



NEWS RELEASE

*P.O. Box 1031
700 Pacific Street
Monterey, CA 93942-1031*

*Contact: Mrs. Kari Yeater
Associate Superintendent
(831) 645-1212*

For Immediate Release

March 17, 2008

District Statement on School Bus Incident March 12

On Wednesday, March 12, as a Monterey Peninsula Unified School District bus was turning onto Sonoma Street in Seaside, CA, the bus driver fell from the driver's seat, landing in the step well of the bus. Students who ride MPUSD buses receive training in safety and emergency procedures. During this incident, the driver called out for a student to pull the parking brake and a Marina High School student (**Student A**) sitting in the front of the bus responded. The bus was traveling at a slow rate of speed. The brake was pulled at the time of impact with a parked vehicle.

The driver of the bus was injured and transferred by ambulance to a local hospital, where she was treated for neck and low back pain and released. All bus riders were asked at the scene if they were injured and they all reported they were fine. Upon arrival at school, two Colton School students riding on the bus complained of pain and were treated by their family physicians. Two parked vehicles received minor damage.

During the preliminary investigation into the incident, the driver stated that her foot became lodged between the brake and the gas pedal. In the process of dislodging her foot, it hit the brake which caused the bus to lunge throwing her from her seat.

Due to student privacy rights under State and Federal law, the District is unable to disclose all of the information in its possession regarding this incident. The student's guardian supports the District's actions. The student will be formally recognized for her quick action in following the bus driver's direction.

The District is investigating the cause of the incident and, according to standard procedures, has put the driver on administrative leave until the investigation is complete.

#####