



Spotlights

Monta Loma Elementary



Wednesday, September 20th, 2017.
Core value of the month: Responsibility

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear ML parents,

September 15th marked the beginning of National Hispanic and Latino Heritage Month. In recognition and in celebration, I want to share the inspirational story of Sylvia Mendez.

In the early 1940's, Sylvia had to walk past a school with a beautiful playground to one that had a dirt field. She wanted nothing more than to go to the beautiful school. Sylvia's parents wanted, what all parents want—the very best for their children. They knew that the differences between the two schools went beyond the quality of the playground, so in 1944 they fought to have Sylvia and her siblings enrolled in the “White” school.

Their court case, *Mendez v. Westminster*, resulted in a ruling declaring the segregation of Mexican students was unconstitutional in the state of California. The case influenced the ruling in the U. S. Supreme Court case, *Brown v. the Board of Education* ten years later.

Sylvia Mendez grew up to become a nurse, a profession she practiced for over three decades. In 2011, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and she continues to educate people about her experience. She noted while *Mendez v. Westminster* ended legal segregation in California, we must continue to fight the segregation of students caused by poverty and other socioeconomic factors.

Sylvia's story is our story. As she said in an article in the L.A. Times (April 17, 2016) “The Mendez case isn't just about Mexicans. It's about everybody coming together. If you start fighting for justice, then people of all ethnicities will become involved.” Mendez and her parents are fine examples of the good that comes from showing courage and compassion. And like them, every single one of us has the power to change the world.

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!

Leopard Leader Award Recipients (Corrected list)

Please join us in celebrating our Leopard Leaders for Respect. These students are role models in dealing peacefully with conflicts, being considerate of others and including others.

Thank you, Jack W., Eve S., Emmy A. C., Jax B., Jacqueline C., Isaiah J., Adam P., Henry L., Kaitlyn C., Michelle G., Juselmax F., Ava H., Jay L., Kayla B., Mathias O., Karina B., Brayden C., Sam F., April C., Sanvi M., Jordan L., Alana H., Judah M., Kaila R., Gavin D., Marqus N., Ruby A., Mia J., Emily S., and Kevin L.

SCHOOL NEWS

Our BTB and YMCA portables in the back are not car accessible to parents for pick up. For your safety and those walking, please park in the front of the school and walk to the back to pick up your child. Thanks so much for your cooperation and understanding!

ELAC Needs You! ELAC is our English Learner Advisory Committee. It plays a vital role in developing plans and monitoring the progress for our language learners. We are looking for parents of language learners to join. Meetings are once a month. Dinner and childcare are provided. For more information, contact Gloria Higgins or Yanet Flores in the office.

NEWS FROM THE PTA

Mark your Calendar!

Next Principal's Coffee / PTA Association Meeting will be Sept 29 @ 8:35 in the library. We need your input as we plan the coming year's events and budget!

Membership – please join PTA. To join, download a [membership form](#) and return it with your membership fee to the PTA box in the main office. PTA membership is annual. Thank you for keeping your membership current!

Ways to donate – this month's feature is **Amazon** – Using Monta Loma's link will earn dollars for our school with no registration or additional effort. This link is much more beneficial to Monta Loma than Amazon's Smile program. Please bookmark this link <https://tinyurl.com/y7kyn9zy> or select Amazon link from Monta Loma's fundraiser page every time you shop.

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

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE

Wed. September 20, 2017, 7–9 PM, Santa Rita Elementary

Challenges of Dyslexia Join Lindamood-Bell Center Director, Leila MacCurrach, for a conversation about how intensive instruction that builds the imagery-language foundation can enable students of all backgrounds and prior diagnoses to learn to read and comprehend to their potential. Lindamood-Bell's intensive, one-to-one, process-based instruction has been used to strengthen the sensory-cognitive functions needed for reading and comprehension. The method has been proven successful for individuals with learning challenges, including dyslexia, hyperlexia, ADHD, and ASD.

SIOP Parent Night: Learn more on Thursday, Sept 28 6:30 p.m. at Theuerkauf Elementary

MUR. For more info, see https://www.mvwsd.org/academics/supporting_learning/sheltered_instruction_observation_protocol_siop

MVWSD is always looking for ways to support students and increase their academic achievement. Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) allows educators to design and deliver lessons that address the academic and linguistic needs of English learners while enhancing the overall learning environment for all students. SIOP-based teaching benefits all students, not just those who are learning English as an additional language.

This means your student will get more focus, support and expectations from teachers on how he/she communicates learning using English structures and academic vocabulary.

Whole Foods Supports MVEF!

Did you know that Whole Foods Market gives customers a five-cent credit for bringing your own shopping bags? Did you know that they also have a program where customers can donate that credit to local nonprofit organizations? In the next few months, MVEF will be a primary beneficiary of the Nickels for Nonprofits Program at the Los Altos Store. Just bring in your own bags when you shop and let them know you would like to donate the five cents back to us! The program kicks off on September 26th and continues through January 15.

CALENDAR

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Chorus After School Program (Grades 2-5) starts @ Library, 1:00-2:00 pm

Friday, September 22, 2017

ML Fall Picture Day @ BTB Portable Room, 8:30am – 3:00 pm

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

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

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

ML ELAC @ Library, from 6:00 to 7:30pm

Friday, September 29, 2017

Mustache Day

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

Monday, October 9 to Friday, October 13, 2017

Parent-Teacher Conferences

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

Tuesday, October 17, 2017

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

Friday, October 27, 2017

ML Sports Team Day

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

FLYERS

[ML After School Chorus](#)

[ML PTA Membership Form](#)

[Sports Camp](#)

[MVLA Parent Education](#)