

Murray Lake Messenger

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December 18, 2015

From the Principal....

As we finish the last school week of this calendar year, I want to take this time to wish all of you a very safe and happy holiday season. It can be very easy to take things in our life for granted. This time of year always makes me take time to thank God for the many blessings in my life. I am truly grateful for my family and friends. My oldest son, Zach, is now out on his own and living and working in Austin, TX. My middle son, Grant, is a junior at Michigan State (I know that makes many of you happy!!!). My youngest son, Carter, is a senior at Lowell High School. I am so grateful to have them all home for the holidays (they come in this weekend). I know it is a cliché, but time does fly by. It seems like just yesterday that my own boys were students here at Murray Lake. I encourage all of you to make the most of each day with your young children. They don't stay young forever and these are the times you will make some of the best memories for your children. I am also grateful for the wonderful staff, parents, and students that I work with at Murray Lake. I hope all you will have a very happy holiday season spent with family and friends.



Each year, following our holiday break, we hold a chess tournament during second recess for all third through fifth graders. Chess is a great game for kids to learn. It teaches strategizing and problem solving. Our tournament is not instructional, so students need to know how to play chess to enter. If your child seems interested, you could teach him/her the game of chess over break. There are many tutorials about chess online. You can also play chess against others online as well.

We had over 40 fourth and fifth grade students participate in our National Geography Bee preliminary round. Congratulations to all of these students for participating. The top ten finishers move on to our final round January 11. I want to congratulate our finalists as well: Ryan Baker, Ben Gaskin, Ramsey Ponchaud, Nolan Jannenga, Logan Acheson, Benjamin Bromley, Jason Korzen, Noah VanLaan, Jeff Richards, and Colton Byrne.

Our blood drive was a big success. We had almost 50 people who were able to donate blood. I want to thank our student council for both promoting and working at our blood drive. Many lives will be saved because of their dedication to our blood drive.

Following break, we will begin our mid-year NWEA MAP testing. As many of you know, this is a normative test that compares how our students are doing with students from across the country. It also shows our teachers and students how our students have grown academically since September. Our older students will look at this data and review the goals they set for themselves in September. They will adjust their goals if needed. There is a lot of research that supports that students who are involved with their own academic data and use it to set goals, are much more successful in school.

Again, I wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a wonderful holiday break! Enjoy your time off with your children. I look forward to starting 2016 at MLE. I believe we have one of the best elementary schools in the entire country and I know we will continue this success in 2016. I hope you all have a restful and relaxing holiday season!

Brent R. Noskey, Principal

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We value: Trustworthiness
Respect Responsibility
Fairness Caring Citizenship

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

Accelerated Readers!

5 PTS

Jahlin Clemenshaw
Colette Ferguson
EllaAnne Pike
Drew Gramza
Clayton Inman
Molly Inman
Trinity Johnson
Emily Kushion
Olivia Lothian
Leah Organek
Willa Rose

10 PTS

Ashley Loughlin
Madison Meadows
Claire Newell
Brylee Craycraft
Rylie Elsie
Makayla Totch
Irene Williams
Bryce Thompson
Henry Williams
Cole Beach
Faith Senior
Ava Skoog
Caden Dennie
Kyle Dietz
Dezra Fitch
Gwendolyn Hoke
Jacquelyn Landman

Jonah Liebig
Austin Riemer
Marshall VanWagner
Alexander Winter
Dylan Anderson
Keegan Cooper
Noah Nielsen
Brooke Riemer
Jayden Slack
Lillian Powell
Gabriel Selover
Evan Cloutre
Haley Haywood
Jacob Graham

15 PTS

Sophia Bergsma

25 PTS

Claire Allen
Evan Berrington
McGuire Carpenter
Sophie Richmond
Elyse Veldman
Adelyn Clark
Colin Garrison
Cody Nieuwkoop
Anna Reedy
Kaylee Royer
Maya Schilling
Blake Sitzer
Samuel Albert

Claire Pohl
Jacob VanDrie
Jady Young
Isabel Fabiano
Abigail German
Delaney Huizinga
Nolan Jannenga
Conor McDowell
Katelyn Meyers
Kaitlyn Smith
Stephanie Spinella
Ellyonna Brown
Alexis Clark
Ella Curtis
Nicholas Lothian
Reed Sarniak
Matilyn Vogel
Audrey Belding
Owen Kreps
Natalie McCune
Lainey Organek
Aubree Lee
Nolan Lowrie
Ellery Ostrander
Brady Swift
Tevin VanderBoon
Sophia Fotis
Grace Hough
Kendal Kiser
Hannah Liebig

Brenden Wittenbach
Ethan Doezema
Jack Hughes
Elliott Kemp
Sydney Luxford
Ava McCormick
Eleanor Westbrook
Emerson Whitscell
Tyler Boersen
Claire Comeaux
Alyse Miles
Elizabeth Plank
Grace Cadwell
Kylee Eggerding
Ariana Fredricks
Gracie Gasper
Isabel German
Corbett Phillips
Grady Proctor
Alanna Wester
Ryan Goggins
Summer Havey
Krista Jungblut
Grayden Rooker
Jacob Graham
Hudson Newell
50 PTS
Aiden Schmidt
Ella Todd
Lily Hornik

Connor Lixie
Jack Rickert
Nathan Kramer
C.J. Martin
Nathan Mohr
Katelyn Farstvedt
Benjamin Gaskin
Brayden Krueger
Jacob Rapelje
Sophia Campos
Leah Davidson
Ezekiel Flentje
Alanee Selover
Ainslie Shelley
Sydney Darling
Lauren Deeds
Jillian Fabis
Gracyn Hamilton
Emma Jenks
Julia Meier
Jonathan Rapelje
Kaya Bender
Owen Newland
Andrew Veldman
Hudson Newell
Savannah Brown
Ryan Baker
Rhys Sandman
Brody Koewers

Upcoming Events:

Monday, January 4

Classes resume

Tuesday, January 5

Released Time Bible Study

Monday, January 11

MAP Testing

Geography Bee, 2:15

Tuesday, January 12

Map Testing

Ice Cream Sale During
Lunch

Friday, January 15

McGovern to WWC,
9:15-11:45



75 PTS

Thomas Judge
Brady Smith
Alice Bredwell
Avery Miles
Jeffrey Richards
Olivia Staley
T.J. Hollern
Corey Sandman
Colton Byrne
Jacob DeVries
Logan Acheson
Savannah Brown
Ryan Baker
Rhys Sandman
Brody Koewers
100 PTS
Griffin Ponchaud
Cadance Ferguson
Jacob DeVries
Logan Acheson

Maya Kemp

125 PTS
Elle Jenks
J.D. Bacon
Isabel Saffell
Brandon Hofmann
Maya Kemp
Benjamin Bromley
Jonah Phillips
150 PTS
Vivianne Bledsoe
Benjamin Bromley
Jonah Phillips
Ramsey Ponchaud
175 PTS
Lauren Visscher
Ramsey Ponchaud
200 PTS
Ramsey Ponchaud
225 PTS
Hope Kanouse

Joseph Kovacs

250 PTS
Hope Kanouse
Joseph Kovacs
275 PTS
Connor Smith
Hunter Stepanovich
Joseph Kovacs
300 PTS
Connor Smith
Hunter Stepanovich
Joseph Kovacs
325 PTS
Connor Smith
Hunter Stepanovich
Joseph Kovacs
350 PTS
Joseph Kovacs

**Information regarding student activities and community events can be found under
Extracurricular Activities on the Murray Lake Elementary website at:**

<http://www.lowellschools.com/education/components/scrapbook/default.php?sectiondetailid=17461&>