



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 • November 2009

What's Inside!

- News from Sandra in the Counseling Office..... 2
- Solstice is Coming!..... 3
- Winter Craft Faire 3
- Cafe News..... 3
- MLC's Online Action..... 3
- MLC T-shirts for Sale 3
- October Minutes from PTSA 4
- MLC Events Calendar 5
- Library News 6
- November & December at MLC..... 7



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Judging by the volume of leaves and rain-water on the playground it looks like fall is officially here. For a couple of mornings each week during this time of year the leaf sweeping machine from the district vacuums the playground free of leaves early in the morning but in a short time the playground is covered again. The view of the trees, play structure and open space of Couch Park is a gift for MLC.

This is the time of year for the annual 4x6 outdoor schools. In October the sixth grade students were at Camp Arrah Wanna and Camp Numanu. The 4th and 5th grade students spent the week at the OMSI Camp Hancock Field Station. I think you would be pleased to see the educational activities in the outdoor setting and how engaged, focused and how excited the students are about learning. A huge thank you to the 4x6 grade team and chaperones who make these experiences possible.

The falling leaves and colder weather serves as a reminder that we are approaching the inclement weather season. I urge everyone to review emergency plans with your children in the event of a school closure, delayed opening or early dismissal. During those times phone lines may be busy or out of service, traffic may be snarled, public transportation may be

late or even canceled. In times like these communication and transportation is very difficult. If plans are made ahead of time it can really help to increase student safety and reduce stress.

We will soon be rolling out a new web page for MLC. We are working with the district to train all interested staff in this web project called the Red Dot migration. When it is completed our new web site will be more timely, user friendly and have links of interest to our community. It is expected that our new web site will be up and running in a few weeks.

Parent conference days are coming toward the end of this month. MLC has conference sessions scheduled for Monday evening November 23rd and all day and evening on Tuesday, November 24th. The school will be closed on Wednesday, November 25th, the day before Thanksgiving.

I want to thank all of you for the support, volunteering and words of encouragement. MLC is an awesome school we can all be proud of.

Regards,
Frank Scotto
Principal



News Sandra in the Counseling Office

Support Groups

I'll be starting some small support groups for students after the winter break. If your child needs extra support, please contact me at 503 916-6434 or stetzloff@pps.k12.or.us. I also have community resource books to help hook individuals and families up with needed resources.

K-8 Counseling Highlights

At the **K X 3 level**, I've been in the classrooms teaching students some calming techniques for big emotions. They are learning how to slow the breath, body and gain some focus.

At the **4 X 6 level**, students are being taught a mediation class called Conflict Managers that will continue the 2nd trimester. These mediators will work in pairs if there is a minor conflict to resolve. Younger students' conflicts are usually resolved fairly quickly with this process and this helps not only the disputants but also the mediators and teachers. Students learn some great communication and leadership skills and really enjoy helping the younger students.

At the **7 X 8 level**, we'll be moving into a busy season with high school forecasting on the horizon. 8th graders will be talking about the transfer process, MLC's high school program, about Pathways, transcripts and how credits work. 8th graders will also start the CIS (Career Information System), an online program where they do an interest inventory and explore different careers, relevant education and training requirements, salary outlook, etc. It's a pretty amazing program that they will use again in high school and can access on a home computer to show you.

High School Counseling News

- **PSAT** results should be sent in December.
- Some important time lines for college applications and financial aid/scholarships

The FAFSA is needed for most financial aid and scholarship requests. Complete the FAFSA online (the recommendation is "the sooner the better" and it's ok to do before tax returns are completed) in January. Don't forget that you can get assistance with the FAFSA at the College Night Monday, Nov. 23 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at various community locations. Check www.collegenight-nor.org for locations, hour and what to bring.

- **College application deadlines are looming:** December, January and some in February. Pay attention to these deadlines and have all application materials in on time. Please remind your seniors that teachers and staff need several weeks to complete recommendations. I am requiring students who want my recommendation to complete the MLC application survey on **Naviance** before I do a recommendation. Seniors received their Naviance codes and guidance to the Web site located at <https://connection.naviance.com/metrolc>

- **SAT Testing:** www.collegeboard.com (our school code is 380904)

SAT testing is coming up. Information is available at www.collegeboard.com (our school code is 380904).

Please take note of testing dates and be sure to pay attention to the registration deadlines. All late registration deadlines are approximately two weeks later with a fee.

Dec. 5, registration deadline Oct. 30

Jan. 23, registration deadline Dec. 15

March 13, registration deadline Feb. 4

May 1, registration deadline Mar. 25

June 5, registration deadline April 29

Testing accommodations for students with disabilities requires additional information from the Special Education specialist, so please keep this in mind and let Julie or Mike know ahead of time.

The NELA Center for Student Success is free and very knowledgeable about the whole **college and career search**. The NELA number is 503 488-6000, and you should call for an appointment.

• College reps coming to MLC

Save these dates to talk with representatives from various Oregon colleges and universities:

Nov. 9: University of Oregon

Nov. 10: Le Cordon Bleu

Nov. 12: Portland State University

Many colleges have **spring visitations** scheduled; check the college Web sites for dates. This is a great opportunity for seniors to help make that last minute decision and juniors to start the difficult process.

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





Get in Gear — It's Almost Solstice

We are beginning our planning for the 2009 Solstice Program. Students are brainstorming, designing and rehearsing for this year's event. As all of our sets and costumes are hand-made by students, we would appreciate any donations you have to spare. This includes: lights, fabric, anything sparkly; needles, thread, hot glue sticks, buttons, glitter, etc. You name it, we'll take it! Donations can be left in marked bags outside of the Art Room #106, near the entrance to the pool. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Bianca Espinosa



Winter Craft Faire on Solstice Day

Mark your calendars for Solstice and the Winter Craft Faire on Dec. 17.

Vendors and volunteers are needed.

For vendors, there is a cost of \$50 per table to be included in the fair. 100 percent of your sales belong to you.

The deadline for registration is Nov. 9

Contact Buff Medb at aurorasilks@gmail.com for more information.

Cafe News

PPS schools must implement a new policy from the United States Department of Agriculture and Child Nutrition (Oregon Department of Education Child Nutrition which states that juice may not be offered as a milk substitute. Currently there is no approved milk substitute available in Oregon. Students will not be required to take milk when they purchase lunch, if they do not drink milk. Students who do not want milk may choose from the other food groups offered to select at least three food groups.

As of Nov. 9, milk will be the only a la carte beverage sold in the K-5 and K-8 cafeterias. Juice will not be an option at lunch in order to encourage students to limit juice intake and eat more whole fruits as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. There is no limitation on beverages sent from home. Contact Shannon Stember at 503 916-3365 if you have questions.

Thanks,
Roxanne Ross
MLC Cafe, 503-916-5737

Be a Part of MLC's Online Action

Join the MLC all-school listserv and become a part of the online MLC community.

Go to www.groups.google.com/group/MLC_school to sign up.

Posts to the listserv may include:

- Issues, events, and topics related to MLC (such as meetings, days off, testing days, events, fundraisers, committees, etc.)
- Requests for information on a school-related topic (such as the Couch Park play ground, crosswalks, flu clinics, etc.)
- Community events and/or information from local community partners

See you online.



Wreath and Poinsettia

sales starting on November 2nd, ending November 23rd with pick up on December 3rd.

Minutes of PTSA October Meeting

PTSA Meeting October 22, 2009 7 p.m.

Meeting was called to order by Joyce Sjoberg at 7 p.m.

Attendance:

Michelle Mize, Ann Hargraves, Frank Scotto, Buff Medb Neretin, Mary Franklin, Laura Bullock, Tanya March, Emily Alexander, Leigh Anne Scherer, Joyce Sjoberg, Tammie Andreas, Jennifer Dawkins, Tammy O'Neill

Review of Minutes:

- Motion to approve minutes: Buff moves to approve
- Second: Emily
- Motion except minutes will be amended to reflect attendance at the last meeting

Treasure's Report Buff Mebd Neretin:

Not much to report as this is the beginning of the year, teachers are pulling together receipts and will be submitting them for the first of the year

- College Scholarships – Jared Cassel was paid a scholarship from 2 years ago
- Pizza Night – Still waiting on receipts, expenses and income will show as a net profit in the "All School Events" line item
- Reminder that we are re-visiting the budget in January

Principal's Report Frank Scotto:

- We looked at a summarization of state testing data in Reading, Math, Writing, Science; lowest in writing
- Writing is a focus this year, there has been (and will be more) professional development for staff and a focus in the classes; on November 5th at 7:00 there is a presentation for parents on the writing process and some of the things that have been going on in the school by Linda Christianson who has been leading some of the professional development for the teachers; about a month ago there was an "Everybody Writes" activity for all students K-12 based on a common story
- Historically MLC has scored "Exceptional" on the state report card which

is based in part on the test scores but also other areas such as attendance, safety, etc.; the criteria for the state report cards is changing slightly

- The Staff, Site Council and MLC PLC (Professional Learning Community) have looked at the data in more detail to make decisions and there was a group process to write the school improvement plan
- **Flu:** typically about 10% of students are out sick; this week Monday 62 absent (roughly 15%), Tuesday 60, Wednesday 60, Thursday 46 ... there is no way to really know if this is due to the flu or other illnesses; the suggestion is to follow common recommendations for flu prevention and care; PPS will be changing out the soap dispensers to get rid of battery operated ones so they will work more regularly; there will be 5 flu shot clinics in PPS schools this fall, MLC is not one of those schools, the actual sites are listed on the main PPS website
- The High School is taking an extended field trip for the first time in memory; will be gone 3 days and 2 nights next week, teachers have worked very hard to put together a great program for the students

Old Business:

September Parking Lot Items:

- Joyce suggested tabling most items as they are on the agenda for new business or next month for fundraising
- **Scholarships:** staff members have come up with scholarship guidelines and have been implementing those; fall trips are nearly over and we should have a better idea of where we are at with how much has been expended at next, Kathleen is track-

ing what is spent; we are also tracking percentages of the trips needing scholarships to help predict how much might be needed in the spring; there was a suggestion that it might be more helpful to track monthly rather than twice a year so that we can have a better idea of where we are at for the year and make this part of the Treasure's Report, Buff will talk with Kathleen to see if this is possible

- Suggestion that there should be more information on the website of what to bring the first day of school; Could this be added on the website for next year? Frank will ask teams to submit those for next year
- Flat Screen to read updates ... maybe this could go to auction committee as a possible paddle raise
- Room Parents wanted for each class to spread information to each family member in the class and to be link between PTSA and the parents; Buff will attend the next staff meeting to help elicit volunteers; sign up if interested
- Standing Committees: there are lists to sign up for particular committees (Fundraising, Hospitality, Membership, Community Building); the Friday PTSA meetings will be focused on committee work; there was a suggestion that there be a Building Committee, perhaps it could be a sub-committee or a special committee for a shorter period of time

New Business:

- **Crosswalk:** Scott spoke with several people at the city, they agreed to paint a crosswalk if the school agrees to staff it; students can staff it, but Frank suggested having adults staff the crosswalk until people get used to the idea, there is a leadership group of KCLC students who might be willing to take that on as a project; Frank will write a letter agreeing to staff a crosswalk 8:20 to 8:40 am & 2:55-3:15 pm; we would need to get signs and vests, there may be an organization that will provide these or the school can purchase them. Scott also asked about a flashing light to slow traffic ... it is quite expensive



... maybe there are other groups interested in helping with this financially?

- **Communications:** How can PTSA both send and receive information effectively?
- Discussed a Google group list-serve, Constant Contact (\$72 for the year), Big Tent (website to post calendar, sign in sheets), the Newsletter (news-4mlc@yahoo.com to submit items)
- Website – PPS is re-doing all the websites for the schools to a common provider/format, multiple staff members will be trained on how to maintain it; perhaps PTSA can have a link or page on the website
- A survey was done to see how parents want to receive information – most want to receive emails
- After much discussion it was decided to move forward with the Google group, Buff will send out another invite with the proper link, will also

move forward with the Constant Contact membership, Kathy Couch will be the administrator, will hold off on the Big Tent idea until we know more about the school website

Upcoming Events:

- The Community Dance will be next Friday; there is a meeting Tuesday night at 8:00 at the school; looking for volunteers, please attend the meeting if interested; there was a discussion about safety and how to secure areas and limit access to what can be supervised adequately; volunteers will work in shifts to cover doors, serve refreshments, etc.; remember this is a family PTSA event not a school event, students can't leave without parents
- **Winter Craft Faire** – date changed to December 17th (same day as the Solstice Celebration); there will be a \$50 charge for tables (due November 9) there are already 12-13 vendors signed up, all but \$8 of the table charge will

be profit; there will be \$1 admission; information will be going out via email; adult MLC person must staff the table; looking for volunteers; will be a small catalog with information

- **SCRIP Update** – still looking for a few volunteers, looking at a November start date; will have a table at the Community Dance to place orders and for more information

Agenda Items for next time:

- Proposal for a Pet Parade from students
- SCRIP
- Wreath Sale
- Willamette Valley Fruit Company (pies, cobblers) perhaps link to Craft Fair
- How do we keep informing our community about issues/concerns in the park?

Meeting adjourned at 8:45

MLC Events Calendar ■ At-a-Glance

Date	Time	Event
November 2		Wreath Sales Begin
Tuesday, Nov. 3		Picture Retakes
Wednesday, Nov. 4	3:15 p.m.	Site Council
Thursday, Nov. 5	7 p.m.	Family Write Night
Friday, Nov. 6		NO SCHOOL
November 9 – 13		Book Faire
Wednesday, Nov. 11		NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, Nov. 17	10:00 a.m.	Visitor Program for prospective students
Friday, Nov. 20	12:30 p.m.	PTSA Meeting – Library
Monday, Nov. 23	4 – 8:00 p.m.	Conferences
Tuesday, Nov. 24	8: 00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Conferences Only / NO SCHOOL
Nov. 24 – 27		NO SCHOOL
Wednesday, Dec. 2	3:15 p.m.	Site Council
December 2 – 3		Wreath Pick-up
Friday, Dec. 4		NO SCHOOL
Monday, Dec. 7		Begin 2nd Trimester
Thursday, Dec. 10	7 p.m.	PTSA Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 16		2nd Trimester Elective Signups
Thursday, Dec. 17	12:30 p.m.	Solstice
Thursday, Dec. 17	3–7 p.m.	Craft Faire



MLC T-shirts for Sale

MLC t-shirts for all ages are now available for \$8. Check in with Deanne Larsell, MLC PE teacher, on Wednesdays or Thursdays after school to buy one.

Jump ropes are also on sale to raise money for PE equipment.

From Our Library...

M L C L I B R A R Y

YOUR FRIENDLY LIBRARY STAFF:

- Kiva Liljequist, Media Specialist. I work mornings, Monday through Friday
- Robert Kohl, Library Assistant. I work afternoons, Monday through Friday

THINGS WE'D LIKE:

Crib sheets for our reading mattress

Couch arm slip covers

Subscription to New York Times

Subscription to the Oregonian

THINGS WE'VE RECEIVED:

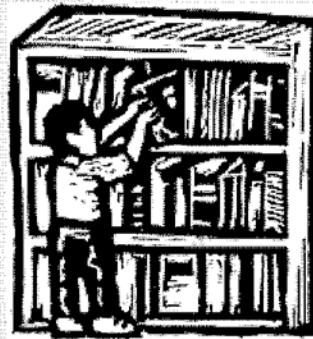
A big thank you for the love seat donation!!!

MEET ROBERT, OUR NEW LIBRARY ASSISTANT!

Hi! My name is Robert Kohl, and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to join the MLC as a library assistant. I have previous PPS volunteer library experience as well as professional experience working with the district library catalogers.

My family and I live in northeast Portland. My wife Kathryn is a librarian and our daughter is in 9th grade at Grant High School. Besides the MLC library, I also work at A Children's Place bookstore. In addition to my work activities, I'm currently pursuing a Masters in Library Science through the University of Illinois as a distance-learning student.

If you can't make it to the library or the bookstore, you can sometimes catch up with



Come, and take choice of all my library,
And so beguile thy sorrow.
-William Shakespeare
from *Titus Andronicus*

me onstage at the Keller Auditorium performing with the Portland Opera Chorus.

When not working or studying, I enjoy cooking and baking. The kitchen is usually either the messiest or cleanest room in our house, but definitely the busiest one.

Thanks to everyone that I've already met who have made me feel so welcome here! I'm looking forward to meeting each and every one of the students, staff, parents, volunteers, etc...who make up the MLC community.

I love to talk about books and hope that you'll stop by the library for introductions and to tell me about your latest favorite read.

See you soon!

NEED TO RENEW? DO IT ONLINE!

If you ever want to know what you (or your student) has checked out of the library, you can always log in to your student account and check. Want to renew items from home? No problem. Simply log in to your student account through the MLC library catalog, located on

the library page of the school web site: www.mlc-k12.com Click on The Library, and click on the MLC Library Catalog. At the top right, click on Log In and follow the directions: enter your first and last name, and where it says "Barcode", simply enter your six-digit student

number, the same one you use when you log into any computer in the library or the computer lab. You can renew any of the items you have checked out, and it will post your old due date, new due date, and how many times you've renewed. Give it a try!



November ■ December at MLC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	2 Wreath Sales Begin	3 Picture Retakes	4 Site Council 3:15	5 Family Write Night 7 pm	6 NO SCHOOL	
	9	10	11 NO SCHOOL	12	13	
		———— Book Faire (9th through 13th) ————				
	16	17 Visitor Program for prospective students 10 am	18	19	20 PTSA Meeting 12:30 pm	
	23 Conferences 4 – 8 pm	24 Conferences Only 8 am – 8 pm	25 NO SCHOOL	26 — Happy Thanksgiving	27	
	30	December 1	2 Site Council 3:15 pm —— Wreath Pick Up ——	3	4 NO SCHOOL	
	7 Begin 2nd Trimester	8	9	10 PTSA Meeting 7 pm	11	
	14	15	16 2nd Trimester Elective Signups	17 Solstice 12:30 pm Craft Faire 3 – 7 pm	18	
	21	22	———— Winter Break ————		24	25
	28	29	———— Winter Break ————		31	1
	4 Classes Resume	5	6	7	8	