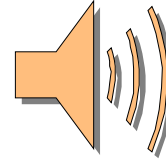


From the Desk of Greg Mason
Principal
Murray Language Academy
Hola-Konnichi Wa-Bonjour - Ni Hao



October 23, 2018

Dear Parents:

Literacy Night

Our annual Literacy Night is October 25th. During the week, we have several fun activities planned:

- **Monday Book Cover Day** - students and staff recreate their favorite book covers.
- **Tuesday Top Ten Day** - Teachers and students will create lists of their Top 10 favorite books to display on their lockers.
- **Wednesday BLACKOUT DAY** - Dress in black - Teachers and students will drop everything and read from 10am - 10:15am school-wide with zero technology!
- **Thursday Read Alouds** - The power of the read aloud! Teachers will rotate and read their favorite picture books to each class. Also, join us for literacy night at 6pm!
- **Friday Favorite Book Character Day** - Teachers and students will dress up as their favorite book character. Students should be prepared to give a 1-2 minute presentation about their favorite book character.

Leader in Me Leadership Notebooks

This leadership tool will be used to track student leadership development in the following learning areas: academics, social, and emotional.

1. This tool creates equitable ownership of learning among teacher, student, and families through goal setting, targeted learning, student-engaged assessment, and reflection.
2. Short-Term Goal: Teachers will use Leadership Notebooks to lead Q1 parent/teacher conferences.
3. Ultimate Goal: Students will use Leadership Notebooks to lead parent/student conferences with teacher facilitation for Q3 conferences.

Planning for High School

The high school application period is now open. The deadline to apply is December 14, 2018. Letters with Activation Codes were sent home to all 8th grade parents. To get started, parents must begin the account activation process by clicking <https://cps.schoolmint.net/signup>. If you have any questions about the activation process, contact the Office of Access and Enrollment at 773-553-2060 from 8am to 6pm, Monday through Friday, or email gocps@cps.edu.

Parents should also visit <http://go.cps.edu/> for additional information on schools and upcoming Open Houses. To access the online calendar of open houses, please visit <http://go.cps.edu/dates-and-events>. For an electronic copy of the Elementary and High School Guide and other information, please visit <http://cps.edu/AccessAndEnrollment/Pages/OAE.aspx>.

Parent Data Night

Our first data night was held on October 11, 2018. During the event, we had presentations on how to monitor students' NWEA math and reading goals and how the leadership notebooks will be used to support students' academic, social, and emotional learning. The NWEA Student Progress Reports were analyzed and parents received these reports for their students. (For parents who could not attend, the Student Progress Reports were sent home.) We will have a second Parent Data Night in late January 2019 to track progress from BOY to MOY and talk instructional strategies and supports leading up to the EOY.

Murray in the News

Please view the link below to see a great story by journalist Sabrina Santucci from NBC5 reporting on the beginner band program here at Murray. For additional programming information, please contact Mr. Rayburn.

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/blogs/making-a-difference/chicago-music-497744871.html>

Halloween Costumes

We understand and appreciate the spirit of Halloween activities of trick-or-treating, attending Halloween costume parties and carving pumpkins. At Murray, Halloween is a regular day of instruction. **Students are not allowed to come to school in costumes.** We do wish all of our students a Happy Halloween.

Fee Waiver Applications Needed

Our yearly state allocation of Supplemental General State Aid (SGSA) is calculated based on the return rate of this new Waiver form. **We need all parents to fill out and return the Waiver Applications to the school by November 7, 2018.**

Reminder of School Hours

The school hours are 8:45am – 3:45pm.

From 8:35am-8:45am, our staff are supervising the students outside as they line up to enter the building. On cold (temperature below 40° degrees Fahrenheit), snowy, or rainy days, students will NOT line up outside, but instead will go directly into the building at 8:35am. **Please note that there is no supervision on any school day prior to 8:35am.** If you need early morning drop-off service, please reach out to Right At School (<https://rightatschool.com/murray-elementary/>).

In our Student\Parent Handbook, we stated that our doors would open at 8:35am, and that all students would be dismissed at 3:45pm. To address safety and order, we made adjustments to the morning entry and dismissal. For the morning entry, except on inclement weather days, students go directly to their respective class line-up location. (We had the engineer paint the classroom numbers on the ground; this helps tremendously with the order.) For dismissal, we staggered the grades so that 5th -8th grade students are dismissed five minutes before students in grades K-4. All of these changes were in place on the first day of school and were implemented after the printing of the Student\Parent Handbook.

Teacher News

- **Ms. Ni** - Congratulations on being selected to participate in the 2018-2019 Chinese Artists in Residence Program provided by the Confucius Institute in Chicago.
- **Ms. Jankowski and Ms. Prinz** received Donors Choose grants.
- **Ms. Korpalski** - The French Consulate and the American Association of Teachers of French sponsor a drawing and writing contest called "My Favorite French Dish." Elementary and high school students from all over the Chicagoland area compete. This year, Murray students took both 1st and 2nd place!
- **Ms. Robinson** is coaching Cross Country.
- **Ms. Ingram** is coaching Volleyball.
- **Dr. Brown and Mrs. M. Williams** are sponsoring the Murray National Junior Honor Society Chapter.
- **Ms. Barnlund** is leading the Leadership Notebook project.
- **A big thank you to Ms. Melanson, Dr. Brown, Mrs. PJ, Mr. Hoang, Mrs. Prinz, Ms. Jankowski, Mrs. King, Ms. Barnlund, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Patton, Ms. T. Williams and Mrs. M. Williams** for making our first Parent Data Night a success.

Fall Assessments

Students in grades 3-8 took the fall NWEA math and reading test. (Students in grades K-2 took the math portion of the NWEA.) These NWEA test results give teachers another source of information to monitor and support students' progress over the school year. This is an important step in supporting our students to meet or exceed their projected growth and attainment targets. The spring test results are the scores that are used for summer school, selective enrollment schools and other schools with academic criteria, and promotion. Our objective is to have at least 70% of our students meet or exceed their goal in spring 2019.

Student Fee

Like all public schools, we are struggling with cuts in our funding. More than ever, **it is important that parents pay the Activity Fee of \$100, or \$200 for families with two or more students enrolled at Murray.** The Activity Fee was due the first day of school; we hope this friendly reminder prompts you to send the fee to school with your child as soon as possible. The fee covers an array of school functions and supplies for teachers.

Donation to Murray

Like many large organizations, we consume a significant amount of 8.5 x 11 paper. Please consider donating a ream or two, or even a case, from time to time.

Anti-bullying @ Murray

We encourage students and staff to wear purple clothing on Wednesdays in support of our stance on anti-bullying at school.

Upcoming Dates

October 22nd – 26th	PTO Scholastic Book Fair
October 23rd	LSC Meeting @ 6pm
October 26th	Literacy Night @ 6:00pm
October 27th	Annual Community Open House
October 30th	First Annual Parent Action Committee (PAC) meeting @6:00pm
November 1st	End of 1st Quarter
November 2nd	No school for students
November 5th	PTO Meeting
November 5th	College Shirt Day
November 5th	Food Drive
November 10th	State of the School Address @ 9am
November 12th	Holiday, School Closed
November 14th	Report Card Pick-up 12pm-6pm

For a complete listing of all calendar dates, please visit us @ www.murray.cps.k12.il.us

We are Murray! We are one!