



PARENT COMMUNICATION

The PTA continues to work closely with the administration at Murray to maximize communication with parents. So often papers are sent home, but never make it out of the school locker or backpack. For this reason, papers are sent via home mailings, or with report cards or progress reports whenever possible. Some forms and notices will be available to download on the website as well. Daily announcements are posted on the website and school sign. The Alert Now call system will leave messages on the primary phone number given. If you would also like to receive e-mail notices, please check the box on the Volunteer Form and be sure your e-mail address is written clearly. You can help by LOOKING and ASKING your child or child's teacher for information when it is expected. It takes more parental effort, but it makes a difference!

In addition to giving more information TO parents, we would like to collect more information FROM parents. Questions and comments are always welcome at parent meetings. We have parent representatives serving on many school committees, and anyone is welcome to participate. In addition, this year we have a "parent ambassador" assigned to each grade level. When you have questions or concerns to share, please contact the following parents for each grade level:

Grade 6: Leigh Moore oneyellowlab@bellsouth.net 798-6227

Grade 7: Joanne White Joste2000@aol.com 392-1013

Grade 8: Kristie Hedges kristiehedges77@aol.com 297-7630

Questions can also be directed to Wendy Dahlin at Murray:

wdahlin@nhcs.net 790-2363 ext. 170.

We will publish more frequently asked questions in the quarterly newsletter. Together we can ease the difficult transition to middle school!

PARENT RESOURCES / STUDENT SERVICES

A **parent resource center** is located in the Student Services office – just outside the media center. In this area, there is a collection of brochures and pamphlets with information about a wide variety of topics relevant to middle school students and parenting. You are welcome to visit at any time, after signing in at the front office, to collect information of interest to you. The **lost and found** is also located in Student Services. Please encourage your child to check often for missing clothing as it accumulates so quickly that it is often bagged and stored weekly. The offices of all three guidance counselors (one for each grade level) are also located in this hall.

JUNGLE RAPIDS

On Oct. 23rd, Jungle Rapids Park on Oleander Drive, will hold a special event for Murray students, family and friends. From 6-9:00 PM, \$10 will purchase the choice of two activities (laser tag, rock climbing, go carts, etc.) and 16 game tokens, which is an \$18 value. The Murray PTA will receive a percentage of admission proceeds from this event. Come join the fun!

GLOBAL EDUCATION

In conjunction with the Cape Fear Rotary Club and Ashley High, Murray Middle School is excited to be hosting 34 students (10th grade) from France, October 4-18. If you would like more information about hosting a student, or you know of a business willing to sponsor a day trip, please contact Wendy Dahlin at wdahlin@nhcs.net, 790-2363 ext 170, or Ms. Bliss, assistant principal.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept 1	No school
Sept. 10	School Improvement Team (S.I.T.) 3:45PM
Sept 18	PTA/Parent Meeting 6:30–8PM
Sept 23	Scooters Skate Night 6-8PM
Sept 24	Progress reports
Oct. 8	School Improvement Team (S.I.T.) 3:45PM
Oct 14-17	School Book Fair
Oct 21	Chorus Concert 7PM
Oct 23	Picture day
Oct 23	Jungle Rapids Night 6–9PM
Oct 31	Half Day / End of Marking Period
Nov 3-4	No School
Nov 10	Report Cards
Nov 11	No School
Nov. 12	School Improvement Team (S.I.T.) 3:45PM
Nov 13	PTA / Parent Meeting 6:30–8PM

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Though designed for students, please look for valuable information included in the student handbook sent home the first day. Inside, you will find the bell schedule, information about lockers, clubs, guidance counselors, school rules, phone numbers, and other important topics. The PBS (Positive Behavior Support) system is explained. Please encourage your child to spend tickets earned before the prize drawings held at end of each marking period.

ROLLER SKATING PARTY

On Sept. 23rd, from 6 - 8 pm, Scooters Skating Center on Shipyard Blvd. will be open for Murray students, friends and family only. Admission is \$3 plus \$1.50 for skate rental. Skates or rollerblades can be brought from home and the snack bar will be open. Have fun, get exercise, and raise some money for our school!

TIME TO READ

Plans are underway to start a used book exchange through the school store. Please save your middle school appropriate materials and watch for more information as we work to make the most of the school wide reading time offered this year.

MURRAY PTA BOARD MEMBERS

President: Carol Garrason (798-6059)

Vice President: Mimi Harris (791-6334)

Treasurer: Kristie Hedges (297-7630)

Secretary: Toni Gaskill (794-9687)

Murray Middle School *PTA News*



First Issue
2008/2009

STAY INVOLVED

Though students in middle school are gaining independence, they still NEED your participation as much or more than ever. Our busy lives do not always leave us the time to do all we'd like, but consider the following list of ways you can stay involved and make a difference in your child's life:

- **Read** all notices sent home from school.
- **Make sure** your child is IN SCHOOL and ON TIME. Attendance is key to success. Please contact the school if you have trouble complying with this requirement.
- **Check out** the school's website: www.nhcs.k12.nc.us/Murray. Announcements and teacher webpages are updated regularly. There is a box to check in order to receive e-mail notification when new website announcements have been posted.
- **Attend** school events/meetings when possible and stay involved in decisions about what classes your child takes. There will be only four PTA/Administration meetings this year on the following dates: Sept. 18, Nov. 13, Jan. 15, and March 12 from 6:30-8:00PM.
- **Listen** to your child's worries and work for changes when you think they are needed.
- **Communicate concerns** with teachers as soon as they arise. There is a great variety of needs of middle school students, and misunderstandings arise which are often easily settled with a phone call or e mail. Each grade level has a guidance counselor available for additional help and our principals are very open to parent concerns.
- **Return** the "Volunteer Form" which includes some simple or "one time" ways to help, and a place to note if you would like to receive e mail updates. Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Anita McKinney, with any questions, or to commit to a date that you are available. Anita_Mckinney@bellsouth.net or 794-2857

FUNDRAISING

In the past few years, the PTA has eliminated sales for fund-raising. Students are often selling for multiple organizations, it requires a lot of volunteer time and space, and only a percentage of money spent goes back to the organization. Included in first day envelopes sent home with students is a "donation letter" requesting contributions to the PTA. The PTA pays for student assemblies, some awards, staff appreciation, parent communications, grade level activities and special requests such as the repeater station, keyless locks and additional radios to enhance school security. After an increase in vandalism on school grounds, this year we hope to help install security cameras. Donations are welcome at any time, but we hope to set our budget in September. Checks can be made to "Murray PTA" and sent to school, or mailed to Murray Middle School PTA at 655 Halyburton Memorial Parkway, Wilmington, 28412. We also raise money in the following ways:

- * **School Store**
- * **Food Lion Card link** www.foodlion.com – fundraising – Murray Middle School – type in 12 digit MVP card number
- * **Harris Teeter card link** www.harristeeter.com -"Community" -"Submit Information" including your 11 digit VIC card number. (school # 4692)
- * **Boxtops, Tyson labels, computer ink cartridges and old cell phone collections**
- * **Restaurant Nights** as listed on the calendar and website
- * **Science Fair concessions** sold for county wide fair January 29th
- * **Roller Skating Parties** admission proceeds go to Murray PTA

BUSING / SAFETY / SCHEDULE

This year Murray will be sharing buses with Ashley High School which will put twice as many buses in the lot as in the past. For this reason, the school schedule was adjusted by 5 minutes to allow more time in the morning and at the end of the day. The bell schedule published in the student handbook can be adjusted back by 5 minutes throughout the day, with school beginning at 8:25 (supervision begins at 8:00) and dismissing at 3:25. After school buses leave Murray at 4:30 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Many students walk to Murray, and visibility is severely hindered for drivers as well as pedestrians when cars are parked on the grass strip along the road. Though traffic is a true problem, **please refrain from parking in this area** which will eventually be blocked with signs and/or fencing. Car traffic is significantly less if you arrive a little earlier in the morning, and later in the afternoon.

MEMBERSHIP

PTA memberships can be purchased by completing the donation letter form sent home on the first day of school, or by joining at any PTA meeting or open house event. Your membership card will be sent home with your child. Individual memberships cost \$5. A portion of that money is sent to the state and federal PTAs as required. These organizations advocate for children in many ways. Your membership gives you voting rights at PTA meetings and shows your support for the school.

MURRAY MART SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

Don't have time to run to Walmart? Send your student to the Murray Mart! We have a wide variety of school supplies at competitive prices and convenience. Some basic band supplies, such as reeds and lubricants, are also sold at our school store.

One Subject Notebooks	\$0.75
1" Binders	\$1.50
Stretchy Book Covers	\$1.00
Notebook Paper	\$0.75
#2 Pencils	\$0.10
Mechanical Pencils	\$0.50
Pens	\$0.25

*And lots more...
stop by and check us out!*

