

MurrENEWS – November 24, 2009
Murray City School District, Murray, UT
Educating Murray since 1906!

MurrE-HISTOR-E

The Pilgrims who landed on Plymouth Rock in December of 1620 found the New World much different than they had expected. Amid the hard New England winter, 46 of the 121 persons who made the voyage perished. But the fall of 1621 brought a bountiful harvest, giving those who remained a chance to survive the coming winter. Those Pilgrims, along with 91 Native American guests, celebrated the first Thanksgiving with wild game and vegetables. Throughout Colonial history, similar celebrations occurred whenever settlers felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude. George Washington declared a national day of Thanksgiving in 1789, but Thanksgiving did not become a regular holiday until 1863 when Abraham Lincoln signed into law a bill proclaiming the last Thursday of each November to be Thanksgiving Day. In 1941, Congress amended the law to make the 4th Thursday of each November Thanksgiving.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL MURRAY TEACHERS, STUDENTS & PATRONS!

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ENERGY SHUT DOWN REMINDERS – From District Energy Manager Rock Boyer

Please shut down, power off and unplug all computers, monitors, speakers, printers, copiers and all computer peripherals. This includes Network printers and copiers. Just leaving them in Sleep Mode/Energy Saver mode is not enough; they need to have power off. Shut off all lights, exhaust fans, close your blinds and where able, set back all thermostats to 55 degrees. Make sure all faucets are completely shut off tightly so they are not leaking and open cupboard doors where sinks are on outside walls. Prop bathroom doors open. Unplug all electronic equipment like CD/DVD/T.V.'s chargers, sharpeners, Scentsy candles, Christmas lights; all that is reachable and accessible including personal refrigerators. Thank you for your efforts on the energy program!

CALENDAR SURVEY

If you haven't already done so, please take a minute to participate in the Murray District Calendar Survey. Results will be used as by the Murray Board of Education as they make calendar determinations for the next 3 - 5 years. We appreciate your time. <http://www.murrayschools.org/wworks/>

WEIGHT WATCHER PROGRAM AT LIBERTY ELEMENTARY

Liberty Elementary has had a successful group Weight Watcher Program at the school for the past few years and it's been very successful with many people losing a lot of weight. They have openings this year for a few more members in order to have a large enough number to be able to continue with their on-site meetings. Participants pay the membership fee and all of the normal Weight Watchers benefits are included. Meetings are scheduled to begin very soon and are held once a week with weigh-in from 3:15-3:30; meetings from 3:30- 4 PM. For more information, contact Leslie Campbell at 801-264-7424; lcampbell@murrayschools.org

PINNACLE AWARD NOMINATION TIME

The Murray Education Foundation is again asking community members to nominate Outstanding Educators, Administrators, Employees and Volunteers in the Murray School District. MEF and leading Utah businesses and the Murray community proudly sponsor the 7th Annual Pinnacle Awards for Excellence in Education recognition. The purpose of this event is to recognize and honor five outstanding educators, one classified employee, and one volunteer. Please take a moment to fill out the form and submit your deserving nominee or nominees.

http://www.murrayschools.org/wworks/pdf/districtoffice/09-10_pinnacle_nomination_form.pdf

HORIZON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE

Horizon Elementary collected 1,644 pounds of food during the week of November 16-20, far exceeding their original goal of 1,000 pounds. Donations from the students, faculty and patrons were made for the purpose of contribution to the Utah Food Bank. This is just another great Murray example of school to community cooperation.

RIVERVIEW JH CHARITABLE EFFORTS

Riverview students reached their goal of raising more than \$10,000 to assist schools efforts in Indonesia. In celebration, Riverview students held a cake fight after school on November 19th. This great group of kids, along with teachers and sponsors, worked very hard to reach their goal and should be commended for their compassion.

MURRAY HIGH STUDENTS ATTEND UNIVERSITY OF UTAH GAME

Some Murray High students were able to attend a University of Utah game November 21st as Murray High athletes escorted several high school students with disabilities. Coach Jake Shewmake was able to obtain free tickets to the game, which provided a great opportunity for all of these kids. Twenty-five Murray students and five adults enjoyed the event together.

HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE

Murray patrons are invited to give the gift of reading at the annual Holiday Book Drive, taking place now through January 1, 2010 at the Murray Barnes & Noble. Books purchased during this time will be donated to Murray City School District classrooms. Anyone wishing to donate books can find Holiday Book Drive books displayed either at the front of the store, customer service or at check out.

MURRAY SCHOOL IN THE NEWS:

Murray High hosts U. interactive exhibit on engineering

Education: Students get scoop on majors and careers in the field

Some teens may be surprised to learn that such everyday amenities as shampoo, chairs and mouse pads are made possible by engineers. But Murray High School students are beginning to make that connection thanks to an interactive educational exhibit created by the University of Utah's engineering department. http://www.sltrib.com/education/ci_13812515

EDUCATIONAL COMPETITIONS:

Journal Spelling Bee

For the second year The Valley Journals will sponsor the Scripps National Spelling Bee regional competition for Salt Lake County. A nationally-renowned program administered on a not-for-profit basis by The E.W. Scripps Company and sponsors in the U.S., American Samoa, Canada and several other countries. The Salt Lake Valley Spelling Bee is open to all fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. Scripps requires a participation fee of \$99 for each school, which can be funded by sponsors. Valley Journals has a program that not only pays for your school's fee for the spelling bee; it puts money into your school as a fundraiser and each school may keep all of the money raised. Entry forms must be received by Dec. 18 and individual school spelling bees must be completed with winners' names submitted by Jan. 29. The winner of the regional competition will receive an all-expense paid trip for two to the May Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. He or she will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship and other prizes. For additional info or to sign up as a sponsor, call Darren McCabe 801-254-5974 ext 12. For National Spelling Bee rules and tips or for schools to sign up, visit www.spellingbee.com

NEF Annual Energy Challenge

The National Energy Foundation is again sponsoring the "Igniting Creative Energy" (ICE) Challenge. All Entries Must Be Postmarked By FEBRUARY 19, 2010. To enter, students and teachers should send entries communicating exciting ideas about energy conservation and the environment which show what an individual, family or group can do to make a difference in their home, school or community to save energy. For more information visit www.ignitingcreativeenergy.org

The National Teacher Hall of Fame Calling for Nominations

The deadline for nominations to The National Teacher Hall of Fame must be postmarked by January 2, 2010. Individuals being nominated must have taught for at least 20 years at the Pre-K-12 grade level. The announcement of inductees will be made in April. For more information visit The National Teachers Hall of Fame web site at <http://www.nthf.org/> or call 1-800-96-TEACH (8-3224).

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:

The co-founder of Wikipedia has launched a Web site designed to offer free access to thousands of education-related videos for students ages 3-18. Larry Sanger, who helped create Wikipedia and has since left the organization, says the new site, <http://www.watchknow.org/>, will allow students and teachers to sort through a library of online videos by content, and pick out what they need. Topics range from math and science to history. The site is meant to house and organize videos that are free and available online, yet which most people don't know how to find. The site was launched in October. So far it offers 11,000 videos in 2,000 categories. The contributions have come from National Geographic and Google Videos, among many other sources.

The Holiday Zone offers free educational resources for use in early childhood and elementary educational settings. Holiday and seasonal materials include learning games, whole language activities, writing prompts, songs, action rhymes, printable worksheets, printable and interactive puzzles, coloring pages, and children's literature recommendations. This site is child-friendly and does contain some content geared specifically toward children, but is targeted primarily toward educators, child care providers, and parents. The intended audience includes preschool teachers, kindergarten teachers, elementary classroom teachers, homeschoolers, parents, grandparents, and others who work with children. <http://www.theholidayzone.com/>

DISTRICT CALENDAR

Join us on TWITTER where we post daily updates! <http://twitter.com/MurraySchoolsPR>

11/25-27 (Wed-Fri) Thanksgiving Holiday NO SCHOOL
11/30 PTA Reflections Deadline (see Kim Kingery for more info)
12/1 MHS Varsity Basketball pre-season vs Jordan @home, 6 PM
12/2 Murray Board of Education Meeting, DO, 5 PM
12/7 Viewmont Elementary "Dare" Graduation, 2 PM
12/8 Horizon Elementary Reflections Awards Assembly, 2 PM
12/8 MHS Basketball pre-season @East; Soph 3:30; JV 5:15, Varsity 7 PM
12/9 Riverview JH Beg Band/Percussion, Cadet & Symphonic Band Concert, 7 PM
12/10 Riverview Choir Performance for District Kg-6th grades, 9:30 AM
12/10 Hillcrest Band/Orchestra Concert, 7 PM
12/10 Riverview JH Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble & Orchestra Concert, 7 PM
12/10 & 11 MHS Dance Concert, Murray High, 7 PM
12/11 Riverview JH Early Bird Readers Group, 7:15 AM
12/11 Horizon Elem Bell Choir Assembly, 9:15 AM
12/11 Liberty Elementary "Dare" Graduation, 2 PM
12/11 MHS Basketball pre-season vs Olympus @home; Soph 3:30; JV 5:15, Varsity 7 PM
12/11 Riverview JH School Instrumental Concert Assembly, groups & time TBA
Entire calendar online:
http://www.murrayschools.org/wworks/spotlight_events.shtml

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MURRAY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Contact Denise McDougal at the DO for more info, 264-7487; dmcdougal@murrayschools.org

Check online at http://www.murrayschools.org/wworks/humanresources_employment.shtml

LICENSED OPENINGS: None at this time

CLASSIFIED OPENINGS:

- Math Tutor – Murray High/15 hours a week
- Murray Community Education – Computer Teacher
- On-Call Cook I

The 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 801-264-7400, or email dwright@murrayschools.org