



MATADOR

The Newsletter of the Murchison Middle School PTA
www.murchisonpta.org

Principal's Corner

Dear Murchison Families,

My how time flies! We are already to the end of another successful school year. I am so proud of the students, teachers, staff and parents for an outstanding year at Murchison. We have seen success in fine arts, athletics, and academics. We had outstanding performances, exciting games, and academic celebrations.

It will take us all working as a true team to reach our highest goals.

A special congratulations goes out to our teacher of the year, Nina Wilson and teacher of promise, Lisa Deterding. Also congratulations to our outstanding PTA - we couldn't do it without you.

A big thank you to my staff who keep things going at a high level each and every day. Thank you to the parents for your support and enthusiasm for education. Thank you to my outstanding secretary, Velia Stevens, who keeps me on track (no

small task!). Thank you to Cathylynn for being a true educational partner.

As I look to next year, I hope we can continue to work together to provide greater success for all of our students - to challenge our highest achieving students into doing even greater things and to support our struggling students so they are college and life ready. We have so much to celebrate but yet so much yet to do. I ask your help and support as we move forward. It is an exciting but challenging time. It will take us all working as a true team to reach our highest goals. And in this Murchison community, I know we can do it!

Have a wonderful and safe summer! My love and best wishes to you all!

Go Matadors!

Kimiko Cartwright,
 Murchison Middle School,
 Principal

PTA Message

I can't believe I am writing my final Matador Newsletter article. The end of the 09-10 school year is approaching and it is time to look back at all the wonderful things that were accomplished as a PTA. We were able to fund over \$20,000 in classroom support/supplies/technology. This does not count the thousands of dollars we have spent on paper that we have furnished for our teachers! I can't tell you how many teachers personally thanked our PTA for making their job easier by funding important classroom enrichment. See the Teacher Needs article in this newsletter for a list of specific items that were purchased. This year also saw our new electronic marquee up and running. This was an item co-underwritten by the PTA and what a wonderful addition to our campus!

We organized an extremely successful Super Saturday, Fall Fest, Incoming Parent Tours, 2 school-wide dances and an entertaining Fine Arts Festival. Our PTA mentored students, assisted teachers in the classroom, helped in the office, beautified our grounds and so much more!



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 • Ann Howard - SECOND VICE PRESIDENT Mo Gindler - SECRETARY • Cathy Painter - TREASURER • Ashley Beebee - ASSISTANT TREASURER Janet Hendren - HISTORIAN • Ellen Stewart - PARLIAMENTARIAN

Special Thanks to our Mentors!

Hello MMS Mentors!

I wanted to take this last opportunity to thank all of the parents and MMS teachers for participating in our mentor program this year. Some of you have been mentors for numerous years and some of you are new to the program. Thank you for all you do for our kids! The relationships you have formed can and will be life changing for our kids!

I have been a mentor for three years and the Committee Chair for two. My daughter will be moving on to Anderson this fall and although I will not coordinate the Mentor Program next year, I will continue to mentor my student for his last year at Murchison.

It has been an honor and a privilege to participate in this program for the past three years. If anyone is interested in taking over the program, please feel free to contact me or Alicia Doak, the new PTA President for the 2010-2011 school year!

Thank you again for your time, support and friendship which you provided this year for you mentee! Without you, we would not have this awesome program at MMS.

Have a safe and relaxing summer!

Nancy Beckham
MMS Mentor Committee Chair 2008 - 2010
343-6370

Congratulations to the 2010-2011 Junior Belles Dance Team

*Mariana Alves
Mikah Berlinger
Monika Brinkmann
Bridgette Butler
Elizabeth Coon
Lindsay Crawford
Elizabeth Edmonson
Caroline Frankenfild
Becca Geller
Anne Gusler
Michi Heckler
Hailey McCormick*

*Caylin McGlynn
Audrey Menke
Olivia Mink
Sophie Montemayor
Elise Padilla
Carly Pappert
Chelsea Payton
Lily Roberts
Grace Schrobilgen
Sloane Silverman
Tessa Wilson
Taylor Wood*

Memorial Day ~ May 31st

Last Day of School ~ June 2nd

I would like to thank each of you for giving your money, service and time to our wonderful school. Because of all this, plus a wonderful staff of teachers and administrators, our children are receiving an A+ experience.

I would be remiss if I did not thank my wonderful PTA Exec. Board. They have been invaluable and ready to jump in to help me with whatever I need. Thank you, Anne Howard for your support and for pulling off an extremely successful Super Saturday, even while in the jungles of Costa Rica! Thank you Cathy Painter and Ashlee Beebee for being such wonderful caretakers of all of our hard-earned funds! Thank you to Toni McIntosh, Teacher Needs VP, for soliciting and assimilating the many, many requests from our teachers and doing it with ease! Thank you to Mo Gindler who was at EVERY PTA meeting, taking down minutes so that all of our parents could stay well informed. Thank you to Ellen Martin, for updating our by-laws and making sure that I did things the right way! And thank you to Janet Hendren for attending many events - even if her kids didn't! - so that we would have photo documentation of all the great things that PTA helped accomplish! My last thanks goes to our principal, Ms. Cartwright, who EVERY DAY shows up for our children!

Please join me in supporting our incoming PTA President, Alicia Doak, by continuing the volunteer spirit that is so apparent at MMS - and thank you for all your support this year.

Cathlynn Brown,
2009-2010 PTA President

2010 -2011 Officers

Congratulations to our newly elected officers of the 2010-2011 school year. If you would like to volunteer to chair a committee for the 2010-2011 school year, please contact Alicia Doak adoak@austin.rr.com

Pres. - Alicia Doak
Pres. Elect - Susan Truesdale
1st VP - Toni McIntosh
2nd VP - Coni Butler
Secretary - Julie Vander Stoep
Treasurer - Cathy Painter
Asst. Treasurer - Ashley BeeBee
CAC Rep. - Narda Fisher

MMS Partner's In Education 2009-2010 Campus-Based Recognition

Each year, the Murchison Middle School PTA Leadership, Chairpersons, and Administrators nominate and vote on several special recognition awards that highlight extraordinary volunteer contributions made by individuals and groups during the school year.

Please join in on congratulating the following 2009-2010 award recipients:

National Instruments - Business Partner of Year

For their ongoing support of our Robotics Program

- Jaidev Amrite
- Jennifer Rutledge
- John Hill
- Ben Sisney

Ramsay Orthodontics - Orange Business Leadership Award

For significant financial support of our many key community events (Fall Fest and Fine Arts Festival Sponsorship) and needs over a multi-year period

- Dr. Stephan A. Ramsay, DDS MS

Schlotsky's Deli - Orange Business Leadership Award

For initiating financial and in-kind support of several key programs and community events (Fall Fest and School Dance Chip Sales, Monthly Teacher Sweets Trays, Student of the Month Sandwich Cards)

- Misty Malnassy
- Michelle Mendez
- Jayson Murphy

Henrike Belz - Individual Volunteer of the Year

For her constant care and beautification of our MMS Grounds

Ben Newton - Classroom Coach of the Year

For his ability to connect with students and provide a positive influence both inside and outside of the classroom

Team Lead Parents - Volunteer Group of the Year

For their support of teachers and students in the many yearly classroom activities and needs

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| • Lisa Berthold | * Kelle Hand | * Jill Seibert |
| • Gordana Borcanskli | * Cherie Harvey | * Jill Spencer |
| • Connie Butler | * Patrice Jones | * Stacy Tolley |
| • Michele Dare | * Ellen Martin | * Theresa Trevino |
| • Karen Flanagan | * Rhonda Roach | * Jodi Zigelboim |
| • Colleen Hagman | * Grace Saenz | |

Mentoring Team - Campus Champion Award

For the enormous amount of care and support that they provide every day for the students they mentor

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| • Nancy Beckham | * Frank Hersman | * Stephanie Pellegrin |
| • John Beckham | * Kellie Keating | * Erin Randall |
| • Patricia Carpenter | * Bret Korba | * Paul Robertson |
| • Andrea Colgan | * Kristin Lee | * Sheri Terrell |
| • Tom Davidson | * Adriana Martins | * John Warden |
| • Liz Davis | * Michael McGinnis | * Diana Webster |
| • Laura Green | * Vicki Osherow | |

We Are Connected!

A Partner's In Education Reflection and Note of Thanks

MMS PTA continues to develop and expand programs that help to make our school a successful and unique place within the AISD framework for teens to learn and grow. The thematic goal set by our Principal at the start of the school year was to “thrive by improving connectedness”, and the rallying cry became “stay connected” within our school, the Austin community, and globally.

The PTA at Murchison Middle School is unequalled in its ability to “stay connected” and drive extraordinary levels of parent, teacher, administrator, and community involvement. It is not just in the extraordinary number of volunteers and business partners that we garner each year, but it is also in our unique ability to focus and channel activity to a set of achievable and stretch goals.

Others may say ... it can't be done ... but those words are not uttered at our school. Instead, we choose to say “How can we do it?” and “How can I help?”

When our children start attending Murchison MS, we can't help but feel that we as parents have joined a force much larger than ourselves as we walk into the bustling PTA Super Saturday that kicks off the school year. But, we actually **know** it when we witness: the actions of our peers who volunteer over and over again for every activity or need; or the excitement in the students as they talk about their many school projects; or the 1400+ attendees at the Fall Fest sponsored by key community businesses; or the screaming fans in a full football stadium where business partners send mascots and hand out free food cards; or the hundreds of kids dancing at the school dances with watchful parents standing by ... and the list just goes on!

Our students are involved.

Our parents, teachers and administrators are involved.

Our Austin businesses and global communities are involved.

We are connected!

Thank you to all of our many parents, teachers, administrators, and business partners who gave incredible amounts of time, energy and financial support to a successful 2009-2010 school year at Murchison Middle School!

Mary Ann Auster

MMS PTA - Partners In Education Chairperson

Teacher Needs Committee Gives Special Thanks!

By Linda Geller

Thank you for the great response to our letter sent in December asking for funds to help with Teacher Needs. We would like to thank the following for their contribution:

Michel Abkovitz, Susie & Dan Allen, Jennifer and Rand Bamberg, Kim and Mike Barnes, Ashley & Scot BeeBee, Rahul & Vandana Bhargava, Pamela Blaine, Jim & Jill Butler, Palmer Butler and Ruth Ann Sullivan, Kelly & Jerry Capps, Diane and Michael Carter, Terry & Kevin Conlon, Troy & Tonya Cooley, Melinda & Keith Crawford, Leslie Currens, Tanya & Aaron Damommio, Susan & Stephen Dayton, Alaine & Johnny Demyers, Vada & Steve Dillawn, Sharon & Sunil Dsouza, Thuthao & Tuan Duong -Thruong, David & Monica Edelman, Stacy & Troy Erb, Kathryn & Michael Franz, Linda & Robert Geller, Robert & Karen Ghasemi, Yvette & Brett Goodman, Lea Ann & Roger Graham, Colleen O'Heren & Mason Hale, Rebecca & Russell Hayhurst, Fay Heighway, Frank & Eleonora Hersman, Linda & Joe Higdon, Kathleen & Christopher Jurgens, Paula Kanter, Todd & Stephanie Kurio, Eric & Bonnie Lang, Rhona & Michael Lefteau, Jessica McGlynn, Toni & Larry mcintosh, Andrea & Jeffrey Michel, John & Cheri Mosley, Robert and Izbela Price, James and Judith Pumphret, Kelly & Daniel Santema, Brenda Sasaki, S.K. and S.L. Solomon, Pamela Berry and Doug Warren, Damon Weeks, Oraalia and Frank Yanez, Beth and David Yanke, and Norberto Zylberberg.

The Teacher Needs Committee received approximately \$30,000 worth of classroom requests.

Thanks to all who contributed, we were able to fund approximately \$20,000 in classroom needs.

Continued on next page

The PTA bought the following with your contributions:

\$8,200 for Document Projectors & Cameras
\$2,500 on TI Navigation Learning System
\$1,600 TI Calculators
\$1,600 on violins or orchestra
\$900 calculator storage system (to protect our assets)
\$600 for classroom printers (with scanner & copier capability)
Misc items such as heavy duty hole punches, pencil sharpeners, paper shredders,
Science equipment, hotel expenses for seminars and various memberships
Pending - Track/Field Equipment; Additional TI calculators

Thank you again for supporting our students through Teacher Needs! For more information, please contact TEACHER NEEDS chair Linda Geller at 345-3990 or lgeller@austin.rr.com.

MEETING TEACHER NEEDS

As the 2009-2010 school year comes to a close, I would like to update everyone on Teachers Needs. As many of you are aware the district funding is not sufficient to meet all the needs of our teachers. In order to fill in some of the gaps, the PTA provides our teachers with the opportunity to make requests through Teacher Needs for specific supplies, books, equipment and/or training. Teachers must show that their requests will enrich the classroom and/or curriculum and will make a difference in the way they teach our kids.



This year Teacher Needs was able to fund over \$20,000 in Teacher Requests. Below is a list of some of the items we purchased:

Document Projectors & Cameras
TI Calculators
Violins for Orchestra
Calculator Storage System (to protect our assets)
Classroom printers with scanner & copier capability
Heavy duty hole punches, pencil sharpeners & paper shredders
Science equipment
Hotel expenses for seminar attendance (this is not covered by the district)
Various teacher memberships (this is not covered by the district)
*This list is not intended to be all inclusive. Items are purchased and distributed throughout the school year.

I want to thank the committee members Alicia Doak, Cathylynn Brown, Cathy Painter, Kim Barnes and Ms. Cartwright for their assistance in prioritizing the Teacher Requests. A special thank you goes to Cathy Painter for purchasing the majority of the items, to Sheri Karol for her efforts in purchasing the items that require district purchase orders and to Ms. Cartwright for everything she does to support this program (the list is long). In addition I would also like to thank Linda Geller for her efforts in raising the money for us to spend.

In closing please remember; Teacher Needs is fully funded by parent donations to the PTA. Please consider making a donation to support this effort when we begin the 2010 - 2011 school year.

Thank you again to all the volunteers, teachers and parents who make this program possible.

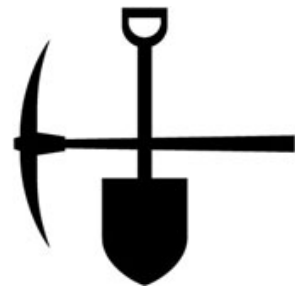
Toni McIntosh
Teacher Needs Committee Chair

News From the Grounds

It is with very mixed feelings that I write this last article from “my buildings and grounds” as I move on with my eighth grader to Anderson after four years chairing this committee. I want to thank each and every one of my volunteers, the teachers and the students who have helped me in and around the gardens from the bottom of my heart. Our Green Fridays once a month have established themselves very nicely. The responsibilities and joys of maintaining thriving and (in the long run) native gardens is a great gift to share. It is a greater gift when I see a sense of ownership and pride settle in. The grounds at Murchison will remain a work in progress, which leads me to proudly and gratefully announce my successor for this committee, Narda Fisher. Both of us have started to work together for the past couple of months to help ease the transition and I ask the Murchison community to support her as good as you can!

As I feel very blessed to receive the “volunteer of the year” recognition the third time, the biggest reward for me would be others becoming actively involved (no task is too small and all help is much appreciated) in taking over some responsibility for the grounds. Please get back to Narda at

narda@austin.rr.com and offer your help! For the summer we will be needing help watering certain areas that are not on the central sprinkler system.



This means stopping by the school once or twice a week and turning on/off water devices or filling up water funnels around new trees every other week. If you can help, please e-mail your contact info and the time frame (e.g. first four weeks of summer) to me at hd2austin@earthlink.net and you will receive further information. This is a great way for your student to collect community hours throughout the summer.

Thank you for entrusting these grounds to me. They truly have become, as I call it, my fourth child and I will for sure stay in touch, dreaming of a vertical landscaping team.

As always green greetings,

Henrike Belz; buildings and grounds 2009/2010

MMS '09-'10 PARTNER LIST

Murchison Middle School would like to recognize our strong community partnerships for the 2009-2010 school year. It is with our sincerest thanks and appreciation that we recognize the following businesses for their tremendous support:

Academy Sports and Outdoors
Access Door Systems
Alpha Music Center
Arbor Animal Clinic
Austin Duck Adventures
Austin Orthodontic Arts
Austin Pizza
Austin Strings
Avenue One
Best Buy
Blackerby Violin Shop
Bob and Mike's Chicken
Boulevard Grill
Brad's Salon & Spa
Buck's Bikes
Calendar Club
Capps Law Firm
Capstar Lending Home Loans
Casa Chapala
College Nannies and Tutors
Dart Bowl
Discounts Electronics
Dr. David Carr, DDS

Dr. Marc Worob, DDS
Dr. Stephen Sherwood, DDS
Far West Optical
Freytag's Florist
HEB - Far West
Hempstead and Associates
Huntington Learning Center
JCAA
Jerrys Artarama
Jim-Jims Water-Ice
La Salsa
Mangia Pizza
Mesa Ranch
More Space Place
Mr. Gatti's Pizza
Northcross Suites Hotel
NW Austin Youth Basketball Association
Opal Divines
Owen & Buckman Orthodontics
Pam Greenstone, M.A., L.P.C.
Pappadeaux
Pluckers - Austin and Round Rock
Powell, Ebert & Smolik, P.C.

Quizno's
Ramsay Orthodontics
Regal Arbor Theatre
Schlotzky's Deli - Balcones
Road, Austin
Starbucks Coffee Company
Strait Music Co
Taco Shack
Tarrytown Dance
Terra Burger
Texas Orthopedics
The Garden Spot Cafe &
Catering
The Hub
The Monogram Lady
Wendy's
Wesley S. Glazener, MD, P.A.
Zoes Kitchen

Laurel Lines

News of International Baccalaureate World School

THANKS TO IB PARENT VOLUNTEERS

This was an exciting year for the IB Program with many new events and activities taking place. However, this would not have happened without the enthusiastic and ongoing support of dedicated parent volunteers. A heartfelt thanks to each of the following for continuing to help build the MMS IB Program under the direction and guidance of Mr. Ben Newton:

Mary Ann Auster: IB Projects Committee Chair and Toys for Tots Coordinator

Leslie Currens: Yahoo Group Coordinator

Kelle Hand: IB Publicity Committee Chair

Mila Dinglasan: for helping with Fall Fest; the Cultural Kitchen project; the Earth Week lunch; and the Evening of IB (and whatever else we needed help with!)

Beth Jordan Kirkpatrick: Coordinator of the Souper Bowl of Caring and Fall Fest volunteer

Debra Ramirez: coordinator of the Whole Planet Foundation holiday ornament decorating project

Myra McIlvain: IB Coordinator of Coats for Kids and Fall Fest volunteer

Beth Rowan and Dana Bushong: Earth Week Coordinators

Marcia Breternitz, Gordana Borcanski, Peg Croslin, and Dana Bushong: Cultural Kitchen volunteers

Dianne Fish, Melissa McDermott and Janice Pierce: Fall Fest volunteers

Thank you to those parents who attended monthly IB Advisory Council meetings to provide input and feedback, and to those parents who supported the IB Guest Speaker Luncheon series by participating with their students.

A special thanks to Mo Ahmadi for serving as the official IB photographer and videographer!

Jill Martin Seibert, IB Parent Liaison

ATTENTION 8th GRADE PARENTS:

The MMS PTA 8th Grade Celebration Committee is busy planning the end of the year 8th Grade Only Dance which has been changed to Friday, May 14th, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Murchison Cafeteria and the Yearbook Signing Party which will take place on Tuesday, May 25th at 2:00PM when the students return from the Main Event. We need a few things from YOU to make this the best send off ever!

Concession items - Donate liter brand name sodas, cookies, brownies, cupcakes (homemade or store bought), individual bags of chips or Chex Mix, boxes of individual candy (i.e. from Sam's/ Costco M&M's, candy bars, Reese's, etc.). Donations will be collected curbside in the North Hills Dr. teacher's parking lot during morning drop off Thursday 13th & Friday 14th or can be dropped off in the office the week of the dance.

Volunteers - Sell wrist bands Wed-Fri during 8th grade lunch, help set-up and decorate for the dance, chaperone, take photos at the photo booth, work concessions, show up just for cleanup, or work during the Yearbook Signing Party. Click here <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/71-623451018119> and sign up immediately to get the volunteer spot you'd most like to work with your friends.

8th Grade Slide Show - We want photos of your 8th graders! These could include individual MMS school photos, group photos including your kids with their MMS friends and any school activities that your kids have participated in during their 3 years at MMS. We'd like to include everyone if possible! The Slideshow will be played during the Yearbook Signing Party in the Cafeteria on May 25th from 2:00-3:30PM. Please send your scanned or mailed photos to Vicki Osherow.

Deadline is May 14th!

Monetary Donations - cash or checks made out to MMS PTA can be brought to the MMS office or mailed to:

Vicki Osherow, 7200 West Rim Dr., Austin, TX 78731

Vicki Osherow Vosherow@gmail.com 970.8759 or

Breece Adams badams62@austin.rr.com 342.2059

Kudos to Murchison Middle School PTA Leadership!

The good work of the PTA has been made possible by the outstanding contributions of the following volunteers:

1st Vice President	Toni McIntosh
2nd Vice President	Ann Howard
Secretary	Mo Gindler
Treasurer	Cathy Painter
Assistant Treasurer	Ashley Beebee
Parliamentarian	Ellen Martin
Historian	Janet Hendren
President-elect & ACPTA Rep	Ellen Martin
After-School Clubs	Maureen Gindler / Melissa McDermott
Agenda Sales & Supplies	Vicky Knox
Audit	Michelle Martinez
Buildings & Grounds	Henrike Belz
Bulletin Boards	Melissa Butler
CAC Rep	Narda Fisher
Dances	Jean Cornett / Jean Marie Rust / Janet Hendren
Directory	Jenny Frame / Tina Wallace
Eighth Grade Celebration	Breece Adams / Vicki Osherow
E-mail Announcements	Carl Carstenson
End of Year Awards	Maureen Gindler / Cherie Harvey
Fall Fest	Pamela Armour / Vicki Osherow / Erin Halligan
Fifth-Sixth Transition	Mary Trautman / Janet Tomazin
Fine Arts Festival	
Greenhouse	Melissa McDermott
Hospitality	Tracy St. Pierre
IB MYP Liaison	Jill Martin Seibert
Library Support	Jennifer Kalt
Matador Club	Linda Geller
Matador Newsletter	Ida Longoria-Berlingeri
Mentors	Nancy Beckham
Office Volunteers	Teresa Duncan
Parenting Education	Ann Howard
Partners in Education	Mary Ann Auster
Science Fair	Vana Rosenblatt / Stephanie Richmond
Secret Pals	Beth Hooks
Student of the Month	Alice Jones / Theresa Trevino
T-shirts	Karen Vines
Teacher/Staff Appreciation	Katherine Culleton
Team Parent Coordinator	Kelle Hand
Webmaster	Diane Tu

Each of these people encouraged and inspired others to give of their time, energy and money to enhance our school.

Thank you parents!

Inside This Issue

- 8th Grade End of Year Party
- Kudos to PTA Leadership
- Special Thanks from Teacher Needs

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

End of Year Calendar

May 4th - IB guest speaker lunch - Library

May 6th -MMS Theater performance - 7:00 p.m. - Cafeteria

May 11th - CAC Meeting - 3:45 p.m. - Room 111

May 12th - MMS PIE Luncheon - 11:30-1:30 - NW Hills Methodist Church

May 14th - 8th Grade ONLY Dance - 7:30-9:30 p.m. - Cafeteria

May 19th - AISD APIE Ceremony - 6:30

May 25th - 8th Grade trip to Main Event

May 26th -28th - End of Year Awards

May 28th IBMYP Advisory Meeting 8:00 a.m. - Room 111

May 31st - No School - Memorial Day

June 2nd - Last Day of School

July 28-30th Anderson Cheer Camp @ Summitt Elementary 9am - Noon