

# Murray Lake Messenger

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## From the Principal....

This week was a week of celebrations! On Wednesday, a lot of our classrooms participated in Global School Play Day in different capacities. Children are designed, by nature, to spend huge amounts of time playing freely. That's how they develop social, emotional, and physical skills, and it's how they become creators and innovators. It's how they learn to take charge of their own lives. Global School Play Day is more than just a day of play. It's a day of acknowledgment that play matters; kids need play in order to be happy, successful students. This is for affirming the child's right and need to play. It is a day for parents, educators, for everyone, to think about what they can do to make free play, once again, a major part of childhood. If you want more information, check out this great TED talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bg-GEzM7iTk>. Check out our Facebook page for more pictures of this fun initiative.



This week we also celebrated "World Read Aloud Day." Read Aloud. Change the World. We celebrate this day as an opportunity to celebrate the joy of reading aloud, and advocate for literacy as a fundamental human right that belongs to everyone. World Read Aloud Day is celebrated by millions in over 170 countries! This year, Murray Lake joined in and we all came together to celebrate the unique joy of reading.

I want to congratulate Ericka Gramza as our Volunteer of the Month. Ericka has been volunteering at Murray Lake for the last 6 years. She loves getting to know the kids in her own children's classrooms, as well as the teachers. We are very thankful for volunteers like Ericka!

I also want to congratulate our Staff Member of the Month, Andrew Allmon. Andrew is our music teacher at Murray Lake. Andrew does a great job getting to know all of our students. Kids comment that they enjoy learning to play instruments, such as the ukulele, from him. He is always willing to offer music in a positive way with students and staff. He makes a difference in our building!

We had another terrific week here at Murray Lake. I saw many examples of quality teaching and learning taking place each day. Murray Lake is a GREAT place to be. Have a wonderful weekend. Stay warm!

-Molly Burnett, Principal



We value: Trustworthiness  
Respect Responsibility  
Fairness Caring Citizenship

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

## Upcoming Events:



### Tuesday, February 11

Breker/Washburn to WWC, 9:15-11:00  
3rd gr to Lansing Capitol, 8:45-3:20

### Wednesday, February 12

COUNT DAY

Eldridge to WWC, 9:15-11:00

### Friday, February 14

Washburn to Fountain View, 9:45-11:15

### Monday, February 17

Byrne/Neubecker to WWC, 9:15-11:45

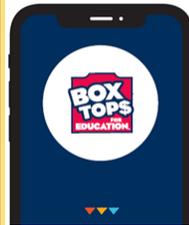


## BOX TOP RESULTS



1st—Pike: 132  
2nd—Simmons: 118  
3rd—Neubecker: 92

Last day is **2/21!** Please keep em comin!



## EARN CASH FOR OUR SCHOOL

NO MORE CLIPPING. ALL YOU NEED IS YOUR SMARTPHONE.

The NEW and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state-of-the-art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our school's earnings online.

LOOK FOR THE NEW LABEL:



## STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH!

Congratulations to our Staff Member of the Month, Andrew Allmon! Carmen Tawney commented, “Andrew makes a concerted effort to bring the staff together, by organizing outside activities. He has a gentle personality and is always willing to offer music in a positive way with students and staff. Andrew is making a difference in our building!”

“I enjoy teaching music at Murray Lake Elementary because I love giving students access to the tools they need to engage with music in a more meaningful way in their everyday lives. I believe that people enjoy things more in life when they have a deeper understanding of them, and a deeper understanding of music is what we are working towards in my classroom. I also enjoy getting to work with every student in the school. We have so many amazing kids at MLE, I am lucky to get to know all of them and help them develop as people. I hope all of our students will develop a love for music as they grow older, and I'm proud to play a role in that personal growth,” said Allmon.



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!



**Thank you to those who donated blood or volunteered at our Blood Drive this week!**



**We appreciate you!**

### BRIGHT BEGINNINGS!

Still looking for early learning opportunities for the children in your family? Did you know the Kent ISD **Bright Beginnings** program offers home visiting services and playgroups for families with young children right here in Lowell? Home visiting helps you, the parent, enhance your child's learning through play! In addition, we help support you as a family and provide community resources.

**Bright Beginnings** provides home visiting services for families with children prenatal through kindergarten entry throughout Kent County, and best of all, it's free to you! Join us for our playgroups at the Administrative building on High Street, usually on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:15 am. Home visitors are there to coach and support you in your parenting role as well as provide fun hands on school readiness activities for you to do with your children! For more information or to sign up call (616) 365-2276.



Way to Make Your Mark, Reese Kinney!

### VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH!

Congratulations to our Volunteer of the Month, Ericka Gramza! Emily Cannon commented, "She comes in every week and works on whatever is needed, whether it is stapling packets, working on telling time with students, or reading with kids." Mrs. Cannon and the rest of us at MLE appreciate all the time Ericka gives to help make our school a great place to work and learn. Thank you!

"I have been volunteering at Murray Lake for the last 6 years. I love getting to know the kids in my boys' classrooms as well as the teachers. The teachers at Murray Lake are exceptional and always make me feel welcome in their classrooms. Not only does volunteering fill my cup, but I want my boys to learn that serving others should be a regular part of their lives. I'm blessed to have the opportunity to volunteer at such an outstanding school," said Gramza.

