

MurrENEWS – October 25, 2007
Murray City School District, Murray, UT
Educating Murray since 1906!

MurrE-QUOTE

We are all unique, but we are never alone. I can see things you cannot see, and you can see things I cannot. We must try to see what is there together.

– Michael Holquist

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

MurrE-TECHTIP:

NEW DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR

The Murray Board of Education has appointed John Nielson to the newly created position of Murray District Technology Administrator. John was previously employed by the Utah Telehealth Network in Salt Lake as a Network Engineer; prior to that he was with the Uintah County School District in Vernal for 9 years as Coordinator of Educational Technology/Security. He has teaching experience in 8th – 12th grade computer classes and has also worked in the law enforcement field. John holds a BS in Business Education from Oklahoma State University and is a graduate of Carbon High School in Price, Utah. Married for 23 years, John and his wife have 4 children. We welcome John and his expertise to the Murray City School District!

NEW HEAD CUSTODIAN AT MHS

Lee Leafy, currently head custodian at Brockbank JH in Magna has been named to the position of Head Custodian at Murray High School. He comes to the district with significant experience in all grade levels of school building maintenance and also in the training of custodial staff. He will begin work here on Nov. 16 when his responsibilities will include overseeing building and grounds care at MHS, as well as serving as the principal custodial trainer for all Murray Schools custodial staff. Lee will be a welcome addition to MHS and the district custodial staff.

NEW MUSIC PROGRAM UNDERWAY IN MURRAY ELEMENTARIES

The Murray City School District is bringing a new elementary music program to all students this year through collaboration with a Murray City Cultural Arts ZAP grant and the Murray Board of Education. All schools now have an assigned music instructor teaching a weekly music lesson in each K-6 classroom. The instructors are implementing the Utah State Core Curriculum in music, focusing on "singing, playing, creating and listening". They also meet monthly with district Teacher Leader Beth Bruce of Parkside Elementary for monthly training and professional development. The response from the students and classroom teachers has been very positive. The students look forward to learning new songs which will often integrate into other grade level curriculum areas such as social studies and literature.

Elementary School Music Teachers:

Grant – Luann Charles

Horizon – Stephen Voorhees

Liberty – Brenda Canevari

Viewmont – Heidi Bates, Mindy-Anne Davis

Longview – Heather Butterfield

McMillan – Gwendolynn Gentry

Parkside – Claudia Downs

MHS STUDENT ON MONTEL WILLIAMS SHOW

Zach Loulias, 10th grader at MHS was a featured guest on the Oct. 22, 2007 Montel Williams Show. The show featured a special on teens, with Zach in the segment titled "What Teens Are Doing Right." Zach volunteers with the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, where he teaches other volunteers how to "act" like teenagers and how to play on-line games. The show staff contacted Zach's family and flew them to New York drove them around in limos before the taping. They had a wonderful, memorable time. Kristin Loulias, Zach's mother, is a 6th grade teacher at Viewmont Elementary. Way to go, Zach!

RENAISSANCE WEEK AT MHS

Renaissance Week is being held at MHS from November 5 – 9. A candy handout will take place on Monday when Renaissance Student Club members will go into the classrooms to explain about the Renaissance Association incentive program. Handouts for the first term will be at Wednesday at 1:50 pm, and then again on Wed., Nov. 14.

SKATE WITH THE "GRIZZ"

Tuesday, November 6th, 7 – 9 pm, FREE Family Night
Salt Lake County Ice Center (5201 S. Murray Park Lane)

Come join Grizzbee and some Utah Grizzlies players at the Salt Lake County Ice Center and skate the night away with fun for the entire family! A drawing will be held for autographed Grizzlies memorabilia, so don't miss out.

DISTRICT FLU SHOT CLINIC

The district is offering an employee flu clinic November 20 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the district office boardroom. For employees 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.

UEA CONVENTION SPEAKER – *Deseret News* article

<http://deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,695221315,00.html>

Freedom Writers teacher to speak at convention

The teacher who inspired the film "Freedom Writers" will address the Utah Education Association's annual convention Tuesday. Erin Gruwell was a fresh college graduate when she took a job at Wilson High School in Long Beach, Calif. There, she turned students written off by the education system as "unteachable" into critical thinkers with an eye on college studies, the UEA reports. She and her students captured their journey in "The Freedom Writers Diary - How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them." Gruwell is now president of the Erin Gruwell Education Project, which promotes inclusion and extends scholarships to children in need, the UEA reports.

UTAH QUARTER COIN TO PREMIER NOVEMBER 9, 2007

Attention Numismatists! (And other unidentified coin collectors.)

Check out the newspaper stories and see the Utah design:

Deseret News – <http://deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,695219074,00.html>

Salt Lake Tribune – http://www.sltrib.com/ci_7190589

TEEN CERT TRAINING PROGRAM – *from Sheri Van Bibber, Murray Boy's and Girls Club*

This training program prepares youth to help themselves, their families, and their schools in the event of a disaster. During an incident, emergency service personnel may not be able to reach everyone right away. By being trained in Teen CERT, youth will have the skills to help save lives, and protect property. As a member of a Teen CERT team, they may respond to disasters, participate in drills and exercises, and take additional training. Training is open to Police, School Resource Officers, fire, emergency management, teachers, and/or secondary educator background personnel. Upon completion of the course, participants are expected to return to their communities' high schools and initiate CERT training for high school students. The Utah Commission on Volunteers is hosting a no-cost, 3-day train-the-trainer workshop, Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2007 at the Utah Fire and Rescue Academy in Provo. The training will be provided by Eastern Michigan University through a grant to deliver the Teen CERT program as a national model for all high schools. For more information see www.teencert.org; register at www.regonline.com/UTC

UTAH CULTURAL CELEBRATION CENTER INFORMATION

The second annual Utah Folk Arts Month takes place this November at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center, 1355 W 3100 S, WVC. Everyone is invited to events that recognizing those who practice traditions in our community; to learn about traditional music and dance; to learn from and about craft demonstrations by living Utah artists, and to appreciate local ethnic foods. For more information about these and other events or exhibits at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center, call Michael Christensen at 965-5108:
Nov. 2 – Day of the Dead Fiesta, 6 – 9 p.m.
Nov. 3 – Utah Folk Arts Celebration, 2 – 9 p.m.

AAA ESSAY CONTEST (*from 10/22/07 Deseret News article*)

AAA of Utah is sponsoring an essay contest with a \$1,000 top prize for Utah students, ages 15 to 17, who write about responsible driving and what their responsibilities are as a driver and a passenger in a vehicle. Essays are due Nov. 9, and the winner will be announced in mid-December. Students should use research and examples of teen crashes from news reports when crafting their essays. To obtain an entry form for the contest, call 801-238-1265.

HALLOWEEN FUN

"Halloween on the mind" *from Salt Lake Tribune commentary by columnist Paul Rolly*
Kim Headrick was taken aback recently when her 8-year-old son Dax asked where witches stand. When pressing him about the question, he said he became curious about it while learning the Pledge of Allegiance in school. Then he recited it to his mother: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic where witches stand . . ."

**and also just in time for Halloween...*

STUDY RATES TEACHERS WHO GIVE CHOCOLATE AS BETTER THAN OTHERS

*October 15, 2007 article by Dave Newbart, Chicago Sun Times newspaper
Students swayed by candy*

Bad teachers might want to invest in some chocolate candy.

A new study suggests that giving students chocolate can influence teacher evaluations. The study -- by two former grad students at the University of Illinois at Chicago -- found that students offered chocolate before filling out evaluations rated a professor higher than those who didn't get the treat. The professors earned an average score of 4.1 on a scale of 1 to 5 by those who got the chocolate -- but only 3.85 by those who didn't get any sweets. The gap could be big enough to affect a tenure decision, said study co-author Robert Youmans, now an assistant professor at Cal State Northridge. The study is due out soon in the journal *Teaching of Psychology*. Together with fellow student Benjamin Jee -- now a researcher at Northwestern -- Youmans studied nearly 100 students in three UIC psychology courses. Each class had a lecture period with a professor and two lab sections taught by a teaching assistant. Students in one section

were given only the evaluation; the other section also was offered mini Hershey's chocolate bars. Those professors were rated higher on most questions. The chocolate appears to be the only reason, Youmans said. The T.A. was the same for both sections of each course. Jee said he has already put the results to use. The second time he taught a course at UIC, he passed out candy -- and got better evaluations. "I'd like to chalk it up to my improvement in teaching, but it could be the chocolate effect," he said.

MurrE-WEBTIPS

<http://pioneer.uen.org>

The K-12 Pioneer web site has recently been revised and contains many great references and excellent information. Mitchell Jorgensen, Foundations of Technology Teacher at Riverview JH is the district Pioneer Advocate contact. For more info, email mjorgensen@murrayschools.org or call 264-7446 ext 5542

www.NowUtah.com/Education

Utah's teachers and educators have long counted on the Newspapers In Education program to supplement their curriculum. This school year, *The Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret Morning News* have joined forces to offer a new web-based resource that makes it easy for teachers, students and administrators to access and use the newspaper. At the new site, you can read daily e-Editions of *The Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret Morning News* along with searchable archives of previous editions—all at no cost to educators.

<http://www.qwest.com/motivate>

A new Spanish website is the central point of the program from Qwest Communications Inc. It is designed to emphasize the information and opportunities available through Qwest to fortify the Hispanic community focuses through a new education program called "Motivate Educate Elevate". The site provides resources for parents, teachers and the Hispanic community to obtain data on the security programs and technology available through the Qwest Foundation.

MCSO ENERGY SAVERS OF THE WEEK:

Trent Asay, Riverview JH head custodian

James Lobato, Riverview JH night custodian

PREVIOUS OUTSTANDING ENERGY SAVERS:

Marcia Meher, Liberty Elementary night custodian

Ginger Brakke, Grant Elementary 4th grade teacher

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

DISTRICT CALENDAR REMINDERS:

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

11/6 – Skate with the Grizz, FREE @ SL County Ice Center (5201 S. Murray Park Lane), 7-9 PM

11/7 – MHS Renaissance Handouts for the 1st Term @ 1:50 p.m.

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

11/13 – Rehab Night for students & parents, Vocational Rehab Office, 6pm; call 446-2581 for info

11/14 – Murray Council PTA Meeting, DO, 10 AM; Board Mtg. 9:30 AM

11/14 – MHS Renaissance Handouts for the 1st Term @ 1:50 p.m.

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.
 11/15 – Viewmont Elementary Kindergarten Family Literacy Night, Media Center, 6:30 -7:45 p.m.
 11/17 – Swim Meet: MHS home vs Cedar City; 8:30 AM
 11/18 – National Family Week; families are urged to eat dinner together in and participate in
 “Family Table Talk”
 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:

Special Education Teacher – Longview Elementary *NEW
 Minimum Requirements: Current Utah Special Education (K-12) Teaching License with Mild-
 Moderate Endorsement
 Job Specifications: Full time contract position @ Longview Elementary
 Salary Range: 2007-2008 Teacher Salary Schedule
 Closing Date: Until filled

Biology/Integrated Science – Hillcrest JH (one year contract)

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 function 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.