

Murphy Elementary Newsletter

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Katie Jordan, Principal
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2017 Spelling Bee Murphy Winners



The Murphy 2017 Spelling Bee was held on the morning of Tuesday, February 10 with 18 fifth grade participants. On behalf of the Murphy Staff, we are very proud of our fifth graders who participated. It was obvious the students studied hard for this event.

In the end, Brandon Hughes became our first-

place champion! He will go on to represent Murphy Elementary at the Lapeer County Spelling Bee on Tuesday, March 21st at 6:30pm at the Lapeer County Education and Technology Center (690 N. Lake Pleasant Rd., Attica). Our second-place winner was Alex Makela. He will act as an alternate at the County Spelling Bee if Brandon is unable to attend. Thank you for some great competition spellers!

We would also like to say a special thank you to Mrs. Jordan for being our pronouncer this year. Thank you to Mr. Hutton for taking care of the furniture set up and equipment needs. Thank you Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Blauet and Mrs. Peabody for volunteering their time as our spelling bee judges.

Additional Spelling Bee participants: Steven Fleming, Jayden Henley, Scott Lake, Eva LeClaire, Lydia Leuck, Sophie Mazur-Batistoni, Logann Michals, Nevaeh Moshier, Shay Mullaney, Zak Olejniczak, Alaina Przekora, Aidan RaCosta, Connor Stiff, Joey Voss, Eli Weber, Charleah Whipple.

Spring Break/Easter Holiday

Spring break begins Saturday, April 1st and we will return Monday, April 10th.

We will have Good Friday off, which is April 14th but will not have April 17th off because it will be a makeup snow day.

Have a safe and fun filled break.



Each year the state of Michigan requires that students in grade 3-11 be administered an assessment to gauge their annual learning progress. The Michigan Department of Education has provided a number of resources for parents to better understand how to interpret the results of the M-STEP, as well as give you a better idea of what the M-STEP assesses. You are more than welcome to browse through the MDE's parent resources for M-STEP. The website can be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/mde>.

What is M-STEP?

New learning standards require new ways to measure how much students know and can do. That's why in 2014-15, Michigan replaced the 44-year-old MEAP test with the new Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). Most schools have chosen to administer M-STEP online rather than paper and pencil. M-STEP is aligned to Michigan's challenging learning standards and is administered each spring to students in specific grades. M-STEP has fewer multiple choice questions and more questions that require problem solving and critical thinking skills than the previous MEAP assessment.

Why are State Assessments Important?

Once each year, all students in Michigan take a high-quality state assessment, whether it's the M-STEP general assessment or the MI-Access alternate assessment. State assessments provide:

- An important snapshot of student achievement at a state, district and building level.
- Valuable information to parents on their child's academic achievement.
- Important data for teachers, schools, and districts to help guide instruction. These assessments are required by both state and federal law in order to ensure all children are learning and receiving a high-quality education. State assessments take up or require less than one percent of student instructional time during a school year. All other assessments are determined at the local district or building level.

Which Assessments Do Students Take?

M-STEP is administered to students in the following grades and subjects:

- English language arts (ELA) and mathematics are assessed in grades 3 through 8. New in 2016, students in grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 no longer will take a ELA performance task, reducing test time by 2 hours.
- Science is assessed in grades 4 and 7.
- Social studies is assessed in grades 5 and 8.
- When do students take the M-STEP?
 - 5th grade will test between April 11-21
 - 3rd & 4th grade will test between May 2-12

The best thing you can do to help your child prepare is make sure that they go to bed at a reasonable time, eat a healthy breakfast, and are at school, on time, every day. Thank you for encouraging your children to take the test seriously and do the best that they can do!

Mrs. Katie Jordan, Principal

Talent Show

The 2017 Talent Show will be at Lapeer High School on May 11th (Thursday) at 5:30pm. Try-outs are being held after school on March 13th, 20th, and 27th between 3:20 and 4:15pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the door to the computer lab along with permission slips to stay after school for the try-outs. All grades are welcomed to be part of the Murphy Talent Show!

5th Grade Band Concert

5th Grade band students performed in their first concert at Rolland-Warner Middle School on February 9. Students showcased what they had learned in band so far, this year. They were also able to tour the middle school band room and hear a performance by the 6th grade bands. It was a great night! Congratulations 5th grade band members on a job well done! Mr. Hundt, Mrs. Hundt, Mrs. Fenner and Mrs. Harrington

RAT Race 2017

We had good participation and great volunteer support again this year as classes competed to bring in the most returnable cans and bottles and return slips. The winner of a pizza lunch and the coveted RAT race trophy was Mrs. McCreedy's class. Our overall donations totaled nearly \$800. This money is targeted for our technology needs. Thank you to all our fantastic volunteers. It is a nasty, sticky job and your help is very much appreciated!

Attendance

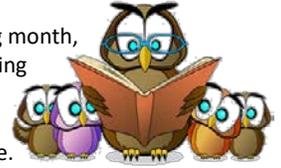
Attendance is a critical component of student success. Ensuring that your child is here on time each day will allow them to learn and grow in multiple areas: academic, behavioral, and social/emotional. When possible, please try to schedule appointments outside of the school day. If you do need to take your child out of school for an appointment, thank you for minimizing the time away from school. Students arriving 30 minutes late or leaving 30 minutes early will have that absence recorded as a half-day absence per the district attendance policy.

Student Placement Request Form

Based upon the teacher's knowledge of each student, they work as a team in the placement decision for the coming year to ensure balanced classrooms. Our goal is for your child to receive a placement that best meets the needs of their learning style. Factors considered when making student placement decisions include, but are not limited to the following: academic ability, special instructional support needed, peer relationships, ratio of males to females, general work habits and behavior. Therefore, a request is not a guarantee. Student Placement Requests are available online at www.lapeerschools.org or in the school office. All request due to the office by May 15th.

It's Time for March is Reading Month!

Actually, here at Murphy Elementary School every month is reading month, but during the month of March we like to promote the love of reading more than usual. For the 2nd year in a row, we are participating in a community wide book club event. The basic idea is that every family at Murphy Elementary reads the same book at the same time. Everyone—students, parents, teachers, administrators, support staff, bus drivers, custodians—will be invited to participate.



In a nutshell, here is how the program works: Each family receives a copy of a selected book that you will be able to keep at the end of the month to add to your family's library. Each evening, we are asking you to read aloud the designated chapters in the book with your child/children. The following day, the students will be asked to answer a trivia question about the previous night's reading. In addition to the nightly read aloud, there will be several other fun activities to help unite the students around the theme of the book.

The book that we selected this year is scheduled to be revealed at a kick-off assembly on Tuesday, February 28th. Please watch the backpack of your oldest student here at Murphy for your copy of the book and reading calendar soon after. Other highlights during the month include a visit by author and illustrator Matt Faulkner on March 15th and our annual Family Reading Night on Tuesday, March 28th from 5:30-7:30pm.

Mark your calendars! Please also thank a PTC parent for their generous financial support of school programs that support family literacy such as these.



Save the Dates!

Mother/Son, Daddy/Daughter Dances

This year the fun will be out of this world as students and parents dance the night away at a fun evening with a Lost in Space theme.

The mother/son dance will be on Friday, April 28, followed by the daddy/daughter dance on Saturday, April 29. Information regarding tickets will be sent home with students closer to the time of the dances.

Science Olympiad

Thank You to everyone who helped make the Science Olympiad a success this year. We were lucky to have Cindy Mitchell bring us a Star Lab, make constellation viewers with Longway Planetarium, complete circuits in the Electric Playdoh room with Lyle and Josh Hibbler, experiment with Maglev Trains with Neil Reiche, and give ourselves all sorts of wounds in the 'Skin Your In' room.

Everyone was able to go home with a cool string bag and a raffle prize, thanks to our sponsors; Interpower Induction, Lapeer Optimist, and JEM Electric. Thank You to all the parents and NJHS students who came out to help us! Science Olympiad Committee, Erica Aragones, Karen D'Anna, Christine Hibbler, Danielle LeClaire, Ann Mazur, Nina Miller, and Crystal Paton.



March 2017

MURPHY ELEMENTARY

PTC HAPPENINGS



Our next meeting is March 15th at 6:30PM in the library.

ATTENTION! We still have room for **SELLERS** at our

Murphy Mom2Mom sale! On Saturday

March 11th we will be having a Mom2Mom sale and are looking for both sellers and buyers! 8 foot tables rent for \$20. Mom2Mom sales are a cross between a flea market and a garage sale – where parents rent tables to sell clothes, toys and gently used items. Please see the following pages for information on renting a table.

SHOP WITH SCRIP! Scrip is a great program being used in many schools to raise funds to help support student activities. We've started it here at Murphy and all you have to do purchase gift cards thru the Scrip program and go shopping! If you need more information – contact us at the following email address:

murphyelementaryptc@gmail.com.

Highlights from February:

Box Tops! We held a February Box Top contest for the kids. The winner of the collection was Mrs. Chouinard's kindergarten class! They will receive the magnificent Max's donuts as a reward! Congratulations to all of the classrooms as you are all winners, because every Box Top goes directly back to your teacher!

Chris Cakes Flying Pancakes and Pajama Jam! What a fantastic turnout we had our annual pancake pajama party! The pancakes were flying and the kids had a great time. We'll soon have a link to the photo booth photos on our facebook page.

Upcoming Events

March 9 – Popcorn and Spirit Day

March 11 – Murphy Mom2Mom Sale

March 13 & 14 – Science Alive

March 15 – March PTC Meeting

April 19 – April PTC Meeting

April 28/29 – School dances

May 1-5 – Teacher Appreciation Week

May 17 – May PTC Meeting

June 9 – Murphy end of year Carnival

Popcorn / Spirit Day!

On the second Thursday of each month Murphy students get a chance to show their school spirit and enjoy some fresh popped popcorn! (3/9, 4/13, 5/11). In February we popped 469 bags of popcorn. Mrs. Withey's class won the spirit wear competition and won free popcorn for March! Congratulations!



Murphy Elementary Mom2Mom Sale

Proceeds from the sale will benefit Murphy Parent Teacher Committee general fund, which supports the educational and enrichment of the students at Murphy Elementary. .

Saturday March, 11 2017

Murphy Elementary School

1100 Pratt, Metamora, MI 48455

9AM - 1PM \$1 Admission

The sale will feature good quality and gently used clothing, toys,
books, baby equipment, baby furniture and more!

Murphy PTC MOM2MOM SALE REGISTRATION FORM

Sellers must complete this form and submit it with payment by

Registration is \$20 per table! Now through 3/11.

~~After February 17th - late registration (\$25)~~

NAME _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

OF TABLES _____ X \$20(early) \$25(late) ea. = _____

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS _____

*Please make checks payable to Murphy PTC and return with your child to school.

Note: Tables will be rented on a first come first served basis. Tables are not considered reserved until payment has been received. Please review the rules and additional information provided.

Any questions, please contact Lindsay Makela at (810) 797-2110 - Email: lindsaymakela@yahoo.com

Murphy Mom 2 Mom Rules & Information

- We will have a Big Item Room for larger items. Cost to place items in this area is \$1 per item.
- Set-up for the sale will be Friday March 10th from 12-2PM. There is no school this day. If you are able to set-up your space at this time, we highly recommend doing so as Saturday morning will be very busy and hectic with sellers rushing to set up in the pre-opening hours.
- Sellers will have access to the school at 7:00am on Saturday morning, 2 hours before the sale starts. We ask that you be at your table no later than 8:45am Saturday morning.
- Sellers are responsible for their own items and for their own cash/change. Please DO NOT leave money unattended. We recommend a cash box or a bag where you can have it with you at all times.
- Please make sure that all items are clean and in very good condition to sell.
- We recommend that you bring in grocery/paper bags for your customers.
- Sellers are NOT allowed to bring in personal tables. An 8ft. table will be provided and set up for you for each space that you rent. You may use the space underneath and around your table to display your items.
- Sellers may bring in one clothing rack per table rented. For example if you are renting one table, you may bring in one clothing rack. If you are renting two tables, you may bring two clothing racks and so on. Please make sure that all racks are sturdy and will not tip over when customers are browsing.
- Please DO NOT bring drop down cribs, car seats that are not up to standards, or any recalled items to sell in our sale. If you are questioning an item that you have, please check for recalls or if you have additional questions, please ask!
- After registering for the sale, email communications will be sent out to you prior to the sale with additional information. They will be titled "Murphy PTC Mom2Mom Sale".
- If you would like to have your table next to a friend who is also participating in the sale, please make a request in the comments section and we will do our very best to accommodate you.
- If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Makela at (810)797-2110 or by email: LindsayMakela@yahoo.com

Thank You for participating in the Murphy Mom2Mom Sale!

Proceeds from the sale go directly to support the education and enrichment of our students! We appreciate your support and hope that you have a very successful sale!

Murphy Elementary School

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