



M a t a d o r

The Newsletter of the Murchison Middle School PTA

www.murchisonpta.org

Principal's Corner

Dear Murchison Family,

Some of you have been introduced to the attendance messenger. This automated call service contacts parents each evening when their child has been marked with an unexcused absence. This is just one of the steps we are taking to ensure that all students are in class every day. If a student is not in class, he/she misses out on the teaching and learning process that will help them achieve and advance. In addition to the missed instruction issue, attendance rates can also affect school funding and

federal school accountability.

What are we asking from you - the parent? We ask that you ensure your child is at school every day. Of course there are medical instances where your child needs to be at home to recover. Be sure that you send a note (download the absence form on the front page of typepad) to the main office upon return. Calls from parents cannot be accepted as documentation and are discouraged.

What are we asking from you - the student? We ask that you come to school on time and get to all classes on time. Each and every class is important.

School attendance is not a choice - it's the law.

The state of Texas requires that a child who is at least six years of age, or who is younger than six years of age and has previously been enrolled in first grade, and who has not yet reached the child's 18th birthday shall attend school. Texas Education Code Section 25.085.

The compulsory school attendance law has been violated if a student is required to attend school under T.E.C. Section 25.085 and fails to attend school on 10 or more days or parts of days (without excuse) within a six-month period of time in the same school year or fails to attend school on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period of time. Texas Education Code Section 25.094. Excessive unexcused absences will result in the school filing with the attendance court. Attendance court fines can be up to \$500 and include community service. Please refer to typepad for what absences are considered excused. Students caught skipping class or continuously tardy to class will receive a referral and disciplinary action.

Let's continue to work together to have all students in class. Contact your grade level counselor and assistant principal if you need assistance with any situation. We are here for you!

Kimiko Cartwright, Principal

PTA Message

I can't believe I am writing this article and it is February 2010 - our school year is more than half way over. I think that this is a good time to do a "recap" of what our school and PTA have accomplished, thus far. I know that you all received our letter over the winter break, asking for donations to the PTA so that we could fund supplies and materials to our classroom. Because of your generous donations we were able to purchase many items, including document projectors (ELMOS), TI Calculators for 8th grade math, Starter TI Navigator Learning Systems, printer cartridges, printers for many classrooms, Science and Social Studies support materials, copy paper, tissue and so much more. If you would like a complete list, please contact me and I would be happy to send you an itemization. Thanks to Toni McIntosh, Linda Geller and Cathy Painter for coordinating that effort.

We have helped with a very successful Science Fair, assisted our librarian with a fabulous Book Fair, hosted a Luncheon for the staff, mentored many students, our team parents constantly support our teachers, we helped obtain a grant to expand our Greenhouse and so much more than I can fit in this article. Murchison is such a wonderful, learning community - due in part to all of your efforts! It is a joy and privilege to serve as your PTA President. I am looking forward to a busy and eventful spring!

PTA President - Cathylynn Brown

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



Book Fair a Huge Success!

Thank you so much to the parents and AVID Student Crew for participating and helping make this year's Matador Madness Book Fair a great time for all!

The library was transformed into a mini book store with ample evidence of the Matador Spirit. Special KUDOS go out to Faires Beale, Tina Crisara, Susan Hanson, Jill Spencer, Melissa McDermott, Vicki Osherow, Christine Smarda, Pam Berry, Lori Baze, Mary Rodriguez, Linda Higdon, Tracy Do-Nguyen, Sue Hill, Rene Klahn, Tina Sutton, Jane White, Henrike Belz, Desiree Gaines, Colleen O'Heren, Shari Jankowsky, Robin Shapiro, Brian McCabe, Stacy Tolley, Kawa Cheng, Amy Oliver, Lourdes Guerreo, Kimberly Payton, Lori Assaf, Cheri Harvey, Pam Berry, Jen Bamberg, Alissa Walters, Justin Adams, Bianca Alanis, and Kayla Schmidgall. A huge THANK YOU goes out to the AVID Student Crew Members whose unending enthusiasm and support in setting up and advertising for Book Fair helped make it all possible!

Sponsor-a-Book

Thanks to parent support, we had over 150 books sponsored to the Murchison library this year! The books have arrived, been selected by students and name-plated, and are out in circulation. We were able to order the new round of Lone Star Books, highly recommended and anticipated graphic novels, award winners and more. I can't tell you how much we appreciate the support from the Sponsor-a-Book program!!

Christy Cochran
Librarian

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

March 15 - 19th
Spring Break

April 2, 2010
Good Friday

Winter Dance

Murchison Middle School held its Winter Dance on Friday, February 26th and a good time was had by all! Many thanks to all the parents who generously volunteered their time, as well as supplied donations of drinks and snacks.

All money earned is returned to the P.T.A. to help fund some of the wonderful programs Murchison offers. Thank you for your assistance in making Murchison the great school that it is!

Jean Cornett, Janet Hendren and Jeanmarie Rust.

Anderson High School Dance classes

Attention Murchison 8th graders attending Anderson High School next year: Back in January there were discussions at the Texas Education Agency (TEA) about taking away dance classes as acceptable P.E. substitutes.

Parents and students may have heard this information through the grapevine and it may have affected which courses you chose to sign-up for your 9th grade year.

We have recently received some very important clarification that is important for everyone: The Texas Education Agency has confirmed that students who enroll in dance class next year CAN receive either fine arts or P.E. CREDIT if the dance teacher is P.E. certified.

This is the case at Anderson High School and thus any students who enroll in dance class next year will have the option of applying the credit towards Fine Arts or P.E. credit for graduation.

The previous rumors that dance would no longer count towards P.E. Credit are false. Dance can count towards P.E. credit. Please contact Anderson HS Dance Director: Erin Winter (ewinter@austinisd.org) with any questions.

MMS Students Represent Region Choirs

Our choir students auditioned January 23rd for the 2009-2010 Region Choir with middle school students from surrounding school districts. For these auditions, the students were required to practice 2 songs primarily on their own and auditioned with selected clips of each song. The students that did the best were selected to attend the Region clinic on February 6th where they will spend the day rehearsing with a Guest Conductor and present their music at a concert that evening. We are so proud of all our students for participating in the audition process, as some students may not have the opportunity to have this experience outside of this event. The Region Choir Concert was February 6th at 4pm at the San Marcos High School PAC.

The following students were selected to represent Murchison for the 2009-2010 Region Choirs:

Zoe Colaluca
Kaity Dallas
Sam Dillawn
Janine Dworin (1st chair)
Ben Erck (2nd chair)
Sadie Gillespie
Laura Gonzalez
Chris Hastings
Jessica Jankowsky
Jennifer Karotkin (2nd chair)
Katherine Kyaw
Will Ladyman

Amber Mobley
David Money
Bobby Pellegrini
Cynthia Perry
Natasha Ponomareva (1st
chair)
Delaney Raper
Hannah Solomon
Nathan Wavering
Trent Wilson (3rd chair)

Honorable Mention:
Jason Blackert
Bridgette Butler
Jack Collier
Kate Covell
Sam Croley
Rachel Graves
Jameson Guerra
Ersy Gutierrez
Elsie Guzman-Aguilar
Ally Pearson
George Sani
Morgan Witt

Attention 8th Grade Parents!

The MMS PTA 8th Grade Celebration Committee is busy planning the end of the year 8th Grade Only Dance which will take place Friday, May 28th, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Murchison Cafeteria. 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 & Friday or can be dropped off in the office the week of the dance.

Volunteers - Sell wrist bands Wed-Fri during 8th grade lunch the week of the dance, help set-up and decorate for the dance, chaperone, take photos at the photo booth, work concessions, or show up for cleanup committee. If you are interested, please e-mail Vicki Osherow at vosherow@gmail.com.

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! Please send your photos to Vicki Osherow (address below) or scan and send to vosherow@gmail.com.

Monetary Donations - cash or checks can be brought to the MMS office or mailed to: Vicki Osherow, 7200 West Rim Dr., Austin, TX 78731 by Friday, May 14th. (Please make checks payable to MMS PTA)

Thank you in advance!

Breece Adams
badams62@austin.rr.com
342.2059

Vicki Osherow
vosherow@gmail.com
970.8759

NEWS FROM THE GROUNDS

Still in the cold weather, I'm anxiously looking forward to the spring and I can see the plants are as ready for warmer weather as I guess, we all are.

I'm extremely grateful to Narda Fisher who has committed to take over the buildings and grounds committee next year. As we both have started to look into all the different responsibilities we do want to call for volunteers willing to take over a "sub committee".

Tasks are as follows:

- spearheading the Green Fridays (once a month work with a small group of students during the school day all around in the beds to keep the landscaping growing and weed free); depending on your schedule possibly set up a Saturday workday for major projects, asking for parent - and student volunteers.
- "water (wo)man": maintain hoses, soaker hoses and other watering devices throughout the ground; check and program the sprinkler system on a regular basis; organize repairs where necessary; organize a volunteer group for watering throughout the summer.
- spearhead two plant sales during the school year (fall and spring), cooperate with green team on this - be the godmother or -father of the potted plants in the courtyards
- spearhead a group that looks into water saving devices to be installed around the school
- check on the trash cans out on the grounds on a regular basis; check on the lost and found on a regular basis (cooperation with the office student volunteers)



Please consider stepping up and supporting Narda by taking over one of these "sub committees" or possibly use some connections to businesses around, who might be willing to work with us as partners in education. Any help would be greatly appreciated!

Also we are preparing for our second annual plant sale during the evening of Fine Arts Festival April 9th. Wild-flowers pre grown in our very own greenhouse as well as plants and seedlings gained from our own grounds will be on sale. Please support our green efforts by stopping by and stocking up for your gardens at home. More info to follow on the weekly announcements.

As always, green greetings, Henrike Belz, Buildings & Grounds 09/10

2010 Science Fair Success!

Vana Rosenblatt & Stephanie Richmond, Co-Chairs

The 2010 **MMS Science Fair** was an exciting event. This year we had 86 projects in 15 categories competing for an opportunity to advance to the area fair. Each project is judged by 3 separate judges. All Science Fair participants put great effort into their projects and they did an excellent job in defending their scientific process for the judges. The success of a fair this size would not be possible without all of our volunteers and office staff..... **THANK YOU** for all the hard work!

Jeff Auster won Best of Fair for the project - [Ahead of the Curve!](#)

The following page has a list of students that placed in the 2010 MMS Science Fair and who went on to represent MMS at the 2010 Austin Energy Regional Science Festival which took place February 24 -25 at the Palmer Events Center.

Please congratulate all of these students for the terrific effort they put forth!

Place	Student Name(s)	Project Title
Animal Sciences		
1st	Kaity Dallas	Moth Madness
2nd	Natasha Ponomareva	Do Different Beverages Have Different Effects on the Preference of Crickets?
Biochemistry		
1st	Paul Abkowitz	Which Material Creates the Most Biogas?
Behavioral & Social Sciences		
1st	James Musick	Hands Free Driving
2nd tie	Catherine Weeks	Color Confusion
2nd tie	Makayla Ponce	To Pace is to Think
Honorable Mention	Liz Graham	Shoot and Score
Chemistry		
1st tie	MacKenzie Taylor	pH Testing...the pHacts
1st tie	Naya Sipas	Colorful Chemistry
3rd	Jahan Rabii	The Enhancement of Chemical Luminescence
Honorable Mention	Rachel Shapiro	Soupy Sauce?
Cellular & Molecular Biology		
1st	Emily Jones	Radical Radishes
Computer Science		
1st	Hamza Muhammad	Time is Money-The New Era of Pgramming
2nd	Austin Adams	Which Media is Most Attractive?
3rd	Dylan Kolflat	From Color to Black and White
Honorable Mention	Alexander Greene	Compressing for the Better Image
Engineering:Electrical & Mechanical		
1st	Ernest Chan	Catching the Sun
2nd	Julian Nash	Alternative Thermoelectric Generation
3rd	Carmel Gleason	How does the number of loops of wire in the coil effect the amount of electricity produced by an electric generator?
Honorable Mention	Jonathan Jimenez&Enzo Monaco	SOLAR PANELS What's YOUR ANGLE?
Honorable Mention	Fernando Gonzales	So You Think I am Weak?
Enviornmental Management		
1st	Valerie Vines	Composting - Can You Dig It?
2nd	Josh Tomazin	Creating Compost
3rd	Claire Rowan	Is your countertop killing you?
Engineering: Materials & Bioengineering		
1st	Mehraban Kavoussi	Wind Turbine Efficiency
2nd	Samantha Sutton	Keep the Heat
3rd	Baxter Howard	Which Truss do you Trust
Honorable Mention	Javier Blancas	The Sky is the Limit
Honorable Mention	Sofie Montemayor	War of the Insulators: Which one would you choose?
Honorable Mention	Shira Rakooover	Looking for a Bond
Principal's Choice	Matthew McDermott	Secondary Recovery of Solar Energy in the House
Enviornmental Sciences		
1st	Elizabeth Conlon	Does white elastomeric roof coating affect the heat absorption
2nd	Sage Stoakley	Going Green for Grass
3rd	John McDonald	Strength of Recycled Paper
Honorable Mention	Hannah Rosenblatt	Water from the Sun
Energy & Transportation		
1st & Best of Fair	Jeff Auster	Ahead of the Curve!
2nd	Brandon Santori	A FUEL CELL THAT IS REALLY GREEN
3rd	Niklas Borcanski	A Sun - Tracking Solar Panel
Honorable Mention	Britta Garza	How do you waste your energy?
Honorable Mention	Mathew Crisara	Using Photovoltactics
Honorable Mention	Ross Cornett	OTG Off the Grid
Medicine & Health Sciences		
1st	Eden Franz	Photostability of Chemical Sunscreen
2nd	Marlee Goodman	The Backwash Test
3rd	Will Dilawn	Pardon My Carbon
Mathematics		
1st	Weston Hill	Rolling Dice: The Probability Test

Science Fair Success Continued

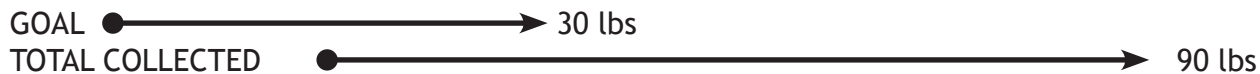
<i>Place</i>	<i>Student Name(s)</i>	<i>Project Title</i>
2nd Physics & Astronomy	Brandon Barnes & Ryan Kuenast	What are the Odds?
1st	Chris Painter & Sterling Doak	It's Going, Going.....Gone!
2nd	Caroline Frankenfeld	Speed Racers
3rd	Will Ladyman	It was a Dark and Stormy Night
Honorable Mention	Samuel Mitchell	How do the angles of shapes affect how much light they reflect?
Honorable Mention	Caleb Lang	Check it: Should Batters Follow Through?
Plant Sciences		
1st	Natalie Hayhurst	Underground Killers
2nd	Gabbie Dinglasan	The Effects of Magnets on Hydroponically Grown Plants
3rd	Delaney Raper	Thinking Green

IBMY Projects Exceed All Expectations



Thanks to all our dedicated students and supportive parents for the success of the four Community service projects held this winter. The projects were the Mobile Loaves and Fishes Halloween Candy Drive, Coats for Kids, Toys for Tots and Souper Bowl of Sharing. For each project, Mr. Newton, IBMY Director, set a goal and we exceeded. In some cases by over 200%!

Surplus Halloween Candy was put to great use when our Murchison students shared with our Homeless Austinites. Our generous kids donated 92 lbs of candy to be distributed by Mobile Loaves and Fishes to Austin's homeless people.



Our Annual Coats for Kids Drive set a goal of 50 coats and IB Students collected 94 Coats!

Murchison's support of the Toys for Tots campaign for the Holidays hoped to collect 75 toys. The toys kept coming in and the total collected was 247 Toys!

Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement started by young people. They believed they could use the energy around our nation's biggest sporting event to inspire Americans to make a difference. After 20 years, the movement has grown to include over 14,000 groups and has raised over \$50 million to help fight hunger and poverty in local communities.

Murchison's "Souper Bowl of Caring," benefiting the Capital Area Food Bank, ran through Feb. 12th. Our goal was 5600 cans and we achieved 2880. The top three contributors were Mr. Frantz's class with 1,010 cans, Ms. Brown and Lanzetta's class with 929 cans, and Ms. Carter's class with 335 cans. A special thanks goes to Beth Jordan for coordinating the event, including the task of pick up and delivery to the Capital Area Food Bank. We could not have been successful without her help. The poundage count for the cans totaled 1,677 pounds and the # of meals the food would serve was 1,340.

Thanks to all the parents, students, and teachers who contributed.

Congratulations to the 2010 - 2011 Murchison Matador Cheerleaders!

Mikah Berlingeri
Monika Brinkmann
Elizabeth Edmonson
Megan Goodman
Jessica Jankowsky
Deylon Kirschling
Audrey Menke
Megan Ng
Olivia Niemann
Elise Padilla
Megan Spinn
Courtney St. Pierre
Taylor Wood



Three Murchison cheerleaders are part of All-Star cheer programs in Central Texas. Mikah Berlingeri and Megan Spinn cheer at Austin Cheer Factory and Deylon Kirschling cheers at Cheer Athletics in Dallas, TX.

All three competed at NCA Nationals in Dallas, TX the weekend of February 20th & 21st and Mikah Berlingeri's squad is going to the Cheer-leading Worlds at Disney World in Orlando, Florida in late April.

Future cheerleaders be on the look out for information from the Anderson Trojan Cheerleaders about summer cheer camp for kids 7 - 15 years of age. Cheer camp will be held at Summit Elementary in late July!

Murchison Middle School 9th Annual Fine Arts Festival



Murchison is the leading AISD middle school in

- ✓ *Number of students in Fine Arts*
- ✓ *Number of teachers in Fine Arts*
- ✓ *Breadth of Fine Arts curriculum*

Friday, April 9 5:30 – 8:30
Band, Choir, Dance & Orchestra performances
Art Gallery & Theatre Entertainers
all in one evening!

Plant Sale from the MMS greenhouse and gardens
Food on sale from Mangia's 5:30 – 7:30

Presented by Dr. Stephan A. Ramsay, DDS, MS Orthodontics

Co-sponsors: Texas Orthopedics

*Alpha Music
Blackerby Violin Shop
Carr & Smith Dental
Huntington Learning Center
Sherwood Pediatric Dentist
Tarrytown Dance*

*Austin Strings
Buckman Orthodontics
Wesley Glazener Pediatrics
Jerry's Artarama
Straff Music Co*



Spring Calendar

March 5 - Student of the Month 8:30 a.m. - Library
March 9 - CAC Meeting - 3:45 - Room 111
March 15-19 Spring Break
March 23 - PTA Meeting - 8:30 a.m. - Cafeteria
March 29 - Dr. Pickhardt - 7:00 p.m. - Library
March 31 - IBMYP Advisory Meeting - 8:00 a.m. - Room 111

April 1 - Student of the Month - 8:30 a.m. - Library
April 2 - No School - Good Friday
April 9 - MMS Fine Arts Festival - 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
April 13 - CAC Meeting - 3:45 - Room 111
April 15 - Deadline for May Matador
April 20 - PTA Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Library
April 21 - Staff Appreciation Luncheon
April 28 - IBMYP Advisory Meeting

May 1 - May Matador Issued

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

Ida Longoria-Berlingeri · MATADOR NEWSLETTER EDITOR
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