



FEBRUARY 2024

~MURPHY MATTERS~ MTM SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Murphy Families,

Murphy School had much to celebrate in January! Our Winter benchmark data boasted **grade level growth (in every grade K-4) for both Reading and Math**. We continue to use our Move This World program to support the social-emotional growth of all our students and have increased our parent communication (through emails, notes home, phone calls, meeting invitations, newsletters and Talking Points messages).

We are thrilled to jump into February with plans of action to continue making growth.

Additionally, we are continuing to cultivate ways to celebrate students and showcase their many talents at Murphy. We have ongoing classroom awards presentations to celebrate Lexia and Dreambox achievements. We acknowledge students regularly in the classroom and during school-wide events

We look forward to engaging parents as partners in this work and are excited for what the second half of the school year will bring!

~Mrs. Jones



UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

- (Tue) **Feb. 6** Early Dismissal (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
- (Tue) **Feb.13** (Evening Parent -Teacher Conferences)
- (Wed) **Feb. 14**-Valentine's Day (please DO NOT send in candy or food items)
- (Fri) **Feb. 16** Move This World School-wide assembly
- (Mon) **Feb.19** President's Day No School
- (Tue) **Feb. 20** Winter Break No School



"No act of
kindness
however small
is ever
wasted."



School News & Updates



Staff Updates:

***Goodbye and Best Wishes**- It will be a bittersweet time for Murphy school to wish Deb Beckquist farewell as she prepares for retirement with her last day being Feb 16. We plan to make her last moments at Murphy special ones and wish her all the best in her future endeavors (and adventures).

***Hello and Goodbye:** Grade 2 students in Mrs. Nilsson's room are eagerly awaiting the arrival of her new baby and preparing for her leave by welcoming Mr. Benni, who will fill in as a long-term sub for the remainder of the school year when Mrs. Nilsson takes her leave (and Mrs. Aforismo returns).

Safety:

~**Arrival:** Students should not be dropped off **until 8:40am** (no staff are available until doors open at 8:40am).

Our **"Kiss and Go" policy** is still in place (for morning drop offs) and students need to exit the **RIGHT SIDE ONLY** of the car, for safety.

~**Visitors:** A friendly reminder that ALL VISITORS must **first go to the office** to be scanned in and get a visitor's pass).

~**Security:** Both our A.M. security guard (**Ms. Betty**) and our P.M. security guard (**Mr. Mike**) are here to ensure the building is safe both inside and out. When visiting the building (especially during arrival/dismissal), you may see them patrolling the building.

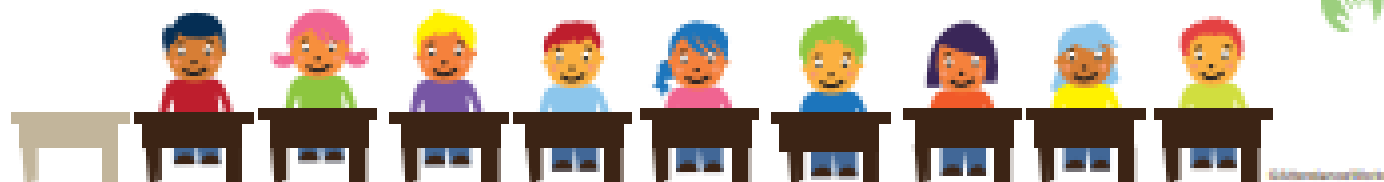
We appreciate all the work they do to maintain high standards of safety at Murphy!

Attendance:

<https://portal.ct.gov/betterwithyou> (new CT State Department of Ed resource for parents)

~Thank you parents and guardians! With your help, we have **decreased our percentage of unexcused absences** AND **increased our percentage of students in attendance**. **Keep up the great work ~ let's finish the year strong!!!**

School Goal: 95% or higher for regular attendance and low #s of UNEXCUSED Absences (below 20). We are also working to decrease the # of daily tardy students.



Help Your Child Succeed in Preschool and Kindergarten Build the Habit of Good Attendance

DID YOU KNOW...

Showing up on time every day is important to your child's success and learning from preschool forward.

Missing 10% of school (1 or 2 days every few weeks) can make it harder to:

- Gain early reading and math skills.
- Build relationships.
- Develop good attendance habits.

High quality preschool and kindergarten has many benefits!

- The routines your child develops will continue throughout school.
- Make the most of early grades by encouraging your child to attend every day.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Work with your child and his/her teacher to develop your child's strong attendance.

Talk about it – sing about it – make it an adventure!

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Share ideas with other parents for getting to school on time.

Before the school year starts

- Find out what day school starts and begin a countdown!
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Attend orientation with your child to meet teachers and classmates and find out about health and safety procedures.

Ready, Set, GO!

- If you are concerned your child may have Covid-19, call your school for advice. Ask for resources to continue learning at home if needed.
- Ask family members or neighbors for assistance if you need help.
- Try to schedule non-Covid-19 medical appointments and extended trips when school is not in session.
- If your child seems anxious about preschool or kindergarten, talk to the program director, teacher, your doctor or other parents for advice.





MORE News for You



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

New legislation was approved changing the age at which children are eligible to begin Kindergarten. The legislation requires all students entering Kindergarten be five years of age on or before September 1st. It also includes a provision allowing parents to submit a written request for early enrollment if students do not meet the new requirement (provided that the child will turn five by December 31).

Branford Public Schools offers a full day Kindergarten experience at all three elementary schools for eligible 5 & 6 year-olds.

Registration opens Monday, February 5, 2024 and is ongoing.

Kindergarten Age Requirements:

A child must be five years of age on or before September 1, 2024.

To request early entry to Kindergarten or a second year of PreK for students turning five years of age between September 2, 2024 and December 31, 2024

If your child is currently enrolled in a Branford Public Schools PreK program and is eligible to enroll in Kindergarten, you DO NOT NEED to re-register your child. They are automatically rolled up to their next grade level.

If you have questions regarding this process, please contact the BPS Registrar, Susan Wallace at:
swallace@branfordschools.org or (203) 315-6723.

Every eligible student registering for Kindergarten has a guaranteed space at the elementary school in your school district.

Kindergarten school hours follow elementary school hours: 8:55am to 3:25pm.

Kindergarten students take the bus with their fellow elementary school students.

The State of CT requires all students entering PreK and Kindergarten to have a completed and updated physical and immunization record within one year of the start of the first day of school. Please complete and submit pages 1, 2 & 4 of the [Health Assessment Form \(CT School Age\)](#).

Once Kindergarten students are assigned to a classroom, principals and/or teachers will communicate with individual families about plans for orientation.

Specific questions regarding your child should be directed to the principal at your child's elementary school.



'TIS THE SEASON

Valentine's Day

We are happy to encourage our students to share and give during special times throughout the year, however due to allergies and for student's safety, please **DO NOT SEND IN FOOD ITEMS** for V-Day celebrations. Non-food items (that DO NOT CONTAIN SMALL PARTS) are ok.

Extra Set of Clothes

Please send a in a zip lock bag an extra set of clothes as mud puddles, and accidents happen. Additionally, please be sure ALL students are properly dressed for the weather (as we do go out for recess and outdoor activities (weather permitting)).

Lost and Found

If missing coats or personal belongings, please have your child check the Lost and Found (in the cafeteria), as there are many sad (but not lonely) sweatshirts and coats patiently waiting for their owner to pick them up and take them home.

Stay Healthy

If students are not feeling well,, they are encouraged to stay home...but please be sure to **alert the Main Office** . We do not want students to accumulate unexcused absences. Also, please update your contact info (with changes), so you can reached if your child is sick at school and needs to go home. Thank you for your support!

From Chartwells

Starting **February 5th**, students with **negative balances** on accounts will **NOT BE PERMITTED** to purchase snacks, a la carte items or second meals until the negative balance is paid in full. If you need assistance adding funds to your child's account or checking their balance, please contact Tara Heon, Chartwells Dining Services Administrative Assistant at **Theon@branffordschools.org** or **(203) 315-6741**



Notes from the Health Office



Cold and Flu season is here. Please help to ensure that your student gets proper nutrition and sleep to help keep their immune system strong. If your student is sick, please keep them from school. You can call the school nurse if you have questions.

(203) 315 3561

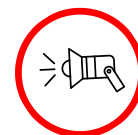
Murphy School Based Health Center

- What is the SBHC? Medical and mental health services available for enrolled students including physical exams, immunizations, sick child care and counseling services
- Who works in the SBHC? Staffed by licensed clinicians from Yale New Haven Hospital
- How much does it cost? There are no fees for SBHC services. Insurance will be billed with no copays; if uninsured, there will be no fee
- The SBHC does not replace your child's regular provider. We value the partnership with your child's provider and strive to coordinate care and follow up with them.
- Follow this link for more [SBHC information](#). Follow this link for the [SBHC enrollment form in English](#), or [Spanish](#).





~STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS~



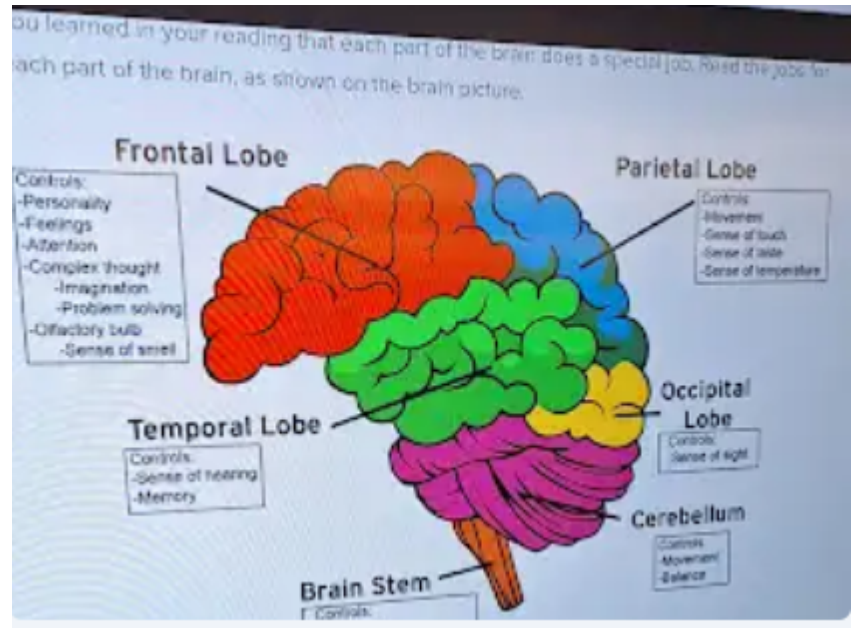
Murphy Students are S.O.A.R.ing!

(Safe Organized Aware Respectful)

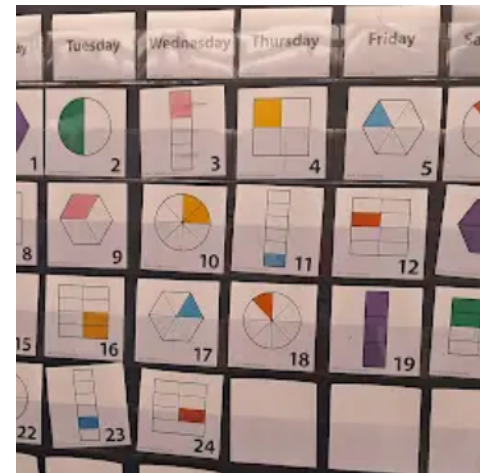
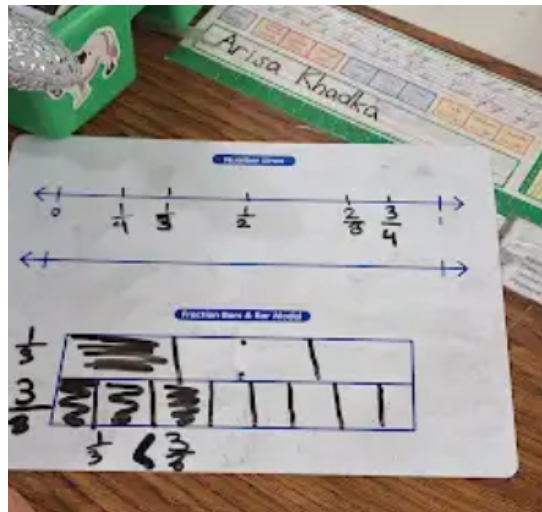
Kindergarten Homeroom	Student	Second Grade Homeroom	Student	3rd Grade Homeroom	Student
Beckquist	Aria D.	Aforismo/Benni	Allyson E.	Klimas	Arlo K.
Beckquist	Bivan K.	Aforismo/Benni	Andrew E.	Klimas	Corey O.
Beckquist	Emma N.	Aforismo/Benni	Arda S.	Klimas	Lillia R.
Beckquist	Evelyn B.	Aforismo/Benni	Barbara J.	Klimas	Michael P.
Beckquist	James C.	Aforismo/Benni	Charlotte B.	Klimas	Rika O.
Beckquist	Jason G.	Aforismo/Benni	Jacob T.	Klimas	Thalia G.
Beckquist	William F.	Aforismo/Benni	Nicolo C.	Klimas	Tracy P.
DeBrizzi	Gemma S.	Aforismo/Benni	Thiago L.	Stein	Aarabdh A.
DeBrizzi	Jayden C.	Aforismo/Benni	Vanessa T.	Stein	April S.
Rosarbo	Atharva B.	Gomes/Mason	Jenish A.	Stein	Ashwin L.
Rosarbo	Ehab K.	Gomes/Mason	Karol C.	Stein	Chase S.
Rosarbo	Gemma A.	Gomes/Mason	Madelyn P.	Stein	Jason A.
Sumislaski	Jacob N.	Gomes/Mason	Mingnam S.	Stein	Luna J.
Sumislaski	Jacqueline F.	Gomes/Mason	Nolan S.	Stein	Natalie C.
Sumislaski	Kate B.	Gomes/Mason	Sambodh K.	4th Grade Homeroom	
Sumislaski	Olivia M.	Mulcahey	Alyssa O.	Brandi	Alexa L.
Sumislaski	Timofey S.	Mulcahey	Enes T.	Brandi	Kylie M.
1st Grade Homeroom		Mulcahey	Jonathan M.	Brandi	Liam P.
Natale	Giovanna S.	Mulcahey	Sophia D.	Brandi	Olivia C.
Natale	Lorraine T.	Nilsson	David Z.	Brandi	Shrey S.
Natale	Nicholas M.	Nilsson	Ege S.	Piscitelli	Celine F.
Natale	Seth P.	Nilsson	Giada M.	Piscitelli	Laura T.
Panza	Anyla G.	Nilsson	Jaxson A.	Piscitelli	Matvey S.
Panza	David T.	Nilsson	Layla C.	Piscitelli	William L.
Panza	Hudson C.	Nilsson	Tessa R.	Raffone	Alison M.
Panza	Jayden C.	3rd Grade Homeroom		Raffone	Arielle B.
Panza	Klara H.	Deschaine	David D.	Raffone	Matteo C.
Panza	Leonhard K.	Deschaine	Paridhi T.	Raffone	Matthew E.
Rivera	Joshua K.	Deschaine	Stella Q.	Raffone	Pranil C.
Rivera	Marin C.	Kelemen	Alessia C.	Raffone	Victoria C.
Rivera	Maxwell K.	Kelemen	Alexander G.	Zeisner	Catherinne .
VanDerMaelen	Dylon L.	Kelemen	Ashton C.	Zeisner	Logan M.
VanDerMaelen	Griffin G.	Kelemen	Brayden F.	Zeisner	Manvik P.
VanDerMaelen	Penelope B.	Kelemen	Ichika N.	Zeisner	Muhammad
VanDerMaelen	Prashiddha K.	Kelemen	Jackson M.	Zeisner	Norah W.
VanDerMaelen	Rafael C.	Kelemen	Lamar K.	Zeisner	Tristan C.
VanDerMaelen	Shaina B.	Kelemen	Liam M.		
		Kelemen	Mason E.		
		Kelemen	Solana S.		

Murphy Moments...

Building a Brain



Fun with Fractions



Wonderful Writing

