

Murray Lake Messenger

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January 12, 2018

From the Principal....

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season! It is good to be back and into the swing of things. I look forward to a great 2018 for Murray Lake Elementary.

Our students started taking the NWEA (Northwest Education Association) Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) and The Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) test this week. This testing will continue for the next few weeks. The results of these tests in math, reading, and language arts let us know how your child has grown since the fall. It gives our teachers, students and parents feedback on the progress the students are making. All of our students set goals for themselves back in September, and this data will give our students feedback on how they are progressing toward their goal. Please remind your child to do his/her best on these assessments, as we want to have accurate data in which to use to make instructional decisions surrounding our teaching and learning. We will send home MAP reports to you when we wrap up all of our MAP testing later this month.

Tonight (January 12) is Elementary Night at the varsity girls' and boys' basketball games (beginning at 5:30 pm) at Lowell High School. All Murray Lake students will enter the games free of charge. There will be lots of prizes handed out as well. I hope to see lots of kids there!

Our student council is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Wednesday, February 7, 2:00-7:30 pm. Please help your child recruit people to come to our Blood Drive. Over 200 units of blood are needed each day by our local hospitals. Up to three people can be saved from one pint of donated blood. More information will be coming home today or Monday.

Next Monday is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We do have school on Monday. In the past it has been debated whether or not we should have school on this. To be honest, I appreciate it when we do have school on this day. This allows our teachers to bring attention to Dr. King and explain the importance he had on our history. Although we still have a long way to go in terms of race relations in our country, I am thankful for the progress we have made, which can be attributed to Dr. King's efforts back in the 1960s. You can be certain that our students will spend part of the day next Monday learning the importance about Dr. King's contributions to our country.

Our Geography Bee was canceled this week due to the two-hour delay on Monday. It is rescheduled for Monday, January 22, 9:00 am. The Spelling Bee is happening this Monday, January 15, 9:00 am in the gym. Good luck to all of the participants!

The break was nice, but it is definitely good to be back. I have seen many quality examples of high level teaching and learning going on in our classrooms this week. Murray Lake is a GREAT place to be. I hope you all have a terrific 2018! Enjoy your weekend.

Molly Burnett, Principal



Lowell Area Schools

LEARNERS TODAY, LEADERS TOMORROW, RED ARROWS FOR LIFE

We value: Trustworthiness
Respect Responsibility
Fairness Caring Citizenship

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

Upcoming Events:

Friday, January 12

Elementary Night at Basketball,

5:30-8:30 pm, LHS

Monday, January 15

MAP Testing

Wills to GR Museum, 8:50-3:15

Spelling Bee, 9:00

Cyrocki/Durfee to WWC, 9:10-12:10

Tuesday, January 16

MAP Testing

Wills to GR Museum, 8:50-3:15

Mi Blood Student Council Mtg, 1:50

Wednesday, January 17

MAP Testing

Wills to GR Museum, 8:50-3:15

LAAC Play, "James & the Giant Peach," gr 3-5,
9:15-11:15, LPAC

Girl Scouts, Troop 4296, 3:35-5:00

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest,
7:00, CCE

Thursday, January 18

MAP Testing

Wills to GR Museum, 8:50-3:15

Friday, January 19

Wills to GR Museum, 8:50-3:15

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

Eldridge to Fountain View, 9:30-11:00

Monday, January 22

Geography Bee, 9:00

St Jude's Math-a-thon begins

Knights of Colum- bus Free Throw Competition



Lowell will host a free throw challenge on 1/17/18, 7 pm. Girls and boys, ages 9-14, are welcome to participate from any church or school. Trophies will be issued and invitations to participate in the District Challenge will come at a later date. For entry form and registration info, contact Tim Hess, 460-1968, or David Stump, 897-8191.

A poster for the Michigan Blood Junior Lifesavers program. It features a photo of a young boy smiling and holding a blood donation card. The text on the poster includes: "Michigan Blood JUNIOR LIFESAVERS MAKE A CONNECTION THAT COULD SAVE LIVES GIVE BLOOD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 2:00 PM - 7:30 PM". Below the photo, it lists "MURRAY LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL" and "JR LIFESAVERS PROGRAM!". It also includes details about the program, such as "Students that recruit donors receive a bracelet for each one. The student with the most bracelets wins a pizza party on MI Blood for their class!" and "For questions or to make an appt., contact 1-866-MIBLOOD (642-5663) or miblood.org".

Blood Drive!

Our student council is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Wednesday, February 7, 2:00-7:30 pm. Please help your child recruit people to come to our Blood Drive. Over 200 units of blood are needed each day by our local hospitals. Up to three people can be saved from one pint of donated blood. You can register at donate.miblood.org/portal.

There will also be sign up information attached, as well as hard copies being sent home and in our office.

Preschool News

Exciting news! We have free, full-day, Great Start Readiness Program preschool openings at Bushnell Elementary. Enrollment is easy! For more information, please call (616) 447-2409, or stop by the Bushnell office. Children who are 4 by December 1, 2017 qualify. Set your child up for success in Kindergarten and beyond with high quality preschool today!



Help Wanted

The YMCA is looking for part-time assistant teachers for our before and after school programs. The hours are 6:30-8:30 am, and 3:00-6:00 pm. If you are interested or know someone who may be, please contact Staci Chambers at schambers@grymca.org.

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/>