



Pt. Dume Marine Science & Juan Cabrillo Schools

Principal's Welcome...

SMMUSD

July 2018

Dear Parents,

In June when the school doors are closing, I often wonder why we close down and reopen each year instead of keeping things going year round like other businesses. The answer is that vacations offer wonderful opportunities. They allow us to rest, to replenish our energies and they give us a new perspective on our lives! Since Pt. Dume and Cabrillo staff (as all great educators) is always striving to find the "next right answer" currently Pt. Dume through a focus on "Right from the Beginning" and Cabrillo, Responsive Classroom; "Social Emotional Learning," (which by the way, both focuses promotes 21st Century strategies such as critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity), and faces changes this fall such as a new principal situation, the summer vacation truly prepares us for the year ahead. Hopefully you too are recharged, refreshed and ready for another productive year of teaching and learning with your child/children at Pt. Dume/ Cabrillo.

By now you have seen, read or heard that there is a new principal in town. Please know that although there have been days this summer when I have felt very new to the job, I have been an educator now for 37 years and each day is another exciting learning experience. I have been a principal for 28 and taught for 9 of those years with an emphasis on special needs students. I am a life-long learner and some might tell you

my work is also my hobby. I believe that by working together, we can achieve our dreams/goals.

I have been the principal at Cabrillo for the past 6 years. It has been a true pleasure to be in a community with compassionate kids, where people care and believe in family. How fortunate I have been to wake each morning knowing I am going to my "happy place" which is located where the Santa Monica Mountains and Pacific Ocean meet.

Prior to the SMMUSD, I was given the opportunity to open a new school for the Conejo Valley USD. It was a school that began as K-5 in portables on another campus. Our motto was, "we may not have walls or walkways of our own, but we have our spirit and pride." After eight years of construction, hiring, creating, implementing and evaluating, it became 1400 K-8 students with Child Care and a gym. What an opportunity that was for me to learn and grow. The most important thing I learned was that to accomplish great tasks such as a model K-8 California Distinguish School required everyone to roll up their sleeves and work together under the same vision and core values.

BELIEVE IT.

SEE IT.

MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Now I have been given the privilege to work with ALL of you to grow minds and build a 21st Century Learning Environment into a New School by combining together the best of Pt. Dume Marine Science and Juan Cabrillo Learning Communities. I am looking forward to learning from ALL of you as we work together to achieve the goals and dreams you have for your child/children, and the vision for the Malibu Pathway. As a start in getting to know what makes me tick, my core values briefly are as follows:

*All Decisions made in the Best Interests of Children
Treat Everyone with Dignity and Respect
Honesty and Communication are Key
Teamwork equals Results
ALL Children Can Learn-in Different Ways and at Different Rates
Volunteers are the Backbone of our Educational System*

This is just a beginning in getting to know and work together with me. Most importantly, I am honored to be the principal of Pt. Dume Marine Science and Juan Cabrillo School this year. I will continue to make the safety of your children my number one priority. Then together with the students, staff and all of you, I will work to develop a NEW SCHOOL that provides our staff the ability to facilitate and guide kids to be "Social Engineers" who can

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

Collaborate, Communicate, Create and think Critically. which will ensure they know "how to" to learn and access their resources as they move on to the secondary schooling and future success. I am a firm believer when we keep our focus on "What is Right with the World," use our energy to reframe challenges into opportunities, and work together, we can accomplish our goals.

Finally, I believe our schools ought to address the whole child by being like:

Harvard-with a High Expectations equals High Achievement philosophy through a strong integrated academic curriculum, that is meaningful, purposeful and minds-on, hands-on.

Like **West Point**- with excellent discipline/expectations (Social Emotional Learning embedded and Social Justice programs implemented) and safety as a priority. Attitude is 90% of the game!

Like **Disneyland**-well organized, clean and safe learning environment that provides positive engagement/motivation for children and promotes family involvement!

I am realistic too, therefore, given the two schools are currently on separate campuses it will take another 1/2 person to make me whole on each campus.

Please help me welcome Mr. Phil Cott to Pt. Dume.

As we wish with deep gratitude to Mr. Mark Demick the best as he moves forward, I would like to introduce Mr. Phil Cott who will serve as my other half during the Fall of 2018-2019 school year with the transition into a NEW SCHOOL. Mr. Phil Cott retired in 2013 after 23 years as a principal at Webster Elementary. Earlier this year, he served as an interim principal at Robinson Elementary School in Manhattan Beach. He has an amazing reputation as the "heart and soul" of his school and was appreciated by parents, staff, and students alike in fostering a productive culture and climate focused on student achievement. You can read more about Mr. Cott [here](#).

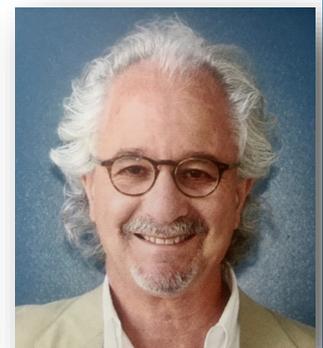
Mr. Cott will be on the Pt. Dume campus Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays starting August 13, 2018.

pcott@smmusd.org

Please help me welcome Mr. Al Friedenberg to Juan Cabrillo

Alan Friedenberg is a retired principal, who spent seventeen years (1995-2012) leading Grant School in becoming one of the premier elementary schools in SMMUSD. Prior to his time in Santa Monica, Friedenberg spent two years as principal in the Conejo Valley Unified School District and twenty years as a teacher. For the last six years he has been mentoring and coaching beginning administrators and new teachers through the Los Angeles County Office of Education. In addition, he has been an active field supervisor/mentor with Loyola Marymount University helping educators who strive to become administrators. Writing for Curriculum Associates, Alan has authored six workbooks in the areas of public speaking and math life skills. He is married to Karen Koblitz, former head of Ceramics at USC, and world famous ceramist. They have one daughter, Gina, a recent graduate of USC, who is beginning her ascent of the corporate ladder at Salt and Straw. Alan is an avid Dodger fan, loves to read, play paddle tennis, travel and spend time with his family. If Alan were asked what his philosophy on education and teacher is, his response would be summed up with these thoughts:

If you ask me what makes a successful school I would not hesitate to proclaim, "outstanding teaching."



It is my belief that “first instruction,” or teacher engagement with students is the crucial element in academic achievement. I truly believe that great teaching also requires outstanding leadership, strong parent support and buy-in, and of course, wonderful children who come to school prepared to learn, happy, safe and motivated. It is the school’s obligation to promote exciting, challenging and meaningful lessons, units and projects. School should be “messy.” Getting the right answer is not the only criteria to measure success. Problem solving, inquiry, analyzing, researching, interpreting and communicating are all key components of a successful school and student.

Mr. Al Friedenberg will be at Juan Cabrillo on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays starting August 13, 2018 until December 21, 2018.

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As you can see from this schedule, my desire is to be available to students, staff and parents daily. This year being on both sites requires partnerships with Phil Cott and Al Friedenberg. Knowing that despite 37 years, I am still learning, consistency and communication are key, the work schedule has been designed so that I am at each site one day with my other half. Also, on Wednesdays, all three of us will be in Malibu which allows for further connections.

You are probably wondering what happens in January? At that time, I will be at Pt Dume much of the week and the Assistant Principal will cover Juan Cabrillo

Please help me welcome Mrs. Julie Siegel to the Team:

Julie Siegel has been with the Santa Monica Malibu school district for the past fifteen years. She began her teaching career as the Specialized Academic Instruction teacher for Juan Cabrillo Elementary and after ten years in that position, she moved into the position of Literacy Coach. This past year, she worked as the Literacy Coach for Juan Cabrillo and Malibu Middle School. Ms. Siegel is a long-time resident of Malibu with her husband Steven where their children attended Malibu elementary and middle schools finally graduating from Malibu High School.



Ms. Siegel will begin the year by taking over Special Education tasks that although I enjoy being a huge part of always, it requires special attention and time. This year our Special Education Team is fortunate to welcome some new support staff members as well as a couple new SAI teachers. Having Ms. Siegel there to support the team and establish culture and expectations of the Professional Learning Community as well as attend IEP meetings, allows me added time to work on the building of our New School. In January, given Ms. Siegel’s background and relationship with Juan Cabrillo, I will be able to spend the majority of the week at Pt. Dume while she covers Juan Cabrillo.

Thank you for taking time from your family summer vacation to read this message. There will be more information in August. This message is to provide background regarding who will be working with you this coming school year to ensure excellence in education and a smooth transition as we build our New School for 2019-2020 school year.

Hand-in-Hand, Together Making Connections and Bridging the Future!

Sincerely,

Dr. Pam

Principal

Juan Cabrillo & Pt. Dume Marine Science Schools