



August 14, 2018

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year!

I'm writing this, ironically, in the peace and quiet of my very clean, very empty home. What parent EVER says that? I do, because tonight my 8-year-old daughter is off to her very first sleepover. My kid is wonderful, bright, goofy, and sensitive. She also takes things at her own pace. Unlike some, she's warmed slowly to the idea of sleepovers, and only now feels confident enough to try it.

Where did she get that confidence? Well, it was nurtured and loved into her by us, hopefully, but also by the amazing community we've found at Mt. Washington Elementary. By her friends, most of whom are here at the school, her spectacular teachers, and by the MWE parents, who are a truly wonderful lot. I doubt just any school would have seen MJ for who she was and allowed her to blossom at exactly her speed, but this place, and everyone here, certainly did. Because MWE isn't just a school. It's a community.

That's because we make it one, of course. Communities don't just happen. We take the time to get to know one another. We commiserate in the hot glare of late summer drop offs. We chuckle at the kids on Crazy Hair Day. We wave cars through at Safety Valet, watch Bryan take pies in the face during Direct Appeal, serve fudge bars at Snack Shack, chat at parent ed. workshops, and pass tissues around at school concerts. We choose to be here; we choose to be engaged.

We also, of course, annoy each other, have spats, and occasionally judge when we shouldn't. At times we feel our "family" is dysfunctional. But mostly we try to face problems and fix them. That's what a community does, right? It also passes down good advice, and a former PTA President gave me some a while back. "Take the time to be here," he said. "Sign up to volunteer. Do a bit more than you want. Accept the inconvenience. It's rewarding, it'll mean the world to your kid, and someday soon they'll be off on their own, not needing you anywhere near as much as now."

Grab this moment, in other words, while you have it.

It's excellent counsel. So let's give of ourselves however we can this year. There are so many ways to help nurture what we have here. And, for God's sake, let's cherish each other. The loud, the quiet, the shy, the brazen, the sensitive, the brave, the quirky, all genders, all races, all sizes, all proclivities. Every child, every parent, and every educator can blossom here, if we let them. So let's see how great we can make this school—this community—for our kids this year. What better goal could there be?

Jessica Craven
President, Mt. Washington Elementary PTA

Approved by Principal Gravino:



PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION GENERAL INFORMATION

WHO WE ARE

The Mt. Washington Elementary School Parent Teacher Association (MWPTA) brings together parents, teachers, and members of the administration to advocate for our school's children, enrich their educational experience, and uphold the PTA motto: "Every Child, One Voice." Please join us at our five (5) General Association meetings throughout the year; bring your ideas, ask questions, and cast your votes!

We update the Mt. Washington PTA website regularly with meeting notices and news of upcoming events, so please be sure to bookmark www.mwpta.org and check in often. You can also subscribe to the weekly eHowl newsletter for news and events delivered right to your inbox.

HOW TO JOIN

Please complete the attached PTA membership envelope, include cash or a check made out to MWPTA, and return to your child's teacher. Completed membership envelopes can also be dropped off at the Main Office, and blank ones can be picked up at the school's Parent Center. Your \$6 per family membership fee is required by the California State Parent Teacher Association and breaks down as follows: \$2.25 dues to national PTA; \$1.25 dues to California state PTA; \$1.25 dues to Los Angeles 10th District PTSA; \$.20 dues to Highlands Council; \$1.30 dues to Mt. Washington PTA for membership associated expenses.

PTA membership has its privileges! Use your PTA membership card (distributed to members in early September) for discounts offered by local merchants. The growing list of available discounts is on our website. Every dollar we raise aside from these membership fees goes directly to MWPTA to fund school programs. **Last year we had 100 percent PTA participation from our families – let's do it again this year!**

WHAT WE DO

We host a wide range of fun, community-building events for students and their families throughout the year. We also offer affordable after-school programs to enrich your child's academic, creative and social experience, and provide many different ways for parents to participate in school life.

Perhaps most importantly, we fundraise for crucial academic support and programs. This year your generous donations will provide six teacher's aides, drama and visual arts education, physical education, and many other programs that our students and teachers love.

We encourage you to volunteer! Opportunities abound in the classroom, front office, and at our events. **Welcome to the Mt. Washington Elementary Team – we're so happy you're here!**



2018 – 2019 MWPTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| <u>Position:</u> | <u>Name:</u> | <u>Email Address:</u> |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| President | Jessica Craven | president@mwpta.org |
| Secretary | Patty Hencken | secretary@mwpta.org |
| Treasurer | Roberto Viramontes | treasurer@mwpta.org |
| 1st VP, Communication | Angela Vawter | communications@mwpta.org |
| Communications Assistant | Vicki Vainshtein | communications1@mwpta.org |
| Financial Secretary | Kia Findrilakis-White | fin_secretary@mwpta.org |
| 2nd VP, Programs | Erica Rosales | programs@mwpta.org |
| 3rd VP, Ways & Means | Sara Skelton | waysandmeans@mwpta.org |
| Ways & Means, Assistant | TBD | waysandmeans2@mwpta.org |
| 4th VP, Volunteers | Michelle Jacoby | volunteers@mwpta.org |
| Volunteers Assistant | TBD | volunteers1@mwpta.org |
| Parliamentarian | Brandi Moore | parliamentarian@mwpta.org |
| Historian | Jules Ashborn | historian@mwpta.org |
| Membership Chair | Samantha Wynans-Mangan | membership@mwpta.org |
| Direct Appeal Chair | Sara Skelton | directappeal@mwpta.org |
| School Principal | Mrs. Gravino | gxxg4631@lausd.net |
| Teacher Representatives | Dr. Guanlao Laurie Mittermiller | thea.guanlao@lausd.net laurie.mittermiller@lausd.net |



2018-2019 FUNDRAISING

At Mt. Washington Elementary, fundraising bridges the gap between the money our school needs and the money our school gets. MWE receives substantially less state funding than neighboring schools because our demographics indicate less need than schools with Title 1 status. Every year we appeal to the MWE parent community for their support to provide programs including classroom aides, drama, physical education, and art instruction. And wow, do our parents deliver! We have surpassed our fundraising goals for three years in a row, and we're aiming for similar success this year! Our goal this year is to raise \$120K by the 20th of September. We're counting on 100% participation from MWE families.

Getting involved with fundraising is a great way to meet other school families and have a positive impact on our students' experience at MWE. We have lots of great events planned in the coming months that will be tons of fun and help raise the money we need for the programs kids and teachers love. We encourage you to come, have fun, lend a hand, and support our school! But first...

LET'S RAISE \$120K BY THE 20TH!

Be on the lookout for the launch of the 2018-2019 Annual Give Challenge on Back-to-School night, Thursday, August 30th. The 20-Day Annual Give Challenge is how we raise the majority of the funds that pay for teacher's aides, who provide more one-on-one instruction, supervision, and support in every classroom. You'll hear lots more about \$120K by the 20th in the coming weeks, but you may make your tax-deductible donation at any time on the MWPTA website (mwpta.org) or by returning a check in the envelope that will be sent home with your child. Thank you for your support!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Attending MWPTA events is a great way to support our school and have a blast with your family and friends.

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pancake Breakfast & Mt. Washington Made Saturday, September 22 nd 9:00am – 1:00pm | Come for the pancakes, stay for the shopping! This marketplace of local goods will feature established artists, designers, and makers from the neighborhood and school community. A percentage of all sales will be donated to MWPTA. |
| Carnival of the Howling Wolves Friday, October 27 th 5:30pm – 8:00pm | Join us for the Halloween Carnival! Show off your costumes and expect ghoulish decorations, themed booths with spooky games and activities, food, drinks and treats for sale. |
| Winter Book Fair December 6 th – 7 th , December 10 th | We transform our library into a pop-up bookstore featuring beloved children's classics and exciting new releases. It's a fun way to encourage reading and our school receives 20 percent of the sales. |
| Restaurant Night Wednesday, November 14 th 5:00pm – 9:00pm | Take a night off from cooking and catch up with fellow MWE friends over dinner at a local restaurant. A portion of your dinner bill is donated back to MWE! Stay tuned for dates and restaurant locations. |
| Annual Talent Show & Dinner Friday, May 10 th | Our students will perform in front of a very enthusiastic audience of family, friends, and peers, who have enjoyed everything from magic tricks to dance routines to comedy acts! Family dinner served in the Lunch Pavilion before the performance. |



SCHOOL-WIDE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Classroom Volunteer: You may work with students on various projects, take work home to prepare for activities or assignments, chaperone a field trip, or lead gardening projects. Talk to your child's teacher or ask your Room Representative about volunteering in the classroom. A negative TB test is required for all classroom volunteers. Please return forms to the office prior to your first volunteer day. In addition, LAUSD has a new requirement for parents who plan to volunteer more than 16 hrs./wk. Please complete their form: www.volunteerapp.lausd.net

School Volunteer: Help out in the office, collate and organize materials, or supervise students during recess, lunch, and after school. Talk to Yoli or Natalie in the front office for more information.

Reading Buddies: Pair up each week with a student needing additional one-on-one practice in reading. Necessary skills include a love for reading and consistent weekly availability (1 hr./wk. minimum). This program is designed to empower kids to feel confident in their abilities to read and allows parents the opportunity to make an impact in the lives of individual students. For more info, contact Samantha Wynans-Mangan at membership@mwpta.org

Safety Valet: Help our students at morning drop-off by ensuring their safe exit from vehicles and keeping traffic moving smoothly. Volunteer from 7:30 - 8:30am daily, weekly or on a rotating basis. Please see the attached information sheet for a detailed explanation of Safety Valet, and contact Leslie Wise at leslieballwise@gmail.com to sign up.

Photographers: Would you like to be one of the class photographers for your child's room and document awesome memories for the kids? We need photographers for school events, individual classes, Yearbook, and more. Please contact Jules Ashborn, PTA Historian, at historian@mwpta.org if you are interested in being a MWE parent photographer.

Parent/Teacher Association: We need your help at fundraising and other events, on committees, as Room Representatives, at the Snack Shack, and selling MWPTA merchandise. Please start by completing the "Volunteer Opportunity" form on the next page and returning it to your child's teacher or to the office. If you have questions or would like more information please contact Michelle Jacoby at volunteers@mwpta.org or visit our website: www.mwpta.org.

After-School Programs Class Instructor: We are always looking for new after-school classes to offer our students. If you have a special talent you could teach our kids and would like to run an after-school class, please let us know. Contact our PTA Programs Coordinator, Erica Rosales, at programs@mwpta.org.

List of Volunteer-Driven Programs|Events|Activities:

- Snack Shack (*Commitment: 45 mins. 2:30-3:15pm, one+ days/week for three months*)
- Safety Valet (*Commitment: One hour, one or more days per week for three months*)
- Merchandise (*Commitment: Year-long; organize, inventory, and sell MWE merchandise*)
- Pancake Breakfast & Mount Washington Made – Sat., September 22nd
- Halloween Carnival – Fri., October 26th
- Book Fair – December 6, 7, 10



***I AM A FORM THAT NEEDS TO BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL.
AS MUCH AS YOU MAY LIKE ME, PLEASE DO NOT KEEP ME.***

Parent volunteers make Mount Washington Elementary special and enhance our children's education. Please make a pledge to volunteer for our school. There are many fundraising and program activities throughout the year that need parent volunteers in order to be successful. If we work together we can make a huge difference in our children's lives.

Child (or children) name(s):

Child (or children) grade(s) & room number(s):

Your name(s):

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Special skill(s) to offer (e.g. graphic design, A/V, carpentry, fundraising):

Please circle the volunteer opportunity or opportunities that interest you:

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Room Representative | Safety Valet | Snack Shack | Garden Committee | Pancake Breakfast |
| Book Fair | Halloween Carnival | Mt. Washington Made | Office Volunteer | Holiday Toy Drive |
| Family Movie Nights | Reading Buddies | PTA Event Hospitality | Reflections Art Contest | Graphic Design |
| Playground Supervision | Yearbook Photographer | Festival of Fun (Winter/Holiday Event) | After-School Performance Nights | Merchandise Committee |
| After-School Programs Class Instructor* | Lost & Found | Green Team | Arts Collective After School | Thursday Teacher Lunches |

*please indicate type of class:

Your Ideas:

To find descriptions of events and programs, or to complete the on-line version of this form, go to: <http://mwpta.org>



**Mt. Washington
ELEMENTARY PTA**

AFTER SCHOOL

AFTER-SCHOOL CARE

Beyond the Bell, STAR (Galaxy), and STAR (NOVA) are LAUSD-approved programs that offer on-campus after-school care and classes until 6:00 p.m.

Beyond the Bell is a free, LAUSD-run, after-school supervision program, open to second through sixth grade students. It is run on MWE's main yard, and is available Monday through Friday from 2:34pm to 6:00pm (from 1:34pm on Professional Development days and from 12:54pm on Minimum Days). There are many opportunities for our students to participate in organized group sports such as flag football, soccer, baseball, basketball, cheer team, as well as join LAUSD's individual running program, in which kids run 25 miles on their own, and then join other LAUSD students for a final mile celebration in the spring. Please see Beyond the Bell supervisors for more information about group sports after school.

STAR Galaxy is a fee-based, after-school care program. STAR programs stress the importance of team building, leadership skills, community projects and creative expression. Students rotate through group tutoring, a homework lab, sports/fitness/recreation, and enrichment classes. STAR is open to all students (including TK and Kindergarten) and operates Monday through Friday from dismissal until 6:00 p.m. TK/Kindergarten & 1st Graders meet in Kinder Yard.

STAR Nova: STAR also offers enrichment classes during after-school care. Students enrolled in the STAR program can add the classes for a small fee. Students not enrolled in the STAR program may also participate in enrichment classes. Please visit www.sites.starinc.org/mt-washington for more information. For additional questions, please contact our STAR site director, Ms. Lucita Gill, at (310) 904-9232 or via email lucitag@starinc.org.

Carlin G. Smith Recreation Center provides off-campus after-school care. Carlin G. representatives meet all participating students in After School Club (ASC) at dismissal. The group then walks over to the center together. ASC will begin on August 14. Email Lori at carlingsmith.recreationcenter@lacity.org for more information.

CLASSES AND CLUBS

Mt. Washington PTA (MWPTA) and Friends of Mt. Washington (FOMWS) sponsor a wide variety of after-school enrichment classes to enhance your child's education and keep them active and engaged.

We are pleased to announce that FOMWS is sponsoring Chess Club and LEGO League Robotics Club. More information will be sent home in the first weeks of school.

- Space is limited, so please sign up early.



This year, MWPTA will continue with popular classes and introduce new classes that will enrich our children's education. The classes will focus on visual arts, physical education, and academic supplementary classes.

- Scholarships are available in all classes for those who qualify. Please speak to the office staff for more information.
- Visit www.mwpta.org for class descriptions and registration information or look for a flyer in your child's backpack.
- Registration and payment for all classes is done directly with the class teachers.
- Minimum and maximum enrollment vary per class. Classes are available on a first come first serve basis.

ARTS COLLECTIVE AFTER SCHOOL

Mount Washington Elementary School invites you to partner with Arts Collective After School (ACAS.) ACAS is a monthly after-school event that takes place on our campus in northeast Los Angeles. Events are free and open to all Mt. Washington students and their families.

Once a month, an arts-focused, maker-centric community partner engages our students in an innovative and exploratory project. ACAS hosts individuals and groups on campus with emphases in science, technology, engineering and the arts. These projects provide an explorative and experimental approach to making and creating where the outcome is not predetermined.

Typical Event Schedule:

- 1:30 p.m. - Set-up
- 2:00 p.m. - Meet with volunteers to go over activity and their support roles
- 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. - Kids and parents arrive in a large group in the beginning then in waves for the remainder of the time.
 - This is not a typical workshop or class format, but more of a temporary workplace for hands-on projects and experimentation.
- 4:30-5:00 p.m. – Breakdown

Please join our Instagram page [artscollectiveafterschool](https://www.instagram.com/artscollectiveafterschool), check out our blog at www.artscollectiveafterschool.blogspot.com which includes more information on the program and organizations we've partnered with in the past.

ACAS loves parent volunteers and parents interested in sharing their skills with our students by creating a project. To volunteer to help with ACAS, please email: artscollectiveas@gmail.com





SAFETY VALET REMINDERS

Mt. Washington Elementary School is committed to your child's safety. In partnership with the City of Los Angeles Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families and the Los Angeles Police Department, we offer a daily Safety Valet program to relieve traffic congestion and assist in safe school drop-offs. Safety Valet begins 30-45 minutes prior to the first school bell in the morning, and is staffed by screened parent volunteers.

There will be no parking in the Safety Valet Zone or across the street from the Safety Valet Zone during this time in order to reduce congestion. This allows traffic to flow in both directions for those cars not using the valet.

The drop off point is located on San Rafael Avenue, in an area marked with orange cones and signs that read "Safety Valet Zone." Parent volunteers in yellow vests direct traffic and assist your child in exiting your vehicle. Using Safety Valet drop-off is fast, safe, and will quickly become part of your routine.

Please help our volunteers by following these simple steps when using the designated Safety Valet Zone:

- Have your child and his/her backpack **ready to exit on the curb side ONLY**
- Pay attention to the directions of volunteers as you pull up
- Come to a complete stop next to the curb in front of the Safety Valet Zone
- Allow volunteers to open and close your car door(s)
- Arrive early to avoid traffic congestion
- Do NOT park and have your child cross the street outside of a crosswalk
- Respect the Safety Valet rules and volunteers
- AVOID EXPENSIVE CITATIONS by abiding by all traffic laws

The Safety Valet Program will start on Tuesday, August 14th at approximately 8:00 a.m.

Safety Valet always needs new volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our parent coordinator, Leslie Wise, at leslieballwise@gmail.com



***I AM A FORM THAT NEEDS TO BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL.
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So that we may photograph and feature your beautiful children on our flyers, website, Facebook page, and other PTA-related communications, please read, sign and return this release.

AUTHORIZATION & RELEASE

For good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I, the undersigned, do hereby authorize, the Mt. Washington Elementary PTA and those acting under its permission and on its authority (hereinafter "PTA"), and grant the absolute and unrestricted right and permission to copyright, use, publish, display, post, broadcast, edit, and make derivative works in any medium, on a world-wide basis, in perpetuity, any photographs, negatives, film/videotape, likenesses and/or reproductions taken of me and my child(ren) listed below (individually and collectively, sometimes referred to as "INDIVIDUAL"), during the 2018-2019 school year, in whole or in part, in composite or distorted character or form or as otherwise changed, or reproductions thereof, in color or otherwise, made through any medium whatsoever, including, without limitation, on PTA's web sites, social media sites and mobile applications, including, but not limited, to Facebook and Twitter, now or at any time in the future.

I hereby grant, assign and transfer to PTA all rights of every nature relating to the ownership, reproduction and use of such photographs, negatives, film/videotape and/or reproductions, and hereby waive any rights that I may have with respect thereto pursuant to any statute or law, and agree to release PTA and its representative from any and all liability in connection therewith. I further agree that this Authorization and Release shall be binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns.

I understand and agree that I shall have no claim to compensation and no claim (including, without limitation, claims based upon invasion of privacy, defamation or right of publicity) arising out of any use, alteration, distortion or illusionary effect or use in any composite form of such photographs, negatives, film/videotape, likeness and/or reproductions.

I hereby waive any and all rights I may have to inspect and/or approve such photographs, negatives, film/videotape, likeness and/or reproductions, any finished product relating thereto or the use to which it may be applied. I understand and agree that PTA is under no obligation to use INDIVIDUAL's likeness/image in any way.

I warrant that I have the full power and authority to grant all of the rights conveyed in this Authorization and Release on behalf of me and my minor child(ren) listed below, that I am the parent and/or guardian of the minor child(ren) listed below and I have every right to contract in my own name in the above regard and further that I have read this Authorization and Release, prior to its execution, and that I am fully familiar with its contents.

This Authorization and Release contains the entire agreement between the parties regarding the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior understandings. This Authorization and Release may not be modified, changed or added to in any manner without the signed consent of both the undersigned and PTA.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED:

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____ Child(ren)'s Name(s): _____



Name(s) of Minor(s): _____

***I AM A FORM THAT NEEDS TO BE RETURNED TO SCHOOL.
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PARENT APPROVAL AND STUDENT WAIVER

_____ (student name) has my (our) permission to participate in all PTA-sponsored events for the school year 2018 - 2019.

The undersigned parent or guardian assumes all risks in connection with the student's participation in any and all of the PTA sponsored activities. I (we) hereby release and discharge the California State PTA, all PTA officers, employees and agents from all liability, claims or demands for any damage, loss or injury to the student, the student's property, or parent's property in connection with participation in these activities, unless caused by the negligence of the PTA.

I do hereby certify that to the best of my (our) knowledge and belief said minor is in good health. In case of illness or accident, permission is granted for emergency treatment to be administered. It is further understood and agreed that the undersigned will assume full responsibility for any such action, including payment of costs.

I (we) hereby advise that the above named minor has had the following allergies, medicine reactions or unusual physical condition which should be made known to a treating physician or which could limit participation:

If none, please write "none".

1. _____
Signature Date

Print Name Phone

Address City State Zip

2. _____
Signature Date

Print Name Phone

Address City State Zip