

# MALCOLM X SCHOOL NEWS

*Everything you need to know this week*

## Last Week of the MX Fund Drive

This is the LAST WEEK of the MX Fund drive!

We have raised over \*\*\*\$50,000\*\*\* and are just \$5,000 from our goal and a school-wide POPSICLE PARTY.

Thanks to your generous support, Malcolm X leads the way among Berkeley elementary schools by offering a comprehensive enrichment program with PE, drama, music, art, and dance. Let's keep it going!

Please donate by leaving cash or a check in the PTA box in the office or by going to [www.malcolmxelementary.org/donate](http://www.malcolmxelementary.org/donate). Add \$7 to become a voting member of the PTA! To see if you can double your donation, please visit:

[www.malcolmxelementary.org/employer-match](http://www.malcolmxelementary.org/employer-match).

- Nicole Herron and Leah Simon-Weisberg, MX Fund Co-Chairs

## Mr. Robbie Heads on Historic Educational Tour with the SF Gay Men's Chorus

MX kindergarten teacher Mr. Robbie, a member of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (SFGMC) for the past 26 years, will soon join the chorus on the Lavender Pen Tour.

From October 7-15, the chorus, which in celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> season, will tour five southern states – Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina, and North Carolina – where people in the LGBTQ community do not enjoy the freedoms and rights that we have in the Bay Area and California.

The mission of the Lavender Pen Tour is to support and empower LGBTQ communities in these states and hopefully change hearts and minds along the way. All ticket proceeds from the tour's performances will raise funds for local LGBTQ and other social justice organizations, so they can continue doing their vital work to dismantle biased and discriminatory laws. The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir will also join the SFGMC on the tour.

Mr. Robbie has said, "It is a personal goal and milestone to be able to participate in such a historical event that will absolutely make a difference in our world and in the lives of those who hear our music and message of inclusivity and equality."

Mr. Robbie will be blogging about his experiences during the tour! If you and your students wish to follow his journey, go to: <https://mrrobbiemx.wordpress.com>.

More information about the tour is available here: <http://www.sfgmc.org/lavender-pen-tour/>.

## Collecting Donations of Children's Halloween Costumes

Ms. Jocelyn Foreman, MX Family Engagement Specialist, is coordinating donations for MX families who are in need of Halloween costumes. For more information, please contact Ms. Foreman at [jocelynforeman@berkeley.net](mailto:jocelynforeman@berkeley.net) or 510-684-4100.

## ¿Se Habla Español?

The School News is seeking Spanish translators! Must know your way around MS Word. Please contact Robin Busch-Wheaton at [coordinator.fridaynews@gmail.com](mailto:coordinator.fridaynews@gmail.com) if you're interested. Thank you!

### UPCOMING...

<b>Monday, October 9</b>	Staff development day – no school
--------------------------	-----------------------------------

<b>Saturday, October 28, 10:00am-1:00pm</b>	MX Walk-a-Thon
---	----------------

## Note on School Absences

Attention Families!!!! As a reminder, if your student is going to be absent from school, please be sure to call the main office at 510-644-6313 to report the reason for the absence. If you receive our recording, please leave a message and School Secretary Monica LaTour will retrieve it. You can also email Monica at [monicalatour@berkeley.net](mailto:monicalatour@berkeley.net). We have had a large amount of unverified absences in our first month of school.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

## Earn Money for Malcolm X by Shopping via Amazon Smile

If you already shop via Amazon, here's a reminder that when you shop via [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you can earn money for Malcolm X. With every purchase, Amazon donates .5% to your designated charity.

To sign up, just go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and designate Malcolm X Arts & Academics Magnet Elementary School in Berkeley, CA as your charity of choice. Every time you shop, be sure to go through the [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) link to donate .5% of your purchases.

It's so easy to do, and this small action could bring in thousands of dollars for our school.

- Jane Tunks Demel, MX PTA Fundraising  
([jane.tunksdemel@mxpta.org](mailto:jane.tunksdemel@mxpta.org))

## Work to Decrease our Carbon Footprint with the MX Green Team

The Green Team needs help rejuvenating sustainability efforts at Malcolm X! Our overall goal is to decrease the carbon footprint of the Malcolm X campus and our larger MX community. We are excited to co-chair the Green Team this year and are eager to have others add their creative and can-do efforts.

We have some ideas and are open to more in helping reduce and divert our waste stream, bring in more greenery, and help set up education for our Malcolm X families and staff.

If you are interested, please email either Bruce Chamberlain at [bruce.chamberlain@mxpta.org](mailto:bruce.chamberlain@mxpta.org) or Runa.basu24@gmail.com.

We will have our next Green Team meeting on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30a.m. in the cafeteria. We hope to meet every other month, with a time that will work for most of our members.

- Bruce Chamberlain and Runa Basu

## Mark Your Calendar for the Walk-a-Thon!

This year, the annual Malcolm X Walk-a-Thon will be held on Saturday, October 28 from 10:00am-1:00pm. Last year, over half of the school participated and we raised \$25,000 for Malcolm X. Let's try to raise even more this year! This year, kids will be encouraged to come in costume since the Walk-a-Thon will take place the weekend before Halloween!

The Walk-a-Thon is FUN and there's something for everyone! You can earn laps by walking (of course), reading, dancing, and so much more! Also, it includes free food, a bake sale, and prizes! Gift certificates for the top 2 students in EACH grade! Parties for the 3 classes with the most walkers!

Large Walk-a-Thon envelopes will be coming home soon; keep an eye out for them.

This year, to help get more pledges from people out of town, we have set up a crowd rise page for the event:

<https://www.crowdrise.com/MalcolmXWalk-a-Thon2017>

Set up a pledge page for your child(ren)!

Volunteers are needed for this event. Please email Sidharth Verma at [sidharth.verma1@gmail.com](mailto:sidharth.verma1@gmail.com) to see how you can help.