



Parent Newsletter

Monday, May 1, 2023

Volume 4, Number 35

Updated Calendar

[PTA 22-23 Calendar](#) / [SMMUSD 22-23 Calendar](#)

Sat/Sun

Cameron Field is Open to the Public / 8-1 (Campus is visited throughout the day by security personnel and the children's bathrooms are opened and maintained. This service is paid for by the City Parks Department. Revenue benefits MES.)

Now

Practice Student Punctuality - Attend School Everyday! (Good habits last a lifetime.)

This Week

Mon-Fri 5/1 - 5/5
May 1 - May 18

Thur 05/04

Fri 05/05

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week (bring items in all week) ([PTA Flier with Details](#))
3rd-5th grade Annual California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress / English, Math, & Science Assessment ([Parent Notice](#)) ([Parent Notice in Spanish](#)) / 8:30 - 10
SSC Meeting / 3:30 - 4:45 @ Zoom ([Agenda](#): 2023-2024 Parent SSC Elections, Safety, Achievement)
Parent Input Form Closes for Special Consideration during Classroom Placement Process (see article below) / 1pm
Zoe Theater May Pole Dance Show (Audience: Kinder, 4, and 5) / 8:30 @ field
Zoe Theater May Pole Dance Show (Audience: 1-2-3) / 10:00 @ field

Beyond

Mon-Fri 05/22-05/26

Thur 05/18

Fri 05/19

Thur 05/25

Wed 06/07

Thur 06/08

Mon 06/12

3rd-5th grade Annual California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress / English, Math, & Science Assessment (Make Ups for absent students) / 8:30 - 10
ELAC Meeting / 9 - 10 @ Library Courtyard (Agenda: Celebration of EL Students)
MES Annual Field Day / Details and schedule forthcoming
Art & Marine Science Festival, PTA Honorary Service Awards & Hot Dogs / 5 - 6:30pm ([Agenda Link](#))
5th Grade Promotion / 9:00 - 10:00 @ cafeteria
Minimum Day - Dismissal 12:45
Minimum Day - Dismissal 12:45
Last Day of School
Report Cards Go Home

Summer

June 20

June 20 - July 14

June 20 - August 11

5th Grade Overnight Field Trip Deposit Due (4th grade parents are asked to donate by May.) PTA Donation [Link](#)
Summer School @ MES (Student Identification: Ed Services will use Star Reading and Math to identify students for IISS that need Tier III support. Qualifying students' invitations have been mailed out)
MBGC "Camp Bu" @ MES (Program and Enrollment [Details](#))

Next School Year

Wed 08/24

First day of School

[Archived MES Parent Newsletters](#)**District Announcements**[Link](#)**MES PTA**Home Page: <https://www.malibuelementary.org/> (Purchase Spirit Wear Here)PTA Newsletter: <https://www.malibuelementary.org/newsletter>Join the PTA / Membership Link: <https://www.malibuelementary.org/membership>PTA Meetings: www.malibuelementary.org/associationmeetingsPTA Calendar: www.malibuelementary.org/calendar**Principal's Pen**

Last Thursday MES practiced another earthquake drill. If it had been a real and destructive earthquake, students would have to be checked out to parents individually through a Reunion process where we record which child left with whom. Parent support is critical to maintaining a calmer post-disaster experience for children and adults. Please follow our Reunion Plan in the article below.

Remember if the Grayfox gate is closed, use the Fernhill gate. **Students should never be encouraged to climb over fences at school.** Thank you for your support.

Wow, what a great Talent Show we had back on Friday! Many thanks to theater teacher Zoe Langley, our to parent sponsors, and of course to our student performers. Our next event is the May Pole Dance on Friday, May 5th.

Instructional Assistants and volunteers help teachers to run small project-based learning centers that truly engage our young learners. More funding is key to maintain our IAs in 2023 -2024. Can you make a contribution to our PTA? **We are only 15% away from our \$250,000 goal!** Thank you for your consideration.

We hope to bring a TK program to MES and need students to enroll before we can hire. Please save your child's spot by enrolling now. **(Twenty-five (25) TK applications have been picked up but only four (4) have been returned. We need students before we can hire a TK teacher and set up the classroom.)** We are now enrolling for next school year. Please contact Registrar Kim Rivetti in the office to begin. Enrollment is done online this year. This new paperless system not only saves parents and staff time, but improves data accuracy.

State Testing begins on Monday. The school is on quiet mode during these weeks. **3rd-5th students who arrive late to school on a testing day will wait in the office until 10:00 AM.** Opt out students will read or do computer work in Room 2 or the library. No phone calls will be made to testing classrooms from 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM on a testing day. Together through cooperation we can help our students better concentrate during their examinations.

Thank you for your partnership,
Proud Principal Chris Hertz



Parent General Resources

[Link](#)

Student Health Resources

[Link](#)

Safety at Malibu Elementary / Reunification Plan

Important: At MES we have a plan to keep all students safe in case of all sorts of emergencies and natural disasters. Try not to panic! Don't immediately rush to school – take care of your home first! No child will be sent home in an emergency – children will be kept safe at school until they are signed out to a designated adult.

When you arrive at school, park away from the campus to keep the parking lot clear for emergency vehicles.

To have your child released to your care, go to the "Request Gate" near the play structure. The members of the Request Gate Team are responsible for greeting parents, guardians, or designees and providing them with tags or other identifications authorizing the holders to reunite with their students at the Reunion Gate. Once you have your tag, walk to the "Reunion Gate". The members of the Reunion Gate Team are responsible for sending a runner to bring your child to you. Your child will remain with his or her teacher, or with another staff member until you or a designated representative arrives. After 72 hours other civil authorities will provide additional care for unclaimed children and MES will likely become a disaster relief center. ([Reunification Map](#)) ([On-site Assembly Map](#))

Note: **Children will only be released to a person listed on the current Emergency Card.** That person will have to show valid identification to the teacher, and sign a release form which our school will retain for recording purposes.

MBGC Information / Summer Opportunities

[Link](#)

2023-2024 5th Grade Overnight Trip to Pali Camp

Hello MES 4th Grade Parents,
Thank you to the fifteen (15) families who were able to voluntarily donate to the 5th Grade Overnight Trip to Pali Camp for the 2023 - 2024 school year. **We have already collected \$6440!** We need \$6,847.50 by June 20 to keep our reservation. **If we come up short, we will have to cancel and receive a portion of our deposit back.**

We have secured our spot from October 18th-October 20th. Make your donation via the [PTA website store](#) in lieu of fundraising for now. This will help us to know which families are attending MES next year and which families are able to donate. The voluntary donation amount per student is \$460. This covers the bus to the camp, lodging, meals, instruction, and supervision personnel. You may make two installments of \$230 if that works better for your family. The first payment to the camp is due June 20. The last installment of \$6,847.50 will be due September 18. Therefore **please make your donation by May** and August. If you cannot donate yet but want to RSVP, fill out the following [GOOGLE FORM](#). If you are ready to donate: Please [donate here](#).

So, who is excited about their child attending outdoor education science camp in October?

- PTA Donation [Link](#)
- [Video](#) Overview
- [Health and Safety Information + Cabin Tour](#)
- [Packing List and Paperwork Information](#)
- Key Dates
 - Installment 1 of 2: May
 - Installment 2 of 2: August
 - Trip: October 18 - 20

4th/5th grade Spring Music Concert

- When: Tuesday, May 23rd:

- 6pm 4th grade performs
- 7pm 5th grade performs
- Where: **Webster Elementary Cafeteria*** (3602 Winter Canyon Rd, Malibu, CA 90265)

DreamBox - Family Dashboard

DreamBox is a signature program for MES. DreamBox is adaptive and builds conceptual understanding through games. Students are expected to minimally complete five (5) lessons a week. Dreambox is accessible through Clever on our school website: [Link](#). DreamBox also provides data to teachers who can in turn customize assignments for students. Our Teacher Leadership Team and the SSC continue to prioritize DreamBox.

If you want your child to achieve more and faster, then set up your Family DashBoard! The **Family Insight Dashboard** (sometimes simply referred to as the Family Dashboard) allows parents and guardians to monitor their student's learning trends, gaps, and growth. It allows you to see at a glance if your student is mastering the concepts and making progress with DreamBox. Detailed activity and proficiency reports help you set learning goals and prepare conversations with your student and your student's teacher.

Do not help your child win the games because this tricks the computer into making the games much harder on the child way too fast.

[Click Here to Get Started](#)

Volunteer Training

Parents may sign up for training with Principal Hertz by contacting Administrative Assistant Diane Sullivan. Below are the four remaining tours for the 2022-2023 school year. **Volunteering at MES:** [Link](#) to the details.

Date
Tues., May 2 @ 1:30

New Family Tours

New families may schedule a tour with Principal Hertz by contacting Attendance Officer Kim Rivetti. Below are the four remaining tours for the 2022-2023 school year.

Tues May 2 8:30 - 9

Mon May 22 1:30 - 2

Parent Input Form for Special Consideration during Classroom Placement Process

(This [form](#) will be visible and only be active April 17 – May 4 / 1pm*)

**Forms received after this date may not be considered because the class building meeting may have already happened.*

Sometimes parents and guardians want to give some input into which classroom their child is placed next year. Parental input is valued and considered, however parents and guardians must understand that our larger goal is to create classrooms that are balanced according to the criteria below. We cannot promise a specific teacher. We want to create the best overall learning situation for the most students possible.

If your child does have a distinctive situation or unusual learning need, then please let us know. The teachers and administration take pride in our balanced approach, but we also recognize special considerations. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to meet everyone's requests because of the many variables to balance.

When describing your child's unique educational needs, we ask that you try to avoid including teacher names or room numbers. This is because teacher assignments may change over the summer and even after the year begins. If you do include a teacher name, then we must remind you that we cannot promise you a specific teacher. Thank you for acknowledging our requests and for understanding our larger goal of creating balanced classes to meet the greatest needs. Here is the [form link](#).

Balanced Classroom Criteria

- Ability balance
- Student behavior balance
- Gender balance
- Even mixing of previous year's classes
- Student language needs / teacher certification
- Ethnic balance

MBGC Information / Summer Opportunities

[Link](#)

Private School Recommendation Letters

As a district we are respectfully declining to write letters of recommendation for students applying to private schools. We want to best use our limited time and resources for activities that impact all of our students in our schools. Writing letters takes us away from our work with our students.

If you are applying to a private school for your child, we will send a form letter to the school explaining our reasoning, and that the district's lack of recommendation letter in no way suggests a negative reflection of your children. Teachers will not be completing recommendation letters nor will they be

completing any checklists. We can provide report cards, and any information already in your child's file; however, teachers will not create any new information or provide anytype of recommendation for private schools.

We believe students who have attended MES are well positioned to be a positive addition to any school community– and we hope you will all continue to consider SMMUSD school options as wonderful learning environments for your children.

Regardless, we always wish our students all the best. Thank you for your understanding.

Sample Letter from Principal

[Link](#)

