



The MLC Alternative

Portland Public Schools
Metropolitan Learning Center
2033 N.W. Glisan
Portland Oregon 97209

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE METROPOLITAN LEARNING CENTER

www.mlc-k12.com

A K-12 Portland Public School • Frank Scotto, Principal • February 2010

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FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Hello MLC Families,

MLC has a new and greatly improved phone system. Our telephone service is now provided over the same wire as our internet connection. Now our phones plug into an internet jack rather than a phone jack. This service, called VoIP, which means voice over internet protocol, allows PPS to provide voice mailboxes for teachers and other staff, the ability for teachers to make phone calls from their classrooms, conference calls and in the future, PA capabilities for all school messages to be broadcast from the office. This system also allows for remote programming of phones for much faster response times for changes and repairs. Hopefully you will notice a big difference in communicating with the school and your child's teacher.

Wi Fi is coming to MLC. In the next few weeks, MLC will be entering the first phase of wireless installation. In this initial phase, the district will install Wi Fi hot spots in common areas such as the commons, cafeteria, library and office. Students

in these areas will be able to logon by using their district password. Depending on the density and construction of various

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parts of the building some classrooms will also have access to the Wi Fi in this first phase. The district plans for all schools and classrooms to have wireless capability once this project is complete.

Recently we received a letter from Susan Castillo, Superintendent of Public Instruction, that MLC was one of 392 Oregon schools to receive a rating of "Outstanding"

on the eleventh annual Oregon School Report Card. We are proud to receive this distinction that recognizes the hard work of students, staff and families and the MLC community. This is something we all have a part of and take great pride in.

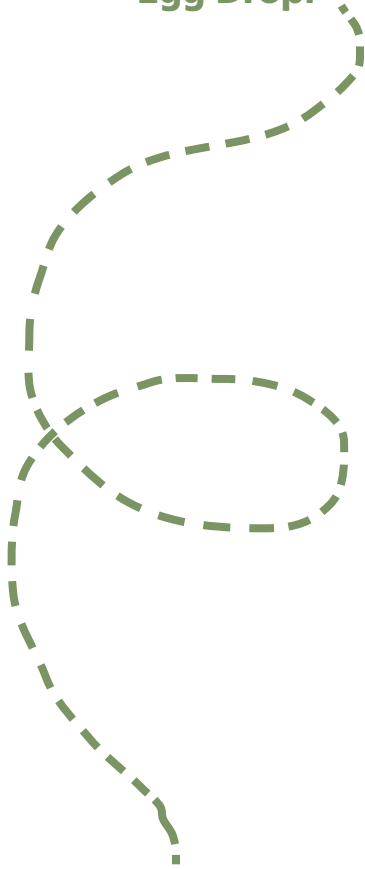
Sincerely,

*Frank Scotto
Principal*



Egg Drop Coming Up

Mark your calendars
for March 4th, for
the annual
Egg Drop.



A little from Laura...

Electives

We have some great electives happening during this winter's session:

- Pat, our middle school science teacher, has an opportunity to teach an elective to the 1x3 students called *Science for the Young Investigator*.
- Caryn's *So You Think You Can Dance* elective performed the Electric Slide at the all school gathering and it was a hit.
- Eric Miller, our marimba teacher, is teaching a beginning *French* class that the 7x8 students are really excited about.
- Our *Voice for the Actor* elective got a real gig, participating in a video for Legacy Health Services.
- We also have some middle school students who are teaching some younger students electives including *Hand Sewing* and *Chess*.
- Some of the other electives include *Philosophy*, *Sock Monsters*, *Backyard Habitats*, *Staying Alive* (about endangered

species), *Debate*, *Gandhi*, *Volleyball* and *Ping Pong Ball Tricks*. There are many more, but too much to mention here. Lot's of fun, learning and leadership!

Spring Electives Coming Soon, We Need You!

In a matter of weeks, I will begin working on the third trimester elective schedule. The schedule will be finalized in early March. The last session for this school year will begin in early April and end in mid-May. If you've been thinking about teaching an elective, here is your last chance of the year. We would love to have you (and we need you). Electives are such a special part of the learning and experiences our students have here at MLC.

Thanks to all of our wonderful and creative parents who teach electives!

Contact Laura at 503-916-5737 or lbullock@pps.k12.or.us Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8:15 a.m. and 3:45 p.m., and Wednesdays between 8:15 a.m. and noon.



News from Sandra in the Counseling Office

Middle School NEWS

High School decision-making time will be upon families soon. MLC 8th graders will get an opportunity to join one of our high school classes in early February, to meet the teachers and get a feel for the program. **Parents can plan to attend the evening visitation Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.** to find out more specifics about MLC's high school program. The process for staying at MLC is easy, just notifying Barbara in the registrar's office (503-916-5738 or email bwitter@pps.k12.or.us) when it's official. If students will be

transferring back to their neighborhood school, we'd appreciate knowing that as early as possible. For those applying for other transfers or to private schools we know that decisions will not be known until early April but please notify us again as soon as possible.

Sandra
503-916-6434
stetzloff@pps.k12.or.us



Connected Parenting Workshop

Be sure to set aside **Wednesday Feb. 17th from 6:30 - 8 p.m.** to hear our own community member, Emily Troper, discuss *"Connected Parenting: Let's raise children who won't have to recover from their childhood."*

The Connected Parenting workshop focuses on the primacy of connection in parenting children of all ages, and on parenting without punishments or rewards. Look deeply past difficult behaviors to discover the underlying needs of our children (and ourselves), and begin to use concrete tools to respond effectively to parenting challenges. This interactive class covers respectful limit setting, developmental norms, listening to feelings and many practical ideas about what to do instead of being either an authoritarian or a permissive parent.

Emily Troper, ECE, is the mother of four children (from 5-18 years old), and a former preschool teacher. She currently works as a parent educator and facilitates the Connected Parenting support series at Zenana Spa and Wellness Center. She is a postpartum doula through DONA, and the co-director of a homeschooling learning community. Emily passionately advocates in her community for respectful parenting, childrens' and teenagers' rights and alternative education, and she is influenced by the work of Pam Leo, Alfie Kohn, Aletha Solter, Marshall Rosenberg and Larry J. Cohen.

The workshop will be held in the MLC auditorium.



Money for MLC Scholarships Through the MLC PTSA Scrip Program

The MLC Scrip Program has been up and running for 10 weeks now. Including this week's orders we have reached \$1,000 in profits for our school. Thanks so much to all the families who have participated so far in this new fundraising project. We have averaged about eight orders and \$100 of profit each week. Eight orders is less than two percent of the students at MLC. If we double that we could raise \$200 a week and if we had 20 orders a week, we could raise \$250 a week. If we made \$250 a week for the entire school year, we could raise \$9,000 a year! Wouldn't that be great? A goal of 20 orders per week would only mean approximately five percent of families would order each week. Our community could definitely reach that goal.

One of the best things about raising money through scrip is that NO money comes out of the pockets of our families. The school makes money through gift cards and certificates that families buy through the Scrip Program for their regular shopping needs. If your family only

bought grocery scrip, say \$200 a month throughout the school year, your family would raise over \$70 a year for MLC, if 10 families did this, they would raise \$700, 50 families would raise \$3,500! It really is that easy.

Scrip orders are filled every week. Order forms are available throughout the school and on the MLC Web site. Orders must be turned into the main office by 8:30 a.m., each Tuesday, to be filled that week, but orders may be turned in at any time. Each Friday, filled orders are available for pick up before and after school outside of the main office. Some scrip (New Seasons, Fred Meyer, Starbucks and some others) is also available for immediate purchase at those times. You may also sign a release to have your child bring home your scrip orders on Fridays. Give it a try.

If you have any questions, please contact our scrip coordinator, Laura Bullock at lbullock@pps.k12.or.us or 503-916-5737.

Flu Season Continues

February is usually the peak of flu season. If your children have not yet been vaccinated against the H1N1 influenza virus, you can receive this vaccine at no cost at a School-Based Health center during a walk-in H1N1 Vaccination Clinic. Different sites offer clinics at different times and different days of the week.

Your student does not need to be a clinic client to receive this vaccine, and adults are welcome as well. The Multnomah County Health Department's H1N1 Information Line is 503-988-4454. If you'd like more information on the School-Based Health Center program, including a full list of our locations and services, please visit www.mchealth.org/sbhc

MLC PTSA January Meeting Minutes

Thursday January 21, 2010

Present: Mary Franklin, Frank Scotto, Tammy O'Neill, Leigh Anne Scherer, Buff Medb Neretin, Le Billington, Lauren Geffner, Jennifer Dawkins, Tanya March, Dianna Moosman

Mary Franklin called the meeting to order at 7:10

Minutes:

The minutes from last meeting were unanimously accepted

Treasurer's Report:

Balance \$23,551.40; there is an additional \$6,000 currently sitting in the SCRIP account; 1/3 of the scholarship funds have been paid out so far, this is lower than last year. There are still some large spring field trips, but with 2/3 remaining this is in good shape.

Fundraisers will show as a net in the budget. The funds allocated as expenses for a particular fundraiser (such as the auction) come from the proceeds generated by that fundraiser.

OLD BUSINESS

Craft Fair

\$2,250 net; with one exception everyone had a good time and expressed an interest in repeating next year; great event, a strong success. Ideas to improve for next year are to start advertising earlier and coordinate the schedule better so that when Solstice ends vendors are in place and the sale can start immediately

There was some discussion about holding it on Saturday rather than an evening, but generally everyone thinks it is better to keep it immediately following the Solstice

The \$50 fee for a vendor table seems reasonable. The entry fee may be decreased to 50¢.

Extra clothing from the clothing exchange will go to the clothes closet

Staff Baskets

There were not enough volunteers, and some confusion about delivering things,

but lots of donations for teachers. There was discussion on how to improve this for next year, including identifying key volunteers in advance.

January Speakers Program

There was the best turn out ever, 35 people showed up, good presentation and dialogue, good Q & A; really helpful perspective on teen boys. Upcoming speakers are in process.

SCRIP

Profit after fees \$819.95; average profit about \$95 per week; eSCRIP you can sign up online and it could be helpful to have a volunteer with a computer to sign people up at events.

Week	Profit	Fees	# of Orders	Comments
Oct. 27	\$27.00	\$10		1st week, inventory only
Nov. 3	\$60.45	\$25	5	Fee: \$15 for envelopes
Nov. 10	\$63.77	\$10	6	
Nov 17	\$96.81	\$10	9	
Dec. 1	\$127.75	\$10	9	
Dec. 8	\$211.73	\$10	12	
Dec. 15	\$178.44	\$10	17	
Jan. 5	\$58.06	\$25	6	Fee: \$15 for software
Jan. 12	\$73.00	\$10	7	
Jan. 19	\$52.97	\$10	3	
TOTALS	\$949.98	\$130		Profit after Fees: \$819.95 (includes inventory)

Principal's Report

The crosswalk is in, a number of 8th graders are interested, they will be trained as Safety Patrol and will start next week; have violation cards along with vests, etc. There has been a big improvement in traffic already even without the Safety Patrol

There are new phones in all the classrooms, VOIP, all teachers can call out from their classroom, teachers are in the process of setting up voicemails.

The district is setting up WiFi in the library, cafeteria, gym, commons; some classrooms will have access. Eventually the whole school will have wireless access. Frank thinks it is a password

protected system, but was going to check and see if parents could get access while at school

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming Events

Emily Troper – teaches parenting classes, she will offer a class Wednesday, February 17th 6:30-8:00, childcare will be provided. Still looking for a speaker for March

Letters are going out to McMenamins to do Blue Moon Night fundraiser

Leigh Anne will check on North End Brew Pub/Rivergate Brewery on Lombard to see if they are interested.

PTSA movie night in the works. There was an offer from Cinema 21 that might work.

Auction

Auction Chair Le Billington

The auction will be March 12th at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

New auction news:

- Social networking, website (www.mlcauction.viviti.com), email (mlcauction@gmail.com) and Facebook page. The website has a donation page showing the items.
- Several attempts to make the auction accessible for all. There will be a ten for \$10 raffle. There will be 10 items worth more than \$10 on a table, every ten minutes during the silent auction a name will be drawn and that person gets to choose one of the items. PayPal is an option for on-line donations so people can donate even if they can't attend. There will be Proxy Bidding so if you can't attend you can sign up how much you want to bid on a particular item and if your bid is higher

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then you “win” the item so people can participate even if they can’t attend the actual event.

- The committee would like to offer on-site childcare. The church significantly raised the rental price for the childcare rooms. Jennifer is researching close by locations where childcare could be held, also going to offer to pay a deposit to the church to see if we can use the preschool rooms without paying \$400.
- There are sign up sheets for new sub-committees (transportation of donations & food, advertising, promotions, etc.) encourage people to sign up to help out. These are posted outside the library.
- Post Auction Auction, Tuesday the 9th is the final day for auction donations to make it in the event. After the 9th they will be posted on the website with bid sheets in the office to make money off those items remaining.
- There will be a new auctioneer (TBD) this year along with an auctioneer coordinator who will shadow the auctioneer at the event and help him/her
- Budget: Estimated expenses \$4,210

Net goal \$20,000; there is a discussion about limiting the expenses as much as possible.

Leigh Anne moves and Buff seconds \$4,500 budget for expenses. The motion passes unanimously.

Second week of February is the phone-a-thon requesting donations from previous donors – Please sign up to help with this event.

Wednesday, March 3 is class project deadline so that the items can get posted online. Leigh Anne is the contact for class projects.

March 9th is the last day for donations to make it in the auction

The caterer will only charge for food

Laura is working on identifying sponsors to underwrite the cost of the certain expenses

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45

Kathy Couch, PTSA Secretary

SAVE THE DATE! FRIDAY, MARCH 12 MLC AUCTION!

at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox church



It takes a village to “raise” an auction. And folks, this year the need for the auction to do well is more pronounced than ever. The PTSA did not pull in much needed money last year, and these are the results:

- ✓ **Student Scholarships:** In the 2008 school year over \$24,000 in scholarship requests were received and \$22,000 in aide was provided. ***This year's scholarship budget: \$15,000.***
- ✓ **Classroom Funds:** Last year, the PTSA gave each teacher \$400. ***This year's budget allowed \$250 per teacher.***
- ✓ **Equipment for the School:** No equipment purchases in the budget this year.
- ✓ **“All school” Events:** Last year's budget \$900, ***this year's \$500***

We need (your kids need) the PTSA budget to get back to a healthy place. The time for each and every member of the MLC community to get actively involved in the school auction is now. Honestly, if this is left to just a few parents, we won't meet our fundraising goal (\$25,000). And we really want to meet that goal! We want to have the funds to maintain a great school experience for all MLC students.

Please, please, sign up to volunteer. The volunteer sign-up sheets are on the PTSA bulletin board, which is located just east of the library door. Or, send us an email at mlcauction@gmail.com if you'd like to sign up to help. ***We would like every MLC family to obtain one donated item for the auction.*** You can visit the auction website, www.mlcauction.viviti.com for a “How to Solicit Donations Guide”, and a Printable Donation Form and Gift Certificate Form.

Email us at mlcauction@gmail.com with any questions.

Together, we can raise this particular village.



COME TO THE AUCTION MARCH 12

February ■ March at MLC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	
	8	9	10 High School Visitation 7 p.m.	11	12	
	15 NO SCHOOL President's Day	16	17 Connected Parenting Workshop 6:30 - 8 p.m.	18	19 PTSA Meeting 12:30 p.m.	
	22	23	24	25	26	
MARCH 1	2	3		4 Egg Drop	5	
	8	9	10	11	12 AUCTION Holy Trinity Greek Church	
	15	16	17	18 PTSA Meeting 7 p.m.	19	
	22	23	24 — Spring Break —	25	26	