

MurrENEWS – December 7, 2007
Murray City School District, Murray, UT
Educating Murray since 1906!

MurrE-QUOTE: *From a September 21, 1897 editorial in the New York Sun newspaper*

Dear Editor,

I am 8 years old.

Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so."

Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

– Virginia O'Hanlon, 115 West Ninety-Fifth Street

... Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.
– Francis Pharcellus Church excerpt (see the piece in it's entirety at the end of this publication*)

MURRAY SCHOOLS CENTENNIAL HISTORY PUBLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

In honor of the 2006 Centennial observation of 100 years of educational service to the Murray community, the Murray Board of Education commissioned a book to be written on the history of the school district. Hired to research and write the project was architectural historian and preservation consultant Korral Broschinsky. Ms. Broschinsky graduated with a Master's degree from the University of Utah and is herself a graduate of Murray High School. "The Centennial History of the Murray City School District" is a 110 page publication comprised of dozens of pictures, maps, references and a colorful narrative history of the Murray City School District. It is published in a soft cover 8 ½ by 11-inch format; designed to fit on bookshelves for easy reference. Many of the photographs in the book have never been published before and stories have been taken from a myriad of sources, including oral histories and school archives. "The Centennial History of the Murray City School District" is available for purchase at the Murray City School District Offices for \$15.00 per copy and is a great Christmas gift idea!

ROB WILSON RECOGNIZED

Murray High School music instructor Rob Wilson was awarded a plaque from the Utah Music Educators Association in recognition of Distinguished Service to the organization from 2005 – 2007 when he served as vice president of the Association. He has been a member for 15 years, since he began teaching. His assignments included responsibility for the All State Jazz event and he has also written for the UME Quarterly Journal. MHS Principal Scott Bushnell presented the beautiful plaque to Mr. Wilson in front of a band class.

MHS PLAYER NAMED IN DNEWS ALL-STATE FOOTBALL ARTICLE

From the December 4, 2007 issue of the Deseret Morning News All-State Football Honorable

Mention listings:

CLASS 4A – Zach Brackus, Murray High senior.

HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES & EVENTS IN THE DISTRICT

12/7 (Fri) – MHS Dance Concert, MHS Auditorium, 7 PM

12/12 (Wed) – MHS Band Concert, MHS Auditorium, 7 PM

12/13 (Thurs) – Horizon Elementary Bell Choir performance, 9:30 AM at school

12/13 (Thurs) – McMillan Elementary 1st Grade Nutcracker Performance, 6:30 PM

12/13 (Thurs) – Hillcrest JH Choir Concert, 6:30 & 9:30PM

12/15 (Sat) – Murray Community Education Dance Christmas Shows; MHS Auditorium; 12:30, 2, 4 & 5:30 PM

12/17 (Mon) – Horizon Elementary Vocal Choir performance, 9:30 AM at school; 2:30 PM at Gardner Village

12/18 (Tues) – MHS Choir Concert, MHS Auditorium, 7PM

12/19 (Wed) – Renaissance MHS Faculty Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, 2 PM at school

12/19 – Riverview JH Concerts: 7th grade Girls Choir & Rebel Men, 7 PM

12/20 – Riverview JH Concerts: 8th grade Girls Choir & Concert Choir, 7 PM

REMINDER: HOLIDAY RECEPTIONS CONTINUE FOR DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

Murray District administrators will be serving a light holiday luncheon to faculty and staff at the following locations and times:

12/10 (Mon.) – Murray HS 10:55-11:25 AM

12/10 (Mon.) – Viewmont Elementary 3-4 PM

12/11 (Tues.) – Parkside Elementary 12-1 PM

12/12 (Wed.) – McMillan Elementary 11:34 AM-1 PM

12/14 (Fri.) – Horizon Elementary 12 noon-1 PM

12/17 (Mon.) – ECEC 11:40 AM-12:10 PM

12/18 (Tues.) – Liberty Elementary, 3:10-4 PM

12/18 (Tues.) – Riverview JH 12-1 PM

12/19 (Wed.) – Longview Elementary 11:30 AM-12:45 PM

12/19 (Wed.) – Bus & Maintenance 3-4 PM

RIVERVIEW TERRIFIC KIDS

The "Terrific Kids Program" at Riverview Junior High is sponsored by the school, the PTSA and the Murray Kiwanis Club. Students are chosen by their teachers for demonstrating outstanding qualities as students. December/January honorees are:

David Kramer – is respectful and kind to everyone

Liana McGinty – comes to class prepared and ready to learn

Andrews Nadauld – sets a good example for others

SCHOOL INTERPRETERS NEEDED

Murray City School District is looking for members of our community who could serve as interpreters in our schools. Occasionally, school personnel and non-English speaking parents need to share information. If you, or someone you know, is willing to help out as a volunteer resource in the schools interpreting, please contact Roy Nichols, Alternative Languages Services, Horizon Elementary 264-7420; email rnichols@murrayschools.org

ADHD FAMILY TRAINING AVAILABLE THROUGH DISTRICT

Dates and Times – A winter class series will be held on 7 consecutive Tues., beginning Jan. 15, 2008 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The first class will start 15 minutes early.

Location – Viewmont Elementary School, Media Center, 745 W. 5720 S. (Anderson Ave.), Murray

Cost – \$60 per couple (\$50 for CHADD members) for the entire series to cover materials; limited scholarships are available for financial need; call Linda Smith 801-292-2816.

To register – Pre-registration is required; call Marcia Bailey, 557-7429. For classes taught in Spanish, call Julie Moreno, 272- 1051 or 867-2375

UTAH CREDIT UNION EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT POTENTIAL

Just a reminder that in this quarter alone, the 100% For Kids Credit Union Education Foundation will award more than \$118,578 to Utah schools. If you haven't checked into this resource (which is so supportive of teachers and education) be sure to go to www.100percentkids.org

REMINDER OF CLASSROOM MATERIALS ASSISTANCE OPTION

More than 32,500 teachers from cash-strapped districts nationwide have applied for funding for classroom projects through www.DonorsChoose.org. In Michigan, 111 teachers have applied for help, and 24 teachers in that state have had their proposals fulfilled. The nonprofit Web site connects donors to teachers who have picked out supplies that their students need.

MurrE-TECHTIP – From Murray Schools Helpdesk Glossary

Re-image or re-imaging: "Your computer needs a re-image." or "I'm currently re-imaging your computer." This means your computer needs a complete makeover. Reimaging is the process we

use to wipe everything off your computer and redo everything from scratch. After a computer is re-imaged, it is just like new – no viruses, no spyware, no problems.

MurrE-WEBTIP

Cultural Celebration Center, 1355 West 3100 South, West Valley City, UT 84119

The Utah Cultural Celebration Center is dedicated to enriching and strengthening communities by promoting the expression of the arts, education, opportunities for economic development and the celebration of human diversity. There are several holiday performances and events listed on the Center's calendar, and most of them are free. Check their website, or phone 801-965-5100.

<http://www.wvc-ut.gov/index.asp?nid=241>

DISTRICT CALENDAR REMINDERS:

12/7 PTA Reflections Projects Submission Deadline, contact your school PTA for more info

12/7 MHS Debate Meet @ Woods Cross, 2:30 PM

12/7 MHS Dance Concert, MHS Auditorium, 7 PM

12/7 Pre-season MHS Basketball @ home vs. Mt. View, 7 PM

12/7 & 8 MHS Wrestling @ Olympus

12/10 Holiday Staff Reception, Murray HS 10:55-11:25 AM

12/10 Holiday Staff Reception, Viewmont Elementary 3-4 PM

12/11 Holiday Staff Reception, Parkside Elementary 12-1 PM

12/11 Swim Meet: MHS home vs Granger; 3:00 PM

12/11 MHS Wrestling @ Hunter, 6 PM

12/12 Holiday Staff Reception, McMillan Elementary 11:34 AM-1 PM

12/12 MHS Band Concert, MHS Auditorium, 7 PM

12/13 Horizon Elementary Bell Choir performance, 9:30 AM at school

12/13 MHS Girls Basketball @ Mt. View, 5 PM

12/13 MHS Wrestling @ home vs Highland, 6 PM

12/13 McMillan Elementary 1st Grade Nutcracker Performance, 6:30 PM

12/13 Hillcrest JH Choir Concert, 6:30 & 9:30 PM

12/14 Riverview JH Early Bird Readers Club in library 7:15-7:55 AM; light breakfast & prizes

12/14 Holiday Staff Reception, Horizon Elementary 12 noon-1 PM

12/14 Pre-season MHS Basketball @ home vs Riverton, 7 PM

12/15 Murray Community Ed Dance Christmas Shows; MHS Auditorium, 12:30, 2, 4 & 5:30 PM

12/17 Horizon Elem. Vocal Choir performance, 9:30 AM at school; 2:30 PM at Gardner Village

12/17 Holiday Staff Reception, ECEC 11:40 AM-12:10 PM

12/18 Holiday Staff Reception, Riverview JH 12-1 PM

12.18 Holiday Staff Reception, Liberty Elementary, 3:10-4 PM

12/18 Swim Meet: MHS vs West @ Steiner; 3:30 PM

12/18 MHS Wrestling @ Alta, 6 PM

12/18 Pre-season MHS Basketball @ home vs Juan Diego, 7 PM

12/18 MHS Choir Concert, MHS Auditorium, 7 PM

12/19 Holiday Staff Reception, Longview Elementary 11:30 AM-12:45 PM

12/19 Renaissance MHS Faculty Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, 2 PM at school

12/19 Holiday Staff Reception, Bus & Maintenance 3-4 PM

12/19 Riverview JH Concerts: 7th grade Girls Choir & Rebel Men, 7 PM

12/20 MHS Wrestling @ East, 6 PM

12/20 Riverview JH Concerts: 8th grade Girls Choir; Concert Choir 7 PM 12/21 Pre-season MHS

Basketball @ home vs. Riverton, 7 PM

12/24/07 to 1/01/08 – WINTER BREAK

1/1 New Year's Day

1/2/08 School Resumes

1/2 MHS Basketball @ home vs Olympus, 7 PM

1/3 Swim Meet: MHS home vs Cottonwood; 3:30 PM

1/4 MHS Basketball @ West, 7 PM

1/8 Swim Meet: MHS home vs Cyprus; 2:30 PM

1/8 MHS Guitar Recital, MHS, 7 PM
 1/8 MHS Basketball @ Highland, 7 PM
 1/9 Murray Council PTA Meeting, DO, 10 AM; Board Mtg. 9:30 AM
 1/9 MHS Financial Aid Information Night, 7 PM
 1/10 (Wednesday) 2nd TERM ENDS (46 days)
 1/10 MHS Wrestling @ Olympus, 6 PM
 1/10 thru 12 Melodrama, MHS Little Theatre, 7 PM
 1/11 Pinnacle Awards Nomination Deadline, for more info check with school administrators
 1/11 Professional Development/Teacher Work Day – No School for Students
 1/11 MHS Basketball @ home vs East, 7 PM
 1/11 & 12 MHS Wrestling @ Box Elder
 1/15 Swim Team Region JV Meet @ Murray; 2:30 PM
 1/15 MHS Basketball @ Granger, 7 PM
 1/17 MHS Wrestling @ home vs West, 6 PM
 1/18 MHS Basketball @ home vs Cyprus, 7 PM
 1/18 & 19 Rocky Mountain Wrestling Rumble @ UVSC
 1/18 thru 2/1 Murray Schools Multi-cultural Awareness Week
 1/19 MHS Senior Ball @ Rice Eccles, 8 to 11 PM
 1/21 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – NO SCHOOL
 1/21 2008 Utah Legislative Session begins
 1/21 MHS Choir Concert, MHS Auditorium, 7 PM
 1/22 Swim Team Region Championships @ Murray; 9:30 AM
 1/22 MHS Wrestling @ home vs Mt View, 6 PM
 1/22 MHS Basketball @ Cottonwood, 7 PM
 1/24 Reflections Awards Night, Hillcrest JH
 1/24 MHS Wrestling @ home vs Cottonwood, 6 PM
 1/25 MHS Basketball @ Olympus, 7 PM
 1/25 MHS Debate @ Taylorsville, 3 PM
 1/26 MHS Debate @ Taylorsville, 7 AM
 1/29 MHS Girls Basketball @ home vs Cottonwood, 5 PM
 1/31 MHS Wrestling @ home vs Granger, 6 PM
 2/1 & 2/2 Swim Team 4A State Championships @BYU; times TBA
 2/5 Western States Presidential Primary
 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
 2/20 PTA Day at the Utah State Legislature
 3/6 MEF 5th Annual Pinnacle Awards Banquet, MHS
 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)
5/30/08 Last Day of School for the 2007-08 School Term

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 – Murray High School
Minimum Requirements: Current Utah Special Education (K-12) Educator License with mild-moderate endorsement
Salary Range: 2007-08 Teacher Salary Schedule
Closing Date: Until filled

Classified Openings:

Teaching Assistant II; ISS (In School Suspension) – Longview Elementary
Job Specifications: 14.5 hours per week
Salary Range: Teaching Assistant II, \$9.24 (entry) to \$10.58 (mid-level)
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.

*** VIRGINIA – THE STORY OF A FUTURE TEACHER**

Dear Editor,
I am 8 years old.
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so."
Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?
– Virginia O'Hanlon, 115 West Ninety-Fifth Street

New York Sun Editor Francis Pharcellus Church replied in a September 21, 1897 editorial:

"Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! ... He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia,

nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.”

Literary History:

In 1897, Dr. Philip O’Hanlon, a coroner’s assistant in Manhattan, was asked by his then eight-year-old daughter, Virginia (1889-1971), whether Santa Claus really existed. Virginia had begun to doubt whether there was a Santa Claus, because her friends had told her that he did not exist. Dr. O’Hanlon told her to write to the *New York Sun*, a prominent newspaper at the time, assuring her the paper would tell her the truth. While he may have been passing the buck, he unwittingly gave one of the paper’s editors, Francis Pharcellus Church, an opportunity to rise above the simple question, and address the philosophical issues behind it.

Francis Pharcellus Church was a war correspondent during the American Civil War, a time which saw great suffering and a corresponding lack of hope and faith in much of society. Although the paper ran the editorial in the seventh place on the editorial page, below even an editorial on the newly invented “chainless bicycle,” its message was very moving to many people who read it. More than a century later it remains the most reprinted editorial ever to run in any newspaper in the English language.

Virginia O’Hanlon’s real name is Laura Virginia O’Hanlon Douglas. She was born on July 20, 1889 in Manhattan, New York. She was married to Edward Douglas and was listed as divorced in the 1930 United States Census. Her marriage to Douglas was brief and ended with him deserting her shortly before their child, Laura, was born. Virginia received her Bachelor of Arts from Hunter College in 1910; a Master’s degree in Education from Columbia in 1912, and a doctorate from Fordham. **Virginia was a school teacher in the New York City School system. She started her career as an educator in 1912, became a junior principal in 1935, and retired in 1959.** Virginia died on May 13, 1971 and is buried in Chatham, New York.

Virginia O’Hanlon received a steady stream of mail about her letter throughout her life. She would include a copy of the editorial in her replies. In an interview later in life, she credited the editorial with shaping the direction of her life quite positively. Every year, Virginia’s letter and Church’s response are read at a ceremony at Church’s alma mater, Columbia College of Columbia University. The History Channel, on February 21, 2001, noted that Virginia gave the original letter to a grand daughter, who pasted it in a scrapbook. It was feared that the letter was destroyed in a house fire, but thirty years after the fire, it was discovered intact. The original copy of the letter appeared and was authenticated by an appraiser on the *Antiques Road Show* in 1998. Its value was appraised at approximately \$50,000.