



THE DEFENDER

SMEA
SAN MARCOS
EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION

WE KNOW 2020 HAS BEEN A **RUFF** YEAR.

WISHING YOU & YOURS A **PURR**FECT WINTER HOLIDAY!



MAY YOUR
HOLIDAYS BE
HAIRY
AND BRIGHT!

Top row, from left: Sasha Stone's festive feline, Ra (Richland); Alecia Markgraf's elf, Izzy (Mission Hills); Michael Sterling's snow angel, Sammy (San Marcos High); Susan Daniels-Watters' star, Rango (Discovery). **Middle row, from left:** Josh Clements' Christmas princess, Pippin (San Marcos High); Beth McNalley's cuddly kitty, Profe (Mission Hills); Julie Ceko's K-9 crew, Ziggy and Dixie (Double Peak); Sam Alderton's reindeer, Sandy and Lucy (San Marcos High). **Bottom row, from left:** Bob and Sarah Meder's dressed up gal, Shandy (San Marcos Middle & Elementary); Andrea VanDeusen's snuggle bug, Deuce (San Marcos High); Robin Diggle's pretty pal, Nellie (Carrillio).

WINTER 2020
VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1



@smeateachers

Reopening Health and Safety: What the MOU Covers

SMEA and the District worked closely on creating a successful reopening plan. SMEA bargained language that prioritized safety and the well being of students and teachers. It was our goal to make sure everyone felt safe and comfortable returning to campus, so that the focus could then shift to teaching and instruction. With that in mind, here are a few highlights of the safety portion of the MOU.



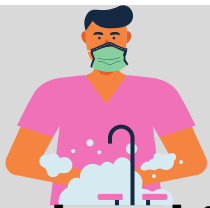
Classrooms

- Plexiglass dividers for student desks
- Six feet of space between all occupied desks
- Room capacity numbers posted throughout campus
- Number of students per classroom limited to 18
- HVAC filters changed on a regular basis
- Daily cleaning of high-touch areas in classrooms and around campus
- Weekly decontamination “fogging” in every classroom when students are on campus



Masks

- Masks are to be worn by everyone on campus unless a medical reason is submitted
- Unit members who are in close contact with individuals may request a District-provided N95 mask



Handwashing

- Hand sanitizer will be provided by the District
- Multiple options for handwashing with stations placed throughout campuses



If Someone Tests Positive

- Following a closure due to a COVID-19 exposure, closed classroom spaces shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to being reopened for in-person learning
- If an individual tests positive, the HVAC filter will be replaced for the classroom(s)

Miscellaneous

- All required PPE shall be provided by the District
- All meetings will be held virtually while the county is in the red or purple tier

Catastrophic Leave Bank Launches



SMEA and the District have launched a Catastrophic Leave Bank (CLB). This replaces our previous practice of "passing the hat" to donate sick days for our colleagues in need. The CLB would act as another layer of insurance in the event something tragic were to occur to you or a colleague.

The CLB is a sick leave pool that participating members can withdraw from if they experience a catastrophic illness or injury and they exhaust all of their paid sick leave.

Members were invited to participate during open enrollment by donating one sick day to the bank. Members who did not join during this year's open enrollment will be able to do so next year.

Community Spotlight: Mission Hills Senior Andrew Diep-Tran Fostering Financial Literacy with 'operationEconomics'



Andrew Diep-Tran (left) holds a passion for changemaking and problem-solving that extends far beyond San Marcos. Andrew founded operationEconomics International – a global nonprofit equalizing economic education access for K-12 youth worldwide with 18 student-run chapters in 7 countries and 5 U.S. states, impacting 1,500+ youth.

Andrew's most recent initiative is Read@OEI San Marcos, a book drop-off program to purchase and distribute personal finance and economics books to SMUSD students in order to supplement their education.

Andrew has been regionally, nationally, and internationally recognized as a Straubel Impact Leader alongside Greta Thunberg, National Liberty Museum TD Bank Young Hero, Human Projects Young Changemaker, Global Youth Award Finalist in Education, Opportunity Desk Changemaker, United Nations YOUNGA Youth Delegate, one of San Diego County's 25 Most Remarkable Teens under the category of Entrepreneur.

To support Andrew's Read@OEI San Marcos, SMEA recently became a Bronze-level sponsor of operationEconomics. To read more about this remarkable SMUSD student and his initiatives, or to donate, please head to the website: www.operationeconomics.org



Racial Equity Affairs Committee: Coming Together to Promote Racial Equity within SMUSD

SMEA's REAC meets every-other Wednesday on Zoom (the 2nd & 4th Wednesday) from 4:30-5:30pm. Everyone is welcome for any amount of time. Come when you can, do what you can.

Our first goal is to offer professional development in the areas of implicit bias, decolonizing curriculum, ensuring social justice, and treating students with dignity and respect.

Additional goals include include advocating for District-level policy changes that promote social justice, collecting and utilizing data to drive initiatives, and increasing communication and access to resources.



For more information, to join our mailing list, or to join a meeting, please email samantha.alderton@smusd.org



SMEA President, Michael DeVries (right)
with CTA President E. Toby Boyd (left).

President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

This election cycle the San Marcos Teachers for Quality Education, the PAC for SMEA, ran a very effective campaign and was successful in replacing two incumbents. SMEA endorsed candidate Jaime Chamberlin will be replacing Victor Graham in Area D and SMEA endorsed candidate Sarah Ahmad will be replacing Pam Lindamood in Area B. Trustee Graham was openly anti-union, not supportive of public education and his election defeat is a victory for SMUSD staff and students. Trustee Lindamood was often vocal against SMEA during past contract negotiations and her departure should only improve the already difficult negotiations process. We also welcome fellow educator, Carlos Ulloa, who replaces Janet McClean on the school board. Janet did not run for reelection in Area A so that was an open seat. All three new board members were sworn in at the December 15 th board meeting.

SMEA is excited to work with the new board as we continue to navigate the uncertainties of the pandemic, deal with the unknowns of school finance, and look to hire a new superintendent.

Despite all the challenges before us, we are confident better days are ahead. We find ourselves with the unique opportunity to help shape the future of SMUSD as we work with new leadership at the District and on the School Board.

Yours in Solidarity,

Michael DeVries, President