

MALCOLM X SCHOOL NEWS

Everything you need to know this week

Spotlight: Jocelyn Foreman, Family Engagement Specialist

“Whatever the barrier for a family, it is my aim to remove that barrier.” – Jocelyn Foreman on assisting families to overcome challenges and achieve success

Malcolm X Elementary is proud to highlight the work of Jocelyn Foreman, our school’s Family Engagement Specialist. We are thrilled to have Jocelyn on the team and would like to take the opportunity to introduce her and the valuable services and resources available to all MX families through the Family Engagement Office.

The Family Engagement Office provides assistance to families in times when they need additional support, with the end goal of providing our students the tools they need to succeed both academically and socially. That support can come in the form of clothing, food, school supplies, or a safe place to chill out and talk to someone. A few of the efforts that Jocelyn oversees are the Family Food Pantry, the Family Room and Basic Needs Drive (see attached flier for details), and connecting families with community resources they may not be aware of or have access to.

While Jocelyn has been at Malcolm X for 4 years now, her work in community service began many years ago. Both her father and mother exemplified what it meant to not only be part of a community, but to take care of that community. Her parents not only raised their 6 children, but also provided shelter and support to other families in need. Jocelyn eventually began her own journey in community service working as a counselor in the group homes run by her family, then later as an instructional aide for the school district. That journey eventually led her to the doors of Malcolm X and her work in the Family Engagement Office. Jocelyn also spent the latter part of her elementary school education here at Malcolm X, during which time she benefitted from the support of the Family Engagement Office herself. In her own words, she has “come full circle.”

For Jocelyn, her work here at Malcolm X is not a job, it’s a calling shaped by her life experiences. When asked what motivates her to do this work, she states, “I love what I do. I can’t imagine doing anything else.” And for that we are fortunate!

If you should need assistance of any kind, or would just like to stop by and say “hello” to Jocelyn, feel free to swing by Room 105A (the Family Room). All students and families are welcome!

The Family Room: Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm. The Family Room has gently used boys’ and girls’ clothes, sizes 4-14. There are also gently used shoes, new school supplies, and toiletries.






Family Food Pantry: The MX PTA, John Muir PTA, and the South Berkeley Senior Center are partnering with the Alameda Food Bank to provide a mobile food pantry. This mobile food pantry will be parked at the South Berkeley Senior Center and will serve the families of our school. (See attached flier for more details).

Basic Needs Drive: We are asking for donations of backpacks, shoelaces, jackets, etc. to increase our supplies for The Family Room. We will be collecting donations both rolling drop off locations on the mornings of October 2 and 3. Please see attached flier for more details on the items needed, and how to maximize your donation by using the Smile Amazon account for Malcolm X PTA.

Jocelyn Foreman, Family Engagement Specialist
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Rolling Drop-off Tips and Tricks

Some DOs and DON'Ts to make our morning experience smooth, swift, and SAFE:

-  **DO be patient!** Please enter the line at the rear—please no cutting in further up the line!—and wait until you've pulled all the way up, near the front, to let your student[s] exit your car.
-  **DO stay in line:** Please don't pull away between the cones. It's dangerous: there may be cyclists, busses, or other cars coming through.
-  **DON'T make U-turns:** They're illegal (not to mention unsafe) on both Ellis and King.
-  **DO aim for Ellis Street:** The King Street side is a secondary dropoff lane that is only staffed when we have plenty of adults. Ellis is always available, so please try to drop off there when it's feasible
-  **DO keep it snappy:** If you need to have an extended conversation, unbuckle your student[s], or provide other support at the dropoff, please consider parking and walking them in.

Together we can keep drop-offs working well for everyone!

Malcolm X Fund 100% Participation Goal

Your generosity toward the Malcolm X Fund pays for amazing programs at our school including PE, Garden, Dance, Music, Field Trips and more. What could be a better investment than supporting your child's school? Thanks to our wonderful community of families, donations are pouring in—but we still need your help! Our new goal is **100% family participation**, and there's still time to donate!

1. You can donate online RIGHT NOW at <http://www.malcolmxelementary.org/donate>
2. We have a monthly payment plan to make it easier
3. We welcome stock donations
4. You can leave a check in the office, there is a small collection box
5. Suggested donation is \$500/student
6. No amount is too small—and we'd love to see 100% participation!!!

Please reach out to deb@parentscout.com with questions!

Got a Computer and an Hour a Month?

The School News Team is seeking volunteer editors and Spanish translators! Serving as an editor or translator is a fairly easy way to help make sure that all MX families learn about the activities and programs at our wonderful school. This is a flexible position that allows you to contribute from your own computer, on your own time. All you need is an hour or two per month, and access to Microsoft Word. And we could really use your assistance!

If you're interested in learning more, please contact Tenysa Santiago, School News Coordinator, at coordinator.fridaynews@gmail.com.

UPCOMING...	
Tuesday, September 25, 8:15-9:30am	First ELAC Meeting in MX Library—All are welcome!
Friday, September 28	Picture Day
Monday, October 8	District PD Day: NO SCHOOL
Saturday, October 27	MX WALK-A-THON