

# Murphy Elementary Newsletter

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## Murphy Mileage Club

Last year's mileage club champions were the first graders from Ms. Kopchick's (now Mrs. Gardiner) class. Students from that class, who completed two miles or more, were presented t-shirts in December. Shirts were also given to any individual in the school who completed 26 miles or more, earning them marathon status. A big thank you goes out to Speedy Screen Printing for graciously donating all of the shirts for the kids!

## Cold Weather

Please remember to send your child with warm outer wear for recess. Unless a child has a doctor's note they will go outside.

## Way to Go Everyone!

Thanks to everyone that contributed to the annual Good Fellow Can Good Drive in December. Murphy kids brought in nearly 1000 items. Mrs. Withey's class brought in the most donations for the food drive at 126 items and Mrs. Chouinard's class came in a close second with 115. We have such great kids and parents here at Murphy school and appreciate all your generosity.

## LINKS Spirit Week Dec 15

Pay a quarter each day that you want to participate.

**MON:** Red and green day

**TUE:** LINKS t-shirt with something red or green (like a necklace or hair tie)

**WED:** Holiday sock day

**THU:** Holiday hat day (or even reindeer antlers!)

**FRI:** Ornament day (wear garland, tinsel, ornaments, etc.)

## Metamora Fire Fighters

Our Metamora Fire Fighters took time out of their busy day to come to Murphy and teach the students about how to use a fire extinguisher. They did live demonstrations with the teachers as helpers! They taught the students other information about what to do if there is a fire and how to be safe. Most importantly they explained what is in a fire extinguisher and how to use it. It was educational but lots of fun!



## RAT Race. Just Around the Corner

Dear Murphy Parents,

The RAT will soon start racing through Murphy! We need to start saving those cans and bottles!! For those of you who have no idea what the RAT RACE is, the explanation is simple: Every year, Murphy students send in all their returnable cans and plastic bottles they've been saving and use the money to support technology for our school. It's a competition for Murphy students. They just need cans and bottles to power them up. The rats will run again this year beginning Monday, Jan. 26, and run through Tuesday, February 3, (this includes Super Bowl Sunday on Feb. 1) Children bring in returnables to their classrooms. They are counted daily and do a grand total at the end of the week.



If you choose, you can take the cans/bottles back to the store yourself and then send in the bottle receipt to be counted. **We will accept receipts through February 6<sup>th</sup> to give parents time to take bottles and cans back from the big Super Bowl parties.** You can also make a one time, maximum cash donation of \$10 per student in place of bringing in returnables. We ask that the cans & plastic bottles be rinsed. Alcoholic beverage cans will also be accepted this year as long as they are rinsed. Please no glass containers. The competition is between all the classrooms at school. At the end of the competition, the overall winning class (bringing in the largest amount of cans/bottles for the week) will receive a special prize.

## United Way

We would like to thank everyone for supporting the United Way fundraiser. We raised a total of \$369.96! Our staff was able to pay to wear hats and jeans for the day and kids could wear a hat for a \$1. This added up to \$191.96. We also had additional pledges totaling \$178.00. Great job Murphy!

## Make-A-Wish Foundation

Murphy students and staff wrote 286 letters to Santa Claus at the North Pole. Macy's Department store donated \$1.00 for each stamped letter they received during their Believe Program this 2014. Letters were delivered on National Believe Day, on which Macy's doubled the donation to \$572. What a difference Murphy made in the lives of children everywhere!

## Winter/Christmas Break

Winter recess will begin at the end of the day on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. School will resume on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. We wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable break. See you next year!

## Dictionaries

Our third grade classes would like to thank the Lapeer Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs for the gift of dictionaries. They come to our school every year and give all of our third grade students a dictionary. What a great community outreach!



# Title 1 Corner

(Excerpts of this article from Reading Rockets)

## Who's Who in Your Child's School

There are many people at your child's school who are there to help your child learn, grow socially and emotionally, and navigate the school environment. Here's a selected list of who's who at your school:

### + Dean of Students

They help the school principal by becoming responsible for a particular administrative area of the school. For example, dean of students may coordinate support services, like school buses and cafeteria meals. Deans may also handle student discipline and attendance problems, recreational programs, and health matters. For example, if your child must miss school for an extended time, perhaps because of an illness, you may work with the dean to decide how your child will keep up with schoolwork and how the absence will impact your child's academic record.

### + Elementary Teacher

In elementary school, the primary classroom teacher teaches core subjects such as mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies through books, games, music, projects, films, computers, and more. Elementary school teachers also work with special education students, following an Individualized Education Program (IEP). When you speak with your child's teacher, you will learn about your child's academic achievements and any behavioral issues, and you should seek out the teacher whenever you have concerns or questions.

### + Learning Coach

Learning coaches improve literacy teaching across all classes, by helping teachers of all topics include literacy skill-building work. The coaches also assess how well the school teaches literacy skills, and may develop school-wide literacy programs. If your child seems out of step with the literacy pace in his or her class, speak with a literacy coach. The coach can then evaluate the class, as well as your child, and recommend changes, such as offering help to the teacher, enrichment for your child, or both.

### + Media Paraprofessional

A media paraprofessional assists the school's patrons. They may have specific responsibilities, such as managing the library's computers or repairing books, or general, like helping students who visit. If your child would benefit from specific training on media resources, a library aide may be the one to help.

### + Paraprofessional

Paraprofessionals help with teacher duties, extending the individual attention that can be given to students. Most paraprofessionals perform both clerical and instructional duties, such as monitoring the cafeteria as well as providing supplemental help to specific students. Many paraprofessionals also work with children with special needs, helping them participate successfully in a general education classroom. You may want to speak with any aide who regularly works with your child, whether as a tutor or as a playground monitor, to stay informed of your child's progress.

### + Specials Teacher

These teachers offer special classes across the school, such as music, art, gym, or foreign language.

### + Principal

Each school has one principal, who sets the academic and administrative expectations for the school. The principal is responsible for ensuring the school meets state, local, and federal goals on test results. Principals promote professional development of staff, meet with teachers, work with staff, talk with parents, report to the school board, and, if needed, discipline students. Principals are always the school's decision maker and chief public representative. You may speak with the principal about your child, such as his or her class placement, as well as about school issues that concern you, such as after-school programs or the reading curriculum.

### + Resource Teacher

Resource teachers work with students for part of the day to support special learning needs. Most often these teachers do not have their own classroom. The most common of these are special education resource teachers. Special education teachers help children with special needs and their families over an entire academic career, starting with the IEP, which sets out a personalized learning program. They work closely with general education teachers to provide a supported general education experience. When ready, the special education teacher will help students with disabilities prepare for middle school. You may use the special education teacher as a resource, too, in learning what to do at home to support what your child is learning at school. Also, you may meet with the special education teacher to follow your child's behavioral progress.

### + Secretary

The secretary assists with office duties. The secretary enrolls students and is the person to call when your child will be absent from school. She assists hurt or sick children and communicates school information to families. The secretary also updates information for the school and its patrons as necessary.

### + Social Worker

School social workers provide the building with a resource to handle the variety of emotional and social needs of children. They work to assist in training of school personnel in positive behavior supports and other interventions to improve student behavior. If your child has significant difficulty making friends, you may want to seek help from the school's social worker.

### + Speech-Language Pathologist

They help students with needs related to speech, language, and voice communication, such as stuttering or understanding language. The therapists can assess and diagnose problems, as well as treat existing conditions or help prevent such disorders. If your child regularly has trouble saying or responding to certain words, you may want to seek help from the school's speech-language pathologist.



# MURPHY ELEMENTARY

## PTC HAPPENINGS

### Special Holiday Greeting

The PTC would like to extend our wishes to all the Murphy families and staff for a happy and safe holiday. Take time to be with loved ones and enjoy the season!

### November/December Flashback

**Thank you** to everyone that attended the last PTC meeting of the year held on November 19. Mrs. Withey's class won an extra recess for having the most parents present at that meeting. Thank you to Ashley Robertson for bringing in cider and donuts, too, they were really good!

The **Penny Wars** were a HUGE success this year! The total amount raised was \$1407.89! The kids love to check on the progress that is posted each day by lunch time (putting pressure on the PTC volunteers to get the money to the bank, counted and reported out. Normally the class who gets the most pennies gets a pizza lunch and the one who raises the most money gets donuts. Well...this year IT WAS THE SAME CLASS! Mrs. Steele's class brought in the most pennies AND the most total dollars. The class decided that they would share their win with the second place. Mrs. Steele's class chose the Pizza and Mrs. James class got the donuts! Thank you to Holly Gryzb, Crystal Paton, Dawn Ray and April LaBar for being hall monitors in the mornings, taking the money to the bank each day and running the totals board.

Our first **Dine In** was held at [Louies Sports Bar](#). They helped us raise \$91! Not bad for just getting some families there to enjoy some good food. This also helps the restaurant that is sponsoring it as well so it is really a community event. In some cases (such as this one), the restaurant has a special tie in to the school – either they went there or they have children or relatives going to the school. Our next Dine In is planned for January or February at Woodchips in Lapeer. If you own or know someone who owns a restaurant who would be interested in hosting a Dine In, please let us know.

**North Pole Express** was as fun as ever for the kids. Over 1600 items were sold. The PTC does not host this event as a fund raiser, we host it for the kids to be able to enjoy shopping for others – to experience the joy of giving. They love picking out presents and decorating the bags to put under the tree.

### 2105 Preview & News

**The First PTC meeting** of 2015 will be on [Wednesday, January 21](#) at 8:30 am in the library.

**Chris Cakes coming soon!** February holds fun in the Murphy Cafeteria again this year when we will be joined by the pancake flipping and sausage grilling Chris Cakes guys! Mark your calendar for February 27. Stay tuned for more details!

The PTC will be holding a **“Craft In”** – an all day event held at Murphy for all moms, aunts, grammas (or even the guys too) who want 1 full day to themselves to work on their craft. Whether your activity is scrapbooking, sewing, knitting, jewelry making or something else, if what you need is time to yourself to do it, here’s your chance! Mark your calendars so you can come join us. It will be held Saturday, March 21 from 9am – 9pm. Food, fun and crafting will be the order of business on that day.



The PTC has an easy to remember **email address!** [MURPHY\\_PTC@YAHOO.COM](mailto:MURPHY_PTC@YAHOO.COM) Please feel free to use it at any time to email us questions or comments. Our meeting minutes, newsletters and general messages will be coming out from this email address so add us to your list!

### **Free Money for the PTC and Murphy**



**Earn Money with Amazon.com** - Start every Amazon purchase with [www.lapeerschools.org/murphy](http://www.lapeerschools.org/murphy), then click on the red link at the bottom of the page.

Remember to use the school link to purchase books for Kindle readers too, because even free books count as items purchased.

**Juice Pouch Brigade** – Don’t forget that we collect empty juice pouches. So help us help the environment and turn them in. Please try to make sure the pouches are clean on the outside, empty on the inside and leave the straw in (this prevents that little bit of juice that usually remains in the bottom from leaking out).



**Collecting Box Tops and Campbells Soup Labels!** These are a very effective way to get money and supplies into your children’s classrooms and do not require any money out of pocket from you. Box tops go directly to your child’s teacher. Campbell’s soup money is pooled together and then used to purchase additional supplies.



Are you a CocaCola product drinker? Then collect the bottle caps and enter the points for Murphy School online. You can select the school to donate to.

Murphy Elementary PTC is on Facebook. **“Like” us on Facebook** to get the scoop on our events.



Feel free to contact the PTC board at any time. PTC Contact Information: President – Holly Grzyb, [hollymgrzyb@gmail.com](mailto:hollymgrzyb@gmail.com) Vice-President – Dawn Ray, [raydawn4@aol.com](mailto:raydawn4@aol.com), Treasurer – Crystal Paton, [drakecrystal22@yahoo.com](mailto:drakecrystal22@yahoo.com), Secretary – Debbie Martinez, [debbielexi@yahoo.com](mailto:debbielexi@yahoo.com), Communications Liaison – Robin Buchanan, [mibigbird@yahoo.com](mailto:mibigbird@yahoo.com)