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The McMurray Star

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November/December 2010 PTA Newsletter

Principal's Pen

by Mr. Blair Stoehr

The faculty and staff at McMurray Elementary have considerable aspirations for your children, as you do. We have a great number of goals and objectives that we are working toward with your children that we feel will enable them to realize these aspirations. Many of these goals and objectives fall within the realm of academic performance and achievement. Still others are born out of our Core Values and dedication to Steven Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. These goals and objectives, viewed through a lens of leadership and character, are how we feel we will be best able to provide your children what they need to realize their utmost potential and become the leaders of tomorrow.

One of the many areas of focus for Character Counts at McMurray Elementary for the 2010-2011 school year will be manners. With all of the new means of communication that we have available to us and the preferred modes of communication of today's youth, we feel as though it is important to reinforce these social pleasantries and mores of the community.

During the onset of Character Counts week, November 15th-19th, classes will discuss manners and determine what they feel the top five manners for the school should be. We will encourage children to be specific, such as saying "Please" and "Thank you" verses "being nice". Each homeroom teacher will identify his/her class' top five manners, and we will compile these lists to determine which will be McMurray's *Top 5 Manners*. Bookmarks with these manners will be made for each student. We will also have students performing skits on the

McMurray Elementary Executive PTA Board 2010-2011

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Carol Planitzer, 2nd VP
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Christine Belfiore, 4th VP
Nan Campbell, Treasurer
Jodi Hannah, Asst. Treasurer
Rochelle Saxon, Secretary

Upcoming PTA meetings:

No meeting in December!
 January 11
 February 8

morning announcements that exhibit and model the use of these manners.

In addition, each classroom teacher will choose at least 1 student to be their class' "Secret Manners Monitor". These students will be given "Kindness slips" for him/her to report when they see someone being kind, using good manners, et cetera. A McMurray Manners box will be outside of the guidance suite for the mystery monitors to place these slips. Administrators, teachers, monitors, support staff, and parents are all encouraged to report acts of manners and kindness. Extra kindness slips will be available. These slips will be read and transferred onto stars to be displayed outside the multipurpose room.

It is our sincere hope that by reinforcing the polite behaviors that you have instilled in your children that we may help our students to enhance our school climate and culture as well as enable them to adjust and navigate the many situations and environments they will find themselves in throughout their lives.

Thank you for your continued support in this effort; it is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Blair Stoehr
McMurray Elementary Principal
Peters Township School District
stoehrb@pt-sd.org
724-941-5020 EXT. 3005

Character Counts Week November 15-19

**Monday: Say "Aloha" to Character Counts Week!
Wear your Hawaiian clothes.**

**Tuesday: Take RESPONSIBILITY! Stay in school and be a
SUCCESS! Dress for success in your favorite career
outfit or best clothes.**

**Wednesday: Respect yourself. Believe in Yourself!
Wear your brightest colors.**

**Thursday: Be a TRUE BLUE FRIEND. It's Children's Grief
Awareness Day. Wear BLUE to show your support for
grieving children.**

**Friday: Be KIND and CARING to your friends. Be aware and turn
your back to bullying. Wear your clothes backwards.**

Winners of the monthly Box Tops® Drawing for October are:

Sarah Suchko, Nolan Keller, Grace Tomlinson, Abbie Haag, Ryan Gaudlip, Rachel Messman, Christopher Vavala, Matt Matsuura, Emily Koerbell, Nathan Levin, Dominic Wells, and Mikayla Mirich.

Remember to send in Box Tops® in an envelope, in a plastic bag or attached to a collection sheet with your child's name and room number to enter the monthly drawings. Winners receive a gift certificate to the **McMurray Store!**

Thank you.....

to **Maureen Brugger** and **Sandy Levin** for chairing our fall Book Fair! It was a huge success.

to **Jennifer Gaudlip** and the team of volunteers who provided refreshments at Open House. This well-attended event was a success because of their contributions of time and hard work; thank you, again.

to **Mollie Brier, Cathy Vargo, Margaret Rauscher, Debbie Healey Langley, Gina Wells** and **Minna Allison** for hosting our grade level Brunches with the Principals!

to **Geeta Welden** and **Lynn Soika** for organizing this year's Red Ribbon Week.

to **Andrea Michalski** and **Roxanne Zeisloft** for their time and dedication to our PTA Reflections program.

to **Mary Ellen Bruce, Ann Bondi** and **Mary Pat DeRienzo** for organizing the wonderful Teacher Appreciation dinner on Parent Teacher Conference Day! Thanks also to all those who cooked, baked and donated items and their time to the Teacher Appreciation dinner.

to all of our **Halloween party volunteers, home room parents, grade coordinators** and **volunteer coordinators** for organizing and planning the parties and for a job well done!

McMurray Elementary School Yearbook

The Yearbook Committee is in full swing, working hard on the 2010-2011 edition. Look for ordering information after the winter break!

If you attend a school event and would like your pictures considered for inclusion in the yearbook, email your pictures to yearbookmcmurray@yahoo.com.

Pictures must contain only McMurray students and there must be at least 2 students in a photo.

Labels for Education

The Labels for Education® program is proud to welcome Post® Cereal! There are now over 2,300 participating Labels for Education products that can help our school earn FREE resources like basketballs, computers or musical instruments, so make sure you know which products to clip & save. **[Click here](#) for a list of participating products.**



Just send them into school in an envelope or baggie marked, "PTA." You can also use the bonus collection sheets for your labels. Click and print sheets for **1-POINT**, **5-POINTS**, and **10-POINTS**.

New Safety Initiative for PTSD

Beginning September 13, 2010, all visitors to Peters Township School District will be required to show photo identification at any of our schools (driver's license, state issued photo ID, etc.) when entering.

This additional level of security allows us to better track visitors to the buildings and to help to validate the parents and community members who are entering the buildings. Visitors will provide their ID cards to the main office staff and be given a visitor's pass for their visit.

Upon return to the main office to sign out from the visit, the visitor's ID will be returned to them. Visitors who are dropping off items in the main office and not entering the main building will not be required to provide photo ID.

For large group events at McMurray Elementry School, parents can access an admission pass through their child's Power School page. Safety is a partnership between our staff

members, students, parents and the community.

The District will continue to proactively work to improve the level of security throughout our schools to protect the students of all ages who are entrusted to the care of the school district throughout the day.

Thank You Trax Farm!

A very special thank you goes to **Trax Farm** for supplying us with apples (with stems!) for the apple bobbing station at the 6th grade Halloween party.

Market Day at Pleasant Valley Elementary School

Market Day is a GREAT & EASY way
to help the PV PTA!

**The holidays are approaching fast & Market Day has
some great desserts available for a limited time.**

The December order will be delivered on Tuesday, November 30. Orders must be received at PV by end of school Wednesday, November 18.

Internet orders can be placed by midnight on Monday, November 22 at [Market Day](#).

Credit cards are accepted as payment online; if you prefer to pay for your order at pick up it must be with either cash or check -- no credit cards are accepted at time of pick up.

Questions can be directed to: [Melanie Hutnik](#)
via email or at 724.747.4464.

Order forms are available at the McMurray main office.
The PV PTA is sharing this information through the McMurray PTA.

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