



THE MLC ALTERNATIVE

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

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE METROPOLITAN LEARNING CENTER

<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/mlc/>

A K-12 Portland Public School ♦ Frank Scotto, Principal ♦ October 2010

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Dear MLC Families,

Our school year is off to a good start. The enrollment continues to be strong and steady. A new group of eager kindergarteners have added a sense of renewal and vibrancy. Our new students throughout the other grade levels are happy to be here and enjoying the rich environment and opportunities that MLC has to offer. Although our annual all school picnic had to be postponed due to rain, the students and staff took this in stride and adapted plans they way they usually do. One of the keys to MLC's success is flexibility.

I want to thank everyone for their patience and support as we adapt and implement the new district wide attendance procedures. These policies are first and foremost for the safety and welfare of students. If you are visiting or volunteering at school please be sure to check in at the office and wear your visitor's badge.

October is a busy month. Pam Shelly will be at MLC on October 11th as the interim principal for the rest of the school year. This will be a homecoming of sorts for Pam because she was principal from 1997 – 2002 and interim principal in 2005-2006. I know Pam will receive a warm welcome from everyone. Our high school students will be spending the week of October 18th at Camp Hancock in central Oregon. There is no school for all PPS students on Friday October 8th because of the statewide in-service day. Juniors will be taking the PSAT on October 13th. On Friday, November 12th our high school students will be attending the College Fair at the Oregon Convention Center.

I want to thank all of you for your support and warm regards while I was here at MLC. We all know there is no other place like MLC and all of us working together make this school a special place.

Sincerely,

Frank Scotto
Principal



GREETINGS FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE

It's been a busy start of the school year with new students and staff changes. I'll have a counseling intern from Lewis and Clark College working with me for the first half of the year (mostly on Wednesdays). If you'd like to see my brief biography, take a look at my staff page on the MLC website, <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/mlc/>.

At the elementary level, I will continue teaching students "Yoga Calm," a curriculum that focuses on setting and recognizing personal boundaries, problem-solving, and balancing, grounding poses and activities. I will teach a few electives in the fall, including Street Smarts for the 5-6 grade level students who need some practice being in our community. Not only do I do mediations with students to help resolve problems, but I teach an elective to help students learn the skills.

For high school students my role varies from college recommendations, coordinating college rep visits, helping with the application and financial aid process. I've got lots of resources and organize college materials. Students will be encouraged to use Naviance and CIS (Career Info System) again this year. My staff page on the MLC website has links to these programs, students use their initials and student ID# as their username and password.

P/SAT Tests

PSAT Test Date for sophomores (and optional for juniors) is Oct. 13th. Testing will occur here during the school day and is free for 10th graders. The cost for juniors is \$13 (waivers are available for those eligible for free/reduced lunch); juniors must bring in a cash or check made out to MLC to get on the test list. Sign up with me.

SAT Test Dates:

Register online at <http://www.collegeboard.com>.

The cost is \$47 for the basic SAT (waivers are available for those eligible for free/reduced lunch, see me. There is an additional \$24 fee if you register late.

- **Nov. 6th** (regular registration deadline is Oct. 8th, late fee deadline is Oct. 22nd)
- **Dec. 4th** (regular registration deadline is Nov. 5th, late fee deadline is Nov. 19th)
- **Jan. 22nd** (regular registration deadline is Dec. 23rd, late fee deadline is Jan. 7th)
- **March 12th** (regular registration deadline is Feb 11th, late fee deadline is Feb. 25th)
- **May 7th** (regular registration deadline is April 8th, late fee deadline is April 22nd)
- **June 4th** (regular registration deadline is May 6th, late fee deadline is May 20th)
- {note: SAT Subject tests are also available for all the above dates EXCEPT March 12th}

Test Prep Classes are available around the city, I've posted copies of them on the bulletin board outside the registrar's office. There are also some ACT, SAT practice books available in the school library in the College corner (NW corner file cabinet).

College Fairs

The **National College Fair** occurs November 12th and 13th at the Convention Center. MLC's 10-12th graders will attend the Friday morning session. The event is free and open to the public. It tends to be busy with school groups on Friday. Saturday's hours are 1:00-5:00pm. To see more information and see which colleges plan to attend check out the updated info at: www.nacacnet.org/eventstraining/collegefairs/ncf/fall/pages/rofpor.aspx.

Performing & Visual Arts College Fair:

Wednesday, October 27th 7:00-9:00pm at Portland State University, Smith Memorial Union. This event features schools specializing in dance, music, liberal arts, photography, theatre and more. To see more information and a list of colleges go to: www.nacacnet.org/pvastudent.

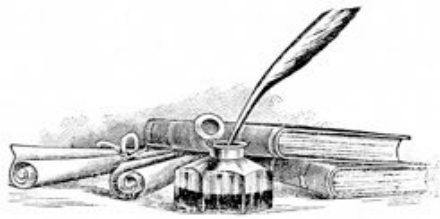
College Rep Visits at MLC

(posted on the bulletin board outside the registrar's office) at this point include:

- Linfield College 10/15
- Evergreen State College 10/25
- CalArts 10/28

Sandra Tetzloff
MLC School Counselor
503-916-6434
stetzloff@pps.k12.or.us





From Our Library ...

October News!

Wonderful families: As you know, we have lost our Library Assistant for the school year. While I wish it weren't so, it is. This means I am extra busy as our school's librarian. It also means I would dearly love your help! In the coming weeks, I will be busily working to process our new Oregon Reader's Choice Award books, our new Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Award books, and our Patricia Gallagher award books. I would love your help with this! What it would mean for you is having me teach you how to laminate paperbacks, and then stopping in whenever you can to cover a book or two (or more!). If you think you would like to be involved, please email me at kliljequist@pps.k12.or.us and let me know. I would love to run a training session for interested parents, so let me know in your email what morning times work best for you. And a big THANK YOU to all the parents who have voiced their support over losing our Library Assistant—it really means a lot to me. I am lucky to be part of this community!



Across the Universe

Parents and 6th graders on up, check out the link at <http://www.acrosstheuniversebook.com/> It's the first chapter of a new book (to be published 1/11/2011), and it's free, and it's AMAZING! *School Library Journal* is calling it "The best first chapter you'll ever read". Give it a shot! Judging by the material, I'm guessing it's going to be a 12 and up novel, but I could be wrong. However, I'll bet that I'm right when I say as soon as you read this chapter you're going to want to read the book! I will have it in our library as soon as it's published! "Across the Universe," by Beth Revis. You heard it here first!!

Kiva Liljequist
kliljequist@pps.k12.or.us

What are You Reading?

I am thinking about including a section in our newsletter that is parents recommending reading for other parents. This is strictly just for fun and it could be fiction or nonfiction. I love hearing what other adults are reading, and I'd bet some of you do, too. Want to try this? If so, please send me the author, title, and a short summary of the book you recommend and I'll try to post it in our next newsletter. Send your recommendations to kliljequist@pps.k12.or.us

It's Puzzle Time!

Do you recognize the following? They're the first few lines from books. If you think you can guess any of them, be the first to email me your answer and you may find your name posted in our next newsletter!

"Farmer Joe works hard all day long. At the end of the day, Farmer Joe is tired and heads home for bed. Farmer Joe's animals are sleepy, too. But are they getting ready for bed? Not tonight. They have a show to get ready for. Pig plugs in his amp. Cows sets up her drums. Chicken sets up her keyboards."

"When Mrs. Frederick C. Little's second son arrived, everybody noticed that he was not much bigger than a mouse. The truth of the matter was, the baby looked very much like a mouse in every way. He was only about two inches high; and he had a mouse's sharp nose, a mouse's tail, a mouse's whiskers, and the pleasant, shy manner of a mouse."

"Today I moved to a twelve-acre rock covered with cement, topped with bird turd and surrounded by water. Alcatraz sits small in the middle of the bay—so close to the city of San Francisco, I can hear them call the score on a baseball game on Marina Green. Okay, not that close. But still."



Our neighbors at the System Office for Legacy Health and the Legacy Good Health Medical Center provided 3 large boxes filled with donated school supplies.

Do you have a computer to donate?

Some notes about donating used PCs:

The district adopted the following computer standards as of April 2010. These standards reflect the minimum specifications we can accept. We can always use additional computers if they meet these standards:

PC Desktops (Staff or Student)

Minimum supported and allocated:
1.7 Ghz P4 Processor
512MB RAM (1 GB RAM preferred)
20GB HDD

PC Laptops

Minimum supported and allocated:
1.6 Ghz P4 Processor
512MB RAM (1 GB RAM preferred)
20GB HDD

If you have questions, contact
Tom Dummer
MLC's resident technocrat:
tdummer@pps.k12.or.us

MLC Wish Lists

Calling all things glittery/shiny/bright!

The 2010-2011 Solstice Committee is looking for any donations of anything that sparkles on the stage for this year's annual performance in the auditorium. We would love shiny fabrics, glitter, glue guns-- anything that can sparkle something up! If you have items to donate please leave them in a bag/box marked "Solstice Donations" outside of Room 106 (the Art room) in the basement.

Looking forward to a great Solstice!

Julie & Bianca (The Solstice Committee)

Gym-Appropriate Shoes

The PE classes could use some clean, gym appropriate shoes, in good condition, of all sizes as loaners. We can share these with students who forget (or can't afford) shoes for PE. Shoes can be left outside my door, room 208. Thanks!

Deanne Larsell

House Plants and... a painting crew

My sixth grade classroom could use a couple of new house plants, and (pie in the sky) a small painting crew over the winter holiday.

Ned Hascall

To Kill a Mockingbird and Small Tins or Boxes

The 7x8 Language Arts classes could use spare copies of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee; any edition, new or used. Also, I reuse empty tins (such as from Altoids) and small boxes (from jewelry and candy) in my Altered Art class.

Dana Absgarten

If you are a teacher or volunteer running an elective or special program at MLC and you would like to reach out to the MLC community for supplies, please email news4mlc@yahoo.com

MLC Winter Craft Faire 2010 Call for Vendors

WiCraFa 2009 was a smashing success, and we're doing it again this year.

Dates: Thursday, Dec. 16th, after Solstice AND Friday Dec. 17th

Table Price: \$50 per, feel free to share

Admission: \$1 per person.

The Catalog of Wares will be printed and posted BEFORE Thanksgiving, so folks will know the offerings, and spend their gift money on your items. Please contact me directly for more information and contracts. Thanks.

Buff Medb Neretin

Mom to Maude Odile, Caryn's 4X5

aurorasilks@gmail.com

A Little Bit of MLC History

Over the coming months, the newsletter would like to share brief stories from the school's history. It is my hope that these small bits of institutional memory will enrich the already vibrant present of our shared MLC community. This month, Carol Bialostosky, former MLC student and the daughter of one of MLC's founders, has allowed us to share some of her notes and recollections.

Ellen Graham (ed.)

What year did MLC come into being?

The first year that MLC occupied a portion of Couch School as an official accredited Portland Public School was Fall of 1968. It was the first "alternative or free" school in the district.

How did MLC get started?

The late 60's was a time of great change – including the structure and focus of education. MLC was modeled after A.S Neill's Summerhill School, a co-educational boarding school in Suffolk, England, founded in 1921 and considered the original alternative 'free' school. Two Portland educators – my father, Abraham Bialostosky, and Emil Abramovic, hatched the idea for MLC. They spent endless hours during the summer of 1967 coming up with the written proposal in order to get it funded by the Oregon State Board of Education. They agreed on the philosophy and the concepts, but how to implement it and what the plan should look like was another story. According to Betty Mayther, a founding MLC teacher, there was a lot of lively discussion amongst staff in those early years. By November 1969, there was discussion about an MLC with two groups, one group of 150 students & 5 teachers with less regulations and structure and another group of 150 students and 5 teachers with more regulations and structure.

Perspective on MLC:

You have to remember that MLC came about during the time when girls could not wear pants to school and there were no computers in the classroom.

MLC Staff Meeting Minutes – October 20, 1969

2. Request for typewriters for room 10. Mr. Gilman will take care of that. (Amasa Gilman was the first principal of MLC.)

– Carol A. Bialostosky

Graduating Class of 1971

High School English credits earned by playing Scrabble, writing poetry, attending a writing class given by Ralph Friedman at PSU, long walks in Washington park, and reading everything I could get my hands on.



Couch School, as seen from 19th Avenue.



Abe Bialostosky, left, striped shirt, at MLC (ca. 1973)



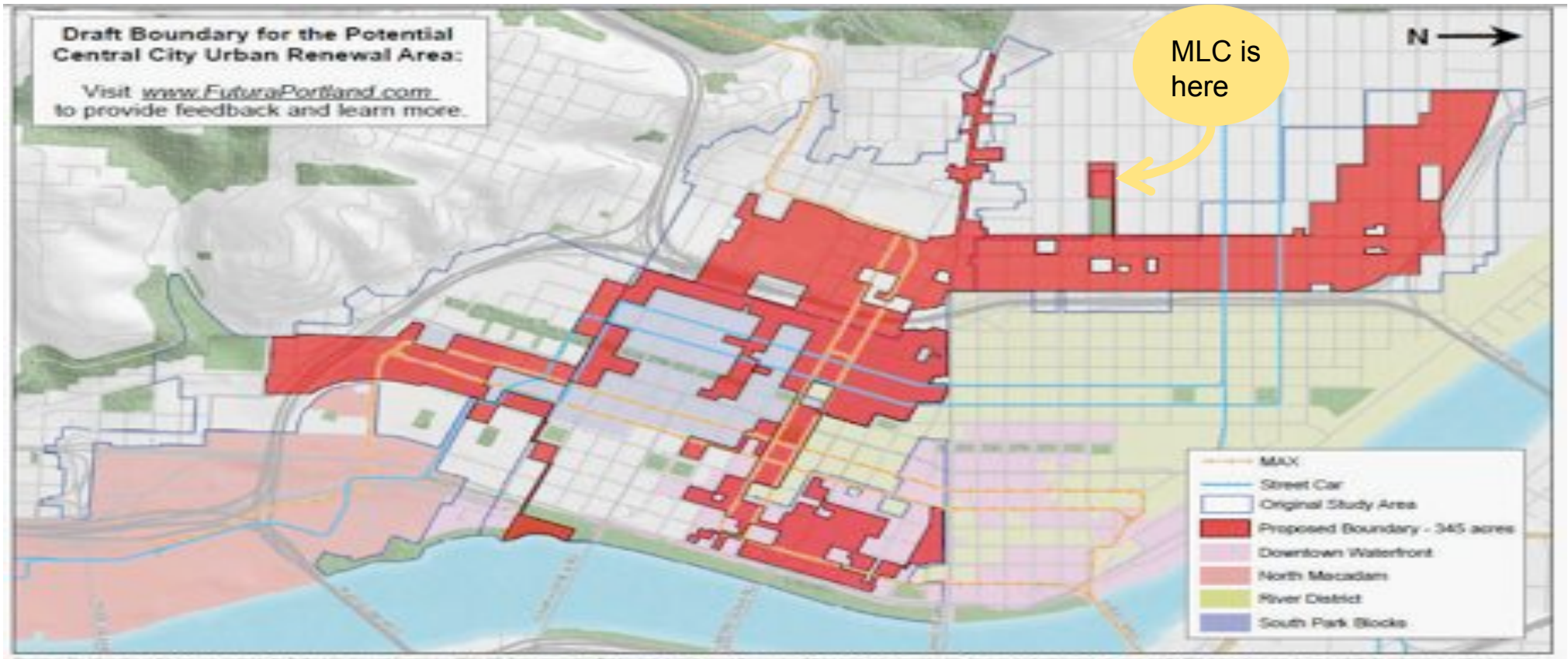
Emil Abramovic, left, striped shirt, at MLC

Photo Citsy Portland Public Schools

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MLC & PDC's Proposed Central City Urban Renewal Area

The Portland Development Commission is working on plans for a new "Central City" Urban Renewal Area. The revised boundary map for area excludes Couch Park, but does include MLC:



Ctsy. Portland Development Commission

So, what would being part of an urban renewal area (URA) mean to MLC? As part of the URA, PDC is considering the creation of six parking lots. These lots would be part of an ongoing plan to promote local retail and entertainment venues. MLC's staff parking lot is one of these six sites. The other sites include Papa Haydn (23rd and Irving), Elizabeth Street (23rd and Hoyt), Pizzicato (23rd & Glisan), Trader Joe's (22nd & Glisan), and "Restaurant Row" behind Cafe Mingo. Take a look at this brief footage taken by Tanya March, pertinent to MLC, taken at July public hearings on the Central City URA: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPZ6v7vqjvM>.

A number of public meetings were held by the PDC in September. There is another meeting, open to the public, scheduled for **Tuesday, October 12, from 1 - 3pm:**

Meeting: Potential Central City Urban Renewal Evaluation Committee

Contact: Joleen Jensen-Classen, 503-823-3352

Location: PDC Commission Conference Room

222 NW 5th Ave

There may be an opportunity, before the October 12th public meeting, for more discussions specific to MLC. PDC Development Manager Peter Englander and NWDA (Northwest District Association) URA representative Juliet Hyams have both expressed a willingness to meet with MLC parents to answer questions about the URA proposals. To stay informed and involved in the coming weeks keep your eyes on the MLC website and/or the MLC Google group for updates:

MLC website: <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/mlc/>

MLC's Google group: http://groups.google.com/group/MLC_school?hl=en

If you'd like to learn more about the PDC proposal and share your comments online, go to: <http://www.FuturaPortland.com> This link will allow you to ask questions or comment online and receive a response from project staff. You can also take a look at this report: <http://www.pdc.us/pdf/future-of-urban-renewal/ccstudy/2010/2010-08-17/Report-Historic-Landmarks-Commission.pdf>. MLC parent, neighborhood resident and PTSA Vice President Tanya March has attended the PDC public meetings that have been held in recent weeks and worked on the landmarks report above.

Thanks to Tanya, Desiree Wolcott-Cushman and Carine Arendes for sharing information about this ongoing process.

MLC PTSA MEETING MINUTES

Welcome & Introductions

Mary started the meeting at 7:15, in attendance were: Mary Franklin, Leigh Anne Scherer, Tanya March, Jacquelyn Martin, Kessina Lee, Mark Johnston, Carine Arendes, Lauren Geffner, Buff Medb Neretin, Jeff Spalding, Laura Bullock, Ann Hargraves, Donna Sims, Scott McClain, Stephanie Brown, Tony Faulkner, Jennifer Dawkins, Gwenn Stover, Diana Moosman, Tammie Andreas, Karleah Scow, Jen Davidson, and Penny Lobdell. Introductions and welcome from PTSA President Mary Franklin.

Review of May 2010 Minutes

Mary asked if there were any necessary changes. Buff moved to approve the minutes with no changes, Tanya seconded, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Jacquelyn presented the budget P&L. She shared that, with the changes in PTSA leadership, the board has changed signers on the account. She noted that the board is in the process of auditing last year's books. There was a small discussion around moving the PTSA accounts to Umpqua Bank. Umpqua has supported our auction and other school projects. They are also close to the school, which will make it easier to make deposits.

Budget Proposal and Approval

Mary Franklin presented the proposed budget for the year. She noted that PTSA has more money this year due to a successful auction last year and fewer requests for scholarships for trips – partly due to the omission of a typically expensive 7X8 trip. As the board developed the budget for the year, they kept in mind that the school was reduced .61 in staffing. That loss was partially restored out of the school's general fund. So, the board tried to put larger balances in places that the school had covered last year.

Deanne Larsell, the MLC PE teacher requested to be considered as full-time instead of .75 for Classroom Staff Accounts since she teaches all grades K-12. There was discussion around how to best increase funding for the PE program. There was a new line item for \$500 to the PE program, the staff number was changed to 23.6 to reflect this change.

New items to the budget from last year: \$100 to Portland PTSA for Student Aid Fund, \$1,000 to library for printed materials and \$250 for Spanish language materials, \$5,000 for future capital improvements at MLC, \$500 to the Renaissance Faire for seed money, \$250 to Spanish Language program for start-up costs for a new program. (This is in addition to the funding the Spanish teacher will receive as a staff member.) Anne Hargraves moved to increase the contribution to the Clothes Closet & Student Aid Fund each to \$200; Buff seconded, the motion passed. Buff moved to accept the revised budget, Jennifer seconded, the motion passed.

2010-2011 Standing Rules Review and Approval

Leigh Anne read the Standing Rules for the 2010-2011 year. Buff moved to accept the rules, Jennifer seconded the motion. The Standing Rules were approved.



2010-2011 PTSA Events

Mary described the PTSA sponsored events for the year:

Pizza Night & Community Dance will be held October 15th, separate from Curriculum Night, pizza from Papa Murphy's, PTSA is considering the square dance group that came to the year-end All School Picnic. Volunteers are needed and are encouraged to sign up to help.



Wreath Sales will be in December as usual.

Winter Craft Faire

will be Thursday the 16th following Solstice from 3:00-7:00, and Friday the 17th from 12:00-4:00. This is designed as a way for people in our community to support each other, not necessarily as a large fundraiser for PTSA.



Literacy Week is a new project for the year, this is a week to dedicated supporting the Library. There are several things planned, or in process: there is a grant from National PTA "Bring Your Families to School" which may be used to bring in outside speakers or to fund a Family Writing Night. There will also be events during the day, the read-a-thon will be this week and a Book Fair, proceeds of these events will go to the Library.

MLC PTSA MEETING MINUTES, continued

Auction planning is well under way. The committee has held two planning meetings already, procurement letters are going out in October. Volunteers are still needed.

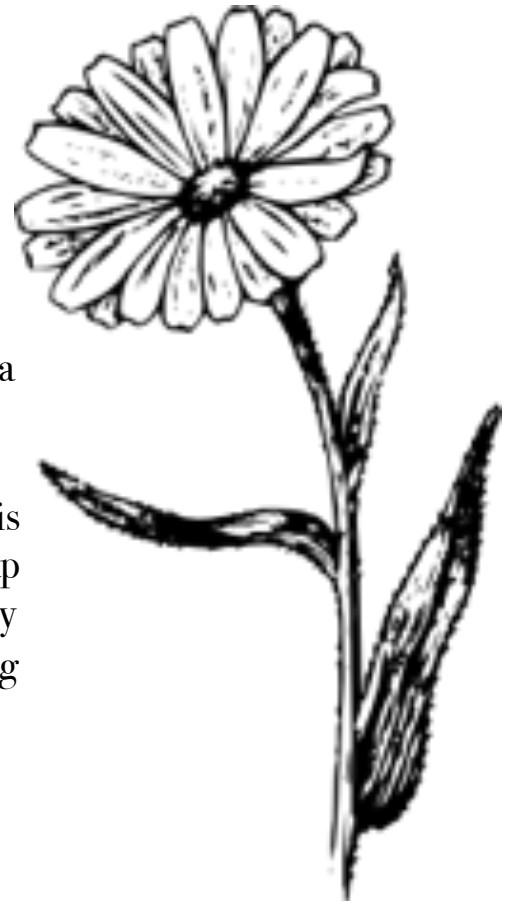
Renaissance Faire is scheduled for the last week of April, there was discussion around a 7X8 trip that is now scheduled the same time as Renaissance Faire. Once the school trips are confirmed a revised date will be chosen that does not interfere.

PTSA Committees and Classroom Liaisons: Please sign up for volunteer opportunities

New Business

Tanya discussed the proposed parking structure, MLC is in a proposed Urban Renewal area; the PDC is willing to come talk to the school community. Jeff & Tanya March will help coordinate a separate meeting rather than making it a PTSA event. (See also the article on page 6 of this newsletter.) Jeff said there is a parking map is available; completed forms are necessary for background checks for anyone working with students.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12.



Consider Buying SCRIP

The MLC Scrip program is up and running. Scrip means “substitute money.” Scrip is regular debit gift cards and paper gift certificates for specific stores, restaurants and services. The businesses give MLC a percentage of the value of the gift cards. No money comes out of your pocket.

This is how it works: Let’s say you shop at New Seasons Market and spend about \$200 a month. You purchase \$200 worth of New Seasons Scrip through the MLC scrip program and you get \$200 worth of gift cards to New Seasons. New Seasons actually sells the gift cards to our scrip program at a discount.

The variety of businesses that participate in the scrip program is large, from national chains like Barnes & Noble to local companies like Powell’s and Burgerville. From iTunes and Regal Cinemas to Mrs. Field’s Cookies and R.E.I., scrip has got you covered. MLC receives between 2 and 43% profit from the businesses that offer scrip. It really adds up.

Scrip can be bought every week. Here’s how it works:

- Use an order form, available throughout the school, to place an order for gift cards from any of the 100+ merchants listed.
- Turn in your order to the MLC main office by 8:30 Tuesday morning so it can be included in the weekly order. If you turn it in later, it will just go into the next week’s order .
- On Friday, before and after school, your order will be available during pick up and drop off at the scrip table outside the main office.

If you have questions or want to help out, contact our scrip coordinator, Laura Bullock at lbullock@pps.k12.or.us (anytime) or call 503-916-5737 (Tuesdays through Thursdays).

Halloween Survey: What was the best Halloween costume you had or the best you have seen?



I was was a pink telephone in third grade. It was really cool. Although, the pizza in fourth grade was also a winner. Then there was the bunch of grapes in fifth grade that was awesome (Kiva). I love lighthearted fantasy costumes I see on the little ones. For the older kids, I prefer scary and creepy (Carine Arendes, parent). Former vice principal, tall, slender, John Braunger , dressed as the green air freshener that hangs from a car’s rear view mirror (Mary Franklin, parent & PTSA President).

Events, Links, & Where is This?

PARENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 16, 2010

9:30am - 2:00pm

(Registration opens at 8:45am)

Parkrose High School (12003 NE Shaver Street)

Community & Parents for Public Schools (CPPS) invites you to join parents/families of children at all grades K-12 and all districts across Portland and Multnomah County. - Attend workshops to help you support your student, your school, and your district:

Learn about transition to middle school, high school, or college

Meet with non-profit providers with resources for families

Visit with superintendents, school board members, elected officials

Get ideas that you can bring back to your school!

FREE - Child Care - Interpretation/Translation - Food - FREE

Accessible by #71 (and connection from Red Line MAX) and #22 bus lines)

To Find out more and register online at:

<http://www.cppsportland.org/plc>

Questions? call 503-220-0577

We hope you all can come to this event. We've been doing it for 10 years now and there are some great workshops for interested parents/families.

Kathy Couch, MLC Parent

LINKS

PPS District:

Portland Public Schools online news: ppspulse@pps.k12.or.us

"What You Need to Know," 8 pages from PPS on vaccination requirements, illness policies, inclement weather, locations of school-based health centers <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/back-to-school/index.htm>

Subscription email service for emergency school closure updates:

<http://www.flashalert.net/news.html?id=69>

MLC:

MLC's main web site: <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/mlc/>

MLC Google group/listserv:

http://groups.google.com/group/MLC_school?hl=en

Facebook groups: Metropolitan Learning Center, MLC, MLC PTSA, Save Metropolitan Learning Center

Free and cheap:

<http://blogging.portlandonthecheap.com/>

LIBRARY FRIENDS BOOK SALE

October 8-11

1205 NE 33rd Ave. at Sandy Boulevard

Hours: 6 to 9 pm Friday (members only)

9 am to 6 pm Saturday

11 am to 5 pm Sunday

9 am to 3 pm Monday – half price day

Oregon's biggest used book sale is held by the nonprofit The Friends of the Multnomah County Library. The 37th annual sale offers an estimated 100,000 items, including good quality books, CDs, DVDs, videos, audio books, sheet music and records. Most books are priced at \$1.50. Children's materials start at 50 cents. Free on-street parking is available nearby, and the No. 12 bus serves the site. No scanners, cell phones or other electronic devices to seek book information will be allowed on the floor Friday. Take a look at their web site for more information: <http://www.friends-library.org>


Where is This?



This photo was taken in, or on the grounds of, MLC. If you think you know where it is, email news4mlc@yahoo.com. We'll be publishing the correct location next month.

October at MLC



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 4x6 To Crater Lake	4	5 1 st Trimester Electives Begin	6 Site Council 3:15 Library	7 4x6 Class Returns	8 No Classes: District in Service Day	9
10	11	12	13 PSATs	14	15 Pizza Night & Community Dance 6-9pm	16
17	18 9x12 to Camp Hancock	19	20	21 PTSA Meeting 7pm (Child Care Available) 9x12 Class Returns	22	23
24/31 Hallow- een	25	26	27	28	29 Halloween Activities	30 