavior instruction, it is our strong belief that we are all role models for the behavior we wish to see in our children. Adult modeling, especially for the elementary-age child is one of the strongest methods of “teaching” behavior to children. As is addressed within our parent-volunteer workshop at the beginning of each year, parent volunteers are equally important role models for our children and should be conscientious of these at all times. The way we speak to each other, speak to the children, actively listen, use body language, and gestures all send messages to our children about behavior that will undoubtedly be imitated and interpreted by them at some point in time.

*Thank you for your time in reviewing this document. Please spend time discussing the expectations, implications, and importance of positive behavior at home and school*

## How FULL is Your BUCKET?

Everyone has an **invisible bucket**. We are at our **best when our buckets are overflowing**—and at our worst when they are empty.

Everyone also has an **invisible dipper**. In each interaction, we can use our dipper either to fill or to dip from others’ buckets.

Whenever we **choose to fill others’ buckets, we in turn fill our own!**

Research shows that regular recognition and praise increases productivity, group performance and results. **Thanks for keeping the buckets of the Cabrillo community filled!**



# CURRICULUM, CHARACTER AND COMMUNITY

Juan Cabrillo School emphasizes CURRICULUM, CHARACTER and COMMUNITY to improve student achievement and prepare them to be lifelong learners. We believe that to be successful in life you must be smart, demonstrate good character and be a social engineer. We cannot open up the brains of the students and dump all the knowledge into their heads, therefore we must teach children “how to” learn and access their resources. Technology is growing so quickly, the world in which these students will work and live in will be much different from what we as parents and teachers are used to at this time. Thus it is our job to not only teach children the fundamental skills of reading, writing and math, but also to know how to learn, how to access resources, and not be afraid to take a risk in an effort to learn something new. Using the five Cs of collaboration, cooperation, critical thinking creativity and compassion, Juan Cabrillo prepares students for the future. We believe that children learn in different ways and at different rates, therefore the curriculum must be differentiated for ALL children to allow them to grow and achieve to their maximum potential.

Last year we began working on the Common Core through exploring the new Smarter Balance Assessment, exploring problem-solving and critical thinking in math K-5 and investigating writing strategies in an effort to continuously improve CURRICULUM. This year we will dig deeper into the Common Core through a collaborative approach to teaching and learning. Through our Professional Learning Community our goals will center on three important questions:

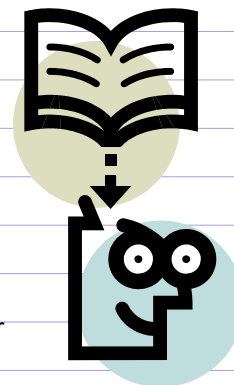
1. What do we want students to know and be able to do?
2. How will we know if the goal/objective was achieved?
3. What will we do if it has or hasn't (Differentiated Instruction) been achieved?

“It has been said character is what you do when nobody is watching.” Last year through our staff development program we began the development of a school-wide Bucket-filling Character Education program designed to create a compassionate, kind and bully-free campus. As we continue to build the program by adding some more words that complement the five bucket-filling

traits introduced last year, (Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, Perseverance & Integrity) and build our common language further student involvement will be key.

Finally, COMMUNITY is a very important part of any school but at Cabrillo it is the backbone of our educational program. You have heard the saying “It Takes a Village to Educate a Child”. Thanks to the Juan Cabrillo Village, the students at this school have been enriched with many extras which have made their educational program more meaningful and powerful. Parents, community members, and professionals have made a huge difference through their sharing of time, expertise, energy and donations.

At Back-to-School Night you will learn more about Curriculum, Character and Community. Thanks in advance for joining the Juan Cabrillo Village by getting involved in your child’s education!





## **THE ABCs OF JUAN CABRILLO PRIDE!**

### **A-ACADEMICS**

*Every student is entitled to an instructional program that is challenging, pertinent and motivating. Every student has the right to achieve to their potential, be challenged and reach beyond the core curriculum. To ensure all students have the opportunity to receive a quality education that meets their individual needs, each student will be expected to:*

Come to school regularly, on time and ready to learn.

Listen and follow directions of all staff.

Participate in projects and activities that extend and enrich the learning process that are approved by the teacher and supervised with the safety and respect for ALL students is given priority.

Be the best you can be and give your best effort.

Complete and return homework and parent communications.

### **B-BEHAVIOR**

*Every student has the right to attend a school where the attitude towards learning is positive and the environment is safe. Each student will be expected to:*

Show respect for feelings and property of others. Remember words do hurt and refrain from racial slurs, teasing and bullying/harassing ongoing behaviors.

Keep hands, feet and all body parts to themselves at all times, esp. when resolving conflicts. Refrain from sexual comments, display or touching.

Leave gum, toys and electronics at home. Follow school policies for use of computers, any technology, internet and cell-phones while on campus or for school related assignments and/or field trips.

### **C-CLOTHING**

*Every student has the right to attend a school which is free from behavior which infringes on the rights of others or distracts from the educational process. Juan Cabrillo Elementary has a high standard of dress. Everyone is expected to dress for success. Every student is expected to:*

Dress in a manner that demonstrates Juan Cabrillo Pride and self-respect!

Refrain from wearing clothing that:

\*Has inappropriate slogans, ads and/or rude or provocative statements

\*Exposes midriff or chest, tube tops or gang attire

\*Does not fit appropriately (too tight, too baggy, too long or too short)

\*Wear closed toed shoes (tennis shoes & socks recommended) with back-strap.

