

MurrENEWS – March 20, 2008
Murray City School District, Murray, UT
Educating Murray since 1906!

MurrE-QUOTE

“There’s no word in the language I revere more than ‘teacher.’ My heart sings when a kid refers to me as his teacher, and it always has. I’ve honored myself and the entire family of man by becoming a teacher.”

– Pat Conroy, author *Prince of Tides*

DISTRICT SPRING BREAK SCHEDULE

Monday, March 24th through Friday, March 28th are the dates for the Murray City School District Spring Break. Students and teachers will be on vacation with schools closed on these days. Murray School District Offices will be open from Mon., March 24th through Wed., March 26th during regular hours of 7:30 AM. to 4:30 PM, and then closed Thurs. & Fri., March 27 & 28.

Spring Break Electronics Shut Down: Please take a look at the checklist emailed to you by Rock Boyer, District Energy Education Manager, and notice that it does include unplugging a lot of office equipment. Also be aware that it is required to unplug any personal refrigerators. Thanks for your cooperation ... and Have a Great Spring Break!

TEACHER REQUEST INFORMATION: *From Robert McDaniel, Director, HR & Student Services*

We are beginning the process of assigning elementary school students to classes for the next school year. We believe that making the best possible match of students and teachers is very important to ensuring that every student has a successful school experience. A great amount of time and thought goes into each class placement. In creating well-balanced classes, many factors are considered. These include: general ability levels, behavior and social skills, gender, special needs, and class size at each grade level.

For parents to request specific elementary school class placement for their child, they must get a student placement form from their school principal. Requests will be accepted in the school office between April 1st and April 27th. Although we greatly value parental input, we need to be clear that requests may or may not be granted. The school principal will consider all valid, relevant information. Requests made on the basis of community reputation, hearsay evidence, personal preference, or similar reasons are likely to be denied. By working together to create well-balanced classes we hope to make 2008-2009 a great school year for all Murray School District students.

ROBERT MCDANIEL HONORED

Rob McDaniel was honored at a March Utah Middle Level luncheon as a “Friend of Middle Level Education.” His award was “in recognition of your significant contribution to middle level education in Utah.” Rob often speaks in school staff meetings across the Wasatch Front on behalf of mid-level reform and other middle school issues. Congratulations Rob!

PINNACLE GALA

The 5th Annual Pinnacle Awards Gala was held March 6th in the MHS Commons; host for the event was KSL Radio’s Doug Wright. The MHS String Quartet performed lovely music at the beginning and the MHS Madrigals later sang two beautiful numbers. The food and decorations were outstanding and a Feature Films for Families produced DVD presentation featuring this year’s Pinnacle winners was screened. Honored were: Debbie Baldrige/Volunteer, Theresea Daniel/Viewmont, Dale Johnson/Longview, Janie Moysh/Classified Riverview, Mark Pope/Hillcrest, Colleen Smith/Grant and Lillian Tsosie-Jensen/MHS.

PRESCHOOL READING NIGHT FOR MURRAY DISTRICT KIDS

Murray City School District elementary schools will be holding pre-school reading nights for 3, 4 and 5 year olds and their parents or guardians. Please share this information with neighbors and friends who have preschoolers. Registration forms are available at your school's office. Fun activities centered on the book *If You Give a Pig a Pancake* by Laura Numeroff will begin at 6:30 PM on the following dates:

April 17 – Viewmont Elementary

April 22 – Parkside Elementary

April 23 – Grant Elementary

April 24 – Longview, McMillan, and Horizon elementary schools

April 29 – Liberty Elementary

PAYING FOR LUNCH GETTING EASIER IN MURRAY SCHOOLS

Beginning April 1, 2008 PaySchools will be implemented in all Murray City School District schools. PaySchools is a secure online payment processing system that facilitates sending payments by electronic check or credit card. Visit the district web site, www.murrayschools.org and click on the PaySchools icon for details. If you have questions about PaySchools, contact district Nutrition Services Supervisor Jodi Vlam 264-7440 or Julie Lawrence 264-7441.

RIVERVIEW TERRIFIC KIDS FOR THIS MONTH

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. March 2008 honorees are:

Holly Bethers – considerate about other peoples feelings

Jullian Campbell – willingly lends a hand

Riley Buckner – puts extra effort in her work

Kaitlyn Sutherland – is respectful and kind

Austin Clark – is positive and helpful

Erin Spencer – is attentive and hard working

AMERICAN IDOL WATCH: MHS STUDENT DAVID ARCHULETA

A Special Screening of American Idol was hosted by the MHS PTA and student body officers at the school on March 18th. Faculty members served as judges during the commercials in the manner of Randy (Lynn Westburg), Paula (Laura DeShazo) and Simon (Mark Durfey); Isacc Harbeh channeled Ryan Seacrest as clever host of the group. State Representative Tim Cosgrove presented David's mother, Lupe Archuleta, with a Citation from the State Legislature proclaiming David as Utah's American Idol and commending him for being a great role model. Principal Bushnell emceed the evening and the MHS Cheerleaders and Jazz Band performed during the breaks. The school media crew did a great job with lighting and tech demands. An impressive "We heart/love David" sign was lit up and on display in the Commons area, along with many other great signs and enthusiastic fans. Students behaved exceptionally well, the "house" was packed and everyone had a great time!

On **Entertainment Tonight** – David Archuleta's Pep Rally at the MHS Special Screening Event:
<http://www.etonline.com/index.html?tag=david-archuleta>

See video of the evening on the **KSTU Fox 13 David Archuleta Tracker**.

Featured are interviews with students, David's mother, Lupe Archuleta and his brother Daniel Archuleta, an 8th grader at Hillcrest JH.

<http://media.myfoxutah.com/archuleta/tracker/index.html>

Sunday, March 16 **Deseret News** article, featuring interview with David's grandfather:
<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,695262015,00.html>

MURRAY COMMUNITY EDUCATION SPRING SCHEDULE

Community Education classes begin again soon. Be sure to check out the options for this term! See the Murray Journal or the Murray City School District website for a complete schedule:
http://www.murrayschools.org/wworks/pdf/parentsandstudents/mce0308_spring.pdf

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR MURRAY SCHOOLS

Utah Public Radio and KRCL are partnering to sponsor "Replay," a campaign to collect usable used musical instruments for Utah public schoolchildren throughout the state. School district offices statewide serve as collection points for the instruments. Instruments collected in each district will be designated for use in that district. However, if a district receives 10 tubas (for example), and has need of only one, the Utah Music Educators Association will help place instruments in districts where they are needed. For more information, contact Carolyn Schubach at the Murray District Offices, 264-7400, cschubach@murrayschools.org; or visit www.upr.org.
Related 8/17 story in the Salt Lake Tribune: http://www.sltrib.com/education/ci_8599893

HUNTSMAN AWARDS NOMINATION

Nomination forms for the 16th annual Huntsman Awards for Excellence in Education are now available at www.huntsman.com/haee. The 2008 awards will go to six teachers, three administrators and a volunteer. Each comes with a \$10,000 check and a crystal obelisk statuette. The nomination deadline is April 2 at 5 PM. Murray City School District was proud to have 2nd grade teacher Pam Aoyagi from Longview Elementary receive the award last year.

ART COMPETITION

KUED Channel 7 invites all Kindergarten – third grade students to participate in the 14th Annual Reading Rainbow Young Writers & Illustrators Contest. The goal of the Reading Rainbow competition is to encourage children to write and illustrate an original story. Winning story entries are eligible for local and national awards with prizes. Local contest deadline is April 4th, 2008. Submit entries to: Poonam Kumar, KUED-Channel 7, 101 South Wasatch Drive, Room 215, SLC, UT 84112, or go to <http://www.kued.org/page.php?area=outreach&action=readingRainbow>

ARTrageous TUESDAYS! STILL UNDERWAY

ARTrageous Tuesdays! are around 90 minute long programs that include a guided exhibit tour or live performance followed by a hands-on experience. Programs are free to public, private and after school groups of about 30 students. Groups must bring an appropriate number of teachers or other adults to chaperone students. Programs run from 8:30 AM-5 PM; reservations are required. Contact Susan Klinker, program director, for more information or to make reservations; 801-965-5101, email sklinker@wvc-ut.gov. The Utah Cultural Celebration Center is located in West Valley City, see <http://www.wvc-ut.gov/index.asp?nid=241>

3/25 Photo Documentary and the Sudan exhibit – Students will tour a photo exhibit titled, "Sudan: The Land and the People" and be involved in a photo documentary workshop then be sent home with a disposable digital camera and an assignment to capture portraits of their own lives. Digital images will be returned and a number selected for public presentation. This program is restricted to high school or advanced junior high students.

4/8 "Sudan: The Land and the People" – This program involves an intense exploration of cultural life in Sudan today. Students will tour the photo documentary exhibit on Sudan; a local Sudanese artist will lead students through an exhibit; and students will be invited to experience traditional music and dance presentations by members of the local Sudanese community.

2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION CONCLUDES: Education Funding

The most recent legislative session continued Utah's trend of support for education funding, with \$340 million spent for public education (\$200 million per year in new on-going money and \$140 million in one time funding.) Fifty-seven percent of total available on-going revenue went to public education. Of these funds nearly \$60 million went to teachers (teacher raises-\$1,700 each). (from 3/14/08 Utah Daily Policy)

Utah Caucus Meetings (*information from Utahns for Public Schools*)

Neighborhood caucuses are coming up fast, a time when voters across Utah will gather according to party and precinct area to elect local party leaders and delegates to county and state conventions. The Republican and Democratic parties have started publishing caucus locations. For more information on caucus meetings and getting involved, visit the Countdown to Caucus section if the Utahns for Public Schools website: <http://www.utahnsforpublicschools.org/> Here is some information to help you find your meeting:

Republican Caucus information from state party (including contact information for counties); See <http://home.utgop.org/page.php>

Salt Lake County Republican Party (this site has a caucus locator; type in your precinct number to find your caucus location); See <http://slcogop.com/>

Democrat Caucus information from the state party;

See <http://www.utdemocrats.org/ht/d/sp/i/1139834/pid/1139834>

Salt Lake County "Mass Meetings" held by legislative district; See <http://www.slcountydems.org/>

BORDERS BOOKS EDUCATOR SAVINGS WEEK

Borders Books & Music is having a spring Educator Savings Week. April 2-8, 2008. During this time, educators may save 25% off on personal and classroom purchases * when they bring in their current Classroom or Educator Discount Card, educator ID or pay stub. Offer is open to current and retired school employees. There will also be a Special Educator's Reception on April 4 from 4-8 PM. For more info, visit www.bordersmedia.com/educators.

DISTRICT ENERGY SAVER: Shauna Ballou and entire Riverview JH staff

Previous Energy Savers: Gloria Herrera, Joan Anderson, Rob Couraud, Laura DeShazo, Debbie Hymas, Laurie Martinez, Gayla Lamb, Alex Ng, Brent Chase, Mitch McMillan, Julie McMillan, Trent Asay, James Lobato, Marcia Meher, Ginger Brakke, Darlene Evans, Kristi Hankins, Randi Homsobath, Debbie Otteson, Joel Kjar, Colleen Nadauld

MurrE-TECHTIP:

If you have need of assistance from the District Computer Support Team, make your requests through the Technology Work Request system called SchoolDude. Use it to initiate and track technology issues you are having. You will be notified as your request moves through the system. To access the Technology Work Request, go to the Murray district website>district office tab>district computer support line/link.

MurrE-WEBTIP – Murray City School District on Wikipedia

Wikipedia is a free, multilingual, open content encyclopedia project operated by the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation. Its name is a blend of the words *wiki* (a technology for creating collaborative websites) and *encyclopedia*. Launched in 2001, it is the largest, fastest-growing and most popular general reference work currently available on the Internet. As of December 2007, Wikipedia had approximately 9.25 million articles in 253 languages. Wikipedia's articles have been written collaboratively by volunteers around the world, and nearly all of its articles can be edited by anyone with access to the Internet. Critics have questioned Wikipedia's reliability and

accuracy, citing its open nature. Articles are submitted to formal peer-review process and changes to articles are made available immediately. To ensure its quality, the project relies on its community members, called *Wikipedians*, to remove vandalism or identify problems such as violation of neutrality and factual errors in its articles.

What you will see when you check out Murray Schools on Wikipedia:

(NOTE: the text on the district appears to have been taken primarily from the district website and written by D. Wright – who has no knowledge of how it “got there”)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murray_High_School_%28Utah%29

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murray_City_School_District

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Archuleta

DISTRICT CALENDAR REMINDERS:

3/20 (Thurs) 3rd Term Ends (46 days)

3/21 Professional Development/Teacher Work Day – No School/Students

3/21 "Peter Rabbit" costume character visit to Murray Library Story Time, FREE, 10:15 AM

3/24 thru 3/28 Spring Break Vacation – NO SCHOOL

4/2 Scoliosis Screening, 7th & 8th grade Hillcrest JH PE classes Schroeder & McLaughlin

4/2 Murray PTA Pre-Convention Luncheon, DO, time TBD

4/2 Kindergarten Orientation, Viewmont Elem, 2:30 PM

4/8 & 4/10 Elementary Parent-Teacher SEP Conferences

4/9 Murray PTA Council Board Mtg & Council PTA Mtg, DO, 9:30 & 10 AM

4/9 Murray School District Board of Education Meeting, DO, 7 PM

4/11 Elementary Teacher SEP Compensatory Day – No School/Elementary Schools

4/11 Riverview JH Early Bird Readers Club in school library 7:15-7:55 AM

4/11 Skate with Grizz FREE Family Night, Salt Lake County Ice Center, 7-9 PM

4/15 Kindergarten Orientation, Longview Elem, 9:30 AM

See the entire calendar online:

http://www.murrayschools.org/wworks/spotlight_upcomingdistrictevents.shtml

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:

Elementary TBD – Reading Coordinator (.5 FTE)

Horizon Elementary – Extended Day Kindergarten

Longview Elementary – 1st Grade (intra-district through 3/26/08)

Parkside Elementary – Kindergarten (.555 FTE)

Hillcrest Junior High – Math Teacher (Math 3 or 4 endorsement required)

Murray High School – Media Specialist (Library Media K-12 endorsement required)

CLASSIFIED OPENINGS:

TA II - In School Suspension (ISS) @ Riverview Junior High School

Responsibilities: Serve as a teaching assistant in the In School Suspension (ISS) program; participate in the development and maintenance of systems for classroom management; prepare various reports and student lists to apprise administrators and teachers of student status and

progress; monitor student behavior to evaluate progress and capabilities; oversee students placed on in-school suspension or before or after school detention; monitor student activity; make various assignments as needed to maintain student participation in academic learning; monitor or track students who have repeated tardiness or unexcused absences; maintain records of students participating in alternative classroom or detention programs; enforce behavior regulations. Also work as an education aide supervising the students in the hallway after lunch.
Specifications: Part-time, 32.5 hours per week (retirement benefits)
Salary: \$9.24 (entry) to \$10.58 (mid-level) based on experience and/or education
Closing Date: 3/28/08

Seasonal Grounds Crew – Maintenance

Responsibilities: Perform a variety of lead worker and routine skilled and semi-skilled duties as needed for the upkeep and maintenance of the grounds for the district facilities.
Specifications: Full time hourly position; 40 hrs per week; Mon-Fri 7 AM to 3 PM, April – October
Salary: \$10.78 (entry) to \$12.34 (mid-level) based on experience and/or education
Closing Date: Until filled

Night Custodian/Sweeper - Viewmont Elementary

Responsibilities: Help with operation, upkeep and cleaning of the assigned school building and grounds. Keep the building comfortable, safe and clear for all times the building is scheduled for use. Other custodial duties as assigned by head custodian.
Specifications: Part-time, Monday through Friday; 2 3/4 hours per day
Salary: \$8.35 (entry) to \$9.46 (mid-level) based on experience and/or education

TA II - Indian Educator Mentor Advocate – MHS

Responsibilities: Serve as a teaching assistant helping to support Native American Indian high school students in a variety of situations to strengthen their academic achievement.
Specifications: part-time hourly position approximately 15 hrs per week
Salary: \$9.24 (entry) to \$10.58 (mid-level)

Daytime Substitute Custodians – Murray High School

Responsibilities: Help with the operation, upkeep and cleaning of the building.
Job Specifications: part-time on an as needed basis
Salary: \$10.78 per hour

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.