

PANTHER PRESS

PARENT & FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024

Celebrating Fall Athletics

Arbin Lubiano, Athletic Director

Student athletes and their families joined together in January to celebrate Mann UCLA Community School's first year as a member of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). When the school started expanding from a historic middle school to a 6-12 span school in 2017, adding a high school sports program was a priority for the community. Realizing the dream of joining the CIF LA City Section this fall was a big milestone. In this first season, the girl's volleyball team qualified for CIF playoffs as one of the top 20 Division V teams. Our cross-country team also qualified for the CIF Prelims, competing against the top Division V teams in all of Los Angeles. The boy's cross country team placed third in the Crosstown League, with two runners placing in the top 15 and earning the school's first medals. We dedicate these history-making moments to the continued support of our community members, faculty, staff, administration, UCLA, and students because when one succeeds, we all succeed!



In this edition...

- Celebrating Fall Athletics
- Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Pino
- Black History in Los Angeles
- Panther of the Month: January



Announcements...

Coming Soon...

- 2/23 - Lunch celebration for Black History Month
- 2/29 @ 4PM - Informational Meeting for BSAP Advisory Committee
- 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20 @ 9:30AM - No-Cost Healthy Habits Parent Workshops
- 3/22 @ 3:30PM - Spring Festival and Community Resource Fair

After-School Tutoring is Back!

Students can pick up applications in the Main Office or from Ms. Jackson

Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Pino

Students agree: Ms. Pino's class is fun! Ms. Pino has been using collaborative grouping systems in her math classes to increase student participation and engagement. Students sit in groups of four and work together on most learning activities. Not only do these collaborative groups allow students to give each other feedback, but they also help students to see that there are multiple ways to solve problems. Students who might be confused have more opportunities to jump into learning when they work together, and students who don't know each other well have opportunities to build positive relationships. Ms. Pino says, "It's incredible to see students showing off their own thinking and ideas! They're doing so well, and we're just giving them the tools to organize their discussions."

Black History in Los Angeles

Kathy Guyton, Community Member

Los Angeles is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the world. Beginning with LA's founding in 1781, African American culture and community have grown and flourished, influencing not only the City of Los Angeles but also making a tremendous impact on the rest of the country and around the world.

Bridget “Biddy” Mason

Bridget Biddy Mason (1818-1891) was an African-American nurse and a Californian real estate entrepreneur and philanthropist. She was one of the founders of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Los Angeles. Enslaved upon birth, she developed a variety of skills and developed knowledge of medicine, child care, and livestock care. A California court granted freedom to her and her three daughters in 1856.

After becoming free, Mason and her daughters moved in with Robert Owens, the father of Charles Owens and a well-known Los Angeles businessman. Mason worked in Los Angeles as a nurse and midwife, delivering hundreds of babies during her career. Using her knowledge of herbal remedies, she risked her life to care for those affected by the smallpox epidemic in Los Angeles. Saving carefully, she was one of the first African American women to own land in Los Angeles. As a businesswoman, she amassed a relatively large fortune, which she shared generously with charities. Mason also fed and sheltered the poor and visited prisoners. She was instrumental in founding a traveler's aid center, and a school and daycare center for black children, open to any child with nowhere else to go. Because of her kind and giving spirit, many called her "Auntie Mason" or "Grandma Mason".

After Mason's death on January 15, 1891, she was buried in Evergreen Cemetery. On March 27, 1988, in a ceremony attended by the mayor of Los Angeles and members of the church she founded, her burial place was marked with a gravestone.

Central Avenue (aka Harlem West)

With the rise of the Harlem Renaissance in New York in the 1920s and '30s, similar cultural movements emerged in other cities throughout the country. In Los Angeles, Central Avenue became the primary hub for African American art, literature, and music, particularly jazz. It was the heart of Los Angeles' African American community. Anchored by the Central Avenue streetcar, the neighborhood was the social, cultural, and political center for African Americans.

During the 1930s, the African American population of Los Angeles climbed, with most newcomers settling in the Central Avenue vicinity due to deed restrictions. This and other forms of discrimination prevented black families from making a life in other neighborhoods. In addition, the availability of nearby



"If you hold your hand closed, nothing good can come in. The open hand is blessed, for it gives in abundance, even as it receives."

Black History in Los Angeles (cont'd)

defense industry jobs during World War II led to a wave of settlement in the area. By 1930, approximately 17,500 African Americans lived in the area; over the next decade, nearly 25,000 blacks would join them.

Central Avenue had two all-black segregated fire stations. Fire Station No. 30 and Fire Station No. 14 were segregated in 1924. They remained segregated until 1956 when the Los Angeles Fire Department was integrated. It was also the home of other African American landmarks like the Dunbar Hotel, the Lincoln Theatre, the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Building, and the 28th Street YMCA.



The Dunbar Hotel, 1928



Lincoln Theater

Panther of the Month Winners - January

Teachers in each grade level nominated students who embodied Panther P.R.I.D.E. - Preparation, Responsibility, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence. Congratulations to our January winners!



- 6th Grade - Damian Sanchez**
- 7th Grade - Luke Brackett**
- 8th Grade - Treasure Dixie**
- 9th Grade - Jesus Villegas Lopez**
- 10th Grade - Esdras Barrios Chacaj**
- 11th Grade - Fatima Banegas**
- 12th Grade - Londyn Brownridge**



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