

# Murphy Elementary Newsletter

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Jeff Stanton, Principal  
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## THANK YOU

The Murphy Staff would like to thank the parents that brought in all the delicious food for Parent Teacher Conferences. What a treat to sit down to a wonderful meal on such a long day.

We also want to thank Jessica Skindell and Dawn Ray for coordinating everything. We have such awesome parents!

## REPORT CARDS

The end of the first trimester is November 24th. Report cards will be sent home with your child on Thursday, December 4th. There will be no school November 24 – 28 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.



## THANKSGIVING FEAST AT MURPHY

The Thanksgiving Feast will take place on Friday, November 21st for grades Kdg.-2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30pm. Students will be busy making placemats, headdresses and other items to reminisce the way it was with the Indians and Pilgrims. Menus will include corn muffins, pumpkin pie, popcorn and lots more!

## Goodfellows Food Drive

Once again this year, Murphy will be participating in a community outreach program that helps provide food to families in our area that need help during the holiday season. We will be doing themes for each of the days of the collection period and the classroom that brings in the most total donations will receive full size candy bars at the end of the food drive. **Donations must be in cans, bags or boxes. No glass containers or dented cans will be accepted.** The food drive starts on December 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Title I Corner

### Homework Tips for Parents

Homework is important, but helping children with homework isn't always easy. Here are some ways you can make homework easier for everyone!

(Reading Rockets 2010)

### Study the same things in different ways and places.

Help your child learn about new words or content in a variety of ways. Talk about new vocabulary words several times over the course of the week, in different settings. This will help enrich your child's understanding of the word.

### Mix up the study time.

If your child prefers to do a little math, a little reading, a little word study and then back to math, that's okay! Mixing up the practice time may leave a greater impression on your learner.

### Space out the learning

If your child has a big test coming up next week, help her study a little bit each day rather than cramming it in the night before. An hour or so every other day, spacing out the learning, is a better way to really learn the material.

### Help your child get organized

Help your child pick out a special homework notebook or folder, and make sure your child has homework supplies, such as:

- ✓ pencils
- ✓ pens
- ✓ writing paper
- ✓ a dictionary



### Show your child that you think homework is important

Ask your child about her homework each day, and check to see that it is completed. Tell your child that you are proud of the work she is doing.

### Help your child without doing the homework

It's important to answer questions if you can – but remember that homework is supposed to help children learn and that doing your child's homework does not help in the long run.

### Talk with your child's teacher

Find out what the teacher's homework rules are. If your child has a problem completing or understanding homework, call or e-mail the teacher to talk about the issue.

**POPCORN/SPIRIT DAYS**

The PTC will be selling popcorn the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month and the class showing the most Murphy spirit by wearing school garb gets free popcorn the next month. The cost is 25 cents per bag.

**MURPHY SHOE POLICY**

The cold weather is here! It's time for boots, mittens, hats and warm coats! From now through the first of May students are to have either shoes or slippers for inside and boots or winter shoes for outside wear. Students may bring a pair of inside shoes/slippers to keep in their locker during the winter months. If students do not have outside shoes/boots we ask them to remain on the pavement for recess.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Metamora and Hadley Tree Lighting & Christmas Sing-a-long**

Come join the fun on Thursday December 4<sup>th</sup> at Harmer Park in Metamora at 6:30 p.m. Our second graders will be singing all the Christmas Carols that we love to hear during the Christmas season. The Metamora Lions Club provides cookies and hot chocolate in the park and Santa will be over at the "Old Town Hall" when the kids are done singing. We will also be having the Hadley Tree Lighting on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at the old Hadley Town Hall on Hadley Road at 6:30 p.m. Our first graders will be singing Christmas Carols. See you there!



**2014 Murphy Lightning Flag Football**



The 2014 Murphy Lightning Flag Football season has come to a close, and we finished tied for 6<sup>th</sup> place overall. The Bachman Bowl was held on Saturday, October 18, on the varsity football field at the Lapeer West Campus, where Mayfield triumphed over Chatfield. It was a fun filled day, with Murphy securing our first win of the season, over Bishop Kelly 30-14 at the noon game. It then allowed us the opportunity to play Turrill at the 4pm game, where they won 51-0. Despite the loss, our kids played like the true champions they are, showing that Murphy players have winning attitudes and the best sportsmanship and class.

On Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, we will be having our banquet, celebrating our players and cheerleaders, at the Hadley Township fire hall. We hope to have our entire team there, along with their parents and loved ones, to enjoy the culmination of our season.

Many thanks go to the parent volunteers that worked the concession stand and to Amy, manager at Hungry Howies in Metamora for giving us discounted rates, so that we were able to raise money for our banquet. Kudos goes to the many parents that worked the chain gang, scoreboard, and cheered on the sidelines. We want to give a huge thank you to Eric Olko, who stepped up to help as Assistant coach.

This truly has been an amazing season, and it would not have happened without the support, dedication, and patience from so many parents. There are too many to mention, but you know who you are. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and we will be back next year with some more experience under our belts and with great players returning to help lead us!

Jeremy and April LaBar

**Lighting Leaders — 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester**



**Kindergarten**  
**Miss. Gaseski**  
 ▪ James Hosch (Cole)

**Kindergarten**  
**Mrs. Martin**  
 ▪ Matthew Garland

**1st Grade**  
**Mrs. Miles**  
 ▪ Ethan Hall

**2nd Grade**  
**Mrs. Gardiner**  
 ▪ Danielle Overmyer

**2nd Grade**  
**Mrs. Dodson**  
 ▪ Abigail Overmyer

**2nd Grade**  
**Mrs. Pake**  
 ▪ Brooklyn Luisier

**3rd Grade**  
**Mrs. Chouinard**  
 ▪ Eva LeClaire  
 ▪ Jennifer Hayes  
 ▪ Gabe Warnke

**3rd Grade**  
**Ms. James**  
 ▪ Alexis Barrett-Kurek

**4th Grade**  
**Mrs. McCreedy**  
 ▪ Sylvia Gajewski

**4th Grade**  
**Ms. Steele**  
 ▪ Michael Davis

**4th Grade**  
**Mrs. Withey**  
 ▪ Allyson McNulty

**5th Grade**  
**Mrs. Phillips**  
 ▪ Constance Lord

**5th Grade**  
**Mrs. Nugent**  
 ▪ Kayden Appleton



# MURPHY ELEMENTARY

## PTC HAPPENINGS

### October Flashback



**Thank you** to the teachers for providing a delicious breakfast for those who attended the October PTC meeting. There was fruit, donuts, muffins, juices and even an egg casserole! The teachers really went all out and we so appreciated it!

The **Fund Run** raised ~\$4600 this year. While a little shy of our goal of \$5000 we were very proud of the students for running and collecting money. The kids in Homer/Phillips class ran the most laps! Many thanks to Missy O and Kim Dundas for putting this together and the volunteers who donated their time to help.



The **Craft Show** was a success again this year! Thank you to all of the vendors and attendees. We hope to see you again next year. Thanks to Holly Grzyb and all of the volunteers who helped make this a success – Debbie Martinez, Jennifer Meister, Lisa Machia, Crystal Paton, Staci Fales, and Dawn Betzold!

**PTC At Work** - Want to know what the PTC has done for the kids or school lately? We purchased new soccer nets for the kids for outdoors (the old ones were really bad) and we purchased a new Lightning Bolt die for our die cutter. The teachers and staff use the die cutting machine to cut paper in the shape of the die – as you can imagine – this die will be used a lot! We also paid for bussing for some of the classrooms for field trips.



### November Preview & News

**The Last PTC meeting of 2014** will be on **Wednesday, November 19th** at 8:30 am in the library. For this meeting, we are running a contest - the class with the most parents represented will get an extra recess! If you have more than one student at Murphy you will count once for each teacher. Don't miss this one!

Are you one of those early birds that have already started holiday shopping? One of those that wait until the last minute? Either way, if you do any shopping online – on Amazon – did you know that you can earn Murphy some money with your purchase? It is at no cost to you, we don't see what you buy, and we get the benefit. However, to get this, you need to go to the Murphy Elementary website - <http://murphy.lapeerschools.org/> - and click on the Amazon link at the very bottom of the page (just above the "What'sNew" banner) prior to starting every order. Remember to use the school link to purchase books for Kindle readers too, because even free books count as items purchased



**Penny Wars is coming!** Save your pennies for a Penny War from November 5 – 7. The class with the most pennies wins a prize – the class with the most money wins a prize! It is chaos in the mornings as the kids race to try to put pennies in their bucket while putting quarters, nickels and dimes in other classrooms buckets. PLEASE – no paper money.

Watch your backpacks for the next **Spirit Wear** sale! We will be offering it just in time for the holidays. The new look is awesome!





The **North Pole Express** is on its way to Murphy Elementary! From **December 9 – 12** our Murphy Munchkins get the chance to do their very own Christmas shopping for mom, dad, brothers, sisters, grammas, grampas... well you get it. The kids really enjoy being able to experience the joy of giving. Look for more details soon. The PTC will need volunteers who can be present during the daytime at school on one or more of these days. If you can help, please let Holly know - [hollymgrzyb@gmail.com](mailto:hollymgrzyb@gmail.com).

Dine In Alert! – A **Dine In** has been scheduled at **Louie’s Tavern** on **November 10**. We will be sending home a certificate which must be brought in to Louie’s. Louie’s will generously donate a percentage of all food and beverage orders (does not include specials) to Murphy. But you **MUST** bring the certificate. So plan to not do the cooking that night and come out to enjoy good food and company (your choice on company – don’t blame us if that doesn’t work out) and support the school!

Mark Your Calendars!!!! Coming in March (March 21 to be exact) The PTC will be having a **Crafters Day**. This is a whole day that you can set aside to come and do whatever craft it is that you do. Sewing, scrapbooking, knitting, crochet, pottery, jewelry... anything! From 9am to 9pm come join us to “get ‘er done”. We are looking for a few vendors to come in to sell items related to various crafts as well so that you can get those needed items to finish the job. If you, or someone you know, are interested in being a vendor at the Crafters Day, please let Robin know – [mibigbird@yahoo.com](mailto:mibigbird@yahoo.com). Also if you have any ideas for a better name than Crafters Day – I’m all ears ☺.



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**

**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),  
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