

Pilot School News

February 16, 2024 | Volume #11



UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

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

March 22-24, 2024

School Musical

March 26-28, 2024

MCA's (Reading)

March 28, 2024

End of Third Quarter

March 29, 2024

No School for Students – Professional Day

Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. Harriet Tubman

One of the celebratory events at Murray to celebrate Black History Month is a door decorating contest. The theme for this contest is Leaders Who Are Shaping History Today. I want to take this opportunity to highlight a door that our students created to acknowledge one of our very own community leaders that makes a difference in all of our lives every single day, Mr. Little. It's hard for me to put into words the amazing and lasting impact that Mr. Little has on all of us. He is a sincere and committed educator that always sees the potential in all of our students and goes above and beyond to help carve a path for our young Pilots to both see and achieve their dreams. Over his years of working in the community, he has influenced, supported, guided and cared for thousands of individuals. His name and kindness are known far and wide. Please join me in celebrating Mr. Little as one of our amazing leaders and know that Murray is very fortunate to have him in our community. Thank you, Mr. Little, for all you do and for showing us true commitment to the betterment of a community.

Some quotes from our Pilots -

"Mr. Little helps me make better choices" TC

"Mr. Little always makes me smile when he talks to me" AT

"Mr. Little calms me down when I am frustrated" RB

"Mr. Little helps everyone" BR

"Mr. Little is a leader of all students" ZA

"Mr. Little is a very kind human" PB



Celebrations:

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Mr. Boyer would like to celebrate Anna Peltier! Anna has done an awesome job all semester contributing thoughtful comments and questions in Health Class. Also, she contributed her amazing art that continues to inspire students in the class. Go Pilots!

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Ms. J. Engelstad would like to celebrate Jane Williams. Jane is always respectful and shows an interest in her learning. She is a great student and Murray is lucky to have her in our community! Go Pilots!

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Ms. J. Engelstad would like to celebrate Foziya Gameda. Foziya always participates in class and is always willing to help out her peers. Foziya is a strong Murray leader and we are lucky to have her in our class! Way to go, Foziya!

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Ms. Quam would like to celebrate Saadik Ibrahim. A huge shout out to Saadik as he is doing an awesome job with his Literacy and has an amazing ability to focus. Also, is always willing to help when needed. Great job, Saadik!

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Principal, Murray Middle School

Sixth Grade

Math with Mr. Lee:

I'm thrilled to share that our 6th graders have wrapped up their graphing unit, mastering the art of visualizing data and drawing meaningful conclusions. It's been quite a journey, and your child has shown exceptional growth in understanding various graph types, interpreting trends, and making connections. Get ready for our next chapter – Ratios! In the upcoming weeks, your 6th grader will dive into the fascinating world of ratios, exploring the relationships between quantities and understanding how they play a crucial role in solving real-world problems. Don't forget to check your child's Success Maker minutes at home on Fridays. They should be averaging 60 minutes a week. Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's educational journey.

Social Studies with Ms. Pfeiffer and Ms. Atchison:

This week in class students are continuing to work on their History Day project. Students will have the opportunity to share their projects in class next week! After History Day, sixth graders will jump back into Minnesota history with the Dred and Harriet Scott Supreme Court Case and then we will read Soldier's Heart by Gary Paulsen to learn about Minnesota's contributions to the Civil War.

Seventh Grade

Math with Mr. Gravert:

In Mr. Gravert's 7th grade Pre-Algebra class we just finished up taking our mid-year diagnostic assessment to see the growth between the beginning of the year and now. It's exciting to see students start seeing the progress they've made. At the beginning of the year, we took a diagnostic assessment through the new curriculum. This places them at a grade level for the 5 different strands of mathematics: number & operation, Algebraic Reasoning, Geometry, Probability & Statistics, and Ratio & Proportion.

This gives teachers an opportunity to see where students are and meet them through math reviews and support. We will use the data to better prepare them for the MCA's in the spring.

We are also in our Percents Unit. I personally love this unit as there are so many practical uses for percents. We just found the percent of a number like Sale's tax or percentages of groups and surveys. We will be beginning to find a percent increase or decrease and discounts and markups. While you are grocery or clothes shopping ask your child to find percentages of these items to practice what they've been learning in Math class.

Eighth Grade

Science with Mr. Chase:

Earth science classes are starting a new unit called, *Why does a lot of hail, rain, or snow fall at some times and not others?* as part of the OpenSciEd middle school science curriculum. This unit develops science ideas about weather, climate, and water cycling. During the unit, your student will conduct investigations where they analyze data to draw models to help explain a sudden hailstorm and a large midwestern winter storm in the United States.

Imagine a sunny day then suddenly cars and the pavement are hit with hail, some the size of golf balls! In the first half of the unit, students watch videos of such hailstorms. These hail storms occurred in different locations and different times of the year. Some hail storms accompanied strong winds and rain! Together students are encouraged to wonder and to investigate what causes hailstorms and eventually storms in general, like rain. Students then continue to revise their model drawings to help explain what causes local weather events like hail storms and rain.

Helping your student make sense of their learning:

- There is no need to teach your child vocabulary before the unit because words often have multiple meanings, and are often easier to remember once students have some experience with it.
- Encourage your child to expand and clarify their own thinking by asking to give examples, to say more, and to reiterate what they said back to them.
- Ask how they might have arrived at a particular conclusion.
- Ask your child to recall what other students have said in class, and what about the ideas did they agree or disagree with.

- If your child sees or thinks of other weather events from prior trips or shows, encourage them to share it in class the next day.

Having conversations about science:

- Encourage your child's curiosity through talking about their own noticings and wonderings.
- If your child has experienced the Cup Design Unit, ask how that prior engineering design unit is similar and different to the current unit. Follow up with "how so?"
- If your child has experienced the Cup Design Unit, ask about what science ideas do they see useful in the current unit. Follow up with "how so?"



Counselor's Corner

Upcoming events:

Central High School:
Registration Night for those enrolled
at Central: March 28th

Como Park High School:
Tour/Shadowing Information:
8th graders/Families interested in
shadowing at or touring, please
contact Jamie Hoffman: 651-744-
5529 or jamie.hoffman@spps.org

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.
- More information here: <https://www.spps.org/Earnasyoulearn>
- Earn as You Learn Application/Registration: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHkahKqym7hecQgBofleTby1yL0-EWfrYN2fClxbLSjCkCw/vi/wform>

Right Track:

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>.

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.



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
\(\[rschooltoday.com\]\(http://rschooltoday.com\)\)](#)

Yearbooks

Yearbooks cost \$25.00. **Sale:** There
will a sale February 17th – February
29th. The cost will be \$20.00.
[https://www.jostens.com/year
books/high-school-
yearbooks.html](https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/high-school-yearbooks.html)

Staff Spotlight



Hello, my name is Kristina Robertson. I have 28 years of EL teaching and leadership experience mostly in the Twin Cities area, although I began my teaching career as a Peace Corps volunteer in Sri Lanka! I still remember my first teaching day. I was in a field with my Sri Lankan students – the sky was bright blue, the cows were grazing, and my students were giggling and speaking English and I thought, "This is AMAZING!" I knew I wanted to be a teacher.

I returned to the states, got my EL teaching license and proceeded to teach and lead in Bloomington, Minneapolis, Burnsville, Roseville, a stint at MDE and two years as a national WIDA trainer before the honor of arriving in St. Paul. I have been leading EL programming and professional learning for the past 15 years and it was time to return to my roots – to teach again and remember why I started this crazy career long ago. I never thought I'd return to middle school but I'm glad I did. While most days I'm exhausted and overwhelmed, I am happy and I know I'll never be bored.

I live in the Merriam Park neighborhood with my husband Paul, dogs Rocky and Fern, and two cozy calico cats Libby and Lottie (named after my grandma and her twin sister). My six kids are all grown and only two live locally but I enjoy spending time with them and my granddaughter, Annie. For fun I love reading, camping, and music.

In my spare time I teach adult ESL at Hubbs Center, mentor Karen students, and dabble in writing my dissertation... My secret vices are staying up late binge-watching British murder mysteries, eating Cheetos, and creating/abandoning Pinterest boards.

Academic All-Star Quarter 2

Blen Adalo – Excellence in OT Literacy

Narah Ailabouni – Narah is a prime example of a math All Star! Her work ethic and positive attitude are above and beyond expectations.

Ximena Alvarado – Ximena is always on task and is always well behaved. Awesome to be around!

Kara Bergman – Kara does an excellent job using specific historical details to support her historical claims.

Marcel Bolden – Excellence in OT Literacy

Henry Bui – Henry is an eager participant in class discussions and activities. He consistently checks and reviews his writing to create strong historical arguments.

Riley Carney – For your strong commitment to moving your science thinking forward and that of your classmates around you.

Shoshi Castino – Shoshi is a remarkable student who works well with others, asks questions to enhance her learning, and leads by example. Way to go Shoshi!

Javier Cerda – Javi is a great participant in class. His work is always detailed! He is constantly striving to improve his work and build his knowledge.

Gennika Chang – Amazing work as a Historian! Always striving to improve her historical skills! Keep it up!

Edison Chit – Excellence in OT Literacy

Tha Ya Choeh – Excellence in WINN Reading

Gustavo DeLeon Reyes – Excellence in OT Literacy

Lily Flores-Diaz – Lily always turns in great work. She is dedicated to submitting detailed and well thought out answers!

Koh Naw Gae – Excellence in WINN Reading

Antuan Garcia – Excellence in OT Literacy

Soliana Gebreyohanes – For your active participation and dedication to high academic standards in pre-algebra.

Yordanos Gebreyohanes – Yordanos is an excellent student that is always on task and cares about her work.

Kingston Griffin – Excellence in OT Literacy

Adeline Hanson – For excellent work in all areas of Comparative Anatomy.

Safa Hassan – Excellence in OT Literacy

Eric Her – Excellence in OT Literacy

Dah Dah Hser – Excellence in WINN Reading

Zari Ingram-Jordan – Excellence in WINN Reading

Catherine Isaac – Excellence in WINN Reading



Academic All-Star Quarter 2

Eh Ku – Eh Ku is a straight A student and always does her work and leads by example.

Connor Kue – Connor is a prime example of a math All Star. His work ethic and positive attitude are above and beyond expectations.

Glenn Kyei – Excellence in OT Literacy

Brexton Lindell – Excellence in WINN Reading

Emmett Loth – Emmett is a student who shows grit when things get tough. He does a great job showing work and making connections to the math we do in class.

Rayann Mahamed – Excellence in OT Literacy

Edwin Martin-Cumes – Excellence in WINN Reading

Wah Doh Moo – For always striving to excel and do quality work. Wah Doh Moo also supports new students and is a good role model for her classmates.

Leah Moore – Excellence in WINN Reading

Sofia Mortensen – For your active participation and dedication to high academic standards in algebra.

Jalante O'Neal – Jalante works hard in class, participates in class discussions, and always has a positive attitude! Keep it up!

Duncan Peterson – Duncan combines consistency and hard work to achieve high academic standards. He also helps and motivates his lab partners. An all-around amazing person!

Amelia Reiban Alberca – Amelia always participates positively and does excellent work. She also helps her classmates to reach a high standard.

Adelyn Riedlberger – For consistent, high quality work and excellent team work in Life Science.

Linn Let Sandar – LinnLet's commitment to creating her Art is an inspiration for the whole class.

Thanarthon Satjathamwaree – Tan has a no-nonsense approach to doing his work. He comes in and gets the job done.

Kai Schou – For your strong commitment to moving your science thinking forward and that of your classmates around you.

Logan Small – Logan prioritizes his academics, does an outstanding job of explaining his thought process, and holds himself to and meets his exceptionally high standards. Congrats Logan!

Adalyn Thao – Excellence in OT Literacy

Ka Lu Thaw – Ka Lu Thaw is such a leader in class! Besides doing his own work, he is always willing to help his classmates. Excellence in WINN Reading.

Tobias Tyler – Tobias combines consistency and hard work to achieve high academic standards. He also helps and motivates his lab partners. An all-around amazing person!

Melody Xiong – Excellence in WINN Reading

Annie Yang – Excellence in OT Literacy



Family-Teacher Conference Request Form

Or complete online form at <http://murray.spps.org>

1) CHECK CHOICE: ☐ Thursday, March 14, 2024 (4:00 PM—7:00 PM)

OR ☐ Tuesday, March 19, 2024 (4:00 PM—7:00 PM)

OR ☐ No Preference on Date

→ → → On the date you requested, do you prefer an ☐ earlier time or ☐ later time or ☐ no preference

2) PRINT STUDENT'S FIRST AND LAST NAME BELOW:

Student 1 _____ Student 2 _____

Use both columns *only if you have 2 students at Murray.*

Grade Level for Student 1	School will fill in Time	Grade Level for Student 2	School will fill in Time

You will be able to meet with each teacher approximately 4 to 5 minutes. 6th grade teachers will be in the cafeteria, 7th & 8th grade teachers will be in the gymnasium. Before or after your conference with the Grade Level Teachers you can conference with the specialist teachers in the Library. These times are not scheduled.

List of Teachers by Grades

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Ms. Atchison, Ms. Carter, Mr. Chase, Ms. Crowley, Mr. Klemme, Mr. Lee, Ms. Pfeiffer, Ms. Stedje, Mr. Wills	Mr. Altringer, Ms. Bittner, Ms. Dooley, Ms. Nalepka, Ms. Newman, Ms. Steinhoff	Mr. Aal, Ms. Atkinson, Ms. Croone, Mr. Gravent, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Hirth
	Language Academy: Mr. Cudaly _____ Ms. Robertson _____ Ms. Scheid _____ Ms. Voves _____	
If your student has one or more of these teachers, check the box. We will schedule times.		
Special Programs: Mr. Al-Ahmad _____ Ms. Claudio _____ Ms. Helmen _____ Ms. Miller _____ Ms. Prom _____ Ms. Uven _____ Mr. Wenzel _____		

3) Do you need an interpreter provided by school to interpret at conferences? If so, Language needed _____

4) You can return this form by: sending to school with your student

Or, mailing to: Stefanie Folkema, Murray Middle School, 2200 Buford Ave. St. Paul, MN 55108

Or, faxing to school at 651-293-8742 Attn: Stefanie Folkema—please be sure it goes through.

5) How do you want the school to return the form to you once we've filled in the times? (Choose One from list below)

___ Send home with my child through Foundations: Teacher is _____

___ E-mail to (your name) _____ E-mail Address _____

___ Fax — Attention: (receiver's name) _____ (Fax number) _____

6) It is important to get your form in early since scheduling is done on a first-in, first-scheduled basis.

School Only Date Received:



2024 Thinking Career & College Early Fair

Saturday, February 17, 2024

Program: 10:30-11:30 a.m. • Fair: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Harding High School, 1540 E. 6th St., St. Paul, MN

For students in
grades 6-12 and
their families
to explore
postsecondary
options early.

For more information, visit spps.org/tccefair

The purpose of the fair is to help students and families understand the importance of planning for college and careers early. Attendees will get to meet and talk to career and college representatives, ask questions and gather important information for their future education and career.

Students who attend the fair will have the chance to apply for the fall HBCU college tour!

Scan the QR code to learn more about the
HBCU College Tour!



Lub Rooj Qhia Txog Kev Npaj Ua Ntej Rau Kev Ua Hauj Lwm & Mus Kawm Qib Siab 2024

Saturday, Lub 2 Hlis Tim 17, 2024

Txheej Txheem: 10:30-11:30 a.m. • Rooj Qhia: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Harding High School, 1540 E. 6th St., St. Paul, MN

Yog xav paub ntiv, mus saib hauv spps.org/tcecfair



Lub hom phiaj ntawm lub roj qhia no yog pab kom cov tub ntshais kawm ntawv thiab cov tsev neeg to taub txog qhov tseem ceeb ntawm txoj kev npaj ua ntej mus kawm qib siab thiab ua hauj lwm. Cov neeg mus koom yuav tau utsib thiab nrog cov neeg sawv cev ntawm cov chaw ua hauj lwm thiab tsev kawm ntawv qib siab tham, nug thiab sau tej ntaub ntawv tseem ceeb npaj rau lawv txoj kev kawm thiab ua hauj lwm yam tom ntej.

Cov tub ntshais kawm ntawv uas mus koom yuav muaj lub qib fim teev npe rau qhov HBCU mus ncig saib tsev kawm ntawv qib siab rau thaum lub caij nplaj zeeg!

Yees qhov QR code nkag mus nycem kom paub ntiv txog qhov mus ncig saib tsev kawm ntawv qib siab uas yog HBCU College Tour!



Rau cov tub ntshais kawm qib 6-12 thiab lawv tsev neeg mus tshawb nrhiv kev kawm ua ntej rau tom qab thaum kawm tas theem siab.

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Harding High School, 1540 E. 6th St., St. Paul, MN



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စကဲ QR code ဒီးသီးနကသွန်ညီအါထိန်
တစ်လဲဟေးကွဲ HBCU ဒီးလွန်ကွဲအါရီ!



Bandhigga 2024 ee Ka Fikirka Kolleejo & Shaqo Xirfadeysan Goor Hore

Sabti, February 17, 2024

Barnaamijka: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Bandhigga: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Harding High School, 1540 E. 6th St., St. Paul, MN

Ardayda ku jirta
fasallada 6-12 iyo
qoysaskooda
si ay goor hore u
sahamiyaan
fursadaha dugsiga
sare ka dib.

Wixii xog dheeraad ah, booqo spps.org/tcecfair

Ujeeddada carwada waa in laga caawiyo ardayda iyo qoysaska inay fahmaan muhiimadda ay leedahay inay goor hore qorsheystaan kolleejada iyo shaqada xirfadeysan. Ka qaybgalayaashu waxay la kulmi doonaan oo la hadli doonaan wakiillada shaqada xirfadeysan iyo kolleejyada, oo waxay weydiih doonaan su'aalo iyadoo urursan doono xogo muhiim ah oo ku saabsan waxbarashadooda mustaqbalka iyo shaqadooda xirfadeysan.

Ardayda ka qaybgaleysa carwada waxay fursad u heli doonaan inay codsadaan booqashada kolleejka HBCU ee (dayita).

Sawiro calaamadda QR si aad u ogaatid wax badan
oo ku saabsan booqashada HBCU College!



Feria Thinking Career & College Early 2024

Sábado 17 de febrero, 2024

Programa: 10:30-11:30 a.m. • Feria: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Harding High School, 1540 E. 6th St., St. Paul, MN

Para más información, visite spps.org/tccfair



El propósito de la feria es ayudar a los estudiantes y familias a comprender la importancia de planificar temprano para la universidad y carreras. Los asistentes podrán conocer y hablar con representantes de carreras y universidades, hacer preguntas y recopilar información importante para su futura educación y carrera.

¡Los estudiantes que asistan a la feria tendrán la oportunidad de postular para la gira universitaria de otoño de HBCU!

Escanee el código QR para aprender más sobre
la gira universitaria de otoño de HBCU



Para que estudiantes
entre 6-12 grado y
sus familias
exploren en forma
anticipada
opciones de educación
postsecundaria



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





Scan to register

Registration is highly encouraged
but not required to attend

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Minnesota Department of Education invites you to join us as we share resources to support student's academic success and wellbeing.

The conversation will focus on helping Asian American families understand how to access educational services and resources available in schools and in the community. However, this event will be beneficial to all families.

Dinner provided

To request an interpreter please
email mde.engagement@state.mn.us
or call 651-528-8550

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Washington Technology Magnet School
1495 Rice St.
St. Paul, MN 55117

Parking map on second page



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION



Parking Map

Washington Technology Magnet School

1495 Rice St.

St. Paul, MN 55117

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024

5:30-7:30 p.m.



Redefining Strength

Transforming Black Parenting & Breaking Cycles of Trauma

Embark on a transformative journey to reshape Black parenting

Join us for an all-day event empowering attendees with strategies for fostering healing and supportive environments for Black families.

Presentations will examine the historical roots of Black parenting practices, highlighting the need to heal from trauma and eradicate corporal punishment.

Sessions will be led by **Dr. Stacey Patton**, an adoptee, child abuse survivor and former foster youth turned award-winning journalist, author and nationally-recognized child advocate and educator.



Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
451 Lexington Parkway N
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104



SATURDAY, Feb. 24
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.



RSVP by Feb. 18

Families receive a \$50 gift card after attending a workshop!



RAMSEY COUNTY
Social Services

**RS
EDEN**

ramseycounty.us/RedefiningStrength

