



Parent Newsletter

Monday, April 24, 2023

Volume 4, Number 34

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

Tues 0425
Fri 04/28

Principal Chris Off Campus at the All Principals' Meeting / 8:30 - 3 @ Santa Monica
Zoe Theater Show "Talent Show" / 9 - 9:30 (Grades K & 4th/5th)
Zoe Theater Show "Talent Show" / 10 -10:30 (Grades 1-2-3rd)

Beyond

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

Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week (bring items in all week)
3rd-5th grade Annual California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress / English, Math, & Science Assessment ([Parent Notice](#)) ([Parent Notice in Spanish](#))
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

Mon-Fri 05/22-05/26

3rd-5th grade Annual California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress / English, Math, & Science Assessment (Make Ups for absent students)

Thur 05/18

ELAC Meeting / 9 - 10 @ Library Courtyard (Agenda: Celebration of EL Students)

Fri 05/19

MES Annual Field Day / Details and schedule forthcoming

Thur 05/25

Art & Marine Science Festival, PTA Honorary Service Awards & Hot Dogs / 5 - 6:30pm

Wed 06/07

5th Grade Promotion / 9:00 - 10:00 @ cafeteria

Thur 06/08

Minimum Day - Dismissal 12:45

Mon 06/12

Minimum Day - Dismissal 12:45

Last Day of School

Report Cards Go Home

Summer

June 20

5th Grade Overnight Field Trip Deposit Due (4th grade parents are asked to donate by May.) PTA Donation [Link](#)

June 20 - July 14

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)

Next School Year

Wed 08/24

First day of School

Wed-Fri 10/18 - 10/20

5th Grade Overnight Trip to Pali Camp (See article below)

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/associationmeetings

PTA Calendar: www.malibuelementary.org/calendar

Principal's Pen

Our most recent school-wide Star assessments are very encouraging. More of our students are proficient in math and reading than at any point this school year. Parents will receive their reports next week or soon after.

PTA elections have been completed. Congratulations and thank you to our new and outgoing PTA Board. The new Board is eager and planning to build on the accomplishments of the outgoing Board. Soon our PTA President Melanie Heseske, our President-Elect Josh Donfield, and I will meet to review schedules for next school year. I cannot thank Melanie and her Board enough. Haven't the past two years been great?! Josh will be working with parents to raise funds to expand our Instructional Assistant program. IAs and volunteers help teachers to run small project-based learning centers that truly engage our young learners. More funding is key. Can you make a contribution to our PTA?

We are only 15% away from our \$250,000 goal! That's amazing!

Our 5th grade End-of-Year Committee has been outstanding. Through donations from 5th grade families and two Bingo nights and volunteers who worked over Spring Break, they have made a gift to our school. We now have a GaGa Pit! The 1-5th graders love it so much already. Thank you to the committee and to their liaison Amora Magna who made this happen. Soon we will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony and an exhibition game! Details coming..

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. 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 TK applications have been picked up but only three have been returned. We need students before we can hire a TK teacher and set up the classroom.)**

Please remember to complete the [school security survey](#) done in collaboration with the City of Malibu. We would like to see a high participation rate on this survey. Linked here is the [MES Safe School Plan Parent Overview](#) and our [Safety Goals for the 2022 - 2023](#) school year for your review. I hope you are pleased with the improvements already achieved this school year. Together we can get ever better.

Thank you for your partnership,
Proud Principal Chris Hertz



Parent General Resources

[Link](#)

Student Health Resources

[Link](#)

2023-2024 5th Grade Overnight Trip to Pali Camp

Hello MES 4th Grade Parents,
Thank you to the ten (10) 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 \$4,140!** 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

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 - 2
Mon May 22 1:30 - 2

After-School Programs - Parent Access Gates

MES after-school program offerings are expanding. To maintain security, parents are asked to use different gates for different programs. **The Fernhill gate should never be used because it is unsupervised. If it is propped open, our after-school children are less secure.**

- **MBGC:** After phoning or texting MBGC, use their **gate next to MBGC**. MBGC staff will walk your child to you.

- **Jaxx Theater:** Use their **gate in the Greyfox parking lot**. The gate attendant will ask you to wait at the gate.
- **FC Soccer:** Use the Greyfox Gate near the green handball courts. The coaches will greet you, welcome your child, and keep the students secure. At pick up, the coaches will open the gate and release the students to their parents.

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

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

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](#)

