



# Murray Park Quest Elementary School News

Building Community • Exploring Solutions • Learning for Life

November 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Greetings, I hope this letter finds you healthy and enjoying the beautiful fall colors.

Thank you so much for all that you do as parents to support your child as well as our school and district. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our fall parent teacher conferences this past month. Whether in person or virtual, it is always a pleasure sharing all of the great things we are seeing and discussing ways that we can work together to help your child grow this school year. It is important to keep the lines of communication open and we look forward to working together throughout this school year.



Thank you, also, for your support of the Murray Park Quest Scholastic Book Fair. Supplying your child with books to read is one of the best ways you can support your child as a reader. With approximately \$3,000 of book sales, we will receive nearly \$1200 in Scholastic Bonus Points which will be used to purchase books for our students.

School Safety remains a priority in Ripon. As such, we continue to make updates/advancements in our work around safety as a district. Our teachers will be conducting our first lockdown drill with our students in the coming weeks to practice our standard safety procedures. Monthly fire drills are also conducted as part of our safety protocol.



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I will be out some over the next few weeks recovering from an injury. Mrs. Damm and Dr. Whitrock will provide administrative support when I am out.

Sincerely,

Renee Bunge

Murray Park Quest Principal

## A Veterans Day Program

Held at MPQ Elementary School Gymnasium  
Thursday, November 11, 2021

The 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will be presenting a Veterans Day Program on Thursday, November 11 beginning at 11:00 in the MPQ Gymnasium. All the students will be performing songs during our Veterans Day program.

We would like to invite family and Veterans to this school program. The Front Doors will open for visitors after 10:30. Visitors **MUST WEAR A MASK** or they will not be allowed into the building. This program will be recorded so you can watch it from home.

### What to wear?

- Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are invited to wear their uniforms to school on this day.
- The 5th grade choir students should wear their concert dress clothes.
- Please wear red, black, white and/or gray dress clothes. Boys need to wear a tie.
- MPQ students can wear dress clothes; red, white and blue; their school t-shirt; or their normal school clothes.



## Dates to Remember

Nov 3—Student Flu Shots  
Nov 4—Lock Down Drill  
Nov 11—Veteran's Day Program—11:00 am  
Nov 11—Parent/Teacher Conferences—3:30-6:45pm  
Nov 25 and 26—No school  
Nov 29—Fall Fundraiser Pickup 3-5:30 pm Curbside

## Annual Lock Down Drill

*Locks, Lights, and Out of Sight*

On Thursday, November 4 we will be practicing our Lock Down procedure. The following looping message will be played: "This is an active threat notification. The police have been notified and are enroute". Safety is always our top priority.

## Winter Expectations

Winter is coming! Please dress your child appropriately as the weather changes. **Reminder:** The doors at MPQ do not open until 7:45 a.m. Supervision also starts at this time. We want your child to be warm and properly supervised for their safety.

Please provide your children with the needed clothing to go outside for recess. Please label the inside of all winter clothing/boots. In the event a child forgot their needed clothing, other than a coat, he/she will not be able to play in the snow. Classroom teachers **may have** some extra clothing they can let children use for the day. However, please don't depend on the extra clothing for your child to use on a daily basis. If your family does not have the resources to purchase winter clothing needed, please contact the office, we can help.

Now that the snow is flying, boots should be worn to and from school daily as kids will be walking through snowy conditions on our playground. When the snow gets to a point where it is too deep for the students to walk to the back playground, students who walk and get dropped off will then enter through the front doors and travel through the building to the back playground. Boots will be required for all students until the playground is ready for regular shoes. Students may be required to wear boots well into the spring because of wet, muddy conditions. We will also let the students know when it is time to leave the boots at home.



# THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

By: Campaign Partners 2017 (A national organization working in support of the U.S. Department of Education, Health and Human Services etc.)

**Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success both in school and in life.** When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behavior, and have a better chance of graduating from high school.

When students are absent for fewer days, their grades and reading skills often improve—even among those students who are struggling in school. Students who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, setting them up for a strong future.

But when kids are absent for an average of just two days of school per month (even when the absences are excused), it can have a negative impact. These absences can affect kids as early as Kindergarten.

For example, young elementary school students who miss an average of just two school days per month often have difficulty keeping up with their peers academically and tend to fall behind in reading. But when students are able to read on grade level by the end of third grade, which is when kids transition from *learning to read to reading to learn*, they are *three to four times more likely to graduate high school and attend college, post-graduate, or professional development classes than their peers who struggle with reading.*

As a parent, you can prepare your child for a lifetime of success by making regular school attendance a priority. By figuring out the reasons for your child's absences (whether they're physical or emotional) and taking advantage of support services—such as free tutoring, student mentoring and after school activities—you can help set your child on the path to success.

**2 Absences Per Month  
x 9 Months of School  
= Less Likely to Graduate  
from High School**

