

# Murray Lake Messenger

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October 21, 2016

## From the Principal...

Conferences are in full force. We held our first parent teacher conference night on Thursday of this week. It was great to see all of the communication and collaboration between parents and teachers. Conferences can help develop a successful partnership between parents and teachers, an important aspect of your child's academic and social achievement. Thank you to all of you that were able to attend this week. Our goal is to have 100% participation with parent teacher conferences. I'm hoping we can meet that goal! Don't forget to check out the Book Fair during conferences. This year the Book Fair is being held on the stage.



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. Using the Reflex Math program online is a perfect way to get students math fact practice.

We will be holding this year's Halloween celebrations on Monday, October 31. Teachers will send details about parties soon. Our Halloween costume parade will begin at 1:45 pm. Typically all of our K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes participate in this. If weather permits, our parade will continue through classrooms and then out to the front of our building. If the weather does not cooperate, we will parade through the gym.

We have had a wonderful week at MLE. It is truly a great place to be! I feel honored to be a part of this amazing school community. I continuously see students "making their mark" in all areas of the school. When your child gets home today ask them how they "made their mark" at school! Have a great weekend!

Molly Burnett, Principal

## Mark November 8 on your calendar!

### Operating Millage RENEWAL Election

*Tues., Nov 8, 2016*



#### Here's the Facts...

- \* WILL NOT INCREASE TAXES.
- \* Is an existing 18 mill levy on industrial, commercial, business and rental properties in the school district.
- \* Has no impact on homeowner's property taxes.
- \* Will provide more than \$2.7 million each year to Lowell Area Schools.
- \* Is required by the State in order for Lowell Area Schools to receive the full foundation allowance.
- \* Is funding that goes directly to the district to help pay operational costs to educate students.

Lowell Area Schools

## Upcoming Events:

### **Monday, October 24**

Book Fair

### **Tuesday, October 25**

Book Fair

Parent Teacher Conferences, 4:30-8:30

### **Wednesday, October 26**

Book Fair-Last Call

PBIS Store open during lunch, gr 3-5

### **Thursday, October 27**

Mrs. Burnett's Tricycle Day

### **Friday, October 28**

Walk-a-thon Limo Ride, 10:30-2:00

PBIS Celebration, 2:25

### **Monday, October 31**

4th gr to Woodland Movie Theater, 9-11:30

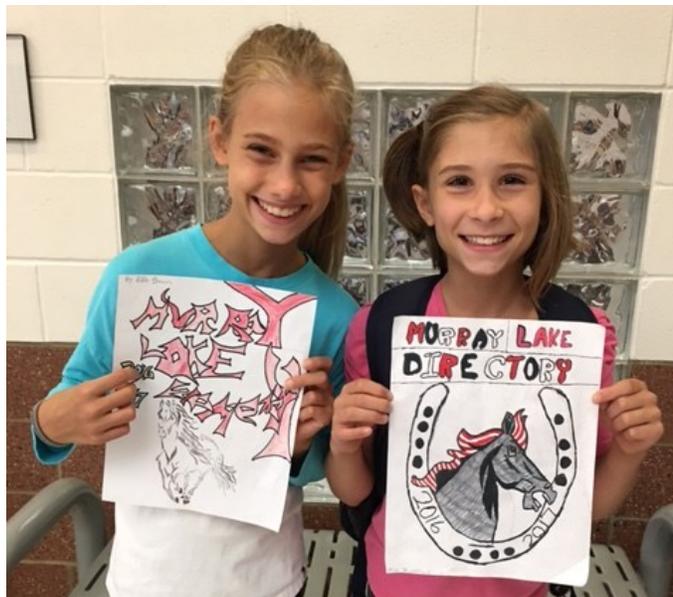
1st gr to Ftn View, 9:15-10:45

5th gr Halloween BBQ/Roll Away, 11:20

**HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARADE/PARTIES, 1:45**



## *Student Directory Cover Winners!*



**Congratulations, Ellyonna Brown and Mya Richmond!**

## **AR WINNERS!**



Pictured above from L to R: Ashely Pohl, Trevor Mears, Makenzie Simkins, and Katie Hofman

## **Picture Retake Day**

**Tuesday, November 1**

If you would like to have your child's picture taken again, please return the proof sheet from Gekus Photography or send a note to your child's teacher.

## **Attention Wrestlers!**

There will be a **FREE** youth wrestling camp held at MLE.

**Where:** Murray Lake Elementary Gym

**When:** Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-5:00pm

All are welcome, especially those who have never wrestled and would like to try it.

If you have any questions regarding this special event, please contact Matt Bishop at [mbishop@lowelledge.com](mailto:mbishop@lowelledge.com).

## **Weekly Box Top Winners!**

Wilterink: 1,153

Pupel: 891

Jacobus: 763



**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&>

## Volunteer of the Month—

### The Entire Family Links Group!

Congratulations to Family Links! They have been named our Volunteers of the Month for September. This year's Family Links members are: Alisha Martin, Ashleigh Gage, Laura Judge, Lisa Verberg, Kylie Golden, Melissa Simkins, Carrie Kooistra, Deanna Mears, and Kaily VanLaan. These ladies have spent countless hours helping us prepare for Mustangs on the Move, as well as many other great events that happen throughout the year at MLE. They do so much to make our school a great place to be. We are all so thankful for all that they do for us!



Pictured L to R: Laura Judge, Carrie Kooistra, Kaily VanLaan, Kylie Golden, Deanna Mears, and Alisha Martin. Not pictured: Lisa Verberg and Melissa Simkins :)

Murray Lake Family Links provides support to teachers, classrooms, school events and on-going education activities. Family Links hosts many events throughout the year. Some activities include: Mustangs on the Move walk-a-thon fund-raiser, Scholastic Book Fair, Secret Santa Shop, Learning Fair/Ice Cream Social, March is Reading Month, Field Day, Staff Appreciate Week, Winter Carnival, and Parent-Teacher conference meals. Family Links also sponsors Mileage Club, Odyssey of the Mind, Salmon in the Classroom, Box Tops, Ice Cream Days, Publishing Center, Accelerated Reading, Student Directory, and Move Night!

"Thank you for choosing Family Links as Volunteers of the Month. We work hard every day to put smiles on the students' faces. We love to show our appreciation to the staff at MLE as well. We do all that we do because we love our school community and the friendships we make along the way," said Alisha Martin.



## Staff Member of the Month—

### Kim Miles!

Congratulations to paraeducator, Kim Miles, for earning Staff Member of the Month honors for September. Kim is a positive force in our classrooms. She helps students reach their full potential by helping them learn and grow. She always recognizes when there is a need and jumps right in to help. She has had a very positive impact on the behavior of our students and we are extremely grateful for Kim's efforts.

"My family moved to Lowell nine years ago. We were fortunate to have our two daughters attend MLE. I was a volunteer at school, and when I was given the opportunity to join the MLE family, I was so excited! I love that I am able to work with this great group of educators that are committed to our children," commented Miles. Having Kim as permanent staff member is definitely a win win.



Pictured are Kim Miles and her daughter, Alyse.