

MurrENEWS – October 19, 2007
Murray City School District, Murray, UT
Educating Murray since 1906!

MurrE-QUOTE

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

– George Washington Carver

(from one of the new Teaching Tolerance posters displayed in the Murray School District Offices)

Recent MCS D Energy Savers of the Week:

MARCIA MEHER, Liberty Elementary night custodian

GINGER BRAKKE, Grant Elementary 4th grade teacher

PREVIOUS OUTSTANDING ENERGY SAVERS:

Darlene Evans, District Office

Kristi Hankins, District Office

Randi Homsobath, District Office

Debbie Otteson, District Office

Joel Kjar, District Technical Support Department

Colleen Nadauld, Viewmont Elementary computer aid

MurrE-TECHTIP – NEW WEBSITE FOR THE MURRAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Please take a little time to browse through the brand new district website officially launched this past week. It is designed in 6 main categories; Schools, Board of Education, District Office, Community Education, Parents & Teachers and Human Resources. Getting used to changes (technical or otherwise) sometimes requires some patience and practice, but it is our sincere hope that once you get used to the new locations of information and documents it will serve everyone in a more efficient manner with a broader scope of information and quicker updates on district events and policies.

<http://www.murrayschools.org/wworks/>

Some interesting information about the new Murray City School District website:

1. The old website was very simple and we knew exactly where to find things ... why did you change it?

There were several motivating factors for updating the website: one was to improve the Murray City School District online image; equally important was to be able to serve teachers, staff, students and the community in a more efficient manner with a broader scope of information and quicker updates on district events and policies. These goals naturally demanded a more complex website design and we went to a design group to help us with this goal.

2. How many pages in our new website?

The site is made of multiple 'widgets' or 'content spots' that make up an individual page. There are over 300 shtml/html files that make up the site; or approximately 250-plus pages.

3. How many hours of work went into making this new website?

Approximately 400 hours to complete the site for the web design group. This does not include district staff time spent writing, rewriting, editing and updating each individual page of information.

4. How many of your people worked on it?

The design company staff included 3; a developer, a designer and a project coordinator. District participation came from D. Wright, Joel Kjar, Brent Chase, Dr. Hirase and Supt. Tranter.

5. Anything else that would be interesting to know about our new site?

The web designers feel that the most impressive aspect of the site is the way it is built to handle multiple pieces of content on each page so content can be changed one time and propagate throughout multiple pages of the site. This not only allows for more rapid changes, but provides a mechanism to quickly keep the content fresh and drive traffic back to the site.

DISTRICT FLU SHOT CLINIC

The district will be offering an employee flu clinic November 20 from 3-5 p.m. in the district office boardroom. For employees who are enrolled in the district's health insurance plan through Select Health, there will not be a charge for the flu shot. Family members covered under the plan over the age of 18, are also eligible to participate in this flu shot clinic. (The flu shot will only be given to individuals over the age of 18 at this clinic.) Be sure to bring your insurance card with you. If you do not participate in the district's insurance plan, you may receive the flu shot for \$25. If you are interested in receiving a flu shot, contact Denise McDougal at the DO by November 10.

DISTRICT ACCOLADES

Cathy Hansen, Riverview JH counselor, was recently nominated for American School Counselor of the Year. Candidates are nominated throughout the United States and 10 finalists will be invited to Washington DC in January to participate in high-level discussions about trends in education and meet with members of Congress. Cathy is in the process of completing an extensive portfolio to send to the American School Counselor Association.

Carmen Fiori, Grant Elementary 4th grade teacher, was recognized as "teacher of the month" by the Murray Chamber of Commerce. Russ Klein, principal, introduced her at the luncheon and read comments from those that nominated her such as: "She is fabulous! ... She shows genuine concern for each student; no matter what their ability ... She wants every student to grow and reach his/her potential." Carmen works very hard to make learning fun and exciting for the kids and is always friendly and helpful to her colleagues with never a harsh word or complaint.

Chelsea Hofmann, a senior at Murray High School, was also spotlighted at the Chamber of Commerce meeting, as student intern of the month. A senior at MHS, Chelsea is taking a very rigorous academic schedule, involved in extra-curricular activities and interns at Viewmont Elementary School. She plans to major in elementary education at Utah State next fall.

DISTRICT MEDIA CENTER DYING TO SHARE DIES

Here is a list of the new dies at the DMC:

LARGE – barn, king, words, 100th, day, scroll, cactus #1, caldron or pot of gold, shell #2, nutcracker, grass patch, ice skate, pumpkin #2, butterfly #4, snowflake #4, tiny happy faces

EXTRA LARGE – box heart #29, heart (box), rainbow, snowflake #4, card with flower

DOUBLE CUTS – flag, lattice, hearts #2

ALSO RECEIVED - Mask Straps and Flexible Magnetic Sheets

For more info, contact Julia Wayman at the District Media Center (DMC)

SPOOKY MURRAY

Murray City Haunted Trail at Murray Park

October 22 & 23, 7 – 9 p.m.; ticket sales begin 6:45 p.m. at concession stand west of Pavilion #5
Admission is \$1.50 per person and includes trail walk, donut and hot chocolate. Come out to the Haunted Trail if you DARE; you'll surely see Ghosts, Zombies, and Goblins, so ... BEWARE!

EDUCATOR APPRECIATION MONTH IN OCTOBER AT B&N

Educator Appreciation Week is Oct. 13th-21st at the 5249 South State Street Barnes & Noble in Murray. Teachers are invited to take advantage of special offers and events throughout the month with special focus on an Educators' Reception which will be held on Wed., Oct. 24 from 6-8 p.m. Author Becky Hall (*A is for Arches* and *Morris and Buddy*) will be present and there will also be gift baskets, giveaways, drawings and extra discounts that night for educators attending. Contact Community Relations Director Karina Kerr at 261-4853 for more details.

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH GRADUATE PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

Info from Rob McDaniel at the Murray DO: The Department of Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of Utah offers several graduate programs of interest to licensed Utah educators interested in obtaining additional credentials. Applications will be accepted from licensed educators wishing to pursue a Masters Degree and an administrative license. Licensed educators who already have a Masters degree are invited to apply to obtain an administrative license. Details will be discussed at the information meeting. A new Masters program in Teacher Leadership is offered for those wanting to obtain a degree focused on school leadership with allied hours that accommodate an additional endorsement. Educators who complete the Masters in Teacher Leadership have the option to return to the department to complete requirements for administrative licensure. At the doctoral level applications are taken for Ed.D. and Ph.D. degrees. The Ed.D. program is designed for people in administrative positions, and the Ph.D. program is designed for those wishing to pursue research and teaching careers. More information can be found at <http://elp.ed.utah.edu/gradprograms.htm>

You are invited to attend an information session on advanced education degrees in Jordan School District, Wed., Oct. 24, 2007 at the Jordan School District Office Lab B, 9361 South 300 East, Sandy. Times are as follows:

4:00 p.m. Masters Programs

5:00 p.m. Doctoral Programs

STUDENT & EDUCATOR COMPETITIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

The Utah Department of Health is sponsoring the Truth from Youth Anti-tobacco

Advertising Contest to teach youth about the dangers of tobacco. The contest is open to Utah fourth- and fifth-grade students. This years theme is Walk the Red Carpet. To enter students will create their own TV, radio and billboard/print ads with anti-tobacco messages. The Best of Show winner will receive a celebrity-styled reward including recognition at a formal awards ceremony, a limousine ride for them and seven others, a prize of \$400 and a chance to produce their idea into a real ad. Contest deadline is March 7, 2008. For more info, visit www.youthagainstitobacco.com or call 1-877-220-3466.

The Utah Department of Health is sponsoring the Real Noise competition to help youth make the decision to stay tobacco free. The contest is open to middle and high school students. Real Noise is a group project where students and their friends create and execute an anti-tobacco activity. The winning school receives \$1,000 and an all-school concert. Competition deadline is March 28, 2008. For more information, visit www.warriorsagainstitobacco.com.

As part of the University of Utah's 2008 tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., teachers from across the Wasatch Front are invited to submit lesson plans or curriculum ideas that could be used other teachers Lesson themes should relate to this year's tribute theme "A Right Delayed is a Right Denied". Lessons and curriculum ideas will be part of the College's Open House for 2008 and will be on display and shared electronically with other educators as part of the 2008 MLK activities in January at the University of Utah. An introductory narrative should explain how lesson or curriculum plans align with the 2008 conference theme. Plans should be written in a way that allows other educators to implement the plan. Finally, the authors of the plans should be willing to correspond with other educators from across the Wasatch Front. Plans should be submitted to Mary D. Burbank no later than November 16, 2007. Certificates of Participation will be awarded during the January 2008 ceremonies. Also, as part of the University of Utah's 2008 Martin Luther King Jr. celebration, students from K-12 schools are invited to submit art work related to this year's Conference theme "A right delayed is a right denied" and "The time for urgency is now". K-12 students may share art work, music, photography, or dance photographs that align with the conference themes. Student work would be on display in Milton Bennion Hall the week of January 14, 2008. Poetry is also welcome. Submissions should be submitted to Mary D. Burbank no later than November 30, 2007. Certificates of Participation will be awarded to all

students participants during January 2008 ceremonies. For more information contact Mary D. Burbank at mary.burbank@ed.utah.edu

High School Essay Contest – *Creating a Green Neighborhood Plan*

Sponsored by the American Planning Association, this contest is part of National Community Planning Month and is primarily for high school juniors and seniors. The winner will receive a \$5000 scholarship. Deadline for submission is January 15, 2008. For more information, go to <http://www.planning.org/institutions/hsessay.htm>

DISTRICT CALENDAR REMINDERS:

10/19 – FIRST TERM ENDS (44 days)
10/19 & 10/20 – Girls Sophomore Volleyball Tourney @ West HS
10/22 – Professional Development Teacher Work Day – No School for Students
10/23 – Murray Girl's Volleyball @ Granger, Varsity 3:30 PM, JV 4:45 PM, Soph. 6 PM
10/25 – Murray Girl's Volleyball @ West, Varsity 3:30 PM, JV 4:45 PM, Soph. 6 PM
10/29 & 10/30 – UEA BREAK (Note: Monday and Tuesday this year) – NO SCHOOL
11/2 & 11/3 – Girl's State Volleyball Tournament
11/6 – Swim Team Region Relay Meet @ Murray; 3:30 PM
11/7 & 11/8 – Elementary Parent-Teacher SEP Conferences
11/8, 9, 10, 12 – "Cinderella" musical production, MHS, 7 PM; Students \$4, Adults \$5, At door \$6
11/9 – Elementary Teacher SEP Compensatory Day – No School Elementary Schools
11/13 – Swim Meet: MHS home vs Olympus; 3:30 PM
11/14 – Murray Council PTA Meeting, DO, 10 AM; Board Mtg. 9:30 AM
11/14 – Murray School District Board of Education Meeting, DO, 7 PM
11/14 – Grant Elementary Moms & Muffins Reading Activity; contact the school for more info.
11/17 – Swim Meet: MHS home vs Cedar City; 8:30 AM
11/20 – District Flu Shot Clinic (for MCSD employees) @ DO Boardroom, 3 to 5 PM
11/20 – Swim Meet: MHS home vs Brighton, Hunter, Lone Peak; 6 PM
11/21 to 11/23 – THANKSGIVING BREAK
11/27 – Swim Meet: MHS vs East, Judge, Orem @ Steiner; 3:30 PM
11/29 – MHS Choir Concert, 7 PM
12/4 – Swim Meet: MHS vs Highland @ Fairmont; 3:30 PM
12/5 – Murray School District Board of Education Meeting, DO, 7 PM
12/11 – Swim Meet: MHS home vs Granger; 3:30 PM
12/14 – Riverview JH Early Bird Readers Club in library 7:15-7:55 AM; light breakfast & prizes
12/18 – Swim Meet: MHS vs West @ Steiner; 3:30 PM
12/24/07 to 1/01/08 – WINTER BREAK
1/2/08 – School Resumes
1/3 – Swim Meet: MHS home vs Cottonwood; 3:30 PM
1/8 – Swim Meet: MHS home vs Cyprus; 2:30 PM
1/10 – (Wednesday) 2nd TERM ENDS (46 days)
1/11 – Professional Development/Teacher Work Day – No School for Students
1/15 – Swim Team Region JV Meet @ Murray; 2:30 PM
1/21 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – NO SCHOOL
1/22 – Swim Team Region Championships @ Murray; 9:30 AM
2/1 & 2/2 – Swim Team 4A State Championships @BYU; times TBA
2/8 – Riverview JH Early Bird Readers Club in library 7:15-7:55 AM; light breakfast & prizes
2/12 & 2/13 – JH Parent-Teacher SEOP Conferences
2/13 & 2/14 – MHS Parent-Teacher SEOP Conferences
2/15 – Secondary Teacher SEOP Compensatory Day – No School Secondary Schools
2/18 – Washington & Lincoln Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL
2/19 – Professional Development/Teacher Work Day – No School for Students
3/20 – (Thursday) 3rd TERM ENDS (46 days)
3/21 – Professional Development/Teacher Work Day – No School for Students

3/24 thru 3/28 – Spring Break Vacation – NO SCHOOL
4/8 & 4/10 Elementary Parent-Teacher SEP Conferences
4/11 – Elementary Teacher SEP Compensatory Day – No School Elementary Schools
4/11 – Riverview JH Early Bird Readers Club in library 7:15-7:55 AM; light breakfast & prizes
5/26 – Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL
5/30 – (Friday) 4th TERM ENDS (44 days)
5/30 – Last Day of School

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MURRAY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

For more information, contact Denise McDougal at the Murray School District offices, 264-7487;
dmcdougal@murrayschools.org

LICENSED OPENINGS:

Biology/Integrated Science – Hillcrest JH (one year/contract) *NEW
Specifications: Current Secondary Utah Educator License with endorsements in Biology and Integrated Science 8
Salary: 2007-08 Teacher Salary Schedule; full-time contract position for completion of 2007-08 school year only
Closing date: Until filled

Special Education Teacher – Riverview JH
Specifications: Special Education (K-12) License with Mild-Moderate Endorsement
Application Process: Submit licensed application to Wendy Bills, Supervisor, At-Risk Programs
Salary: 2007-08 Teacher Salary Schedule
Closing date: Until filled

CLASSIFIED OPENINGS:

Daytime Substitute Custodians – Murray High School
Responsibilities: Help with the operation, upkeep and cleaning of the assigned school building
Job Specifications: part-time on an as needed basis
Salary: \$10.78 per hour

Hall Supervisor – Hillcrest Junior High
Responsibilities: Supervise the hallways all day long as well as during lunch periods; loading and unloading of buses, assisting students with locker problems, checking students for hall passes and escorting visitors to the office
Specifications: 35 hrs per week; retirement benefits included
Rate: \$8.35 (entry) to \$9.56 (mid-level)
Closing Date: Until filled

Outreach Mentor – Murray High School; Coordinates with school administrators, counselors, and social workers to determine who could benefit from additional support to the student's parent (s) to promote academic success at school.
Job Specifications: Experience in an educational system, knowledge of strength-based assessments, familiar with community resources and ability to effectively functions as a team member by coordinating support to students and families.
Hours: Up to 10 hours per week
Salary: Teaching Assistant III / Pay Grade 7; \$10.78 to \$12.34
Closing Date: Until filled

The Murray School District MurrENEWS electronic newsletter is a Murray School District publication designed to share news and information. Please forward this email to anyone you think may be interested. To submit an item for MurrENEWS or to have parents, community members or other names added to the mailing list, contact D. Wright, Public Relations Specialist at the Murray City School District Offices, 801-264-7400, or email dwright@murrayschools.org.