



## Four-Week Calendar

*Wednesdays are minimum days. Note that multiple events occur on the same days.*

- Mon • Dec 18: **MLK Oratorical Prep Begins**, times TBA
- Tue • Dec 19: **Sequoia Choir Winter Daytime Assembly**, 9:15–9:45 a.m., Auditorium
- Wed • Dec 20: **Sequoia Choir Winter Evening Performance**, 7–7:30 p.m., Auditorium
- Thu • Dec 21: **First Day of Winter/December Solstice**
- Fri • Dec 22: **Lost & Found Items Cleared and Donated**

Dec 25–Jan 5: **Winter Recess: No School For Students**

- Mon • Jan 8: **School Resumes After Winter Recess**
- Mon • Jan 8: **MLK Oratorical Practices Begin**, times TBA
- Tue • Jan 9: **SSC Meeting**, 5–6 p.m., Library
- Wed • Jan 10: **NO Sequoia Sings! Student Performance**  
**NO Breakfast With the Principal**
- Thu • Jan 11: **Dads' Club Meeting**, 7–8:30 p.m., Red Boy Pizza (1500 Leimert Blvd.)

## Winter Break Dec. 25–Jan. 5

Sequoia will be closed for Winter Recess from Monday, Dec. 25 through Friday, Jan. 5. School will resume on Monday, Jan. 8.



Sequoia estará cerrada por el receso de invierno desde el lunes 25 de diciembre hasta el viernes 5 de enero. La escuela reanudará sus actividades el lunes 8 de enero.

Sequoia 學校會在十二月二十五日星期一至明年一月五日星期五放冬季假期。在明年2018年一月八日恢復上課。

Sequoia sẽ đóng cửa vào mùa đông Recess từ thứ Hai, 25 tháng 12 đến thứ Sáu, ngày 5 tháng Một. Trường sẽ tiếp tục vào ngày Thứ Hai 8 Tháng Một.

سيغلق سيكوييا لعطلة الشتاء من يوم الاثنين 25 ديسمبر حتى الجمعة 5 يناير. ستستأنف المدرسة يوم الاثنين 8 يناير.

## Winter Choir Performances

Come hear the beautiful harmonies of the Sequoia Choir. The evening concert will take place on **Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 7 to 7:30 p.m.** The daytime assembly is **Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m.** Both performances are free and in the auditorium.

## No Newsletter During Winter Break

The Sequoia Newsletter will be on hiatus over the Winter Break but will return Monday, Jan. 8. Submissions for the Jan. 8 edition are due Wednesday, Jan. 3. Have a great break!

## Shop AmazonSmile and Support Sequoia

Do your holiday shopping and support our school with every purchase, using AmazonSmile—a charity version of Amazon.com with all the same products and prices.



When you click the link on our website (<http://sequoiaschool.net/donate/shop-for-sequoia/>) and shop on AmazonSmile, Sequoia Dads' Club will receive 6–8% of the cost of your purchase, and if you choose Sequoia Dads' Club as your AmazonSmile charity, we will receive an extra 0.5%.

## Try SoulCycle in December for Free

SoulCycle Berkeley is offering a two-week promotion with Sequoia Elementary families to try out classes, on them! The promotion began Dec. 16 and runs through Dec. 31. Eligible class times are as follows:



- All 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. classes
- Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 a.m. classes
- Friday 8:30 a.m. class
- Saturday and Sunday 10:45 a.m. classes
- Sunday 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. classes

To take advantage of this promotion, create an account at [soul-cycle.com](http://soul-cycle.com) and then call the studio at (510) 313-1500 up to 30 minutes before your desired class to reserve your bike. Make sure to mention you are Sequoia Elementary family!

## Sequoia After School Enrichment Registration Ends Today

After school enrichment program registration for the winter session (Jan. 8–Mar. 12) ends today Monday, Dec. 18. Please register directly with the class provider. Please note changes to the information in the flyer:

- Tiny Techs start time: 2:50 p.m. (Kinder-only class)
- Craft Kitchen extended class until Tuesday, Mar. 13

Questions? Contact [sequoia.afterschoolenrichment@gmail.com](mailto:sequoia.afterschoolenrichment@gmail.com). We hope you can try a class!

## Independent Study

If your student will be absent for more than five days, please visit the school office to fill out an Independent Study Agreement form. **Please note that teachers need a one week notice to prepare assignments and materials for your student.**

## Mountain Hardwear Deal Ends Soon

Sequoia families have a week until our exclusive invitations to the Mountain Hardwear Employee Store expire on Dec. 24! Shop for 40–60% off of retail for the Mountain Hardwear family of brands, including Columbia, Sorel and prAna. Ten percent of all in-store purchases go back to Sequoia. There are a big stack of passes in the office for you to share with your family of friends! See more information at <http://sequoiaschool.net/donate/shop-for-sequoia/>.



## 2018 Family Dance & Silent Auction Feb. 10, 5–8 p.m.

### Raise the Ruff

Everyone in the community is invited to join us for this family-friendly party. No stuffy black-tie event, the Fourth Annual Family Dance & Auction will feature:

- Kid-friendly tunes spun by Mr. D's Music Club
- A variety of yummy food trucks and a bake sale
- Mini photo sessions with acclaimed photographer Mitch Tobias ([mitchtobias.com](http://mitchtobias.com))
- An auction of many fantastic items and one-of-a-kind experiences



### Give a Little and Get a Lot in Return

Your participation is an invaluable part of our fundraising efforts. Donate an item or service for the auction at [bit.ly/sequoiaauction](http://bit.ly/sequoiaauction) and help to raise money for Sequoia's enrichment programs. Become a sponsor and promote your business on our website. Contact us at [sequoiaauctionteam@gmail.com](mailto:sequoiaauctionteam@gmail.com) for more information.

## Arabic Translations Needed

The Sequoia newsletter team needs a parent volunteer to help with Arabic translations. Each week the newsletter features an article translated into several languages, thanks to parent translators. To help, email [SequoiaNewsTeam@googlegroups.com](mailto:SequoiaNewsTeam@googlegroups.com).

## Printed Newsletter Opt-Out

To help Sequoia save money, we offer families the option to opt out of receiving a printed copy of the newsletter (which is posted on the school website, the school's Facebook page and Yahoo community group). Complete the form on the website to opt out; capitalize "Oakland" in the security question field (on a computer, not phone): <http://sequoiaschool.net/parent-resources/newsletters-communities/newsletter-opt-out/>.

## Stay Connected With OUSD

Don't miss out on enrollment information, Board of Education meetings, updates about the budget, feel good stories about our students, and everything in between! #iamousd

- Follow @ousdnews on [Facebook](https://Facebook.com), [Twitter](https://Twitter.com) and [YouTube](https://YouTube.com)
- Subscribe to any of our newsletters for news that's important to you at <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1853642/1801679/>

## Final Sequoia Swag Sale of 2017

On Tuesday, December 19, from 3-5:30 pm Sequoia Swag will be on sale for the final time in 2017. The sale of Sequoia Swag goes directly to PTO sponsored programs. The sale will be out of the big container by the 'big kid' playground. Cash, checks, and credit/debit cards accepted. The next Sequoia Swag sale will be at the Family Dance & Silent Auction on Saturday, February 10, 2018. For more information, contact [WelcomeBisson](mailto:WelcomeBisson@sequoiaschool.net).

## Sequoia's Annual MLK Oratorical Assembly January 18

Students are invited to recite a poem/essay/speech relating to civil rights, freedom, justice and equality in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as well as other leaders of peace and justice during Sequoia's annual MLK Oratorical Assembly on January 18. Some classes will prepare their own group presentations, while other students can choose to perform as an individual or as a small choral group (two or more students). Top performances go on to OUSD's district-wide competition.

Approximately 80+ Sequoia students participate. The commitment requires some work and discipline from those brave students. They develop public speaking skills, fine-tune their comprehension skills as they interpret written work, cultivate work ethic through repeated memorizing and rehearsing, deepen their understanding of equality and social justice, and gain self confidence. Moreover, those students choosing to perform as a group learn how to work collaboratively. As parents and caregivers, we can play an important role by encouraging participation, and then supporting them as they memorize and rehearse their delivery.

Classrooms should have a binder of oratorical material available for students to choose from. Feel free to seek out pieces at the library, online or in your own personal collections. A child's own written poem/essay would be a wonderful addition to the Oratorical. Do not feel as if you need to wait for your child's teacher to orchestrate or begin this process, and if you have any questions about material, feel free to contact Damond Moodie at [damondmoodie@comcast.net](mailto:damondmoodie@comcast.net). Starting now, before Winter Break, can make the entire process easier for your child and requires additional work outside of class. Beginning this week, we will begin encouraging students to commit to a piece so that they can use part of the Winter Break to rehearse.

If you are a parent/caregiver looking for a volunteer opportunity, please consider being part of the MLK Oratorical Coaching Team. Your role would be to help build our students' confidence, and coach them on delivery, articulation, pronunciation, gesturing and stage presence. No skills necessary, just a love of helping kids reach their highest potential.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, contact Damond at [damondmoodie@comcast.net](mailto:damondmoodie@comcast.net).

## Shout Outs

Thank you TK and K!

**Donations:** Ruby, Siimi, Waylon, Preston, Ava, Liliana, Amanda

**Toys for Tots:** Liliana, Waylon

**Motor Skills:** Leslie, Pam, David, Sasha, Aruna, Erik, Lynell, Johai, John, Lance, Annie

**Box Tops:** Freja

**Vacuuming and Sweeping:** Pam

**December birthday celebration:** Kate

**Book Fair Donations:** Jordan, Waylon

**Book Organizing and Classroom help:**

Sharon, Ms. A

**Care train:** Eliseo, Ava, Ruby, Waylon, Annie, Abilene

**Snack setup:** Pam, Arin, Tomoko, Sasha, Saniyyah

**Lunch help:** David, Pam

**Snack:** Lucas, Madeline, Freja, Malaya, Sam

