

Murray Lake Messenger

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May 15, 2015

From the Principal...

All parents will receive MAP reports this week. These reports show how your child has grown from the fall of this school year in math, reading, and English language arts (ELA). Kindergarten and first grade will only receive scores on reading and math. I've attached some informational documents to our newsletter that can also help to give you a better understanding of these MAP reports. I am VERY impressed with our scores this spring. As a school, our scores show that Murray Lake students, as a whole, are much higher academically than students across the nation and have grown significantly more than these same students. Although we do very well, we still use these MAP scores to evaluate our teaching and learning and look for areas of instruction where we can improve. If you have any questions about these scores, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I use MAP scores to determine if students qualify for advanced placement in math or for an advanced literacy cluster. Due to our ever increasing number of advanced math students, I placed all of these students in the same classroom this year. This worked out well, however, due to a few concerns that came up, we will not be running advanced math classes in the way we did this year. Next year, kids will move between grade level classrooms for math. One grade level teacher will teach advanced math, so some kids will move out of that advanced math teacher's room and some kids will move into this room during math instruction. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to call me.

We had 2636 items brought in for the FROM Food Fight!!! Mrs. Cyrocki's room won the classroom competition with 672 items, with Eldridge in a close 2nd with 625 items!!! I am hopeful for an MLE victory, but the real winners will be the needy families that FROM serves on a weekly basis. Thank you all!



I want to congratulate our Staff Member of the Month, Mrs. Blanding. Glenna has been out here at Murray Lake since we opened and spent several more years teaching at other Lowell elementary schools. She goes above and beyond with our fourth graders. She is very deserving of this award.

I also want to congratulate Deanna Mears for being named our Volunteer of the Month. Deanna spends countless hours out here on a weekly basis. We are so glad to have Deanna's help each week!

It is hard to believe we are down to just over three weeks! It has been great to visit and watch the students participate in all the extra field trips this time of year. I have been impressed with how respectful they have been on these trips. Great things continue to happen at MLE as we wind down the year. Have a great 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

Mears Named Volunteer of the Month

Deanna Mears was named April's Volunteer of the Month at Murray Lake Elementary School. "Deanna is here regularly helping out wherever she can," said fifth grade teacher Ausma Pupel. "Deanna is so generous with her time. She is very active in our Family Links group and is here almost every day helping in and outside of classrooms. She is one of our most dedicated volunteers," added principal, Brent Noskey.

Mears, husband, Scott, and their children (Alyssa, Kyra, Trevor, and Maya) moved to Lowell about 7 and a half years ago. "I enjoy volunteering at the school because I love helping people. I also get to be involved with my own children and watch them grow in school and education," commented Mears.

When Mears is not volunteering, she loves to watch her kids play all of their sports (softball, baseball, football, gymnastics, and swimming).



Pictured: Mears with children, Kyra, Trevor, and Maya.

Food Service News

Effective May 26, 2015 - In an effort to be fiscally responsible, all students will only be allowed to use their accounts if there is enough money in the account to cover the entire purchase. Cash sales at secondary buildings are always accepted. Students with insufficient funds will be given an alternate meal and white milk.



There will be NO CHARGING allowed after May 22, 2015, through the end of this school year.

Meal balances may be monitored by creating an account at www.sendmoneytoschool.com. If you have any questions, please contact Mindy Grant, Director of Dining Services, 616-987-2964, mgrant@lowellschools.com.

FIELD DAY IS COMING!

Who: K-5

When: Tuesday, May 19, 9:00–11:15

Where: MLE athletic fields/playground



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&>



Blanding Named Staff Member of the Month

Murray Lake Elementary's fourth grade teacher, Glenna Blanding, was named Staff Member of the Month for April. "Glenna is a dedicated and passionate teacher. She does a wonderful job with our fourth graders," commented Murray Lake Reading Teacher, Sue Gordon.

Blanding was a 1974 Lowell High School Graduate who then received a Bachelor's Degree in Science from Western Michigan University in 1984 and Masters in Elementary Education from WMU in 1989. She has been married to her high school sweetheart, Mark, for 40 years. They have three children, all Lowell graduates, and five grandchildren, ages 5 weeks to 15 years.



Pictured: Blanding with her fourth grade students.

Blanding states, "I love teaching math and science. One thing I really enjoy is seeing children of former students come through and they are just as delightful as their parents. I have also enjoyed being able to keep up with technology. I love being in a K-5 building because I get to see the my fourth graders become positive role models for the kindergartners during our cross-grade lessons in math, writing, and art."

When Blanding is not teaching, she enjoys scrap booking, spending time with family, attending her grandchildren's events, reading mysteries, camping, and visiting New York City.

Upcoming Events:

M-STEP TESTING ALL WEEK

Saturday, May 16

GOTR 5k, 7:30 am, Calder Plaza

Monday, May 18

1st gr Tour of Lowell, 8:55 am-2:10 pm

Wednesday, May 20

2nd gr to Lowell Museum/Picnic,
9:00 am-2:30 pm

Thursday, May 21

Yearbooks distributed

Friday, May 22

1st gr to Fallasburg School House,
9:45 am-1:45 pm
5th gr Golf Outing, Arrowhead,
11:10 am-3:00 pm

Saturday, May 23

Murray Lake 5K Walk/Run, 8:00 am

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day—NO SCHOOL

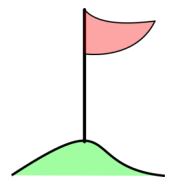
5th Grade Golf Outing is Coming!

Who: 5th Grade

When: Friday, May 22, 11:15-3:20

Where: Arrowhead Golf Course

*Please have your students bring water bottles!



Overheard on Facebook...

"I want to give a "shout out" to our new music teacher at Murray Lake, Ms. Bernat. Tonight was THE most enjoyable music program we've been to - the enthusiasm in these kids was sky high. Creativity, inspiration,

confidence - all on display tonight. Kudos to you, Ms. Bernat, for taking a leap with these kiddos!"

-Allison Carpenter,
5th grade parent

A TEACHER
OPENS MINDS
AND TOUCHES
HEARTS 

