

December 21th, 2012

Muddy Creek Charter School

VISION:

Muddy Creek Charter School is a rural public school dedicated to the integration of an outstanding academic program with its community – the land and its people. We offer a joyful and creative educational experience where engaged students practice the skills they will need to be effective citizens and stewards in the future. Muddy Creek Charter School will serve as a model for preserving schools in rural communities.

In light of recent events I want to encourage you to make the most of your children this holiday season. Make and bake as a family for somewhere there are parents who no longer have their child to hold, cherish, and with whom to play. What we hear from children are things like watching a movie together, quiet reading times snuggled up on a couch, going grocery shopping, playing together in the snow, and so on. We try to have children at Muddy Creek experience authentic learning. That is, to learn how the real world works. You can keep that going by having children work on their math in the grocery store, recount and hypothesize about a movie the family has watched, and always reading and being read to. Engage the children in current events conversations. Have them evaluate, summarize, and imagine ways to solve problems.

“It is important for all Muddy Creek families to know this is happening because of the money raised at our Giving Thanks Celebration.”

Some really good news has unfolded in the last week. Chris Neely, our artist, found a wonderful lady that want to teach music here at Muddy Creek. She appears to us to be a wonderful match for our approach to learning. Her name is Rita Brown. She and her husband Bill have a band that performs here in the Willamette Valley. So first of all, she is a practicing musician. Second, and very importantly, she is excited and eager to pursue integrating music into all academic areas.

This is not easy to do, but just the same she will be trying to do that. All first through fifth

graders will start in January having music instruction twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Over the coming months there will be vocal and instrumental music. Rita wants to have performances whenever parents think they can attend.

It is important for all Muddy Creek families to know this is happening because of the money raised at our Giving Thanks Celebration. So it is the parents that participated and donated that we all need to thank. From the staff at Muddy Creek – thank you for supporting our school. And – thank you for sending your children to us to educate.



Kindergarteners have been traveling around the world celebrating!

Friday, we finished the week with the study of Scandinavian traditions. The children made gingerbread cookies to share with our buddies. We also learned about St Lucia's day while we made hats (boys) or crowns (girls). As part of the Scandinavian custom, we were caring for our bird sanctuaries.

Jenny and Michelle are very enthusiastic about this month's study of family traditions from around the world. Not only is it fun and exciting, but it is also a wonderful way of teaching cultural diversity, and tolerance for the different beliefs people have. Being able to accept the differences in others helps strengthen communities and creates a safe place for everyone.

Mr. Day's Class shares their
Natural Disaster Games
with the 1st, 2nd, and
3rd graders.



**HOT LUNCH
SURVEY ATTACHED. RETURN
TO THE AME'S**

December

Read-A-Thon
December 21st

Volunteers contact Leah
Gorman

Winter Break
December 21st – January 7th

PTO Meeting
January 8th 8:35am in Gym

Scratch Club 3pm

JANUARY: 11th and 25th

FEBRUARY: 8th and 22nd

MARCH: 8th and 22nd

Garden Club

Second Thursday of each month
@ 2PM in Room 3

CONGRATULATIONS

Nancy Gradin (grandma to Atira and Gradin) who won the \$25 gift card for placing an order this year! Next scrip order will be due Thursday, Jan. 10th. Now available to buy from our on-hand supply: holiday gift card wrappers - .25 each or 10 for \$2.00!! Great for gift-giving and sooo cute! Get them today!!

THANK YOU

Big thanks to all the people who donated to our Vina Moses Giving Tree. You've helped make the holiday season for the children of Benton County so much brighter.

MOVIN MUSKRATS

Ben G. (Kinder) finished his first 5 miles and Ben B. (Kinder) finished another set for a total of 10 miles! Keep up the movement Muskrats! Find out in the New Year how our Muskrats are doing by grade and find out the class with the most miles. I am looking for a substitute to count laps on Thursday, Jan. 10 and Thursday, Jan. 17 (11:45am - 12:25). It's fun and inspiring! Please e-mail me elisasmile@mac.com or call me at 541-990-3733 if you have questions or can help!

HOT LUNCH

Parents, please expect a phone call from me, Kristina Rosenbaum, between December 27 and January 6.

I am working on organizing the hot lunch program for the New Year, and I would really appreciate your input, opinions, suggestions and even complaints about the way the hot lunch program has worked out for your family, so far. If we don't know there's a problem, we can't fix it.

Conversations will include questions about our menu, ingredients, volunteer opportunities and opportunities for positive change. Thank you very much in advance for your time!

SCRATCH CLUB

Hi, parents! Scratch Club is a huge success this year! We have many new kids participating, from kindergarten to fifth grade, and everyone is learning a lot about how computers work and the language we use to tell them what we want them to do!

Volunteer help is always welcome!

Also, we do have a shortage of computers, so if you have a laptop that your child can use during Scratch, then we can allow all the kids more opportunities for hands-on computer experience!

An open letter to the children, parents, and staff of Muddy Creek:

Cooking lunch at Muddy Creek over the past few months has taught us many things. We have been making about 100 meals/week and we have learned a few things about what kids like, how much they eat, what to do when the oven and stove don't work, how to fix dishwashers and garbage disposals, how to coordinate volunteers, how to purchase and maintain inventories, and on and on. We are off to a good start.

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It wouldn't have been possible without the steady support of the staff at Muddy Creek, the volunteers who often chop vegetables with a child strapped to their backs, and the PTO and School Board. This letter is about where we go from here. We have a vision, but is it one that the children, parents, and staff at Muddy Creek support? We want your input.

Our Vision

We envision a 5-day-a-week hot lunch program emphasizing healthy, locally produced food. But this is about more than just a made-from-scratch hot meal. We want to involve students, staff, and parents in the growing and harvesting of food that we then get to prepare and eat. We want field trips to local growers. We want to teach nutrition, support sustainable food systems, and produce food-literate graduates who understand the relationships between food, culture, health, and the environment.

By the time a Muddy Creek kinder finishes 5th grade, they may have eaten 1,000 school lunches—1,000 opportunities to strengthen their body and mind, introduce food pleasures that will make them lifelong healthy eaters, and affirm their connection with the natural world.

The experience of eating builds community. Meals are a way to celebrate and strengthen cultural diversity and tradition. The money spent on school lunch is a resource that can be support local farming and strengthen local economies. Our vision is just forming and we want your input to shape it as it takes form. Please take a moment to answer this brief survey. Thank you, John Ame.