

The Middle School

MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER

Rigor • Relevance • Relationships • Results



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READ 180

Read 180, an intervention program designed to raise the reading achievement levels of struggling readers, is growing more successful each year. It originally was implemented five years ago in five middle schools and by 2007, the program was offered in all A.I.S.D. Middle Schools. Each year the number of struggling readers meeting the TAKS standards for the first time increases. These percentages have grown from 21.8% in 2005 to 50% in 2008. Seven schools had over 50% of their Read 180 students reach proficiency on TAKS.

The success of the program is measured in many ways.

- It is measured in the tears of an eighth grader who exclaims to her principal, “This is the first time I ever passed TAKS in my entire life.”
- John Ragland, former Covington parent, exclaimed in a letter, “It’s been quite some time since Garrett felt personal satisfaction for an academic achievement and I couldn’t be more proud of him.”

Continued...

IMPORTANT DATES



MS Principals' Meeting

November 19
Dobie
8:00—4:00

MS Assistant Principals' Meeting

November 13
Lamar
8:00—12:00

November 14
Lamar
12:00—4:00



REPORT CARD				
GRADING PERIOD	1	2	3	4
READING	A	A	A	A
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION	A	A	A	A
SCIENCE	B	B	B	B
SOCIAL STUDIES	A	A	A	A
ART	A	A	A	A
PE	A	A	A	A
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	A	A	A	A
Grade Average	B	B	B	B
Attendance	95%	95%	95%	95%
Behavior	95%	95%	95%	95%
Work Habits	95%	95%	95%	95%
Teacher				
Student				



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READ 180

- Patti Mitzel, O. Henry Middle School Read 180 teacher, exclaims, “I love this program!” And why not? Mr. Evans, one of her parents, shared the change in his son. She retells the story, “When the family went to the library, Cal would run and get on the computers and now he runs to the books. Once he finds a book, he sits in the bean bag and begins reading.” One of her former students writes her, “Today I got switched out of Read 180 because I am reading on grade level...without you I would not have made it this far. Thank you so much. I love you!”

Students improving their reading levels and their attitudes about reading is success!

Middle Level Education Plan

Parent Engagement—Eric Toshalis and Michael Nakkula are interested in presenting to parents for a parent session.

Professional Learning Communities—Wiki spaces are being developed for the five Middle School PLCs.

Technology—All Middle School teachers will receive training using NEW laptops and create their own teacher web page.

Character Education Training will be held in October for Middle School teachers.

Legacy of Giving (Service Learning) is occurring at O’Henry, Martin, Dobie, Ann Richards, Webb, and Paredes.

What does the MLEP look like for Ann Richards School for Young Women?

During the Month of September the Ann Richards School Celebrates the Legacy of Ann Richards through Leadership and Achievement.

Achievement

- Texas Exemplary School
- 33 or about 1/3 of the 7th grade girls qualified as Duke TIP candidates. The required scale scores on 2008 TAKS for qualification are 2676 for Math, 2803 for Reading, and 2598 for Science.

“Join me in helping to develop future generations of women leaders.”

Governor Ann Richards

Leadership

- Election of Student Council Officers for the 2008-2009 School Year
- Girls write essays about their destiny and what they hope their legacy would be. These essays are inspired by the Legacy of Ann Richards.



First Day of School Star Walk

On the first day of school, the original Stars, students and teachers, welcomed the new stars, students and teachers to their first day at Ann Richards School For Young Women Leaders with a Star Walk. The Star Walk will become a tradition as the official start to the new school year.

Events

- Guest Speakers for September
 - Lily Tomlin
 - Kay McConaughey, author of *I Amaze Myself*.
 - Shamina Singh, Deputy Director and COO for the Citi Group.
 - Sister Mary Margaret of Ursuline Academy
- Girls NOW Conference Hosted by Ann Richards School on October 25, 2008.



Leadership in Full Swing
6th grader Campaigning for Vice President



7th Grade Study Group—College Bound

This group of young ladies decided that forming an after school study group is helpful and fun.

What does the MLEP look like for Murchison Middle School?

What does Green Team do on cold or rainy days? ART with Ms. Carpenter! Colorful stepping stones now line greenhouse walk way.



Whole Foods partner Mariah works with Mr. Korba and students on cultivating herbs for the school's pizza garden. Our



Asia unit fine arts activity with India ink, bamboo, and Japanese Sumi E instruction.

Discussion in humanities class revolves around WHY questions...



Technology courses are hands on and make use of the Design Cycle of Technology. Mr. McGinnis talks to students about the im-

portance of planning and evaluating performance of final products.

Fine arts students love to welcome incoming sixth graders from our feeder elementary campuses. Here, Mr. Powers' mimes use "body talk" and signs to usher students in for orientation.



Murchison Middle School



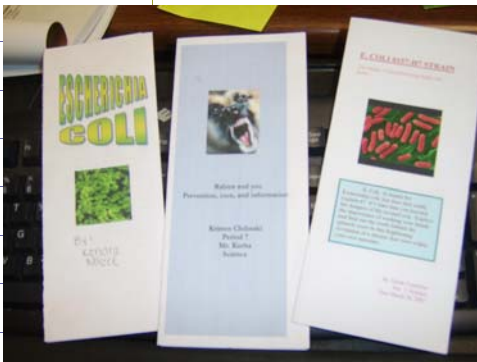
Recycling Teams collect paper, plastics, and aluminum each week.

Knitting for the Kneedy group meets Tuesday mornings to knit squares to put together for blankets to donate.



Boys pose in the courtyard after lunch. Friendships know no cultural boundaries at Murchison! Pictured are students from Ethiopia, Brazil, Macedonia, Mexico, and U.S.

Flags representing various countries of origin of our students. We still have more to purchase....



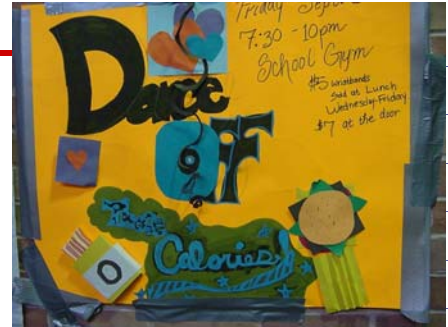
An interdisciplinary unit on diseases results in brochures like these made available to the community.

Green Team culinary activity with small group making zucchini muffins.



Murchison Middle School

Middle School dances are popular FUN activities. PTA sponsors two or three per year for Murchison Matadors.



E.A. Murchison was chosen as our school's namesake on account of over forty years of dedication to community and service. C & S is an important aspect of our school.

Looking Ahead

Character Education Training

- October 21 at O'Henry from 4:00—5:30pm
- October 23 at Kealing from 4:00—5:30pm

Read 180 Leadership Training for Administrators

- October 29 at Fulmore from 8:30—11:30am OR 12:30—3:30pm

Read 180 Day Two for New Read 180 Teachers

- November 6 at Pearce from 8:00 am—3:30pm

Reminder: Sign up on e-campus for the Spring 2009 sessions of **Laying the Foundation** today. Classes fill up quickly!