



MARCH 2024



# ~MURPHY MATTERS~ MTM SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Murphy Families,

We are excited about all of the happenings, both during the school day and after school, that will occur in March. This month will offer many opportunities for our students to engage with text, as we celebrate Read Across America (day/week). In addition to our love of reading, we will also focus on kindness within our school community.

It is important that students love school and want to come each day. At Murphy, we are excited to work with families within our school community as well as others in the surrounding community to ensure students have a rich learning experience that supports a love for learning, growing and glowing. We hope to see you at some of the events this month!

Thank you for your continued support and willingness to work with us in support of your scholars.

~Mrs. Jones



## UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

- (Tue) **Mar. 5** Read Across America-Guest Readers from United Way
- (Thur) **Mar. 7** Dress as your favorite character
- (Fri) **Mar. 8**- Marks Close
- (Fri) **Mar. 8** MTM visits BHS- for a preview of the Legally Blonde performance  
~Grades 2,3 & 4 @ 9:30am  
~Grade 1 & Kindergarten @ 1pm
- (Fri) **Mar. 15** Murphy (Carnival-themed) School Dance
- (Mon) **Mar. 18** Grade 3 & 4 to to WIS for a musical performance @10:30am
- (Wed) **Mar. 20** **Early Dismissal -PD**
- (Fri) **Mar 22.** Report Cards issued
- (Mon) **Mar. 25** Author's Visit
- (Thu) **Mar. 28** ELL Literacy Night 5:30-7:30pm
- (Fri) **Mar. 29** **Good Friday-District Closed**



# Join us in celebrating

## Read Across America Week!

A week to celebrate the amazing journeys books can take us on.

**Monday (3/4)** - "The Cat in the Hat"

Wear a silly hat (or your favorite hat!)

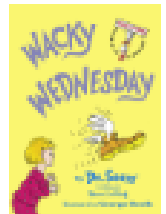


**Tuesday (3/5)** - "Fox in Socks"

Wear silly or mismatched socks with your clothes

**Wednesday (3/6)** - "Wacky Wednesday"

Let's get silly! Wear crazy hair, or your clothes backwards, inside out, or with mismatched shoes or socks!



**Thursday (3/7)** - Dress Like Your Favorite Book Character

Dress up as your favorite character, and bring along the book for our Character Parade!

**Friday (3/8)** - "Green Eggs and Ham"

Wear the color green! It can be green shoes, socks, shirt, hairbow, etc.! or Wear pajamas or appropriate comfy clothes! (no slippers, please 😊)



This will be a week filled with reading all sorts of books! Feel free to have your child participate in all, or some of these fun dress-up days. Ask your child what books they are reading and make sure you see them reading EVERY NIGHT!

*"Oh the places you'll go with a great book."*



## Read Across America Day 2024!

MTM Students will be celebrating Read Across America and the joy of reading the whole month of March.

- On Tuesday, March 5th, 2024 we have volunteers from United Way visiting each classroom as guest readers.
- Thursday, March 7th is Dress as your Favorite Book Character Day and our Book Character Parade

Students will parade through the school, so that everyone has the opportunity to see all of the awesome book character costumes. The parade will take place inside the school, so unfortunately visitors will not be able to attend. We look forward to seeing all of the awesome book character costumes and celebrating our love of reading!

Below are some book character costume ideas.

- School-wide “drop everything and read”!



- The Week of 3/18 all classrooms will be invited to participate in a story walk
- Monday, March 25th

Author and illustrator Shannon Hale & LeUyen Pham, *Bubbly Beautiful Kitty-Corn* and *the Princess in Black* will visit our school. Each class will participate in their workshop.



We're looking forward to a great month of **READING!**



# School News & Updates



## Staff Updates:

### \*Hello and Welcome:

\*On Feb. 21, we officially welcomed Michelle Crandley as the new Kindergarten Teacher (taking over in Mrs. Beckquist's room). Mrs. Crandley is thrilled to join the Murphy/Branford school community and comes with a wealth of knowledge and experience teaching at the elementary level.

\*Murphy recently welcomed Alexa Bosse as our new Library Assistant. Alexa is thrilled to work in a public school setting and comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience working in a library setting. Alexa will be working closely with our LMS, Lori Kowaleski.

## 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** (for morning drop offs) Students need to exit the **RIGHT SIDE ONLY** of the car, for safety.

~**Visitors:** Our office team does a pre-screening to ensure we have adequate information on our visitors and the nature of their visit **BEFORE** buzzing them in.

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

## 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](mailto: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.

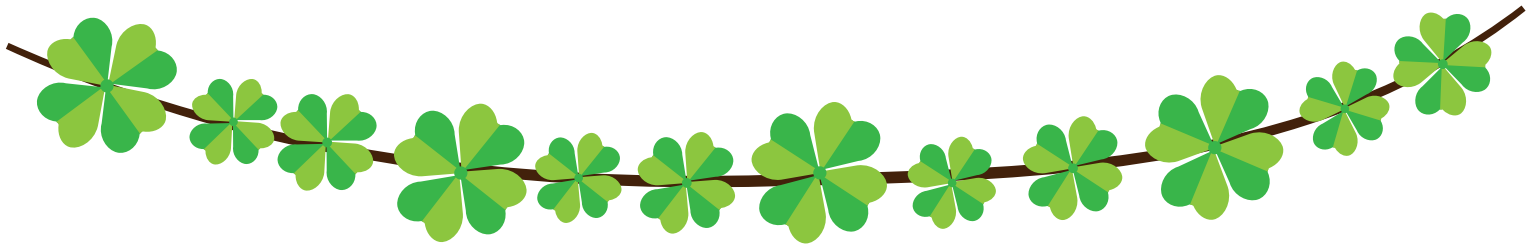
Kindergarten students take the bus with their fellow elementary school students.

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

Ramadan (Sun. Mar, 10-Tue. Apr. 9)

We recognize and support our students at Murphy who will observing Ramadan (a time of fasting, reflection and community for Muslims).

## 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 Main Front Lobby, as we have been displaying these items out front and center to help students locate their belongings.

## Travel

If you plan to travel, with your child during a time when school is in session (not school breaks), please alert the Main office and the homeroom teacher to ensure attendance can be documented properly.

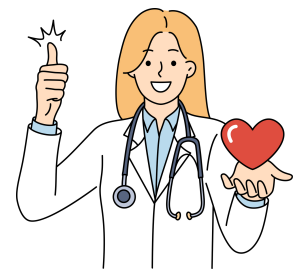
## Contact Information

Please updated your emails and phone numbers, if anything has changed to allow the school to maintain strong communication with parents, guardians and emergency contacts.





# Notes from the Health Office



Stay Healthy. 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**

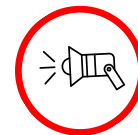
## **Murphy School Based Health Center**

- 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) **LEXIA SUPER STARS**

### Kindergarten

Lorenzo V., Ehab K., Olivia M., Everett P., Isabelle B., Lucas M., Cameron K., Natalie F., Lorenzo S., Gabriella R., Julianna D., Gemma S., Stephan G., Timofey S., Jayden C., Amelia C., Giavanna P., Lucas M., Cole F., Bivan K., Atharva B., Maryia C., Masimo C., Jacob N., Yusatin M.P., Lucas B.A., Joseph M., Emma F.M., Ramona D., Gabriella R.

### Grade 1

Kotaro O., Dylan L., Isabella G., Naia L., Leo S., Anyla G., Joshua K., Maxwell C., Tenzin L., Shaina B., David T., Prashiddha K., Sahaj K., Nicholas S., Aaliyah W., Francesca F., Curtis K., Oliver G., Kaya P., Maxwell K., Cyrus O.B., Seth P., Jackson D., Ethan R., Lilah W., Iden M.,

### Grade 2

Arya F., Jenish A., Tessa O., Ethan B., Ava G., Callen P., Gary C.S., Prinsa B., Brandon A., Asher Q., Sebastian L., Sambodh K., Alejandra T., Sphia M., Stella F., Jonathan M., Lucas S., Maz B., Hailey P., Samyog P., Arav B., Nolan St.S., Jennifer D., Layla C., Mya B.

### Grade 3

Rika O., Lamar K., Jackson M., Ashwin L., Ashton C., Corey O., Karisha S., Serena K., Ichika N., April S., Liam M., Salvatore M., Elliott C., Barsha M., Jayli C., Anthony P., Jaxon V., Jack M., Reagan A., Jason A., Brayden F.,

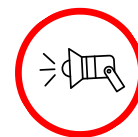
### Grade 4

Manvik P., Zofia H., Michael N., Soren M., Bismaya K., Shrey S., Alison M.P., Nehemiah G., Thomas D., Corrado L., Milana B., Enoch A., Alexa L., Jayden K.,





## ~STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS~



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

*(Safe Organized Aware Respectful) Attendance Super Stars (Feb.)*

### OUTSTANDING (95% or above)

Feliana G., Cameron K., Daniel M., Yusatin (Zamira) M.P., Joesph M., Oliva M., Maleek N., Everett P., Gabriella R., Iriza S., Kaia S., Blake B., Hudson C., Mateo C., Marin C., Jayden C., Brantley C., Francesca F., Griffin G., Oliver G., Evie G., klara H., Maeve H., Sahaj K., Maxwell K., Tenzin L., Nicholas M., Autumn O., Ethan R., Leo S., Adriana S., Melisa S., Serenity S., David T., Arav B., Prinsa B., Charlotte B., Nicolo C., Layla C., Jennifer D., Sadie E. G. Allyson E., Declan E., Avianna F., Stella F., Alaina H., Deaglan H., Barbara J., Sambodh K., Lizaveta L., Brooklyn L., Nesochim O., Tessa O., Alaina O., Hailey P., Samyog P., Tessa R., Brayden R., Lucas S., Mingnam S., Alejandra T., Jacob T., David Z., Greyson B., Jayli C., Aarabdhha C., Elliott C., Natalie C., Ashton C., Nathan C., Thalia C., Ava G., Alexander G.C., Joslynn H., Liam h., Arisa K., Arlo K., Kevin K., Serena K., Ashwin I., Barsha M., Jackson M, Sal M., Luciano M., Ichika N., Rika O., Tracy P., Michael P., Fathima R., Alysson R., Lucca S., Chase S., Paridhi T., Jaxon V., Arielle B., Luca C., Ashly C.S., Oliva C., Prnil C., Pratik C., Jonathan C., Jayden C.S., Zofa H., Hadeel J., Manik K., Azlan K., Julian m., Alison M.P., Kylie m., Caleb M., Connor P., Molly P., Liam P., Manvik P., Jordyn P., Muhammad S., Ayza S., Shrey S., Danielle T., Laura T.,

### Perfect (100%)

Lis. J., Jude A., Isabelle B., Norah G., Stephan G., Ehab K., Aurora C., Alonso G., E., Isabella G., Prahiddha K.C., Elianna M., Jenish A., Chrlotte K., Sebastian L., Giada M., Arda S., Jason A., Brayden F., Konosuke H., Ichika N., Romell R., Ava B., Briella B., Lucnie C., Shunsuke H., Natalia S.,

Congratulations to ALL these students and their families. Maintaining attendance at this level is not always easy but we are proud and want to recognize any student who is able to accomplish this.

We understand that family support and guidance is important and necessary in order for students to truly do their best in school each day and we want to acknowledge the support students receive in coming to school to do their very best..

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!!!



# Murphy Moments...

Murphy Moves This World! - SEL Assembly



We LOVE to READ!!!

