

# BIG CHANGES AT MARVISTA

By PTSA Safety Committee Co-Chairs: Marla McLaughlin and Dan Johnson

With the construction of our new school underway, we will face many challenges this school year. We would like to highlight how these changes are going to affect everyone, especially during morning arrival and afternoon departure. If you've been to the school recently, you've noticed that the contractors have begun site preparation. Please understand that any disruptions to our "regular routines" are absolutely necessary to keep our children safe this year.

## **Key changes for this school year (the bad news):**

- **No access to school from 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Entrance on Marine View Drive only.**  
The contractors have assured us that the safety of our children is their number one priority. Therefore, we WILL NOT be able to access the school grounds from 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. The sidewalk will be open for pedestrians, so anyone walking to school or being dropped off on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. will need to walk south on 4<sup>th</sup> to 200<sup>th</sup> and then west to Marine View Drive and north onto school grounds. When cars are leaving the school during peak arrival and departure times (8:45-9:05 and 3:40-4:00), there will be **NO LEFT HAND TURN ONTO MARINE VIEW DRIVE**. This will be enforced by the NPPD.
- **Crosswalks will be staffed, if there are enough PARENT VOLUNTEERS**, at the following locations:
  1. 200<sup>th</sup> Street, at 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  2. 200<sup>th</sup> Street, at Marine View Drive
  3. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, at Marvista Park
- **Gravel parking lot has been reduced in size. Severe parking shortage!!!**  
It has been necessary to reduce the gravel lot in size, to accommodate the contractors. This means less parking spots and a smaller drop-off / pick-up loop. As many of you know, the lot was inadequate, at best, and now it's worse than that. We strongly advise everyone to consider alternatives to parking in the gravel lot.
- **There will be a drop-off / pick-up zone, on your right, as you enter the gravel lot.**  
This zone is for all students, **INCLUDING KINDERGARTEN**. Due to the lack of parking, it has become necessary to close the K-LOOP.
- **Gravel-lot "loop" will be a single lane loop (NO passing around other vehicles).** It is imperative that the loop keep moving. Please let your child(ren) know to be ready to enter or exit the vehicle as you pull into the zone. If your child is not ready to be picked up during the pick-up time you may be asked to re-enter the loop and circle around. If you have been parked in the lot, when leaving your parking spot, please yield to cars driving in the loop and wait for a clear opportunity to enter the loop.
- **"Staff Only" parking** will be in the current staff lot and in the old Kindergarten parking area. **Parent and visitor parking will be in the Gravel Lot ONLY.**

### **Key changes for this school year (the good news):**

- **New bus routes added for this school year.** Due to the limited access and very limited parking, the school district has agreed to add additional bus routes this year. ***Notification of your child's possible eligibility for bus transportation has been sent to you by the school district.***

### **WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:**

#### ***ENCOURAGE BUS RIDING / CAR POOLING / WALKING***

- Have your children ride the bus or share a ride with neighbors and friends
- Start a carpool in your neighborhood
- Start a "Moms/Dads Walking Group"
- Pick a day to be "Walk your kid to school day"

#### ***VOLUNTEER***

- **We need your help!** We have a lot of changes and challenges, and in order to make this another safe year at Marvista, we need extra parent volunteers. Can you spare 20 minutes once or twice a week? We need crossing guards to help direct our children and keep them safe. If you are new to Marvista, it's a great way to get involved and meet other "involved" parents. Plus, you get to wear a snappy fluorescent vest.

#### ***BE FLEXIBLE, BE TOLERANT, BE A ROLE MODEL TO YOUR KIDS***

- Understand that you may need to leave the house a little earlier, each day. Try to not be frustrated with the construction and the parking issues. Remember that we are very fortunate to be able to stay at Marvista during construction. The alternative was having our kids bused to an alternative site that would be much less convenient for everyone.

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN MAKE THIS A BETTER SCHOOL YEAR AT MARVISTA STOP BY THE SAFETY COMMITTEE BOOTH, IN THE GYM, ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!**