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Field Trip: A Morning on the Metro Rail System

By RICH MORALLO

(Jan. 15, 2004) Fifty parents and children from the South Bay Adult School in Manhattan Beach spent Tuesday morning on Metro Rail – many of them riding the train system for the very first time.

"This Metro field trip is educational for the parents and their youngsters," said Chris Brown, a teacher at the adult school.

She has coordinated orientation tours on the Metro Green Line, from Marine Station to Rosa Parks Station, every year since the line opened in 1995.

"A lot of the families haven't ridden Metro, so this is an opportunity for all of them to get used to the system," Brown said, adding that after the initial transit experience many of the first-time travelers continue to explore public transportation on their own.

Families will travel more

"Many families will travel more on the system, riding on the Green Line and then switching over to the Metro Blue Line and the subway to tour Olvera Street at Union Station," she said.

On Tuesday, the group also visited the Rail Operations Center where Luis Canel, a Metro Blue Line transportation operations supervisor, showed them how controllers monitor train and passenger movement at the facility.

Redondo Beach resident Pauline Mukhalian and her four-year old daughter, Lena, enjoyed the two-hour field trip.

"We are very excited to meet the Metro," said Mukhalian.



Teacher Chris Brown prepares Metro travel maps for groups traveling on the trains. Below, Transportation Operations Supervisor Luis Canel welcoming group at the Rail Operations Center.



PHOTOS BY RICH MORALLO

