

# Monthly School Liaison Newsletter

August 2025



Ahoy, from the heart of the Monterey Peninsula in Steinbeck Country—where ocean breezes meet educational opportunities, and community is our compass. As your Navy School Liaison Officer, I'm here to help you navigate the ever-changing waters of local school systems, connect with resources, and support your family's unique journey. Whether you're new to the area or a returning armed forces member, this newsletter is your monthly port of call for updates, insights, and answers.

Let's set sail toward success—together! And here is the news for this month . . .

## Backpacks Ready: Local School Districts Begin 2025–26 School Year

As summer winds down, students and families across Monterey County are preparing for the start of the 2025–26 school year. The Monterey Peninsula Unified School District (MPUSD) kicks off its first day of school on Wednesday, August 5.

To welcome the youngest learners, several MPUSD schools are holding **Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten Meet and Greet**s:

- **La Mesa School** — Thursday, July 31, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- **Marshall Elementary School** — Friday, August 1, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- **Monte Vista Elementary** — Monday, August 4, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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High school freshmen will get a head start on their new journeys with **orientation events**:

- **Monterey High School** — Tuesday, August 5 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- **Seaside High School** — Thursday, July 31 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**Pacific Grove Unified School District** opens campus on **Tuesday, August 5**.

- **Pacific Grove High School** hosts its “**Breaker Buddies**” Freshman Orientation on **Monday, August 4** 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Carmel Unified School District** starts the year on **Thursday, August 7**.

- Carmel High School welcomes new students during orientation on Wednesday, August 6 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

## Need Help Getting Ready for School?

Whether you're looking for school supplies, enrollment information, registration support, or assistance with transfer requests, your local School Liaison Officers (SLOs) are here to help:

- **Navy SLO** – John J. McKenzie | john.mckenzie@nps.edu | (831) 656-1008
- **Army SLO** – Blanca Felix Guerrero | blanca.y.felixguerrero.naf@army.mil | (831) 242-7197
- MPUSD and neighboring districts are excited to welcome students back to class with open arms and full hearts. Let the new school year begin!
- Check your child's school website for more information on pertinent dates during the summer.



### Contact Information

Phone: (831) 656-1008

Email: John.Mckenzie@nps.edu



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## MFLC Parent Education Series

Naval Support Activities Monterey & Presidio of Monterey School Liaisons In Conjunction with the Marriage and Family Life Counselors (MFLC) Present: The Social and Emotional Health Parent Education Series. Join our MFLC Counselors and fellow parents for a powerful series focused on the many facets of modern parenting. Each session offers practical tools, meaningful discussions, and community support to help you thrive as a parent in today's world.

### **Porter Youth Center | 4286 Normandy Rd, Seaside, CA**

**5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

- **Sep 10, 2025** – Accessing Digital Parenting

Tackle tech with confidence and engage kids around media use.

- **Oct 15, 2025** – No More Bullying

Learn Respect, Influence, and Unity strategies to prevent bullying.

- **Feb 11, 2026** – Collaborative Parenting

Strengthen co-parenting with the 5 Child Love Languages.

- **Mar 11, 2026** – Navigating Parent-Child Conflict

Use the High-5 Approach to manage stress and resolve challenges.

### **La Mesa School Library | 1 La Mesa Way, Monterey, CA**

**5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

- **Aug 20, 2025** – Thriving During Transitions

Support your family through military and civilian life changes.

- **Nov 5, 2025** – Staying Connected During Change

Foster strong relationships and a growth mindset in times of transition.

These workshops are open to all military-connected parents and guardians. No registration needed—just drop in!

### **For any questions or additional information, please contact:**

Blanca Felix-Guerrero, Army School Liaison Officer at

[blanca.y.felixguerrero.naf@army.mil](mailto:blanca.y.felixguerrero.naf@army.mil) or J. McKenzie, Navy School Liaison Officer at [john.mckenzie@nps.edu](mailto:john.mckenzie@nps.edu)

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## Military Child Education Coalition Corner

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) has released its schedule for June and July Parent Webinars, offering valuable resources for military-connected families. Dedicated to supporting these students, MCEC works to educate, advocate, and collaborate to address the unique educational challenges tied to military life.

This month's webinars cover a range of essential topics, including challenging behaviors, raising a confident child, back-to-school basics, and the key to academic success.

For more details on the MCEC Parent Webinars, scan the QR code or visit the MCEC website to learn more about the Military Child Education Coalition.



## Other Important School and Educational Activity Dates

- **School Board Meetings**
  - MPUSD August 11, 6:30pm, 540 Canyon Del Rey, Del Rey Oaks
  - MPUSD Town Hall August 25, 6:30pm at Monterey High School
- Check your child's school website, ParentSquare, and notices for more information on upcoming events, such as Back-to-School Night, PTA and School Site Council Meetings, and much more.
- Monterey Bay Football Club **Back-to-School Night** Saturday, August 23, 7pm at Cardinale Stadium in Seaside

*Thank you for reading!*

<u>Youth Sponsorship</u>	<u>School Liaison officer</u>
<u>Tech Connection Teen &amp; Youth Center</u>	<u>Child Development Center</u>

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