



Parent Newsletter

Monday, March 21, 2022

Volume 3, Number 33

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 are opened and maintained. This service is paid for by the City Parks Department.)

Now

PTA IA Drive (Please write your voluntary tax-deductible donation checks to the MES PTA. On the memo write: "Save our IAs". Goal: \$141,107. Suggested Gift: \$705. ([Link to the details.](#))

This Week

Mon	03/21	4th Grade Parent-Student Catalina Field Trip Meeting / 2:50 pm @ library courtyard (Presentation)
Wed	03/23	5th grade Field Trip to MMS / 9:15 - 1:30 (Bus rolls out at 9:15 from MES.) (Details Link)
		Volunteer Training / 11 - 11:30 @ zoom link
Fri	03/25	Student Council Spirit Day - Decades Day! Get groovy!

Beyond

Sun	03/27	PTA Spring Boutique / 11 - 4pm @ MES (Benefits PTA General Fund) (Flier)
Mon	03/28	All students bring home their Spring Break Antigen Test (Instructions Link)
Fri	04/01	Last Day Before Spring Break

Lost and Found to Charity / 3:30

All students bring home their Spring Break Antigen Test

April 4 - April 17

Spring Break

Mon	04/18	First Day Back from Spring Break
		Grayfox Gate Closed Until Further Notice / All students will arrive and depart from the Fernhill gate.
		Test your child with your take-home Spring Break Antigen Test
		Provide proof of a Negative Spring Break Antigen Test at Fernhill gate - Needed to Reenter Campus
		Parent Input Form Opened for Next Year's Classes (Closes 5/6) (See article below)
Wed	04/20	PTA Association Meeting / 9:30 - 10:30 @ Zoom Link
Fri	04/22	Earth Day Student Service Day - Students Remove Litter from School and rake up leaves.
Mon-Fri	04/25-05/20	Annual Academic Testing for 3rd - 5th Students (Federal/State Tests)
Thur	05/05	ELAC / 9:15 - 10:15 @ zoom link forthcoming
Fri	05/06	Annual PTA Gala (alt date is 05/13) (New date forthcoming)
Thur	05/12	SSC / 3:30 - 4:45 @ Zoom Link Forthcoming (Agenda: Finalize the 22-23 SPSA)
Mon-Fri	05/16 - 05/20	PTA "Teacher/Staff/Nurse Appreciation Week" (moved from 05/31-06/03)
Wed	05/18	PTA Association Meeting / 9:30 - 10:30 @ Zoom Link
Fri	05/20	PTA Field Day (Students enjoy a fun day of physical challenges. Details coming.)
Sat	05/21	World Cultural Day
Mon	05/23	International Day
Tues	05/24	Tentative 5th Grade End-of-Year Field Trip to Ventura Harbor and Santa Cruz Island (Details)
Tues-Thur	05/24-05/26	Art Show and Marine Science Fair - Student Projects Celebration Days / Cafeteria
Thur	05/26	Minimum Day 12:45 Dismissal
		Art Show and Marine Science Fair Parent Viewing / 5 - 6:30pm @ Cafeteria

		Open House / 5:30 - 6:30 @ Classrooms
Fri	05/30	Holiday / Memorial Day
Fri	06/03	PTA Honorary Service Awards Day / Details Coming
Tues	06/07	5th Grade Promotion Ceremony / 9:30 - 10:30 @ Field (Details coming)
Wed	06/08	Minimum Day 12:45 Dismissal
Thur	06/09	Report Cards Go Home
		Last day of School / Minimum Day 12:45 Dismissal
Fri	06/10	Summer Vacation Begins
Mon	6/13	Summer Vacation Continues
June 20 - July 15		Summer School @ Webster

[Archived MES Parent Newsletters](#)

District Announcements

[Link](#)

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

MES had no Covid positives for our fourth week running. We have no classrooms on modified quarantine. If your student or a staff member exhibits COVID-related symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, please continue to have them stay home and follow current isolation protocols.

Following Spring Break and beginning Monday, April 18 all students will arrive and depart from the Fernhill gate. Until then the Garyfox gate will be staffed in the morning and afternoon. I apologize for perceived inconveniences, but the safety of students is always our priority.

I am deeply concerned about the looming fear that MES will lose our four Instructional Assistants next school year. Each IA employee not only helps teachers with small group learning stations but with recess supervision. Without IAs, our students will not be as well supervised next school year. To mitigate this, we may have to shorten, condense, or eliminate some student breaks. Instructional strategies will have to shift too. **How did this looming crisis happen?** SMMUSD decided that Malibu schools (MES & WES) are on their own to fundraise for IAs and the Arts. (Santa Monica schools will continue to enjoy the professional fundraising talents of the Santa Monica Education Foundation which is largely supported by hotels serving the tourist industry.) The costs of our contracted MES IA labor and insurance requirements is \$141,000. This is about \$705 per student. **What can MES do?** We can accept voluntary donations and fundraise. Our PTA is our one and only fundraising organization. **Please write your voluntary tax-deductible donation checks to the MES PTA. On the memo write "Save our IAs."** Again, I am seriously waiving the "white flag". Any donation no matter how small is genuinely welcomed. If we have one IA for just kindergarten or one for every classroom (PDMSS used to raise enough to have an IA in all classrooms.), I would be so grateful. Thank you for your concern for your child's school.

Together for good health, an open campus, happy students, and high-achievement,
Chris Hertz



Parent General Resources

MES Parent Handbook: [Link](#)

Weekly Bell Schedule: [Link](#)

Volunteering at MES: [Link](#)

Student Attendance: Students will be marked present, absent, tardy (<30min), or late (>30 min). [FAQ Link](#)

[Current Lunch Menu](#)

[School Goals](#)

[School Safety Goals](#)

Parent Covid Resources

[Link](#)

MBGC Weekly Information

[Link](#)

School Site Council Parent Elections

There are two vacant two-year seats for parents on our (2022-2023 & 2023-2024) School Site Council. We need parent-candidates to run for office. This is the single most important committee at school in steering school improvement goals. The committee consists of five parents, three teachers, one support staff member, & the principal. The principal helps the committee to analyze needs, set direction, and evaluate progress. The Board of Education sets expectations for the Site Council and establishes criteria for the approval of the School Improvement Plan (also known as the School Plan for Student Achievement / SPSA) and School Safety Plan (SSP).

This year's SPSA was finalized last May by last year's committee and constitutes a large number of the priorities for staff and principal. This year's SSP was finalized in January. Throughout the school year the committee reviews progress and discusses next steps. At the end of the year an assessment of progress and an adjustment or confirmation of goals occurs.

We meet on Thursdays once a month via Zoom from 3:30 - 4:45 and obviously some additional reading beyond meeting times will be needed in order to be an informed representative. Are you interested in running for office? Please complete this [Official Candidate Form](#) by Friday, April 29.

Election Calendar

- Self-nominations Deadline is Friday, April 29.
- Candidates will be announced by Monday, May 2.
- If there are multiple candidates or just one candidate, there will be an election.

- A paper ballot will be sent to parents on Friday, May 6. (Also available in the office.)
- Polls will be open Friday, May 6. (Closes Friday, May 27.)
- Election results will be published on Monday, May 30.

Minimum Days / 12:45

~~August 19, 2021~~

~~August 24, 2021~~

~~August 31, 2021~~

~~November 3, 2021~~

~~November 4, 2021~~

~~November 5, 2021~~

~~December 17, 2021~~

May 26, 2022

June 8, 2022

June 9, 2022

New Student Enrollment - Hurry - Space is Limited

Please get your enrollment completed! We are enrolling new students every day now and no spots are guaranteed until your enrollment is complete! Last year we had to turn away kindergarten students who came late.

PTA Movie Night Successful

Thank you to our PTA, parent volunteers and the Marks Family for organizing Movie Night. Events like this help us build community and save our Instructional Assistants.

Spring Break Covid-19 on Site and Testing Hub information

PCR testing at the District Office:

- April 6th and 13th 10:00am-3:00pm

PCR testing at CDS

- April 5th and 12th
- Washington West 7:30am-8:30am
- April 6th and 13th
- Edison Elementary 8:30am-12 noon

Testing Hub Information: (All district staff and students are eligible to use the spring break hubs for response testing)

- Spring break PCR and Antigen testing hubs will be held at:
- John Adams Middle School (2425 16th street in Santa Monica)
- Malibu Middle/ High School (30215 Morning View Drive Malibu, CA 90265)
- The PCR and Antigen hubs will also run from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm on Saturday April 16th with both Antigen (for individuals who have tested positive over break and need to clear before returning on Monday, or prior positives who are symptomatic) and PCR for those without a history of positive result within 90 days who have symptoms or anyone would like added peace of mind after travel/gathering.

ChildMind Resources/Parenting Resource

<https://childmind.org/healthyminds/parents/>

<https://childmind.org/es/mentessanas/familias/>

REPRINTS

Enrollment for 2022-2023

When we know how many children are attending our school, we can make more-informed decisions about hiring and how to structure our classrooms. Thank you for your updates!

Leaving? Parents, if you have enrolled or will be enrolling your child somewhere else, please notify Administrative Assistant Diane Sullivan at dsullivan@smmusd.org. (If a student is dual enrolled, we must immediately dis-enroll him/her from our school site as of the day before we received notification that s/he was enrolled somewhere else.)

New? If you have a child who is **not yet** attending MES and you have **not yet** submitted enrollment forms, please contact Registrar Kim Rivetti. Kim will conduct the entire enrollment process with you via email. Kim's email is krivetti@smmusd.org. Click here for more information about [new student enrollment](#).

Saving our MES Instructional Assistants and Playground Supervisors - \$141,107

Our school is dependent upon the voluntary donations of parents and the larger community to maintain our Instructional Assistant program for next school year. Our PTA is our only fundraising entity and is tasked with helping to maintain this program. Our skilled and loyal IA team provides support to teachers, students and the school at large through supervision, instruction, and material preparation. Please watch for opportunities to help with fundraising.

City Sports Clinics and Spring Break Day Camps

[Link to details](#)

[Link to fliers](#)

Planning for the 2022-2023 School Year / Parent Input Period 4/18 - 5/6

Teachers and I will be building preliminary class lists using [balanced criteria](#). It is my practice to gather parent input. Linked below is a survey tool that has helped me a lot through the years. **I do not encourage parents to use this form unless there is a special consideration you really want me to consider.** This link will take you to the form. The deadline is May 6, so I can best meet your child's needs. [Parent Input Form Link](#) (Form opens on April 18.)

Student Council Spirit Days Line-Up

3/25 Favorite Decade Day

4/29 Come Dressed as your Favorite Book Character

5/27 Crazy Mask Day

Four Ways Parents Can Help Their Child

DreamBox Math: [How Parents Can Help Link](#)

Thinking Maps: Help Your Child Think Analytically and Write Better: [Link](#)

Sentence Frames: Frames help students engage in academic discourse and are especially helpful to students who are newer to English: [Link](#)

Leveled Reading: Ensure you know your child's evolving reading level range. Ask the teacher periodically for your child's level range. Make sure your child reads within their level range for 30 minutes a day, seven days a week. Encourage your child to re-read and read aloud. This leads to prosody. (Prosody means **reading with expression** – with the appropriate rhythm, tone, pitch, pauses, and stresses for the text. Prosody depends on both accuracy and rate. In order to read with expression, the student must be able to read words efficiently and break the text into meaningful syntactic and semantic units.) Prosody leads to comprehension. Comprehension is king. Leveled Reading: [Link](#)

Enrollment Permits for 2022 - 2023

The 2022-2023 Permit Season has officially opened. If you were not aware, this year's permit season (and all seasons moving forward) is ELECTRONIC! No More Paper! (Collective cheer inserted here). The Permits Department already has applications submitted! 😊

All applications, including Outgoing and the Verification of Enrollment form, may be found on www.smmusd.org/permits. Linked here is a “[flier](#)” with easy access, QR Codes. They may be scanned to begin (or complete) the process on your smartphone. All support documents must be uploaded with the application. All requests must be submitted through the new application process. The Permits Department will not accept any paper submissions.

If you have questions, please email permits@smmusd.org or call the permit line at 310-450-8338 ext. 70216.

SMMUSD is Enrolling for Preschool! / Webster

If you, or someone you know, has a child who is ready to begin a preschool experience, our SMMUSD preschools have something for everyone! We have part-day, full-day, and extended day options available and we have a wide variety of locations. If finances need to be considered, we also offer subsidized programming for qualifying families. For more information, please call (310) 399-5865 and ask to speak with a preschool staff member, or go to the following link for more information: www.smmusd.org/cds.

City's Spring 2022 Recreation Guide and City Newsletter

[Details Link](#)

[Flier Link](#)

New Student Enrollment Procedure

[Link](#)

Private School Recommendation Letters

[Link](#)

