



## LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

**Administrator:** Greg Allison

**Building/Program/Department:** McMurray Middle School

**Board Meeting Date:** 9/27/07

**Focus:** Opening Days/Orientation

### **HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS**

- McMurray once again welcomed an outstanding class of students. Our mentorship and transition programs continued to improve through a series of orientations and visits last spring, and culminated in a new student orientation on August 31st. Thank you to our student council, student mentors and MJ Hartwell for their work in developing a smooth transition for students to our school.
- McMurray is pleased to welcome Jim Gilmour and Marcella Murphy to McMurray as 6<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher and 7 Humanities teacher, respectively. We are helping to make their transition to our learning community a smooth one.
- McMurray enjoyed a very productive and successful Staff Retreat on August 25. Our staff worked on team-building exercises and discussed plans for the year at Camp Sealth in order to prepare for the Challenge Day activities. Thanks to the staff at Camp Sealth for their assistance in these activities.
- McMurray Challenge Day on 9/7, a new program for this year, was designed to begin the year in a positive and inclusive way. Students were engaged in homeroom activities and lessons designed to create a sense of community both within the homeroom and the school. A highlight of the day was a trip to Camp Sealth where students participated in supervised team-building activities on the camp Challenge Course. All students took part in these activities throughout the day. A "Think First" assembly was also a part of the day, focusing on safety and decision-making. We have had very positive feedback regarding our day and have observed encouraging elements of our school climate. As a result of these activities, students learned a great deal about both their classmates and themselves.
- We had an excellent turn out for Open House on September 19 and appreciate the spirit of volunteerism, support and positive energy. We look forward to developing partnerships with the community and parents toward the goal of student achievement.
- We are pleased to partner with VYFS to provide a five-week workshop series called Guiding Good Choices. In this workshop, parents discuss useful tools to help lower the risk for your (pre)teen using drugs or alcohol. We appreciate the support and look forward to implementing this and other prevention activities.
- Last Spring, we implemented our yearly survey for the Olweus Bullying prevention program. The results follow this document. We will be analyzing this data further to make adjustments to the program, but the data shows promising results in reducing bullying behavior. I appreciate the focus and energy that has been put into this program by our learning community the past 3 years and look forward to continued progress in this area.

## **WORK IN PROGRESS/CHALLENGES**

- School Climate committee-Kickoff for Olweus
- Prepare a Student-Led Conferencing plan for 07-08
- Develop/Implement updated School Improvement Plan 2006-07
- Maintaining focus on school climate, academic excellence

## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

**Goal:** Create a school climate that promotes inclusion and an expectation of excellence.

**Outcome:** We are experiencing an outstanding start to the school year. A positive, welcoming, and inclusive tone has been set with students, parents and staff.

### **Results of the Olweus Questionnaire 2006-2007 School Year McMurray Middle School**

The Olweus Questionnaire is an important piece of the Olweus program. It was given at the end of the 2006-2007 school year. The information from this survey will help us to determine our current hot spots, as well as get a general feeling for the overall climate surrounding the issues of bullying at McMurray. This report is a brief summary of some of the highlights reported from the survey. A more detailed report is available from the Olweus Committee.

<b>Results of the Survey:</b>	<b>2003/4</b>	<b>2004/5</b>	<b>2005/6</b>	<b>2006/7</b>
Bullied 2-3 times a month or more	23%	14%	15%	15%
Have not experienced any bullying	42%	60%	61%	65%
Were called mean names, made fun of, or teased in a hurtful way	53%	47%	35%	37%
Felt that "other students kept me out of things on purpose", "excluded me from their group", or "completely ignored me"	56%	27%	33%	38%
Bullied with mean names or comments because of their race or color	14%	9%	5%	5%
Other students "often" or "almost often" try to stop bullying behavior	14%	11%	11%	14%
Afraid of being bullied by other students	26%	20%	13%	10%
Participated in bullying	48%	38%	29%	13%

<b>Hot Spots:</b> (only those students reporting being bullied)	<b>2003/4</b>	<b>2004/5</b>	<b>2005/6</b>	<b>2006/7</b>
Bullied on the playground	51%	43%	43%	26%
Bullied in the hallways	73%	66%	43%	16%
Bullied in the classroom with teacher present	51%	50%	45%	15%
Bullied in the classroom with teacher absent	53%	36%	39%	13%
Bullied in the bathroom	12%	14%	13%	4%
Bullied in the locker room	30%	23%	28%	12%
Bullied in the lunchroom	41%	34%	23%	14%
Bullied going to and from school	22%	19%	23%	10%
Bullied at their bus stop	9%	7%	12%	9%
Bullied on the school bus	37%	25%	25%	9%
Bullied somewhere else in school	29%	39%	29%	8%



## LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: Greg Allison

Building/Program/Department: McMurray Middle School

Board Meeting Date: 10/25/07

Focus: 9 Characteristics of Highly Effective Schools

- McMurray is working to develop our building and school culture as a professional learning community. This process is ongoing and has developed in a number of ways over the past few years. Several components of this are as follow:
  - **High Standards and Expectations**-An emphasis for our staff and students this year is Rigor, Relevance and Relationships (3 R's). Challenging each student toward meeting their learning needs, a differentiated and well-rounded program and respect are all core components of these themes. We strive to set the tone of academic and all-around excellence as well as exploration for our students.
  - **Effective School Leadership**-We are emphasizing a positive school culture and leadership among our staff. Monday, 5 of our teachers completed the initial training in the CASL (Collaborative Analysis of Student Learning) model. These individuals will lead teams of teachers in review of instructional practice and learning. Overall, we are focusing on professional growth and continual learning. We all strive to become better at our practice together.
  - **High Levels of Collaboration and Communication**-McMurray has a departmental structure in which teachers focus on instructional improvement, data analysis and curricular alignment. Additionally, staff collaborate on a number of committees ranging from school climate, student-led conferences, Success Team, and grade level. The Professional Learning Communities model (CASL) will provide an additional model for focused and data-driven collaboration and communication.
  - **Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Aligned with Standards**-We continue to utilize the state EALRs and GLEs to drive our curriculum. Currently, our writing, math, and reading curriculum is aligned with these updated standards. We are working to align science, social studies, P.E./Health, and the arts as these become available
  - **Frequent Monitoring of Learning and Teaching**-Our staff is working diligently to gather a variety of data around student learning. Assessments range from standardized components, such as WASL, COGAT and Stanford Reading assessment to multiple layers of classroom based assessments. We will look to new and more coordinated assessments through teacher collaboration.
  - **Focused Professional Development**-Professional development is recognized as a critical component of improved student achievement. Our focus for this year as stated above is the CASL model of imbedded professional development for our staff. We have also had focused training for large numbers of our staff in differentiated instruction, mathematics, literacy, health, science, school climate. In 2006, McMurray staff participated in a book study to review and focus on the best practices of middle schools around the nation. Out of this discussion, we developed the student-led conference initiative.
  - **Supportive Learning Environment**-Themes of respect, relationships and support are the foundations of our school climate. We work to promote a seamless support system for students

as they progress through McMurray Middle School, primarily through our Success Team. We believe that all students should be afforded appropriate and targeted opportunities for assistance and intervention, whether it is in the area of academic, behavioral, or social emotional support.

- **High Levels of Family and Community Involvement**-McMurray enjoys large numbers of volunteers every year in a variety of capacities. This year we are looking for additional meaningful partnerships with parents and the community, particularly in the area of classroom support and student recognition. A volunteer advisory group has begun, addressing these target areas and in support of PTSA's high level of volunteerism. Last year, a successful student-led conference program and Exploratory Week program was another step toward higher levels of family and community involvement.

This is a very general overview of what these areas look like in the McMurray learning community. We are working to continually improve our systems and programs toward enhanced student learning and moving from "good to great". These components are not static and we look forward to implementing new and sustainable ideas to help support these characteristics at McMurray.



## LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: Greg Allison

Building/Program/Department: McMurray Middle School

Board Meeting Date: 11/29/07

Focus: Professional Learning Communities

- McMurray is working to develop our building and school culture as a professional learning community, based upon the latest research and best practice. This process is ongoing and has developed in a number of ways over the past few years. Several components of this are as follow:
  - **Shared mission and goals that focus on student learning**-We have done significant work and analyzing our mission at McMurray. We hope to again review and align with the new district strategic plan. This year we are focusing on the following goals: Creating and maintaining a respectful school and classroom environment, promoting and expecting academic excellence and achievement, and nurturing our students' talents a variety of curricular and co-curricular offerings. Student learning is at the core of this focus.
  - **Defining what we want our students to Learn**-We are working in our departmental and grade level teams to provide consistent and comprehensive learning targets for each of our courses. This process is continual and providing a defined time for teachers to collaborate in departments on Early Release days is essential to this work. Utilizing district guides and OSPI Grade Level Expectations is a focus for this area.
  - **Assessment-Knowing when our students have acquired the intended knowledge and skills**-We continue to develop multiple levels of assessment that help to guide our work with students. The CASL (Collaborative Analysis of Student Learning) work we are beginning will help us to take this work to another level by focusing on specific assessments and working to engage our staff in developing a consistent approach to our assessment practices.
  - **Assistance-Responding when students experience difficulty to help them meet standard**-This is also an area that continues to develop. We have a "workshop" program as well as outside of school assistance to help identify students who are not meeting standard in reading and math. We hope to continue and enhance this program to better assist those students with their skill level. Our study skills program also engages students in developing organization skills that might be a barrier to achievement. This year we are also working to meaningfully engage a corps of volunteers to assist student in tutoring and other classroom assistance.
  - **Collaboration**-This area, we are most enthusiastic and optimistic about. Our CASL (Collaborative Analysis of Student Learning) training that is ongoing is aimed at helping to facilitate this work. Five of our trained teachers will be initiating teams to analyze student work through a defined protocol. This collaborative process combines the best of action research, study groups, curriculum alignment and grade level expectations, and teacher reflection. We want to create a mode of professional inquiry that challenges teachers to examine their beliefs about what students can learn and helps them identify successful teaching strategies.

Overall, we hope to create a learner-centered culture where reflection, improvement, collaborative inquiry, and student achievement is at the core.



## LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: Greg Allison

Building/Program/Department: McMurray Middle School

Board Meeting Date: 12/13/07

Focus: Strategic Plan

### Recent Highlights:

- Our Winter Fine Arts showcase held this past week highlighted not only our fantastic beginning and symphonic bands, but also our drama students, vocal music students, and visual art students. Over 400 people attended the event, many commenting on the outstanding performances and representations. We hope to continue this tradition in the future.
- Again this year, McMurray participated in a national program, "Mix it Up at Lunch Day". The event was designed to break down social barriers and promote community within our school. Students and homeroom teachers ate lunch together and participated in activities to build and strengthen our school culture.
- Our 3-D art students are working on a collaborative community partnership with the Vashon College. They are creating designs that will be cut on the OMAX machine at Sheffield building. This technology promotes a computer-aided design and a high-powered water jet, cutting through various media with precision. The fusion of design and technology is a great opportunity for our students to gain relevant and focused art instruction. Vashon Partners in Education is sponsoring this partnership.
- In a collaborative effort with a volunteer advisory committee, McMurray is planning a Winter M.A.S.T. (McMurray Academic Success Team) breakfast for all students who earn at least a 3.5 GPA or higher or improve their GPA by .5 or higher. Students must be strong citizens without discipline referrals. This recognition promotes academic achievement, responsibility, citizenship and school community. Last spring's pilot event was very successful.

\*The recently adopted VISD strategic plan provides us with a coherent focus with which to base our goals and strategies for the remainder of this year and for several years to come. Some highlights of our connection to the strategic plan:

#### Mission Statement

- We fully support and believe in the clearly outlined mission statement. We are working to review our current mission statement to align with this newly articulated district mission. As a staff, we are focused on supporting our students focus on learning and individual growth. We want our program to focus not only on components and skills for right now, but for our students to be engaged in learning for a lifetime. Ultimately, students should begin to see connections made at McMurray to life skills through a relevant, rigorous, and differentiated curriculum.

#### Objectives

- McMurray is working in departmental and grade level teams to provide consistent and comprehensive learning targets for each of our courses toward the goal of each student gaining the requisite skills to not just meet, but exceed state and district learning goals. After each assessment, it is imperative that our staff work to analyze data and make the necessary adjustments to instruction and curriculum, as well as intervene with individual students not meeting standard.
- Community is the core of our school. Our mentorship program, homeroom/advisory program, and each classroom are just a few examples of how we are working to instill a sense of service, contribution, responsibility and respect not for just each other, but the community in which we learn and live.
- Problem-solving and reasoned judgment is also a consistent effort for our school, we are striving to address this focus in a more systematic and interdisciplinary way. Each of our curricular areas is focused on this task and it is articulated in each of the content Grade Level Expectations and standards. We hope to see strong gains for our students in this area for the future.
- Students planning and accepting responsibility for their own development, and learning has begun to take shape at McMurray. Our successful student-led conference program focuses on helping students to reflect and build upon their strengths and challenges, while looking at the possibilities for the future for both educational and career avenues and setting goals for the future. We hope to continue and enhance this program in the future.

### **Strategies**

- We continue to develop multiple levels of assessment that help to guide our work with students. We have made a commitment as a school community to analyze student data and to use it toward helping inform and improve instruction. This year we are taking initial steps in implementing a professional development model directed at promoting professional learning communities. The CASL (Collaborative Analysis of Student Learning) work we are beginning will help us to take this work to another level by focusing on specific assessments and working to engage our staff in developing a consistent approach to our assessment practices.
- Consistent curriculum, instruction and assessment alignment is an area of focus for the upcoming years. We are seeing improvement in the implementation of the district writing, math, and reading guide, but a focus on a district-wide articulation is needed. Science is also a focus area for our school this year. We hope to refine our 6-8 curricula and make additional connections to the state standards. It is our hope that a potential district-wide curriculum council and collaboration with our colleagues from other district schools will allow for a better articulation in this area.
- Collaboration with parents, students and the community is an area on the rise for McMurray. This year we are making concerted efforts at mobilizing and targeting our cadre of volunteers toward meaningful partnerships in various aspects of our school community. We have an increased number of classroom supports, tutoring partnerships and we will look to engage these groups in preparation for Exploratory Week, Spirit Days and community events, student recognition, student clubs, and more. We hope to sustain these partnerships for the future and continue to provide opportunities for our students.
- We support an upcoming facilities plan that will enhance our ability to serve our students, and make the above components more attainable.

Overall, we are striving to continually improve and to move from “good to great” or from “great to excellent”, by making a lasting impression for each and every student as well as for our community.



## LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

Administrator: Greg Allison

Building/Program/Department: McMurray Middle School

Board Meeting Date: 3/14/08

Focus: Science

### Science

Science at McMurray offers students a well-rounded program that focuses on discovery, inquiry, research and methods. The three grade levels use the Glencoe Science curriculum corresponding to each and integrate the OSPI science EALRs and GLEs.

Sixth grade students are introduced to science with a full-year science class. This program provides foundational concepts and skills common to life, physical and earth sciences. Students are involved in discovery activities, labs, math application, inquiry, reading and writing exercises, research application, and project construction and presentation.

Seventh grade students take one semester of life science, an introduction to Biology. Students are involved in many of the above activities. They increase their scientific inquiry with a focus on developing observational skills, and integrating mathematics and measurement into both lab and skill work.

Eighth grade science culminates in focused academic and investigative skill development through earth science, a survey covering mineralogy, geology, hydrology, oceanography, meteorology, astronomy, cosmology, life and natural histories. Learning activities include many of the above as well as lab-based investigations. In the spring, students spend six weeks developing individual student Science Festival projects.

- Currently we are partnering with PTSA in presenting the "Science Fest" on April 19. This successful event is put on each year to showcase students' inquiry work. Students are working on developing a scientific inquiry and putting skills into practice for their projects in grades 6 and 8.
- Our Science department routinely engages in professional development including collaboration among our department, CES and VHS science teachers. Our staff attended the OSPI workshop on Science "Powerful Classroom Assessments" and have found success in their implementation.
- McMurray hosted the Center for Inquiry Science Workshop on Saturday, March 8. Two members of the McMurray science department attended and collaborated with 20 other district attendees. This professional development opportunity was a great prelude to our work in articulating our curriculum over the next year.

### HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS/SIP Update

- Student-led conferences were held on March 6 and 7. This was a very important event in leading student advocacy and helping students to focus on their strengths and plans for achievement. Over 325 conferences were held (over 90% attendance rate), and we anticipate another 15 rescheduled

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conferences to happen over the next week. We had 233 parent surveys completed and returned. Of those surveys, 223 felt that the conferences were worthwhile, 7 not worthwhile, and 3 with no opinion. 214 parents felt that we should continue with the program, 7 no, and 13 with no opinion. We had a great number of valuable suggestions and will be doing further reflection and review with students and staff. Thank you to our staff and all those who made this program a success and are working to help our students become more engaged and reflective about their learning.

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- McMurray "History Day" was held on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Over 80 students participated in the event as students researched the topic of "Triumph and Tragedy in history" creating an in-depth analysis project. Congratulations to those students who qualified for the regional History Day Fair next Saturday.

- WIAA Academic awards earned by our sports teams so far this year are as follows: Distinguished Academic Achievement Team Awards, Volleyball (Average 3.478 GPA), Boys' Soccer (Average 3.346 GPA), Girls' Soccer (Average 3.285 GPA), Boys' Basketball (Average 3.050 GPA). Wrestling, Girls' Basketball and Track will be calculated soon. Congratulations to our scholar-athletes!

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- McMurray Girls' basketball team plays a game at the Key Arena on Fri. March 14. This is a great opportunity for our players to play in the arena. The proceeds will support McMurray sports and the basketball program.

- McMurray hosted the Knowledge Bowl Tournament, Feb. 13. Our team earned third place honors in the tournament. All who participated did a great job and demonstrated wonderful sportsmanship.

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- Our Math Teams are working hard and participating well in the Math is Cool, Math Counts, and Math Olympiad competitions. 2 students, Noah Baseleon-Abbot and Jesse Turner qualified for the state competition recently

- Thank you to PTSA for hosting the book fair in the McMurray library during the week of March 3-7. Our students and parents have been very enthusiastic about the wide variety of literature available at this event.

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- On March 11, all McMurray students viewed the "Living Voices" presentation, "La Causa" an artistic and historical representation of Hispanic Americans and the United Farm Worker movement begun by Cesar Chavez in the 1950's and 1960's. Thank you to the Artists in Schools program for supporting this performance.

- On the Teacher Inservice Day, March 14, McMurray teachers participated in the Collaborative Assessment for Student Learning (CASL) model of professional development. Our staff was involved in reviewing assessment data and collaborating on improving instruction toward the goal of increased student learning.

- Over fifty parents and community members attended a parent forum hosted by Carolyn Zike and Sue Eastgard titled "Learning about Teenage Stress and Depression". We hope to implement other possibilities for community engagement in the future on this issue.

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- Over thirty parents are participating in the winter/spring session of Guiding Good Choices at McMurray, a parent education class for families with students grades 5-8. Yvonne Zick, McMurray parent specialist at VYFS is collaborating with Carolyn Zike at McMurray to make this class a success. The curriculum is a best practice model and has a focus on drug and alcohol prevention.

- Student Support Partnership is another collaborative pilot program with VYFS to help support a group of twenty identified students and families with an academic coach, tutoring, counseling, and study skills, parenting support and other possible support. We hope that this program will be a success and will monitor the semester academic gains made by these students.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

- Evaluation of feedback and discussion of Student-Led Conferences
- Working with our Reading and Math Workshops to better direct support for struggling students.
- Planning and implementing a successful standardized test window in April
- Planning and implementing a successful transition for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in 2007-08
- Continued allocation directed resources for professional development for the year in targeted goal areas.



## LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER REPORT

**Administrator:** Greg Allison

**Building/Program/Department:** McMurray Middle School

**Board Meeting Date:** 5/22/08

**Focus:** Arts in Focus

We are fortunate at McMurray to offer very rich and meaningful art experiences for our students. We are proud to have many local artists through the Artists in Schools program who enrich our existing courses with integrated experiences in core classes. These seven Artists in Schools partnerships this year have been very successful and rewarding for our students this year. Among these are:

- ❖ Living Voices (La Causa, Northwest Passages, All McMurray Students)
- ❖ Jeffrey Zheutlin & Karen Person (The Energy Beneath the Surface)
- ❖ Mik Kuhlman & Colleen Sweeney (Mayan interpretive Dance)
- ❖ David Godsey & Chris Anderson (Poetry in Motion)
- ❖ Erin Durrett & Heidi VanHarper (The Harmony of the Spheres)
- ❖ Barbara Gustafson & Kim Davis (Math in a Basket)
- ❖ Karen Hersch-Crozier & Karen Person (Inside/Outside Boxes)

Our Visual Arts courses at McMurray (Art, 3-D Art, Photography) provide students opportunities to learn drawing techniques, photography skills, and hands-on technical skill in a variety of mixed media (wood, metals, etc. Drama students are involved in kinesthetic, visual, and verbal arts through a variety of presentation genres. Our Band and Vocal Music students are highly focused on learning the foundational music skills that will help them be successful in a variety of areas. We invite you to see the band in action for their concert on May 20<sup>th</sup> and June 5th. You can also see student art work displayed both online at the McMurray Website and in our halls and display cases.

**Several highlights from prior web articles and board reports this year:**

### **McMurray Fine Arts Winter Showcase**

- On Wednesday, December 5, a standing room only audience was treated to the fantastic performances and showcasing of our students' fine arts abilities. Students from Tim Heryford's drama class, Heidi VanHarper's Vocal Music class, Mike Scott's Beginning and Symphonic Band, and Terry Swift's Art and 3-D art classes displayed their outstanding work and demonstrated excellent progress in their fine art studies. We appreciate the amazing support of our staff, parents, and community in turning out for this event. This is truly one of the great aspects of Middle School; students exploring different avenues and endeavors. The Fine Arts are one of the main reasons we have an outstanding learning community at McMurray!
- Arts-Our 3-D art students are working on a collaborative community partnership with the Vashon College. They are creating designs that will be cut on the OMAX machine at Sheffield building. This technology promotes a computer-aided design and a high-powered water jet, cutting through various media with precision. The fusion of design and technology is a great opportunity for our students to gain relevant and focused art instruction. Vashon Partners in Education is sponsoring this partnership.

- 8th Grade students in Ms. Person's humanities class participated in two Artists in Schools program with Vashon Artist Jeffrey Zheutlin and Karen Hersch-Crozier this past year. Recently, this work was displayed at the Heron's Nest for the first Friday art walk. These student portraits and commentaries are a culmination of a genealogy humanities project where students researched family histories and culture. The writing and self-images graphically and visually demonstrate the depth of understanding gained from this unit. We want to show our appreciation for Vashon Allied Arts, the Artists in Schools program, Carrie VanBuren, artists Jeffrey Zheutlin and Karen Hersch-Crozier, and all the parents and community who came to see the showing. Programs and opportunities such as these demonstrate the opportunities and value for collaboration with local art. Great work to all students and Ms. Person!
- For our Photography classes, PTSA spearheaded a SLR camera drive that resulted in over 20 working cameras being donated to the program. The immediate gain from this generous act of the community is that all students will have access to equipment to make their class more relevant.
- On May 14, our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students traveled to Tacoma to participate in the Commencement Bay Band festival. The McMurray band received a superior rating and a perfect score from the judges. Congratulations to all band students and to Mr. Scott!

### **HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS/SIP Update**

- WASL testing is now completed. Our students took the testing very seriously and we are proud of the efforts they are making on all elements of the assessment. Thank you to Carolyn Zike and our staff for coordinating the testing schedule and materials.
- Exploratory Week is planned for the week of June 6-9. Our students will be exposed to a variety of experiential activities and many groups report a great deal of personal and group growth during the week. We would like to thank our staff for putting many extra hours into the program, as well as the many parents and volunteers who will be promoting and implementing this successful week.
- McMurray Spirit Days were held this past week, May 12-16. Students demonstrated creativity, leadership, school spirit and supported one another in homeroom endeavors.
- McMurray students who earned a 3.5 GPA or higher or improved their GPA by .5 or more on the last grade report will be treated to a pancake breakfast Wednesday, May 21. The McMurray Academic Success Team (M.A.S.T) was designed to recognize achievement and efforts toward continued and improvement in academics. Thank you to numerous parents, staff and the local Kiwanis Club who will be serving the breakfast. We appreciate the donation of the food by Thriftway as well.
- On May 29, all McMurray students will view the Living Voices presentation "Northwest Passages". This program as a part of VAIS and Artists in Schools program will highlight the various cultures of the Pacific Northwest and how they have contributed to the development of the area.
- We are in the process of welcoming and transitioning the current 5<sup>th</sup> grade class to McMurray. 25 student mentors have been trained and will host a number of activities aimed at helping students become an integral part of the school and start school in September on a positive, inclusive manner. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year of this mentorship program and we have seen very positive results. Thanks to King County Community Organizing for the grant to pay for this program and to Carolyn Zike, MJ Hartwell and Kathy Smith who will assist in training the mentors.

### **WORK IN PROGRESS/Challenges**

- Working with our Reading and Math Workshops to better direct support for struggling students
- Continuing the momentum of instruction and learning as "spring fever" and other middle school dynamics progress in May and June
- Developing a more user-friendly and clear course registration form and process for 2008-09
- Planning and implementing a successful end of the year program for students
- Planning and implementing a successful transition for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in 2008-09