

Murphy Elementary Newsletter

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Jeff Stanton, Principal
Laura Van Y, Dean of Students
Jerri DePuy, Secretary

Murphy Talent Show

Talent show auditions are March 7, 14, and 21st immediately after school in the cafeteria until 4:30. Sign up in the computer lab. The 2016 Murphy Talent Show is at Lapeer High School on Friday, May 6, at 6:00 P.M.



Save the Date!

The 15th Annual Murphy Tee Off for Technology Golf Outing is right around the corner! The outing is, once again, at the beautiful Metamora Golf and Country Club on June 11th. The cost to golf is \$85/person or \$340/team. Golf includes 18 holes with a cart, breakfast, lunch on the course, and an awards dinner.

Not a golfer? There are still plenty ways to contribute. We have several sponsorship levels for businesses or families. We are also in need of donations for our raffle. Any support is much appreciated! We accept checks made out to Murphy Elementary and we are also accepting credit card payments again this year!

We would really like to see some of our Kindergarten and 1st grade parents get involved. If you have any questions, please contact Missy Olejniczak, 810-656-9423 or via email at misolejniczak@yahoo.com or the Murphy office.

March PAC Meeting

At our March PAC meeting which is March 15th at 8:45am, Mr. Stanton would like everyone to know that the meeting will focus on assessments students are asked to do. The MAP test, M-Step, and other assessments will be discussed as well as the amount of time students are asked to take tests.



Easter Holiday /Spring Break

We will have Good Friday, which is March 25th and Easter Monday, March 28th off. Spring break begins Friday, April 1st at the end of the day. We will return Monday, April 11th. Have a safe and fun filled break.

It is 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 1st time ever, 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.

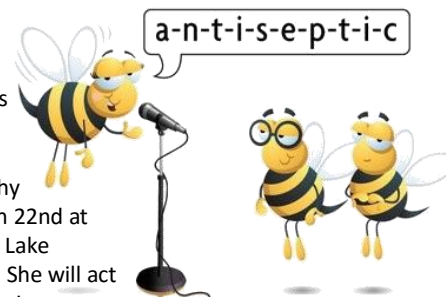
In a nutshell, here is how the program works: Your family will soon receive a copy of the selected book that you will be able to keep at the end of the month to add to your family's library. Each evening, we are asking you to read aloud the designated chapters in the book with your child/ren. The following 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 have chosen will be revealed to students at a kick-off assembly on Monday, February 29th. 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 photographer Ron Meyer on March 17th and our annual Family Reading Night on Wednesday, March 23rd from 5:30-7:30. Mark your calendars! Please thank a PTC parent for their generous financial support of school programs that support family literacy such as these.

2016 Murphy Spelling Bee

On behalf of the Murphy Staff, we are very proud of our fifth graders who participated in the spelling bee this year. It was obvious the students studied hard for this event. In the end, Kaitlyn Buchanan became our first place champion! She will go on to represent Murphy Elementary at the Lapeer County Spelling Bee on Wednesday, March 22nd at 6:30 at the Lapeer County Education and Technology Center (690 N. Lake Pleasant Rd., Attica). Our second place winner was Gabriella Mirza. She will act as an alternate if need be. Thank you for a great competition spellers!

We would also like to say a special thank you to Mr. Stanton 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. Jordan and Mrs. Duncan for volunteering their time to be our spelling bee judges.

Additional Spelling Bee participants: Kayla Boger, Nick Champane, Matt Congrove, Luke Dallas, Emily Duncan, Xander Eurich, Kaeleigh Fletemier, Ellamae Gilling, Aaron Hudspeth, Henry Kalisz, Lexi Martinez, Allyson McNulty, Sydney Meister, Madison Muller, Nick Olko, Lilly Sauve, Kendrik Schneider, Collin Skindell, Michael Steffler.



Teacher Requests

Class assignments for the 2016-2017 school year will be tentatively made in the spring.

Many considerations go into these placement decisions. Parents sometimes have preferences of the teachers they want for their children. While it is not always possible to accommodate all such preferences, we will consider parents' written requests as placement decisions are made. A Student Placement Request form can be picked up in the office. To insure that your requests are available to us when we make these decisions, we ask that all placement requests be submitted by May 16, 2016.

20th Annual Mother+Son Daddy+Daughter Dances

Join us for a fun filled evening of dancing in the Murphy school gym. Dance tickets are \$7.00 each. Tickets include D.J. music, dancing, refreshments and one FREE 4x5 photo per couple.

The Mother/Son dance is scheduled for Friday, April 22th.

The Daddy/Daughter dance is scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd.

Tickets will go on sale starting the week of March 30th. Send your check/cash in an envelope with your child's name, teacher, phone number and number of tickets and we will send the tickets back or stop in the office and we will take care of you.

Welcome author Ron Meyer

Award winning author and wildlife photographer, Ron Meyer, is visiting Murphy Elementary on March 17th.

He will talk to Murphy students about wild animal rehabilitation and share two of his books Freddy Fox and Casey Cougar. Each book features the wildlife photography of Mr. Meyer who lives nearby in Oxford, Michigan.



Congratulations to fifth grader Gabriella Mirza!

Her writing piece, *A River of Tears*, was selected to be published in the Michigan Reading Association's 2016 edition of the student publication, *Kaleidoscope*. She will be honored at a luncheon in Detroit during the annual Michigan Reading Association conference on March 20th.

A River of Tears:

The Myth of How the Danube River Came to Be

The dry lands of Romania were full of happiness and joy. King Steffan and Queen Maria invited everyone to celebrate. After many years of praying, their wish came true and the queen gave birth to a baby girl. The queen named her Danube.

Danube grew over time. She grew up around many people such as wealthy princes and poor peasants. Not long after Danube turned eighteen, she fell in love with a peasant named Theodore. Their love for each other was very strong. After a few weeks, Theodore asked Danube to be his wife.

The next morning, Danube was about to tell her parents that Theodore asked to marry her but before she could they introduced her to somebody.

The king and queen gestured toward a good-looking young man. They told her he was a wealthy prince called Peter. He had on fancy clothes and a sword was in his belt. He had dirty blonde hair and light blue eyes. But he looked and acted like every other prince. And he might have even been a little fuller of himself.

The king and queen wanted Danube to marry Peter but she was in love with Theodore. Theodore was nice and sweet. She loved him even though he was a peasant. Peter may be wealthier, but Danube would never marry somebody like him. The only person he could care for was himself.

Once Peter was done with his visit, Danube told her parents she wanted to marry Theodore. Her parents told her that was not acceptable and they sent her up to her room. Danube was very upset because she loved Theodore very much. She did not want to marry Peter at all! She would live the rest of her life miserably! After a few minutes of lying in her bed, Danube fell asleep.

The next morning, Danube got out of bed, got dressed, and headed downstairs to the kitchen where her parents were preparing a wonderful meal. She was nervous to tell her parents that she refused to marry Peter, but after a few minutes of planning out how she was going to say it, she finally did.

Her parents decided that if she wouldn't marry Peter, she wouldn't marry anybody. They tied her up, put a blindfold over her eyes so she couldn't see where they were headed, and put her in the back of one of their many carriages. They got two of their finest horses and hooked them up to the carriage. Once settled their horses, they set off to the Black Forest in Germany. They would hide her deep in the forest so nobody would ever see her again.

Once they were finally there, they set her down in the forest, untied her from the ropes, and took off her blindfold. The two rode off on their horses as quickly as they could and left Danube there to never see again.

Danube was lost and afraid. She looked around. The only sound she heard was the wind rustling through the leaves. She began to cry. She cried for many years. Her tears turned into a creek, then a stream, and then finally they became the Danube River.

And as for Danube, she sadly drowned in her own tears. If you go deep into the Black Forest, you can even find the start of the Danube River and you can find Danube at the bottom.

But the tears found Theodore again. As the river flowed through Romania, Theodore knew that was his true love bringing him water.



MURPHY ELEMENTARY

PTC HAPPENINGS

March 2016 News



Parent Welcome Packets The PTC created a parent welcome packet which was available to those who attended Kindergarten Round Up or Meet the Teacher Night. These packets contain information about the PTC and upcoming events along with forms, school calendar, PTC calendar and more! Email us if you would like us to get you a packet.



NEW This year - the PTC will be holding some of our meetings in the evening to allow more parents to get involved with the PTC. The PTC meeting schedule is the third Thursday of each month. Evening meetings will be held in the months of October, February and May.



PTC 2015-2016 Events Calendar The PTC met over the summer to plan activities and set budgets and goals for this school year. The calendar of activities is listed below. We hope to see you at some (or all) of the events! The PTC is always open to new suggestions and ideas to help promote our participation in our meetings or activities. If you have any thoughts on this, please let us know.

October 1, 2015
October 23, 2015
October 26 & 28, 2015
November 3 - 6, 2015
November 7, 2015
December 8 - 11, 2015
March 4, 2016
March 7 & 8, 2016
March 19, 2016
April 16, 2016
May 2 - 6, 2016
June 10, 2016
June 15, 2016

Fund Run
Halloween Happenings
Parent Teacher Conference Dinners
Penny Wars
Murphy Morning at the Movies!
North Pole Express
Chris Cakes
Science Alive
Murphy Crop
Rummage Sale
Teachers Appreciation Week
Carnival
Field Day



School Store was started this year! You should have seen a note come home in your child's backpack. The school store sells school supplies, locker accessories and other things. It runs once a month from February - May 2016 on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Items range in price from .25 to \$1.00. Proceeds go to the PTC.



Volunteer Opportunities! Each and every one of our events or fund raising activities requires volunteers. That is just the way it goes. The more volunteers we have the less time each person has to be working. Work during the day? We have events at night you can help with. Work at night? We have events during school days that need your assistance. Your kids will think you are the cool parent for being "behind the scenes" at the events (ask them, they will). Volunteering helps support the

PTC and therefore your children. All money raised by the PTC goes directly back into the school. If you are interested in volunteering to help, in any way, please send us an email letting us know what you can sign up for.

December/January Review

The Next PTC meeting will be on Thursday, March 17th at 8:30 am in the library.

Upcoming Events

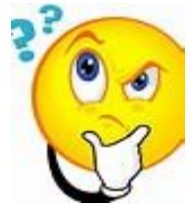
Chris Cakes is coming up! Friday March 4 is the date. 5:00-8:00 pm. \$6.00 for adults, \$5.00 for ages 3-12 and under 2 are free. We have a theme this year! Wear your Jammies! This is breakfast for dinner after all! We will have a contest to see who can eat the most pancakes.

Murphy Morning at the Movies is happening again. Saturday March 5 we will be seeing Zootopia! Tickets will be \$10.00 in advance. Flyers went home. Hope to see you all there.

Murphy Crop is scheduled for Saturday, March 19. More info coming soon.

Rummage Sale will be on Saturday April 16th from 10am-4pm. There will be a few vendors, garage sale stuff and some crafters. Flyers were sent home. Also during the rummage sale we will be selling Scripts. Scripts are a way of purchasing gift cards for restaurants, movies, stores ect.. Come join the fun and find some goodies to take home.

“What does that PTC do, exactly? Where does the money go?” The answer is that it doesn't just go to support one thing or the other. There are some very fundamental/rudimentary things that the funds purchase like bus transportation for our kids to get to field trips such as the Detroit Institute of Arts, Tiger Stadium, Camp Copenaconic and more. Each classroom gets publications that are funded by the PTC raised money. We bring Science Alive to Murphy each year. Playground equipment, teachers supplies and essentially, all the “little things”. But without those “little things” our students would not enjoy learning as much.



The PTC has an easy to remember **email address!** 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



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.



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
Vice-President – April LaBar – ajlabar@gmail.com, Treasurer – Crystal Paton, drakecrystal22@yahoo.com, Secretary – Debbie Martinez, debbielexi@yahoo.com, Communications Liaison – Dawn Ray, raydawn4@aol.com.