

# Pilot School News

November 10, 2023 | Volume #5



## UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

**November 21, 2023**

Murray PTO Meeting  
6:00pm – 7:15pm

**November 23-24, 2023**

No School – Thanksgiving Holiday

**December 4, 2023**

Murray PACT Meeting  
5:00pm – 6:30pm

**December 19, 2023**

Winter Band/Orchestra Concert  
6:30pm

**Dec. 25, 2023 – Jan. 5, 2024**

No School – Winter Break

*ANY book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his or her needs, is good for him or her. **Maya Angelou***

Quarter 2 is now upon us! One of the important initiatives we are beginning at Murray with Q2 is DEAR, which stands for Drop Everything And Read. As a district and a school, literacy is always our focus. It's important to understand and embrace the responsibility that teaching kids to read and helping our students gain an appreciation for reading rests on the shoulders of all of us. With this initiative, students will be taking time in their foundations class every Wednesday to drop everything and read. Like any other skill, reading takes practice and time to get better. The goal is to help students engage with reading that interests/excites them and at the same time provide them time to practice the skill of reading. We ask that you help promote this initiative by engaging with your students about what it is they are reading on Wednesdays, provide them opportunities to get access to reading that excites them, promote reading at home and share the importance of finding reading that they enjoy. We look forward to our DEAR Wednesdays and are excited to see our kids building a love of reading!

Speaking of life skills, we have also implemented an initiative where all students are to be using a planner to track their academic progress such as learning objectives in classes and grade/goal tracking in foundations. Planners can be traditional hard copies or free digital versions that have been introduced by our foundation teachers. We ask that you please help our students understand the importance of using a tool such as a planner/calendar to stay organized and that this skill will be something that will help them for the rest of their lives. This is another one of the many reasons having a fully charged and working iPad every day at school is so critical.

Have a great weekend and welcome to Quarter 2!

### Celebrations:

**#Pilotprops** of the week! Mr. Willis would like to celebrate Tobias Tyler! Tobias is doing a great job in class. He is always on top of his work. When he finishes, he is also going around to other students and helping them if they have questions or need assistance. Go Pilots!

**#Pilotprops** of the week! Ms. Steinhoff would like to celebrate Cartier Spraggins. He comes to school with a positive attitude every day. His smile in the hallway always cheers me up. I always look forward to his positivity and silliness in class. Go Pilots!

**#Pilotprops** of the week! Ms. Quam would like to celebrate Tavarrion Carothers. Shout out to Tavarrion for always being the first one to lend a helping hand when someone is in need. Tavarrion works very hard to get good grades in class and is always offering great advice to his peers. In his extracurricular time, Tavarrion loves to play many different sports with basketball being his favorite!

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center - Wolf Ridge and Murray are back in action! Mr. Altringer left at 7:15AM this morning with his E2 Environmental Inquiry class for a weekend of environmental research, community building and adventure up at Wolf Ridge! We are so very excited to reignite this long partnership and for the stories and experiences that the students will have with this wonderful program.

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie  
Principal, Murray Middle School

## Sixth Grade

### **Minnesota Studies with Ms. Atchison and Ms. Pfeiffer:**

This week students are learning about gender roles in early Ojibwe history (pre 1800's) and how seasons affected Ojibwe communities.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Bell Museum**



## Seventh Grade

### **Science with Ms. Dooley: 7<sup>th</sup> grade science**

We have wrapped the unit on chemical reactions, featuring acid-base reactions in bath bombs, and are moving into cells and systems. We are currently working on a case study of a student who broke their foot and had a large cut on their foot as well. We are using this information to ask questions about how the body can heal itself, what are useful technologies in diagnosing and treating sickness and injury, and how we can use this information to tell us more about body systems in general.

### **Comparative Anatomy**

We have completed our look at the natural history of the Earth and are starting to look at the things that have lived there since the beginning (or at least in the last 3 billion years). We have grown bacteria, tested the ideal conditions to grow fungi, looked at how fungi reproduce, and are starting to examine the simplest animals. Next up: dissections of more advanced animals.

## Eighth Grade

### **Science with Ms. Atkinson:**

In Mrs. Atkinson's earth science class, we are in the middle of learning about why chemical and physical changes are important to everyday life. Next, we will be learning all about the periodic table in preparation for analyzing minerals and rocks.

In Mrs. Atkinson's coding class, we are finishing the basics of animation in JavaScript and will be creating games next in quarter 2! All the coding students are very excited for this!

### **Social Studies with Ms. Croone: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Global Studies**

After learning how to read maps, we have been looking at the 5 Themes of Geography—Movement, Region, Human-Environment Interaction, Location and Place through a variety of readings and activities. As the quarter is ending, this unit will have a summative in our classes in the next week.



## Staff Spotlight



Hello! My name is Kirsten Croone and at school I am Ms. Croone. I am excited to have joined the Murray staff as an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Global Studies and In These Times teacher. While it's my first year at Murray, it's not my first year in St. Paul!

I have been in education for over 25 years-mostly in St. Paul but did teach in Amman, Jordan at the American Community School for 2 years. It was an amazing adventure of cultures, foods, travel and bucket list items while I was there. My big accomplishment was completing a Geography Certificate from St. Cloud State University this past year and was able to study at Hogwarts aka Alnwick Castle in Alnwick, England for 3 weeks. I'm a huge HP fan and this was a dream come true! It's true-I am a life longer learner and now planning my next social studies area to study. I am a firm believer that I have "sand in my shoes" and blame my parents for that problem.

Things I love to do-travel! It is always at the top of my list as I am constantly looking for cool nuggets of info that I can bring back to my classroom to make the world real to my students. Knitting, cooking & baking, SCSU hockey games, hanging out with my mom and sister also top the list of things I love to do.

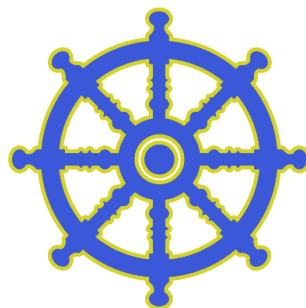
Thank you for welcoming me to Murray! I am lucky to be here and have appreciated the help and support I have received.

## Give To the Max Day 2023 November 16th

Help Murray Middle School raise \$5,000.00 to support our students!

Your Donations Support:

- Academic Support
- Affinity Groups
- Athletics & Clubs
- Band & Orchestra
- Classroom Supplies
- School Events
- School Musical



## Murray Middle School

<https://www.givemn.org/organization/Murray-Junior-High/welcome>

### Picture Day

School Pictures are Ready!

View and order at  
<https://shop.jostenspix.com/login>

MURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL Event  
Code: FE216023

Also Needed:  
Infinite Campus Unique Student ID

## Staff Spotlight



Hello there! My name is Gabe Gravert, I am one of the Math teachers at Murray Middle School. This is my 1<sup>st</sup> year with Murray Middle School and 1<sup>st</sup> year with Saint Paul Public Schools. I teach Pre-Algebra (7<sup>th</sup> grade math) and Integrated 1 Math (9<sup>th</sup> grade math). I started at Murray a week after the school year and have really enjoyed getting to know all the students, staff, and community here at Murray!

I received my bachelor's degree in Elementary and Middle Level Education from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Go Cats! I taught middle school math & science for 2 years in a District just outside of Des Moines, Iowa. I moved to the Twin Cities in Fall of 2019. While away from teaching I worked in store management for a HyVee while I was away from teaching for 2 years. I am really excited to be back in the classroom working with middle schoolers!

In my free time I like to play recreational sports such as soccer, kickball, and bowling. I am an avid follower of the University of Iowa Women's Basketball team. I have season tickets to their games with my sister who still lives in Iowa. I also enjoy spending time with my friend community here in the Twin Cities and exploring all that it has to offer. While in Iowa I coached High School baseball for 8 years and middle school girls' basketball for 2 years. I am looking forward to coaching middle school girls' basketball again this year at Murray!

My favorite part of this year so far has been getting to know all the students and facing challenges that math has to offer together. Looking forward to building community here at Murray for years to come.

## Counselor's Corner

### EVERY MEAL

Please fill out our QR code or this link if you are interested in getting items from the Murray food pantry sponsored by Every Meal. Link: <https://forms.gle/Uu7GTHWuTCiZgZ9b9>. We have food available at Murray for students to pick up at the end of the day on Fridays. It is in our Food pantry – see Google Form for more info. Please write down your name, your contact information, and which items you'd be interested in your student picking up each week. Students will take these items home in their backpacks.

Contact Justine Revermann ([justine.revermann@spps.org](mailto:justine.revermann@spps.org) or 651-744-7130) or Lisa Engelstad ([lisa.engelstad@spps.org](mailto:lisa.engelstad@spps.org) or 651-744-2397). You can reach out to us to schedule an appointment to pick up some food items.



Murray School Counselors,

Justine Revermann (Student last names A-L) [justine.revermann@spps.org](mailto:justine.revermann@spps.org) or 651-744-7130

Lisa Engelstad (Student last name M-Z) [lisa.engelstad@spps.org](mailto:lisa.engelstad@spps.org) or 651-744-2397



## 7th Grade Vision Screening Scheduled

Dear Parents/Guardians,

If your child is in 7th grade, they will have a vision screening at school in the upcoming weeks by Phillips Eye Institute's Early Youth Eyecare (E.Y.E.) Community Initiative, part of Allina Health. While this screening is designed to identify issues with your child's vision, it is not considered to be a full eye exam. If your child does not pass the vision screening, you will be notified with the recommendation to have your child receive an examination by an eye doctor for further evaluation. E.Y.E. can assist with scheduling the examination, as well as provide interpreter services, transportation and financial assistance with exams and glasses. If you have questions or do not want your child to participate in the vision screening, please contact Vanessa Novak, RN, LSN (school nurse) at 651-888-7650.

## Agenda referente a evaluación de la visión

Estimados padres y madres o tutores,

Su hijo o hija tendrá un examen de la vista en la escuela en las próximas semanas por parte de la iniciativa comunitaria de atención a la vista juvenil temprana (E.Y.E. por sus siglas en inglés) del Instituto del ojo Phillips, parte de Allina Health. Si bien este examen está diseñado para identificar problemas con la visión de su hijo o hija, no se considera un examen ocular completo. Si su hijo o hija no pasa el examen de la vista, se le notificará con la recomendación de que un/a oculista lo/la examine para una evaluación adicional. E.Y.E. puede ayudar a programar el examen, así como proporcionar servicios de interpretación, transporte y asistencia financiera con los exámenes y los anteojos. Si tiene alguna pregunta o no desea que su hijo o hija participe en el examen de la vista, comuníquese con Vanessa Novak, RN, LSN (enfermero/a escolar certificado/a) al 651-888-7650.

## Teem Caij Kuaj txoj Kev Pom Kev

Nyob Zoo Niam Txiv/Neeg Saib Xyuas,

Koj tus me nyuam yuav raug kev kuaj txoj kev pom kev tom tsev kawm ntawv hauv ob peb lim piam tom ntej no los ntawm Phillips Qhov Chaw Kho Qhov Muag E.Y.E. Kev Pab hauv Zej Zog, uas yog ib qhov kev pab los ntawm Allina Health. Txoj kev kuaj no yuav nrhiav tau tej teeb meem ntawm koj tus me nyuam txoj kev pom kev, nws tsis yog ib txoj kev kuaj qhov muag tag nrho. Yog tias koj tus me nyuam tsis d'haiv kev kuaj txoj kev pom kev, yuav ceeb toom koj seb koj tus me nyuam yuav tsum mus ntsib tus kws kho qhov muag kom tau kev kuaj ntxiv. E.Y.E. mam li pab koj teem caij rau kev kuaj, thiab mam li nrhiav neeg txhais lus, thauj mus los thiab pab nyiaj txiag the m nqi kuaj thiab iav qhov muag. Yog koj muaj lus nug los sis tsis xav kom koj tus me nyuam raug kev kuaj txoj kev pom kev no, thov tiv tauj mus rau Vanessa Novak, RN, LSN (Tsev Kawm Ntawv tus Nais Maum RN) nyob ntawm 651-888-7650.



**Baadhistaanka Aragga ee Ballarsan**

Gacaliyeyaal Waalid/Masuulin,  
 Ilmahaaga waxa loo sameyn doonaa baad hitaanka aragga oo lag u sameyn doo nayn dugsiga todobaadada soo socda kaasoo lag u qabanayo Machadka Indhaha ee Phillips (Phillips Eye Institute) Barnaamijka Beesha ee Daryeelka Indhaha ee Da'yarta (Early Youth Eyecare (E.Y.E.) Community Initiative), oo qayb ka ah Allina Health. Inkasta oo baadhistaankan loogu talagalay in la garto wixii ah dhibaatooyin ee ka jira aragga ilmahaaga, hadda na laga ma soo qaadayo inu ya hay baadhitaan indho oo dhammeystiran. Haddii ilmahaagu aannu ku gudbin baadhistaankan aragga, waxa lagu siin doonaa ogeysiis u la socdo soo-jeedin ah in ilmahaaga u dhakhtarka indhuhu u sameeyo baadhitaan si loo helo qiimeyn dheeraad ah. Barnaamijka E.Y.E. wuxu kaa gargaari karaa ballaminta baad hitaanka, waxa kale oo u bixiyaa adeegyo turjubaan, gaadiid iyo gargaar dhaqaale oo ah baadhistaanka iyo muraayadaha aragga. Haddii ad qabtid su'aalo ama aanaad rabin in ilmahaagu ka qaybgalo baadhistaanka aragga, fadlan la xidhiidh Vanessa Novak, RN, LSN (Kalkaalisada Dugsiga) oo laga wacayo 651-888-7650.

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 Tariiqada iyo/amaarada qaybaha ee Phillips Eye Institute

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 Iyadoo la aaminsan yahay qaybaha ee Phillips Eye Institute

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 Phillips Eye Institute's Early Youth Eyecare (E.Y.E.) Community Initiative (Philly Eye) wuxu kaa gargaari karaa ballaminta baad hitaanka, waxa kale oo u bixiyaa adeegyo turjubaan, gaadiid iyo gargaar dhaqaale oo ah baadhistaanka iyo muraayadaha aragga. Haddii ad qabtid su'aalo ama aanaad rabin in ilmahaagu ka qaybgalo baadhistaanka aragga, fadlan la xidhiidh Vanessa Novak, RN, LSN (Kalkaalisada Dugsiga) oo laga wacayo 651-888-7650.

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 (RN) iyo \_\_\_\_\_  
 (RN) iyo \_\_\_\_\_

Vanessa Novak, RN, LSN  
 651-888-7650





## ACCELERATED PROGRAMS NIGHT

THURSDAY, NOV. 16, 6:30-7:30 P.M.

**What:** Como Park High School is hosting their Accelerated Programs Night. This is an opportunity for prospective students and families to learn more about Como's college-level Advanced Placement classes, Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) and Concurrent College Enrollment options from Como staff and a student panel. Learn about our successful programs and have all your questions answered! Light refreshments will be provided.

**When:** Nov. 16, 2023 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Como Park Senior High School Library  
740 Rose Avenue W, Saint Paul, MN 55117



COMO STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTS

# FALL FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 17TH, FRIDAY, 5-8PM

COMO PARK SENIOR HIGH

740 ROSE AVE W, ST PAUL, MN 55117

ACTIVITIES DURING FALL FESTIVAL:

PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

SCAVENGER HUNT

GAMES

ARTS AND CRAFTS, FACE PAINTING

SOME OF THE GAMES AND FACE PAINTING REQUIRE TICKETS

TICKET BUNDLES:

1\$ FOR 2 TICKETS

5\$ FOR 12 TICKETS

10\$ FOR 26 TICKETS

CASH ONLY!

USE THE QR CODE TO FIND ALL THE SIGN-UP LINKS





Join us for the 2nd Annual

# HARVEST AT THE HUB



- Food giveaway with turkeys, produce, and much more!
- Community resource fair
- Vaccine clinic
- Health and wellbeing services
- Snacks and warm beverages!



**Register here!**

Scan QR code  
or follow link below

[tinyurl.com/5a2fkmmv](https://tinyurl.com/5a2fkmmv)

**TUESDAY, NOV 21 | 3 - 7 PM**

**45 WEST 10TH STREET SAINT PAUL, MN 55102**

**REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED, BUT STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**

Proudly sponsored by:



# Únase a nosotros para la segunda edición anual **COSECHA EN EL CENTRO**



- ¡Entrega de comida, pavos, productos agrícolas y mucho más
- Feria de recursos comunitarios
- clínica de vacunas
- Servicios de salud y bienestar.
- ¡Bocadillos y bebidas calientes!



¡Regístrese aquí!  
Escanear código QR  
o siga el enlace a  
continuación

<https://tinyurl.com/5a2fkmmv>

**MARTES 21 DE NOVIEMBRE | 3 - 7 PM**  
**45 WEST 10TH STREET SAINT PAUL, MN 55102**  
**POR FAVOR REGISTRESE PARA LA ENTREGA DE COMIDA**

Orgullosamente patrocinado por:



14th Annual

Project REACH

# COAT AND BLANKET DRIVE

Nov. 13, 2023 - Jan. 19, 2024

We are accepting **NEW coats and blankets** this year to help keep our children experiencing homelessness warm all winter.

We need **all sizes** (infant, toddler, youth, adult) of **NEW** coats & blankets for our long winter!

**Please bring donations to our office at:**  
1021 Marion Street, St. Paul, MN 55117  
or contact Heather Alden at [heather.alden@spps.org](mailto:heather.alden@spps.org)  
or 651-744-7173 to arrange a pick up!



**Project REACH**

A Saint Paul Public Schools program serving families in our district who are experiencing homelessness.

Thank you so much for your support of our students!



Saint Paul  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS





3rd Annual Title I Project REACH



# TOY & GIFT DRIVE



Now through December 15, 2023

Drop off or ship to: 1021 Marion Street, Saint Paul, MN 55117

Project REACH is seeking new toys and gifts for children ages birth through 18. The gifts will go to families experiencing homelessness in Saint Paul Public Schools. Unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at the Title I office at the address listed above, or you can order from the wish lists listed and they will be delivered to the office.

#### Gift Ideas:

- Lego sets, board games, puzzles, trucks and cars
- Multicultural dolls and Barbies
- Dress-up clothes
- Arts and crafts materials, journals and pens
- Gift cards for Chipotle, Starbucks, Popeyes, Visa, iTunes, movie theaters, Best Buy, Target, etc.
- Jewelry, hair accessories, nail polish, cosmetic brushes
- Sports equipment for basketball, football, volleyball, soccer
- Earbuds, headphones, wireless speakers
- Educational/learning toys
- Sleds and winter toys
- Lotions, shower gel, shampoo, conditioner

#### Links to shopping wish lists:



#### TARGET

<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/project-reach-toy-drive>



#### AMAZON

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gi/quest-view/3PCUSHFGPCR1S>

For additional information, please contact Andrea Lindorfer at 651-216-3492 or [andrea.lindorfer@spps.org](mailto:andrea.lindorfer@spps.org)

