

Murray Lake Messenger

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October 17, 2014

From the Principal....

I want to thank you all for your support of *Mustangs on the Move*. We went well over our goal and raised over \$20,000. This money goes right back into our school. We use the money for field trip transportation costs, new technology, and other materials that the teachers use in the classrooms. Due to tight financial times in education, my budget does not allow me to purchase many of the items that the dollars from our fundraiser help support. I greatly appreciate all of your support with our fundraiser. I want to especially thank Mellisa Spinella, Becky Anderson, Janet Fabis, Eileen DeVries, Deanna Mears, Laura Judge, Lisa Northup, Aubrey DeKubber, Kaily VanLaan, Anne Momany, Juliet Hoke, Amy Pearson, Nicole Gaskin, Misty VanTimmeren, Melissa Loughlin, Tara Veldman, Kristen Bruwer, Kim Miles, April Simmons, Ericka Gramza, Becky Bacon, Jamie Truba-Whaley, Kim Clouatre, Kara Stein, and Deb Karasiewicz for all of their efforts in planning and pulling off our Mustangs on the Move and our Health Week. It was a huge success and we could not have done it without them.

I am often asked by parents about the amount of homework that students should have on a nightly basis. A general rule of thumb is that children benefit from about 10 minutes of homework per grade (starting at kindergarten). For example, 20 minutes for first graders is appropriate and 40 minutes for third graders is appropriate. Keep in mind, these are high end numbers. If your child is spending much more each night on homework than these recommendations, you should contact your child's teacher to discuss ways to reduce the amount of homework. Breaking the time into 15 minute sessions is a helpful way to fit it into family schedules. At Murray Lake, our priorities for at-home practice are math and reading. A minimum of 10-20 minutes of reading at night will help your child become a strong reader. Practicing math facts so that they are automatic will make a difference in your child's math skills. There are many fun games to play that will help your child with learning math facts.

I need to ask a couple favors of all of you. I have had some complaints about our morning and afternoon pick up and drop off. People have complained that some parents are parking and leaving their car on our curb. Other complaints have been that some parents are cutting people off and/or parking on the left side of our circle lot and having kids run between cars to get into their car. Please try and help with these issues as we want everyone to stay safe.

Also, we do ask that parents do not walk their children down our classroom hallways in the morning. Students are supposed to go outside or to breakfast when they arrive each morning. If they see other students and parents going down our hallways they think they can as well. The only exception to this would be if you have a large project or a birthday treat you need to drop off. Thanks for your help with this.

We will be holding this year's Halloween celebrations on Friday, October 31. Teachers will send details about parties later in the month. Our Halloween costume parade will begin at 1:30 pm. Typically, all of our K-3rd grade classes participate in this. We love having parents come out to watch our parade, but we do ask that you not wear costumes that cover your face in any way. We need to be able to identify the adults we have at the building that day.

We have had a wonderful week at MLE. It is truly a great place to be! I hope to see some of you at the football game in Caledonia this tonight. It is a big game for our Red Arrows!

Brent Noskey
Principal

Upcoming Events:

Monday, October 20

Brueker/Washburn-Wittenbach
Center 9:30-11:00

Tuesday, October 21

Eldridge-Wittenbach Center
9:15-11:45

Final day of box tops/labels contest

Thursday, October 23

Parent Teacher Conference
Scheduling Forms Due

Friday, October 24

School store open during lunch

Tuesday, October 28

Picture Retakes

Friday, October 31

**HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARADE/
PARTIES, 1:30 PM**

Box Tops Contest Current Standings

1st pl: Mrs. Titche, 3733
2nd pl: Mrs. Wilterink, 3611
3rd pl: Mrs. Picarazzi, 3261

The contest runs through
Tuesday, October 21.
Keep sending in those labels and
box tops!

Join us for the Family Links Parent Meeting

Thursday, November 6,
6:00 pm

Murray Lake Media Center

Guest Speakers:

Superintendent Pratt &
Julie Pelletier

Free child care - Snacks - Prizes

Staff Members of the Month

As Murray Lake Elementary entered their eleventh year, they started without a very familiar face in their office. Joan Weeber, who had been MLE's administrative assistant since they opened, took a job at Lowell's Central Office. Julie Simmons, MLE's office assistant, moved into Weeber's position, and Alice Bush and Cathy Noffke were hired as office assistants. All three were nominated as MLE's Staff Members of the Month.



"Losing Joan was difficult. I often said that she was MY boss, and when others laughed, I would say, "I am not kidding." Joan was an amazing assistant and we are all going to miss her. I have, however, been very impressed with how Julie has stepped up. It was also great to hire Alice and Cathy into the office. They have been fantastic," said MLE principal, Brent Noskey.

"I think Julie, Alice and Cathy deserve this honor. They have had a steep learning curve, and are all doing a great job at keeping MLE running smoothly and preserving our sanity in the process," commented third grade teacher, Diane Titche.

Mrs. Noffke has 4 children. Two girls are Lowell graduates and now in college, one at GVSU and one at MSU. Her two sons attend LHS. "I have been volunteering/working at MLE for about 10 years. The last 5 years as the Proctor for MAP testing. I feel so blessed to be part of such a great team here at MLE," said Noffke.

Mrs. Bush and her husband, Tom, live in Lowell with their children, Mackenzie and Josh, a senior and freshman at Lowell High School. This is Alice's 11th year of employment with the district. She spent the first two years at Bushnell Elementary in the office, and has been at Murray Lake for eight years as a paraed.

Miss Simmons is in her 12th year working for Lowell Area Schools. She's enjoying the challenge of her new position and embracing the change. She is very grateful to have the support of Mrs. Bush and Mrs. Noffke this year. Simmons has two sons, Jackson, an MSU freshman, and Sam, an LMS 8th grader.

**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&>**



**Mustangs on
the Move
Walk-a-thon
2014!**

