

#WeAreCarmelUnified

From the Office of the Superintendent Barb Dill-Varga, Ed.D.



April 7, 2020 - "Meeting the Moment"- Edition #4

Update: SCHOOL CLOSURE EXTENDED

From Monterey County Department of Education:

All 24 school districts in Monterey County are in agreement that **School Closure will extend through the end of the school year which for CUSD is June 5, 2020.** We will continue to develop and support distance learning /remote instruction for our students.

***Reminders: School will be of spring break from April 13-17, 2020. (No meal deliveries)**

Shout out to our frontline essential workers

In the next several newsletters, I want to focus on different groups of our essential workers who are tirelessly working — often behind the scenes and with little recognition — so that teaching and learning can continue.

This particular newsletter will start with our Maintenance, Operations and Transportation Department (MOT). Mr. Dan Paul, Director of Facilities and Transportation, oversees this group and is one of the best MOT directors I know! Yvonne Perez, our Chief Business Official is Dan's supervisor and is also involved in their direction. We all know that no captain of a ship can sail it alone, however, and Dan has an amazing group who have stepped forward to continue the work at hand.

Here is a list of our MOT heroes:

Bob Gruber	Maintenance & Operations Sup.
Mason Duvall	Transportation Foreman
Marcie Garvin	Admin Asst II - MOT
Adam Richards	Mechanic
Dave Cline	Service Mechanic
Danny Silva	Mechanics Assistant
Elena Munoz	Bus Driver
Trish Cline	Bus Driver
Forest Weber	Bus Driver
Bud Libby	Maintenance Foreman
Loyd Hall	Maintenance II
Domingo Valdez	Maintenance II
Mike McElheney	Maintenance II
Adam Mastin	Maintenance II
John Fagundes	Maintenance II
Sattya Nand	Maintenance II
Shawn Lominario	Grounds Foreman
Jonathan Ferrera	Groundsperson
Chris Correll	Groundsperson
Donovan Corbett	Groundsperson
Matt Kitamura	Groundsperson
Roel Martinez	CHS custodian
Cesar Valadez	CHS custodian
Ezequiel Melgoza	CHS custodian
Alex Avalos	CHS custodian
Tuia Lavulavu	CMS custodian
Gus Alvarado	CMS custodian
Jorge Garcia	CMS custodian
Anthony Rivera	River Custodian

Finau Laume	River Custodian
Finau Hautau	Tularcitos Custodian
Jon Canepa	Tularcitos Custodian
Miguel Corral	Tularcitos Custodian
Jose Renteria	Capt Cooper Custodian/Grounds
Salesi Tongamana	CCDC/CVHS

What have they been doing while schools are closed, you might ask?

They have been

- maintaining our buses,
- delivering food,
- assisting with mail delivery so we can pay our bills,
- repairing kitchen equipment,
- responding to alarm activations,
- mowing and keeping up our grounds,
- addressing ongoing maintenance issues
- and keeping our facilities clean by a regimented process of decontamination and sanitation before and after any employee enters one of our facilities.

They are showing up to work, volunteering, and doing what is necessary and essential. I couldn't be prouder of this department!

Distance Learning Handbook and Schedule Change at Carmel High School

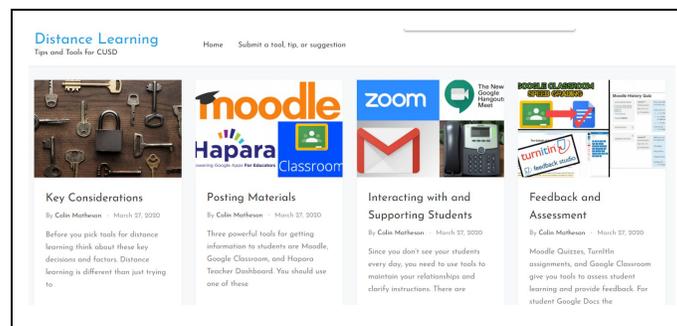
Jon Lyons shared information this week about important changes at the high school that will begin Monday, April 6, 2020. [This is a link to the new Carmel High School Remote Learning Handbook](#), which also includes a schedule providing helpful structure for all concerned. This document represents the collaborative work of teachers and administrators and, due to the changing nature of our current environment, is considered to be a work in progress. We will seek feedback on a weekly basis and make adjustments as necessary to finetune this delivery model.

Website of resources built to support teacher and student needs

One of our innovative tech teacher leaders is Colin Matheson. Colin co-leads the Ed Tech Instructional Leadership Team and more importantly, is the go-to person for teachers who need ideas and support for using technology to support their instruction. About a week ago, our Chief Academic Officer Blaise DiGirolamo requested that Colin build a website that could serve as a hub where various supports and professional development tools could be centralized for teachers to access.

Part of the problem in this information age is that all of our inboxes are filled with vendor suggestions for various apps and individuals with the next great idea they are suggesting. We need to have someone curate and compile the best of the best to support our teachers. He has given his permission for me to share it with all of you!

It looks like this and is titled **Distance Learning: Tips and Tools for CUSD**



It can be [found at this link](#). Hats off to another amazing teacher leader who is helping teachers move more smoothly into this brave new world.

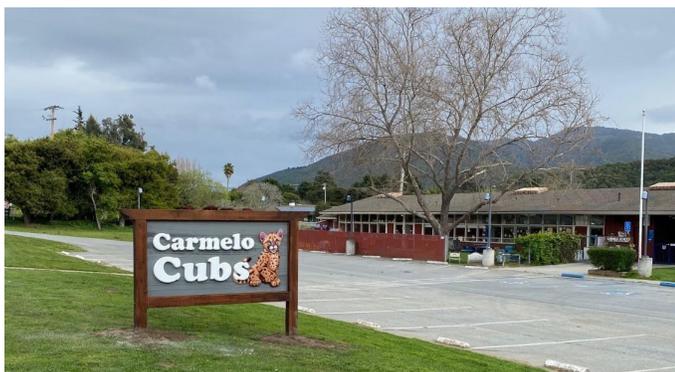
Coffee with the Superintendent and Principal Lyons

On April 22, 2020 - Wednesday at 8-9am, I will reconvene via ZOOM my "Coffee with the Superintendent" meetings. I will have with me various guests, and to help me kick off the first one, I have invited Principal Jon Lyons, who will be glad

to answer questions and receive feedback from parents about the high school distance learning program.

Keep in mind that the schedule will have been in operation for just one week before Spring Break, but we still thought it would be good to hear from parents about what is working and what could be improved. We are making a hard left turn for the ocean liner — our school district — as we transition to online or remote learning, but I am happy to say we are making very good progress! If you are interested in Zooming with us, watch for my link that I will send out early that week. Meanwhile, have a restful spring break!

Thank you Kate and Jeremy Vanderkraats for our new sign for Carmelo Cubs!



Kate Vanderkraats is a teacher at Carmelo. Her husband is Jeremy Vanderkraats and they own "Signs by Van". They also have a son Brody who is a student at Carmelo (3-year-old). The new logo of Cubs was voted on the Carmelo families this past year.

This Club Saves Lives offers free meals

If you can, please continue to donate to support this effort by making monetary donations to:

This Club Saves Lives (5013c)

<https://thisclubssaveslives.org/fundraising>

Venmo is the preferred way to receive donations.

Just download one of the Venmo mobile apps: **iOS** & Android (**Venmo** does not have a Windows app).

If you don't use Venmo, you may use Paypal at

paypal.me/thisclubssaveslives

Technology support

For specific technical support with your child's Chromebook, you can now enter a help ticket to request assistance from one of our technicians. [Use this link to see the instructions and the trouble ticket web address.](#)

We are providing Chromebooks to students who need them, and we are looking for solutions for families who have no or poor internet access. Please let us know if you have these types of needs by using [this form](#).

Your household may qualify for low-cost home internet service. For details about this program and the different plans now available: [GetConnected CETF Affordable Internet Today](#)

Other options for **local internet access**:

- AT&T - [low-cost wireline home internet service](#) for qualifying households. Data caps have been removed for 60 days.
- [COMCAST Low-Income Supports](#) Data caps have also been removed for 60 days.
- FREE Comcast for 60 days (no installation fees) 1-844-488-8395 [Comcast COVID-19 Response](#)-Spanish included

Options for **Mobile Connectivity**:

- [T-mobile](#) hotspots could be ready mid- to late-April.
- [AT&T](#) mobile hotspots provide an option, but order is at least 30 days out.

Zoom procedures changing to secure learning environments

We are taking action to set up staff to use the district Zoom account when arranging meetings. The district account is configured with tight security settings to block "Zoombombing," prevent outsiders from entering a meeting, and providing stricter controls.

As we navigate this new learning environment, we are continually making adjustments and learning new methods of delivering effective instruction. Please reach out to site administration and your child's teachers with any feedback so we can continue to improve.

District Office is working remotely

Our district office is available to assist you from our remote locations. Please use email to contact us!

Human Resources Office Point of Contacts:

Classified: Geri Simmons gsimmons@carmelunified.org

Certificated: Kristen Quilty kquilty@carmelunified.org

Business Office Point of Contact:

Kathy Vance kvance@carmelunified.org

Technology Office/Student Services Point of Contact:

Anna Medina amedina@carmelunified.org

Curriculum + Instruction Point of Contact:

Michelle Mahaney mmahaney@carmelunified.org

Special Education Point of Contact:

Sharon Setliff ssetliff@carmelunified.org

Superintendent's Office Point of Contact:

Tricia Zarevich tzarevich@carmelunified.org

**** If you are not sure and need guidance please contact Tricia Zarevich tzarevich@carmelunified.org and she will direct it accordingly.**

Mental wellness during the closure

Our school counselors are actively reaching out to students and families to provide reassurance and linking them to resources. The counselors are playing an integral role in supporting the social-emotional wellbeing of students.

At the high school, they are also working with our secondary students to assist them in navigating this time period and providing valuable information as students begin to plan for the following year.

The SAT and ACT tests have been cancelled. You may go to

<https://pages.collegeboard.org/natural-disasters> to receive the most updated information regarding SAT Coronavirus updates from the College Board. Our counselors are here to support you.

Valuable resources to consider:

Talking to kids about the Coronavirus:

<https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>

Coping with Stress During Infectious Disease Outbreaks:

<https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/sma14-4885.pdf>

County of Monterey Behavioral Health Department:

<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/health/behavioral-health>

Community Resources in English/Spanish - AIM Youth Mental Health [Resources from AIM](#)

Supporting our special needs students

Information has been very fluid at the Federal and State level regarding how districts can continue to support students with disabilities. For the most up-to-date information related to Special Education Guidance for COVID-19, please go to:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/specialeducovid19guidance.asp>

The safety and wellbeing of our students, families and staff is our first priority. We recognize the challenges we are confronted with shifting from direct services to a distance learning model, however, we want you to know that our special education staff have been working hard to provide continuous services during this exceptional circumstance. We applaud our special education staff in all they do in meeting the current challenges! Together as collaborative partners, we will get through this!

Free meals for kids update: new location

We've added a new stop at Palo Colorado for the free meal delivery service on Mondays and Wednesdays. Note that there will be no meal delivery service next week during Spring Break.

Meals will be available to all children at these locations and times:

11:30 a.m. - noon	Carmel Middle School student pick-up/drop-off curb
11:35 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.	New stop (beginning Wednesday April 8, 2020): Highway 1: Pull off area 400 yards South of Palo Colorado Road
12:20 p.m. - 12:40 p.m.	Big Sur near Ventana entrance at the pull off area on Highway 1
12:50 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Big Sur at Post Ranch Pond (Turn Out on the Left side of Pond)
11:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.	Tularcitos Elementary School Bus loading zone
1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Cachagua Community Center Parking Lot

Meals will not be served during Spring Break from April 13 - 17 as our staff will be on spring break. Meal service will resume on April 20.

CUSD will provide free breakfast and lunch grab-and-go meals on Mondays with meals for two days, and again on Wednesday with meals for three days.

Meals are free for all children age 18 and under, regardless of what school they attend during this emergency crisis. No paperwork is required, and children do not need to be present at the time of meal pickup.

We encourage families to continue to be proactive in reducing the risk of COVID-19 by not congregating at the school site and utilizing social

distancing according to the protocol described below.

Meal Distribution Protocol:

1. Family drives up to the curb and stays behind the cone.
2. One car at a time will proceed to the serving area and park in front of the food table.
3. Parent or child gets out of the car and picks up a meal package, (one package per each child in the
4. family).
5. Parent drives away and the next car can proceed to the serving area.

Board Meetings

We are working on the platform to support our next Board meeting on **April 29, 2020**. We will send out information about how to participate in the meeting as that is solidified our website will be updated.

Taking the edge off of "Shelter in Place"

Coming soon are some resources developed by another amazing instructional teacher leader, Mr. Darrell Steely.

He is working on a compilation of enriching activities for parents to use with their children that are not putting them in front of a screen. It is titled "Get Outside! Ideas For Engaging Students in the Environment during Shelter in Place!" and when it is completed, we will share it in its entirety. But here's a teaser for now I am sharing with you, with his permission!

[Follow this link to a fun set of activities you can do in your backyard with your children!](#)