

Murphy Elementary Newsletter

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Katie Jordan, Principal
Laura Van Y, Dean of Students
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Mark your Calendar!

Winter/Christmas Break

Winter recess will begin at the end of the day on Wednesday, December 21st. School will resume on Wednesday, January 4th. We wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable break. See you next year!

Tree Lightings

Don't forget to join the fun on Thursday December 1st, 6:00 PM at the Metamora Tree Lighting taking place in Harmer Park. The Hadley Tree Lighting will be at 7:00 PM on December 6th at the Old Township Hall. We would also like to thank Mrs. Hazelton our awesome music teacher for putting this all together.

Mother & Son;

Daddy & Daughter Dances

The Mother and Son Dance will be Friday, April 28th and the Daddy and Daughter will be Saturday, April 29th!

Dictionaries for Third Grade

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!

Message from Principal:

I wish you a restful winter break and hope you enjoy this time with your children. For the New Year, I wish health and happiness and hope the winter recess offers opportunities for you and your children to do things you might not be able to do when school is in session.

As your principal and as a parent of a first and fourth grader, I would like to share my insights about the report card that will be sent home for your young children. The report card is a progress report. It represents the progress achieved in the first trimester and it informs you and your child about areas of success and areas of growth. Their academic career is a life-long journey. When our girls brought home their first report cards this year my husband and I celebrated their accomplishments. We are their biggest cheerleaders. We also recognize the importance of continued growth and want them to continue their progress. To that end, we have set a few goals for the coming trimester. I encourage you to do the same for your children. In this way you demonstrate your support and motivate your child(ren) to continue to strive for excellence and success in school.

I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season. School is closed for two weeks beginning Wednesday, December 21st. During winter break there will be many opportunities to create a stronger bond with your child and continue to support their academic growth and success. The holidays are good times for story telling around the dinner table or routines like bedtime reading that cultivate connections between home and school expectations. Young children do best with regular schedules, and I encourage you to prepare for their return to school on January 4th by instilling in them an understanding about the importance of being rested and ready to learn.



Happy New Year from our Murphy School family to yours.
Mrs. Katie Jordan

Positive Behavior Intervention Support

Our Murphy students and staff are participating in Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS). PBIS is a process for creating safer and more effective schools. It is a systems approach to enhancing the capacity of schools to educate all children by developing research-based, school-wide, and classroom behavior support systems.

The process focuses on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for all students. Rather than a prescribed program, PBIS provides systems for schools to design, implement, and evaluate effective school-wide, classroom, non-classroom, and student specific plans. PBIS includes school-wide procedures and processes intended for all students and all staff in all settings. PBIS is not a program or a curriculum. It is a team-based process for systemic problem solving, planning, and evaluation. It is an approach to creating a safe and productive learning environment where teachers can teach and all students can learn.

Here at Murphy we use the **BOLTS** acronym to teach students our expectations.



- ✓ **Be**
- ✓ **Organized**
- ✓ **Leaders**
- ✓ **Trustworthy and**
- ✓ **Successful**

Starting in January, Murphy students and staff will focus on one of the expectations. Be on the lookout for ways to incorporate the expectations at home and some exciting upcoming events to showcase the expectation of the month.



Congratulations Lightning Leaders!

Student of the 1st Trimester and Lunch with Mrs. Jordan

The following children were chosen for Lightning Leaders. They will have lunch with Mrs. Jordan on December 1st and have their pictures on the bulletin board by the office.

Kindergarten

Mrs. Martin - Jackson Yanuska
Mrs. Campbell - Madeline Reed
Mrs. Chouinard - Fern Hosch

1st Grade

Mrs. Gardiner - Paisley Rider
Mrs. Miles - Alyvia Benner

2nd Grade

Mrs. Dodson - William Mauzy
Mrs. Pake - Olivia Hayes

3rd Grade

Mrs. Hayes - Jesse Aragoes
Ms. James - Lilah Weber

4th Grade

Mrs. McCreedy - Brooke Sonnenberg
Mrs. Withey - Khloe Johnson

5th Grade

Mrs. Nugent - Robert Dusten
Mrs. Phillips - Shay Mullany

Thanks!

We would like to thank Dan Sauve from the Metamora Fire Department for the fire safety discussions. He was very informative and answered many of the children's questions. Several students were given the opportunity to use a fire extinguisher to put out a controlled fire.

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.

Drop-Off/Pick-Up

If you choose to bring your student to school in the morning or pick them up after school, please be mindful of the following reminders:

1. If you drop your child off after the last bell in the morning (8:24), you will need to park, walk them into school and sign them in.
2. If you pick your child up from school before 3:20, you will need to sign them out in the office.
3. Please remember to pull up in the drop-off/pick-up line as far as you can.
4. If you need to get out of your car to assist your child, please pull into a parking spot. This helps to keep traffic moving.

2016-2017 Student Council

We are pleased to announce this year's student council representatives for Murphy Elementary.

4th Grade

- Kaydence Schudlich
- Khloe Johnson
- Jesi Caron
- Kayden Lawson
- Joey D'Anna
- Wyatt Jarvis

5th Grade

- Kirsten Eichhorn
- Charleah Whipple
- Shay Mullaney
- Zakary Yens
- Joey Voss
- Brandon Li
- Sephora Miller
- Ginger Grzyb

Physical Education News

During the week of November 7th, the PE classes performed the Sit and Reach fitness test. The following students recorded the highest scores for their class:



TEACHER

Miles

Gardiner
Dodson
Pake
Hayes
James
McCreedy

Withey
Phillips
Nugent

BOY

Brayden Davis
Charles Hersha

Lucas Mauk
Christopher Dean
Sam Mitchell
Ethan Hall
Riki Fujita
Cameron Gillispie
Keegan Greenfield
Alex Przekora

Egan Mattila
Logan Woollard
Christian Marra

GIRL

Naomi Leuck

Mary Steffler
Madison Fryer-Richards
Mariyah McNeil
Elise Drake
Abby Dusten
Jesi Caron

Aubrey Kirk
Elle RaCosta
Alanna May

Fund Raiser for Technology



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. 30th and run through Tuesday, February 7th (this includes Super Bowl Sunday on Feb.5th.) 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. You can also make a onetime donation 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.

November / December 2016

MURPHY ELEMENTARY PTC HAPPENINGS



As we head into the holiday season – a heartfelt thanks to our Murphy families for everything you do for our Murphy community!

Highlights from the last PTC meeting:

BOX TOPS! What a smashing success we had with our October Box Top push! **Mrs. MrCreedy's** class brought in the most and raised \$132 for the classroom, earning a pizza party! **Mrs. Nugent's** class came in 2nd with \$116, earning the kids an ice cream social. Keep saving and sending in the Box Tops. We'll have another push in December... however you can send them in any time.

BUTTER BRAIDS! We had a great Butter Braid fundraiser this past month. Thanks to those who participated we sold 375 of the great pastries AND raised over \$2000!

What's New?

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! A small % of the money spent on the Scrip goes back to the Murphy. Flyers were sent home. If you have any questions this program –contact the PTC and we'll get you the information you need.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 5-9: North Pole Express. (8am-4PM daily). This is a great event where we set-up a Christmas market in the library for kids to come and purchase gifts for family members. We are looking for volunteers to help the kids make their purchases and wrap their gifts. It's a lot of fun. If you are interested be sure to reach out to the PTC.

** **Penny Wars** was rescheduled to the week of 1/9/17. Information will be sent home after the holiday break.

Note – we do not have a December PTC meeting. **Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 18th at 6:30pm.**

Popcorn / Spirit Day!

On the second Wednesday of each month Murphy students get a chance to show their school spirit and enjoy some fresh popped popcorn! Kids are encouraged to wear their Murphy / Lapeer Lightening spirit-wear on popcorn days. The class with the most students wearing spirit-wear will win free popcorn the following month! Be sure to pack those quarters for your kids on the following days (12/14, 1/12, 2/9, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11). Note in 2017 Popcorn / Spirit Day is moving to the second THURSDAY of each month.

In November we popped 608 bags for the kids. It was **Mrs. McCreedy's** class who had the most kids wearing their spirit-wear and have won free popcorn for December!



PTC Meetings are the **third Wednesday** of each month. We alternate mornings and evenings. Meetings are: 1/18 6:30pm, 2/15 8:30am, 3/15 6:30pm, 4/19 8:30am, 5/17 6:30pm & 6/7 8:30am.

Easy ways to Support the PTC:

Collect Box Tops! This is a very effective way to get money and supplies into your children's classrooms and does not require any money out of pocket from you. They add up quickly and teachers are most appreciative when the kids bring them in. Please try to cut them out on the dotted line as that's how they need to be submitted for reimbursement.

Shop on Amazon.com – Start every Amazon purchase with:
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.

The PTC has a new email address: murphyelementaryptc@gmail.com. Please email any questions you may have or to add your name to our list for the monthly PTC meeting minutes.

Our PTC Board Members are: April Labar – President; Ashley Robertson - Vice President; Amber Steffler – Secretary; Lindsay Makela – Communications, Crystal Paton – Treasurer.

The Murphy Elementary PTC is also on Facebook! Be sure to 'Like' us and get the latest updates!