

MLA Bulletin:

Week of December 1, 2019

Welcome back from the break! I hope you and your families enjoyed some time to rest, reflect, and have some fun with each other. I enjoyed a restful week in Los Angeles with my family, hanging out at the house while my mom recuperated from foot surgery. A week on the couch was just what the doctor ordered (for both of us)!

December at MLA is an exciting time! We have an action-packed three weeks ahead of us with three EXPOs, our blueprint campus decision deadline, a new teacher transition, and Bailaton. I'm excited to jump head-first into these three exciting weeks with you and then enjoy another two weeks of vacation.

November Highlight: 4th and 5th Grade at the Oakland Museum of California (OMCA)

I want to send a big thank-you to Maestra Caroline, Maestra Jennifer, Maestra Alvarado, Maestra Luz, and all of the amazing family chaperones for making our trip to the Oakland Museum last week a huge success. The kids had a great time and deepened their knowledge about California's history. Thank you!



Whole School Updates

Visit our website to see all events listed on our Family Calendar: <https://melroseleadershipacademy.org/>

Blueprint School Design Team

- This month, we will make our decision about which grades will move to which campus next year.
- So far, we have held 5 engagements to share the space proposals with the community
 - Family event at Sherman -- November 18
 - Family event at Maxwell -- November 21
 - MLA Staff Meeting -- November 18
 - After School Program Meeting -- November 21
 - Padres Unidos -- November 15



- In these engagements, the 3 following options were shared:
 - Option 1: “The upper and lower plan”
 - In option 1, TK-2 will go to Sherman and 3-8 will go to Maxwell
 - Option 2: “The elementary and middle plan”
 - In option 2, TK-5 will go to Maxwell and 6-8 will go to Sherman
 - Option 3: “The back and forth plan”
 - In option 3, TK-1 and 6-8 will go to Maxwell; 2-5 will go to Sherman
 - [You can read the notes from each of the family engagement sessions here.](#)
- Next Steps:
 - On December 10, the Design Team will meet to make a decision. Ideally, the Design Team will come to a consensus during this December 10th meeting. If a consensus is not reached, the Core Design Team will make the final decision, taking all of the input from the community into account.
 - We hope to share a decision with the community by December 16th.
- How to share your voice:
 - 1. Read the [Notes](#) from the Family Engagement Sessions
 - 2. Complete [this survey online](#) by Friday, December 6 (you can also access a paper copy of the survey in the main offices at Sherman and Maxwell).

Report Cards

- **Elementary School:** Grades and comments for Marking Period 1 (August to November) have all been entered. Over the course of this week, the District will internally merge your child’s data into a report card. As soon as report cards are ready, we will print them and distribute them to teachers to send home with your students. If you do not receive your child’s report card by Friday, December 6, please reach out to your child’s teacher.

MLA SSC

- December’s SSC meeting has been postponed, due to the fact that it was scheduled to take place at the same time as EXPO on December 12th. The elected members of the SSC are working to identify an alternate date. We will post the agenda and meeting invite on the MLA Facebook page once it is confirmed.

MLA SELLS Committee

- The next SELLS meeting will take place on Friday, January 17 at 8:45am in the MLA auditorium at Maxwell. We will share the agenda the week before the meeting. For more information please email beatriz.ferrer@ousd.org.

Upcoming Events in December

- Monday, December 2: Report cards distributed to elementary school
- Friday, December 6: Prospective Family Tour #1
- Saturday, December 7, 11am-2pm: Bailaton/Dance-a-thon

- Monday, December 9: High School Fair (evening)
- Tuesday, December 10: Blueprint Design Team Meeting
- Wednesday, December 11: Maestra Lopez + Kinder Families Meet and Greet
- Thursday, December 12, 5:30-7pm: EXPO at Maxwell + Cantare choir performance
- Friday, December 13: Prospective Family Tour #2



- Tuesday, December 17, 5:30-6:45pm: EXPO at Sherman
- Tuesday, December 17 6:45-7:15pm (at Sherman): Middle School Info Session
- Thursday, December 19, 5-6:30pm: After School EXPO at Maxwell (all students)
- Friday, December 20 : Last day of school before Winter Break

Section 2: PTSA News

PTSA EVENTS

MLA Dance-a-thon - Saturday, December 7th, 11a-2p

- Our students will be dancing, playing and helping MLA to raise funds for the very important programs that our school currently offers!!
- **Please submit your pledge forms the week of December 2nd.** Your student should have received a dance-a-thon packet in their homework folder last week. If you did not get one please pick one up at the office.
- The classroom that has the most student participation collecting donations wins a special pizza party for their students!

PTSA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Saludos! Note -- please leave the cones outside next to the sidewalk in the morning after drop-off, so that folks aren't encouraged to park in our drop-off zone during the day

- **Week of December 1:** Families of **Maestra Alvarez's** 1st grade class are scheduled to help with Saludos this week. Please contact your Room Parent if you're available to help.
- **Week of December 8:** Families of **Maestra Ramirez's** 1st grade class are scheduled to help with Saludos this week. Please contact your Room Parent if you're available to help.
- Please read the **Saludos Tip Sheet** to learn about your class' Saludos week and to learn how to be a helpful Saludos volunteer.

Volunteer Events:

- December 4th - **Power Hour**, it starts at 8:30 and continues through the school day, come by at any time to help out!
- December 7th - **Dance-a-thon**, ALL HANDS ON DECK!!
 - [Click here for the volunteer sign-up sheet](#): We need LOTS of volunteers to help set up and run this event. Please let us know if you can help!!

FOR MORE VOLUNTEER INFORMATION EMAIL drtarastoop@gmail.com

MLA FAMILY GROUP UPDATES



Padres Unidos

Upcoming meeting this Friday, December 6th, 8:40 am at Maxwell Campus.

Join us to build community and be updated on events happening in our school. Everyone is Welcome!

Families of the African Diaspora

- **Annual OUSD Martin Luther King Oratorical Competition**

OUSD is hosting the 41st MLK speech competition. Students from K-12 can recite original poetry or speeches or groups can perform poetry, speeches or scenes. For the past few years MLA students have participated and we would love to continue to showcase our student's talent with the Oakland community. Stay tuned for more information and visit the competition website (<https://www.ousd.org/mlkoratorical>) or if you have questions reach out to: Kira Greer at zuleka@gmail.com

Section 3: Sherman campus

MLA EXPO at Sherman:

- Tuesday, december 17th from 5:30 to 6:45pm
- This day we will also hold a Middle school presentation for incoming 6th grade families

NEW WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE FOR 4th and 5th graders! School will start at 8:30am and end at 1:10pm

- 4th and 5th grade students will now begin their days at 8:30am **on Wednesdays only**, along with the rest of the school. Students will continue to start at 8:40am all other days of the week.
- We have received many requests from students and families to include an outdoor snack break during the day. This 8:30am start time will allow us to give students this outdoor snack break around 10am without having to lose instructional minutes. This shift will also give our electives teachers a much-needed mini-break during their mornings.
- We know this is a change in your morning routines. Therefore, **we will start the new schedule this coming Wednesday, December 4th but we will not penalize students for being tardy until 8:40 am until January when we are back from the December break.** Beginning in January, we will begin to distribute tardy slips to students who arrive after 8:30am.
- Thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

Before Care at Sherman

- If you need before care for your child, please contact beatriz.ferrer@ousd.org to sign up. Before care takes place in Maestra Caroline's classroom (portable A). We ask for a \$60 monthly donation. Please pay by cash or check payable to MLA PTSA at the Sherman main office to Beatriz or Ms. Vaca.
- **Important: If you are not on the before care list, please drop your children off between 8:10 to 8:40 am and use the MLA drop off gate.**

Sherman campus Questions? Please email beatriz.ferrer@ousd.org



Section 4: Fundraising

What is Cada Familia?

Cada Familia is our ongoing giving fund, one of the MLA PTSA's biggest fundraisers. Our other major fundraisers are the Danceathon (Bailaton) in the fall and the online auction (Subasta Linea) and party in the spring.

Where does my money go?

Cada Familia donations go straight to the MLA PTSA budget, which supports equitable access to field trips, the Cantare Con Vivo music program, teacher and schoolwide supplies, the afterschool program, and more. These activities and supplies are not provided by the OUSD and help us round out the curriculum for our students. To learn about the details, please come to a PTSA meeting, or talk to the PTSA President or Treasurer.

I already donated to my student's classroom, why should I contribute to Cada Familia?

First, thank you! In-kind donations and Donors Choose campaigns are great, but they are separate from the PTSA budget. They can't pay for big ticket items, like Cantare con Vivo or the \$25,000 grant we give the afterschool program to support inclusion of kids in need. Also, PTSA uses its funds to help increase school-wide equity, making sure that grades or classes where parents have fewer resources get support.

How do I donate to Cada Familia?

We strongly encourage parents to set up monthly donations in an amount that is meaningful to them by clicking [here](#). There is a link for a one-time donation. If you would like to donate monthly but none of the drop-down donation levels fit your family, just choose the one-time donation link, enter in your preferred monthly donation, and check the box that says, "make this a monthly donation" You can use a Paypal account or a credit or debit card. You can also send cash or a check made out to "MLA PTSA" to Melrose Leadership Academy, 4730 Fleming Ave., Oakland, CA 94619. Checks and cash may be dropped off at the front desk during regular business hours (8:30am - 3pm).

Are my donations to Cada Familia tax deductible?

Yes. You'd get a tax acknowledgment for donations made in 2019 in January or February 2020. If you need a receipt any other time, please contact the PTSA Treasurer, mlaptsatreasurer@gmail.com.



