

# Zero Waste Lunches for Incoming First Graders and Middle School Students

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Waste Management

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Waste Management provides reusable lunch boxes to MBUSD students and works with Grades of Green to promote Zero-Waste at MBMS

**MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIF. – August 22, 2012** - For the second year in a row, Waste Management has partnered with the City of Manhattan Beach, and local company Go Green Lunch Box to provide a reusable lunch box to each incoming first grader in the Manhattan Beach School District. This is one of many programs offered by the City and WM to help residents reduce waste.

“The typical student generates approximately 67 pounds of trash per year just in their school lunch. We thought that providing a reusable lunch box would not only help significantly reduce waste, but also provide a warm welcome to first graders,” explains Stephone Paige II, Public Sector Manager for Waste Management.

The lunchboxes also include an aluminum water bottle and bento-style food containers, taking the place of disposable drink packaging and plastic baggies. If used properly, student lunches can truly be zero waste.

The reusable lunchboxes will be distributed on the following dates:

**Grand View Elementary** - Saturday, Aug 25th 9am-1pm at Grand View.

**Meadows Elementary** - Meadows will have samples available at their beautification day at Meadows Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Parents will be able to order at the event.

**Robinson Elementary** - Students will receive lunch boxes in their cubbies the first day of school.

**Pacific Elementary**- Tuesday, Aug 28th 12noon-2pm at the Back to School Open House at Pacific school

**Pennekamp Elementary**- August 24th from 5pm-6pm and August 29th from 8am-10am at Pennekamp cafetorium.

In addition to the lunch box program, Waste Management, in conjunction with local non-profit Grades of Green will roll out another zero waste lunch program this school year at Manhattan Beach Middle School. Paige explains, “WM and Grades of Green have worked together for the last 5 years promoting zero waste lunches to Manhattan Beach grade school students. Now, those students are beginning to enter middle school, so it made sense to launch a new zero waste effort at the middle school as well.”

Adds Lisa Coppedge, Co-Director of Grades of Green, “With the new program, Grades of Green will work with WM to promote zero waste literally from a student’s first day on campus through middle school. We are so excited to make lunch time more sustainable at MBMS.” The program will include campus lunch waste audits, educational activities, assemblies, and contests to promote trash free lunches.



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Parents with questions about their schools' lunch box distribution schedule should contact their school, or their Grades of Green Representative. Questions about the program can be directed to Stephone Paige of Waste Management at [spaigi@wm.com](mailto:spaigi@wm.com) or Kim Castner of Go Green Lunch Box at [kim@gogreenlunchbox.com](mailto:kim@gogreenlunchbox.com).

**ABOUT WASTE MANAGEMENT**

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