

Dear Beach Families,

As we're all getting ready for the start of the new school year, the School District and City are working to address traffic, parking and pedestrian safety issues that concern Beach School. I'm writing to share information about new parking and traffic measures that are being implemented along Linda Avenue and Lake Avenue. I believe these measures will result in significant improvements and provide greater safety for our students.

As you know, there has long been concern about the adequacy of parking for pick-up and drop-off at Beach School, and the safety of students who cross Linda Avenue to get to school. This year, as we welcome an additional 85 kindergartners from Havens and Havens School Mates, concerns over parking, traffic and pedestrian safety have become even more pressing.

To address these concerns, we are implementing the following changes for the 2009-2010 school year:

- **Increase in available parking spaces.** In the past, approximately 10 to 15 Beach staff parked their cars along Linda and Lake Avenues. Going forward, I have asked all staff to park in the surrounding neighborhoods rather than on either Linda or Lake Avenue adjacent to the school. Thanks to the support and cooperation of the staff, this will increase the number of parking spaces available for parents at drop-off, pick-up and throughout the school day.
- **Crossing guard.** The City will assign an additional crossing guard to assist with the safe crossing of students in both the morning and afternoon. One crossing guard will be at the Lake-Linda crosswalk, allowing another supervisor to assist with the new Student Parking Patrol (see below).
- **Staggered bell times.** To mitigate morning drop-off traffic congestion, all kindergarten classes will start at 8:20 a.m. All other classes (first through fifth) will start at 8:30 a.m. Staggered reading for first and second grades will begin on September 8th.
- **Student Parking Patrol: Drop-off assistance.** We are working to implement a drop-off assistance program at Beach this year. Under the program, fifth grade students (under the supervision of parent volunteers) will be available at two designated drop-off zones -- outside the playground gate on Linda Avenue and outside the building entrance on Lake Avenue -- to open car doors, help students out, and move the cars along. This program is intended to manage and reduce traffic congestion during the busiest time of the morning. Please make every effort to use this program in lieu of parking and walking into the school.
- **New drop-off zones.** As mentioned above, there will be two designated drop-off zones -- one at the main gate on Linda Avenue and one at the building entrance on Lake Avenue. The Linda Avenue zone will be in the existing (but freshly repainted) white zone. The Lake Avenue zone will be in the existing

but newly expanded red zone. (Although this is a red zone, and no parking is permitted in a red zone at any time, the Piedmont Police confirmed that the red zone may be used for drop-offs during school hours.) *Please note* that near the corner of Linda and Lake, near the existing AC Transit bus stop, there will be a new bus loading zone to accommodate the buses that stop at Beach on the way to and from Emeryville. These buses will stop at Beach before 8:00 a.m., so there should be no conflict with morning drop-off, and at approximately 2:10 and 3:20 p.m., so there should be no conflict with afternoon pick-up. Although this new loading zone reduces the number of parking spaces at that end of Linda Avenue, this loss of spaces is more than offset by the increase in spaces resulting from staff parking elsewhere.

- **Walk! It's a great way to get students ready to learn and it's great for the environment!** Finally and perhaps most important, to the greatest extent possible and as often as possible, I encourage teachers, staff and families to walk to school. For those who live too far from school to walk the entire distance, I encourage them to park a few blocks away and walk the rest of the way. This will benefit everyone and will support our commitment to keep Beach going Green!

We will monitor and evaluate the success of these measures as the school year gets underway and make adjustments as necessary. I would appreciate your feedback, and please watch for updates in the Wednesday News.

In addition, although there will be no decision before the start of the new school year, City staff agreed to study the possibility of designating a cross-walk near the main entrance to Beach School on Linda Avenue. I will advocate for the proposed cross-walk, and I will provide additional information on this issue as it becomes available.

Thank you for your patience and understanding, and I look forward to seeing you and your students on August 26th.

Sincerely,

Julie Valdez
Principal, Beach School



Beach School Parking Plan
August 2009-2010

1. Expanded red zone. No parking, but may be used to load/unload passengers.
2. Existing AC Transit stop.
3. New PUSD bus loading.
4. Open parking.
5. Disabled parking space.

Imagery Date: Jun 2007

37°49'26.23" N 122°14'47.62" W elev 114 ft

Eye alt 947 ft