



# MINNESOTA EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING ACADEMY

## December Family Newsletter

### NEWS

#### HELLO FAMILIES!

We have certainly been very busy at MELA! When you walk through the hallways you see students learning, working and having fun. I hope that you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving break and now here I am, wishing you a wonderful Winter break!

Time sure does fly when you're having fun! Here are some updates and tid-bits from MELA:

**PBIS:** We have incorporated MELA pride tickets - tickets that students receive from adults (teachers, paras, bus drivers, etc.) when they are showing exemplary behaviors following the MELA pride - Mindful, Empathy, Leaders, Accountable. We had our first Pizza with the Principal right before Thanksgiving break - we as a school collected over 500 MELA pride tickets! Since then, we continue to collect more and more - we are getting close to our 1000 ticket mark! The next Pizza drawing will be the Thursday before Winter Break - December 20th.

You should have received your child's report card. Please make sure to review it to get a better understanding of how your child is doing academically and socially/emotionally. If you have any questions or concerns, please connect with your child's teacher. The staff at MELA truly believe in the partnership between the school and home - we need to come together to ensure your child's success.

Students are now taking their Winter NWEA assessments in reading and math. Once these are completed, we will look to see how much academic growth the students have made from the fall. We will also use this information to target where students need additional support and where they need additional enrichment.

It's very exciting to see how the students are growing both academically and emotionally - our students are amazing and learning every day how to be better students and citizens. Thank you for your support and partnership. I want to take this time to wish you a Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! If you are traveling, I wish safe travels and that we will see everybody back safely and happily on January 7th!

Jodi Markworth

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Peace Concert**  
December 18th, 6:30 p.m.

**Family Winter Activities**  
December 21, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**NO SCHOOL**  
December 24th - January 4th

**Welcome Back**  
January 7th, 2019

#### LOST & FOUND:

We have many items in the Lost & Found. Please go through it when you are here at the concert. All items will be donated during Winter Break.

#### ELL Corner:

At MELA we want all of our students to grow, learn, and experience success. English Language Learners have a special challenge because they are adjusting to an English speaking school environment, a different country with a different culture. Learning the VOCABULARY of any new language is considered to be the key to understanding what students hear or read during the school day. Below you will find some ideas to help students transition into an English speaking school environment and develop English skills more rapidly.

Tips for Building an English Vocabulary:

1. Parents should try to speak English at home at some point each day. It is very difficult for students to learn a new language if the language is not reinforced at home consistently.



Hello MELA Families!

On Tuesday, December 18, 2018, we will have our 3rd Annual MELA Peace Concert. We would love for all parents to come and watch this amazing performance of Peace! The concert will be held upstairs in the sanctuary of the Church of the Open Door.

Please bring your child to their classroom **no later than 6:15 pm**. The concert will begin at 6:30 pm. The program will run about 45 minutes and will conclude with all MELA students singing our final song "Peace, Peace" together. Students should wear their festive holiday clothes for the performance. I look forward to seeing you all on December 18 @ 6:15 pm!

¡Hola Familias de MELA!

**El martes 18 de diciembre de 2018 tendremos nuestro 3er Concierto de Paz anual.** Nos encantaría que vinieran todos los padres a disfrutar de esta increíble producción. El concierto se llevará a cabo en el santuario de la iglesia Church of the Open Door.

Por favor, traiga a su niño(a) a su salón de clases a **más tardar a las 6:15 pm**. El concierto comenzará puntualmente a las 6:30 pm. El programa durará 45 minutos aproximadamente y concluirá con todos los estudiantes de MELA cantando la canción final "Paz,Paz". Los estudiantes pueden venir vestidos con un atuendo festivo. Espero verlos a todos el 18 de diciembre a las 6:15pm.

Gracias  
Nancy Pearson, Profesora de Música de MELA

2. Read aloud with your student in both English and their native language each day. Encourage them to continue to read for pleasure in their own language even while learning English.
3. Help your student make a personal dictionary with vocabulary words they are learning.
4. If possible have them participate in afterschool activities, and attend cultural or community events to expose them to the American Culture (<https://www.familyfuntwincities.com/>)
5. Watch appropriate English language television programs with your student or use Sing-Along or Storybook music tapes.
6. If you want to improve your English skills, then commit to learning English with your student.
7. Use the internet to find and access websites with ESL practice activities.

Remember that learning a new language takes time. Practice makes perfect and mistakes are ok because we learn from them. We are so proud of our ELs and all that they accomplish each year!.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Ms. Cuberos

#### Congrats to our 2018-2019 Student Leadership Team!

The following students were voted in by their classmates to represent them during the 2018-2019 School Year.

They are...

3rd Grade Wentzloff: Danasia & Xaylen  
3rd Grade John: Catherine & Jerusalem  
4th Grade Birge: CJ & Deveah  
5/6 Grade Theis: Karla & Dylan

On our return from Winter Break, they will be meeting with Ms. Fields once a week to help make decisions that effect MELA.



