

# Murray Lake Messenger

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## From the Principal....

When Murray Lake opened 11 years ago, I challenged our staff to try and send out at least 5 compliments to students, staff, and/or parents each and every Friday. We call this initiative our *Friday 5*. Some of you may have received a nice compliment (Friday 5) about your child from a teacher or MLE staff member on a Friday. I share this with you as I would like all of you to consider participating in our “Friday 5” initiative. In the busyness of our lives, we often take for granted the wonderful people around us. As we approach this holiday season, I would like to challenge each of you to take a few minutes each Friday and shoot an email, write a note, or verbally compliment five people in your life. It could be your children, a teacher, a family member, or a friend. I guarantee that these “Friday 5s” will make people’s day!

Our families are doing a wonderful job with our initiative to help FROM collect items for needy families this Christmas. We have already collected about 200 items. We will continue to collect through Wednesday, December 4. Please send in a donation if you are able. The items needed are listed on the next page of our *Messenger*.

Did you know that the average child in the United States spends about 4 ½ hours a day watching TV, 2 ½ hours listening to music, and 1 hour playing video games (I know my own boys average WAY more on the video games). Unfortunately, the average child spends less than 30 minutes a day reading. This is why you find me constantly promoting AR reading in my newsletter. Not only do we want our kids reading more, we also want to see them read more non-fiction material. The new Common Core Curriculum standards place a lot of emphasis on reading non-fiction. Non-fiction reading is a great way for students to learn about the world around them, and it builds vocabulary skills. Non-fiction is what most adults need to read every day. Murray Lake teachers are challenging students to select more non-fiction materials to read. **According to our school AR reports, about 22% of the books kids read here are non-fiction—our goal is to bump that up to at least 25% by the end of the second trimester.** You can help us meet our goal by:

- Talking with your child about his/her book choices;
- Have him/her share what he/she learned from a non-fiction book;
- Pointing out the different features of non-fiction (captions, titles, maps, pictures, graphs, bold print, and more); and
- Sharing different kinds of non-fiction (magazines, newspapers, directions, assembly instructions).



I appreciate any help you can offer at home to get our kids reading more non-fiction materials.

I hope all of you have a blessed Thanksgiving Day and break. I know I am looking forward to having all of my boys home together. 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. It has been a great (SHORT) week here at MLE. Enjoy your break (11/26-11/30)!

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 24**

Parent Teacher Conferences

4:30-8:45 pm

Book Fair-open during conferences

**WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY,**

**NOVEMBER 26-30—NO SCHOOL,**

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

### **Monday, December 1**

Titche - GR Public Museum - all week, 8:50 am-3:15 pm daily

### **Tuesday, December 2**

Released Time Bible Study, 9:00 am

## Father Daughter Dance

The annual Father Daughter Dance for **2nd-3rd grade girls**, sponsored by the Lady Arrow Varsity Club, will be held on Wednesday, December 3, at the Grand Volute, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. See invitation attached to this week's email blast.



## Girls on the Run - Last Chance!

Girls, 3-5th grade, register now thru November 25 (til 9 pm sharp)!

**[www.kcgotr.com](http://www.kcgotr.com)**

See flyer attached to this week's email blast for more information.

## Yearbook Cover Contest

All students are invited to submit a design for the cover of the 2014-15 Murray Lake Yearbook. Designs must be on 8-1/2x11 paper and cannot be computer generated. Entries are due by December 6.

## Food Donations Needed...

We will be supporting Flat River Outreach Ministries (FROM) in their *Mission Possible* this holiday season. FROM is collecting items to put together Christmas baskets for over 350 local families this holiday season. They will also be putting boxed lunches together for families to pick up to have over our Christmas break. Our student council will be helping with these efforts. Starting Monday, we are asking able families to send in items to support FROM. This is a great way to teach our children that we have an obligation to give back to our community. In the past, parents have even had kids use some of their own money to help out with this effort. We will continue to collect these items through Friday, December 5. Each grade level has been assigned specific items as follows:

Kindergarten:	Canned Fruit
First:	Granola Bars
Second:	Individually wrapped cheese/crackers
Third:	Apple Sauce
Fourth:	Canned Vegetables
Fifth:	Toothbrushes and Toothpaste

**Reminder:** Parent Teacher Conferences and Book Fair are rescheduled for Monday, 11/24, 4:30-8:45 pm.

## Holiday Shopping Time at Santa's Secret Shop!

This year's Santa Shop will be held Tuesday, 12/9-Friday, 12/12. The Murray Lake Santa's Secret Shop is not a fundraiser. It is a fun event for younger children to shop for moderately priced holiday gifts for immediate family members, within a safe environment. They receive proper assistance from parent group members and volunteers.

We feel that the Santa's Secret Shop will be an excellent opportunity for the children to gain experience in selecting and purchasing items and in handling money. Each student will receive a flyer and money envelope to take home and assist in the planning for the shop.

**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&>**