



Parent Newsletter

Monday, September 20, 2021

Volume 3, Number 9

Updated Calendar

[SMMUSD 21-22 Calendar](#)

Sat/Sun

Cameron Field is Open to the Public / 8-3 (Campus is visited throughout the day by security personnel and the children's bathrooms opened and maintained. This service is paid for by the City Parks Department.)

Now

Hard Copy of Four Mandatory Forms and Emergency Card due to Teachers (see articles below)

PTA Direct Donation Drive Continues (\$22,035/\$150,000 raised so far; <https://www.malibuelementary.org/donate>)

This Week

Sun	09/19	PTA Boutique Fundraiser / 11 - 4 @ Malibu Lumber Yard (20% to PTA) https://www.malibuelementary.org/
Mon	09/20	Anticipated Date for "Arts Attack" to start / See Flyer Volunteer Training / 4-4:30 @ Zoom Link
Tues	09/21	Volunteer Training / 9-9:30 @ Zoom Link
Wed	09/22	International Peace Day Celebration & Drone Photo & Moment of Silence / 9 - 9:30am Jaxx Theater / Seussical the musical begins / 2:45 (Flyer)
Thurs	09/23	ELAC / 9:15 - 10:15 @ Zoom Link (Agenda)
Sat	09/25	Campus Beautification Day (Sponsored by the Malibu Foundation) / 9-1 (Details below!)

Beyond

Fri	10/01	Jaxx Theater / Hip Hop Fridays to Begin / 12:45 (Flyer)
Thur	10/07	SSC Meeting #2 / 3:30 - 4:45 @ Zoom Link Forthcoming
Mon	10/18	Make Up Picture Day
Tues	11/02	No School / Parent Conference Day
Wed	11/03	Minimum Day / Parent Conferences Continue (Mini Day 4 of 10)
Thur	11/04	Minimum Day / Parent Conferences Continue (Mini Day 5 of 10)
Thur	11/11	No School - Veterans' Day
Wed	11/24	No School / local holiday
Thur	11/25	No School for Thanksgiving
Fri	12/17	Last Day Before Winter Break
Mon	01/03	First Day After Winter Break

[Archived MES Parent Newsletters](#)

District Announcements

<https://app.peachjar.com/flyers/all/schools/58471>

SMMUSD posts information parents may find valuable on the MES homepage. Please use the link above to quickly

access this page.

MES PTA Announcements

Home Page: <https://www.malibuelementary.org/>

PTA Newsletter: <https://www.malibuelementary.org/newsletter>

Join the PTA / Membership Link: <https://www.malibuelementary.org/membership>

PTA Amazon Smile: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7010618>

Principal's Pen

Campus Beautification Day is coming. Please [sign up](#) and show your support for MES. Let's join prior generations and add some beauty to our campus. Thank you to our PTA Board for organizing the day, Arts Attack (starts next week), and Bookfair (starts in October).

On Friday we conducted a lockdown drill and the students did an amazing job! They understood what to do and handled it very well. We practiced closing the doors, turning off the lights, closing the blind, and sitting quietly. The scenario was: *There is rumor of law enforcement in pursuit of a home invasion suspect across the street from the school.* We made it as kid-friendly as possible so please take a moment to talk to your child about the experience. Students and teachers had some great discussions about where to go and what to do if we were in other places on campus and to never open the door for anyone no matter who they say they are. Teachers reassured them that school is a safe place, but it's always good to be prepared just like we do with earthquake and fire drills. To learn more about Safety at MES, please see our Parent Handbook on the school website.

100% of students are participating in weekly PCR Surveillance testing. Of these 98% are taking advantage of our free and convenient on-site weekly testing. Importantly, we found one positive case in our student body. We now have a class quarantined. Also, some students from MBGC were exposed to a positive case and were also placed on quarantine. Each parent was contacted. We followed our procedures and hopefully stopped the spread. The classroom is functioning through Distance Learning for the quarantine period. The other individual students who were exposed at MBGC are on Independent Study contracts. Teachers are fully prepared to transition to a distance learning program if necessary and are skilled with IS Contracts. Please see the Parent Resources box below and [Superintendent's Message: COVID-19 Testing and FAQ Update](#) to learn more about how MES is working to stay Covid-safe and assist our students with learning.

Please check your email daily, including each night and each morning before coming to school, to see if a positive COVID-19 case has been identified in your child's class and if your child needs to follow the quarantine protocols. Sometimes we are informed of a positive case late at night, and we need to inform multiple families as quickly as possible that their child needs to be quarantined. If a positive case is identified in your child's class, please know that district nursing staff will follow up with you as part of contact tracing.

Parents, **please place a placard** with your child's name on it **on your dashboard** when you pull up to the loading zone after school. This helps the line move faster and helps staff. Thank you.

If you have specific questions please email me directly.

Together for MES,
Proud Principal Christopher Hertz



Parent Covid Resources

[Updates for Parents of School-Aged Children: Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in TK-12 Schools](#) - Updated: 9/7/21
Reopening Protocols for K-12 Schools: [Link](#) (This is the base plan for all the plans you will see below.)

District Covid Information Website: <https://www.smmusd.org/coronavirus>
Before School Student Prescreening App: [Link](#)
COVID-19 Entry Screening & Mandatory Testing Registration & Consent + Exemption Forms: [Link](#)
No Cost Vaccine Clinics and PCR Testing: [Link](#)
Illness Reporting: [Link](#)
Screening and Exposure Decision Pathways: [Link](#)
SMMUSD "Live" Covid Dashboard: [Link](#)
Masks at MES: [Link](#)
LADPH Travel Advisory & Guidance: [Link](#)
Student Isolation Orders & Travel Quarantines: [Link](#)
Weekly Bell Schedule: [Link](#)
Outdoor Recess & Lunch Break, Zone Schedules, and Designated Outdoor Learning Zone Plan : [Link](#)
Full Return Student Eating Procedure ([Link](#))
Rainy Day Plan: [Link](#)
Student Orientation to Full Return SlideShow: [Link](#)
Adult Overview of Full Return SlideShow: [Link](#)
Student Attendance: Students will be marked present, absent, tardy (<30min), or late (>30 min).
Handwashing: Tell your children to wash their hands often. (See SlideShow above).
MES Parent Handbook: [Link](#)
Quarantine Classroom Plan: [Link](#)

[September Lunch Menu](#)

PTA - Working to Save IA Staff at MES for 22-23

MES has four Instructional Assistants who help our teachers and me support our students' well-being and learning. Historically these positions have been paid for by fundraising. With the separation of Malibu from SMMUSD came the loss of support from the Santa Monica Ed Foundation. Malibu has no Ed Foundation so the weight of fundraising has shifted to our official fundraising partner, the MES PTA. Unlike SMEF, PTA is led by volunteers. Please support our PTA through direct donations. Earmark your tax-deductible donation for Instructional Aids.

Here is some information about MES IAs:

Current IAs/Hours
DeeDee Davidson-Porter / 5
Cheryl Calvert / 5
Leigh Anne Carrier / 4
Julie Ausmus / 3.9

Here is the Job Description:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hm-oRsUqXz5BKha-Lg9MmZNmpo3DyQccZqN4n-LFjp0/edit?usp=sharing>

Without IAs, we will need teachers to do more with less help and we will need teachers and parents to watch over the students during break periods. If this happens, MES ends up being the school with the least support in SMMUSD. Thank you for your consideration.

PSArts Funding Goal

MES has prioritized art education. We want to bring PSArts back to our students this Spring. The revised cost is: **\$26,858.34**. This includes individual art kits for each student K-5, along with one Family Art Night event. Please look for fundraising information from our PTA Executive Board. We need to raise this amount by December. Please support our PTA through direct donations. Earmark your tax-deductible donation for PSArts.

Regular Covid PCR Testing Every Tuesday

Test results are received within 48 hours. You will only be notified if your child tests positive for COVID-19. The testing is intended to keep our community safe by identifying students and staff who are COVID-positive. Thank you to everyone for either 1) registering to test every Tuesday or 2) electing to submit outside PCR tests each week. Regular testing by all staff and students is required to attend school in - person.

For those electing outside testing submit your child's negative PCR test results by **Monday morning at 8:00 a.m.** If we do not have your child's negative results, they will not be able to attend school. The test should be dated between Tuesday and Sunday of each week. **USE THIS SURVEY TO SUBMIT AN OUTSIDE PCR TEST:**
[Google Forms Link](#)

Malibu Elementary Beautification Event — Malibu Foundation

On Saturday, September 25th we will be planting native trees on campus and cleaning up the grounds. This day will make our school even better, build pride, and be gratifying. The Malibu Foundation is co-sponsoring the event and is setting up volunteer sign-ups (limited to 150 volunteers; there will be waivers) and donating the trees! Holes will be pre dug and back filled so that participants don't have to worry about too many physical challenges. Please plan to bring a shovel and rake. We could use several wheelbarrows too! (Label them in case they are misplaced!) Besides planting we will need volunteers to soak the trees and wash down pathways. There will be some food and water, and an Ice Cream Truck too.

Here is a short list of our plantings:

- Yucca Shrub (100)
- Creeping Snowberry (100)
- Elder Plant (25)
- Lemonade Berry Bush (50)
- Oak Tree saplings (15)
- Milkweed (25)

This event will be rewarding and benefit many generations to come. Wear your mask and sign up here:
<https://www.themalibufoundation.org/beautify>

Picture Day Update

In approximately 2 weeks, you will be emailed a link to view and order your portrait online. All orders will be shipped directly home. For questions about picture day, contact customercare@cornerstone.photo. Make-Up picture day will be on 10/17. [Here's a link to the flyer.](#)

MES Spirit Wear Fridays

Encourage your child to wear their MES Spirit Wear every Friday! Be true to your school and show your pride!

Volunteer Application, Training & Handbook

There will be some limited opportunities for teachers to enlist volunteers. All volunteers must be on the Principal's Approved list. To get on the list, please begin by attending a scheduled orientation via zoom. Zoom link: <https://smmk12.zoom.us/j/3364062076>

I have set up two more Volunteer Trainings this week.:

Mon, 09/20 Volunteer Training / 4-4:30 @ [Zoom Link](#)
Tues, 09/21 Volunteer Training / 9-9:30 @ [Zoom Link](#)
[VolunteerApplication.pdf](#)
[Volunteer Handbook](#)

MES School Goals

Through analysis of data and anecdotal observations, the Teacher Leadership team advised the principal who in turn advised the SSC on next best steps to make MES a more effective school. The BOE established three broad goals (Achievement, EL Achievement, and School Climate) for schools to pursue. MES is working on these through this lense: [Goals Link](#). One task is to get all students to complete five (5) **DreamBox** lessons a week. Another is to incentivize DreamBox through a recognition program. Linked here is a [short list of tasks](#) staff are working on that support our goals. Minimally, every Friday we work on these.

DreamBox - Family Dashboard / 5-a-Week

Support your student and our school by clicking this link: [DreamBox - Family Dashboard](#)

September is ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH / Attendance Recovery Day

Attendance is an essential component to a student's academic success. Often, the number of days that students are absent accumulate without parents realizing how many days have been missed.

As part of our district wide Attendance Recovery Day, on September 24th, SMMUSD counseling interns will be making phone calls home to parents whose children had chronic attendance issues last year and so far this year in fall 2021. These phone calls are intended to provide support and resources to help improve school attendance. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

ELAC - Get Involved

The teachers, support staff, and I want our EL students to acquire English proficiency as quickly as possible and

master all the academic subjects at school. To this end, our teachers use specific programs and strategies. To help, we need EL parents' involvement in an advocacy group called ELAC.

ELAC begins this Thursday morning. Please [Zoom](#) in and get involved. [Linked here is the Agenda](#). The Agenda highlights some of the strategies the staff are using this year. ELAC advises me and our School Site Council on how best to support our EL students. ELAC monitors our progress and creates accountability.

Together for EL Student Success!

MBGC Information for the Week of 9/20

[Link](#)

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REPRINTS

Fall Art Program - Volunteers Needed

One of our first volunteer opportunities will be for the Fall Art Program. The ArtAttack set-up volunteers will be needed so that we can begin on Mon., Sept. 20. See PTA flyer here: [See Flyer](#)

Before School Screening App - Wrong School?

If you have a problem, email screen@companynurse.com; the team will fix it.

Introduction to Spanish - New Program Coming

[Link to Flyer](#)

Emergency Cards

Every year parents are asked to complete an Emergency Card with up to date information. These forms are kept in the Command Center and in the classroom emergency packs, and will be checked if/when the children need to be released from the teacher's care. Parents must update the Emergency Card immediately in the event of any change. Teachers maintain a current roster and collect an Emergency Card from each new student. ([Link to the Emergency Card](#))

Annual Registration Documents 2020-2021 - Turn in Four (4) Mandatory Forms

(These documents are mandated by law to be given to all students before or during the first week of school.)

The annual MANDATED SMMUSD registration documents are posted on our [Student Services Department Website](#). These documents are: Annual Notice Booklet, Annual Information BP packet, Student Accident and Health Insurance Forms, Lunch & Breakfast Information, Covered California Information, and the **four (4) Signature Pages**. Parents can read the documents, print out the **four (4) signature pages**, sign them, and scan/email/snail mail them back to our school office. Here is the link to the documents and **four (4) forms**: <https://www.smmusd.org/Registration>

It is mandatory that schools collect signatures from each student's parent/guardian for **FOUR (4)** items:

1. **Annual Notice Booklet**
2. **Annual Information Booklet**
3. **Technology Acceptable Use Policy**
4. **General Filming and Recording Release**

MES Office staff will keep track of all four forms. Please send your **four (4) signature pages to your child's teacher** by the end of the first week of school.

Please contact Diane Sullivan at dsullivan@smmusd.org, if you have any questions.

