

# The Muir Monthly

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Dear John Muir Families,

Happy New Year 2020! As we begin the new decade, I want to provide an update on the work we are doing towards meeting our academic site goal. Our focus continues to be student use of precise academic language and evidence to communicate for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences. While the goal is being worked on in all subject areas throughout the day, in our weekly professional development and PLC sessions teachers are focusing in the area of mathematics. We are about to embark on a second cycle of inquiry using math sense-making routines as a way to measure student progress.

Grade-level teachers will, once again, work through this cycle with this guiding question in mind: *By using collaborative strategies including math journals, response frames, and student discourse, will student academic analysis improve?* PLCs will implement these teaching tools and strategies and then measure their effectiveness as it relates to students' ability to use evidence and academic language to explain their thinking on a common error analysis task. They will compare the student outcomes on this task with their results on the first task completed in November 2019. Our Site Leadership Team will provide guidance through this cycle of inquiry. The student work will be analyzed, and tweaks will be made as we conclude the school year with a third cycle of inquiry during the month of May.

With all of this hard work ahead of us, we thank you, families, in advance for making school attendance a priority and sending your children to school "every day, all day, on time!"

Sincerely-  
*Paula Lytz*  
Principal

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## John Muir Said...

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."

## Upcoming Events

### January 6

School Resumes

Monthly Assembly 8:30am

### January 15

Site Council Meeting 3:00pm

### January 16

Muir MLK Presentation at

Board Meeting 6:00pm

### January 17

PS Arts Family Event 1:30pm

### January 20

**NO SCHOOL**-MLK Jr. Day

### January 23

PTA Meeting 6:30pm

### January 24

PTA Movie Night 6:00pm

### January 27

Volunteer Training 8:30am

## **LAST TRAINING**

## **OPPORTUNITY OF THE YEAR!**

### January 30

Kindergarten Roundup 9:00am

### January 31

Spanish Lg. Parents Grp 8:30am

### Kindergarten Roundup is January 30

John Muir's annual Kindergarten Roundup is taking place on Thursday, January 30, 2020 at 9:00am in the Library. Please spread the word to any incoming kindergarten families! The morning will consist of presentations by the Principal and Kindergarten Teachers and will feature a tour of our school. Staff from our childcare and enrichment/sports programs as well as representatives from our PTA will be on hand to give a brief welcome and answer questions. Registration procedures and timelines for the 2020-21 school year will be outlined at the event.

### The Santa Monica Education Foundation Update

Muir students are fortunate to have staff and programs that don't exist at many neighboring public schools: weekly arts classes, classroom aides, Music with Miss Betsy, a STEM program, and more. These programs happen at Muir because of donations to our Santa Monica Education Foundation. If you have not made your annual donation to the Ed Foundation this year, now is the time! In February, our Board of Education starts their budgeting process. Staff and programs depend on the amount donated to the Ed Foundation by January 31. Please join me in giving. You will directly benefit our children here at Muir. You can donate anytime at [smedfoundation.org/donate](http://smedfoundation.org/donate) or pick up a donation envelope in the front office. Every dollar makes a difference, so please donate whatever you can.

### Green Travel

Walking and biking to school are simple ways to address complex problems around school. By promoting green travel to school, we create opportunities to reduce traffic and pollution around campus while increasing safety and student activity levels. Walking and biking to school, does not have to mean door-to-door or even every day. Each block and every day matters, so by parking a few blocks away, we can create a safer healthier community. We are seeking volunteers to lead a walk to school program at Muir/SMASH. Volunteers will meet with city reps to plan and promote the program. The time commitment will vary depending on the number of volunteers and the nature of the program that is determined to be best for Muir/SMASH. *Please email [plytz@smmusd.org](mailto:plytz@smmusd.org) if you are interested in volunteering in this capacity.*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO...

**Ms. Cruz's class** for having the best attendance during the month of November. The students and families in in this class worked extremely hard to be present a whopping 98% during the month! Henry the Attendance Hippo is spending January with Ms. Cruz's class and will bring them awesome prizes to acknowledge their dedication to school. Thank you, John Muir Families, for making attendance a priority. Maybe YOUR child's classroom will be next?!?!?

### Muir Students to Present at Board Meeting

Our Muir Student Council has the honor of making a presentation at the upcoming SMMUSD Board Meeting on Thursday, January 16 at 6:00pm. This student-created presentation is in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Come to the meeting to support our students or be sure to check out their presentation on YouTube live during the meeting or via the School Board Meetings Video Archives button on the Board Meetings tab of the [smmusd.org](http://smmusd.org) website.

### Census 2020-Everyone Counts!

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. The Census applies to everyone who lives in Santa Monica and Malibu, regardless of status. A complete census count has value to all of us. Your information is private and cannot be used against you. It's quick and easy to take the survey! Help will be available to take the census survey if you need it.

district and public schools