

Murray Lake Messenger

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March 6, 2015

From the Principal...

Thank you for supporting our March is Reading Month. The kids are very excited about the reading hours they are accumulating. It looks like we will meet our first week's March is Reading Month goal (still totaling up our hours), so we will have **Spirit Week** next week (days picked by our student council):

Monday-	Mismatch Day
Tuesday-	Crazy Hair/Hat Day
Wednesday-	Twin Day (dress the same as a friend or two)
Thursday-	Pajama Day
Friday-	Team Day (wear a jersey or team colors of your favorite college, pro, or high school team)

This week the students will be trying to earn an extra recess and a no homework night. Keep encouraging your children to read a bit more during March!

There is some Math A Thon information coming home with your child today. This is the tenth year we have participated in the St. Jude's Math A Thon. This is a fundraiser that supports St. Jude's Research Hospital. The mission of the hospital is to find cures for childhood diseases. One of our office assistants, Alice Bush, can attest to the importance of St. Jude's. Her nephew was diagnosed with a brain tumor several years ago. He was sent to St. Jude's where he spent a full year battling for his life. His mother was able to stay with him the entire year free of charge due to Math A Thon donations like ours. Our help truly makes a difference in many families' lives. Students are asked to find sponsors, and then do math problems to earn money for this cause. The math problems can be downloaded at www.mathathon.stjude.org. If you need a math packet downloaded here at school for your child, please make note of this on the permission slips. I am asking that all permission slips be turned in next week. All math problems should be completed and pledges collected and turned in by **April 1**. Please do not feel obligated to participate, as I know we "hit up" parents for many causes throughout the year. I do believe this is a worthy charity and we have raised over \$19,000 in the past ten years for St. Jude's. Our goal this year is to raise \$2,000. Thank you for your consideration.

I want to congratulate several of our students who participated in the regional Odyssey of the Mind competition last Saturday. Our structure team is advancing to state finals on March 21 at Thornapple Kellogg Schools. The students on this team are: Nicholas Lothian, Hunter Stepanovich, Elly Looman, Hayden Lowrie and Josh Momany. There are also a few MLE students on the Classics problem "Pandora's Box," which did well but did not place. The students from this team are Max Stoner and Cole Beach. We also had a few students on the primary team, which did an excellent job with the "Wacky Weather Warning" problem. The students on this team are Olivia Lothian & Eleanor Westbrook. They all had a lot of tough competition. Great job!

We had several students nominated for Character in Action Awards in February. They will get certificates next week. This month we are focusing on Citizenship. Please help bring attention to this trait with your children during the month of March.

We have had another good week at MLE, filled with quality teaching and learning. Murray Lake is a GREAT place to be! Enjoy your weekend!

Brent R. Noskey, Principal

We value: Trustworthiness
Respect Responsibility
Fairness Caring Citizenship

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

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, March 8

Daylight Savings Time
—Spring Forward

Monday, March 9

Kevin Kameraad Presentation

Tuesday, March 10

End of 2nd Trimester
Half Day of School,
11:50 am dismissal

Wednesday, March 11

Beginning of 3rd Trimester
Child Study Day

Thursday, March 19

Learning Fair, 5:30 pm

March is Reading Month!



Pictured above are our March is Reading Month Poster Contest winner and runners-up. From left to right: Kennedy Weed (runner-up), Lauren Pearson (winner), and Leah Davidson (runner-up). Many of our poster entries are now decorating the walls of our schools to help promote more reading for March is Reading Month!

Book Fair

Thank you for supporting our book fair during parent teacher conferences. Sales from the book fair totaled \$4400, which allows us to add many new books to the Murray Lake Library.

We would also like to thank the parents who volunteered at the book fair (especially last minute!), and our book fair co-chairs Kaily VanLaan and Nicole Gaskin.

Order Now! Last Chance to Order!

If you ordered a yearbook at school picture time, you do not need to order again. There is an order form attached for students who have not ordered a yearbook or wish to order an additional yearbook. The cost is \$8.00. If you're unsure of your order status, please call Geskus, 616/453-4170. The deadline for ordering is March 15, 2015.



A big thank you for donating new birthday books
to our library, students!



Max Munger
Jason Korzen
Kyra Mears
Trevor Mears
Macyn Huver
Isabelle VanTimmeren
Kaden Northup
Kyra Northup

Countdown to Kindergarten 2015-2016!

Enrollment packets are available for students who will be attending kindergarten in the 2015-16 school year. **Children who will be five years of age by September 1, 2015, are eligible for kindergarten.** If you have a child who will be eligible for kindergarten, or know someone who does, please stop in the Murray Lake office to pick up a packet. Current kindergarten students who are planning to complete a second year of kindergarten next year do not need to complete the enrollment process again. Please be sure that your child's teacher is aware that your child will participate in kindergarten next year.

**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&>