

# Murray Lake Messenger

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November 20, 2015

## From the Principal....

Our student council is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Monday, December 14, from 2:00-7:30 pm. We sent a flyer about the Blood Drive earlier this week. We also sent an email out about this last week. Please help your child recruit people to come to our Blood Drive. Our student council members have set a goal of 100 donors. Our record was in 2006 when we had 117 donors show up. 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. Students will receive a wrist band each time someone signs up on their behalf. Also, the student who signs up the most adults will earn a pizza party for his or her classroom. Please consider calling to set up a time for our blood drive, or, as the flyer mentions, you can sign up online at: <https://donate.miblood.org/portal>. Make sure you enter our Sponsor Code: 25097.

I want to thank all the moms who have been involved with making our conference dinners. They were so delicious! I know I speak for our entire staff when I say thank you so much for taking the time to make these dinners. We truly appreciate it, and it helps us get through the night!

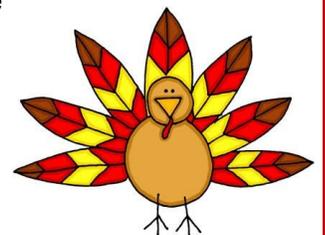
As you are well aware, the cold and flu season is upon us. I want to assure you that we are doing all we can to keep our students healthy. I add to my morning announcements that students need to wash their hands frequently throughout the day. Teachers are having students use soap and/or hand sanitizer before having snacks and before going to lunch. Our custodians are wiping things down nightly. Our teachers also have been given cleaner that kills viruses to use in their classroom. Although we can't prevent all illnesses, I hope that our added precautions this fall will limit the number of illnesses we experience. Please call me with any questions or concerns you may have as related to the flu season.

If you have not done so already, please call Meijer (1-800-962-7011) and sign up for your Meijer Rewards card. With our school budgets being cut annually, this is one easy way to make up some of this lost revenue. You can also sign up at Target for a similar program, so if you are a frequent Target shopper, please inquire about this program at Target as well.

I hope all of you have a blessed Thanksgiving Day and break (after our Monday and half day Tuesday next week). I know I am looking forward to having two of my boys home together. Zach will be coming in from Austin at Christmas. I hope you will share with your children how lucky we are to have all of the blessings (health, family, faith, food, shelter, etc.) that have been given to us, especially since many children in our world do not even know where their next meal will come from. I am also truly thankful for being a part of our Murray Lake family. We have outstanding teachers, students, and parents!!! I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and a great Thanksgiving break.

Go Red Arrows!!!

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:

### Monday, November 23

Breker to Fountain View,  
9:45-11:15 am

K to GR Public Museum,  
9:00-1:45 pm

### Tuesday, November 24

1st/2nd Gr Music Program Practice,  
9:00-9:45 am

K Grandparents' Day,  
10:00-11:20 am

End of 1st Trimester

1/2 DAY OF SCHOOL—

STUDENTS

DISMISSED AT 11:50 AM

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY,  
NOVEMBER 25-27—NO  
SCHOOL, THANKSGIVING  
BREAK

### Monday, November 30

Titche to GR Public Museum  
(through 12/4), 8:50 am-3:15 pm

### Tuesday, December 1

Released Time Bible Study,  
9:00-10:00 am

Ice Cream Sale during lunch

### Wednesday, December 2

2nd/3rd Gr Father Daughter Dance,  
7:00-8:30 pm

## Yearbook Cover Contest

All students are invited to submit a design for the cover of the 2015-16 Murray Lake Yearbook. Designs must be on 8-1/2x11 paper and cannot be computer generated. Entries are due by November 24.

## - No Shave November -



As you know, the men of the building are participating in "No Shave November." They are not shaving the entire month and are trying to raise \$100 each to earn the right to shave on December 1. They still need your help! At this time, none of them have earned enough money to shave their beards. Please consider donating to their cause. All proceeds will go to the Gilda's Club. Thank you!



Pictured left to right: Mr. Steele, Mr. Kohl, Mr. Jacobus, Mr. Wright, and Mr. Noskey

## HELP WANTED—



The Lowell Area Schools Transportation Department is looking for school bus drivers! If you have a CDL B with a P and S that would be wonderful! However, if you do not we are willing to train! Successful applicants will have an excellent driving record, good communication skills and be able to work a school year schedule. Maybe you know a retiree (even snow birds) who might be interested in supplementing

their retirement income! Please give us a call if you are interested, (616) 987-2540, or stop in to the bus garage and fill out an application.

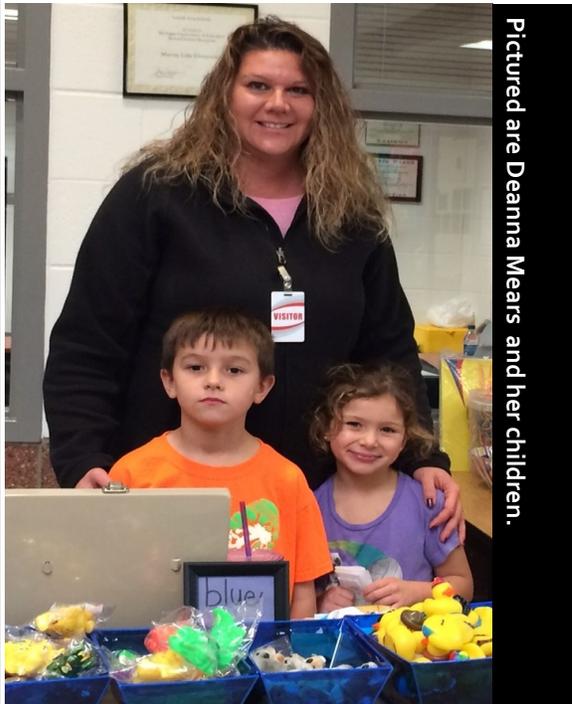
Information regarding student activities and community events can be found under  
Extracurricular Activities on the Murray Lake Elementary website at:

<http://www.lowellschools.com/education/components/scrapbook/default.php?sectiondetailid=17461&>

## Volunteers of the Month

Laura Judge and Deanna Mears were named Murray Lake's Volunteers of the Month for October. "These two ladies are here almost every day. They are leaders within our Family Links group and spend countless hours on our *Mustangs on the Move* fundraiser. They are two of the most caring and unselfish people I know," commented Principal, Brent Noskey.

Mears and husband, Scott, have lived in Lowell for eight years with their children: Alyssa, Kyra, Trevor, and Maya. "I volunteer because I like to spend time in the schools my children are at. I also like to help the teachers. They work so hard for our kids and I just want to help them," commented Mears.



Pictured are Deanna Mears and her children.

When Mears is not volunteering, she enjoys watching her children at their sporting events and spending time with family.

Judge is married to husband, Chris, and they have three children: Thomas,

Annalyne, and Lila. Judge said, "I enjoy volunteering at Murray Lake because it allows me to be a part of my children's education. It is important to me to feel connected to my community, and as a

result, I get to know many incredible people. I enjoy walking, reading, playing games with my kids, and of course, meeting new friends! I am also a proud MSU Alumni! Go Green!"



Pictured above are Laura Judge and her children.

## Staff Members of the Month

Karen (Ruby) Baker and Sara Ponchaud were named Staff Members of the Month at Murray Lake Elementary for the Month of October. Both ladies work in the kitchen.



"I had the opportunity to help in the kitchen last Friday due to a family emergency. I never knew what exactly went on in the kitchen. Those ladies get over 300 students fed in a short amount of time with everything running smoothly. In between feeding the kids, they are making sure there is enough food for the next class, cooking more if necessary and filling fruit & veggie trays. The kitchen was then cleaned, sanitized and ready for the next day. This was all done with a smile on their faces and friendly conversations with our students. These ladies do a great job everyday," commented paraeducator, Kris Rickert.

Baker, known as Miss Ruby to the staff and students at Murray Lake, has worked for Lowell Schools for 20 years. This is her 6th year at Murray Lake. "I couldn't have a better or more rewarding job than being here. The staff, students, and parents are awesome and my coworker, Sara Ponchaud, is the best!" says Baker.

Baker and her husband, Bert, have 5 grown children, Andrea (Chris), Courtney (Keith), Jake (Megan), Adam (Amy), and Caleb (Lori). They also have 9 grandchildren and are expecting twins in the spring. When she is not at work, Baker loves walking, reading, cooking, and spending time with family and all her grandchildren.

Ponchaud is currently in her first year at Murray Lake after working in other buildings in the district. She and her husband George have two boys, Griffin and Ramsey, who attend Murray Lake.

"My husband George and I live in and grew up in Lowell and that's why I love working at Murray Lake. I have made many friends working at Murray Lake and it feels like home to me. I will be so sad when my kids leave. It has been wonderful volunteering and now working at MLE. It's a great place to be!" shared Ponchaud.

When Ponchaud is not working or volunteering at MLE, she loves boating on the Muskegon River, walking with friends and doing anything outdoors with her family.



Pictured above are Sara Ponchaud and Ruby Baker.