



THE MLC ALTERNATIVE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE METROPOLITAN LEARNING CENTER

Portland Public Schools
Metropolitan Learning Center
2033 NW Glisan
Portland, OR 97209

A K-12 Portland Public School ♦ Macarre Traynham, Principal ♦ January 2012 ♦ <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/mlc/>



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Principal's Corner

Happy New Year!!! Can you believe it? It's already 2012. I'm glad that we were able to make it to a new year with health and happiness. I hope that you were able to spend quality time with your children and that they were able to relax and enjoy the time off. But now the pressure is on. We are nearly at the halfway mark for the school year and before you know it the end of the school year will be closing in. So, I encourage you to spend time each night reading to your student, allowing your student to read to you or encouraging your older student to find a book that engages them on a topic of their choice. Please be aware that state testing begins this month and will follow us until May. So on with our thinking caps and let's find the literature, science and information that inspire us.

Warmly,
Macarre





I hope this message finds you well-rested and ready to challenge yourself to accomplish your New Year's resolutions. The last few weeks before the holiday break were spent wrapping up curriculum from Anna's 3rd grade solar system project to the Kx12 Solstice preparations.

The Solstice committee, staff and students put on another fine performance. The magic of this one-time event engages everyone. Solstice reflects the MLC trait of "Respect" for all and brings alumni, parents, staff and students before heading off to a winter break.

Please stay in contact with your son/daughter's teacher(s) for other up-coming classroom activities and check the MLC's web calendar, <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/mlc/343.htm>.

General News

Families interested in attending MLC for 2012-13 school year can find more information such as shadow days and FAQ on our *Enrollment* page, <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/mlc/205.htm>. In January, there are two opportunities to hear about MLC, January 16th at 10 am and January 26th at 7pm. Prospective families may contact our Registrar, Monica Wilson, mwilson@pps.net or call 503/916-3656 for questions.

High School Portfolio Panel! Have you ever participated in the MLC "portfolio panel"? Every year, seniors and sophomores present their portfolios to a group of adults. It is truly a wonderful experience to see and hear the accomplishments of young people. The only qualification is willingness to provide feedback to the student. You don't need to have a son/daughter in high school. If you are interested, please contact Monica Wilson mwilson@pps.net or Jeff Spalding (jspald@pps.net).

State testing. Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) will start in the next couple months. Teachers in grades 3x8 will be setting up dates and times for testing. Testing for students in grades 10x11 will occur on Friday afternoons from 12:15 – 3:00 – this doesn't impact classroom instruction time. For any questions regarding the state testing in grades 3x8 please contact your son/daughter's teacher; contact Jeff Spalding for grades 10x12. You may also refer to the PPS website for practice tests and more information on OAKS: <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/researchevaluation/1487.htm>.

Graduation help needed, we are looking for some parents to assist with the celebration to be held after the wonderful graduation ceremony. Please contact Monica Wilson at mwilson@pps.net if you can assist. The ceremony is on Saturday, June 2nd at 2:00 p.m. and a planning meeting will occur before Spring break.



Opportunity

MLC String Ensemble

All MLC String players: I would love to help coordinate an MLC string ensemble or orchestra to be able to play at MLC events. If you are interested in participating in this please contact me via email and I'll keep you all in the loop on how this progresses.

Angela (Brie and Samantha's mom)
rostonelit@yahoo.com

NEWS FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

The FAFSA becomes available online January 1st for seniors planning to begin college in the fall. The government website is: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

Additional assistance will be available through PCC on their *Financial Aid Day*, January 21. You can drop-in from 9am to 12 noon:

- **Cascade Campus** -Technology Education Bldg. 1st Floor, 705 N. Killingsworth, 971/722-5291.
- **Rock Creek Campus** - Bldg. 2, 1st Floor Lobby, 17705 NW Springville Rd 971/722-7225.
- **Sylvania Campus** - College Center, Lower Mall and Cafeteria, 12000 SW 49th Ave., 971/722-8521.
- **SE Center** -Tabor Hall (in the Great Hall), 2305 SE 82nd Ave. 971/722-6348.

For more information and what to bring: <http://www.pcc.edu/resources/tuition-fees/financial-aid/day/>.

PSATs

PSAT results are back (sophomores and some juniors took the PSAT back in October). The College Board website offers some free, useful tools to help students for improve their scores and begin planning for college. Access is available using the "ACCESS CODE" printed on the student's paper score report. The tool can be used throughout high school. Using *My College QuickStart* together with your child is a great way to introduce and guide your child through important aspects of the college-going process. Visit www.collegeboard.org/quickstart. The information and answers your child provided when they took the test are incorporated into this tool. It returns their data the following ways:

- **My Online Score Report** – an enhanced score report that allows students to review each test question, the student's answer, and the correct answer with answer explanations.
- **My Study Plan** – a customized SAT study plan based on student PSAT/NMSQT test performance, highlighting skills for review/practice.
- **My Personality** – a personality test to help students think about possible careers.
- **My College Matches** – A starter list of colleges based on the student's state and indicated choice of major.
- **My Major & Career Matches** – Major and career matches that are compatible with the student's general interests and personality type.

Sandra Tetzloff
MLC School Counselor
503/916-6434

Medical News

Our school nurse, Kathleen Seal is working on your child's Immunization records. If your child has any incomplete immunization records, you may have received A *Parent Contact Letter* that was mailed by the district on November 21, 2011.

Frequently your child has had the immunization, but it is not in the database. If you did not receive a letter, your child's record is up to date. Each year, all immunization records are reviewed, and parents notified of any missing records.

There is plenty of time to complete this request before Oregon's **Immunization Exclusion Day** on February 15, 2012. Parents, please complete your child's immunizations and then fill in the missing dates on the mailed document and return the **certificate of immunization** card to school as soon as possible.

Kathleen has a mailbox in the main office. If you have any questions, or need a community resource, please call her on Tuesdays between 8am and 4pm or leave her voicemail. She will return the call the following Tuesday. There is a *Religious Exemption* area on the card if you choose not to immunize your child. Please check each individual shot that applies under this category, sign the form and return it to the office.

I have community resources if you do not have insurance or a medical provider. The Child Health Program at MESD, 503/257-1732, has eligibility workers that can assist you in applying for insurance if your child is currently uninsured. Thank you.

Kathleen M. Seal
RN,BSN,
School Nurse at MLC

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Welcome Back!	4 Site Council 3:15 Library	5	6	7
8	9	10 2T Electives Begin	11	12	13	14
15	16 MLK Day - no school	17	18	19 PTSA Meeting 6:30 pm	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 TAG Testing	1 Site Council 3:15 Library	2	3	

