

MLA TK/KINDER NEW FAMILY INFORMATION PACKET

Welcome to the Melrose Leadership Academy! 2019-2020

During your first year at MLA it will feel like there are a lot of new things to keep track of. Not to worry. The parents always feel this way, and the kids still do great.

We've prepared some information to help you get oriented. It will also be helpful to attend the following events at the beginning of the school year:

- **TK/Kinder New Family Information Session** where we will go over the information in this handout and answer questions. This will take place at the **MLA Welcome Day**, which is **August 10, 2019 from 10am to 2pm** at the Maxwell campus. There will be one morning session and one afternoon session. Both sessions are identical, come to either one.
- If you can't make it to the *Welcome Day*, we will hold another **New Family Information Session at Coffee on the Curb**, on the front steps of MLA, on **Sept 13th: 8:45am to 9:30am**. Teachers will be setting up their classrooms on the *Welcome Day*. Please do not enter the classrooms. There is a lot to get done, and teachers need this time to prepare their rooms without interruptions. You will get a chance to meet your teacher formally during the *Back to School Night*, which takes place during the first couple weeks of school.

During the first week of school, the teachers have a lot to pay attention to with taking care of our children and making sure their transition is smooth. We know you have many questions. Please find other parents to ask before asking your child's teacher. There will be former TK and Kinder parents available in the hallway during the first week to help answer your questions. You can identify them by their Hawaiian leis. Good luck with the transition, we are so happy to have you!

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE THE SCHOOL YEAR STARTS

Registration

You have enrolled your student, but you still need to register them for school. This needs to be done every year. **Registration day for TK/K for 2019 is Monday, August 5th from 10-2**. Registration for other grades will be happening during the same time frame on Tuesday and Wednesday that week. If you absolutely cannot go on August 5th, you may go to a registration day for one of the other grades. There will also be a registration make-up table during the PTSA Welcome Day on August 10th. You may also send a family member to register your child if you are not able to attend yourself.

- There are several forms that need to be filled out online for registration. If you need help with the forms or

need a computer to work on, there will be staff and computers available at school on registration day.

- To prefill out the forms before registration day, you can log into <https://ousdapply.schoolmint.net/signin>. If you went through the Options Process this past year for K or TK, you will already have an account set up with School Mint. If you did not, you will need to set up your account and create a password to get started.
- Once you are in your home page on School Mint, find your student's name and click the green "Register" button. On the next page you will see the following screen with three sections. Click the white arrows to the right to access the forms to fill out and submit.

Application Grade Level: Transitional Kindergarten
School: Melrose Leadership Academy TK-5

Please click on each section below and fill in all requested and required registration information.

Your school may require some forms to be printed and submitted to the school's office. After you submit your forms, a link for the PDF version of your forms will be available for printing on the Student Dashboard.

* = Required

- 2019-20 OUSD Policies and Signature Page
- 2019-20 Student Acceptable Use of Technology Consent Form
- 2019-20 Student Emergency Card

Cancel Save and Continue Later Submit Forms

- If you are able to fill out the forms in advance, it will save you time on registration day, but you still need to attend fill out additional, MLA-specific forms, in person.

Vaccinations, Medical and Dental Exam Records

You are required to submit vaccination records and proof that your child has had both a dental and medical exam. Here is a link to a page explaining the medical forms OUSD requires: <https://www.ousd.org/Page/158>

- TK, Kindergartners and 7th graders need to have their immunization records up to date (7th graders need to get a Tdap booster).
- PLEASE NOTE: If you do not provide the OUSD required vaccination records and proof of a medical exam on registration day, you will not be able to register your child. This is nonnegotiable. No shots, no school. You have through the first year of school to submit your dental exam forms to the office.

Before and After School Care

If you are a working parent and you need care for your child before or after school hours, MLA has partnered with "Community Bridges," run by Love.Learn.Success, which operates a childcare business on the MLA campus for a fee. Scholarships funded by the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) are available. You can ask Love.Learn.Success for more information on scholarships. Here is how to sign up for before and aftercare BEFORE the year starts:

- After School Program registration occurs during the spring of the previous school year. At this time, the program for 2019-2020 is full.

- You can email the program director, Armando Garcia, with questions (armando@lovelearnsuccess.org).
- Community Bridges at MLA is a great program that has enrichment classes integrated into it. All children take the same enrichment classes. During the 2018- 2019 school year they offered: capoeira, art, samba, Mexican folk dancing (Ballet Folklorico), and yoga. The courses can change from year to year.
- How it works:
 - The children are picked up from their classrooms by their aftercare teacher and stay with them until you sign them out for the day. They will also do this on minimum days.
 - Please note that aftercare doesn't operate when school is closed all day. Afterschool will also take 3 planned days off this year for professional development (calendar TBD). Plan ahead for all-day childcare on those days.
 - All children should be picked up by 6pm to avoid late fees. Check Love.Learn.Success' website for more information regarding these fees.
 - During aftercare, the children are grouped by age and are assigned the same "home" teacher for the entire year.
 - Each class rotates through enrichment activities during the week. A calendar outside the cafeteria will inform you of where to find your child (by class) at any given time during the aftercare.
 - Before care is a smaller group and all age students are grouped together with the same teacher in classroom #6. The TK and Kinder children are walked to their classrooms when the bell rings in the morning.
 - Snacks are provided at aftercare by Love.Learn.Success.

Dress code

Students are expected to come to school every day dressed according to the following code:

- An MLA t-shirt (available at the school for purchase)
- Any color pants/jeans/skirt – must be plain (no writing or logos)
- Any jacket/sweater
- Safe footwear -- students will have multiple opportunities to play outside during the day; please ensure they are wearing safe and comfortable shoes.
- Parents of TK and K students should also bring a bag with a change of clothes that can be left in the classroom. Please leave the change of clothes in your child's backpack until the second week of school when all children will receive their final placements. Please check with your permanent teacher on how they want you to handle the extra clothing.

Please note: The last school day of every month is a free dress day.

School T-shirt purchases

T-shirts are available for purchase at the PTSA Welcome Day on August 10, 2019, at Registration Day and from Melrose during the first week of school in the office.

- They will be available to purchase for \$10.00 on August 10th.
- Although the children are requested to wear the school t-shirts every day, please don't worry if you are not

able to get your shirts by the first day of school. You may purchase them in the office after the first day of school.

School Supplies

You do not need to send school supplies with your child. MLA provides these to the students so all have access to the same things. Parents may be asked at some point during the year by their child's teacher to donate something specific to the whole class.

School hours and calendar

- MLA's electronic calendar is listed on the website: <https://melroseleadershipacademy.org/calendar> and also posted on the bulletin board inside the school entry.
- School is in session from 8:30-2:45 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Every Wednesday is a minimum day and school hours are from 8:30-1:00. *There are several additional minimum days throughout the year, including the **entire first and last week** of school.*
- Pay attention to the MLA calendar as there are many days the school is closed in addition to government and OUSD holidays. Put these on your calendar before the school year starts and start thinking of childcare plans for those days.
- If your child is not enrolled in aftercare and you are not at their classroom door at 1pm on minimum days and 2:45pm on regular days, your child will be taken to the office to wait for you.
- All late arrivals (after 8:30am) must enter through the front door on Fleming and complete a tardy slip with Ms. Adriana. Your student will then present that slip to their teacher when they arrive to class.

Breakfast and Lunch at MLA

- All children are offered a free breakfast at MLA. It is served from 8:10-8:25 in the cafeteria. All TK students go together as a class to eat in the cafeteria around 8:40.
- The monthly school breakfast and lunch menus can be found here: <https://www.ousd.org/Page/11930>.
- All students need to bring or purchase lunch each day. Send your child with a water bottle with their name on it as well. In the early fall, the classrooms can get very hot, it is important for the kids to stay hydrated.
- We are a peanut free school. Do not send peanuts or peanut butter, there are severely allergic children in the school you will be putting at risk.
- MLA also requests that you do not include chips, candy or soda in your child's lunch.
- The children have an opportunity to eat many times during the day. It is helpful if you also include 2 small snacks that are easy to grab from their lunch during a snack break.
- To purchase lunches and/or milk in the cafeteria, your child can either pay cash or you can sign up for an online, prepaid, spending account at My School Bucks (www.myschoolbucks.com). Once you have opened up an online account, when your child picks out what they want in the cafeteria, they check in with the cafeteria attendant and their purchases will be deducted from their account. The current cost for lunch is \$2.75 and milk is \$0.75. Cafeteria staff are there every morning through the afternoon, and are happy to answer your questions when they are not serving children.
- Many families qualify for free or reduced lunch based on income. On Registration Day, everyone will fill out a form to apply, whether you qualify or not. This helps our school qualify for state funding based on overall

student financial need. If you miss registration day, you can go to: <https://mealapps.ousd.org/> and complete the application.

School Website

Our website has lots of useful information on it. Check it out at: <https://melroseleadershipacademy.org/>

Parent Handbook

The Parent Handbook can be found on our website (scroll down to find it):

<https://melroseleadershipacademy.org/>

Communications

You will find that there is a lot of information in many different places. Here are the main areas to pay attention to:

- We will send the MLA Bulletin home every two weeks with important information from the Principal's Office, from the PTSA, and from After School. You can access the MLA Bulletin via your email, Talking Points, the MLA Website, and Facebook.
- MLA uses both email and a program called Talking Points to send messages home to families. Please download Talking Points and sign up for your child's class.
- You may also receive phone calls through an automated system called Robocalls. When you register your child on registration day, by providing a cell phone number, you will be automatically registered to receive text and audio announcements from MLA. You can opt out at any time. To register a second parent/guardian's cell phone to receive messaging please sign up with the front office. OUSD also sends out informational district-wide robocalls.
- Our Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/MelroseLeadershipAcademy>. Please "like" and follow to receive current announcements, reminders and pictures of current school activities.
- You will receive emails from the room parent in your child's classroom.
- Bulletin boards flanking the cafeteria doors are kept up to date with the latest information (English on the left, Spanish on the right).
- Our website <https://melroseleadershipacademy.org/> contains a variety of information.
- Our MLA School calendar can be found online at: <https://melroseleadershipacademy.org/calendar> and can also be found on the bulletin board in the entry hallway
- The OUSD School Calendar can be found at: <https://www.ousd.org/districtcalendar>
- Your classroom will have its own bulletin board outside its door - always check for current announcements or sign up sheets
- Sometimes there are letters from your child's teacher, OUSD, the PTSA, school, or principal that will get sent home with children in their backpacks, please check their bags at least once a week!

Our Teachers

Our TK and Kinder teachers are awesome. Don't worry about leaving your kid with someone you haven't met yet,

they are very competent. It takes a special person to teach 25, 4-6 year olds all day!! In our experience, the first year in any school system is challenging and frustrating for many parents – however, the kids usually do great.

Please remember to give the teachers the courtesy and respect you would want given to you. There are many “broken links” in the public school system and it is tempting to take out our frustrations on our teachers because they are the first and last people we see at school each day. Please don’t displace your frustration on them, they are doing their best. There will be “seasoned parents” in the Kinder hallway the first week of school to help all new families with this transition and to answer questions. Look for people wearing Hawaiian leis.

- **Meet the Teachers**

- **TK, Portable 19: Maestra Vilma Serrano** will be returning for a 5th year of TK in the 2019-2020 school year. She was previously a preschool teacher in Los Angeles. She looks forward to meeting her new students in the fall.
- **Kinder, Room 5: Maestra Amara Schoenberg** has 6 years of Kinder teaching experience, 4 of them at MLA. Her Argentine mother raised her bilingually, and she has traveled and lived throughout Latin America and Spain. She has a Master’s Degree from the University of Granada in Spain.
- **Kinder, Room 6: Maestra Emily Bean** has been teaching kindergarten for a decade, most of those years at MLA. She is originally from Washington, DC and lived in Argentina where she perfected her Spanish language skills. She has a Bachelor’s degree from Columbia University and earned her teaching credential and a Masters of Education through San Francisco State University.
- **Kinder, Room 7: Monica Romero Garcia** joined MLA in 2018. She has 14 years of teaching experience; 5 years teaching in Oakland. She is from Oaxaca, Mexico and attended the Universidad de Gran Cabañas, España.

During the first week of school, the teachers are busy getting to know 25 new-to-them children and managing their classroom. Please don’t expect to have a one-on-one conversation with the teachers until at least the second week of school. After the second week of school, communications can happen after school, in person, via email, or phone (pending approval from the teacher). Morning meetings need to be scheduled beforehand with the teacher.

You will get a chance to meet your teacher and tour your child’s classroom at *Back to School Night*.

DRIVING TO SCHOOL AND DROPPING OFF YOUR CHILD

Safety Patrol and Student Drop Off Map

To manage the traffic and create the safest way to allow everyone to drop off their children, MLA has a Safety Patrol (made up of 3rd graders) who assist children getting out of their cars at two drop-off zones. TK through 3rd grade drops off on Monticello and 6th through 8th grades drop off on Fleming Street. Parents are required to help with the Safety Patrol. Each classroom is assigned 3 weeks each year to assist the Safety Patrol with managing morning drop off zones.

Most TK and Kinder parents park in the surrounding neighborhood and walk their children in. Please be aware

that many of the older families do curb drop off on Fleming and Monticello, so try to avoid these streets in the morning and after school while trying to find a parking space in the neighborhood. There is a suggested traffic pattern direction map by grade level to disperse the volume of traffic during drop off and pick up. Please read and follow the Student Drop Off map while driving near the school during those hours. The drop-off map can be found here: [www.https://tinyurl.com/MLATrafficMap](https://tinyurl.com/MLATrafficMap).

Entering the School

There is minimal adult supervision on the playground in the morning before school. There is one staff member present, only for emergencies. Please stay with your child and support them with lining up. Do not leave your child on the playground unless you have arranged supervision with another parent.

- If your child participates in Before Care, you may walk them into the building and sign them in to program beginning at 7:30am through the front door on Fleming.
- Starting at 8am, both entrances (on Fleming and Monticello) will be open. Students must go straight to the cafeteria to eat breakfast or straight to the playground to play. Students may not be inside the hallways or classrooms before 8:30am; there is no supervision in the hallways before 8:30am.
- The first bell will ring at 8:25am. Students will then enter the building and line up outside the door of their classroom at 8:30am.
- All late arrivals (after 8:30am) must enter through the front door on Fleming and complete a tardy slip with Ms. Adriana. Your student will then present that slip to their teacher when they arrive in class.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM LOGISTICS

Classrooms

TK students are assigned to **Portable 19** for the entire year. Go straight through the cafeteria (from the Fleming Street door) and out to the patio. You will find it right outside the door on the other side of the patio. TK parents are welcome to stay with their child through the TK breakfast in the cafeteria, which ends at about 9:00am. This is a great way to meet the other TK parents, make new friends and get an idea of how the school day starts.

The three Kinder classrooms are located on the Monticello Street, upper playground side of the school: **classrooms 5, 6, and 7**. On the first day of school, Kinder parents may enter the classroom for 5-10 minutes to help get your child settled. The rest of the year, you will say goodbye to your child at the door. The Kinder hallway is extremely crowded on the first day/week. Whole families like to come to participate in this exciting time. If you have younger children, it is advised to leave strollers at home.

On PTSA *Welcome Day* on Saturday, August 10th, Kinder families will find out what classroom their children will be assigned to. For those who are not able to attend the *Welcome Day*, please come to the cafeteria on the first day of school to find out your child's classroom assignment.

- Teach your child to hang up their backpacks and coats outside their classrooms (for the Kinders) and in the classroom (for the TKs) and remove their lunches and place them in the lunch wagons in front of their classroom door. All parents should help the students stand calmly in line until their teacher opens the door at 8:35 am. If you are signed up for before care - you may drop your child off with the before care teacher in classroom 6 and you do not need to stay - the before care teacher will bring them to their regular teacher.
- Children signed up for aftercare will be picked up by their aftercare teacher at their regular classroom and will be taken to their aftercare classroom.
- Each TK and K classroom has its own bathroom so children do not need to leave the classroom for bathroom breaks.

Kinder Camp

The first week of school for Kindergarteners is different from the rest of the year, and is known as *Kinder Camp*. The teachers rotate the students through two of the three Kinder classrooms during this week. The Kinder children will be in their first classroom with their first assigned teacher on Monday and Tuesday and their second classroom with a second Kinder teacher on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The teachers use this time to evaluate the students for skills, language and temperament and use this information to create balanced classrooms for the remainder of the year. The final classroom assignments are made late Friday afternoon of the first week or no later than Monday morning, August 19, 2019. Please look for the announcement during the first week of school of how they will inform you of your child's permanent Kinder classroom for the year.

During the first week, please sign your Kinder child up for a short evaluation session with their teacher (sign-up lists will be posted on the bulletin boards outside each classroom's door). Put your child's name on the list where your child will be attending class on Monday and Tuesday of that first week. The evaluation gives the teachers a sense of what academic skills children already possess, their language abilities and temperament. This is a one-on-one evaluation between the student and teacher without a parent or guardian present. If your child is in aftercare, please inform the teacher so that they may retrieve them for the evaluation.

What to Expect Throughout the Year

- Homework
 - TK does not have homework assignments.
 - Once the Kinder classes have been assigned, your teacher will begin to send home a folder each week with a class newsletter, school announcements and a homework assignment. Your child (with your assistance) has a week to finish 4 simple segments and turn it back in the following Monday. Changes may be made to the homework routine this year. If so, your child's teacher will clarify at *Back to School Night*.
- Daily classroom schedule
 - You can find a typical day's schedule in the Parent Handbook.
- Room parents
 - Each teacher will pick one or two parents to be the main point of communication between the school and the other parents in their class. This person will preferably be bilingual so they can send all communications in both Spanish and English.
 - You can inform your teacher if you would like to be considered for this role at Back to School Night. Once

your teacher chooses the room parents, she will send out an announcement to the entire class.

PARENT PARTICIPATION IN THE MLA COMMUNITY

The whole school needs help, and whatever your skills are, they are useful here. You can pitch in on the weekends, on field trips, in the classroom, help with fundraising, the gardens, repairs and more. If you can think of a way to make the school better, you can make it happen—you can make a big impact here with your skills. Please attend the volunteer orientation and read the Parent Handbook to learn more. The **Volunteer Orientation** will take place on a school night evening during the first few weeks of school. Once this year's calendar has been set, you can find this and other upcoming dates on the MLA's (Google) School Calendar on our website. Below we've listed some of MLA's parent organizations that are always welcoming more volunteers:

Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)

Join the PTSA! We are a parent community that organizes events, volunteer work and raises additional funding for the school. We are working to make sure that all our kids have the opportunity to realize their potential inside and outside of the classroom. We also sponsor **Coffee on the Curb** every month. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and pastries on the curb in front of the Fleming Street door after drop off to meet other parents, hear live announcements, and sign up for upcoming events – 2nd Friday of the month, 8:35am.

The fundraising we do provides for music and art programs, field trips, scholarships for the aftercare program and other in-class necessities. Every child at the school benefits from this. We currently supplement the OUSD budget for MLA with approximately \$200 per kid each year. For more information and to find out about meetings, please check out the website: <http://www.mlaptsa.org/>.

The PTSA has a number of fundraising arms:

- **Cada Familia (Every Family)**. This is how you can donate directly to the PTSA fund. Please consider donating via a monthly auto donation or one time donation. We know that not every family is able to give much and some are able to give much more; whatever you can donate is valued and will be put to good use for your child and their friends! If every family gave between \$5/month and \$50/month we would have a good working budget. To donate, click on the yellow "Donate Now" button at the bottom of our webpage: <https://melroseleadershipacademy.org/>.
- **Two major fundraisers for the PTSA occur each year** and require many volunteers. Keep an eye out for announcements to help on both of these events. The major fundraisers at MLA are:
 - Fall Dance-a-thon
 - Spring Online Auction and Parent's Night Out Party
- **Passive income** (a way to give MLA money while doing things you would do anyway):
 - **Amazon Smile** (<https://smile.amazon.com/>). Sign up to donate a percentage of your purchases from Amazon to MLA. To register, go to the Amazon Smiles page (www.smile.amazon.com), then select Melrose Leadership Academy PTSA as your organization. The only tricky thing here is that each time you shop on Amazon, *you need to make sure you are on your designated Amazon Smile page* (the tab icon will

be orange, not white and it will say “Supporting: Melrose Leadership Academy PTSA” right under the search box.) The rest is just the same as making any other Amazon purchase. Simple!

- **E-Scrips** (<http://www.escrip.com/>). An online platform that helps direct a percentage of your shopping to MLA. You create an account and can make purchases at a variety of stores and restaurants. A percentage of your purchase will be directed to MLA. Check it out!
- **Your Employer’s Matching Gifts**. Please check with your employer if they match donations. The PTSA has an active 501c3 number which qualifies them as a non-profit. You can have your employer match your monthly Cada Familia donation.

MLA Grow

MLA Grow also raises money for MLA through grant writing. It is a separate 501c3 which searches out and applies for grants for school supplies, special classes, new gardens, etc. If you have experience in grant writing, please volunteer your services. If you don’t have experience, but are interested in helping, please volunteer your services!

School Site Council (SSC)

The School Site Council is made up of teachers, parents and classified employees. This group works with the principal to develop, review and evaluate school plans and the school budget.

Padres Unidos

Padres Unidos is a space for Spanish-speaking parents to get informed about school activities, ask questions and create initiative with each other and the school through engagement. In the past, it has also been used for computer literacy, parent leadership and an overall parent support group. Please check the school calendar for the next Padres Unidos meeting.

Families of the African Diaspora (FoAD)

One of MLA’s goals is to ensure that families of African descent make up 25% of the student population. To make this a reality, FoAD works to support recruitment events and support current families from the Diaspora to increase student retention.

Volunteering in the Classroom

Many teachers appreciate having help in their classrooms. However, the TK and K teachers request that **you do not volunteer in the classroom until after the 4th week of school**. This gives your child a chance to settle in without you and for them to get to know their teacher.

Some teachers don’t need or want parents volunteering in the classroom as they have found it to sometimes be more challenging than helpful. If you want to help, please ask your child’s teacher what you can do that would be

most helpful to them.

If you would like to volunteer in the classroom and your teacher doesn't need help, you may volunteer in another classroom that does need help. We can also always use help each Wednesday morning after school starts at **Power Hour**, where parents get together to help teachers with stapling and other projects that have direct impact on their classrooms.

- **MLA/OUSD Volunteer requirements to work with the children or in the classrooms:** There are special requirements if you plan to drive children on field trips or work in the classroom; you must be fingerprinted and TB tested. If your documentation status is uncertain, do not get fingerprinted. There will be many other ways you can still help, (like Power Hour) we promise! In order to get your OUSD volunteer identification badge:
 - *Sign up* at the Oakland School Volunteers website (<https://www.oaklandedfund.org/volunteer/>).
 - *Get fingerprinted.* There will be someone available to fingerprint you at the *Welcome Day* before school starts as well as on the *Back to School Night*. The fee is \$20 and is on a sliding scale. They submit the results to Oakland School Volunteers for you.
 - *Get a TB Test.* You can get a TB test at your own doctor or at several clinics around the Bay Area. If you are at low risk for TB, OUSD allows you to fill out a form with your doctor in lieu of a TB test.
 - *Submit your TB results and send a photo.* You can submit the results, along with a photo for your identification badge to the Oakland School Volunteers site. Once your fingerprinting and TB test results are in and they have received your photo, they can issue you a badge and you are clear to start working at the school. For questions, please email Lilly of Oakland School Volunteers (lilly@oaklandedfund.org).

MLA FAMILY COMMUNITY EVENTS

There are a number of events that happen outside of school hours that celebrate and grow our community or applaud our kids and their achievements. There are also school work days where we take on projects to beautify our school. Please look at the school calendar for these dates. Here is a partial list of the events:

- **Back to School Night** - Meet your child's teacher, tour their classroom and hear about the upcoming year's curriculum – Evening
- **Children's movie nights** - Join the community in the cafeteria for a free movie night. Bring a blanket, some pillows, and your friends. Popcorn and drinks are usually offered for sale – a Friday night at 6pm
- **Dia de los Muertos** - Enjoy a cultural ceremony, a Ballet Folklórico performance by our teachers and a meal with the MLA Community - Evening
- **EXPO (Education)** - Join other parents and your kids in their classroom to learn and discover their academic accomplishments to date - Evening
- **Kids' Talent Show** - Let your little ones shine as they perform their favorite talent - Evening
- **EXPO (After-school dance & capoeira)** - Ballet Folklórico and Capoeira performances by the kids who attend Community Bridges aftercare program - Evening
- **Green Team work days** - Four Saturdays a year where we gather on campus on to weed, paint, pick up trash, make repairs and other needed tasks to beautify our school – Saturdays
- Other events such as Clothing Swaps, Science Fairs and community meetings have happened in the past and

depending on the school calendar for the year, may happen again.

NEW BEGINNINGS

This past year has ushered in some new and exciting beginnings for our community. Starting with the 2019-2020 school year, MLA will have a new Principal, Bri Zika and a new Assistant Principal, Beatriz Ferrer-Castro. Please read their welcome letter to the community, which is posted on the MLA website. We are sad to see the founder of MLA, Principal Moyra Contreras, move on, but we are also excited to welcome our new admin team. We know you will join us in a warm welcome of Ms. Zika and Ms. Ferrer too!

In addition to a new principal and assistant principal, our school has outgrown its current campus on Fleming. Starting in the 2019-2020 school year, our 4th and 5th grade classes will move to the Sherman Campus location on Brann, ½ mile from the Fleming campus. We do not know how long this split will last as we are currently working with OUSD and our SCC to address the growing needs of our MLA Community. Please keep your eyes peeled for invitations from the OUSD “Blueprint” committee. It is in these family engagements that OUSD will share possible paths forward to address our facilities needs, and gather family input. Although our community will be split between two campuses this year, we will still function as one school: MLA Leadership Academy. There will be some changes and learning curves ahead, and as always, the MLA community is up for the challenge!

~ We hope this helps answer some of your many questions.

Welcome to our community! ~

If you have questions and can not find the answer in the links we provided above, you can contact: Kari Goodman: kariroeschgoodman@gmail.com for help in English; or Jose Gonzalez: nequiz@gmail.com for help in Spanish or English.