Happy Sunday Murray Parents:

We hope you and your families are safe and well.

**PTO Amazon Smile**
Please support our Murray Language Academy Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Amazon Smile. The PTO receives 0.5% of all eligible Amazon purchases. The PTO hopes to use this holiday shopping season as a way to allow parents to support upcoming parent events. The Amazon Smile website is: [https://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-1508123](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-1508123). We currently have 22 signed up.

**My Very Own Library (MVOL)**
This holiday season brings with it a literary gift that will provide our students with reading material over the winter break. Because students have not been able to engage in holiday festivities usually afforded them because of the pandemic, we have partnered with Scholastic and My Very Own Library (MVOL) to add some sparkle and cheer to the upcoming holiday. Each Murray student will receive 10 books inside of a MVOL backpack. Parents can collect this gift during the weeks of December 7th and December 14th. The distribution dates and times are outlined below:

**Week of December 7 – 11, 2020**
- Monday, December 7, 2020 – 8:45 am – 3:45 pm
- Tuesday, December 8, 2020 – 8:45 am – 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 9, 2020 – 8:45 am – 3:45 pm
- Thursday, December 10, 2020 – 8:45 am – 6:00 pm
- Friday, December 11, 2020 – 8:45 am – 3:45 pm

**Week of December 14 – 18, 2020**
- Monday, December 14, 2020 – 8:45 am – 3:45 pm
- Tuesday, December 15, 2020 – 8:45 am – 6:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 16, 2020 – 8:45 am – 3:45 pm
- Thursday, December 17, 2020 – 8:45 am – 6:00 pm
- Friday, December 18, 2020 – 8:45 am – 3:45 pm

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Burton at tlburton2@cps.edu or (773) 535-0585.

**CPS Intent-to-Return**
Opt-in submission form deadline is December 7th. [Here is the reopening guide for parents.]

### LSC Election Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Murray NEW LSC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parents</strong></td>
<td><strong>Teachers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandra Bradford</td>
<td>Monica Prinz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erica Bridges</td>
<td>Ashley Redding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Gage-Willis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurie Inman</td>
<td>Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wiley Taylor</td>
<td>Ari Anisfeld</td>
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<tr>
<td>H. Council Wilson</td>
<td>Helena Duncan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paraprofessionals &amp; school-related personnel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Vacant</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Key Dates
- LSC Members Take Office for New Term (1/11/21)
- LSC Annual Organizational Meetings (1/11/21 to 1/31/21)

### GoCPS
The application deadline for the 2021-2022 school year has been extended to January 8, 2021

### The FIIF deadline has been extended to Friday, December 11th.
There are several options for submitting the Family Information Form:
- * CORRECTED Email ([murrayschoolforms5335@gmail.com](mailto:murrayschoolforms5335@gmail.com))
- Fax (773-535-0590)
- Drop-off at Murray is welcomed

### Computer Science Week
On December 7th - 11th the Office of Computer Science (OCS) will be celebrating CSEd Week, a week dedicated to inspiring K-12 students to take interest in computer science. Murray will take part in the event. Ms. Calhoun is coordinating on behalf of our school.

### Brief Philip Murray Elementary School History
Philip Murray officially opened its doors in December 1954. The building cost $595,000 and the chief architect was John C. Christensen. The school’s capacity was 690 students, with two shifts of over 200 kindergartners in rooms 104, 106, and 108. To welcome the new school to the community, a ceremony was held. J. Mel O’Rourke, acting principal of Murray, welcomed the guest speaker Benjamin C. Willis, Superintendent of Schools, to Murray. The ceremony theme that night was, “Hyde Park—A Good Neighborhood Builds Good Schools.” Next week marks the 66th anniversary of Philip Murray Elementary School’s official opening.
PARENTS – STAY CONNECTED WITH EACH OTHER!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 2021 8th Graders</th>
<th>Murray Class of 2021 GroupMe</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2022 7th Graders</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2022 GroupMe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2023 6th Graders</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2023 GroupMe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2024 5th Grades</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2024 GroupMe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 2025 4th Graders</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2025 GroupMe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 2026 3rd Graders</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2026 GroupMe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class of 2027 2nd Graders</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2027 GroupMe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2028 1st Graders</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2028 GroupMe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2029 Kindergarten</td>
<td>Murray Class of 2029 GroupMe</td>
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</tbody>
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Upcoming dates

- December 6th: MOY Make-ups
- December 9th: PTO/PAC Meeting @ 6:00PM
- December 10th: Parent Workshop: Managing Stress During the Pandemic @ 6:00PM
- December 15th: LSC Meeting @ 6:00PM
- December 17th: 15th-week progress Reports go home
- December 21st: Winter break begins

We are Murray, We are one!
https://murray.cps.edu/

The New York Times

*What Parents Need to Know About Learning Pods*

By Dani Blum and Farah Miller

August 2020

**What is a learning pod?**

Learning pods — also called “pandemic pods,” micro-schools or nano-schools — are small groups of students (typically three to 10 children) who learn together outside the classroom but still in person. Some pods are hiring tutors to teach a child’s school curriculum; some pods are sharing teaching duties among parents. Other families are opting out of their kids’ schools entirely and treating a pod like a home-schooling co-op with an agreed-upon curriculum.

**Why are parents and teachers turning to pods?**

In July, The Times asked readers who were planning to form a learning pod, why they were doing so. The major reason cited of the 100 readers who responded, was safety from the coronavirus. Many of the parents and teachers said they wanted their children to have social interaction and in-person instruction. Some parents with small children said they were worried their kids would not have the attention spans needed for online learning and they thought having a teacher might help….

Full Article