

PANTHER PRESS

PARENT & FAMILY NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Volume 2

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Why a PANTHER?

Why a Panther? Panthers are full of energy and thrive in stimulating social environments. They enjoy a challenge and tend to act quickly without too much thought. Panthers are good at thinking on the spot and can adapt to change easily. They often adopt a 'Let's get it done' approach to tasks and activities.

Joining the Community School Network

By Shriya Venkatesh, Science Teacher and UTLA Chapter Chair



Announcements...

from Mann UCLA CS

We are on Spring Break between 3/31/23 and 4/7/23. School resumes on Monday 4/10/23 at 8:30 AM.

from UTLA

Negotiations for the new contract between UTLA and LAUSD are ongoing. Thank you for your support of UTLA's platform: Equitable access to education, technology, and funding; healthy, safe, and fully-staffed schools; and more support for our students, families, and communities.

To learn more about UTLA goals and activities, go to <https://utla.net/issues/>

from BSAP

Join BSAP for their Parent Workshop Series hosted by UCLA professor, Dr. Tyrone Howard. Dates posted on the school website.

An exciting opportunity is coming to Mann! As a community school, we have been dedicated to expanded and enriched learning opportunities, integrated student supports, collaborative leaderships and practices, and active family and community engagement. We have collaborated with community organizations and our partner, UCLA, to bring these resources to our students and community. Now, we have the opportunity to join a cohort of other community schools in LAUSD to connect and work with more schools who share our vision for inclusive and supportive education. If we are accepted into the cohort, Mann will also receive additional funding to support our community-oriented programs, as well as dedicated Community School Coordinator and Community Representative positions.

Thank you to all parents and community members that participated in the vote regarding this commitment. We will have an update for you on the Community Schools Initiative soon!

Mann UCLA Students

Tutoring Available!

Highly-qualified tutors!

Available to Grades 6 – 12

- Homework Support
- Math Intervention
- Math Enrichment
- ELA Intervention
- Enrichment

Mann UCLA Community School - Room 114
Monday – Thursday
3:45 PM – 5:45 PM



Scan to view our Newsletter

For more information, contact Ms. McDaniel



After-School Tutoring for Students Grades 6-12!

By Jacquelyn McDaniel, Math and Science Teacher

Is your student struggling in their Math or English classes? Are you looking for a program to support their learning and push them to succeed? Look no further than Mann’s High-Dose After School Tutoring! This program is available to ALL GRADES (6-12) and features both homework assistance and academic enrichment activities.

Along with Ms. McDaniel, experienced and highly qualified tutors from schools like Stanford University and UCLA give students 1-on-1 assistance in a small group setting. Need a safe way for your student to get home after tutoring? Free transportation is provided directly to students’ homes by LAUSD’s evening bus transportation services.

For enrollment & more information, call (323) 541-1900 or visit <https://manncs.gseis.ucla.edu/highdosedtutoring/>

Research Update for Mann UCLA Community School

By Karen Hunter Quartz, UCLA Research Liaison

The partnership between UCLA and Mann was launched in 2016 with the expectation that the school’s experience would be studied to inform educational innovation across the district, state, and nation. Each month, the Research and Accountability Subcommittee of the Shared Governance Council convenes to review, support and manage research partnerships at the school. This group includes teachers as well as UCLA and LAUSD researchers.

Over the past five years, the school’s research has been featured in academic articles, at national conferences, and in a special issue of [Community Schooling](#), a multi-media online journal. To share this work directly with the Mann-UCLA community as well as our sister school, the UCLA Community School in Koreatown, the research committee produces a quarterly newsletter. [The Fall issue](#) highlights the UCLA-partnered research Ms. Tieu and Ms. Venkatesh conducted last year. As they describe: “We present community science teaching as an instructional approach that uses the context of community to increase the meaningfulness of science, the engagement of students, and the possible ways and places that students can use what they are learning in science class to shape their future.”

Stay tuned for the Winter newsletter to be released at the end of February. It features a new study focused on helping students use social media responsibly and findings from graduate student thesis on creating safe and positive spaces for Black girls in schools. If you are interested in participating on the research committee and/or would like to share your own research ideas and get support, please email Jeffrey Yo, Research Coordinator (yjeffrey7@ucla.edu).

CLICK HERE



Cover art by Marvin Gutierrez



Marvin is a 6th grade student at UCLA Community School. Marvin participated in a school-wide art campaign where students were asked, “What does community mean to you?”

Black History Month Spotlights

February may be over, but Black Excellence should be celebrated every month!

Onesimus, the man who saved Boston from Smallpox

Onesimus (late 1600s–1700s) was an African man who was instrumental in the alleviation of the impact of a smallpox outbreak in Boston, Massachusetts. His birth name is unknown. He was enslaved and, in 1706, was given to the New England Puritan minister Cotton Mather, who renamed him. Onesimus introduced Mather to the principle and procedure of inoculation to prevent the disease, which laid the foundation for the development of vaccines. After a smallpox outbreak began in Boston in 1721, Mather used this knowledge to advocate for inoculation in the population, a practice that eventually spread to other colonies. In a 2016 *Boston* magazine survey, Onesimus was declared one of the "Best Bostonians of All Time".



Did you know?

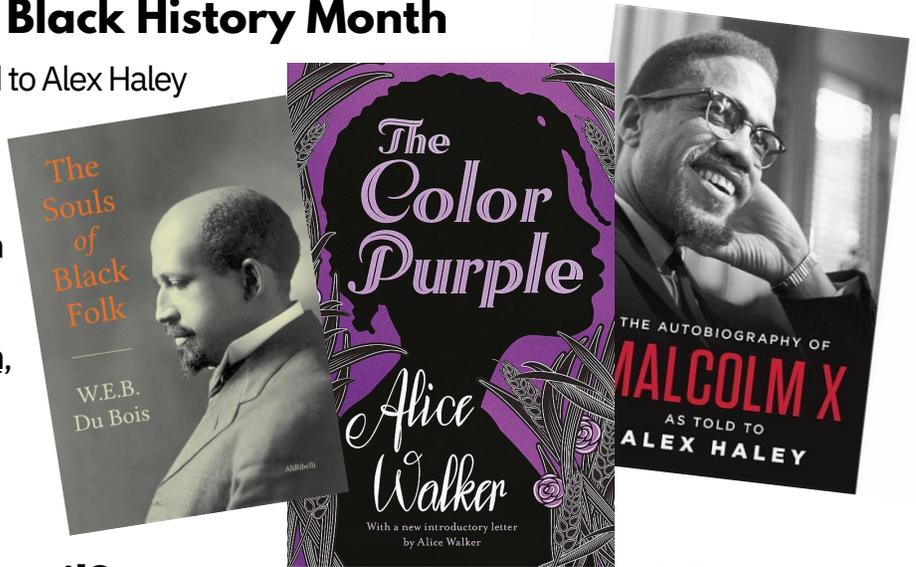


- A public high school in Portland, Oregon, originally named for Woodrow Wilson was renamed **Ida B. Wells High School** in 2021.
- The Underground Railroad ran south as well as north. Mexicans in the area currently called Texas, or Tejanos, acted as conductors to help enslaved Blacks get to Mexico where slavery was abolished. The United States wanted Mexico to return escaped enslaved people to the U.S., but Mexico refused, insisting that all enslaved people were free when they set foot on Mexican soil.
- Robert Smalls was an American war hero and the **first Black captain of a vessel in U.S. service**. He was also a congressman representing South Carolina during Reconstruction. On May 13, 1862, Smalls and other enslaved took control of the Confederate steamship CSS Planter in Charleston Harbor, stopped to pick up his wife, children and other enslaved folks, passed successfully through multiple Confederate checkpoints and then turned the ship and all its contents over to the Union naval squadron that was blockading the city. One could say that he was the original Biggie Smalls!
- The movie, **Black Panther**, grossed \$700.4 million in the United States and Canada, and \$681.8 million in other territories, for a worldwide total of \$1.382 billion. It became the highest-grossing solo superhero film, the third-highest-grossing film of the Marvel Comics Universe (MCU) and superhero film overall, the ninth-highest-grossing film of all time, and the highest-grossing film by a Black director. It is the fifth MCU film and 33rd overall to surpass \$1 billion, and the second-highest-grossing film of 2018.
- **Nubia** is a region along the Nile river encompassing the area between the first cataract of the Nile (just south of Aswan in southern Egypt) and the confluence of the Blue and White Niles (in Khartoum in central Sudan). It was the seat of one of the earliest civilizations of ancient Africa, **the Kerma culture**, which lasted from around 2500 BC until its conquest by the New Kingdom of Egypt under Pharaoh Thutmose I around 1500 BC, whose heirs ruled most of Nubia for the next 400 years. Nubia was home to several empires, most prominently the Kingdom of Kush, which conquered Egypt in the eighth century BC during the reign of Piye and ruled the country as its 25th Dynasty (to be replaced a century later by the native Egyptian 26th Dynasty).
- **The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture** is a research library of the New York Public Library (NYPL) and an archive repository for information on people of African descent worldwide. It is located at 515 Malcolm X Boulevard between West 135th and 136th Streets in Harlem. It is named for Afro-Puerto Rican scholar Arturo Alfonso Schomburg.



Recommended Reading for Black History Month

- The Autobiography of Malcolm X, as told to Alex Haley
- So Long a Letter, Mariama Ba
- Stolen Legacy, George G.M. James
- The Wretched of the Earth, Frantz Fanon
- The Color Purple, Alice Walker
- The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, by Ernest Gaines
- The Souls of Black Folks, W.E.B. Du Bois



What is a Neighborhood Council?

By Kathy Guyton, Mann Parent & Community Member

There are 99 Neighborhood Councils in Los Angeles. The system was established in 1999 by an amendment to the City Charter to connect Los Angeles’ diverse communities to City Hall. Neighborhood councils form the grassroots level of city government. Neighborhood Councils advocate on issues such as homelessness, housing, public safety, parks, and sustainability. They also provide a local voice on the delivery of city services to their communities.

While Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers, they are public officials elected to office by the members of their community.

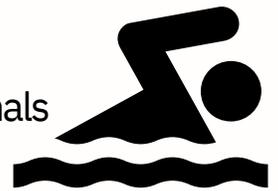
Each Council holds monthly meetings of their full board, in addition to monthly Committee meetings with a more targeted focus on key issues or projects, like public safety, transportation, homelessness, or land use. All meetings are open to the public. For more information on neighborhood councils, visit <https://empowerla.org/>



Updates from Athletics

Swim Meets:

- | | |
|----------|-------------------|
| March 6 | April 11 |
| March 13 | April 17 |
| March 20 | April 26 - Finals |
| March 27 | May 6 (TBC) |



Panther Parent Q&A



Have any questions for Ms. Brice, our Parent Center Coordinator, that other parents could benefit from? Send us your questions and we will include the answers in next month’s newsletter!
latikke.brice@lausd.net

Families, stay connected!

There are many ways to stay up to date with everything happening at Mann UCLA Community School:

- **School Website:** Regularly check our school website. There is a monthly announcements page that is updated weekly, a school calendar, and posts about the latest events for our students, family, and community.
<https://manncs.gseis.ucla.edu/>
- **Follow us on Instagram:** @mannuclacs
- **Call us (during school hours):** (323) 541-1900