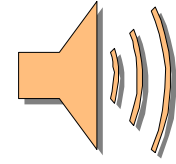


**From the Desk of Greg Mason**  
**Principal**  
**Murray Language Academy**  
 Hola-KonnichiWa - Bonjour - Ni Hao



**January 9, 2017**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Dear Parents:**

**Purdue University Scholarships**

For the third consecutive year, the Gifted Education Resource Institute (GERI) at Purdue University in Indiana is granting Murray 20 scholarships for its GERI summer residential program for summer 2017. “Centered at Purdue University, GERI is an innovative center dedicated to the discovery, study, and development of human potential. Founded by John Feldhusen in 1974, GERI's mission is holistic development of giftedness, creativity, and talents among individuals throughout their life span. This is accomplished through enrichment programs for gifted, creative, and talented youth.”

The scholarships are for students currently enrolled in the 5th and 6th grades. These students will spend one week on the campus of Purdue University and experience programs designed to stimulate their imaginations and expand their abilities.

New this year, the GERI program is also offering Murray 2 two-week scholarships for its 7th and 8th grade summer residential program. In all, these 22 scholarships are valued at more than \$25,000. Please watch for more information coming home via Murray Backpack news.

**Science Fair**

Our annual 6th – 8th Grade Science Fair was held on Thursday, December 15th. Our students did a great job articulating their science experiments to the professional judges. The top 10 winners were:

<b>JUDGE RANKING</b>	<b>STUDENT NAME</b>	<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>	<b>Grade</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sabine Boyer</b>	<b>Magnets: Hot or Not</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Nigel Jones</b>	<b>What Causes Apple Browning and What Prevents It?</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Cameron Dervin</b>	<b>The Effects of Mass on Flow Rate</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Skylar Brown</b>	<b>Slippery Slopes</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Shania Bragg</b>	<b>How Does Acid Affect the Rate of Corrosion on Metal?</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Aminata Dieng</b>	<b>What's the Fastest Way to Cool a Can of Soda Starting at Room Temperature?</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Mikayla Finley</b>	<b>How Does Temperature Affect The Strength Of Magnets?</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Maya Perkins</b>	<b>How Lit is Your Memory</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Alex Veselits</b>	<b>The Effects of Oil Spills</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Kalese Grossett</b>	<b>The Effects of Carbonated Drinks on the Digestive System</b>	<b>7</b>

The top four winners will represent Murray at the CPS Regional Science Fair on January 27th at the Illinois Institute of Technology. A very special thanks goes to **Ms. Ingram and Ms. Paulinski** for their hard work in planning and organizing our fair. Also, I would like to thank our PTO for its generous financial support and for hosting our Parent Science Night. At the parent event, our parents were treated to a wonderful display of science at Murray.

### **Chicago Bulls Food Drive**

Murray participated in the 2016 Chicago Bulls Holiday Food Drive. With the very kind donations from so many families, we collected, based on our estimation, more than 10,000 pounds! The goal for the entire Holiday Food Drive was 50,000 pounds. All donations were turned over to the Greater Chicago Food Depository. The Food Depository serves more than 812,000 individuals or 232,100 households each year. A big thanks to **Dr. Brown, Mr. Brown, and Ms. M. Williams** for coordinating this event.

### **5th – 8th Grade Interim Math Assessments**

To improve the monitoring of our students' progress in mathematics, we created and administered interim math assessments to all students in grades 5-8. The assessments were built to mirror an end-of-year (EOY) test based on the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. Teachers will use the assessment results to gauge students' progress for meeting the EOY standards for mathematics. A second interim assessment will be administered in March 2017 to (1) compare the results to the first test, and (2) allow teachers to use the results to strategically plan for the actual end-of-year tests in April (PARCC) and May (NWEA).

### **Promotion Policy: Grades 3, 6, and 8**

**Summary of Promotion Policy 2016-2017**

<b>Spring 2017 MAP *Percentile score for Reading and Math</b>	<b>Reading or Math Grades</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Promotion Status</b>
Both scores 24 or higher	Passing both	1A	No Summer School
Reading OR math OR both scores less than 24 but higher than 10	"C" or higher in both	2A	No Summer School
Both scores 24 or higher	Failing either	1B	Summer School but NO exit test
Reading OR math OR both scores less than 24 but higher than 11	Below "C" either or both	2B	Summer School and exit test
Reading OR math OR both scores 10 or less	No consideration	3A and 3B	Summer School and exit test

### **\*NWEA Spring 2017 tests**

Students will take the middle of the year (MOY) NWEA test during January 2017. Parents will receive the results from this test in February 2017.

### **Teacher News**

Each year, the Chicago Foundation for Education (CFE) awards teachers small grants to implement classroom and school-wide curricular projects that respond to the specific academic, social, and emotional needs of the student population. Seven teachers from Murray received a grant this year: **Ms. Alvarado, Ms. Charleston, Ms. Holzhauer, Mr. Hoang, Ms. Nadel, Ms. Laws, and Ms. Prinz.**

### **8th Annual Principal Coffee Chat**

On February 24, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., I will host my annual Coffee Chat with the parents. Come and hear about or share ideas for Murray, or come and share an historical note or favorite story about Murray.

### **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.

## 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.

## Snowball Throwing on School Grounds

Snowball throwing is strictly prohibited on school grounds during school time. Please help support this safety rule by reminding your children about the dangers of throwing snowballs at or near students, pets, cars, etc.

## Parent Portal

**To receive your child's PIN for the Parent Portal, please e-mail**

**[parentportalinfo@gmail.com](mailto:parentportalinfo@gmail.com).** You will receive the PIN and directions for setting up the account. Additionally, and super important, we use this database of emails to communicate with parents.

## Article

**6 Ways to Support your Child's Mathematic Development:** How can you help your child with math, and give them a positive view of themselves and their potential? How can you help them with homework in productive ways, and give them the sort of praise that will help them grow and learn in the future? Here are six ideas for parents/guardians to try, and links to many more resources. I hope you find them helpful. – Jo Boaler, Professor at Stanford University (<https://www.youcubed.org/6-ways-support-childs-mathematical-development/>)

- **#4:** Never share with your children the idea that you were bad at math at school or you dislike it – especially if you are a mother. Researchers found that as soon as mothers shared that idea with their daughters, their daughters' achievement went down.
- **#5:** Encourage number sense. What separates high and low achievers is number sense – having an idea of the size of numbers and being able to separate and combine numbers flexibly. For example, when working out  $29 + 56$ , if you take one from the 56 and make it  $30 + 55$ , it is much easier to work out. The flexibility to work with numbers in this way is what is called number sense and it is very important.

## Upcoming Dates

January 9th	College Shirt Day
January 9th	15th week Progress Reports go home
January 9th – 27th	MOY NWEA Testing
January 11th	PTO Meeting @ 6:00pm
January 24th	LSC Meeting @ 6:00pm
February 2nd	End of Second Quarter
February 3rd	No school for students
February 6th	College Shirt Day
February 14th	Wear Red Day in Celebration of Valentine's Day

*We are Murray! We are one!*

<http://www.murray.cps.k12.il.us/index.html>