

PRESS RELEASE

Manhattan Beach Unified School District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MBUSD Participates in the Great California ShakeOut on October 20

Manhattan Beach, CA, October 18, 2011—

On October 20, 2011, at 10:20 a.m., students, faculty, and staff of all Manhattan Beach Unified School District schools will participate in the annual Great California ShakeOut earthquake drill. This is the third year the drill will take place statewide, in all 58 counties, in order to educate the public on how to protect themselves during a large earthquake. Last year, the Great California ShakeOut engaged over 7.9 million Californians. Even more participants are expected this year, which will make it the largest earthquake drill to ever take place in the United States.

The Principal at each school site will coordinate the event in his/her building. An alert will sound to signal the start of the drill. Those who are inside school rooms and offices will be directed to stay inside, while those who are outside will remain there. Then everyone will practice how to *Drop* to the floor, *Take Cover* under a sturdy object, and *Hold On* to it until the shaking stops.

In addition, all schools will carry out their evacuation plans. When given notice, everyone will be led outside to designated assembly areas where an emergency responder will give directions. Students, all school personnel, volunteers, and visitors will stay in designated areas until given official notice to return to the school buildings.

A major earthquake in California could cause unprecedented devastation, but learning quake-safe actions will save lives and help ensure that an earthquake does not become a catastrophe. The Great California ShakeOut began in 2008 in Southern California as an effort by scientists and emergency managers to inform the public about earthquake preparedness. It has since spread across North America and is coordinated by the Earthquake County Alliance. For more information, contact Ellyn Schneider at 310-318-7345, ext. 5913. General information about the event and helpful earthquake safety resources can be found at www.ShakeOut.org.

About the Manhattan Beach Unified School District

Manhattan Beach Unified School District ranks as the third highest performing unified school district in the State of California with a 2011 Growth Academic Performance Index (API) of 932. MBUSD serves nearly 7,000 students from preschool to twelfth grade at eight school campuses—one preschool, five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Mira Costa High School's API of 911 places it in the top 1.3% of public high schools in California, and it was named number fifteen in ESPN's "Fab 50" High Schools in the Unified States in 2010 for its superior athletic programs. In addition to outstanding students and excellent teachers, MBUSD is extremely fortunate to have a high level of parental involvement in the schools and very strong partnerships with the Manhattan Beach Education and Athletic Foundations, the City of Manhattan Beach, Chevron, Northrop Grumman, Continental Development, the Manhattan Beach Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations and businesses. More information about MBUSD is available at www.mbusd.org.