

MURRAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



From the Principal...

Dear Parents,

Thank you for an awesome turn out for our parent orientations. Hopefully, you were able to become more familiar with school and classroom expectations, as well as various ways to support your child's educational experience. We are truly looking forward to establishing and strengthening the partnerships forged during our orientation. A special thanks goes out to our PTO volunteers and office staff for assisting with the supervision of students during the orientation.

On Saturday, September 26, 2015, we will be hosting our very first Keep Murray Beautiful event. Our theme is Where We Learn Matters. Students will have an opportunity to learn more about keeping their environment clean and healthy. From 8:30 am to 11:00 am, volunteers will work to spruce up the grounds around Murray and participate in fun, educational activities related to the environment. If your family is interested in participating, please return the flyer that will be sent home this week.

The first book fair for the school year will be held September 28 through October 2. On Thursday, October 1, we will hold a Family Night for the book fair from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Please come out and join us for a fun-filled night of literacy activities.

Sincerely,

Talisha Thompson
Principal

September 14, 2015
Newsletter

Dates to Remember

- ☺ **September 26,**
Green Apple Day of Service
- ☺ **September 28-
October 2,** Book Fair
- ☺ **October 1,** Family Night
- ☺ **October 6,** PTO Meeting, 5:30 pm
- ☺ **October 6,** Coffee with the Principal, 5:00 pm
- ☺ **October 8,** End of 1st Quarter



Navigator Problems of the Week

In an effort to improve our students' problem-solving skills, we have implemented a Navigator Problem of the Week program. Each week, students will have an opportunity to solve problems and practice their communication skills in mathematics.

As writers in math, our goal is to be considered advanced. We will:

- Write clear and detailed in our explanation
- Use appropriate mathematical vocabulary
- Explain operations and express our thought process
- Create clearly labeled figures, diagrams, graphs, tables, etc.



The problems of the week are listed on the next two pages. Please feel free to have your child work on them at home. Opportunities to solve the problems will also be provided within the classroom. Answer sheets may be submitted to the red and black box in the front office.

Kindergarten & First Grades

Did you know the first week of school we had a Gopher Tortoise visit us? Use the links to discover some Fun Facts about this reptile!



Strategy: Can you draw circles for eggs and count them all together?

Kindergarten – Part I

A mother turtle lays 2 eggs. Another mother turtle lays 8 eggs. How many eggs are there in all?

First Grade – Solve Part I & II

Write a number sentence to explain your answer.

Second & Third Grades *Arrays are Everywhere!*

An Array is a special kind of arrangement of equal groups. Repeat addition or multiplication can be used to find the total for any array.

Grade 2 solve Part I

Grade 3 solve Parts I & II



Part I: Ms. O' Simken's students are in centers. There are six students at each center. The centers are: Technology, Writing, Reading, and Vocabulary. How many students are there?

Part II: A section of solar panels on Murray Elementary School's roof has 5 rows of 11 panels. A neighboring section has 9 rows of 6 panels. Which section has more panels?



Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Grades

All Arrays On the School House!

An Array is a special kind of arrangement of equal groups. Repeat addition or multiplication can be used to find the total for any array.

The Area is found by multiplying length (l) by width (w) or base (b) by height (h).

Grade 4 solve Part I

Grade 5 solve Parts I & II

Grade 6 solve Parts I-III

Part I: The C Wing of Murray Elementary School's (MES) roof has solar panels in the following arrays: 4 rows of 6, 11 columns of 4, and 4 rows of 11. How many solar panels are there on the C Wing roof?

Part II: The B Wing of MES's roof has solar panels in the following arrays: 5 rows of 3, 5 columns of 2, 11 rows of 5, 6 columns of 9, 9 rows of 11, and 11 columns of 9. How many solar panels are there on the B Wing roof?

Teachers' Corner

What's Happening Around Murray!

Pre-K & PSCD

Pre-k and PSCD are still in our Creative Curriculum "Beginning of the Year Study." The kids are happily working hard to learn the rules of the school, the classroom, and the playground. The kiddos have also been learning important places and names of people and things in the school as well as how to keep germs away. We've been kicking off each day with yoga and doing name-writing practice for nightly homework. The kiddos are doing an excellent job transitioning to the world of education and are actively learning every second of the day! We are all splendid friends down here and one big family! :)

Ms Erny, Ms Medina-Rivera, Ms Jan, & Mr Massenburg

Fifth Grade News!

In math, the fifth grade students learned three different ways to multiply. We are full of strategies! Next, we will be moving on to division. In reading, we learned about Satchel Paige and we sequenced the story. In social studies, we are now learning about Native American tribes

- Ms Burkeen & Ms Zayas

Kinder Korner!

Kindergarten is still working on following routines & procedures. We are also learning our letters, numbers, and colors. For Science and Social Studies, students are learning about community helpers, hygiene, and living vs. non-living things. Character, sequence, and setting are also being studied.

Kinder Colors of the Week

Please join the Kinder team in wearing the specified color on Friday of each week.

September 18 **green**

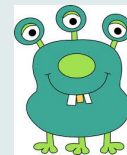
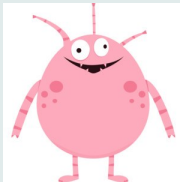
September 25 **blue**

Ms. Whitlow, Ms Ebler, and Ms Chase





Attendance is essential to school success. However, too often, students and parents do not realize how quickly absences – excused and unexcused – can add up to academic trouble. Chronic absenteeism, missing 10% of the school year or more, or just 2-3 days every month-can translate into third-graders unable to master reading, sixth-graders failing courses and ninth-graders dropping out of high school.



A Monster of a Book Night

Family Literacy Night

When: Thursday, October 1st

Where: Murray Elementary

Time: 4:30-6:30 PM

Come join us for some exciting literacy games with family and friends!

The class with the most participants for Literacy Night will win a prize!

Food and beverages will be available.



Attendance/Tardy Policy

Attendance is **mandatory** and is a key factor in a student's achievement.

- Students are **required** to attend school 180 instructional days.
- Family vacations and absences during standardized testing are **unexcused**.
 - Monitoring Plans will be implemented during all **PRE APPROVED** extended absences 10 or more days.
- Written verification and DR notes are **required** for approved absences.
 - Parent **must** physically sign student in for late arrivals.
- **NO** student checkout during the last 30 minutes of instructional day without Principal approval.
- Absent/Tardy - 5 day letter will be sent to parent, this could possibly be referred to the Student Support Team (SST).
- Absent/Tardy – 7 day letter will be sent to parent, this could possibly be referred to the Student Support Team (SST).
- Absent/Tardy – 10 day letter will be sent to parent and command will be notified to intervene.



Gradespeed Parent Connection

For students in Grades 4-6

Parents, did you know that you have instant access to your student's grades, including their assignments – past, current, and/or future? If you haven't done so already, please go to the web address below and sign up today.

dodea.gradespeed.net

Parents, also ensure that your students are logging and checking for missing assignments. They have their own unique log in information as well.

Data Point

Terra Nova, Spring 2015 – 3rd Grade

This past spring, our students had an outstanding performance on the Terra Nova. The third grade year is the first time our students are first exposed to the Terra Nova. They performed very well. Seventy-eight percent of 3rd Grade students scored in the top two quarters on the math section and 85% of scored in the top two quarters on the science section. Sixty-five percent of the 3rd grade class scored in the top two quarters on the social studies section. Fifty percent of them scored in the top two quarters in both reading and language arts.

Join us in congratulating our students on their wonderful performance. We look forward to seeing even more positive results from them as they embark on their journey through fourth grade this school year.

Continuous School Improvement SMART Goals

Goal #1: Math

The percentage of the students scoring in the top two quarters in math will increase from 60% (90 students) to 80% (120 students) by March 2016 based on Terra Nova assessment.

Goal #2: Reading

The percentage of the students scoring in the top two quarters in reading will increase from 61% (91 students) to 80% (120 students) by March 2016 based on Terra Nova assessment.

Murray's Purpose Statement

Murray Elementary School is committed to navigating students towards excellence by providing engaging, purposeful, and rigorous learning opportunities.

DoDEA Mission

Educate, Engage, and Empower Each student to succeed in a dynamic world.



**MURRAY
ROCKS!**
Go Navigators!

R - Responsible
O - Organized
C - Cooperative
K - Kind
S - Successful

MES is the best!

Parent Feedback

Your feedback is greatly appreciated and welcomed. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to complete and return the form below. As always, please know that you can call or email the school with any issues you may have. Thanks for your support.
