



# MATADOR

The Newsletter of the Murchison Middle School PTA  
[www.murchisonpta.org](http://www.murchisonpta.org)

## Principal's Corner

Welcome Matador family to the 2009 - 2010 school year!

What a great start to the year we have had. We had over 1250 students the first week of school! I'm looking forward to meeting each and every one!

We hope you will welcome our new teaching staff. We have created several new positions to meet the growing demands of a large student body while also hiring new people to step in for those who retired or moved on to other opportunities.

Please say hello to:

- Heather Riggins - 7th grade math for Spindletop
- Corby Peck - 7th grade math for Paisano
- Matt Kenney - 8th grade US History for Einstein
- Lisa Deterding - Special Ed / SCORES
- Noel Wilds - Band
- Kim McGuire - 7th grade Language Arts for Paisano
- Mark Reed - Special Ed / SBS
- Laurie Henderson - English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Janis Latham - Matador Learning Center
- Ginny Pawling - Band
- Diana Brown - Choir

• Matthew Doeckel - ESL  
 • Aine Casey - Spanish  
 • Liza Feldkamp - German

In creating our goal for the 2009-2010 school year, our leadership team chose "Thriving by improving Connectedness" to guide us this year. You will hear more about our goal as the year progresses. We are looking forward to truly connecting our faculty, students, parents, community and administration to create a true Murchison family. Come be a part of that family and be connected to Murchison!  
 Go Matadors!

Kimiko Cartwright,  
 Principal

## PTA MESSAGE ~ JOIN IN!

As we are trying to cut costs during this financially insecure time, Murchison PTA is going to be publishing the Matador only 4 times this school year. While we will save money, it presents an "editing" challenge for me.

First, I would like to introduce myself as your 09-10 PTA President and welcome any of you to contact me if you have any questions, would like to volunteer, or have any feedback on how the PTA at Murchison can do a better job. This school is

so wonderful due to the devotion of our administration and staff and parents like you who are so involved. We have many programs that are funded and staffed by parents. There is something for everyone - as you will see in this newsletter and in my weekly and bi-weekly announcements. I encourage you new 6th grade parents to get involved - it is a wonderful way to meet your child's "new" friends and to get comfortable with our school. You "old" parents - old to MMS, that is - please stay involved. Your children need you more now than ever!

Our biggest event this season is Fall Fest. Fall Fest is our school's carnival and the date is November 13th. Please see the insert for more information about this exciting event. Plan to bring your entire family for dinner and fun while you support our school!

Thank you all for allowing me to lead the PTA this year. I am looking forward to working with each of you.

Cathylynn Brown,  
 PTA President



MURCHISON MIDDLE SCHOOL • 3700 NORTH HILLS DRIVE • AUSTIN, TEXAS • 512-414-3254 • Kimiko Cartwright - PRINCIPAL

MURCHISON MS PTA OFFICERS 2009-2010

Cathylynn Brown - PRESIDENT • Alicia Doak - President-Elect • Toni McIntosh - FIRST VICE PRESIDENT •  
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 Janet Hendren - HISTORIAN • Ellen Stewart - PARLIAMENTARIAN

## Your Child's Team Needs You!

Would you like to get to know your child's teachers and help them at the same time? Do you like to stay informed about what is going on at Murchison? Could you help other parents stay informed, too? Then this is the job for you. Please sign up to be a Team Parent.

Jobs are divided among all the team parents, so recruit your friends to sign-up, too! It's a fun way to get to know other parents and our teachers, and for teachers to know you and your child.

Jobs include:

- Lead Team Parent to organize activities and volunteers
- Emailing parents with important team info
- Distribute and collect sign-up sheets for Fall Fest
- Coordinate teacher holiday gifts and birthdays
- Coordinate team field trips or parties with the teachers
- Copying for teachers

Are you interested? Just email Kelle Hand at [kellehand@yahoo.com](mailto:kellehand@yahoo.com) to sign up. Or call her at 512-914-0997 if you have any questions. Please come join us!

## KC Open Forum aka Principal Coffee

Come hear the latest information from Ms. Cartwright, as she continues with the ever informative Principal Coffees. All are invited to attend this open forum meeting, which will occur on the 1st Tuesdays of most months, at 8:30 a.m., in room 111.

## PTA Meetings

All are invited to attend our monthly PTA meetings. If you join the PTA, you are encouraged to come and vote on how we fund various programs at Murchison. The dates for the 1st Semester PTA meetings are as follows:

September 15th - 8:30 a.m.

October 20th - 8:30 a.m.

November 17th - 7:00 p.m.

No PTA meeting planned for December

The morning meetings will be in the cafeteria, with the evening meetings in the library. Please see the announcements for any changes.

## Stay Connected at MMS

Go to [www.murchison.typepad.com](http://www.murchison.typepad.com) for school news and information from our administration and staff.

Go to [murchisonpta.org](http://murchisonpta.org) for ongoing and updated PTA news.

Subscribe to the PTA weekly and/or bi-weekly announcements by sending a message to [mms-subscribe@carstenson.org](mailto:mms-subscribe@carstenson.org).

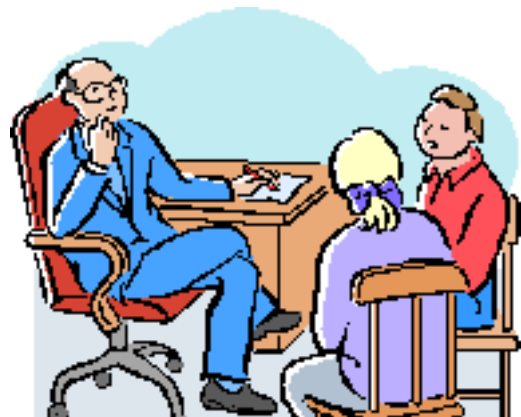
To unsubscribe, simply send a message to [mms-unsubscribe@carstenson.org](mailto:mms-unsubscribe@carstenson.org)

## PTA Sponsors Parenting Classes with Dr. Carl Pickhardt

All parents are invited to free parenting classes, led by locally known author and psychologist, Dr. Pickhardt. "When your endearing child becomes an abrasive adolescent, the hard half of parenting begins," states Pickhardt.

Check the pta website for details, but classes are expected to start Monday, Sept. 21 at 7pm in the library. This is the 3rd year the PTA will host these monthly discussions with Pickhardt.

Contact AnnHoward with your questions [ahoward10@austin.rr.com](mailto:ahoward10@austin.rr.com)



## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

September 7, 2009 (Labor Day)

October 12, 2009

November 10, 2009

November 25-27 (Thanksgiving)

# Science Fair is Coming!

The Murchison Science Fair has been scheduled for January 21, 2010 at Northwest Hills Church. Your child's science teacher may have already begun talking about starting their science fair project.



Sometimes the hardest part is choosing a topic for the science fair. You may want to encourage your child to start thinking about some possible topics now. Just keep in mind that the teacher must approve the specific topic, so encourage them to develop several ideas.

Where to start? The Internet has many sites with information and ideas on science fair projects - just be sure they are middle school level projects. Be aware that if your child wants to use living, breathing organisms (excluding plants), pathogens (like mold or bacterias), explosives or anything that uses propulsion, there are specific requirements. These are listed at <http://www.societyfor-science.org/index.html> .

The projects must be completed, turned in and presented in late November or December (the exact date is up to the teacher). Each teacher chooses up to 10 projects which are exhibited and judged at the Murchison Science Fair on [January 21, 2010]. This science fair needs lots of help to be successful, from setting up the hall to getting the students and projects to the Church, to judging, tallying the judges scores and more.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, contact the co-chairs [Vana Rosenblatt - [vanalr@yahoo.com](mailto:vanalr@yahoo.com) - 512-913-7100 or Stephanie Richmond - [serich@austin.rr.com](mailto:serich@austin.rr.com), 512-921-212 ].

We'll also have information on the Murchison PTA web site ([murchisonpta.org](http://murchisonpta.org) <<http://murchisonpta.org/>> ) and teacher web sites.

Start Thinking Science!!

## MMS Mentors

We need adult volunteers, both male and female, to serve as Mentors to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Each mentor meets weekly with a student at the school during the students lunch period. These students look forward to their one-on-one meeting time with their mentor.



This program serves about 25-30 students each year. The student asks to be in the program and their parents provide written permission for their participation. Volunteers are screened by AISD and are required to take an 1 1/2 hour training session usually during their lunch hour. Upon your verbal commitment, MMS will try to meet your schedule for training and AISD will also complete a background check on each participant.

While the needs of the students differ, all benefit from a caring adult who sets a good example by showing up on time, who listens, who focuses on the students strengths and who remembers the little things about the life the student leads.

Some mentor-student relationships last more than one year, but others end when either party moves away, or at the end of the school year.

So please, take 30 minutes out of your week to mentor a special MMS student. The rewards the student as well as the mentor experiences throughout the year are wonderful.

Please contact Nancy Beckham at [nbeckham@austin.rr.com](mailto:nbeckham@austin.rr.com) if you would like to sign up for the 2009-2010 school year.

Thank you for volunteering and caring about our kids,

Nancy Beckham  
MMS Mentor Coordinator, 2009-2010

## Reflections Chair Still Needed

If your child has participated in past Reflections competition, won't you please consider coordinating this wonderful National PTA event? If we are unable to find a chair, Murchison will NOT be participating in this program. The deadline for submissions has not been announced yet, but most likely will be sometime in late October/early November.

The 2009 - 2010 Reflections Theme:



The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. The Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education.

The Reflections Program was established in 1969 by National PTA board member Mary Lou Anderson. Since that time, more than 10 million students have participated in the program. The program's longevity and participation figures attest to its strength. The excitement and enthusiasm that the program generates for children, parents, schools and communities is unmatched.

Participation and appreciation for the arts is the Reflections Program's goal. Although the Reflections Program follows a "contest" format, winning should not be the emphasis.

Participation in the Reflections Program is a great way for students to explore and learn about various art forms. Creating art is a valuable learning process that challenges students to use their critical thinking skills as well as their creative talents to create art that supports a specific theme.

Students may submit an entry in any of the six arts areas listed below. Only original works of art are accepted. Depending on local PTA guidelines, students may enter more than one work of art. **The six arts areas are as follows: Literature, Musical composition, Photography, Visual arts, Dance Choreography, AND Film/Video Production.**

For more information, please contact Cathylynn Brown at [cathylynnbrown@hotmail.com](mailto:cathylynnbrown@hotmail.com)

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## Community News

Northwest Austin Youth Basketball Association Try-outs soon!

NWAYBA is a basketball league for both girls and boys in 1st through 12th grade. Tryouts are October 24th or 25th (please check the website for times and locations [www.nwayba.org](http://www.nwayba.org)). Registration forms, also available on the website, are due no later than October 19. Practices begin November 7, with the season ending in February.

This year teams will have 2 events per week, with no events scheduled on AISD holidays, and no conflicts with school games. We hope to see you all on the court!

## Matador Club

Join Us to Support Your Child's School!

Want to know a wonderful way you can support your child(ren), our MMS teachers and staff? Make a donation to the Murchison PTA that will help fund our budgeted expenses for teacher needs and classroom supplies!



The PTA provides over \$25,000 in direct classroom support to MMS. This money comes from direct donations from families like you! Last year over 250 families participated in the Matador Club, raising over \$12,000. With budget cutbacks at the District level, you are making the difference for your child(ren)! Please consider a donation of \$25...\$50....\$100....\$150.... or any amount that you choose. 100% of your donation is tax deductible.

As a Matador Club contributor, you will be recognized in the school newsletter, and on the Membership Roster in the front hallway of Murchison. Send your 100% tax-deductible donation to Linda Geller, 3713 Green Trails North, Austin, TX 78731. Please include your name and address (for tax receipt) and make checks payable to "MMS PTA". Thanks for supporting our students. For more information, please contact MATADOR CLUB chair Linda Geller at 345-3990 or lgeller@austin.rr.com.

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## Murchison Spirit

The Matador Cheerleaders are very excited about the upcoming year. Their first Pep Rally is on Sept. 14th for the first game of the season against Dobie MS at Noack Field. They cheer at every 8th grade "A" game and Homecoming will be the last game against Martin MS on November 3rd at Nelson Field.

They will also be hosting a big Pep Rally for all grades on Nov. 3rd with lots of fun and games. That week is also the big Spirit Week. This is where the whole school dresses up in funny outfits all week. This year its:

- Monday - November 2nd = Camo Day
- Tuesday - November 3rd = Matador Madness (Homecoming Game)**
- Wednesday - November 4th = "Twin"kie Day
- Thursday - November 5th = Tie Dye Day
- Friday - November 6th = Crazy Day (wear crazy socks, hats, hair)

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## Murchison Junior Belles

The Matador Junior Belles had a great summer learning a few routines with a few new choreographers including some Trojan Belles. This year they will be attending a Trojan Belles early morning practice and on of their big football games against Westlake on Oct. 23rd. They will also perform many times this semester including:

- Nov 3rd = Homecoming Pep Rally
- Nov 3rd = Homecoming Game Halftime
- Dec. 3rd = AHS Dance Dept. Winter Show
- Dec. 9th = MMS Dance Dept. Winter Show

Next semester will be busy too with the AISD Spring Show at the Long Center, the Murchison Fine Arts Festival, and the Trojan Belles Spring Show. Please support the Murchison Junior Belles by attending their performances.

# Transition Camp

School started early this year for some of the incoming 6th graders. That is to say approximately 280 incoming 6th graders joined teachers, parents and administration for Murchison's Transition Camp the week of August 10th. This two-day camp was designed to introduce the incoming 6th graders to Murchison and ease the transition to middle school. If the smiles and laughter we heard from the kids throughout the week was an indication, the camp was a roaring success!

We would like to thank Mr. Hewlett and all the parents listed below who donated their time to help make this year's Transition Camp so successful.

Pamela Armour  
Jen Bamberg  
Jill Clark  
Tina Crisara  
Vada Dillawn  
Yolanda Easley  
Sarah Frankenfeld  
Desiree Gaines  
Diane Garcia  
Jill Henderson  
Jayna Judd  
Bonnie Lang

Marla Martinez  
Joanna McDonald  
Tereasa Montemayor  
Karen Mullins  
Colleen O'Heran  
Mary Pydyn  
Rosa Schnyer  
Robyn Shapiro  
Tammy St. Clair  
Mary Talley  
Geoff Wurzel

Thanks also to all the 7th and 8th grade students who helped out as well. You helped create positive first experiences for all the incoming 6th graders.

Transition Camp Co-Chairs  
Jennie Tomazin & Mary Trautman

## Do you want to know "The Secret"?

If so, sign up to be a Secret Pal to one of our outstanding Murchison staff members. It is one of the most simple, efficient, rewarding volunteer opportunities that we have to offer. Every Murchison staff member; teacher, custodian, cafeteria, security, administration and aide is assigned to a willing Murchison volunteer.

On a regular basis, usually once a month, the volunteer will secretly leave a little goodie/happy today for their Secret Pal in their mailbox. I've even got suggestions for you if you're stumped for ideas. At the end of the year, upon my signal, the volunteers reveal themselves to their Secret Pal. This has been a real pick-me-up for our staff in the past and I am thrilled to be chairing this program for the first time! We have around 125 staff members at Murchison so I need a whole slew of volunteers. If you think you can keep a secret for the whole school year, you're qualified.

Please contact me at 512-413-3429 or [beth.hooks77@gmail.com](mailto:beth.hooks77@gmail.com) and let me add your name to the list. And "The Secret"? Oooh, I promise not to tell.....

## NEWS FROM THE GROUNDS

As I'm starting my fourth and final year as Buildings- and Grounds Chair, I first want to specially welcome all new students and parents and staff to Murchison. While several volunteers and myself have been working throughout the summer to keep the landscaping watered and in shape, we now receive a lot of compliments . . . which is the reward in itself. I'm more than happy if you enjoy it, "that's what the grounds are for", I always say.



I do want to extend my deepest Thank You to the following families who took their "summer watering assignment" very seriously and kept my hands free for all the other stuff: the SUTTON family, the TREVINO family, the WILKINS family and the ZHANG family.

Also thanks to Melissa McDermott and the custodians who pitched in for me when I had to leave for two weeks for Germany. The students will start with an impressive amount of community hours on their charts already. What a great way to begin the new school year!

I'm planning to keep the "GREEN FRIDAYS" alive. Once a month students from one team come out for a few hours and help with work on the grounds, like raking leaves, pruning plants, weeding and mulching. For this I do need adult volunteers. I will ask for them through the weekly e-mail, so stay tuned.

Also, if you are interested in working with me, please, please don't hesitate to contact me via e-mail: [hd2austin@earthlink.net](mailto:hd2austin@earthlink.net). I do need support in all areas and it will be a tremendous help in finding a successor for me if we early start to split the job into manageable pieces like e.g.: an irrigation volunteer, a person who will run the plant sales (two planned per year), a grounds person (checking on the beds and trees) . . .

You just might consider to be on my e-mail list, I'm sending out requests at different times and you may answer to your convenience. How about to learn more about pruning, native plants and their different needs and benefits. How about being a part of growing our own plants in the greenhouse? It's sooooo much fun and we are blessed with great resources and a very supportive PTA.

I have learned so much just by sticking to this job. It's not so much my potential "green thumb", but the love for nature and I would more than love to share this with some passionate people.

As Always, green greetings and a good start into the new school year 09/10,  
Henrike Belz



## What is IB?



IB is the often-used abbreviation for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program at Murchison Middle School. In every issue of the Matador, we hope to have information to give you a better understanding of what makes Murchison with IB unique. The IB abbreviation is used to describe the “IB World School” approach to learning at Murchison MS, as well as specific elements of an “IB program” in which students meet certain learning and community service requirements.

**Q: What does the term “International Baccalaureate” or “IB program” mean?**

A: The IB Organization is a non-profit organization based in Geneva, Switzerland that offers Primary, Middle Years, and Diploma programs. Murchison is an IB World School which focuses on student-centered approaches to learning. This includes the way we teach, the way we learn, and the way we grow. The IB program is also the advocate for international cultural learning opportunities as well as community service projects. The accomplishments of students in IB programs are highly regarded at both prospective colleges as well as IB schools around the world. The result of IB learning at Murchison is becoming a well-rounded, culturally enriched student, with strengths in high-level thinking and problem solving.

**Q: Does my child have to apply to be in the Murchison IB program?**

A: No. A child entering Murchison as a 6th grader is automatically enrolled as a “provisional candidate.” Sixth graders are automatically enrolled in a fine arts class and a foreign language class (foreign language classes are referred to as LOTE, or Languages Other Than English). In 7th and 8th grade, students who want to be in the IB program do not need to apply, but are still required to take a fine arts class and a LOTE class, but will not be automatically enrolled. Students who cannot take the LOTE class and/or the fine arts class due to athletics, AVID, special education, or ESL classes, etc. are invited to participate with the IB students in activities at Murchison. However, all teachers are offered IB training while working at Murchison. IB students must complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service. Successful IB candidates are recognized at the end of the school year. Students who complete the service hours, but are unable to meet the course requirements listed above, are also recognized by the IB program for their contributions to the community.

**Q: Is this the same as AP (Advanced Placement) classes?**

A: No. AP classes focus on the academics of that particular course. IB focuses on the whole child, which may or may not include advanced classes. IB students can be at any level academically. We encourage ALL students to participate in the program, if their schedule permits them to take a LOTE and a fine arts class. Murchison offers accelerated, pre-AP, academic, and special education classes. IB provides recommended teaching strategies and assessment criteria for all classes, not just the high-level ones. All Murchison teachers are offered training with IB strategies throughout the year.

**Q: Does being in the IB program mean a lot of extra work for my student?**

A: Not necessarily. Academically, the IB program is not concerned about how much work is assigned, but what kind of work is assigned. Teachers are encouraged to consider various approaches to learning in order to make more well-rounded students. Students new to Murchison may not be used to the wide variety of assignments they are assigned, but the teachers are trained to scaffold the instruction to ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed. Concerning the community service hours, ten service hours in a school year is easy to achieve. There are many opportunities facilitated by teachers within the school year to assist students in accumulating hours. Students who choose to go above and beyond the 10 hour requirement will have ample opportunity to attain hours outside of the school day.

# International Learning Opportunity: JAPAN!

In the summer of 2011 a group of students, parents, and teachers will be travelling to Japan through EF Educational Tours. This is a unique opportunity to immerse yourself and your student in Japanese culture, history, and geography. We are scheduled to visit Tokyo, Hakone, Kyoto, and Osaka. Every non-flight day of the trip includes opportunities to visit Japan's notable cultural locations.



If you and your student are interested in being a part of this tour, please contact Mr. Newton at [benjamin.newton@austinisd.org](mailto:benjamin.newton@austinisd.org) as soon as possible to receive additional information. The program fee includes round trip flight, 7 overnight stays in a hotel with private bathrooms, full-time EF tour director, motorcoach bus and bullet train transportation, plus breakfast and dinner daily. Please consider participating in this unique Murchison Middle School opportunity as a way to continue to broaden your student's learning experience through real-world connections. Come and enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

For additional information about Japan and the IBMYP program at Murchison Middle School, please visit our webpage at <http://murchison.typepad.com/newton>. Ben Newton, the IB coordinator can be reached at [benjamin.newton@austinisd.org](mailto:benjamin.newton@austinisd.org) and at 414-2875.

## Meet the new IB Coordinator

Ben Newton is the new coordinator for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program at Murchison Middle School. Shawn Latorre has taken the helm of the Law and Humanities Magnet program at Fulmore Middle School. She leaves big shoes to fill and we wish her the best with her new adventures.

Mr. Newton has been a teacher for ten years in both the Austin and Houston areas. He has primarily been a special education and English as a second language teacher and has held leadership positions in both areas. As a teacher, he led students to embrace the core values of the IB program, even before joining the Murchison staff. Community service, cultural expertise, and high academic rigor are the values that formed the core of his classroom, and now, continued with the IB program. Mr. Newton states, "I hold my experience with community service as one of my proudest achievements over the years." He has been both an organizer and participant of numerous projects, including Indonesian tsunami relief in 2004, armed forces care package drive in 2005, Bicycles for Baytown in 2006, Myanmar refugee relief in 2008, and a large number of book, clothing, food, and school supply drives. "There are so many opportunities for our students, staff, and parents to change the world. We can start with helping large groups in need, or helping our neighbors right here in Austin. I salute the work the International Baccalaureate program globally has focused their efforts on the areas of the world that are going through dark times, but don't make it to the news cycle."

Mr. Newton, who's father was in the U.S. Navy, got a unique opportunity to grow up in a number of countries throughout the years. "The schools I went to as a child were a mix of cultures from people native to that particular country, as well as children from any number of other countries." Dependents of military families had to adapt to customs and absorb cultures of whatever duty station they were assigned to. "It was tough moving around without much notice, but it's not something I would ever dream of replacing. It's essential to modern day students to have close ties to their own culture, while developing an expertise with the people that live in the world around them. This is going to be a great year. We have tools, the talent, and the opportunity to make the education of Murchison's students something that forms the keystone of what will undoubtedly be a life of positive influence upon the world."

# Catch the Murchison IB Buzz ...



## IB Buzz Words !

- Intellectual
- Questioning
- Respect for body & mind
- Thinking
- Social
- Exploring subject links
- Community Involvement
- Respectful
- Creating
- Physical
- Environmentally responsible
- Evaluating
- Relevance to real-world issues
- Collaborating
- Intercultural understanding
- Communicating
- Independent/Autonomous Learners
- Interrelated Knowledge



## Murchison Middle School

*An International Baccalaureate World School*

***Murchison Middle School is an IB World School***

- IB is the soul of Murchison's culture.
- It is a philosophy & an approach to learning centered on the way we teach, learn and grow.
- Every student benefits from our integrated, school-wide approach to learning.

***The whole child matters***

- A well rounded or "whole" child's learning is core to IB and how Murchison's curriculum is structured.
- The curriculum has an expanded set of 8 core subject groups: Arts, Foreign Language, Humanities, Language Arts, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science, and Technology. It encourages us to continuously reflect, think, inquire, and communicate.

***Broad intellectual experiences tie learning together***

- IB promotes cross subject learning and experiences.
- Murchison delivers this intellectually challenging & integrated approach through school wide/community experiences and project based learning.

***Real-world connections promote global responsibility***

- Our community is the global community.
- Students explore concepts that exist outside of our immediate community, and the influence we have on our world and planet.
- Learning goes beyond the walls of the school through trips, clubs, and community service to promote & reinforce integrity, honesty, open-mindedness, caring, and balance.

## MMS FALL DANCE FOR 6TH, 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS

**Friday, October 16th in the MMS Gym  
6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.**

Wristbands on sale during school lunches

All students are invited to show their school spirit at the dance. Here are the logistics:

1. The PTA has planned a fun filled evening for all our children. All students **MUST** have a wristband **BEFORE** the night of the dance. Wristbands will be on sale during lunch Wed, Thurs and Friday the week of the dance. Wristbands will **NOT** be sold that night at the door. **ONLY MMS STUDENTS** are allowed to attend.
2. There will be something fun for everyone! The big gym will have a DJ playing **MUSIC** appropriate for all our students to dance/listen to. The small gym will be loaded with lots of **GAMES** and **ACTIVITIES**.
3. There will be **SOFT DRINKS** and **SNACKS** offered throughout the dance for \$.25-\$.75 each. We will also have a **PHOTO BOOTH** and students can have their photo taken with friends to help them remember the fun night!
4. Student **SAFETY** is our first priority. Security officers and hallway monitors will be present throughout the evening. We hope to have nearly 75 parent volunteers present at the dance, along with Ms. Cartwright. All students will be required to check bags and jackets at the door.
5. At 6:30 p.m. on Friday night, all parents should bring their child to the MMS gym doors near the Hart Lane school entrance. Please watch your child enter the campus doors safely before leaving the premises. Plan on picking up your child at the gym doors prior to or promptly as follows::

**6th Graders – 8:30 p.m.  
7th,8th Graders – 9:00 p.m.**

The different colored wristbands will differentiate 6th grade from 7th & 8th.

- **At Dance drop-off, parents MUST stay and watch their child enter the campus doors.**
- **Students must be picked up promptly before or at the designated pick-up time. There is no supervision after the Dance. Violators of this rule may be barred from future Dances.**

6. Please read and abide by the MMS Dance Expectations included in this article. The goal is to provide a safe and fun dance experience for each student.

Parents are needed to help chaperone! We need approximately 75 parents for this to be a safe and successful event. If you are interested in helping, please contact JeanMarie Rust (jrust1@gmail.com), Janet Hendren (grhendren@aol.com) or Jean Cornett (jcornett@sandfer.com).

**THE SOLE PURPOSE OF THESE RULES IS FOR THE SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF EACH STUDENT. MMS PTA DANCES ARE FOR MURCHISON STUDENTS ONLY**

E. A. Murchison Middle School PTA  
3700 North Hills Drive  
Austin, TX 78731-3092

## Inside This Issue

- Parenting Teens Seminar
- Join Murchison Matador Club
- Fall Fest Volunteers and Sponsors are Needed

## Fall Calendar

September 7	Labor Day
September 8	CAC Meeting - 3:45 Room 111
September 8	Principal Coffee 8:30 a.m. Room 111
September 15	PTA Meeting - 8:30 a.m. in cafeteria
September 21	Dr. Carl Pickhardt - 7:00 p.m. Library
October 2	Student of the Month 8:30 a.m. Library
October 6	Principal Coffee - 8:30 a.m. Room 111
October 12	Columbus Day - No School
October 13	CAC Meeting - 3:45 Room 111
October 16	Fall Dance 6:30 p.m.
October 20	PTA Meeting 8:30 a.m. in Cafeteria
November 3	Principal Coffee - High School transition with Donna Houser - 8:30 a.m. in cafeteria
November 2-6	Spirit Week
November 3	Homecoming Game vs Martin M.S.
November 6	Student of the Month - 8:30 a.m. in library
November 9	No School
November 10	CAC Meeting - 3:45 Room 111
November 13	Fall Fest
November 15	Deadline for Winter Matador
November 17	PTA Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Library
November 23	Incoming 6th grade showcase
November 23	Dr. Pickhardt - 7:00 p.m. Library
November 25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday

*[Participants should confirm game dates, times  
and location with their directors/coaches.]*