



Parent Newsletter

Monday, December 12, 2022

Volume 4, Number 19

Updated Calendar

[PTA 22-23 Calendar](#) / [SMMUSD 22-23 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 are opened and maintained. This service is paid for by the City Parks Department. Revenue benefits MES.)

Now

Send in your child's Comfort Bag [Comfort Bag Plan](#) (Put the teacher's name on the bag.)
Take care of you and your loved ones. It's time for some rest and family.

This Week

Mon 12/12
Tues 12/13

Fentanyl Town Hall / 6-7:30 PM @ Virtual ([Flier](#))
Principal Chris Off Campus / 8 - 4 @ All Principals' Meeting @ Santa Monica
Grayfox Gate Closed
4th Grade Winter Music Performance/Informance / 10:55 -11:35 @ music classrooms
ELAC / 9-10 @ [Zoom](#) ([Agenda Link](#))
SSC / 3:30 - 4:45 @ [Zoom](#) ([Agenda Link](#))
Last Day before Winter Break
Holiday Show Performances / K-2 show 8:30 to 10:00 & 3-5 show 10:30 to 12:00 @ cafeteria (flier)
Lunch Plan: All students eat from 12-12:30 unless they leave early with their parents

Beyond

12/19 - Jan 2

Tues 01/03
Tues 01/10

No School - Winter Break
First Day Back after Winter Break (MHS is not in session but MES is.)
Chris Off Campus / 8 - 4 @ All Principals' Meeting @ Santa Monica
Grayfox Gate Closed
Bingo Night 1 of 2 / 5pm @ cafeteria (Supports 5th grade end of year activities)
No School for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Report Cards Go Home
No School for Presidents' Day
No School for Cesar Chavez Day
Last Day Before Spring Break
First Day Back After Spring Break

Wed 01/11
Mon 01/16
Fri 02/03
Mon 02/20
Mon 03/27
Fri 03/30
Mon 04/17

[Archived MES Parent Newsletters](#)

District Announcements

[Link](#)

MES PTA Announcements

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 Amazon Smile: <https://smile.amazon.com> (Select Malibu Elementary PTA!)

PTA Meetings: www.malibuelementary.org/associationmeetings

PTA Calendar: www.malibuelementary.org/calendar

Principal's Pen

Hello MES Families,

I hope you have been able to join us for some Holiday Shows. Tuesday our 4th graders show off their musical skills! Next Friday are the really big Holiday Shows! If you like warm feelings that pull on your heart, you need to be here! Please come out and show your support for your child and your child's school.

Approximately 10% of MES families have sent in a Comfort Bag for their child. At this point our teachers will now help children without a Comfort Bag create a personal book called *All-About Me*. We hope our children never need this comfort but we want to be ready to support them during a crisis or a disaster.

Every Friday teachers will send home an antigen test with your child. Use it every Sunday night or Monday morning. This coming Friday teachers will send home two weeks' worth. Please have your child test if they develop any symptoms of illness over Winter Break. **Very important: please have your student test the evening before or morning of their return to school.** Together we can help to keep our students and staff safer from Covid.

As a reminder, all SMMUSD schools will be closed for winter break starting on Dec. 17, with elementary students returning to school on Tuesday, Jan. 3 and secondary students returning on Wednesday Jan. 4.

We know for many of our families the end of the year holidays is a time of joyous celebrations full of loved ones and family time. With this in mind, SMMUSD wants to ensure we take all the proper return-from-break safety measures and start the new year safe and healthy. The LACDPH has provided an info sheet to help parents keep their kids health this winter:

[English](#) / [Spanish](#)

We are seeing a spike in cases throughout the District and this increase is projected to continue in Los Angeles County for the next few weeks. This LA Times article dated Dec. 7, 2022 describes what is going on:

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-12-07/why-is-covid-surge-signals-danger>

I have crafted several articles below. I thank you for reading my publications as I believe they are both timely and informative.

Your partner in education and champion of your children,

Proud Principal Chris Hertz



Parent General Resources

[Link](#)

Student Health Resources

[Link](#)

Zoe's Lunchtime Theater - Sponsorship Opportunities

As we come to the near end of 2022 with our exciting magical Nutcracker, there are amazing opportunities available to sponsor the next 4 productions!

Each Production is \$600 includes classes at lunch Monday -Wednesday plus Performance , set up stage props (3 to 4 weeks .)

Parent Dina Flannagan has already generously sponsored *The Coco Musical* and the *Nutcracker* !!

Starting in January 2023 we hope to have an *All Star Talent / Variety Show*

- In March we hope to have *Peter Pan the Musical*.
- In April we hope to have the *Celtic and Maypole Dance*
- (Held outside.)
- In May we hope to have Shakespeare in the Garden
- A Midsummer Night's Dream. (Held outside.)

Contact Principal Hertz if you would like to sponsor Zoe's Lunchtime Theater.

Attention 5th Grade Parents - MMS Presentation is Online

5th grade parents know that on our [MMS website](#) under "parents", there is a link for Incoming 6th grade parents to see our presentation if they want to reread it or for those who could not attend. Thanks so much for considering MMS.

Wendy Wax, Interim Principal, Malibu Middle School
wwax@smmusd.org

MBGC Information

[Link](#)

Free Reflective-Parenting Classes - Virtual for Elementary Parents (Flier)(Spanish Flier)

SMMUSD has contracted with a few trusted therapists to provide free virtual Reflective Parenting groups in both English and Spanish for parents and guardians of all SMMUSD elementary schools. This curriculum is REALLY helpful for parents to build their capacity to have healthier interactions with their children.

Fliers are linked above with clickable registration links.

There will be additional RP groups for parents of elementary and secondary students, and other types of parenting groups being offered through FSSM and

Malibu BGC (all virtual since that seems to be what is working for parents these days), so if these groups fill the Mental Health Team will start a waitlist and send out parent information.

Reposts

DreamBox - Family Dashboard

DreamBox is a signature program for MES. DreamBox is adaptive and builds conceptual understanding through games. Students are expected to complete five (5) lessons a week. Dreambox is accessible through Clever on our school website: [Link](#). Students who do so will be recognized regularly at MES. 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. DreamBox not only helps all students but it is good at supporting EL students' growth and particularly Spanish-speaking students. If you think your child may need more guidance with DreamBox, please write to the teacher, but first please examine these three

Home Support resources for parents:

1. [Home Learning Guide for Parents & Guardians](#) - 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.
2. [YouTube Support Videos for Parents & Guardians](#) - Watch short videos on best home practices - Spanish too!
3. [Understanding the Family Insight Dashboard](#)

4. [Home Use Guide](#)

Staff Parking Spots

Parents please make note that there is NO PARKING in the staff parking spots in the morning. All the perimeter spots are for staff. Many staff start their day right at 8:15. Some staff come right before or after the bell and when there is someone in their spot, they then can't get to working with your students. Thank you for being considerate.

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 any type 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](#)

Independent Study - The Rules

Independent Study is appropriate for Emergencies, catastrophic family situations, legal/government situations, severe health or other special circumstances. **Independent Study is NOT for extending the length of school holidays, vacations or visiting family or friends.**

The school must be informed in advance (two weeks / we realize this isn't always possible in an Emergency). A contract needs to be filled out and signed by the parent, teacher and Principal. If work is not turned in or is not complete, partial credit or no credit may be given.

- Independent Study Informational Overview: [Link](#)
- Independent Study SMMUSD Website: [Link](#)
- Independent Study Written Agreement Form: [Link](#)

City Winter Recreation Guide

The City's Winter 2023 Recreation Guide and City Newsletter is available online at MalibuCity.org/CommunityServices. The Guide features the City's many excellent programs and parks and includes informative articles and contact information for City departments and services.

Residents can find information for upcoming Winter programs offered December through February, including Afterschool Programs, Aquatics, Outdoor Recreation at Charmlee Wilderness Park, Parent and Me Programs, Senior Programs and Excursions, and Youth Sports.

Registration for Winter Programs opens on Monday, November 14 at 8:00 AM at MalibuCity.org/Register. For ongoing, up-to-date information on Community Services programs, visit [Aquatics](#), [Day Camps](#), [Community Programs](#), and [Adult Sports](#).

