

**MURDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**14851 Donegal Drive  
Garden Grove, CA 92844  
(714) 663-6405  
www.ggusd.us/murdy

Laura Schwalm, Ph.D., Superintendent

Marc Patterson, Principal

## Welcome Back!

Murdy Elementary School continues to shine as always. We have been notified of that Murdy has been selected for two extremely wonderful honors. Murdy has been selected as a Title I Academic Acheiving School. This award is Given to schools who continue to perform at a high level. There were only 5 other schools in Garden Grove who received this honor.

This is now the third year in a row that we have been recognized. Additionally, our Choir has been selected to audition for a possible performance at the ceremony in April. This goes to show that the students at Murdy are well rounded and talented. The second honor is even more special. Murdy has been nominated by the State Superintendent of California Schools to be honored as a National Blue Ribbon School. This is a national honor. Only 35 schools in California were nominated. We were the only elementary school in GGUSD to be selected. These two recognitions once again show the hard work of our students, parents and staff. We are very proud of these accomplishments. Thank you for your continued support.

**PTO**

Our PTO is hosting another exciting Family Fun Night this month. This event will be a special Movie Night on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm. Please come as a family to enjoy this fun filled event. This is a family event so please do not send your child without an adult.

## Tet Celebration

We will once again be celebrating with our student performances. The event will begin at 10:00am on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. I would like to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Vu, one of our fabulous 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teachers, for all of her hard work in getting our students ready for the special event.

## Homework Help

We offer Homework Help every Wednesday from 1:45pm to 2:45pm. Students from 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grades are welcome.

## Community Liaisons

We are able to provide translation services in both Vietnamese and Spanish Monday - Friday. Mrs. Ruth Lopez is available for Spanish translations 11:15am to 12:45pm. Ms. Vivian Vo is available to Assist in Vietnamese from 12:00pm to 3:30pm.

## Parent Survey

Thank you very much to those of you who took the time out of your busy day to complete the surveys last month. The information and feedback was helpful for us as we continue to look for ways that we can improve the programs we offer our students and the community at large. A few parents left their name and either phone number or email address. We made an attempt to contact each of those particular parents, so if you were not contacted and still wanted to provide additional feedback please feel free to email me at [mbpatter@ggusd.us](mailto:mbpatter@ggusd.us) or by telephone at 714-663-6405.

## Chess and Checkers Champions

We have just concluded our Chess and Checkers Tournament. There were over 60 students who participated in this activity. The following students were the champions for their grade level! Congratulations!

### Chess Champions

1<sup>st</sup> Place 3/4 was John Tran  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place 3/4 was Peter Nguyen  
1<sup>st</sup> Place 5/6 was Jimmy Phong  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place 5/6 was Joseph D. Nguyen

### Checkers Champions

1<sup>st</sup> Place 1/2 was Kelvin Huynh  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place 1/2 was Brooke Tran  
1<sup>st</sup> Place 3/4 was Brian Nguyen  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place 3/4 was Justyne Le  
1<sup>st</sup> Place 5/6 was Jason Yao  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place 5/6 was Jennifer Dinh

## Parent Volunteers

We are always looking for parents who are willing to help in any way they can. If you would like to volunteer to help in a specific class or with a special event, please let us know.

## Staff Contacts

While we are always happy to see you in person, we are available to speak with you by telephone or communicate with you through email. However, no phone calls will be put through to classrooms between 8:15 and 2:35. Staff email lists have been distributed and are posted on the website. Extras are available in the office. Our staff will respond to your email within 24 hours (excluding non-school days).

## Important Dates

- 1-19 Martin Luther King Holiday
- 1-21 Family Fun Night at 6:00pm
- 1-29 Tet Celebration at 10:00
- 1-29 Upper Grade Spelling Bee
- 1-30 No School
- 2-13 No School
- 2-16 President's Day (No School)
- 3-3 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Test

## Spelling Bee

We will be holding our Murdy Elementary School Spelling Bee on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Each 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade classroom will be holding a preliminary classroom spelling bee to see who will move forward to the school-wide Spelling Bee.

## Spring Fundraiser

We have another exciting fundraiser planned courtesy of the PTO. The fundraiser will begin in February and all items will be delivered in March. This is an excellent way for you to help support our PTO. As a reminder, the PTO provides the following supplies and activities for the school each year: Grade Level Field Trips; Music Assemblies; Art Assemblies; The End of the Year Student BBQ; Supplies for the Murdy Store; Supplies for the Murdy Game Cart; Family Fun Night Events; and many more things. Please support all of their efforts as all proceeds directly benefit the students.