



# Murphy's Mingle

## In a Minute...

### Today we discussed...

- Mrs. Murphy opened the meeting by discussing the Accreditation process. A team consisting of principals and superintendents from across the country look at criteria of seven standards that must be met. The AOB is in the accreditation process now and will receive the final report this afternoon.
- Programs of focus for 2011-2012 include:
  - Grade 3- Drama production
  - Grade 4- Artist in Residence program & Junior Achievement Biz Town
  - Grade 5- Northbay Outdoor Education Week
  - Grade 6- Junior Achievement BizTown
  - Grade 7- Sea Perch
  - Grade 8- Understanding use of GIS units
- We are fortunate to have artists, Kristin Helberg and Michelle Ruppert working with fourth grade students to draw and paint a Maryland mural, which will be unveiled at the State of the School Address on November 7. The school received a grant through the Maryland State Arts Council for this program.
- We were awarded the Knot grant for the Junior Achievement BizTown experience. Students in grades 4 and 6 will complete 19 lessons in economics prior to their visit to the Owings Mills site where they will spend the day applying the life skills they learned at their assigned jobs. They will work their jobs, get a pay check, cash the paycheck and purchase lunch. Essentially, they will be running the town. We will need approximately 20 parent volunteers to help with this program. More information to come!
- Last year three teachers were trained at the Naval Academy on how to build underwater robots. Students in seventh grade will assemble robots from kits. They will be put in teams of six and apply skills like building circuit boards.
- Once again this year, the eighth grade students will use the GIS units to map coordinates and plots. Activities include a fun scavenger hunt game and the 8th grade and Kindergarten buddy pirate treasure hunt, where the older students will guide the younger students as they apply their knowledge of the system.
- Teachers are involved in different professional learning communities. They have groups designated to STEM, positive behavior intervention strategies, and assessment, to name a few.
- Detention is not much of an issue at RSPS. A prime reason for this is because when issues arise, students tell Mrs. Murphy and/or Mrs. Cottrell which values they broke and the focus on the discussion

surround the broken values.

- New this year is the point system. ONLY Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Cottrell can assign points. They do so on a case by case basis and the severity of the issue.
- Conferences are this week. Please remember to thank your teachers for their hard work! Teachers will have a worksheet for parents with the student's strengths, opportunities, homework and behavior. Any major behavior issues have already been addressed with parents.
- After Mrs. Murphy's presentation, several parents brought up their concerns about drop off congestion. Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Cottrell are aware of the issue and have been looking into various opportunities for a solution.
- In answer to several questions:
  - Monsignor John has been very cooperative through this process. That being said, he has been away and Mrs. Murphy has not been able to discuss the problem with him at length. He was concerned about pedestrian safety as there were reports of many children, teachers and parishioners almost getting hit by cars that were traveling much too fast in the parking lot, which is why morning drop off has been limited to the back doors. Monsignor John and Mrs. Murphy discussed changing the morning Mass time to accommodate drop off. He presented it to the parishioners and they said no to the change.
  - Teacher cannot be responsible for students before 8:45am so they may not be dropped off earlier unless they are registered in Before Care. Teachers are contracted Mondays and Fridays from 8:30—3:45 and Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:00—3:45. On T/W/TH, teachers are in meetings from 8:00-8:45. In addition to their professional learning meetings, staff meetings, lesson plans, and grading, teachers are also taking an Equip for Ministry class, which requires them to log hours online and take assessments during their "free time".
- STAND certified parent volunteers are more than welcome to come in the morning to help with drop off and assist children into the school.
- Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Cottrell are continuing to look into a solution to this problem. Please contact the school directly with any comments or concerns.