

Murray Primary School Newsletter

2013 February Edition



Principal's Corner

Dear Murray Parents and Guardians,

With the second quarter coming to an end, Murray Primary School students are roaring for success! Many of our students are positioned to show growth in all academic areas. Teachers administered mid-year assessments with the hope of seeing growth in reading and math. These results will be shared in our next newsletter and during my next **Principal-Parent Forum (Heart to Heart) on February 14th**. The following information captures the design of our mathematics program and its components.

Mathematics: A strong math connection between home and school is a sure, solid approach that will help improve our students' achievement. Our connection comes with parents working with their child on math homework or class projects. Parental involvement is vital to our students' success. A growing body of research supports the conclusion that parents' attitudes towards mathematics can impact their child's success in mathematics. Adults frequently make comments such as "I am not good at math" or "I don't like math." A parent is a child's first role model, and thus sets the child's mindset toward mathematics. Here a few key points to keep in mind:

- It is important for parents to realize that how they feel and talk about mathematics can influence their child's thinking and confidence in learning mathematics.
- More importantly, parents need to realize that literacy in mathematics or being numerate (able to think and express oneself effectively in quantitative terms; being able to count) is equally as important as reading literacy.

Our math program, ***Everyday Math***, is a structured, rigorous, and proven program that helps our students learn **mathematical reasoning** and develop strong math skills. ***Everyday Mathematics*** not only teaches **basic skills**, but also expands beyond traditional drills. The program encourages children to **understand why math is important** and how they reach their answers, so they internalize what they are learning. As a result, students find it easier to remember basic skills, to apply what they know in order to solve problems, and to think mathematically.

Murray Primary School students **learn and practice** all of their basic math facts, and they do it **in multiple ways**, including paper-and pencil exercises, hands-on use of math manipulatives, and skills-based mathematics games. ***Everyday Mathematics*** is a solid, rich curriculum that provides our students with the tools and skills they will need to live and work in a technologically complex world. In an increasing competitive global economy, our students will need mathematical skills that go beyond basic arithmetic, skills that include the ability to problem solve, to handle complex data, and to process information using higher-order thinking skills. We are fortunate to have such a powerful, results-oriented curriculum like ***Everyday Math*** in our schools. I invite you to observe this program in practice. Check with your child's teacher on the time she teaches math and continue to use the ***Everyday Math*** Home Connection booklet to help your child extend his or her learning beyond the classroom to home.

Educationally Yours,

Cassandra B. White

Murray's Upcoming Events



February

February Events:

1st- Friday-Teacher Workday-No School for Students

4th-8th National School Counseling Week

5th- Tuesday-Report Cards Go Home

15th -Friday Awards Assembly – 8:40- Kindergarten
9:30- First Grade

14th- Thursday- **Heart to Heart** Principal-Parent Forum 8:30-9:30 in Cafeteria

18th- Monday- President's Day, No School for students and staff

27th- Wednesday- 3rd Interim Reporting Period (Progress Reports)

Every Wednesday is early Release (1:55)

Every Tuesday is Patriotism Day-Students and Staff wear Red, White & Blue

Every Friday is Spirit Day-Students and Staff wears a Murray Shirt or Murray's Colors of Gold or Yellow, Black and/or Green (Lucky Lions)

DoDEA Vision

To be among the world's leaders in education, enriching the lives of military-connected students and the communities in which they live.

DoDEA Mission

Educate, Engage, and empower each student to succeed in a dynamic world.

Murray Vision

A learning community committed to success for all students.

Murray Mission

To inspire and prepare our students for success in a dynamic, global environment.

Pre-Kindergarten News



Pre-Kindergarten classes have spent the past month working on a **Clothing Study**. We have looked at clothes to wear in the winter versus what to wear in the summer. We've read such books as "The Mitten," "The Hat," "Caps for Sale" and "Llama Llama Red Pajama." Starting in February, the classes will begin the Buildings Study, where we will learn about building materials, constructing with blocks while working on adding detail and height, using tools, etc. Books we will read include "Building It from A to Z," "The Pot that Juan Built," "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs," and "Buildings, Buildings, Buildings." Teachers ask that you keep working on letter and number recognition with your children, counting objects using one-to-one correspondence, and problem solving. Puzzles are a great way to work on problem solving with Pre-Kindergarten children!



Kindergarten News

February is full of fun and community service in Kindergarten!

We will begin by celebrating the **100th Day of School** on February the 7th. We are also participating in a **community service project with the Fayetteville Animal Protection Society**. Our goal is to collect 100 cans of dog and cat food to help this non-profit shelter feed animals in their care. If each class can get 14 - 15 cans we will meet the goal of 100. On February 11th all Kindergarten classes will be participating in a parade to celebrate the Chinese **New Year**. This year, 2013, is the year of the snake. **Valentine's Day** is right around the corner. We are asking **all** Kindergarten students to create a box to be used for exchanging valentines. Please check with your teacher for the due date. Our kindergartners will also have the opportunity to visit each Kindergarten class and learn about **Black History**.





First (1st) Grade News

It's wonderful to know that you read to your children, or read along with them. But did you know that talking with your children before, during, and after you read together is also an important part of their learning?

As you and your children discuss what you read, know that:

- You help your child further develop their oral communication skills while naturally bridging oral language to written language.
- You encourage them to make connections between the text and something in their own lives. Making connections like these is an essential part of learning -- it helps children see written text come to life.
- You provide an environment which makes reading a natural part of your pleasant social interaction. Don't underestimate the power of your positive relationship to encourage and enhance your children's learning. Research suggests that we learn best when we like the person who is teaching us.
- You greatly facilitate their comprehension of the book in a natural, enjoyable way.

What do we mean by “**talking about the written text?**” We find that asking open-ended questions usually generates lively discussion. Give it a try, and see!

Remember that we are referring to talking *with* your children --not just talking *at* them. We want children to be active, not passive participants in their learning.

This article was taken from Literacy Connections
—*“Promoting Literacy and a Love of Reading”*.



STEAM
(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math)

“How tall are you?” “How tall am I?”

Children are often very curious about how tall they are compared to others. Here is a chance for them to help measure the entire family! They can graph the results too!

Have each member stand against a wall or door jamb. Make a light pencil mark at the top of their head on the wall. With a measuring tape, measure from the pencil mark to the floor. You could measure in both centimeters and inches.

When each family member has been measured, create a bar graph. Use names across the bottom (X axis) and heights, in feet or inches, along the left side (Y axis). Each family member’s height can be colored in with a different color.

Murray Primary School Campus

Is



Smoke Free, Pet Free and Weapons Free

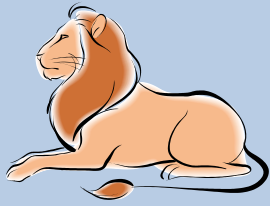
Please refrain from smoking on our school campus.

Pets, whether walked or caged, are not allowed on our school campus. Weapons, whether concealed or not concealed are not authorized on our school campus.

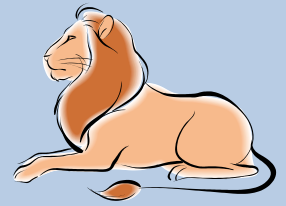
Military police are exempt from this policy.

(Educational exhibits of pets that have been cleared by the post veterinarian and school principal are allowed)

Parking is limited aboard Murray Primary School campus. Additional parking spaces have been added and designated with painted lines. Keep your speed limit to **5 miles per hour** when entering and exiting our school campus. When the weather is nice, spend quality time with your child by walking to and from school. Thank you for your continued cooperation as we improve and maintain a safe campus for all students, staff and parents.



The Library Lion



February 2013

Mission: To ensure that all users of the Murray Media Center become lifelong readers and independent users of ideas and information.

Hello Murray Pride Families!

In hopes of SNOW, the Murray Media Center is displaying every book we have on the subject! Come check-out some good ones for winter reading – below is a sample of just a few of the many wonderful titles available.



Have you ever considered getting a magazine subscription for your child? Many children prefer reading magazines, and providing your child with a choice between books and magazines can be a wonderful motivator to read even more! Here at Murray, we currently have subscriptions to five magazines that are perfect for beginning readers – Click, High Five, Ladybug, Ranger Rick Jr., and Zootles. If you are interested, stop by the Media Center sometime soon and take a look at the magazines we have here. Also, I can provide you with a postcard to mail off to start a subscription to any of the magazines we have. Most subscriptions to children's magazines cost between \$20 and \$30. A subscription will bring a brand new issue of the magazine each month in the mail to your home for one year. It is almost like getting 12 new books in the mail!

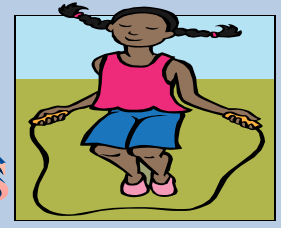


Happy Reading! ~ Mrs. Horosko and Mrs. Newsome

Quotable Quote: *“Learning is like rowing upstream:
Not to advance is to drop back.” Chinese Proverb*

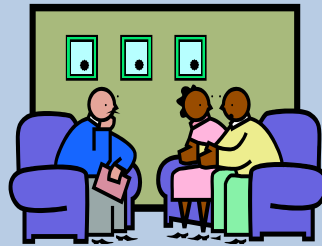


Physical Education News



The Lucky Lions will be doing gymnastics over the next several weeks. Please work with your child on tying their own shoes because we will be taking our shoes off for this unit. Velcro shoes are certainly welcome. Students who have hard hair devices (beads, hard hair pins) will be very uncomfortable in PE due to the amount of tumbling during gymnastics. Please take that into consideration when you are preparing your child for school.

Ms. Shannon P. Cudd
Physical Education Specialist



Counselor Appreciation Week

February 4-8

Mrs. W. House is our school counselor and is available to speak with you and/or your child on Wednesday's, Thursday's and Friday's.

(We share her with Holbrook Elementary School)

Please call the school to make an appointment if you would like to speak with her.



School Nurse News

February is Dental Health Month: How to Care for Your Child's Teeth

A child's primary teeth, sometimes called "baby teeth," are as important as the permanent adult teeth.

- Primary teeth typically begin to appear when a baby is between age six months and one year.
- Primary teeth help children chew and speak.
- Primary teeth hold space in the jaws for permanent teeth that are developing under the gums.

The ADA recommends that a dentist examine a child within six months of the eruption of the first tooth and no later than the first birthday.

- A dental visit at an early age is a "well baby checkup" for the teeth.
- Besides checking for tooth decay and other problems, the dentist can demonstrate how to clean the child's teeth properly and how to evaluate any adverse habits such as thumb sucking.
- Twice daily tooth brushing and daily flossing are recommended, with parental assistance until about age six.
- Regular Dental Cleanings and check-ups as recommended by your Dentist.

- **Additional Resources:**

- [Primary Teeth Eruption Chart](#)

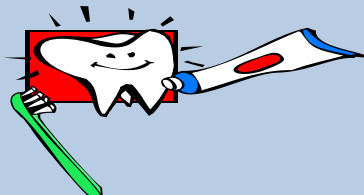
- [Permanent Tooth Eruption Chart](#)

- [Baby Bottle Tooth Decay](#)

Learn more about caring for your children's teeth at the ADA's new website- www.MouthHealthy.org.

Let's take care of our teeth for life!

Mrs. Donna Lopez
School Nurse



F.L.E.S. (Foreign Language Elementary School)

This is a new year and I would like to start by thanking you for all the help, support and communication throughout the year. Our students have studied a variety of cultural traditions in our class. We have contrasted the Three Kings' Day (Wise-Men Day) in our Spanish countries with Christmas Day in the United States. The fantasy and dreams are the same in both cultures, but we celebrate them on different dates, December 25 and January 6. On both days, children expect to receive the same things: juguetes/toys, dulces/candies, ropa/clothes and dinero/money.

Please set aside at least 10 minutes a day to practice the following Spanish drills with your child. You might gain some Spanish and will feel proud for being part of your child's learning process.

Practice the following Spanish drills, sign and send back to Sra. Peña. We will follow up in class.



This is what I can do in Spanish

Parents, please cut along the line above, practice with your child, cut out the squares and send them back to Sra. Peña. They will get 5 points per square toward the Piñata Breaking Activity

<p>I can say "I received toys, candies, clothes and money".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recibí juguetes, dulces, ropa y dinero. • Reh-cee-bée hoo-guéh-tehs, dóol-sehs, róh-pah ée dee-né-roh. <p>I can say I like Santa and the Three Wise Men.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Me gusta Santa • Meh-góos-tah San-tah • Me gustan los tres Reyes Magos. • Meh-góos-tan lohs tréhs Réh-yehs Máh-gohs. 	<p>This is what I can say in Spanish. (Pick at least 3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tengo hambre- I am hungry • Téhn-goh áhm-breh • Tengo frío. I am cold. • Téhn-goh frée-oh. • Tengo calor- I am warm/hot. • Téhn-goh cah-lohr • Tengo sed. I am thirsty. • Téhn-goh séhd. • Tengo sueño. I am sleepy. • Téhn-goh soo-én-nnoh
Child's Name _____ Grade & Teacher _____ Date _____ Parent's Signature _____ FLES Teacher: Sra. Peña	Child's Name _____ Grade & Teacher _____ Date _____ Parent's Signature _____ FLES Teacher: Sra. Peña

Welcome Corner

We welcome the following staff members to our Murray Primary School family.

Mrs. Victoria Wiseman, First Grade Teacher

Mr. Charles Porter, Instructional Support

Mr. Grilley Mitchell, Instructional Support

Mr. Keith Smith, Instructional Support

Ms. Christina Otto, Instructional Support