

Murray Lake Messenger

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August 31, 2023

From the Principal....

We had a wonderful second week at Murray Lake! Due to having no power on Friday and no internet or phones on Monday, last week's newsletter was not able to go out so this is our first newsletter of the school year!

It was good to see so many smiling faces back in the building. Overall, I feel like the first 2 weeks went very well! A huge thank you to our staff and families for making the first 2 weeks so great.

We have several new students joining Murray Lake this year. I am impressed with how easily they are all fitting in. I want you all to know that I have an open door policy, so if you have any concerns about your child's educational experience here at Murray Lake, please do not hesitate to contact me.

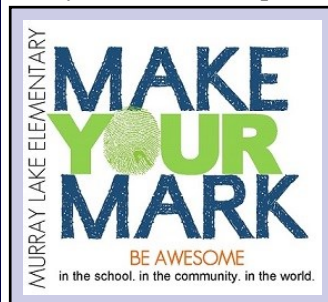
Make Your Mark is our school theme. During the year we will talk about how we can Make Our Mark in the school, in the community, and in the world. I will remind the students each and every day to give their best and try to make their mark wherever they are at. As I circulated through classrooms this week, I had kids coming up to me telling me how they helped a friend or their teacher and how they Made Their Mark!

During the month of August, our teachers will be introducing our students to PBIS. PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). This promotes positive behavior in all areas at MLE. Staff members will recognize positive student behavior with Mustang Moment Tickets. Students will be able to use these tickets to earn positive consequences (lunch with teacher, toys/trinkets, extra recess time, etc). We want ALL students at MLE to be Safe, Responsible, and Respectful, and we plan on bringing attention to these all year long!

All K-5th grade students will be taking the Acadience Reading assessment over the next month. This assessment measures sound and reading fluency. Our 1st-5th grade students will also be taking the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment in the next few weeks. This is a norm reference test that compares our students with students across the United States in the areas of math, reading, and language arts. We use this data to help set goals with our students. Our teachers also use this data to help differentiate lessons within their classroom; providing remediation to students who need help, and challenges to students who may be at a higher level than the grade level expectations. You will receive your child's test results within the next month. If you have any questions about these MAP scores, please do not hesitate to call me. You can also go to the MAP website: www.nwea.org to learn more about this assessment.

It has been a terrific first week! I have seen many examples of quality teaching and learning happening each day. Murray Lake is a GREAT place to be! We are going to have a wonderful school year! Don't forget to Make Your Mark!

Molly Burnett, Principal



A Few Notes...

Breakfast/lunch are free for all students this year. You can check your balance & more at www.familyportal.cloud/. See attached "Important Updates from Food Service" for more info.

Be sure to follow our Facebook page for pictures and updates throughout the year: <https://www.facebook.com/MurrayLakeElementarySchool>.

The first Friday of every month is Make Your Mark t-shirt day. We have a limited supply of shirts for sale (\$10 ea) in the office if you'd like to purchase one. The first Make Your Mark t-shirt day will be Friday, October 6.

We value: Trustworthiness
Respect Responsibility
Fairness Caring Citizenship

Working together to: Achieve Academic Excellence
Build Self Esteem, and
Care for Others

Upcoming Events:

Friday, Sept 1: No school

Monday, Sept 4: No school, Labor Day

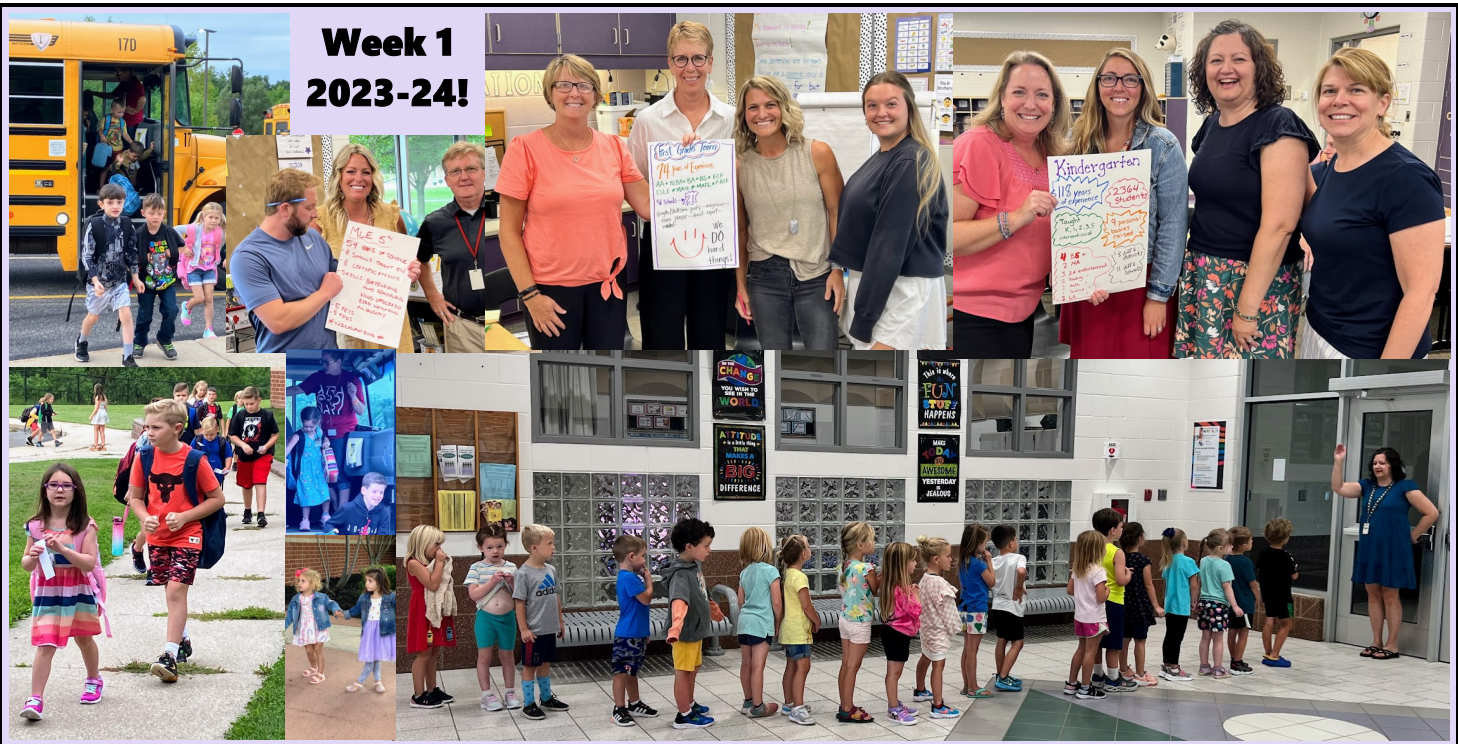
Wednesday, Sept 6: Child Study

Student Accident Insurance Available

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Lowell Area Schools does not provide student accident insurance. As a service to students and their families, Lowell Area Schools has coordinated the ability for families to purchase student accident insurance plan through FIRST AGENCY, INC for any enrolled child in grades Pre-K thru 12, at a very nominal cost. The most basic plan covers your child while s/he is at school and involved in supervised events (classroom, halls, playground, etc), this plan excludes interscholastic sports. This plan costs \$62 for the year. Plan purchase options allow for additional coverage, up to 24-hours including interscholastic sports, except grades 9-12 football, for an annual maximum amount of \$290. Some plans offer extended dental coverage as well. Grade 9-12 football participation insurance is available as a stand-alone policy for \$390 for the 2019 season.

These plans would be a secondary plan to any other insurance your child may be covered by. If you have no insurance at all for your child, this is an opportunity to provide at least a base level of coverage during the school day. Plans will provide benefits for medical expenses incurred because of an accident. Deductibles and co-pays in your current health plan require you to pay out of pocket costs first, while these plans allow benefits to be applied to your deductible or co-pays.

For more information, or to purchase coverage, go to <https://www.1stagency.com/mischools.php?num=139>. Lowell Area Schools makes no warranty or guarantee on this insurance plan and is not responsible in the administering of benefits. We are not an agent of FIRST AGENCY, INC and receive no compensation, of any kind or form, for offering this service or any enrollments generated. Coverage does not become effective until the later of the date premium is received at First Agency, Inc. or the 1st day of school. All questions regarding this coverage should be directed to First Agency, Inc. @ (269) 381-6630.



All messages regarding **end-of-day dismissal changes** must be called in to the office, 987-2750, no later than 3:10 pm. This will allow time for the message to be passed on to your child's teacher prior to dismissal. You can also send a note with your student or email the teacher and office (mle@lowellschools.com).



Please remember to call in your student's absence, late arrival, early dismissal, and vacation dates to the **attendance line, 987-2775**, which is available 24 hours a day. Thank you for your cooperation!

You should have received some information from the Kent ISD about Strive for Less Than 5 days absent from school. Being in school all day every day gives students a greater shot at success. Our goal this year is for every student to Strive for Less than 5 absences each school year.

Information regarding student activities and community events can be found on the Student Activities page on the Community tab of the Lowell Schools website at:

<http://www.lowellschools.com/student-activities/>