



# Parent Newsletter

Monday, January 6, 2020

Volume 1, Number 20

## Updated Calendar

### SMMUSD Master Calendar

Mon	1/6	School Resumes Welcome Back Rules, Bully Prevention, and Recycling Assemblies for Students
Tues	1/7	PTA Executive Board Meeting / 8:30 - 9:30 @ room 12
Wed	1/8	Fire Drill #5 of 9 / 11:30
Thurs	1/9	SSC / 3:15 - 4:45 @ Library (Agenda: Public Hearing of Safe School Plan)
Fri	1/10	Student Council Spirit Day "Career Day" (See article below) Patriotic Fridays Assemblies Continue / 8:15 - 8:25 @ playground (Every Friday)
Sun	1/12	Clean Beach Poster Contest Deadline ( <a href="#">Link to Flyer</a> )
Mon	1/13	Last day of PS Music with Amber for k-2
Mon	1/20	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Day / <b>No School</b>
Tues	1/21	PTA General Association Meeting / 3 - 4:30 @ room 12
Tues	1/28	PS Arts/Crafts Begins for K-2 students
Thurs	1/30	Kindergarten Round Up Day
Mon - Fri	2/3 - 2/14	1st - 5th grade Literacy Assessment Period (Informs Instructional Choices)
Feb	2/3 - 2/28	5th Grade Healthy Kids Survey (Positive Parent Permission Required, Parents and Staff will be surveyed too.)
Tues - Fri	2/18 - 2/28	1st - 5th grade Math Assessment Period (Informs Instructional Choices)
Fri	2/7	100 <sup>th</sup> Day of School
Wed	2/19	Kinder Tide Pool Walk (12:30 to 2:00ish)
Wed	3/18	Tide Pool Walk (12:30 to 2:00ish)
Fri	4/3	Last Day Before Spring Break
Mon	4/20	School Resumes at 8:15

### Principal's Pen

**December Thank Yous** December ended with a bang! The Winter Holiday Show was outstanding. Thank you, parents for making it happen. The Nutcracker show was so warming. Many thanks are owed to volunteer Zoe Langley for her selfless dedication to our children and community. The Actors Gang students were fearless and made every student at MES cheer with glee. Many thanks are owed to the Malibu Foundation for sponsoring this program. Things will settle down in January as we refocus on academics and school climate.

**Winter Break Progress** Over the winter break our 1st grade play yard received an exciting make-over! Out with sand and in with turf. New fencing was installed too! Many thanks are owed to teacher Alia Tate for coordinating with District Facilities to make this happen! Come check it out! The Safe School Plan came along too. Parents on the SSC and Safety Committee gave feedback on the District Template and MES specifics. A hearty thank you to SSC President Anne Russell for her hours of coordinating parents and sitting with me to make revisions. An abstract on the plan will be given to all parents annually in the forthcoming parent handbook, a full redacted copy of the plan will always be available on the school website (tactical and private information may not be shared), and the draft plan has already been given to the Sheriff.

Happy New Year,  
Chris Hertz, Principal

### Spirit Day “Career Day”

Happy New Year from the student council! On Friday, January 10th, our first spirit day of the decade will be a “career day”! Students are encouraged to dress-up as the professional they want in the future, the career of one of their parents, or even an old Halloween costume. Captain Lee from Fire Station 71 will be on campus at 10:30am to speak to the students. We are looking for other speakers so if any other speakers would like to talk to the students about their careers, please contact Robin Seldin at [rseldin@smmusd.org](mailto:rseldin@smmusd.org).

### Looking Ahead

January and February will bring our students important assessments that help teachers make instructional choices. Parent, staff, and student surveys will be conducted too. Keep your eye on this newsletter for dates. Our PTA is also very busy planning community-building events and critical fundraisers in coordination with our new local Education Foundation (Malibu LEAD). Please do participate. We need all parents’ and guardians’ full engagement to be the great school community we know we are.

### 5th Grade Catalina Trip Confirmed for 2020

Next school year our 5th graders (4th graders this year) will be invited to participate in a 3-day / 2-night learning trip to the Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI). The dates are Wednesday, October 7 - Friday, October 9. The teachers and principal felt that this year’s trip was outstanding, so we are electing to continue this program. This educational activity supports our Marine Science education program and helps to build student solidarity too. As in the past this program is completely funded by voluntary community donations hopefully including sizable support from the PTA to help offset costs. If we do not raise enough voluntary donations, then the trip must be canceled as the school does not have enough funding to underwrite this supplementary educational experience for our youth. By July we must put down a semi-refundable down payment of roughly \$5,000. As with this school year we will ask the PTA assume this risk. The total cost this year all-in was about \$18,000. **4th grade PTA Room Parents are asked to speak with other 4th grade parents about fundraising, recruiting voluntary donations, and to contact Principal Hertz ASAP.** July will be here soon. All fundraising must receive pre-approval from both the PTA and the Principal so please do not collect anything yet! The Board of Education must approve the trip in advance too. A very limited number of highly responsible parents will be needed to help staff keep the children safe and engaged. Recruiting will begin in August. All volunteers will pay a transportation-housing-meal fee upfront. Go Sealions!

### When is MES a Public City Park?

MES is not a City Park after school. MES is a City Park on Saturdays and Sundays 9-4. Therefore is NOT ok for students to go to the park afterschool. The only children enrolled in a MBGC or City sports may use the park after school M-F.

### Recycling Initiative - Student Leadership - January

Student Council Leaders Nikau and Asher have asked to lead up a new recycling initiative. We will begin January 6. The recycling bins were delivered last month. Signs have arrived too. We will have a kick-off assembly in January 6. This link will show you what the program will look like: [LINK](#)

### Volunteers Wanted - Grayfox Arrival and Dismissal

We are still in need of volunteers to assist students and parents along Grayfox at arrival and dismissal times, especially on Friday. Please contact Principal Hertz to learn how to help our school.

