



Spotlights

Monta Loma Elementary



Wednesday, October 11th, 2017.
Core value of the month: Compassion

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Monta Loma Families,

October and parent teacher conferences are in full swing. You are a vital part of your students learning, and we thank you coming to share news and ask questions about your child.

Thank you also for your patience and partnership during construction as we modernize and expand our facilities for our students.

Last week district staff and I met with construction crews to discuss how to decrease the impact of construction during the school day. The following changes are now in place.

- The construction fencing along the front of the MUR has been extended into one lane of the drive. This is to allow for equipment such as pumps, welders, and generators to be located and used away from the kindergarten rooms and eating area.
- As much as possible, large concrete pours will take place after 9:00 am to avoid impact to the driveway during morning drop off. This may result in the need to take over both lanes of the pick-up/drop off loop during dismissal. In such cases, the parking loop will be used to dismiss students. This decision was made because more staff are available to monitor safety and manage traffic flow during dismissal than drop off.
- During the school day, construction crews are taking their lunch breaks or working as far away from the student eating area during student lunch times.
- Lunch tables have been moved as far away from the construction fence as possible.

I am pleased to share that MVWSD has hired Kevin Sanders as our new Director of Capital Projects. Stay tuned for news about a construction informational event with him.

In Partnership.

Gloria

Student attendance is important: Help students be in school and on time

When we reduce chronic absence, we improve graduation rates, increase academic achievement and give young people the best chance at success in their adult life. [Read here the FAQs about MVWSD student attendance.](#)

Most parents are aware of what it means for a child to be truant from school. However, there is a new push through the state of California to reduce the numbers of students who are “chronically absent.” Students who are chronic absent typically attend school fairly regularly, but miss a few days here and there, which really add up and affect their learning. It's important to know both excused or unexcused absences count toward chronic absenteeism.

Chronically absent students have been absent (either excused or unexcused) for 10% of the time that school has been in session. For example, if your student has been absent 2 days before Sept. 15, he is chronically absent. If your student has been absent 5 days before Oct. 20, she is chronically absent. An average of 2 days absent a month means a student is chronically absent.

The District is now required to track this data and report it to the state. MVWSD will contact parents when students reach concerning absence levels. If not remedied, chronically absent students and their families may be referred to the District's Student Attendance Review Board, in a process similar to how truancy is handled.

Thanks for your assistance and support!

SCHOOL NEWS

Halloween

Monta Loma will have its annual costume parade during our Leopard Launch on Monday, October 30th this year. We are hosting the parade on Monday to ensure our 5th graders can participate before they leave for science camp on Tuesday. Classroom activities for Halloween will vary by teacher and grade level. See your child's teacher for details. Alternative activities are available for anyone not wishing to participate in the costume parade or classroom activities.

Please note these rules for costumes.

- Keep it friendly-No weapons, violence, gore, or vulgar messaging.
- Masks are allowed only if they don't obstruct vision.
- Students should be able to put on and take off their own costumes.

NEWS FROM THE PTA

Mark your Calendar!

Fall Festival is coming Oct 27 3-6pm! Join the fun at this carnival-style event. Each classroom will host a game complete with small prizes. Teachers have started recruiting game coordinators and posting signup sheets. **Please sign up for one hour block** so all volunteers can spend time with their children as well. This event has volunteer opportunities throughout the day, including cleanup/teardown at 6pm 😊

Registration is open for **Lego Robotics** Course for 4th and 5th graders. Meets Mondays Oct 30 thru Jan 8. Please return applications to the front office.

Thank you members! Membership reward cards have arrived! Pick up your **Baskin-Robbins BOGO** cards and PTA membership/perks cards at Fall Festival. Not a member yet? Download a [membership form](#) and return it with your membership fee to the PTA box in the main office.

Free money – this month's feature is **eScrip** – This program works by registering your credit cards, debit cards or rewards/club cards and a small percentage of the purchase is automatically donated to the school. Participating vendors include local favorites such as: **Piazza's, Draeger's, Mollie Stone's, and FoodMaxx**. A full list of participating stores can be found at the eScrip website.

Watch this 1 minute video <http://www.escrip.com/jsp/r.jsp?mode=SupporterHelps&gid=141470445> - spend a few minutes today and support Monta Loma School PTA all year long! If you already have an eScrip account, make sure your credit, debit and store rewards cards are up to date.

Do you **shop by phone**? Mobile App Benefit also available <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=benefit.mobile>

Check our [Fundraiser page](#) for more on eScrip and other merchant donation programs.

Reach out to us anytime at montalomapta@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

Mountain View Educational Foundation needs to raise \$750,000 this year to fund all of the programs it supports. MVEF raises and distributes critical funds to ensure that all our students get a competitive, well-rounded education. In 2016-2017, MVEF funded more than \$737,000 of core programs in art, music, STEM exploration, leadership, and middle school extended-day electives and sports that would not exist without generous donations to MVEF!

Please don't forget to donate this school year by clicking here: <https://www.mvef.org/donations>

MVEF will be holding its annual phone-a-thon on October 25th, so donate today to avoid the call!

MVWSD Surveys MVWSD uses data to inform its initiatives and decisions on all aspects of its services. While it's important that we learn from you, we also know you're busy, and we want to balance the time involved with District surveys with our need for information to serve our students and families. To help with this, the District tracks the number of surveys given annually. This year, these are the major, districtwide surveys that you will be asked to participate in:

Climate survey for staff, students (grades 5, 7) and all parents- November 6

LCAP survey for staff, students and parents- February.

Thank you in advance for your participation, time and thoughtfulness.

MV Parent U: “10 Steps to a Healthy Family: Help with Nutrition:” Oct. 11

Mountain View Parent U presents “10 Steps to a Healthy Family: Help with Nutrition” on Wednesday, Oct. 11, from 6:30- 8 p.m. at the Crittenden Middle School MUR.

Presented by the Healthier Kids Foundation of Santa Clara County, parents will learn about getting the most out of mealtimes with kids, nutritional choices that help children focus in schools and positive lifestyle habits without a focus on body shape or weight.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Come early to connect with resources! Food will be available for purchase before the event.

Provided:

- Interpretation (Spanish support)
- Child care
- Bus service departs Castro Elementary and Graham Middle at 6 p.m. and returns at 8:30 p.m.

[Register here](#)

Free MVLA Speaker series workshop: “Why Parents Matter More Than Peers: Restoring A Healthy Balance in Adult-Child Relationships”, Thursday, October 12, 2017, 7:00 pm at Mountain View High School Spartan Theatre

Dr. Gabor Maté, M.D., is highly sought after internationally for his expertise on a range of wellness topics including ADHD, stress, childhood development, and addiction. Rather than offering quick-fix solutions to these complex issues, Dr. Maté weaves together scientific research, case histories, and his own insights as an experienced physician to present a broad perspective that enlightens and empowers parents seeking stronger, more meaningful connection with their children.

Registration link: <https://mvla2017-gabormate.eventbrite.com>

Mentor Tutor Connection Volunteer Information Open House - October 18

Thinking about how you can make a difference in the life of a student in our community?

Mentor Tutor Connection needs Mentors for High School students and Tutors for K- 8 students in Los Altos and Mountain View schools. All volunteers must be high school graduates.

There is no obligation to sign up as a volunteer. You're welcome to just come and learn more about what we do.

Date: Wednesday, October 18

Time: 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Location: MVLA District Office - Board Room, 1299 Bryant Ave, Mountain View, CA

Register: [REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Questions: programs@mentortutorconnection.org

Parent Education Panels

Wed. October 18, 2017, 7–9 PM, Santa Rita Elementary

Special Education Director/Administration Panel

Staff from the Special Education Departments from Los Altos SD (Jennifer Keicher, Director), Mountain View Whisman SD (Gary Johnson, Director), Mountain View Los Altos High SD (Kara Oettinger, Program Specialist) and Palo Alto Unified SD (Jennifer Baker, School Psychologist) will participate in a moderated panel discussion about issues in special education and respond to questions. A great way for new families to learn more! If you have questions now to start the evening, please submit them to selpa1cacinfo@gmail.com

CALENDAR

Today, this Thursday, and this Friday October 11 - 13, 2017

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Minimum Day every day during this week = School Dismissal @ 12:30 pm every day

Monday, October 16 thru Friday, October 20, 2017

Emergency Preparedness Drill, MVWSD will conduct an emergency preparedness drill during this week.

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

ML PTA Board Meeting @ Library, 6:00 – 8:15 pm

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Kindergarten Field Trip to Deer Hollow Farm, 8:30 – 11:30 am

Friday, October 27, 2017

ML Leopard Spirit Day

ML Fall Festival Day @ Soccer field, 3:00 – 6:00 pm

Monday, October 30, 2017

ML Halloween Parade, ML will have its annual costume parade during our Leopard Launch.

Tuesday, October 31 to Friday, November 3, 2017

5th Grade Science Camp

Thursday, November 2, 2017

K (Walking) Trip to Fire Station #3 on Rengstorff

Friday, November 3, 2017

ML Coffee with the Principal/PTA Meeting @ Staff Lounge/Computer Lab, 8:35 – 9:35 am

End of 1st Trimester/Minimum Day for Students = School Dismissal 12:30pm this day

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

ML School Site Council @ Library, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

ML ELAC @ Library, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Student Council @ Room 3, 12:30 – 1:15pm

ML Picture Day Make Up @ BTB Portable Room

Friday, November 10, 2017

Veteran's Day/No School Day

Friday, November 17, 2017

Mismatch Day

Power of One Assembly for students @ Library, 9:00 – 3:15 pm

Wednesday, November 22 thru Friday, November 24, 2017

Thanksgiving Break/No School Days

FLYERS

[Lego Robotics for 3rd, 4th & 5th Grades](#)

[Box Tops](#)

[ML PTA Membership Form](#)

[MVLA Parent Education](#)

[Health Fair](#)