



# MLC PTSA

Metropolitan Learning Center  
Parent Teacher Student Association  
MLCPTSA.org

August, 2019

Dear MLC Families:

Welcome back and a big HELLO to all new MLC families. My name is Alisa Welch, mother of Olivia in 5th grade and Sam in 2nd grade. This is my second year as the PTSA's President and I'm delighted to share the board with some spectacular folks: Vice President, **John Walrod**, Treasurer, **Joelle Graff**, and Secretary, **Rick Freud**.

MLC started as Portland's first public alternative K-12 in 1968 and in September, 2018, we celebrated MLC's 50th anniversary with a huge party. As I reviewed boxes of photos, documents, and ephemera related to this school and its history, one theme repeated: *To thine own self, be true.*

What a cast of characters have walked the halls of MLC for the past 50+ years! Artists, musicians, writers, actors, teachers, scientists, activists--all looking for a place to flourish.

**MLC is a place for all of us to flourish: students, parents, teachers and community members.**

As a parent volunteer, I've found an unexpected joy and sense of purpose by volunteering. This was not my plan, mind you. I come from a long line of non-joiners. I started washing paint brushes for Avril and over the past five years have come to know and love the MLC community through participating in events, classrooms, and electives.

**Here's our challenge to you: Take one day off and volunteer at MLC.** You might spend it reading with third graders, sitting on a high school portfolio panel, playing jump rope during lunch, or going on a hike through Forest Park. Whatever happens, you'll have the benefit of seeing how MLC works. It just might become a habit!

If you have any questions, concerns and/or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me. Have a wonderful school year and we look forward to seeing you in the halls!

Sincerely,

Alisa Welch  
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# About the PTSA:

- MLC's PTSA supports a diverse community of students, teachers, and families by:
- Promoting MLC's legacy of alternative education as a pathway towards personal, academic, and creative success;
  - Engaging volunteers to enrich MLC's school environment and programs;
  - Providing financial aid for experiential learning opportunities;
  - Sponsoring events that encourage cross-age interaction and foster community;
  - Assisting with the material needs of our teachers and staff.

# Where does the money go?

When we asked the community in 2019 what types of opportunities they most wanted at MLC, the overwhelming response was **more art, music, drama, technology, and outdoor activities**. This year we're applying more funds towards these programs.

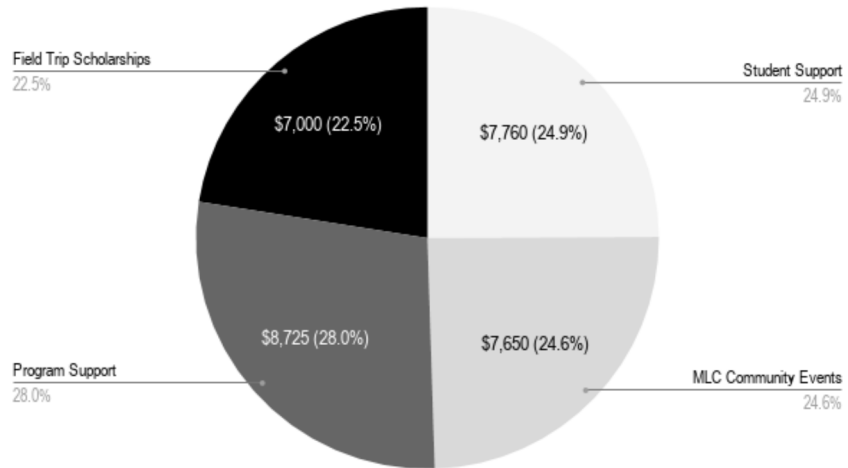
In the past, the majority of the PTSA budget was spent on field trips and scholarships which meant there was not much left over for other priorities. Investments were made in large purchases such as the climbing wall but other initiatives withered due to lack of money, i.e. sustainability, community building events, and arts funding.

In order to apply funding to program support, we're limiting the amount of scholarship funds available. Our commitment to equity remains and no student will ever be excluded from an activity due to their family's ability to pay.

What we're asking of MLC families this year: Be mindful that there are students at MLC of modest means. **When paying for your own student's field trip or class expenses, consider giving a little bit more to assist another family.**

The MLC community is enormously generous and we thank you for your commitment to all of our students!

2019-20 MLC PTSA Budget



# Join us!

- Check out [MLCPTSA.org/volunteer](http://MLCPTSA.org/volunteer) for school-wide opportunities
- Attend a PTSA meeting or just email a board member to chat about your ideas
- Teach an elective
- Share your expertise with high school students through the MLC internship program (ask Michelle!)