



Magnet Parents Association

Kickoff Meeting 2018-2019

Welcome to a new school year!

Agenda

- Meet the new Magnet Coordinator (Stephanie Fenig)
- Introduction to the MPA (Stephanie Fenig)
- Volunteer Opportunities (Uzma Nagra/Ali Ghasemi)
- Field Trips (Llyswen Franks/Stephanie Fenig)
- Extracurricular Activities (Llyswen Franks)
- Budget Review (Crystal Kaza/Tammy Eiam)
- Annual Giving (Stephanie Fenig)

Introduction to the MPA

Our Mission:

To assist, support, and enhance the academic program for the students and teachers at Gaspar de Portola Middle School Highly Gifted Magnet.

Our Members:

All parents of enrolled students in the Highly Gifted Magnet.

Our Governance:

We are governed by a board comprised of 7 members (5 from 7th and 8th grade and 2 from 6th grade). This board is elected annually by the MPA Members.

MPA: How we work

Board Meetings:

Board meetings are held once per month. All meetings take place in the school library.

The Board meets to:

- Discuss fundraising priorities and opportunities, plan and organize fundraising activities including monitoring the donation status.
- Provide support to program wide events and help coordinate field trips, enrichment classes and overnight trips.
- Review and evaluate administration and teacher requests for financial sponsorship of enrichment activities related to the overall academic program according to approved budget and current fundraising progress.
- Review current financial status and corporate compliance.

MPA: How we work (Cont'd)

Parent Meetings:

We rely on Parent Meetings to engage and meet fellow parents. Parent Meetings usually take place in the school library.

- Portola MPA Kickoff Meeting: The Board uses this opportunity to introduce new Board, present budget for the new school year, communicate major events and activities for the year, and welcome new families.
- Portola MPA Year End Meeting: This is the end of the year meeting to elect Board members for the next school year.
- Other General Parent Meeting: The Board tries to invite speakers to discuss topics that are of interests to our Highly Gifted parent community. These meetings are typically aligned with the MPA Board monthly meeting schedule.
- Throughout the school year, we welcome any feedback, requests and suggestions for new opportunities for the students.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Our program relies on the efforts of volunteers to bring enriching opportunities to our students. Without parental involvement and support, many of these activities would simply not take place.
- Your support can take the form of a long-term project commitment, single-day event support, a few hours working from home, or even donating supplies.
- If you can't commit to a particular role but still want to help, you can sign up as an "on-call" volunteer. If extra volunteer help is needed, we'll call you to see if you're available.
- Please consider donating your time to benefit our program. There are sign up sheets available tonight or you can fill out the volunteer interest form online at:
<http://portolahighlygifted.org/volunteer>

Volunteers Needed

- ▶ Fundraising
- ▶ Community Building
- ▶ Spelling Bee
- ▶ Math-a-Thon
- ▶ Culmination
- ▶ Science Fair
- ▶ Administrative
- ▶ Website Updates
- ▶ Teacher Appreciation
- ▶ Grant Proposals
- ▶ Field Trips
- ▶ On-call volunteer

If you'd like to help, you can sign up on our volunteer forms tonight or fill it out online at <http://www.portolahighlygifted.org/volunteer.html>

Field Trips

Overnight trips

- **6th Grade Catalina CIMI Trip**
- **7th Grade Astrocamp Trip**
- **8th Grade WOLF Camp (This year at Camp Whittier)**
- **8th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip**
 - Trip Teacher - Mr. Goldstein (History Teacher)
 - Parent Trip Leader - Llyswen Franks
 - Organized by WorldStrides

Day field trips

- Past trips have included the California Science Center, the Getty Villa, the Norton Simon, JPL, the Museum of Tolerance, LACMA, CSUN and other cultural and academic institutions around Los Angeles.



Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI)

What: A 3 day, 2 night field trip to Guided Discovery's Toyon Bay camp located on Catalina Island. CIMI is a unique program that is hands-on and focuses on experiential science education through activities including: snorkeling, hiking, ecology hikes and marine biology labs.

Who: Portola HGM 6th Graders (Fall of 2018)

When: November 9-11, 2018. Students depart Portola Middle School Friday early in the morning and return mid-afternoon on Sunday.

How Much: Approximately \$300 per person.



Astro Camp

What: A 3 day, 2 night field trip to Guided Discovery's Idyllwild camp located in the San Jacinto Mountains. ASTROCAMP specializes in activities that teach astronomy and the physical sciences while incorporating team building and self esteem through cooperative adventure activities.

Who: Portola HGM 7th Graders (Fall of 2018)

When: November 9-11, 2018. Students depart Portola Middle School Friday early in the morning and return mid-afternoon on Sunday.

How Much: Approximately \$325 per person



W.O.L.F. Camp

What: A 3 day, 2 night field trip to WOLF Camp located in Camp Whittier. WOLF (Wilderness Outdoor Leadership Foundation) Camp is an outdoor education and leadership program that uses a series of challenges requiring ingenuity, innovation and patience to teach team building and leadership.

Who: Portola HGM 8th Graders (Fall of 2018)

When: November 10-12, 2018. Students will depart Portola Middle School Saturday early in the morning and return mid-afternoon on Monday November 12.

How Much: Approximately \$345 per person

Extracurricular and After School Activities/Programs

Various after school activities are offered through the Magnet and the Resident School:

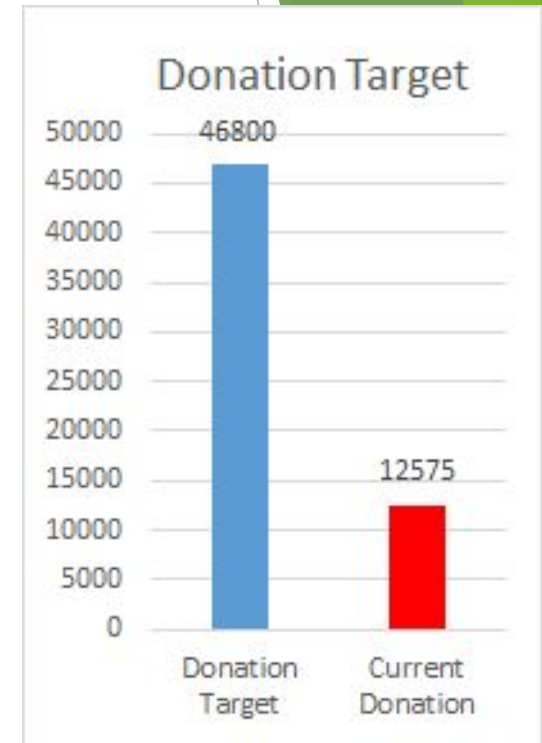
- **GiST (Girls in Science and Tech) Club** - Schoolwide. Meetings are held twice a month on Wednesdays and are sponsored by CSUN. Despite the name, boys can-and do-join too!
- **MathCounts Club** (Mrs. Martin, Magnet only, Wednesdays)
- **Writers Lab** (Mrs. Miller, Magnet only, Mondays & Thursdays)
- **Debate** (Mr. Stevenson, Magnet only, select Fridays)
- **Robotics Club** (Mr. Schmidt) Thursdays, schoolwide.
- **Battle of the Books Day** TBD, schoolwide but the Magnet has their own team.
- **Club Fair** - on Weds. September 12th there will be a Club Fair on the quad during lunch where students can check out all the great clubs we have here at Portola. Students can also form their own clubs: go to Portolams.org and click on Clubs for info on how to do this.
- **Plays/Musicals** - Schoolwide. Currently auditions have begun for Beauty and the Beast which will have performances in December.

Upcoming:

- Spelling Bee and Model United Nations (Spring semester)

Treasurer's Report

- ▶ **Current Balances:** **2018-2019 Annual Fund Drive to Date**
(As of 9/1/2018)
 - ▶ Bank: \$40,240
 - ▶ PayPal: \$14,521
 - ▶ Total Balance: \$54,761
- 6th Grade: \$6,425 22%
 - 7th Grade: \$3,100 9%
 - 8th Grade: \$3,050 6%
 - Donation to Date: \$12,575



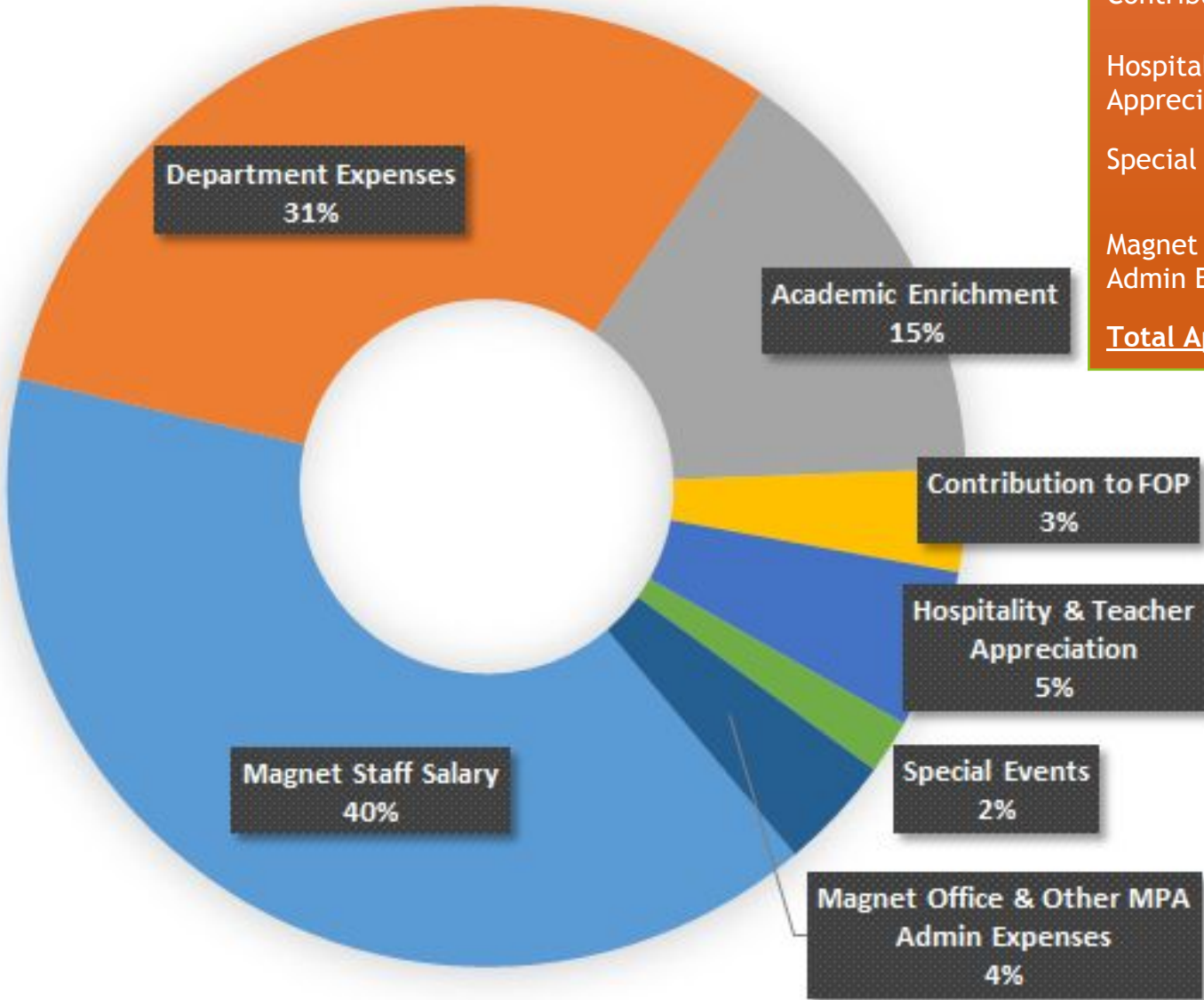
Last Year's Annual Giving		
6th Grade	\$16,665.00	46.30%
7th Grade	\$13,035.00	28.87%
8th Grade	\$14,200.00	32.76%
Overall	\$43,900.00	34.08%

2018-2019 Annual Report for Portola Magnet Program for Academic Excellence (Portola MPA) is available upon request. Please send an email request to portolahgmpa@gmail.com (Treasurer Account)

What We Fund

- Department Expenses
 - Department spending for instructional needs
 - Science, History, Math, English, Music and Robotics
 - Classroom spending - supplies and materials
 - Specialized textbooks and literature books
 - Teacher professional development specific to HG needs
- Academic Enrichment
 - Day field trips
 - Academic competitions such as Math Counts, Battle of the Books, Spelling Bee and Geography Bee
- Additional Magnet Staff
- Magnet Special Events
- Hospitality and Teacher Appreciation
- Administrative
 - Magnet office expenses
 - MPA administrative expenses (bank/PayPal fees, insurance, taxes, filing fees, website, etc.)

2018-2019 Budget



Magnet Staff Salary	23,000
Department Expenses	18,000
Academic Enrichment	8,500
Contribution to FOP	2,000
Hospitality & Teacher Appreciation	3,100
Special Events	1,050
Magnet Office & Other MPA Admin Expenses	2,235
Total Approved Budget	57,885



Annual Giving and Other Fundraising

You've heard about what we fund, now let's talk about how we fund them!

- **Annual Giving**

- The main fundraiser for the Magnet
- \$650 per family requested
- \$100,000 goal
- Strive for 100% participation - every donation brings us closer to our goal
- Installment options available via PayPal (visit our website at www.portolahighlygifted.org)

- **Math-a-Thon**

- Math teachers supply all grades with age-appropriate math problems for the test, included in their grade
- Students ask family and friends to sponsor them
- Helps fund 2nd semester teacher requests and 8th grade culmination expenses

- **Friends of Portola (FOP)**

- Parent organization for Portola resident school
- Request donations to their HoPe fund which benefits entire student body at Portola
- Donations to MPA Annual Fund benefits Magnet students exclusively
- If you can donate to both, the FOP will gladly accept donations of any size

Free ways to help raise \$ for the Magnet

- **Ralphs-** every time you shop at Ralph's grocery store and you give them your ID, they donate a portion of the sale to our program. Please note every September they require people to re-enroll in the program. *Instructions on how to do this can be found on portolahighlygifted.org.*
- **Amazon** - before shopping at Amazon.com, simply click through the Amazon Affiliate link on portolahighlygifted.org/donate and Amazon will donate a portion of the sale to the program. You can also use AmazonSmile, but the percentage they donate is a very small fraction of what they give us if someone uses the Affiliate link, so please use the Affiliate link if you can.

How do we communicate at the Magnet?

- The Magnet Coordinator, Ms. Kassiri will send out important Magnet related emails directly to the parents from her LAUSD email address, and Principal Yoo will send out important schoolwide messages via phone and email (depending on what you checked for preferences)
- Shutterfly Share Class sites are set up for each grade so that Magnet parents in the same grade can communicate with each other (but sometimes we will post a message there.)
- info@portolamagnet.com is the email address for the MPA. We will send out important MPA information via this email, as well as the Magnet Newsletter, which we send out approximately once a month.
- portolahighlygifted.org is our website, and a lot of information is available there, along with ways to donate to the Annual Giving Fund, and to pay for enrichments or overnight field trips online. There is also a news section.
- <http://www.facebook.com/portolahighlygifted> is our facebook page, and Magnet news will be posted there.
- For classroom homework assignments, test dates, etc. please check on your Schoology account.
- We encourage you to visit Portola Middle School's website for schoolwide news and the school calendar.



- Any Questions?
- Next meeting - October 15th
- For more info please go to our website:
portolahighlygifted.org.