

# 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](http://www.mlc-k12.com)

A K-12 Portland Public School • Frank Scotto, Principal • May 2009

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### FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

*Dear Parents,*

I have some good news to share. Our kiln is fully installed and ready for use. Recently we had a training session for staff and parent volunteers and the first student projects are ready for firing in the kiln. Although the kiln installation process was lengthy it has several safety features and should provide years of service.

You may have seen an article recently in the media about graduation rates increasing in 14 of 16 PPS high schools last year. Of all the high schools in the district, MLC had the highest graduation rate, 96.8 percent which is a 3.7 percent increase from the year before. When I talked with the 9x12 team about our successful

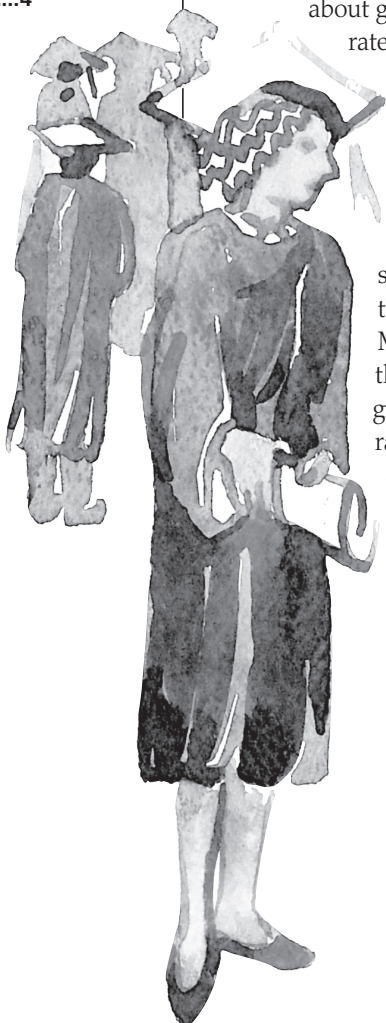
graduation rate they identified several elements – rigorous credit requirements, relevant curriculum, connections and relationships with students. Congratulations to the 9x12 students, teachers, parents and the rest of the MLC community who do so much to support all of our students and teachers in their work together.

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Even though the end of the year is approaching we are already making plans for next year. Students are forecasting for classes, teachers are talking about professional development, schedules, plans and other opportunities for our students. Each day we continue to enroll our new students for next year.

If you have not had the chance to spend some time at MLC yet this year, please remember that you are always welcome. We have a wonderful school community and we love to share.

*Frank  
Principal*



## Sports Physicals Available

Is your student interested in or planning to participate in school sports next year? School-Based Health Centers offers Multnomah County school-age youth sports physicals to keep them healthy and ready to learn.



A sports physical gives a student medical clearance for two years, so many current sophomores and 8th graders will need a physical before sports season next school year. Every fall, when these clinics open, there is a rush of sports physicals due to students waiting until the last minute to take care of this required exam. Students are encouraged to get their sports physical completed before school starts in the fall. These sports physicals include an assessment of student's complete health care needs.

School-Based Health Centers offer sports physicals, along with a full range of health care services.

For more information, including clinic locations, go to [www.mchealth.org/sbhc](http://www.mchealth.org/sbhc)

## Be Well

It's in the news and everybody's talking about it. It's the swine flu, or influenza A H1N1, if you want to be technical. Now and always, it's important to know and follow preventive measures to stop the spread of colds and viruses.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

- Stay home if you are sick. Influenza is most often passed through the coughing or sneezing of infected people.

Portland Public Schools is closely monitoring swine flu activity and will update us all immediately if there is something for us to be concerned about at our school.

The MLC Web site has more detailed information on swine flu at <http://mlc-k12.com> or you can check the Oregon Department of Human Services Web site for daily updates at [www.flu.oregon.gov/](http://www.flu.oregon.gov/)

## Election Day Coming Up — May 19

It seems like it was such a short time ago that we experienced Election Day. Many of us were involved in important campaigns -- Who would be our next President, or US Senator? What kinds of ballot measure would pass or fail, and how would they affect the very nature of our State?

In a little less than a month, we'll be voting again. On the surface, perhaps this election doesn't seem so important, but if you care about our public schools, and who leads the vision, be sure to pay attention to the upcoming election.

Three of the seven School Board positions are up. We have seven school zones within Portland Public Schools, and each board member must live in the zone they are running in, in order to reflect geographic diversity among the board's members. If elected, they will represent the interests of all school community members.

Everyone in the city has the opportunity to vote for all open positions.

In Zone 4, there are three candidates running. Incumbent Martin Gonzalez is running for re-election, after having been appointed to fill the vacancy left by Dan Ryan. Learn more about Gonzalez at

[www.gonzalezforschools.com](http://www.gonzalezforschools.com). Also running for Zone 4 is newcomer Rita Moore [www.mooreforschools.org](http://www.mooreforschools.org), and perennial candidate Steve Buel (no website listed).

Zone 5 brings us two candidates: Scott Bailey [www.scottbaileyforportland.com](http://www.scottbaileyforportland.com), and Pam Knowles [www.pamknowles.com](http://www.pamknowles.com).

Finally, in Zone 6, incumbent Trudy Sargent is running for re-election unopposed. (No Web site currently listed).

You should begin to receive your ballots beginning May 1. Please read your Voters' Pamphlet when it arrives, go to the candidates Web sites to learn more about them, and vote! In these challenging times, when decisions are being made about what our high schools will look like, trying to survive budget cuts with our programs as intact as possible, it is important to have strong, independent leaders on our School Board. This election may not have the flash and media attention that November 2008 did, but our schools are the heart of our community, and they deserve our attention.

Be sure to be informed and get out and vote.

*Kathy Couch*

## MLC Events Calendar ■ At-a-Glance

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday, May 6	3:15	Site Council
Thursday May 7th		Ren Faire
Friday May 8th	10:00 a.m.	Movie "Good Food" at Cinema 21
Friday, May 8th	12:00 - 2:30 p.m.	8th Grade Promo Car Wash
May 12-15		Ashland
May 26-29		7x8 Seattle trip
May 26-29		High School Portfolios
Wednesday May 27th	7:15pm	PTSA Meeting
Thursday, May 28th		Kx6 Portfolio Night
Thursday, May 28th	5:00 - 8:00 p.m.	MLC Night at Ben and Jerry's
Friday May 29th		FULL DAY of CLASSES
Wednesday, June 3rd		Seniors last day
Wednesday, June 3rd	3:15 p.m.	Site Council
Wednesday, June 3rd - Friday, June 5th		6th Grade Campout at Cascadia
Thursday June 4th	5 p.m.	7x8 Portfolio Night
Friday, June 5th	3 p.m. dismissal	FULL DAY of CLASSES
Saturday, June 6th	2 p.m.	HS Graduation Chapmand Elementary School
Monday June 8th	3 p.m.	Volunteer Recognition
Tuesday June 9th		8th Grade Promotion
Wednesday June 10th		All School Picnic and Last Day of school
Thursday June 11th	12:00 noon	PTSA Staff Luncheon

## MLC PTSA Fundraising Thank You to All!!

Many thanks to all who participated in our Blue Moon Night on April 20th. We received a check for \$1,912 from McMenamins for that evening, which makes for easy and delicious fundraising!

We also received a check for \$108 from Boxtops for Education so all of you that clip those boxtops, it does pay off! And many, many thanks to Linda Larkin for being our Boxtops Queen for many years.

Another easy way to help out MLC PTSA is through Escrip. Sign up at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com). Our group ID # is 8564732. Sign up yourself and your friends and family around the country and all the credits will automatically go into the school.

Thank you to all for supporting the school with your dollars and your good work and helping hands!

Mary Franklin  
MLC PTSA President

## Celebrating SUSTAINABILITY in our community

Cinema 21 is sponsoring a morning movie for our school. *Good Food*, which received an award at the Seattle International Film Festival, will be playing for a week at Cinema 21. The movie documents all the sustainability efforts by our local food farmers, suppliers and retailers.

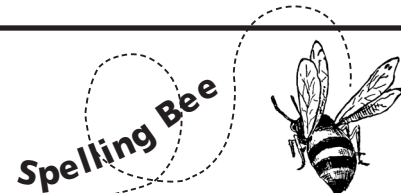
WHEN: 10 to 11:15 a.m.,  
Friday May 8th

## Ice Cream Supports Our School



Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream will donate a portion of it's proceeds from sales May 28 from 5 to 8 p.m.

This opportunity follows the K-6 Portfolio night. You'll already be in the neighborhood so stop at the N.W. Uptown or N.W. Pearl locations, enjoy ice cream, and enjoy the fact that you are donating to MLC.



Spelling isn't always a student's favorite subject, but for those who participated in the recent Spelling Bee it was challenging and fun. Fourth and fifth-graders from Claire's class attended their grade level Bees on April 23rd. Sarah Weiss and Eli Goldberg represented the fourth graders. Audrey Coates and Spencer Bennett represented the fifth graders. Results aren't released for the written spelling bee, but everyone had a good time participating in an old-fashioned, spell-it-out-loud bee. Congratulations to Sarah, Eli, Audrey and Spencer for their great enthusiasm and hard work.

Return service requested

Portland Public Schools  
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## May and June at MLC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Site Council 3:15 p.m.	<b>7</b> Ren Faire	<b>8</b> Movie "Good Food" 10 a.m. cinema 21 8th Gr. Promo Car Wash	
<b>11</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> — Ashland Trip May 12 - 15 —	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>18</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	
<b>25</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> PTSA Meeting 7:15 p.m.	<b>28</b> Kx6 Portfolio Night MLC Night at Ben & Jerry's 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.	<b>29</b> FULL DAY of CLASSES	
			— 7x8 Seattle trip May 26 - 29 — — HS Portfolios May 26 - 29 —			
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>3</b> Seniors last day Site Council 3:15 p.m.	<b>4</b> 7x8 Portfolio Night 5 p.m.	<b>5</b> FULL DAY of CLASSES	<b>6</b> Graduation 2 p.m.
			— 6 Gr Campout at Cascadia June 3 - 5 —			
<b>8</b> Volunteer Recognition	<b>9</b> 8th Grade Promotion		<b>10</b> All School Picnic and Last Day of School	<b>11</b> PTSA Staff Luncheon	<b>12</b>	