



A GREAT PLACE TO GROW



Family Newsletter: January 2024

A note for families

Happy New Year! It is great to have all of our students back in school. The halls were buzzing with laughter and the students settled right back into learning.

The office staff wants to send a special thank you for all of the cards, notes, treats and gifts. Thank you notes were written in a variety of ways from us. Some were sent in backpack mail, some were mailed and some were sent online. We are so thankful for all of the amazing gifts, cards, and treats. The Murray community is a special place and we are all thankful to be a part of it.

Your Administrative Team,
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Headlines

Cold Weather Recess Reminders

- Students need to have attire appropriate for the weather conditions.
- When it is 40 degrees or colder skin must be covered when outside.
- When it is below 32 degrees, students must be given the option to remain inside.
- Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or want to opt them out of the recommended guidelines.

There is Still Time: Don't forget to send in your Golden Apple Nominations

The nomination window for the 2023-24 Golden Apple Awards is now open until January 22, 2024. Click on the Golden Apple link: <https://www.k12albemarle.org/our-division/golden-apple-awards> for all the information and forms to nominate a teacher for this prestigious award.

Mid-year Assessments

Students will be taking mid-year assessments during the month of January. This year we will be sending home mid-year assessments reports in early February to share how your child is doing. If you have any questions once you receive the report, please contact your child's classroom teacher for more information.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10 PTO Virtual Meeting 6:30 pm	11 Spelling Bee 8:00 am	12

15 No School for Students Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16	17	18	19 School Spirit Day! Wear your VLM spirit wear or green and purple!
22	23	24 End of Second Quarter	25 No School for Students (Staff Development)	25 No School for Students (Teacher Workday)
29	30 Second Grade Field Trip to the Paramount	31	1	2

Cold/Flu Season

It is that time of the year where kids are increasingly getting sick. Our priority is the health and well being of everyone in our community. The division has created this [simple checklist](#) to help you determine when to send your child to school and when to keep your child at home.

CAUTION

**COLD & FLU
SEASON**

Murray Mind Magic = M3 Registration Winter 2024 January 29 - March 8

M3 after-school enrichment classes are taught by teachers and community members at Murray during six (6) week sessions in the Fall, Winter and Spring from 2:35-3:45pm. The cost for each class is \$60. Environmental club is free! **Winter registration opens**

Saturday, 1/13 at 8AM on PTBoard

Questions? Email us: M3@vlmpto.org



Register [here](#):

Monday Club (FREE):

Environmental Club for grades 3-5

Sponsors: Calder McLellan & Lauren Meslar

This session, we will continue to analyze and improve Murray's composting program, push for beginning the trial run of metal silverware (to be implemented throughout ACPS if successful), and look for ways within and beyond our community to help reduce waste and to address environmental concerns. Open to previous and new students. *(limit 25)*

Tuesday Classes (\$60):

Books Treats and More for grades K-2

Instructor: Elaine Broadus

Listen to a delightful book each week. These are all different books from the previous class - Books, Treats, and More. Topics include weather, animals, the earth, geography, friendship, and more. We will enjoy a different book each week and eat a yummy treat

that goes along with our book. The last week, each child will choose one of the 6 books to take home. *(limit 10)*

Color Lounge for grades 1-4

Instructor: Laura Ehalt

Come relax and enjoy time with friends and make some new ones while coloring fancy pictures or drawing your own. Want to learn a special technique of coloring? We can do that! Want to try a new medium? We can do that too! Come to the Color Lounge! *(limit 10)*

Math Club for grades K-5

Instructor: Jessy Reyes & Western Albemarle Math Honor Society Students

This club will be facilitated by the Western Albemarle Math Honors Society Seniors. The focus will be playing math games and games and activities that inspire critical thinking. These high school student volunteers have loved working with Murray students! *(limit 20)*

MIMA Band Together for grades 3-5

Instructor: MIMA staff

Write, record, and publish your own music! In MIMA's Band Together program, participants use music improvisation exercises to create original rhythms, melodies and lyrics and put these ideas together into original songs. Interest in music is all that you need—no instrument or previous musical experience required. MIMA programs teach musical concepts while encouraging creativity, confidence and collaboration through the collaborative creation of original songs. On Tuesday, March 12th, participants will visit the Music Resource Center's recording studio, where they will record their original songs with instruments, professional equipment and studio software. Parent support with carpooling would be appreciated. Learn more about MIMA's work at mimamusic.org. *(limit 15)*

Yoga for grades 2-5

Instructor: Christianna Schork

Enjoy learning beginner yoga poses, games, and sequences while increasing body awareness, strength and flexibility, and emotional regulation skills through breathing and relaxation exercises. *(limit 10)*

Wednesday Classes: (\$60)

Basketball for grades 3-5

Instructor: Sean Snider

This class will teach basic basketball skills such as dribbling, passing and shooting. Participants will learn different games to play just for fun and will also have the opportunity to scrimmage. *(limit 14)*

Board Games for grades 2-5

Instructor: Kim Watson

Students will socialize and connect with one another while having fun playing board games. Ms. Watson will provide games. Students may also bring games from home to share. *(limit 10)*

Instrument Exploration for grades 3-5

Instructor: Julia Conceison

Students will do a "world tour" of our different classroom instruments with a focus on a different instrument each week. We'll be using ukuleles, drums, boomwhackers, xylophones, piano, rhythm sticks, bucket drums, and more to do covers of popular songs and maybe even compose our own songs! *(limit 15)*

Legos for grades K-3

Instructor: Elaine Broadus

Students work independently and collaboratively to build Lego structures using engineering, physics, and architectural principles. *(limit 10)*

Typing for grades 3-5

Instructor: Ellen Patterson

Join us for a fun interactive typing program curriculum that is engaging and causes students to be self-motivated about becoming better at typing. Students can track their progress, accuracy, and speed with single-click reports. Includes engaging videos that model proper hand positions and reinforce technique. *(limit 12)*

Thursday Classes: (\$60)

Chess for grades K-5

Instructor: John Teixeira

Do you like to play chess? Do you want to learn how to strategize and outwit your opponent? Exercise your mind muscles at Chess Club! This multi-class series focuses on building an understanding of chess and having fun while developing creativity, executive function, and math skills. Chess is led by guest coach John Teixeira, a three-time Albemarle/ Charlottesville area chess champion with 50 years of experience playing and coaching. He has coached three students to win four state championships in their respective categories. *(limit 12)*

Crafting for the Community for grades 3-5

Instructor: Holly McDonnell

Do you love doing good deeds for your community? Do you like to craft, create, draw, design, or put things together? In this session, we will learn how to make blankets and cat toys for the SPCA, create cards and write letters to people in assisted-living facilities, and make various items of clothing for people who need them most. Donations of fleece fabric would be greatly appreciated! *(limit 10)*

Sea Life Exploration for grades K-2

Instructor: Laura Ehalt

Are you curious about creatures that inhabit the oceans? Do you dream of one day saving sea turtles or studying sharks? Come to Sea Life Exploration! Be an aquarium veterinarian, set up a sea life scene and hear from some experts about creatures that live in the sea. *(limit 10)*

Wildrock Explorers for grades K-2

Instructor: Wildrock Staff

Join a guest teacher from Wildrock, a nonprofit nature play and discovery center in Crozet, for afternoons of outdoor adventure! Each week will have a different nature theme -- from exploring birds to celebrating decomposers -- and will include outdoor exploration and free play. Kids will build bird nests and beaver dams, discover secret worlds under rotting logs, and get to know the plants and animals that live around their schoolyard! Indoor activities will be planned for days when there is inclement weather. *(limit 12)*



First Grade



Presenting poster reports on animal groups.



Sorting and counting acorns by groups of 10



Exploring geometric shapes with geoboards



Sharing from our writing journals



Exploring on the VLM Nature Trail



Reading Buddies



Getting ready for GoNoodle



Telling Time with Homemade Clocks



What time is it?