

Marshall
23rd 22nd 21st 20th
Lovejoy
Kearney
MLC
nso

**MLC
& Couch Park**

Very Small

23rd 22nd 21st 20th
Flanders
Everett
ROUGH GUIDE
a

23rd 22nd 21st 20th 19th 18th
Burnside
for new families

Welcome to MLC, to NW Portland, to the Alphabet District. For those of you new to the school and the neighborhood, our crack research team has some experience to share:*

Getting Here

Without school busing, getting your kids to and from school is a creative process. Here are some tips:

Biking: Plenty of parents, teachers and students bike to MLC. There is some bike parking on the blacktop and near the gym entrance in the teacher's parking lot. For general information about biking in Portland, check the forum at <http://bikeportland.org/> or take a look at: <http://www.portlandonline.com/transportation/index.cfm?a=70221&c=34809>. The second site, Portland Online, has good PDX bike maps.

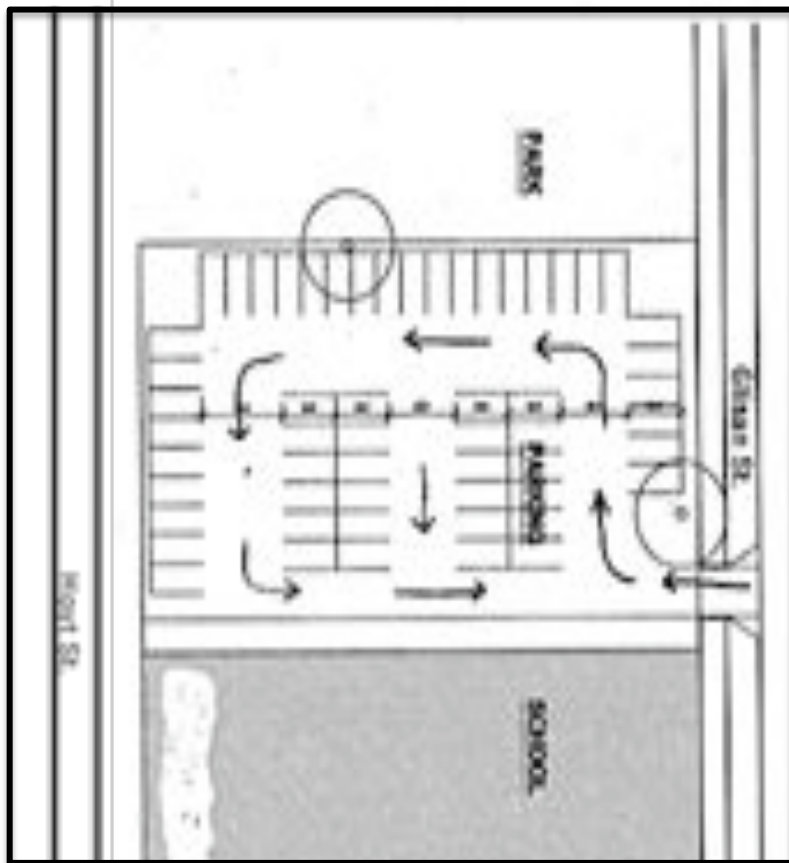
Bike Train: If you are interested in joining a bike train from NE PDX to MLC, please contact MLC parent Lucien Kress at lucienk@gmail.com. For more information about bike trains, see <http://www.biketrainpdx.org>.

Carpooling: There is no formal process – there's a simple sheet on a bulletin board outside the main office. Don't be shy, there's a lot of carpooling at MLC, ask anyone and everyone – we can all use the help sometimes.

Parking: can be tough at 8:15 & 3:00 pm. On event days like curriculum night it can be very tough. So:

The blacktop (east) parking lot: If you'll be in the building for a while in the morning, the blacktop may be your best choice. Note, the main (east) parking lot is chained up between 9:30am and 2:30 pm and overnight. If you are volunteering for the day, you can park in this lot near the Glisan Street fence. Here's the official link for MLC Blacktop parking:
http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/mlc/files/mlc-school/P_MAP.pdf

Hoyt & Glisan: If you are dropping off quickly, avoid the blacktop. There are a few 15 minute parking spots on Glisan & Hoyt, but be careful, ODOT does patrol the no-parking zones & the tickets are expensive.



•NOTE: This guide is not an official school publication, so if there's stuff you don't like, it's not their fault; it's mine, E. Graham.
Special thanks to K. Anderson, M. Blinkhorn, K. Frutiger, P. Laughingwolf & A. Reitzes for their help.

More Getting Here

Parking – Continued

Leaf Pick Up Day: December 9th – no street parking in the morning anywhere in the neighborhood. The city will tow your car. December 9th is a good day to brave the east parking lot.



The teacher's (west) parking lot: The spots are narrow, please be sure only to use the few remaining visitor's spots. Good for mid-day parking when the blacktop (east parking lot) is chained.

Public Transportation:

Routes: There are four bus lines, the streetcar, and the Max within a 10 minute walk of MLC. From nearest to farthest:

17 Bus (Holgate/NW 21st): There are always MLC students on this bus before & after school. It passes other routes on the downtown bus mall and stops within a block of MLC every 10-15 minutes during the day.

15 Bus (Belmont/NW 23rd): The 15 runs along 23rd Avenue and down Burnside on a 15 minute schedule.

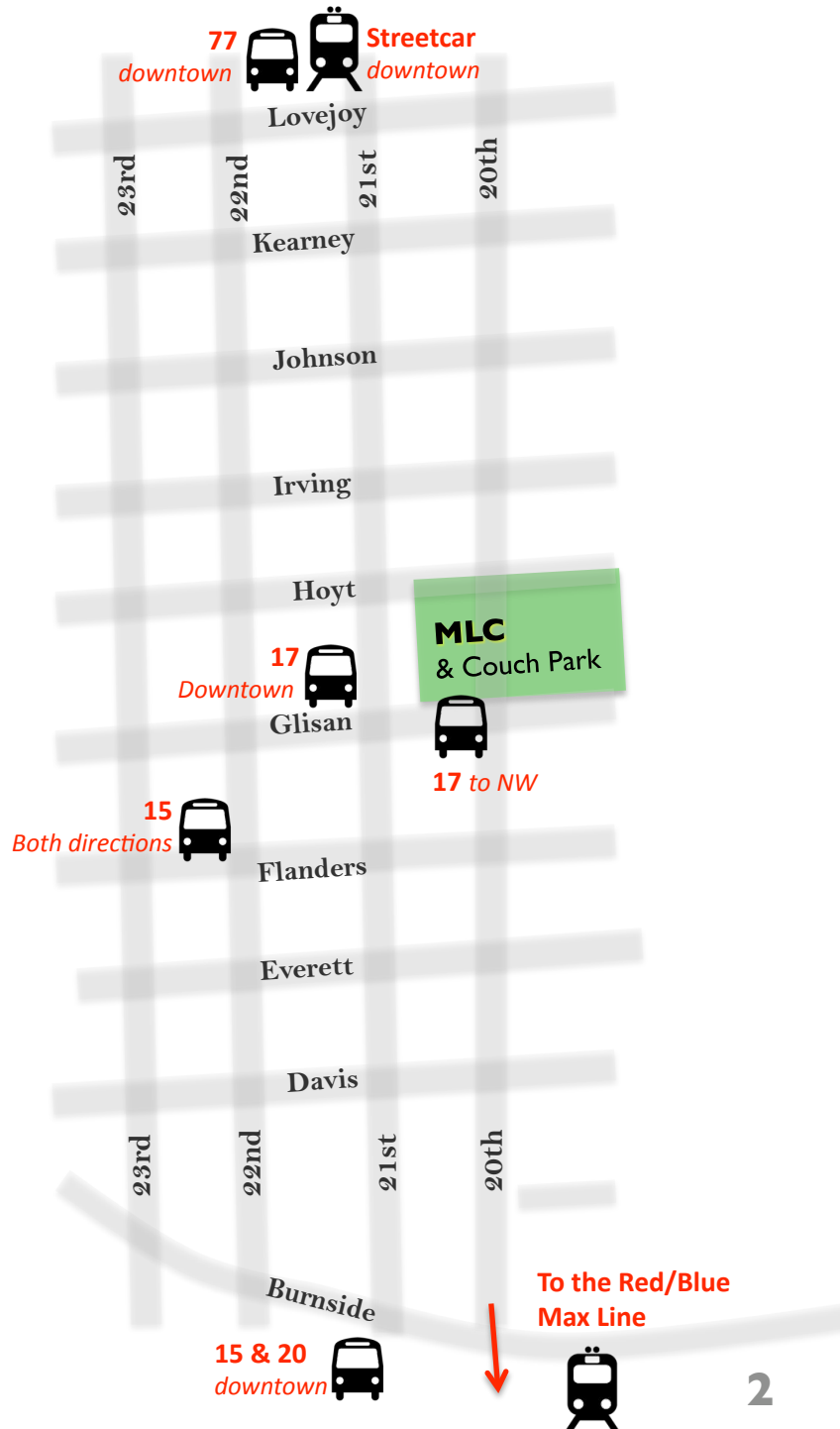
20 Bus (Burnside/Stark): runs every 20 minutes.

77 Bus (Broadway/Halsey): runs every 30 minutes.

The streetcar stops at Lovejoy heading downtown every 12-15 minutes.

Red & Blue Max lines: The nearest stop is at Jeld-Wen stadium. It's a 10-15 minute walk. Trains run frequently.

Passes and fares: 9th -12th graders graders received a Tri-Met emblem on their student body card that allows free, unlimited use through 2011. Replacement student body cards cost \$50.00. Stickers will be added to student body cards if funding for free passes continues into 2012. For younger students, the Tri-Met all-zone youth fare is \$1.50.



In School:

Much of this information was covered in the school introductory packets, but, as a brief review:

Aftercare: See the next section: After School.

Annual Events: MLC has a handful of annual events. Some are for fundraising: the PTSA supports scholarships for school trips, classroom supplies, staff appreciation and community events; KCLC raises funds for its aftercare program; Run for the Arts funds arts education at MLC; Project Second Wind helps feed Oregon families. Some events are community-wide – great opportunities to support the school, get to know parents, students and teachers better – like Solstice; some are traditional – like the Egg Drop; and some are a combination of all three – like Pizza Night.

The calendar, below, has approximate dates.... The events in **boldface** below are community-wide:

Rough Annual Events & Fundraising Calendar

October	November	December	January
Pizza Night (PTSA) & Community Dance (10/21) Chinook Book (4x6 trips) KCLC Bowl-a-Thon (10/30) Halloween		Wreath Sale (PTSA) Winter Craft Faire (PTSA) (12/15) Solstice Celebration (12/15)	Literacy Week/Read-a-Thon (PTSA)
February	March	April	May
	MLC Annual Auction (3/9) Project Second Wind Egg Drop	Run for the Arts	

In School *continued*:

Donations: Do you have books and toys and computers and ...stuff to pass on? Keep an eye on classroom postings and the newsletter. Check with MLC's media-specialist, Kiva, about donating books to the library (kliljequist@pps.net). Check with Tom about donating computer equipment (tdummer@pps.net). Keep in mind KCLC's in-school before and after care program. They can use craft supplies, books and games (You can reach Deirdre, the program director at info.kclc@gmail.com.)

Keeping Track: How do you know what's going at school? It depends on what you want to know. Are 6th graders really dating? When is the auction? Who lives in my neighborhood. Here are some basic resources:

MLC website: <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/mlc/> - calendar, events, notes. We recommend bookmarking it.

Classroom announcements: Paper flyers and emailed announcements from teachers.

Hang Around: Find an excuse to be in the building: dawdle when you drop off the kids, volunteer, go to events.

Facebook groups: I Love MLC!!..., MLC, MLC PTSA, Metropolitan Learning Center, Save Metropolitan Learning Center

MLC Alternative newsletter: Emailed to parents monthly.

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

PTSA News: Emailed to PTSA-member parents regularly.

Special note on school closures: PPS can be skittish about opening schools in bad weather. Subscribe for notifications from Flash Alert: <http://www.flashalert.net/news.html?id=69!>

Other Parents: Who are they? How do you get in touch with them? The fine art of social dawdling in the halls at MLC is easier when your kids are in the Kx3 program. Once the kids hit the 3rd floor in 4th grade - it's just harder. The PTSA school directory comes out in late October, early November. (Our info has to be processed in the PPS district office before it is returned to MLC - before the directory can be built.) In the meanwhile, your best bet will be a class contact list and any creative dawdling you can manage.

In School continued

Volunteering: There will be a volunteering opportunity to fit your time, interests and energy – no doubt. Talk to Laura Bullock (lbullock@pps.net) about teaching an elective. Talk to Jeff Spalding (ispald@pps.net) about volunteering to review student portfolios, ask a teacher, ask the PTSA, take part in the SOLV neighborhood clean ups.

Who do I ask about anything and everything else?
Kathleen Frutiger in the front office.

After School

If you are a working parent, you already know all the steps in the ‘Where-can-my-child-be-after-school’ dance. We need a safety net before and after school during the hours we are chasing the almighty dollar. The onsite childcare program, Kids Community, is top notch. Take a look at their information as well as that of another nearby resource, Northwest Children’s Theater:

Kids Community Learning Center (KCLC): On-site child care and after school classes at MLC for kids in grades K-8. Open Monday through Friday during the school year from 7am-9am, and after school until 6pm. KCLC will be offering 10-week after school classes. Students do not need to be enrolled in the Kids Community childcare program to register for the after school clubs and classes. The class costs are discounted for kids in the childcare program.

This Fall, the classes include: piano, guitar, marimba, weaving, Dungeons & Dragons, Capoeira, homework club, circus arts and more.

Childcare program activities include free choice, group games, healthy snack, and field trips. KCLC is open on teacher In-Service days, teacher planning days, winter break, spring break and hosts a 10-week camp during summer break. For more information please see their website:

<http://kidscommunitypdx.org/>

NW Children’s Theater: At 1819 NW Everett, NWCTS is less than a five minute walk from MLC. As they describe themselves: They offer year-round theater classes and camps for kids between 3 and 18 years. “Classes are held evenings and weekends for nine to ten weeks during Fall, Winter and Spring terms, and Summer term is comprised of full and half-day theater camps offered in one and two-week sessions. All classes and camps are divided both by age and experience level and cover a wide range of topics, from Skills Classes, where students develop specific performance techniques, to Playlabs, where students rehearse and perform a play. Everyone gets a part.”

In the Neighborhood

There's a lot going on 21st and 23rd Avenues. Here are a few of our favorite nearby sites:

Food and Drink:

There must be 429 different places to get food, drink, bread and coffee within a 10-block radius of MLC. Here are just a few ideas. **Take a look at the map on the next page for locations:**

Beer Nearby: Blue Moon Tavern, New Old Lompoc, Ram's Head

Closest Coffee: Ken's Artisan Bakery, World Cup Coffee, CoffeeTime.

Eating Out: Escape from New York Pizza, Sansai, Nancy's Kitchen, Laughing Planet. We know we've left your other favorites out and we are sorry.

Snack/Lunch: Did you forget to bring it? Ken's Artisan Bakery on 21st and Flanders is open at 7am. Freddie's at 20th at Burnside is always open; Trader Joe's doesn't open til 9.

Sugar: There are some amazing small candy and sweet shops in the neighborhood: NW Sweets, Finales, Moonstruck, and, as any 7th grader can tell you: Handy's Quickstop.

Good and Cheap:

Raising kids is not cheap. Want to beef up your wardrobe, find a new throw rug, or pick up a new game without breaking the budget:

Nearby Clothing and Housewares: Goodwill: Burnside and 22nd; and **William Temple House:** NW Glisan between 22nd and 23rd

Camping and outdoor supplies: Starting in 4th grade, MLC students take some great overnight field trips. If you don't do much camping, you may notice that your supply list is starting to look more expensive than the trip itself. **REI** at Johnson and NW 14th rents some camping gear. Their rental checklist: <http://www.rei.com/stores/rentals.html#oregon>

Our favorite: **Next Adventure** at 426 SE Grand (at Stark). Their basement full of good used low-cost gear. They also have an almost unlimited supply of used fleece jackets so when your darling child utterly loses their 4th jacket... stock up at Next Adventure.

Nearby Entertainment and Classes:

Cinema 21: Not so much of a family destination, but they've got interesting films just a few blocks away.

Portland Aikikai: A little further away, at 1623 NW Marshall, but Portland Aikikai has a children's aikido program in the late afternoon. Take a look at their website: <http://www.portlandaikikai.com/>,

Multnomah County Library: The nearest library is at 2300 NW Thurman; 503/988-5560. It is about half a block from St. Honore Bakery at 2335 NW Thurman, near Food Front at 2375 NW Thurman and walking distance to Wallace Park.

Wallace Park is the closest city park with a playground if you need a change from the play structure adjacent to MLC in Couch Park. Wallace Park is at 25th and Raleigh, adjacent to Chapman Elementary.

Voicebox Karaoke on 2112 NW Hoyt mainly attracts a grown up crowd. But their rentable, birthday-party-friendly space is designed with six private suites. So eight 11-year-olds on a Taylor Swift kick won't have any trouble with neighbors belting out Nick Cave or Celine Dion.

Hugely Incomplete

THE MLC NEIGHBORHOOD MAP



77 Bus downtown/
bus mall

Alotto Gelato
931 NW 23rd

Northwest Sweets
740 NW 23rd

Papa Hayden
701 NW 23rd

**Escape from NY
Pizza** - 23rd & Hoyt

Ram's Head
22nd & Hoyt

**William Temple
House**

Trader Joe's
526 NW 23rd

**Moonstruck
Chocolate**
526 NW 23rd

15 eastbound

Key

- Blue=Food, Drink, Coffee, etc.
- Red=Transportation
- Green=Shopping/Supplies
- Purple=Misc

Streetcar
downtown

Finales Desserts
901 NW 21st

Sansai Sushi
539 NW 21st @ Hoyt

Coffee Time
712 NW 21st

Handy's Quickstop
21st & Hoyt

Voicebox Karaoke
2112 NW Hoyt

World Cup Coffee
1740 NW Glisan

17 eastbound

Blue Moon Tavern
432 NW 21st

Ken's Artisan Bakery
338 NW 21st

Pizza Schmizza
21st & Everett

**NW Children's
Theater**
1819 NW Everett

15 & 20 Buses
westbound
Burnside & 20th Pl.

Goodwill
22nd & Burnside

15 & 20 Buses
eastbound
21st & Burnside

Fred Meyer
100 NW 20th Pl.

**To Max Train at
Jeld-Wen Field**