



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 ♦ Pam Shelly, Principal ♦ May 2011

What's Inside!

From Our Library...2

From the Counseling
Office.....2

Lend a Hand: PTA
Clothing Center.....3

Events &
Opportunities.....3

Scenes from the Ren.
Faire.....4

MLC PTSA Meeting
Minutes.....5

May Calendar.....6

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL



"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment to improve the world."

— Anne Frank

Dear Families,

It's easy to get caught up in the headlines ... budget crunches, natural catastrophes, political uprisings, wars, displaced people. Anne Frank was right, there is a lot to do to improve and help the world; no waiting time is required.

At MLC, the students give me great hope about our next generation of Americans. They are involved, energetic and reflective. They are serious when they need to be, and still maintain their playfulness. Serious and playful; this is a great combination. From my vantage point, their families (that would be you) have set the tone for this, and we at MLC are working in tandem to develop and sustain these wonderful learners.

I love the last eight weeks of school. That's a big chunk of teaching time, and we are holding steady to use that time well. It's also a time of celebrations, and a time to begin transitions. That is in full swing here!

We're still basking in the success of the PTSA Auction, and how that income will help us bring great programs to our kids. We've just read 320 student applications for next year! Earth Day, Renaissance Faire, KCLC plant sale, and Prom have only just taken place. Looking at next month, we're pricing out a kayak trip for our seniors and asking for help for high school graduation. Mary Franklin and Karen Riley-Cummings have offered to lead planning for our eighth grade promotion. Kindergarteners will be promoted to first grade, and Carol is getting ready for that. All of our students are readying their portfolios for end-of-the-year conferences and presentations. I am out of breath and my heart rate is up just thinking about all of it! And, I have no doubt that it will go spectacularly.

Our principal hiring committee, comprised of parents, staff and students, will be interviewing principal candidates with the district on May 13. We'll have news about that in just a few weeks.

My biggest piece of advice, to kids and staff (and to myself) is to continue to get enough rest. These next months are filled with anticipation and joy, and we want to be able to be present and energized for all of it. What rich lives we all have.

Fondly,
Pam



From Our Library ...



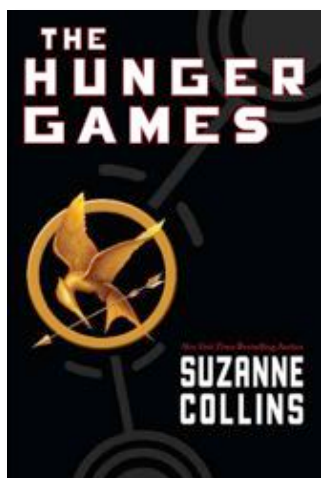
Melville Louis
Kossuth Dewey

The kids have spoken!



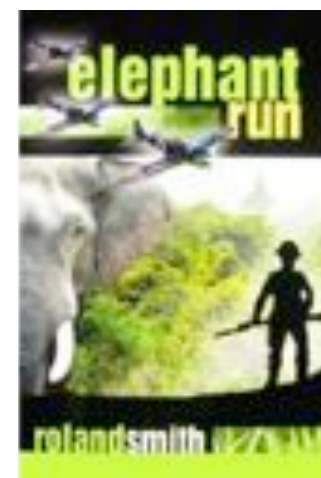
Students in Oregon, including MLC, voted for their favorite Oregon Reader's Choice Award books, and the results were both surprising and expected. The Junior Division (grades 4-6) belonged to "The Stonekeeper: Amulet, Book 1" by Kazu Kibuishi. The winner of the Intermediate Division (grades 7-9) was a surprise: "Elephant Run" by local Portland writer Roland Smith took the prize. No one raised an eyebrow when Suzanne Collins's "The Hunger Games" swept the Senior Division (grades 10-12), as it's been sweeping the nation and shows no signs of slowing!

MLC's 3rd and 6th graders have become experts in the Dewey Decimal Classification system. Ask your student today, or better yet, have her/him take you on a tour of this living system in our library or any Multnomah County Library. Melville Dewey's brilliant idea still works beautifully today. It was designed to be flexible, to allow for the addition of new topics as they were invented. His system of classifying similar things near each other allows for readers to browse from topic to topic, following their interests as well as learning about new things on adjacent shelves. Ask your student for an explanation of Dewey's 'hundreds' groups today.



As this goes to press, our Kx2 students are voting for the Patricia Gallagher picture book award! Sponsored by the Oregon Reading Association, this award has five nominees that will go head-to-head for the honor of being selected by students across Oregon as the best picture book. For a list of this year's nominees, go to <http://oregonread.org/gallagheraward11.html>. Students are revved up to vote for their favorites – and to try to convince others to change their minds. Come to MLC's library and borrow a copy of your student's favorite today! Thanks so much for all you do.

Kiva Liljequist, Media Specialist



GREETINGS FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE

Summer Scholars

Information and registration regarding the Summer Scholars program for current high school students will be available ONLINE early May. The link to the information is <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/education-options/736.htm>. Students will need to complete registration with me (Sandra) at MLC and then payment must be brought to Benson within 10 days to guarantee the spot. Rates for summer scholars is \$175/class unless student qualifies for Free/Reduced lunch, then the cost is \$25/class (a confirmation letter from our Nutrition Services worker must accompany payment). Dates for Summer Scholars are: Semester 1, June 27-July 18th; Semester 2, July 25- August 12th and all classes will be at Benson High School. Hours and class offerings can be found at the website noted above.

Walk + Bike Challenge

Oregon, are you ready to kick off the 2011 Walk + Bike Challenge? On May 1, students and families at over 130 elementary and middle schools around Oregon will kick off the fourth annual Walk + Bike Challenge, a friendly competition aimed at encouraging more kids and families to use active transportation to travel to and from school and throughout the neighborhood.

Nationwide, the rate of kids biking or walking to school has been on the decline since the 1970s while the risks to kids' physical health and well-being associated with inactivity have risen. But in Portland, the percentage of kids biking or walking to school has risen from 28% in 2006 to 39% in 2010.

This remarkable trend is a reflection of the public's commitment to investing in safe biking and walking routes, education and encouragement programs like the Walk + Bike Challenge. The trend is also seen in communities around the state, as Oregon is the national leader in overall participation in Walk + Bike events.

Sandra Tetzloff, Counselor



PTA Clothing Center

It's that time again....Thursday May 5th is MLC's day to volunteer at the PTA Clothing Center!

No experience or training needed. Volunteers sort clothing and assist kids and their families as they "shop" for clothing. (It's fun!) Shifts are 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. We need 3-5volunteers for each shift. To volunteer for a shift contact: Jenny Fleenor, 503.283.2997 or, jtfleenor@gmail.com

The PTA Clothing Center provides FREE clothing to kids (pre-K through 12th grade) in the Portland Public School system. If you are in need of clothing assistance, talk to MLC school secretary Kathleen Frutiger, kfrutiger@pps.k12.or.us, 503/916-5737.

Donations are welcome. Please leave clearly-labeled bags of clothes under the lost and found rack in the cafeteria.

Thanks,

Jenny Fleenor, MLC parent

❖ **Support the PPS Bond Measure and Levy:**
Contact MLC parent, Tanya March (march@pdx.edu) to do some phone banking & volunteer to help support for the PPS Bond Measure and Levy. Phone banking will take place at 1006 SE Grand St. on **May 10th**.

Events & Opportunities

Walk + Bike Challenge

Oregon schools are gearing up for the 4th annual Walk + Bike to School Challenge, a friendly competition that encourages students to walk and bike to school for the whole month of May. Walk + Bike Challenge month enables students, parents, teachers, and community leaders to raise awareness about the advantages of walking and biking. Healthy families using active transportation benefit everyone by reducing air pollution and health care costs by increasing neighborhood livability.

Last year, 60 schools and over 4,000 individuals participated in the event. We are preparing for record participation among elementary and middle schools in 2011 (so far 130 schools statewide will be participating). Participating high school students have access to the trip-tracking system used for the BTA's Bike Commute Challenge. This allows them to compare mileage and challenge their friends.

MLC is a unique community participating in the challenge because we come from all over the city and rely on cars, carpools, and TriMet to get to school. For one month, we would like to challenge the MLC community to use active means for getting to school. This could mean riding your bike, parking your car ¼ of a mile from school and walking in, or getting off the bus early and completing your journey on foot.

Print and fill out the weekly and monthly scorecards (emailed with this newsletter) to track how your student is getting to school each day. Turn in the weekly scorecards at the MLC office on Fridays for a prize! Turn in the monthly summary scorecard to your teacher on Tuesday, May 31st.

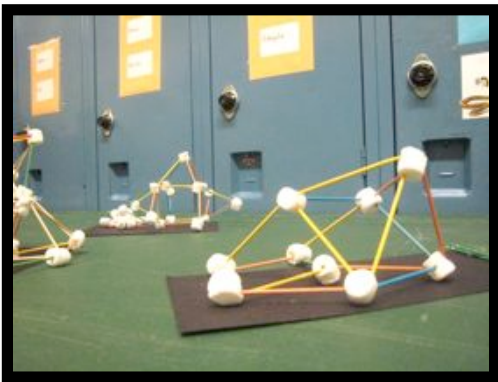
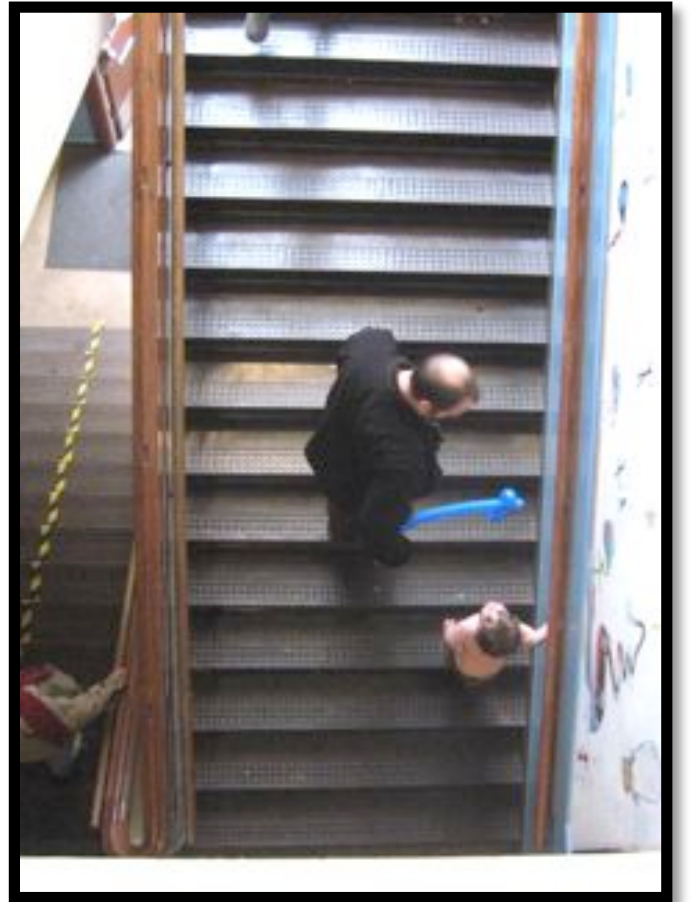
How can YOU participate?

Visit <http://portlandonline.com/transportation/index.cfm?c=40511> to find a family friendly map on how you can get to school using the safest routes.

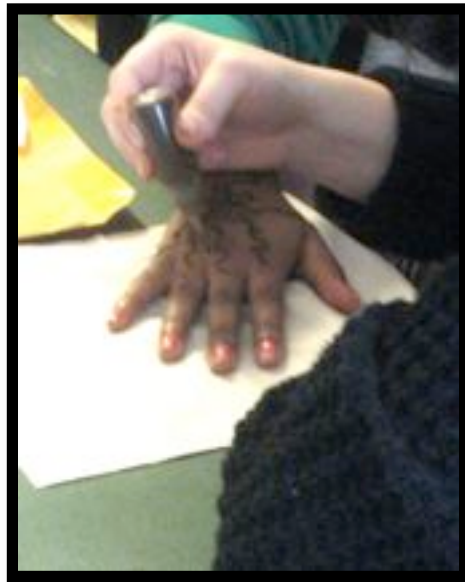
If you would like to organize a Walk + Bike train to school during the month of May, find a good location on the map and get the word out to other families/students to join you. Our students involvement is dependent upon parent support!

If you have questions, want to help organize a walk and/or bike train, would like to host the prize table on a Friday morning before school, have access to donated prizes/snacks for our prize table on Friday mornings (May 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th), please contact Heather Rensmith at hrensmith@gmail.com or 503-310-8542
Thank you!

Heather Rensmith



RENAISSANCE FAIRE 2011



Thanks to all the members of the MLC community for making this annual event possible.

MLC PTSA MEETING MINUTES

The meeting started at 7:10.

In attendance: Leigh Anne Scherer, Tanya March, Mary Franklin, Jacquelyn Martin, Lauren Nathe, Scott McClain, Kathy Couch, Bobbie Regan, Pam Shelly

Welcome and Introductions

Review of March Minutes: Kathy moved that the minutes from March be approved; Jacquelyn seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Jacquelyn presented the budget P&L and balance sheet. There are still a few outstanding auction payments coming in. We are closing out the Chase account. SCRIP on hand is now included as an asset.

Buy SCRIP

Bobbie Regan – PPS School Board

Bobbie introduced herself and presented information on the bond measure:

On the May 17th Ballot there are two measures: one is an operating levy to pay for teachers only; the other, a bond for upgrades to the buildings. The last bond was in 1995, haven't paid anything in 10 years; paid for Forest Park school, seismic upgrades to make sure hallways and front entryways were reinforced, that was the extent of the seismic work, accessibility upgrades, technology in the schools (four computers per class). Many schools/most schools built in the 40's; only built two schools since then: Forest Park and Rosa Parks. Nine schools will be rebuilt, improvements in 75 other schools. 85 schools on average 65 years old. There are 47,000 students in PPS, enrollment is raising. **85% of Portland parents send kids to PPS schools.**

A six year bond package. The six-year model is based on Seattle. The plan is to continue having bonds every six years; \$200 million in interest can be saved by going with a six-year rather than 30-year. Every other district in the area has bond, PPS is the only one without; tried to stay in the middle of how much they are asking.

45 schools still have oil burners, it takes seven hours a week just to operate, parts are no longer made. Natural gas boilers take about seven hours a year, 30% improvement in energy efficiency. Many electrical outlets cannot be used with modern technology. Covered play areas will be added to allow the necessary time for all students to meet the 50 minutes/day of PE mandated for grades 6-8. Many schools still have dangerous asbestos pipes. The Portland Business Alliance has supported these measures; will create 2-7,000 jobs, Parents and Alumni Association, Portland Police Association, American Heart Association, League of Women Voters. Bobbie shared the ads as well as a rap that Cleveland HS students put together.

Levy

Passed in 2000, renewed in 2006, it expires in June 2012. will retire it a year early saving money. Needed to put the Local Option Levy out now rather than November because it will be easier to plan for next year; this is the only way a local district can raise money. **12-15% of teachers will be paid out of local option. If it doesn't pass then those positions may be cut.** Cutting school days has an impact on all students, but particularly on juniors and seniors applying to colleges. Bobbie then answered questions related to the bond and levy. More help is needed with phone banking, canvassing to pick up ballots as it gets closer to the election days; looking for more donations to increase radio spots. can donate at www.portlandersforschools.com

Old Business

Blue Moon Night went well - lots in attendance.

Auction will have more follow-up in May.

Renaissance Faire: As of the PTSA meeting date, nachos, burgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers and Capri Suns were to be served. Volunteers were still needed. The HS planned to help with the food.

Nominating Committee: Still trying to identify a president (see note below)

New Business

The PTA **Clothing Closet** is on May 5th – at Marshall HS.

Staff Luncheon : June 15th

The **Principal selection committee** will meet candidates on May 13th.

Leigh Anne moved we adjourn, Pam seconded, all approved. Meeting adjourned.

The MLC PTSA needs an individual to fill one of the PTSA leadership positions (the position of president or secretary). Either position involves a two year commitment.

If you are interested in learning more about opportunities with the PTSA please contact the PTSA Nominating Committee: Tanya March, march@pdx.edu; Stephanie Brown, stephbro9@msn.com, or Scott McClain jsmccclain@lclark.edu, 503/841-9811.

We encourage you to contact us to learn more about the PTSA. Joining the PTSA is a great way to make new friends while helping out the school.

May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 HS students leave for Ashland	4 Site Council Meeting 3:15 Library	5 PTA Clothing Closet	6 HS students return	7
8	9 4x5 Trip to Pendleton Woolen Mills	10	11 6 th Grade Trip to Pendleton Woolen Mills	12 Talent Show	13 Principal Selection Interviews	14
15	16	17	18 4x6 Shanniko Expedition	19 3 rd Grade Exhibit 5:30-7pm PTSA Meeting 7pm (Childcare available)	20	21
22	23	24 7x8 Play Snow White Marimba Recital	25 Portfolio Presentations	26 3T Electives End Portfolio Presentations	27 4x6 Culminating Event	28
29	30 No School Memorial Day	31	1 Seniors Last Day Site Council Meeting 3:15 Library	2 Kx3 & 4x6 Portfolio Nights	3 Senior Kayak Trip 9:30 9x12 Performance 7pm	4 HS Graduation 2pm



MLC School Community

Get out the  **Vote!**

Our school
buildings
are in CRISIS.

Our children
need
small class sizes
and enough
teachers to be
successful.

**PHONE BANK
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
on
Tuesday, May 10th
From 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm
At the Portlanders for Schools
Campaign Office, 1006 SE
Grand, Suite 350

Sign up by emailing Tanya @ march@pdx.edu
or just show up!

Portland  Schools