



RE: Status and Plan: LiveScan/Fingerprinting of Volunteers

Dear Ocean Shore Families,

This letter is written to provide you with information concerning the status and plan for LiveScan background checks for school volunteers.

As we all know, Ocean Shore School offers a unique curriculum to students and families premised upon the value of experiential learning through multiple field trips, theme days and alternatives to a pure classroom experience. Parent/family participation is a cornerstone of this program and is highly valued by the Principal, teachers and Ocean Shore community. It is the desire of everyone to continue providing our students with these special learning opportunities, particularly through field trips. It is also the desire that all families continue to feel safe in their child's participation in the program.

The discussion of background/fingerprinting of parent volunteers is not a new one. In recent years it has been elevated to the forefront of safety considerations, raising many issues for our community. The answer is not clear or easy to structure. Your PTO Presidents and Principal have been working with the new Superintendent, Dr. Heather Olsen, to address this issue. Based on these communications we understand board policy changes will be pursued this Spring through the Pacifica School District Board with the intention that a new background check policy may be implemented for the 2019-2020 school year. We understand the proposed new policy will likely require LiveScan fingerprinting for all volunteers driving on field trips and acting as overnight field trip chaperones, effective the 2019-2020 school year. Bottom line, we expect an official, written policy to be established this Spring giving schools the opportunity to prepare for compliance for the 2019-2020 school year.

The District currently has a procedure to track these background checks. The information will be provided to the Principal of each school, protecting the privacy of the community members. Although this will be a District requirement, the District will not fund the background checks. The reason: field trips are not a requirement of any school curriculum and funding of LiveScan would divert monies from other needed programs universal to the entire community. Ocean Shore has more field trips than any other school; indeed, the other schools in the district have only a few fields trips, compared to Ocean Shore's almost monthly schedule.

In order to keep field trips as a fundamental piece of the Ocean Shore curriculum each field trip volunteer is being requested to bear the cost of LiveScan. The PTO and community members are seeking options for potential financial assistance, but other than addressing potential financial hardship requests, the PTO is not in a position to fund LiveScan for all families. It is expected the cost will range from \$55 to \$85, depending on the provider.

Please see the Live Scan form included herewith which must be used for tracking purposes. The use of the District's Live Scan form will afford families compliance across the district; however, we would ask you to request the Live Scan provider to note Volunteer and School (Ocean Shore School) for district internal tracking purposes. You will also need to keep a copy of the form and the A.T.I. number given to you by the provider. If you have students in multiple school district schools, you may include all of the schools on the form.

There are several providers where LiveScan fingerprinting can be accomplished (Police Department, UPS, post office). However, for the convenience of our families, the PTO will have a consultant on campus to start the process the night of the PTO General Meeting - January 24th. If you are interested in completing the LiveScan process on campus, the consultant will be at Ocean Shore from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. and then again on Monday, January 28 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please use the Sign-Up Genius found on the PTO website homepage to reserve a time. The process will take approximately 15 minutes and the provider is only charging us \$20 plus the \$32 DOJ fee for a total cost of \$52 (this is less expensive than going to other providers). Additional dates will be scheduled in the future as well.

We will keep our community advised of further developments and understand this new process may raise questions or concerns. Please know that we value our volunteers as a critical part of our curriculum and will work to make this additional procedure as easy as possible. All questions or concerns can be directed to Julie Tarango or your PTO Executive Board.

Respectfully,

Julie Tarango, Ocean Shore Principal

Michele Tuman & Amber Metkiff, Ocean Shore PTO Co-presidents