

# Murray Lake Messenger

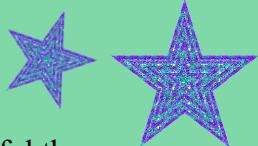
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December 21, 2018

## 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 be thankful the many blessings in my life. I am truly grateful for my family and friends. 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.



Over the upcoming holiday vacation, there will be lots of time for being outside, sleeping in, and playing video games. We hope your family also makes time for READING. Here are some reasons why:

- ♦ The more you read, the better you get at it.
- ♦ Reading leads to school success.
- ♦ Reading builds vocabulary.
- ♦ Reading builds confidence and independence.

Reading with your child supports their skills.

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.

Following break, we will begin our mid-year assessments. Our students will be taking the 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 and Happy New Year, and a wonderful holiday break! Enjoy your time off with your children. I look forward to starting 2019 at MLE. I hope you all have a restful and relaxing holiday season!

Molly Burnett, Principal



Today will Never  
come again. Be a  
blessing. Be a friend.  
Encourage someone.  
Take time to care.

We value: Trustworthiness  
Respect Responsibility  
Fairness Caring Citizenship

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

## Staff Member of the Month!

Congratulations to Kandace Beaman. She has been chosen as MLE's staff member of the month for November! Maria McGovern said, "Kandace has been such a blessing to MLE. She is willing to go above and beyond what is expected

of her. She has a great sense of what is best for the kids with whom she works. Nancy Russell commented, "She always goes out of her way to help anyone in need and comes to work with a smile on her face." "I am so fortunate to have the opportunities I get to have every day at work! I get free hugs for no reason! I get the most interesting stories I have ever heard! I get to work with others who see the value in every one of these fantastic kids and try every day to help them succeed in school and life. Who could possibly want to work anywhere else? Thank you, Murray Lake coworkers, friends, and students!" commented Beaman. We are so grateful to have wonderful staff like Kandace at MLE!



## Volunteer of the Month!

Another congratulations goes to Denice Barker. She was chosen as MLE's volunteer of the month. She is a grandmother of a Murray Lake student. Denice volunteers in Mrs. Fuss' class every week. Fuss commented, "She reads stories to the students. She is always patient and kind. The students love hearing her stories." Barker commented, "I love sharing the books I love with the students. I love that the kids have told me the day I come in is their favorite day of the

week, and some have stopped me in the hall to ask if I can come to their classrooms too. I love that the teachers have been so gracious to allow me in as I followed my granddaughters through Murray Lake Elementary. It was so kind of Mrs. Fuss to nominate me!" We are so grateful to have wonderful volunteers like Denice at MLE!



## Girls on the Run!

Registration for Girls on the Run is open until January 10! They're also looking for coaches! The program starts March 5! Please click on the links below to sign up!

[GOTR Registration](#)

[GOTR Coaching](#)

## Calling all Lowell Girls - Lowell Youth Lacrosse Girls' teams!

Registration is OPEN! Girls in grades 5/6 & 7/8 will play on teams, and younger girls will be on the "Learn to Play" group. Sign up today @ [lowellyouthlacrosse.com](http://lowellyouthlacrosse.com). Email [valeryyoung0711@gmail.com](mailto:valeryyoung0711@gmail.com) with questions. Payment options available.

## Upcoming Events...



### Holiday Break:

12/22/18—1/6/19

### Tuesday, 1/8:

GEO Bee, Round 1, 1:30

### Wednesday, 1/9:

Child Study Day

### Friday, 1/11:

School Store, lunch



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

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

## Character in Action!



## PBIS Winners!



## 2nd/3rd Grade Music Program!

