



The McMurray Star

In This Issue

[Work of Art](#)

[Note from the President](#)

[PTA Nominations 2009-2010](#)

[After School Classes](#)

[Talent Show](#)

Quick Links

[Nomination Form](#)

[4th Grade Movie Permission and Volunteer Form](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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January/February 2009 PTA Newsletter

A Work of Art to Treasure

by *Dr. Robert Freado*

As the proverb states, "Many hands make light work." Accordingly, hundreds of hands, hearts and minds cooperated to complete what I hail as a "McMurray Treasure." On Wednesday, January 14, 2009, our first "artist in residence project" was completed and installed on the wall leading to our LGI and art rooms. It is a beautiful mosaic of colorful pieces of ceramic that illustrates life at our school.

The project was initiated through the efforts of Dr. Nina Zetty, who obtained a grant while serving as our assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, last school year. Mrs. Annette Burke, one of our veteran art teachers, assumed the lead role in coordinating, planning and carrying out the project with mosaic artist Laura Jean McLaughlin from the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Amelia Yates and hundreds of our students worked together under the guidance and instruction of the artist over the course of the past few months to complete this amazing work of art. On behalf of all involved, we thank our board of school directors whose approval granted us this unique opportunity. We also appreciate the parents and other community members who donated materials.



This beautiful mosaic provides a unique perspective of our school. In many ways, it reflects all of the people, activities and experiences of the thousands of students, parents, teachers and staff whose contributions define McMurray Elementary School.

Congratulations to Emily Bradford, a 6th grade student at McMurray Elementary, for earning second place in the 2009 Peters Township Spelling Bee. Emily was one of fifty-two students from grades 6-8.

Change in Date

The Valentine Parties will be Tuesday, February 17th, 2:00-3:00pm



Remember to send in your boxtops. Our next submission deadline is February 15.

Did your child take "Creating with Clay" last school year?

If you have not picked up your child's project(s), please call Lisa Breigel at 724-348-8557 or email her at bagel3@netscape.com

Attention All Girls in K-6th Grade

Join us at the PTHS Cheer Clinic Jan. 31st

Registration is Saturday, Jan. 31st from 12:15-1:00pm

While my vantage point is unique from many, I am sure that all those who have been a part of this school over the years will see many common images and feel shared emotions of a wonderful time of our lives. Through this shining mosaic, you'll see and hear the people, music, literature, conversation, time, beauty, character and activities that have helped to shape nearly a generation of students and families.

We hope that you'll take a few minutes to enjoy this new addition to our school. A work of art that tells a story of students learning and playing together, families, teachers and staff caring for children and good minds and hearts combining to make the world better is to be treasured, indeed.

A Note from the President

by Geeta Welden

Happy 2009! It is hard to believe that half of the school year is already over. The PTA has been working diligently along with teachers and administrators to help enrich the McMurray atmosphere for our students. Some of the events slated for the second half of the year are Movie Nights, Reflection Recognition Awards, Teacher Appreciations, Talent Show, Spring Book Fair, 6th Grade Spring Celebration, and McMurray Day. We are also continuing to work on having newsletters emailed to you and having all PTA flyers online on the McMurray home webpage.

In addition to the listed activities, one very important item on the agenda is the formation of a nominating committee. The nominating committee will be made up of volunteer parents who have the task of finding and proposing individuals that are interested in running for elected PTA board positions for the 2009-2010 school year. If you would like to serve on the nominating committee let any current PTA board member know of your interest or attend the February PTA meeting.

Once the nominating committee is formed, you may be asked if you would like to run for an elected PTA board position for next year or you may nominate yourself. Individuals interested in running for elected PTA board positions will be announced at the March PTA meeting and voting for officers will then take place at the April PTA meeting.

McMurray Elementary PTA needs leadership to successfully organize the many activities; represent our parents; work with the student body, administrators and teachers; and to carry on the McMurray tradition for the future.

Call for McMurray Elementary PTA 2009-2010 Nominations!

In accordance with the McMurray PTA Bylaws, nominations for the elected executive board for the 2009-2010 school year are hereby open. A five member nominating committee will be elected at the February 10, 2009 PTA meeting. Members are encouraged to complete a nomination form for themselves or other qualified individuals that are interested in serving on this board. The form should be returned in an envelope marked "PTA Nominating Committee."

Legislation and Bylaws chairperson Karen Bovalina will forward all forms received prior to February 10 to the Nominating Committee. This committee will present their slate of officers at the March 10, 2009 PTA meeting, at which

at the High School.
The clinic will run
from 1:00-3:30pm.
There will be a
performance for
friends and family
starting at 3:45pm.
All walk-ins are
welcome!

Volunteers Needed

Parents interested in providing input for a new web-based point-of-sale system for our cafeteria are invited to send an email expressing their interest to Toni Sulkowski, Director of Technology, at sulkowskit@pt-sd.org

Lost and Found

Remember to check the school's lost and found under the grand staircase. There are many coats, lunchboxes, hats, glove, etc.

time additional nominations may be made from the floor. The list of nominees will be posted in the McMurray PTA room for one month. The election will take place at the April 14, 2009 PTA meeting, at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor.

Thank you in advance for helping the McMurray PTA with the nomination process. Questions may be directed to Karen Bovalina, Chairperson, Legislation and Bylaws Committee at dbovalina106@comcast.net.

Please go to the McMurray Elementary web page for a link to the printable nomination form or download it from the Quick Links box in the left column.

McMURRAY PTA AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

We are still accepting late registrations for: Chess, Cool Science for Creative Kids, Safe Sitter Session II, Fitness & Sports, Karate, Scrapbooking, The Pittsburgh Zoo's Habitat Happenings, Balloon Animals, Sewing, and Fencing.

For more information or to register your child, please call Lisa Briegel at 724-348-8557

McMURRAY TALENT SHOW

Wednesday & Thursday, May 13 & 14

Tryouts will be afterschool,
Wednesday & Thursday,
May 6 & 7

Look for more information near the end of April.

Volunteers are needed to assist chairperson
Lorra Brannen

Please contact Lorra at lorralee@verizon.net

Movie Nights

4th Grade - Friday, January 30th, 7-9pm
5th Grade - Friday, February 20th, 7-9pm

Permission slips will come home with students or you can download the 4th grade permission slip in the Quick Links box in the left hand column of the newsletter.

Students can bring blankets, sleeping bags, and pillows to use on the floor to watch the movie.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!! Volunteer slips are in the Quick Links box or you can contact Cindy Chapman, 412-854-4449.