

# WHAT IS THE PTO?

**THE MELROSE ELEMENTARY PTO** (Parent Teacher Organization) is an organization of the school's parents and teachers that are committed to fostering an environment of community at Melrose, as well as raising funds for continued growth and success in all aspects of student life.

## OUR SUCCESSES

In the 2013-2014 school year, the Melrose PTO supported the school by raising \$96,077! Having only been in existence for 6 years, this is a huge accomplishment! Some of these fundraisers and community building events included:

- Family Pledge Drive
- Harvest Festival
- Family Fun Nights
- Pajamarama
- Jog-A-Thon
- St. Patrick's Day Dance & Potluck
- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- Charity Buzz Online Auction

These community events and fundraisers directly affect the success of our students. By coming together as a family, we:

- Funded a Librarian position for the coming year
- Sponsored Ballroom Dance for 5th grade
- Organized and funded an on campus Music Center performance
- Beautified our school gardens
- Sponsored Inner City Arts for the 3rd & 4th grades

## HOW WE RAISE FUNDS

- Family Pledge Drive
- Charity Buzz Online Auction

- Corporate Donations
- Jog-A-Thon
- Grants
- Recycling
- Family Fun Nights
- Ongoing Fundraisers (Box Tops, eScrip, Ralphs, Target)

The Family Pledge Drive, held in the fall semester, is the main funding campaign within our school community. In addition, we seek major funding through sources outside our parent base.

## OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL FOR 2014-2015: \$150,000

Due to continued LAUSD budget cuts, this is our ongoing Deficit List at Melrose:

- Art/Music
- PE
- Student Counseling
- Technology Upgrades
- Librarian
- Garden

## BUILDING SCHOOL COMMUNITY

If you are new to Melrose or would like to get to know more of the Melrose family, PTO events are a great way to get connected. Check the school calendar and events page online for information on upcoming events.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

One way to connect with your child's experience at Melrose is to volunteer. That being said, a majority of Melrose families work full-time and can't commit to large blocks of time volunteering. Whether you are able to volunteer once-a-week, once-a-month, once-a-year, refer a business for a

fundraising opportunity, or send a potluck dish for an event, EVERY EFFORT IS WELCOME. We encourage people to choose one area that they are passionate about and talk to the person leading that initiative. Visit the PTO website for contact information.

## 2014-2015 PTO

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Mika Mingasson, President  
Gina Viola-Peake, Vice-President  
Ken Berger, Treasurer  
Nicola Howard, Co-Secretary  
Wendy Calbi, Co-Secretary  
Ola May, Communications

Sandra Showers, Events  
Nicola Howard, Events  
Josh Koch, Grants  
Robin Walsh, Grants  
Ola May, Ongoing Fundraisers  
Sarita Singh, Ongoing Fundraisers  
Laura Mazur, Ongoing Fundraisers  
Novelyn Aquino, Social Media  
Wendy Nield, Technology  
Margaret Ruskin, Internal Communications  
Harriet O'Kelley, Community Outreach  
Laura Mazur, Meetings  
Karen Steyr, Meetings  
Wendi Smith-Harris, Valet  
Gabriela Leone, Gardening

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