

11-07-17

Dear MHS parents, guardians and staff,

We are seeing significant improvements with the rat problem at Malibu High School. The measures our facilities team is taking is working to eradicate this problem. We agree that this is unsettling and an unacceptable condition on campus.

In the past two weeks, we have:

- Performed Exclusion Work (closing up access for pests) in the:
 - Teacher lounge, Custodial Closet and Ventilation system on the end of two-story main building (D)
 - Student store and Auditorium in Kitchen/Auditorium
 - Music Building performed exclusion work, including ceilings
 - Room 703 and exterior vents in mechanical rooms in Old Gym
 - Exclusion work done – room 606
- Additional door sweeps have been added. More will be installed beginning Monday, November 6 and as we receive the appropriate parts
- Concrete trash cans removed and replaced with rodent proof trash cans
- Tree trimming behind building, with rooms 300/400
- Additional custodial support has been added in the early morning every school day
- Additional cleaning was performed in the Music Building/Auditorium over the weekend of Nov. 4-5
- Bait boxes are continued to be used on rooftops and in the construction area with evidence that this is helping
- An inspector from the Los Angeles County Health Department visited the campus last week. He identified areas that needed attention. Many of these have been completed since his visit. We are awaiting his full report.
- Rats caught,
 - Between 10/23-10/27: Sixteen rats, seven by custodians and nine by IPM tech
 - Between 10/28 – 11/06: Nine rats

We are stepping up our education program to get students, staff and community members to be consider how their actions increase the population of rats. The chief behavioral shift is in making sure that all trash ends up in a closed trashcan and that the dumpsters remain closed. We reduce rodents when we reduce the access to food. Look for details of a student poster contest coming soon.

SMMUSD is working with the City of Malibu to participate in the annual America Recycles Day on Nov. 15, 2017 at our Malibu schools.

I will be reaching out to Principal Dr. Nye to establish a committee of stakeholders to serve as an advisory to the school site regarding Integrated Pest Management protocols.

Pool Update

The reverse osmosis (RO) filtering process is dramatically reducing the total dissolved solids (TDS) level in the Malibu HS Pool. We started the RO process on Monday 10/23/17. This

process allowed us to keep the pool open while it was being filtered. When the process began the TDS levels were up around 20,000 parts per million (ppm). TDS levels have been dropping about 1000ppm per day. If the results continue at the levels we have seen, we anticipate a reduction of approximately 17,000ppm leaving the pool at a manageable level of approximately 3000 to 4000ppm. We are pleased with the RO process as it additionally resolves the issue of having to shut down the pool to drain and refill the pool, which was the previous process to remove TDS.

Finally, in an effort to manage the pool TDS levels the District will begin to schedule the RO process as part of the regular pool maintenance. It is anticipated that we will need to filter the pool two to three times a year to stay on top of the TDS levels.

We appreciate your patience as we address these challenges through our Integrated Pest Management plan and the pool filtering process. Please contact Carey Upton, Chief Operations Officer, 310-395-8338 x79383 or cupton@smmusd.org if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent, SMMUSD