

From the Principal's Desk



Learning math & patterns in kindergarten.

Upcoming Dates & Events

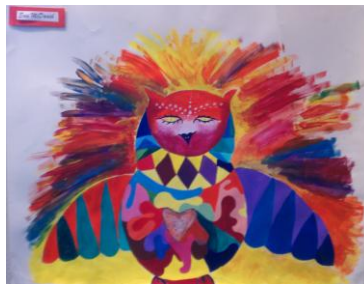
- **February 8th** Kx3 Field trip to see Baba Yaga presented by Tears of Joy
- **February 8th** Visitor's Night at 7:00pm
- **February 16th** PTSA meeting at 6:45pm in the library
- **February 17th** Tea with Traynham at 8:30am in the cafeteria
- **February 20th** No School- President's Day
- **February 23rd & 24th** 9x12 Drama Performance at 7pm in the auditorium
- **February 24th** Applications Due

Keeping you informed

Hello MLC Families and welcome to my first "From the Principal's Desk" newsletter. The intent of my personal newsletter to you is to keep you informed about what's happening at MLC. I have heard loud and clear that you want more and not less communication...so this is my response to your requests.

In my newsletter I will share with you what's happening at MLC from business to the classroom. As busy parents, I know you may not always

have time to spend on our campus and in our classrooms; so I will use my newsletter to share with you what I've seen in the classrooms, hallways and the playground...sharing with you all the good work of our teachers and your students. As always, if you feel something should be included or is missing, please let me know.



Artwork by Erin McDaniel

Tea with Traynham

I will begin to host "Tea with Traynham" the second Friday of each month. This is an opportunity for parents to meet with me casually over tea to share your grins, gripes and gratitude's as well as any suggestions you may have for how to enhance or improve what we do. It will also be an opportunity for me to share about the latest at MLC.

The first Tea with Traynham will be held on Friday, February 17th at 8:30 am in the cafeteria. I hope to see you there; and if not this month maybe next

month or the next month or...well I think you get the point☺



Feel free to contact me whenever you have questions or concerns

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7x8 students chose an influential and history changing African American to learn more about. They researched the person, created a poster and then presented what they learned during an All School Gathering that kicked off the celebration of Black History Month. Experience their learning by checking out the bulletin board near the main office.

February Celebrates Black History

Did you know that Black History Month began as Negro History Week in 1926? Did you know that Carter G. Woodson, Ph.D. earned from Harvard, was an educator, historian, author and publisher who established Negro History Week because he was disturbed to find that history books either ignored blacks or reflected them as inferior? Did you know that Claudette Colvin preceded Rosa Parks in refusing to give up her seat on the bus, which set the stage for the planned action of Rosa Parks? Well, our MLC students know the answer to these questions and so much more thanks to our All School Gathering put together by our 7x8 teachers and students. Our students played music, read poems and shared their learning with the entire student body about the various aspects of black history.

Around our school you'll see two different displays that honors,

informs and celebrates the history and contributions of African Americans. Please take time to engage in the displays and see how much you know. Remember that Black History is American History.

Do's and Don'ts for Celebrating Black History:

- Do continue learning.
- Do incorporate and talk about black history year-round, not just in February.
- Do connect issues in the past to current issues to make history relevant.
- Do include the political and social context of the community's struggle for social justice.
- Don't decontextualize heroes or holidays
- Don't focus on superficial cultural traits based on stereotypes.
- Don't talk about black history solely in "feel good" language.

7x8 Fieldtrips

Families may be thinking that 7x8 students will not have fieldtrips for the 2011-12 school year. A question at the PTSA meeting was specifically asked around overnight fieldtrips and whether 7x8 students will be participating in an overnight fieldtrip. My response was that there were no overnight fieldtrips planned.

The 7x8 Team however, are planning day fieldtrips and students have already taken fieldtrips to see Rapunzel Uncut, the currently under construction green Wyatt Federal Building and all classes will be going to Mercy Corps before the end of March. Additionally, through Friday Focus students have ongoing fieldtrips to various museums and college campuses.

Even with all that, the 7x8 Team is currently in the process of planning a Spring Adventure Week to take place towards the end of the school year. So no worries, our 7x8 Team is making sure that your student is experiencing learning in multiple ways.



A beautiful bulletin board created and posted by our wonderful Bulletin Board committee of teachers Anna, Kelly, John and Dana. How much do you know about Portland's Black history? Check out this board outside of the library.

Additional Dates & Events for March

- **March 1st** 7x8 Spring Dance
- **March 5th** No School Teacher Planning Day
- **March 6th & 7th** Spring Conferences for grades K-6. No school for K-6 students only.
- **March 7th** Site Council meeting at 3:30pm in the library
- **March 9th** MLC Auction at 6:30pm at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
- **March 15th** PTSA meeting at 6:45pm in the library

"Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow."

—Anthony J. D'Angelo

MLC Foundation

School foundations are the only way a school can raise funds to pay for additional school personnel or full-time equivalents (FTE). However, the Foundation is not limited to only purchasing the services of school personnel. The Foundation may also direct resources to other critical needs of the school.

With the inability to currently fund a full time PE teacher and Spanish teacher for lower grades, a Foundation is needed to help protect the program MLC currently has in addition to building stronger more robust programs in our building. However, this campaign needs to be

championed, chaired and run by committed parents. To help determine if there's interest in creating a non-profit MLC Foundation for the purpose of raising money toward school personnel, I will be setting up a meeting for interested parents to meet with representatives of Lincoln High School's Foundation. This will be an information session that will cover topics such as the process for establishing a foundation, time commitment, how the Foundation works in unison with the PTSA and so forth. More information will follow soon, so stay posted.

Trimesters, Quarters & Electives

MLC is the only PPS school operating on a trimester calendar. As of the 2011-12 school year all PPS schools transitioned to a quarter calendar after the School Board voted for one district calendar beginning with the 2011-12 school year.

MLC has a directive to transition to a quarter calendar schedule for the 2012-13 school year. This shift will not have any major effects on our Kx8 program but definitely has challenges for our 9x12 program. As such, Jeff Spalding and I have been working with our 9x12 teachers to identify the best schedule that can be created and implemented while still maintaining the time needed for field trips and for students to process and synthesize course content.

We have also met with Toni Hunter to present our rationale for maintaining a trimester calendar. The good news is

they haven't said no yet. I will keep you posted as more develops.

Electives are an MLC tradition and offers students an opportunity for learning in a creative way. However, our 2010-11 OAKs data showed that some of our SPED and free and reduced lunch students are not achieving at their highest potential. As such, our 7x8 team was asked to include academic electives in their offerings and to connect with families of students that need the additional support. For the 3rd trimester we will be connecting with families for students identified as needing additional support; however, participating in one of these electives will still be by choice and all students will have the opportunity to choose taking one of these electives as they do for any elective.

