

MurrENEWS – December 11, 2009
Murray City School District, Murray, UT
Educating Murray since 1906!

MurrE-QUIPS

What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus?
(Claustrophobic)

Anyone who believes that men are the equal of women has never seen a man trying to wrap a Christmas present.

– *Anonymous*

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DISTRICT HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Murray City School District Offices will be closed during the official school holiday break from 4:30 PM, Tuesday, December 22, 2009 through 7:30 AM, Monday, January 4, 2010. Schools will be closed during the same days and re-open at their normal start times.

SEE YOURSELF ONLINE?

Be sure to take a look at the fun holiday event pictures online in the District Photo Gallery. Check it out, 'cause you never know who you may see on the World Wide Web.

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

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE PINNACLE NOMINATIONS

Nomination forms are due right after Christmas, on January 15, 2010, so be thinking right now about some deserving educators, administrator, classified employee and/or volunteer that you would like to see recognized. Murray Education Foundation and leading Utah businesses and the Murray community proudly sponsor the 7th Annual Pinnacle Awards for Excellence in Education recognition. Please take a moment to fill out the form and submit your deserving nominee(s).

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

MURRAY SCHOOLS CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

There are many, many acts of kindness that take place in our Murray Schools during the holiday season, and also at other times. Here are just a few of the efforts that students, staff and parents in our schools are making, or have made, to make the holiday season just a little brighter for someone else:

Liberty Elementary – Instead of the regular Christmas parties, this school opted to do service projects in each classroom. The room parents are organizing the activities such as: making hats for the homeless, making cards to take to hospitals and/or nursing homes, and writing letters to the military. Everyone is excited about giving the kids an opportunity to serve during this holiday season.

Longview Elementary – Longview’s charitable activity for December “Mission Possible: Compassion.” Students, staff and patrons are showing compassion for children with blood cancers by donating “pennies for patients”. Students will bring money donations during December to a small box placed in each classroom. Each day the box will be emptied into a large container in the office. The last week of December, right before the break, the money will be counted and presented to the Cancer Society.

McMillan Elementary – McMillan has been providing fundraising support in a variety of ways for a school in Liberia, Africa; last summer, they sent their used reading textbooks to the African students. The Liberian school is now in need of a new roof and McMillan students set a goal of raising \$2,000 to help. They worked hard for this fundraiser, called Change for Africa, and ended up surpassing their goal by raising \$2,300! They also made ABC books in school BFG (Big Friendly Group) groups that they sent over, and are now in the process of establishing some pen pals between McMillan upper grade students and a few students from Liberia.

Parkside Elementary – Some of the 5th graders tied fleece blankets for a service project early in December. Students donated fleece material for about a month to then make into blankets for Murray area children who may need to be removed from their homes or from the scene of an accident by the Murray Police Department. The student’s goal was to do something that would have a positive effect on kids in their own community. They presented their finished blankets to the Murray Police Department at their December D.A.R.E. graduation assembly.

District Office – There are two Sub-for-Santa projects underway for participation of employees at the District Offices; one through the Special Education Department, and one to benefit some At Risk Program students at Murray High.

PARKSIDE KIDS LEARN MANNERS

Parkside Elementary students of 5th grade teacher Keri Hohnholt will be participating in a "Manners Dinner," Monday, December 21st at 2:00 p.m. in their classroom. Room mothers are working to get a restaurant to donate food or they will provide the meal. Students will learn how to set a basic table, and will also have instruction in good table manner technique. They will practice those skills while enjoying their afternoon dinner.

RIVERVIEW JUNIOR HIGH* RECOGNIZES

Terrific Kids are chosen by their teachers for demonstrating respect, honesty, responsibility, tolerance and caring; Rebels with Honors recognition is for students exhibiting good character.

- Terrific Kids – Jubilee Francis, Margarite Bushiri, Nicole Yazzie
- Rebels with Honors – Madison Greenburg, Jessica Lehman, Amber Larsen

****As of January 1, 2010, Riverview Junior High newsletters will no longer be delivered in the mail. In an***

effort to go green and also save on mailing costs, one newsletter each quarter will be posted on the school website.

MURRAY SCHOOL IN THE NEWS:

1st-graders learning Spanish in dual-immersion program

By Amanda Butterfield, KSL Television 11/13/09

Two first-grade classes in Murray are doing half of their learning in Spanish. It's not an English as a Second Language program, but a dual-immersion program. It gives students the opportunity to learn a second language to get them ahead in the future. Horizon Elementary School is the first to implement it in Murray (continued) <http://www.ksl.com/index.php?nid=148&sid=8663639>

The Murray Education Association has won a \$5,000 award from the National Education Association Urban Grants Program to continue its mentoring program for new teachers

<http://blogs.sltrib.com/education/index.php?p=7261&more=1&c=1&tb=1&pb=1>

HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE FOR MURRAY SCHOOLS

The Murray District Holiday Book drive continues through January 1, 2010 as Murray patrons are invited to give the gift of reading to students in our schools. Anyone wishing to donate books can find Holiday Book Drive books displayed either at the front of the Murray Barnes & Noble, at the customer service counter or by the check out area.

STATEWIDE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WEBSITE/DATA BASE

Utah state government and the Utah Commission on Volunteers have partnered with the Utah Volunteer Center Association to launch a new volunteer opportunities database. The ongoing economic crises has caused many non-profit organizations in Utah to slash budgets, cut programs and downsize staff, which in turn effects our most needy citizens. Many of these organizations are in dire need of volunteers to help where possible. The help received will aid in keeping these programs running. For more information on volunteering opportunities in the state, go to <http://www.volunteers.utah.gov/>

EDUCATIONAL TRIVIA:

Can You Tell Me How to get to Sesame Street?

Newsweek commentary: Sesame Street was never meant to be revolutionary. But it did aim to be different than anything else on TV. It came along at a time-40 years ago this month-when "it was sort of in the air that the world was going to change," recalls Sonia Manzano, who joined the cast as Maria in 1971. Sesame Street aspired to be a part of that change. <http://www.newsweek.com/id/222618>

And the Salt Lake Tribune offers a Sesame Street Quiz: (http://www.sltrib.com/features/ci_13782067)

Take our Utah-centric quiz with questions connected to the show and our great state and see if you truly know how to get to "Sesame Street" (hint: it's not by way of St. George).

1. What Utah governor appeared with Elmo in a commercial promoting the Healthy Habits for Life initiative? (*Gov. Jon Huntsman*)
2. What is the only Utah city to have a road named Sesame Street? (*Nearby Taylorsville*)
3. In 1969, Jim Henson met Puppeteer Carroll Spinney at the national puppetry festival in Salt Lake City and offered him a job. What famous character has Spinney provided the puppetry and voice for since that fortuitous Utah meeting? (*Big Bird*)

4. While Kate Gosselin of "Jon & Kate Plus 8" attended "Sesame Street Live" with most of her children in Pennsylvania, where was her estranged husband Jon and what was he doing?
(*At The Canyons Resort in Park City with first "girlfriend" Deanna Hummel*)
5. What Salt Lake City museum opened its first exhibit with "Sesame Street Presents: The Body"?
(*Discovery Gateway*)
6. Gedde Watanabe, an actor born in Ogden (he starred in "Gung Ho"), played what "Sesame Street" character from 1988 until 1991? (*Hiroshi*)
7. The documentary, "The World According to Sesame Street," premiered in 2006 at what film festival?
(*The Sundance Film Festival*)
8. What favorite moment did Donny Osmond recount on the "My Favorite Sesame Street Moments" special? (*Seeing his musical idol, Stevie Wonder*)
9. Which Utah game-show celebrity appeared with Grover in an episode about healthy eating?
Hint: Please answer in the form of a question. (*Who is Ken Jennings?*)
10. On "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report," former Salt Lake Winter Olympics head and presidential candidate Mitt Romney is often compared to which "Sesame Street" Muppet? (*Guy Smiley*):

HOLIDAY WEBSITES

Santa Claus & Christmas at the North Pole – Activities for Teachers & Fun for Kids

<http://www.northpole.com/>

The Holiday Zone – 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. <http://www.theholidayzone.com/>

DISTRICT CALENDAR

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

- 12/11 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 Riverview JH School Instrumental Concert Assembly, 9:45 & 10:30 AM
- 12/11 MHS Basketball pre-season vs Olympus @home; Soph 3:30; JV 5:15, Varsity 7 PM
- 12/11 Studio 56 Dance Center Fundraiser Dance Performance, Hillcrest JH, 6:30 PM
- 12/13 Murray Community Winter Series, Messiah Sing-In, Murray Symphony, MHS FREE, 7 PM
- 12/14 MHS HOSA Blood Drive (Health Occupations Students of America), small gym, 8:30 AM -1:30 PM
- 12/14 DO Holiday School Reception luncheon, Horizon Elem, 12 Noon
- 12/14 DO Holiday School Reception luncheon, ECEC, 3:00 PM
- 12/15 DO Holiday School Reception luncheon, Riverview JH, 11:40 & 12:31 PM
- 12/15 MHS Basketball pre-season @Taylorsville; Soph 3:30; JV 5:15, Varsity 7 PM
- 12/15 Riverview JH Choir Cuties & Rebel Men Winter Concert, 6-6:45 PM
- 12/15 MHS Band Concert, 7 PM
- 12/16 DO Holiday School Reception luncheon, Liberty Elem, 11:30 AM
- 12/16 Horizon Elementary Snowman Fun Run, after school 1:30 PM
- 12/16 DO Holiday School Reception luncheon, Creekside School, 2 PM
- 12/16 MHS Renaissance Holiday Staff Luncheon, Commons area, 2 PM
- 12/16 MHS Basketball pre-season @Spanish Fork; Soph 3:30; JV 5:15, Varsity 7 PM
- 12/16 Murray Board of Education Meeting, DO, 6 PM
- 12/16 MHS Choir Concert, 7 PM

12/17 Longview Elementary D.A.R.E. Graduation Assembly, 2 PM
12/17 Hillcrest JH Choir Concert, 6:30 & 8:00 PM
12/17 Riverview JH Rebel Chicks, Concert Choir's Winter Concert, 6-6:45 PM
12/18 MHS Holiday Assembly, SBO report on school Christmas service project, 7:50 AM
12/18 DO Holiday School Reception luncheon, Hillcrest JH, 11:40 & 12:30 PM
12/18 DO Holiday Reception luncheon, Maintenance Dept 3 PM
12/18 MHS Basketball pre-season vs Riverton @home; Soph 3:30; JV 5:15, Varsity 7 PM
12/18-19, Murray Community Winter Series, Ebenezer Scrooge, Ballet Center, MHS, 7 PM
12/21 DO Holiday School Reception luncheon, MHS, 11AM & 12:30PM
12/21 Liberty Elementary Sing-a-Long, 2 PM
12/21 Viewmont Elementary D.A.R.E. Graduation Assembly, 2 PM
12/22 (Tues) Last Day of School before Winter Break
12/22 Viewmont Elementary School Sing-a-Long, 8:45 AM
12/22 Longview Elementary School Sing-a-Long, 9:30 AM
12/22 Holiday Luncheon, District Offices, 12:15 PM
12/22 MHS Basketball pre-season at Highland; Soph 3:30; JV 5:15, Varsity 7 PM
12/23-1/3/10 Winter Break – NO SCHOOL
12/29 MHS Basketball pre-season at West Jordan; Soph 3:30; JV 5:15, Varsity 7 PM
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

- School Counselor – Murray High/part time hourly position, 12 hrs a week
- Art Teacher – Murray High School/full time contract position beginning 1/19/2010

CLASSIFIED OPENINGS:

- Murray Community Education Computer Teacher /part time hourly position
- Math Tutor – Murray High School/part time hourly position, 15 hrs a week
- 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