

Pilot School News

February 2, 2024 | Volume #10



UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

February 5, 2024

Murray PACT Meeting
5:00pm – 6:30pm

February 12, 2024

National African American Parent
Involvement Day

February 19, 2024

No School – Presidents Day

February 20, 2024

Murray PTO Meeting
6:00pm – 7:15pm

March 4, 2024

Murray PACT Meeting
5:00pm – 6:30pm

March 14, 2024

Family/Teacher Conferences
4:00pm – 7:00pm

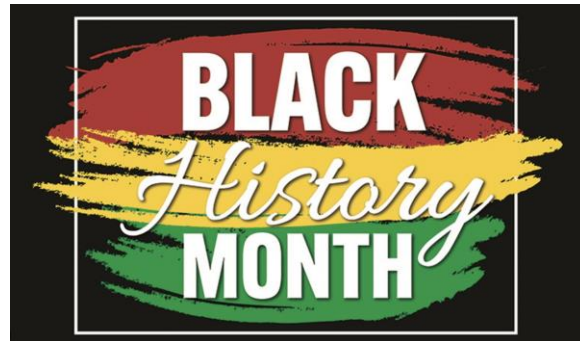
March 16, 2024

Regional History Day

March 19, 2024

Family/Teacher Conferences
4:00pm – 7:00pm

*You can only become accomplished at something you love. Don't make money your goal. Instead pursue the things you love doing and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off you. **Maya Angelou***



As we celebrate Black History Month, we want to invite everyone to join us in person or virtually with our NAAPID (National African American Parent Involvement Day) event on Monday, February 12 at 1:30PM. This is a day designed to stress the importance of African American parents and families getting involved in their child's education and to celebrate the partnership between students, families and schools. Murray has been working to create an event that highlights student voice and performance, community leaders and spoken word all in the name of celebrating Black History with a focus this year on Black leaders who are shaping history today. As an educator, there is nothing more powerful than seeing a student realizing and showcasing their talents, strengths and influence all while shining as a leader in our community.

Please see the notice for Murray's NAAPID event in this newsletter along with information connected to the district celebration at Benjamin E. Mays elementary.

Murray NAAPID Event

Monday, February 12 • 1:15 – 2:45pm

Time zone: America/Chicago

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ruz-iowc-ydn>

Celebrations:

#Pilotprops of the week! Mr. Little would like to celebrate Marcel Bolden Jr. Marcel is a great young man. He is always respectful to staff and his peers. Marcel is a great athlete. Congratulations Marcel, Murray is proud of you!

#Pilotprops of the week! Ms. Tina would like to celebrate Micah Hobson. Micah always has a smile on his face, positive energy and is a loving caring student! He lifts my spirits daily!!

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie

Principal, Murray Middle School

Yearbooks

Yearbooks cost \$21.00. Students can pick up an order form from the office or see Ms. Pittman. The easiest way to buy a yearbook is to purchase it online at <https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/high-school-yearbooks.html>

Sixth Grade

English with Ms. Stedje:

Sixth-grade Readers and Writers are beginning Q3 by hopping into social issue fiction book clubs! Students will be reading a chosen fiction book centered around a social issue and discussing the book in small groups.

In Writers Workshop, students participate in an Essay Boot Camp mini-unit. After we graduate from 'Boot Camp', we will be writing thematic essays about the books we are reading.

Math with Mr. Klemme:

In math 6 we have continued our exploration of algebra. Most recently we've been using inverse operations to solve one-step equations. We will continue to explore equations, inequalities, and graphs here at the beginning of the 3rd quarter.

Science with Ms. Crowley:

In 6th grade Earth science, we have been working on our Cold Cup Challenge. Students have been designing, testing, and redesigning their cup using what they have learned about thermal energy. This project was a super fun way to end the quarter. We are excited to start quarter three beginning a new unit studying weather where they can apply also what they have learned about light and thermal energy.

Seventh Grade

Math with Mr. Klemme:

Students in pre-algebra have been exploring standards that work with ratios and proportions. We've been finding unit rates and constant rates of proportion. We will apply this knowledge to creating equations and graphs when we know the constant of proportion. In the following unit, Unit 5, we will explore and solve problems dealing with finding percents of a number, percent increase/decrease, and simple interest.

Social Studies with Ms. Newman and Ms. Atchison:

7th Grade United States History

Our Historians are currently putting their finishing touches on their rough drafts for their History Day Projects. The theme is Turning Points in History. We plan on sharing our Final Projects with each other during the first week of class in the 3rd quarter. Students are finishing their website, documentary, virtual exhibit, performance, or paper to show what they know about their topic. Our official due date is **February 2nd, 2024**. After our due date we will be entering the competition part of our History Day experience. The Regional Competition is at Johnson Senior High on Saturday, March 16th. Students who wish to be considered for advancement to Regionals will complete a google form for the committee. More information about the Regional Competition will be emailed to students chosen to advance in February.

Eighth Grade

Math with Mr. Hayden:

In Integrated Math, we are finishing up our unit on Systems of Linear Equations and Inequalities. We learned three different strategies for solving systems of equations- graphing, substitution and elimination. We also discovered the majority of systems have one solution- the point or ordered pair where the two lines intersect. However, there are some special systems that either have no solution or infinitely many. When we began to explore systems of inequalities, we saw that our solutions are now a specific region of our graph or any ordered pair that satisfies both inequalities. Although it is also possible to have a system of inequalities that has no solutions.

In Algebra, we are finishing up Part 2 of our Analyzing Linear Equations topic. In this unit we learned about 3 different forms of linear equations- slope-intercept form, point-slope form, and standard form and how all 3 of them are used, with an extra emphasis on slope-intercept form.

We also learned about the relationships between slopes of parallel and perpendicular lines. Parallel lines have the same slope and perpendicular slopes are opposite reciprocals of one another, or they can be multiplied to give a product of -1.

Both classes will be taking their mid-year assessment next to gauge our growth from the start of the year and both classes are also beginning to transition to entirely digital assignments, so it is paramount for students to remember to charge those iPads every night!

Social Studies with Mr. Kareem and Ms. Croone:

Students are finishing up their History Day projects. It's great to see their excitement around the project! The completed projects will be the first assignment due for Quarter 3. Those students who are interested in competing will have a couple extra weeks to put the finishing touches on their projects. They should have their project ready for consideration for the Regional Competition by Feb. 16.

Guthrie

Guthrie Education is running Spring Break camps this year for the first time.

Here is the link to the info and registration:

<https://www.guthrietheater.org/education/camps/>

We also have 50% and 100% scholarships available:

<https://forms.gle/CELtpYN4kdRzcVKG9>

Murray Middle Presents...Mary Poppins, Jr.

Performances will be:

Friday, March 22nd, 7:00PM

Saturday, March 23rd, 7:00PM

Sunday, March 24th, 2:00PM

[Murray Musical - Mary Poppins -](#)

[Class Registration v3.0 - Saint](#)

[Paul Public Schools](#)

rschooldtoday.com



Counselor's Corner

8th grade families:

By now, students and families should have received in the mail their school assignment for the 2024-25 school year. If you do not want to attend that specific school, you need to apply to go to a different school by February 9th. Here is the application link for the Placement Center <https://apply.spps.org/> The main office also has paper copies available as well.

Upcoming events:

Como Park High School:

- Tour/Shadowing information for Como:
 - 8th graders/Families: If you are interested in shadowing at or touring Como Park Senior High School, please contact Jamie Hoffman at Como: jamie.hoffman@spps.org or 651-744-5529.
 - New program for 2024-2025 school year for Como 9th graders: [3DE Info here](#)

Central High School:

- Registration Night for those enrolled at Central: March 28, 2024

Link to all dates for Open Houses and Showcases in SPPS: <https://www.spps.org/openhouses>

Earn as you Learn:

- There is a district-wide opportunity for 8-12 grade students to learn new skills while earning money through the Earn as you Learn program.
- Earn a \$300 stipend while exploring career interests, working on industry certificates, preparing for the workplace, and learning financial literacy! Students can complete the work from home.
- Courses offered in: OSHA, MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access.
 - \$300 stipend for completion of each course
- More information here: <https://www.spps.org/Earnasyoulearn>
- Earn as You Learn Application/Registration: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHkahKqym7hecQgBofleTbylyL0-EWfrYN2fClxblSjCkkCw/viewform>

Right Track:

Keep your eyes out for Right Track information coming out soon. The application will be open on January 15 until February 29. The general link is here: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/right-track>. The application isn't open until Jan 15 though. It's for summer paid jobs!

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 or 651-744-7130) or Lisa Engelstad (lisa.engelstad@spps.org or 651-744-2397). You can reach out to us to schedule an appointment to pick up some food items.



Debate

Hello from the Minnesota Urban Debate League! We are excited to share the results of your team's first Middle School Debate tournament with you. It was a wonderful start to the season with very robust Rookie, Novice, and Junior Varsity divisions!

Your coaches, **Rebecca Stedje and Lily Teske**, have been working hard to prepare to debate this year's complex and timely topic – police reform.

According to Noah Winters, South debater and volunteer judge, your students are already digging in. Noah continues, "I think the students like this year's topic. Students are seeing many sides of a complex issue, explaining their arguments well, and I saw thoughtful responses. I enjoyed judging these debates!"

Your debaters had an excellent performance at this tournament! Elliot Miller, Central High School debater and volunteer middle school judge, enjoyed judging debates last week, adding, "Debaters this year started off strong. They were making clear points and their arguments were well substantiated. I'm excited to see where they go this season!"

At each tournament, debaters have the opportunity to earn partnership awards (based on number of wins) and speaker awards (based on individual performance). Your team earned both!

Thank you so much for supporting debate at Murray. Your team had a fantastic start to the season and we're excited to see them at the next tournament on February 15th!

Best,
Jake Swede
Program Director
Minnesota Urban Debate League

Tournament Results

Rookie Division

Team Awards

- 8: Ailabouni & Boyd & Mcclarry
- 9: Sharif & Mohamed
- 10: Adam & Keeler
- 14: Grunditz & Lorenz
- 15: Jones & Kryvalap
- 24: Erickson-Wright & Laska & Richardson

Speaker Awards

- 6: Travis Jones
- 8: Harper Lorenz
- 9: Jill Grunditz
- 14: Peter Laska
- 15: Yury Kryvalap
- 18: Kiran Boyd
- 19: Bronson Richardson
- 24: Ronan Mcclarry
- 27: Mariya Adam
- 30: Maida Sharif
- 31: Karam Ailabouni
- 34: Hafsa Mohamed
- 40: Elias Keeler
- 41: Miles Erickson-Wright

Novice Division

Team Awards

- 1: Kennedy & Van Keerbergen
- 9: Lindsley & Mortensen
- 13: Dashevsky & Amman Steger

Speaker Awards

- 8: Mary Grace Lindsley
- 9: Alana Kennedy
- 13: Sofia Mortensen
- 15: Alice Van Keerbergen
- 20: Paloma Dashevsky
- 26: Anna Amman Steger



Johnson Senior High School Open House



Thursday, February 8, 2024

5:30 PM-6:30PM

We are looking forward to meeting all of our future Governors
and your families at this event.

All future Governors and Families that attend Open House will
receive free entry into the Johnson High School Boys' Basketball
game versus Harding High School that night.



VS



We Are ONE Johnson, The Pride of The East Side!



A day designed to stress the importance of African American parents and families getting involved in their child's education and to celebrate the partnership between students, families and schools.

NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN PARENT INVOLVEMENT DAY

NAAPID

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

SPPS will commemorate this day by holding individual school celebrations throughout the district, ending with a communitywide celebration and resource fair at Benjamin E. Mays Elementary in the evening.

Purpose of NAAPID

"A day designed to stress the importance of African American parents and families getting involved in their child's education and to celebrate the partnership between students, families and schools."

- Promote African American parent involvement in their children's education
- Promote and provide strategies for African American parents and students to take full advantage of educational opportunities at all levels while navigating the systemic barriers that exist
- Identify and develop partnership efforts in all sectors of the community
- Offer workshops, seminars and instruction to increase parent involvement and eliminate the achievement gap

NAAPID FAMILY RESOURCE FAIR

Monday, Feb. 12 | 5:30 p.m.
Location: Benjamin E. Mays
Elementary
560 Concordia Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55103

History of NAAPID – The Founder's Story

Inspired by the Million Man March, where 1.7 million African American men convened and made a vow to be more involved in their community.

In 1995, Joe (Dulin) attended the Million Man March in Washington, D.C. During the event, he witnessed a speech from a young orator who challenged the men in the crowd to go back to their communities and do more. That speech hit home for Dulin as he stopped to call his wife and tell her about the experience and the message he'd just heard. "Joe called me from the march and said, 'that boy was talking to me,'" Yvonne recalled. When he returned home, he set about creating the first National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID). Going back to his days in Detroit, Dulin remembered how critical parent involvement was to getting kids into college. He thought by organizing a day where parents could learn just how important that involvement was, he could make a change in his community. "The more parents are involved in their children's education, the more successful the student will be," Yvonne said, adding that her husband believed parents and teachers are a child's greatest ally.

Dulin launched the day in February 1996 and NAAPID has taken place on the second Monday of February every year since.

A Celebration and a Commitment: From Us, To Us, By Us, For Us

For more information and
resources, visit spps.org/naapid



Black History Month Celebration



You are invited to a celebration at Murray Middle School

When: Monday, February 12 @ 1:30
Where: Murray Middle School Library
Why: CELEBRATE GREATNESS

Leaders Shaping History Today

• Notable Dates in Black History	Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1619 – First Africans brought to this country via the Transatlantic Slave Trade○ 1865 – Emancipation Proclamation○ 1954 – Brown vs. The Board of Education○ 1983 – MLK Jr. Day declared a National Holiday○ 2008 – First Black President Barack Obama○ 2023 – Bill HF 48 passed. Juneteenth recognized as a state holiday in Minnesota	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Mr. McKenzie○ Mr. Little○ Song: Lift Every Voice○ Lillian Reed○ Mr. Terrell○ Dance Celebration○ Marcel Bolden Jr.○ Mr. Farley○ Antuan Garcia○ Nijia Wheeler○ Omar Ali○ Jason Geschwind○ Mr. McKenzie



Paint a Mural Fundraiser



Donate \$5 per person or pay what you can to help support our Family Fun Night event in May.

An opportunity to
leave your legacy at
Como Park High
School.



3:15-7:15p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday
February 20 & 22

