

Murray Lake Messenger

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October 23, 2015

From the Principal...

All MLE parents should have received an email yesterday about our new conference scheduling system we are implementing this year. This new system will eliminate all the paperwork that was involved with our old system. Please follow the instructions on the email that was sent. Parents with more than one child in our building can begin to sign up for conferences on Tuesday, October 27 (You should leave a slot between your children's conferences. For instance, if you sign up for one conference at 5:00 pm, you should NOT sign up for another at 5:15, as it will not allow you travel time, so choose 5:30 pm instead). Parents with only one child at Murray Lake can begin to sign up for conferences on Wednesday, October 28. If you have any questions regarding this new process, please contact us. Also, after you complete this process, please offer us any feedback you have on our new system.

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 Friday, October 30. Teachers will send details about parties soon. 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. 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 am not going to lie, it was a bit difficult facing 58% of our students (MSU fans) on Monday. I had to pay out a few Gatorades! I also had to deal with one MLE father (Mr. Lixie) driving through my lawn with his State flag, screaming, "GO GREEN!" after the game. It was a great game and I am hoping my Wolverines can bounce back. Have a great weekend!

Brent Noskey, Principal

Students Show Great Character!

Pictured at right are Murray Lake students who showed that they were Safe, Responsible, and Respectful throughout the month of September. Murray Lake is implementing Positive School Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) this school year. Students are being taught ways to be Safe, Responsible, and Respectful in all school environments. These students were nominated by staff members who felt that these students showed these traits on a daily basis.



Upcoming Events:

Monday, October 26

2nd grade to Klackle's, 10:00-12:45

Tuesday, October 27

Parent Teacher Conferences online sign-up, families w/ multiple students

Wednesday, October 28

Parent Teacher Conferences online sign-up, families w/ multiple students

Friday, October 30

1st grade to Fountain View,
10:45-12:15

5th grade to Roll

Away, 12:00-2:15

HALLOWEEN COS-

TUME PARADE/

PARTIES, 1:30 pm

Sunday, November 1

Daylight Savings (move clock back 1 hr)



Picture Retake Day

Tuesday, November 3

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

Lunch with the Leader...

Murray Lake's Lunch with the Leader is a feature on district social media. To expand our followers, please LIKE & SHARE with your school community.

<https://www.facebook.com/lowellareaschools>

AR Points

5 pts

Madelyn Hayes
Stone Heimbürger

10 pts

Claire Allen
Evan Berrington
Cooper Byrne
McGuire Carpenter
Sophie Richmond
Mason Rose
Mayah Schuch
Elyse Veldman
Paige Wilcox
Logan Bledsoe
Noah Ginsberg
Aiden Schmidt
Samuel Albert
Jacob Hofman
Lincoln Homolka
Savannah Brown
Isabel Fabiano
Lily Hornik
Avery Miles
Nicholas Lothian
C.J. Martin
Katelyn Farstvedt
Weston Koewers
Natalie McCune
Ari McFarland
Cole Schultz
Drew Farstvedt
Benjamin Gaskin
Eli Hawk
Lauren Malone
Carmen Mika
Rylee Nichols
Ellery Ostrander
Jacob Rapelje
Tevin VanderBoon
Ryan Baker
Sophia Campos
Patrick deVoest
Ezekiel Flentje
Sophia Fotis
Abigail Hewitt
William Johnston
Hannah Liebig
Ava Mallindine
Ainslie Shelley
Nolan Simmons

Maxwell Stoner

Brenden Wittenbach
Morgan Diekevers
Ethan Doezema
Jack Hughes
Brennen Nelson
Tyler Boersen
Claire Comeaux
Sydney Darling
Jillian Fabis
Kaitlyn Hofman
Kaitlyn Kovacs
Julia Meier
Alyse Miles
Elizabeth Plank
Corey Sandman
Liam TenHarmsel
Benjamin Bannan
Caden Brown
Thomas Hayes
Megan Lillie
Owen Newland
Colton Byrne
Brooke Ellsworth
David Foster
Ryan Goggins
Emma McCormick
Rhys Sandman
Drew Veldman
Jack Meier
Katrina Sandman
Lauren Deeds
Emma Jenks
Jonathan Rapelje
Keira Sandman
Joseph Kovacs

25 pts

Thomas Judge
Griffin Ponchaud
Brady Smith
Ari McFarland
Nicholas Williams
Jack Rickert
J.D. Bacon
Faith VanDuinen
Cadance Ferguson
Annika Sandman
Ella Acheson
Jack Meier
Katrina Sandman

Lauren Deeds

Emma Jenks
Jonathan Rapelje
Keira Sandman
Joseph Kovacs
Brandon Hofmann

50 pts

Maya Kemp
Carter Peel
Ramsey Ponchaud
Keira Sandman
Joseph Kovacs
Brandon Hofmann
Vivianne Bledsoe
Lauren Visscher

75 pts

Elle Jenks
Benjamin Bromley
Isabel Saffell
Joseph Kovacs
Brandon Hofmann
Vivianne Bledsoe
Lauren Visscher

100 pts

Hunter Stepanovich
Brandon Hofmann
Lauren Visscher

125 pts

Hunter Stepanovich
Victor Preiss
Hope Kanouse
Connor Smith

150 pts

Hunter Stepanovich
Hope Kanouse
Connor Smith

175 pts

Hunter Stepanovich

200 pts

Hunter Stepanovich

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&>

Lowell Area Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability in its programs and activities.

Staff Member of the Month—Brooke Culver

Brooke Culver was named Staff Member of the Month for September. "I'd like to nominate Brooke for her tireless dedication and countless hours to helping us get our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) up and running so well!" commented fellow Murray Lake teacher, Diane Titche. Murray Lake is implementing PBIS and Culver took on the Chairperson role for implementation. Culver is a Special Education Resource Teacher, Teacher Consultant, and PBIS Building Coach. This is her tenth year of teaching. "I enjoy teaching at Murray Lake because of the people. The staff, students, and parents make Murray Lake the best place to work. My students are always inspiring and motivating me, and the staff make it a comfortable and fun environment," says Culver. When Culver is not at school, she enjoys spending time with her family, husband, Boyd, their two children, Ava (4.5), and Tessa (2.5), and their Boston Terrier, Lexi. She also enjoys running (indoors), reading, and shooting pool.



Pictured are Brooke Culver and some of her 5th grade students.

Volunteer of the Month—Mellisa Spinella

I want to say thank you for the Volunteer of the Month nomination. While I do appreciate the acknowledgment, there is no way I could do what I do without the help of my Family Links group (aka my mommy posse). This year is a bitter sweet year for me. I have been at Murray Lake for 8 years now. I joined Family Links when my son, Tyler, was in 1st grade and this is now my 6th year. I thought I was done two years ago, but my daughter talked me into joining again. Why? Because she said, "It is cool when you are on Family Links." Well of course I wanted to do what I could to be "cool," so I joined for our last two years here. The reason I have been so involved, other than the coolness of it, is because I love helping when I can and because I feel it is important to be involved in the community. The reason I have stayed for so long is because of the friends that I have made. For the first few years I was on Family Links, I didn't work so I could dedicate a lot more of myself to the position. Now I am working part-time and I give what I can. Luckily I have a great group to work with, so they help where I can't. So if you are looking for a good way to make a difference in your community and to make good friends, look no further! Family Links is the place to be! By the way, it's not only for moms.



Pictured are Mellisa Spinella and daughter, Stephanie.

We value: Trustworthiness
Respect Responsibility
Fairness Caring Citizenship

Working together to: Achieve Academic Excellence
Build Self Esteem, and
Care for Others