

## Shelly Belcher - March/April McMurray PTA Newsletter

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**From:** McMurray Elementary School PTA  
**To:**  
**Date:** 3/19/2009 2:44 PM  
**Subject:** March/April McMurray PTA Newsletter

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The McMurray PTA is working in cooperation with the Peters Township School District. You are receiving this email because of your relationship with the McMurray PTA.



### McMurray PTA Board

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### Many Thanks....

The McMurray PTA would like to extend a thank you to Reflections committee chairs Carolyn Gentile and Jody Cervenak for organizing the Reflections Awards Assemblies held on Monday, February 23. Both Carolyn and Jody spent countless

### March / April 2009 PTA Newsletter

## Bullying: Becoming a Mainstream Social Concern

*by Dr. Robert Freado, Principal*

While bullying behavior may have been around for centuries, it has only recently become a mainstream social concern in our society. The issue of bullying has become a common topic in the media and more and more companies, researchers and organizations have given it attention over the past few years. In addition, entire states and countless school districts have developed policies on bullying in an attempt to address this societal problem. The leaders in government, schools, business and other organizations who have taken initiative to elevate this issue in the national consciousness should be applauded. International and national statistics support the notion that bullying has a significantly detrimental impact on the physical, social and emotional well-being of our youth.

The Peters Township School District and Community has made bullying a matter of concern over the course of the past decade in various ways. Supporters of Peters Township Character Counts, parents, teachers, principals and students have all

hours preparing for the judging evening, and we appreciate the time and care they put into a program that is so important to our schools and to our students.

Get ready for next year....the Reflections theme for the 2009-2010 school year is **Beauty Is...**

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Thank you to Mary Pat DeRienzo, Mary Ellen Bruce, Ann Bondi, and Danielle Ward for organizing February's Teacher/Staff Appreciation Brunch.

Thank you to everyone who donated and baked items for the brunch. Your generosity and thoughtfulness was greatly enjoyed by the teachers, staff, and bus drivers of McMurray Elementary.

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Thank you to Cindy Chapman for the successful 4th and 5th grade movie nights.

contributed to efforts to address this problem in our school-community. Our comprehensive approach has been and continues to include the goals of (1) raising awareness, (2) helping students to recognize and understand bullying behaviors, (3) develop strategies to counteract the problem and (4) work to create a social culture that communicates that such destructive and offensive actions and attitudes are not acceptable.

Efforts to accomplish the aforementioned goals have included community programs, classroom and school lessons and assemblies, individual and small group counseling and other educational approaches ranging from the traditional to novel (e.g. the music/work of No Tune Left Behind). Recently, the Peters Township School District adopted a policy against bullying that provides additional support and commitment to prevent and effectively respond to bullying when it occurs.

Alleged bullying situations and reports can be very difficult for students, parents and school personnel to discern and correct. They are sometimes veiled in disputes and disagreements among a wide array of poor or undesirable behaviors. It takes considerable time and commitment to address and assess reports fairly and effectively. Our efforts, while sometimes frustrating, are not in vain. Helping a student who is truly in need is not only morally correct, it is the collective obligation of the school and community.

We, the parents, students and entire educational community, should continue our collective efforts to address this problem for three important reasons:

The well-being of our youth, school climate and community culture. It is a critical component to school climate and simply the "right thing to do." Addressing bullying behaviors affords us the opportunity to teach and reinforce pro-social behaviors and skills required in a civil and just society.

No parent wants his or her child to be a bully or a victim. No child wants to be victimized by bullying. Let's hope and do our part to ensure that the noticeable trend to maintain bullying as a part of the national consciousness continues. Bullying may always exist to some extent given our imperfect nature. But, this is an issue that warrants our attention and action so that we might prevent and rescue our children from being hurt. Children have the right to feel safe and we have the obligation to work to protect them. It's the right thing to do. It's

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**Mark Your Calendar for Relay for Life**

**May 30 & 31**

**McMurray Elementary's After School Dance Program will have their annual dance recital on Saturday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. The dance recital will be held in the high school auditorium. All are welcome to attend to enjoy a wonderful show put on by our dancers.**

## Spring Book Fair

McMurray Elementary will hold its spring 1/2 off book fair April 20-23. If you would like to volunteer your time please call Denise Gordon at 724-941-4018 or [denisewgordon@comcast.net](mailto:denisewgordon@comcast.net)

Look for more information in early April.

## 6th Grade T-Shirt Sale Reminder!!!

Order forms were sent home with 6th grade students. Orders are due Friday, March 27. If you have questions, contact Carol Planitzer [cplanitzer@comcast.net](mailto:cplanitzer@comcast.net) or 724-969-4122



Please continue to save and send in Box Tops!

Put your child's name, grade and room # on the envelope.

Find Box Tops collection sheets online. [click here](#)

## Abitibi Paper Recycling

Please drop off :  
Magazines, shopping

"The Golden Rule." Let's work together to make treating others the way we want to be treated more than a policy, but a way of life.

A Good Mind and a Good Heart Always Make a Great Combination.

## A Note from the PTA President

*by Geeta Welden*

We should be proud of our students! It is truly amazing how our students are initiating changes to their school environment.

Did you know that the members of the Student Council requested that more nutritious food be served in the cafeteria? Shaker Salads have already been added to the menu as a first step in meeting the needs and desires of the students. The Student Council continues to work with their peers, teachers, administration, PTA, and food service personnel to identify and implement even more healthy changes to the cafeteria menu.

The Student Council is currently operating a school store. It is amazing how well the store has been running and the amount of money that the Student Council has made. These kids are true entrepreneurs, and they are still trying to decide how to best use their profits to improve their own school environment!

The students have also demonstrated their awareness and concern for environmental issues by eagerly embracing the recycling program. In most classrooms, the recycling bins are readily used, and the Student Council is looking into better ways to recycle old lunch trays. Just listen to the kids talk about recycling, and you'll realize that this is something that they want to do and that they understand the importance of recycling.

I eagerly await the next fantastic idea that our students think up!

## 2008-2009 McMurray PTA Reflections Program Winners

Congratulations to all that participated in this year's Reflections Program !!! We had 173 entries from 61 students at McMurray Elementary. The Awards Program was held at McMurray on February 23rd. All participants received a medal for their entry. In addition, each winner



catalogs, newspaper, office & school papers, junk mail, and shredded paper in plastic bags.

Recycling bin is located at the entrance to the school on the right.

**DO NOT** leave paper trash outside of the recycle bin!

**Thank you!**

This recycling project benefits PTA sponsored programs for our children.

### Office DEPOT

**School Name:** McMurray  
Elementary School  
**ID #:** 70087063

5% Back to Schools Program

Our school will earn credits equal to 5% of your purchases to use for FREE supplies. You can credit the school each time you shop at Office Depot. Remember to give our school ID#

in store or  
[www.officedepot.com](http://www.officedepot.com)  
or when calling  
1-800-GO-DEPOT

### LOST AND FOUND

An expensive item was found after the holiday parties. It was brought to the PTA room from one of the parties. If you have lost an expensive item, please email [gw.pta@websouth.com](mailto:gw.pta@websouth.com) and describe the item.

**GIRL SCOUT TROOP 51915**

in the following categories received a ribbon.

### The Local Winners in the Intermediate Level (3-5) were:

#### Visual Arts

1st place-Chloe Grzyb      2nd place-Will Ketyer  
3rd place-Cindy Hsieh      4th place-Jessica Bulseco  
5th place-Chloe Grzyb

#### Literature

1st place - Becca Ralston      2nd place - Abby Tarwater  
3rd place - Ross Opeka      4th place - Lily Tarwater  
5th place - Isabel Chopra

#### Photography

1st place- Mackenzie Chan      2nd place - Ethan Smith  
3rd place - Elise Dowdall      4th place - Kelly Bergman  
5th place - Anthony Bocetti

#### Music

1st place - Cindy Hsieh  
2nd place - Chloe Grzyb

#### Video

1st place - Hanna Marcinak      2nd place - Anna Cocco  
3rd place - Becca Ralston      4th place - Isabel Chopra

#### Dance

1st place - Sarah Strock  
2nd place - Isabel Chopra

### The Local Winners in the Middle Level (6-8) were:

#### Visual Arts

1st place -Nicole Spindler      2nd place-Nicole Spindler  
3rd place -Nicole Spindler      4th place-Isabelle Stasenکو  
5th place - Megan Luksik

#### Literature

1st place-Olivia Hilborn      2nd place-Isabelle Stasenکو  
3rd place-Megan Luksik      4th place-Lane Mitchell  
5th place-Raashmi Krishnasamy

#### Photography

1st through 5th place - Luke Makrinos

The Area Council winners encompass all of the Peters Township schools. Bower Hill, Pleasant Valley and

**is earning their Bronze  
Award by  
helping the Washington  
Area Humane Society.**

These girls will be collecting items to help this facility. Collection boxes are located at the school's entrance. They would appreciate any support that you can give them.  
Thank you.

**Wish List of Needed Items:**

- \*Kitten and puppy milk replacement formula (KMR)
- \*Baby Gates (4' tall is best)
- \*Nutro, Natural Balance, Purina One, Purina Pro Plan, or California Natural dog and puppy food
- \*Nutro, Natural Balance, Whiskas or Purina cat and kitten food
- \*Washable dog / cat toys
- \*Canned puppy, kitten, cat and adult dog food
- \*All meat pet treats
- \*Washable throw rugs for cats
- \*Baby food for sick cats and kittens (chicken or turkey)
- \*Shampoo for dogs, pups, cats & kittens
- \*Washing machines/Dryers
- \*2 part reverse carbonless paper
- \*We need Stamps!
- \*Pens
- \*Heating pads
- \*Regular clay cat litter
- \*Dog houses (our humane officer tries to help low income families that need better dog houses)
- \*Dog collars, 26" metal choke chains and leashes for walking the dogs
- \*Clorox Brand Bleach, laundry detergent, dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper
- \*39 gallon garbage bags, toilet bowl cleaners, mops
- \*Large towels
- \*Kodak #10 cartridges

Middle School winners were judged against McMurray winners.

**The Area Council winners from McMurray in the Intermediate (3-5) were:**

Literature

1st place-Becca Ralston      2nd place-Abby Tarwater  
3rd place-Isabel Chopra      4th place-Lily Tarwater

Photography

1st place - Kelly Bergman  
4th place - Mackenzie Chan

Music

1st place - Cindy Hsieth  
2nd place - Chloe Grzyb

Video

1st place - Hanna Marcinak      2nd place - Anna Cocco  
3rd place - Becca Ralston      4th place - Isabel Chopra

Dance

1st place - Sarah Strock  
2nd place - Isabel Chopra

The Area Council winners from McMurray in the Middle Level (6-8) were:

Visual Arts

1st place-Nicole Spindler      2nd place-Isabelle Stasenکو  
3rd place - Nicole Spindler

Literature

1st place-Megan Luksik      4th place-Raashmi Krishnasamy  
5th place - Olivia Hilborn

Photography

2nd place - Luke Makrinos      3rd place - Luke Makrinos  
5th place - Luke Makrinos

The students who were awarded medals at the Area Council level will now proceed to the District Level judging, which happens sometime in the next few weeks.

Thank you again to the students, parents, teachers and the PTA for making this year's Reflections program a great success.

\*Reply & Business envelopes  
 \*Copy paper, colored and white & card stock  
 \*Electric Grooming Clippers, Dog & Cat nail clippers  
 \*FrontLine Flea Products  
 \*Neosporin, tweezers, ear cleaning solution, 4x4 gauze pads  
 \*Working Autoclave  
 \* Grass Seed

**McMurray Day  
 is almost here!!**

Monday, June 8th  
 (rain date June 9th)

Volunteers are needed to help out with this day of fun for the kids!

Setup - 10:30-12:30  
 Activities - 12:30-3:00  
 Take-down - 3:00-3:30

If you are able to help at any time during the day, please contact:

Danielle Ward  
 724-941-5985  
 Joanne Jaworski  
 724-348-5342  
 Joanne Malstrom  
 724-941-6738

Thank you!!

## **HIP HOP DANCE CLINIC**

**Sunday, April 26th**

**TAUGHT BY "PULSE"  
 THE NATIONALLY RANKED  
 PTHS DANCE TEAM**

Where: McMurray Elementary

When: Sign in - 12:30 Clinic: 1:00-3:30

Performance for Parents - 3:45

Who: Grades K - 8th grade

*Special Instruction for 8th graders who plan to try out for PTHS Dance Team.*

Cost: \$25 Pre-register by Friday, April 17th

Registration includes a shirt, snack & drink

*(Cost is \$30 after April 17 - No Refunds after April 17 -walk-Ins welcome the day of the clinic)*

NEW In 2009 - INSTRUCTION DVD Add \$10 to your registration, and BRING HOME the Clinic Dances, taught and performed by the PTHS Dance Team. Your child will be able to practice what they learned at home!

Questions? - Please call Kima Koch (724) 942-7937  
 If you need a registration form, you can pick up one at the front desk at the PT Middle School or you can email [wilsonwomen@comcast.net](mailto:wilsonwomen@comcast.net)

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