

# PANTHER PRESS

## PARENT & FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2023

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### Introducing Principal Shannon

As the new Principal at Mann UCLA, I am immensely appreciative to join the Mann Family. Over the past few months, I have felt the warm embrace of students, families, faculty, staff and community. It is my vision that Mann continues to cultivate students who are prepared leaders and change agents in our community and society at-large. I implore each of you to support this vision over the upcoming year.

Thank you for being a part of the Mann Family!

Yours in Panther Pride,

Irvin Shannon



### What is Students Deserve?



What is Schools L.A. Students Deserve (SD)? A city-wide space bringing together youth, educators, families, communities, and movements to be a force that simultaneously:

- ENVISIONS the education (and the communities, city, and society) we want
- FIGHTS the current attacks on public education and the ongoing racism, classism and oppression of the education system,
- CREATES real on-the-ground solutions that show the power of the people to build what we want now.

The Parents of Students Deserve/SD Black Parent Group supports the work of our youth leaders in SD. We are dedicated to ending the criminalization of our youth, ending the school-to-prison pipeline, and bringing in the support, programming, and curriculum our students need for true academic success.

### Coming Soon...

**Governance/SSC Meeting:** Tuesday, 10/17, 4:00 - 5:30 PM

**Parent Meeting:** Wednesday, 10/18

9:30 - 10:30 AM - In-Person at Mann

4:00 - 5:00 PM - On Zoom

**Coffee with the Principal:** Thursday, 10/19

**50th Day of School Celebrations:** Wednesday, 10/25

**Family-Teacher Conference Night:** Thursday, 10/26, 5-7 PM

Early Dismissal at 2:32 PM

**Fall Festival and Community Resource Fair:** Sat, 10/28,

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

#### Athletics

Girls' Volleyball

10/16 Animo South LA Charter - Home

Cross Country

10/19 League Race 3 @ Peck Park

10/26 League Race 4 @ Peck Park

## Students Deserve (cont'd)

We are trying to ensure a safe and holistically healthy learning environment for all, including transformative learning experiences. We all work together - parents, students, SD educators, and the community to defund the school police and fund Black Futures. We helped create the Black Student Advisory Program (BSAP) and are now dedicated to its implementation the way that it was envisioned by the people.

Find out more at <https://www.studentsdeserve.org/>

**What kind of Parent Organization would you like to have at Mann UCLA?**

**Participate in this survey to share your opinion!**

<https://forms.gle/fTEBdpcv4jvnX43d7>

## Parent Organizations at Mann



As Mann UCLA Community school decides the direction of our parent-teacher organization, we wanted to provide you with information on the different avenues that are available to us. Listed below are the definitions for a Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and Booster Club:



The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a formal membership organization with a 120-year history of working for children. School-based groups that choose to belong to the PTA must pay dues to the state and national organizations and abide by state and national group rules. In return, they get member benefits, and a voice in the operations of the larger organization. The National PTA maintains a Washington, D.C., office where it pursues a public policy agenda, and most state PTA units advocate at their respective state capitals, as well. The PTA carefully protects its name so that only dues-paying members of the group can call themselves a PTA.



PTO, on the other hand, is a generic term that stands for “parent-teacher organization.” It usually represents groups that choose to remain independent. These are most often single-school or district-level groups that operate under their own bylaws and by and large concern themselves with the goings-on at their school only. Popular acronyms include PCC (parent communication council), PTG (parent teacher group), and HSA (home and school association); because PTO is the most common name, we use it generically to refer to all non-PTA school parent groups.



A booster club is a nonprofit organization that is created to raise funds and generally support a specific club, sports team, or athletic program within a school district. Booster clubs throw fundraisers or coordinate events to bring in money to pay for equipment, transportation, and other things that clubs and sports teams need. They are often created to support teams and clubs with shrinking budgets.



Like parent-teacher associations, booster clubs are often organized and run by parents of the students in the clubs or teams that the booster club supports. However, a booster club’s purpose is specifically to support extracurricular activities, which is not what parent-teacher associations are focused on. In addition, teachers are not usually involved directly in organizing booster clubs.

Which direction do you think is right for Mann UCLA?



MANN UCLA COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL PRESENTS

FALL FESTIVAL  
AND  
COMMUNITY  
RESOURCE FAIR



**28**  
**OCTOBER**

LIVE MUSIC • GAMES • VOTER  
REGISTRATION • HEALTHY FOOD DEMOS  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

7001 S. ST. ANDREWS PLACE  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90047

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM





## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month (Mes nacional de la herencia hispana) is annually celebrated from September 15 to October 15 in the United States to recognize the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.

National Hispanic Heritage Week was established by legislation sponsored by Rep. George Brown Jr. of Los Angeles and signed

into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1968, taking place on the week including both September 15 and 16. In 1988, the commemorative week was expanded to a month (September 15 to October 15) by legislation sponsored by Rep. Esteban Torres (D-CA), amended by Senator Paul Simon, and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the commemoration because it is the anniversary of the Cry of Dolores (early morning, 16 September 1810), which marked the start of the Mexican War of Independence and thus resulted (in 1821) in independence for the New Spain Colony (now Mexico and the Central American nations of Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Nicaragua) which became the Federal Republic of Central America.

The 30-day period also includes many dates of importance in the Hispanic community: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua celebrate their anniversary of independence on September 15; Mexico commemorates its independence on September 16; Chile commemorates its independence on September 18; and the celebration Columbus Day or Día de la Raza.

## Mann UCLA as a Community School - Past, Present, and Future

As many of our Mann families know, Horace Mann Middle School was a community hub in the 1980s and 1990s - serving as a thriving center for student activities, neighborhood events, and community support services. When UCLA's School of Education entered a partnership with Mann in 2016, we, together, envisioned a revival of Mann's community-facing efforts and saw that Mann UCLA Community School could be a pioneer in community schooling nationwide.

Since the inception of the UCLA partnership, Mann has engaged in a transformative process - prioritizing engaging, culturally responsive lessons; building whole-child support systems for our students; seeking meaningful engagement with Mann parents and families; and strengthening democratic decision-making at our school. In recent years, there has been a bloom in national, state, and district support for community schooling; more folks are recognizing the success that schools and communities enjoy when our efforts are integrated.

To strengthen Mann UCLA's community school work and to connect with other community schools, our Mann community decided to join LAUSD's community schools initiative in 2023. As a member of this initiative, we are able to hire another parent/community representative and fund more parent and community workshops and events. We also receive more resources from LAUSD for academic enrichment, student mental and physical health support, and parent engagement.

We at Mann are excited about this new phase in our community schooling journey, and we are eager for parents and family members to join us at events, workshops, and decision-making councils this year!



**Community  
Schools** INITIATIVE