



MUSTANG NEWS

Upcoming Dates

September 3-October 4th

Whooo's Reading Fundraiser

September 18th

School Pictures

September 19th

Barnes & Noble/Rubio's Night
4-8pm

September 26th

PTA board meeting 6:30pm

October 5-20th

Fall Break (NO SCHOOL)

October 24th

PTA Board meeting 6:30pm

October 28th-November 1st

Red Ribbon Week

November 2nd

Fall Festival 3-6pm

November 15th

Father-Daughter Night, TBD

November 21st

PTA Board meeting 6:30pm

November 25-29th

Thanksgiving Break

December 12th

PTA General Association
meeting 5:30pm

December 12th

Holidays Around the World
6-8pm

Welcome Letter from PTA Co-President April Rodriguez

Dear Murdock Family & Friends,

Welcome back! We hope this first month of school has been a smooth transition. It's always nerve-racking trying to get the kids adjusted from summer to school routines, and we are very fortunate to have an amazing team of teachers, aids and support staff to aid in the transition. It's a big transition for me going from helping with a few PTA programs to becoming a leader in the PTA. I am learning so many things about education, public policy and how our schools are funded. But what is PTA about?

Murdock PTA is more than fundraisers and meetings. We provide assemblies, sponsor field trips, and have fun family events like the Fall Festival. What unites and strengthens our PTA is the dedication of our families and staff to provide our students opportunities to enhance their education and help them grow. We are always looking for new ways to improve student programs and school equipment. As state funding for schools only covers the day-to-day operations, any improvements to school equipment, buildings and infrastructure must be funded through local bonds and individual fund raising.

What makes Murdock unique is that we have a strong PTA. One of our big goals this year is to start funding for new playground shade structures. There is a need for such school improvements and the funding falls to us. Another idea is to fund new iPads for classrooms. There are many things we can do as a PTA, and we are open to new ideas. Please consider joining the Murdock PTA today!

<https://jointotem.com/ca/la-mesa/glenn-e-murdock-elementary-pta>

Murdock is a gem among the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District. Murdock is the only elementary school with a full-time music program for all grades. We are trying a new program with Maestro music. Starting after Labor Day, each class (including TK) will have weekly 30-minute music classes. We are very excited to announce that there will be a Spring performance in May where each of the classes will exhibit. For more information go to bethemaestro.org. This program is 100% funded by the Murdock PTA and is 20-30% of our working budget.

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Keep In Touch With What's Happening at Murdock:

Website: www.murdockpta.org **Facebook:** @MurdockPTA
Instagram: [murdockelementary](https://www.instagram.com/murdockelementary) **Friday Folder:** Mustang News

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We have kicked off our first annual read-a-thon fundraiser with Whooo's Reading. This is one of 4 big fundraisers throughout the year to help us fund the music program, field trips, art, STEAM and garden docent programs and more. There is also a fun family book night at Barnes & Noble coming up on September 19th from 4-8pm at Grossmont Center. Our teachers will be reading their favorite books and then going to Rubio's for tasty tacos. You don't want to miss it!

The annual Murdock Fall Festival is coming up on November 2nd. This amazing family event allows the teachers a chance to earn extra funds for classroom projects and special in-class assemblies. There will be carnival games, petting zoo, cake walk and much more excitement for kids of all ages.

In the winter and spring, we hold a jog-a-thon through Boosterthon, inc. Students win prizes for their fund-raising efforts and learn some healthy lessons about teamwork and self-esteem from the Boosterthon crew. Our Spring Fling is always a highly anticipated, Parents-only night. Hundreds of local businesses donate items and experiences for our online and live auctions. This year's Spring Fling theme is "Roaring 20's." So, get your flapper dresses and fedoras ready to go.

We truly hope this be another wonderful year for every student. If you have questions or would like to know more about any PTA programs, please email President@murdockpta.org. Let's keep Murdock PTA on point!

Kind Regards,

April Rodriguez, Murdock PTA Co-President

Volunteering with the PTA at Murdock

Thank you to all of the new and returning Mustang family volunteers! To date we have received over 130 volunteer forms turned in for a total of 272 unduplicated volunteers in our database. We look forward to working with you this year on our various enriching programs and fun events throughout the year. There are numerous ways to get involved so please turn your forms in now or email volunteers@murdockpta.org for more information.

Our first big event we need volunteer shifts for will be Fall Festival coming up Saturday November 2nd so check your email inbox for more information as the date approaches.

We will be sending an invitation out soon for a short training with Carla or Miss Sandy on how to use the copy machine and other small front office tasks that a classroom volunteer may need to know in order to best serve their child's teacher. Also look for a helpful Dos and Dont's List For Classroom Volunteers coming soon in your red Friday folders that we hope you'll find useful.

Always make sure you're cleared through Carla by filling out your district volunteer form and print your badge sticker before volunteering in the classroom or at on campus events during school hours. And make sure to log your hours at home that you may be providing so we can use those hours to demonstrate in-kind time provided for potential fundraising and grants available for our beloved school. You can log your time at the bottom of the Murdock PTA homepage: <https://www.murdockpta.org/#>

The logo for "Whooo's Reading" features the word "Whooo's" in a green, rounded font with a small owl icon above the 'o's, followed by the word "Reading" in a blue, rounded font.

Help Murdock kick off its 5th annual Whooo's Reading Read-A-Thon fundraiser! Our fundraiser will be one month long, starting September 3rd and ending October 4th.

We were able to raise nearly \$14,000 last year!! With that money, our teachers received 20% for their classrooms! We were also able to fund our arts, music, P.E., S.T.E.A.M and Murdock garden.

Students are encouraged to read books, log into <http://www.whooosreading.org>, log minutes and invite sponsors to raise money for our school. Your continued support will make this year's fundraiser our most successful!

Thank you!

MYTHBUSTERS: Murdock PTA Edition

Why become a Murdock PTA member? Because at Murdock, we stick together! Being a PTA member doesn't mean you have to volunteer all your free time away or donate enough money to open a new school library. It's about coming together to advocate for the emotional and physical welfare of our children, and we are strongest when we work together. Let's play Myth Busters: PTA Edition!

Myth #1: Only Moms and Teachers are members of the Murdock PTA

NO NO NO!! Thankfully, it's not only moms and school professionals who take an interest kids these days!! Moms, teachers and school staff are an important part of any PTA—BUT the strongest groups ALSO have many dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors and community leaders who are invested in the youngest members of society. Bottom line, if you care about kids in our community, you belong with us!

Myth # 2: If I join the PTA, I will have to volunteer

ABSOLUTELY NOT! You can still join the PTA without volunteering. Every person has a different capacity to give and be involved. Determine what you can joyfully give —make a plan and give that with your whole heart.

Myth #3: I have to take a board position, or lead a committee, if I join the PTA

NOPE! Some of our most valued PTA friends have never held an elected (or appointed) position. You do not have to be a leader to be an important part of PTA. We believe everyone has something of value to contribute.

Myth #4: My PTA membership never expires

NOPE. PTA memberships are an annual thing— good for one school year (meaning one fall and one spring semester). Memberships need to be renewed each year. Enrolling online now makes it easier than ever.

Myth #5: I don't have time to join the PTA

At its most basic level, "joining PTA" is not about volunteering. It's about advocacy. Your decision to purchase a PTA membership (and stay current on what is happening with kids in our area) is significant all by itself. You can also be a great encouragement by offering financial support.

Myth #6: The Murdock PTA doesn't need me specifically

You have gifts and abilities that are entirely yours to give. When you give yourself to the people around you, all of us are richer for it! The first step is to show up and be willing to engage.

Myth #7: The Murdock PTA is made for stay-at-home parents

The Murdock PTA is made up of men and women who have a wide range of daily commitments. Some work 60 hours a week, some are retired, but most juggle work, bills, household chores, kids, sports, and homework, just like you! Did you know that one of our PTA Co-Presidents is a busy real estate agent and the other is a full-time veterinarian?!?! WOW!

Myth #8: My child's life will be the same whether I join PTA or not

UNTRUE. If everyone felt this way, all the wonderful activities and programs your child enjoys because of PTA would suddenly vanish! Research shows that parental involvement within a child's school increases their academic achievements and decreases behavior issues. Not only does membership put you in direct communication with parents and teachers, it shows your child that you are interested and invested in their educational experience.

Myth #9: The PTA already has all the help they need

It's probably no surprise that the more volunteers Murdock has, the better. More volunteers means less work for each person. Everyone likes to be asked, but please don't wait for an invitation to show us what you have to contribute. We need you and want your help!!

Myth #10: I have an awesome idea, but the PTA wouldn't be interested

Nothing could be further from the truth! New ideas and new friends keep the Murdock PTA fresh and exciting! Let's hear what you've got!

PLEASE JOIN ONLINE TODAY: <https://jointotem.com/ca/la-mesa/glenn-e-murdock-elementary-pta>

Accelerated Reader Program

Are you wondering what that sheet that came home in your child's Friday Folder from Renaissance Connect was???? It was your link to Accelerated Reader! Go dig it out of your recycling bin if you would like to take a peek at how your student is doing. You can also check to see if one of the books on your bookshelf is part of the program (there are 1,000s of books in the database that qualify - they don't have to be from the Murdock library!)

Renaissance Connect is the parent company for Accelerated Reader, the reading program sponsored by Murdock PTA wherein your child can earn points for each book he/she reads. Throughout the year, students who reach the trimester goal for their grade level will be awarded prizes. We will also have the much anticipated pancake breakfast in June. The trimester goals for each level are as follows:

Grade	Trimester 1	Trimester 2	End of Year
Kindergarten	All reading logs for Sept-Nov	All reading logs for Dec-Feb	All reading logs for Sept-June
1 st	All reading logs for Sept-Nov	All reading logs for Dec-Feb	All reading logs for Sept-June
2 nd	5+ AR pts by Nov 1 st	12+ AR pts by Mar 1 st	20+ AR pts by June 1st
3 rd	8+ AR pts by Nov 1 st	18+ AR pts by Mar 1 st	30+ AR pts by June 1st
4 th	10+ AR pts by Nov 1 st	24+ AR pts by Mar 1 st	40+ AR pts by June 1st
5 th	14+ AR pts by Nov 1 st	32+ AR pts by Mar 1 st	50+ AR pts by June 1st
6 th	18+ AR pts by Nov 1 st	40+ AR pts by Mar 1 st	60+ AR pts by June 1st

We are looking forward to ALL of our Mustangs attending the breakfast in June, so let's get READING!

Do you shop at

amazon?

Earn money for our school through Amazon Smile!

Step 1: Visit the Amazon Smile website and designate the Murdock Elementary PTA as your organization of choice.

Step 2: When shopping at Amazon, be sure to log in using **smile.amazon.com**. A portion of the purchase price will be donated automatically.

It's as easy as that!

PTA Programs at Murdock

Hello Murdock Mustangs! My name is Hanni Foster, and I am the VP of Programs. As you are all settling into a new school year I wanted to take a brief moment of your time to introduce you to the various programs the PTA offers our students and families. We hope you'll have an opportunity to participate in at least one of these events this year. I also want to encourage you to share any feedback with me or any of the PTA officers as we are always keen to find new opportunities to engage our Murdock community in these programs.

For those who are new to the school, there are many events that are categorized under Programs, and these will be scattered throughout the year, so keep an eye out for fliers and notifications of these events. Upcoming this fall we have Red Ribbon week (October 21-25), our first Family night (a Father-Daughter event November 15), and Family movie night in the Murdock auditorium (Date & Movie TBD).

Additionally, Garden docent, Art Docent, and STEAM, as well as Accelerated Reader (AR), Run-4-Fun, Book Swap, and Science Night are all events or ongoing programs that Murdock offers our students. There is a wide variety of ways to be involved, and we are always grateful for extra sets of hands.

Again, please feel free to reach out if you are interested in volunteering for any of these events or if you have any ideas, suggestions, feedback (good, bad, indifferent). Thank you!





Principal: Jennifer Luibel

jennifer.luibel@lmsvschools.org

Co-Presidents:

April Rodriguez & Danielle Abbott

president@murdockpta.org

Executive VP: Audra McCulloch

evp@murdockpta.org

Programs VP: Hanni Foster

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Auditor: Travis Smith

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Treasurer: Lisa Bacling

treasurer@murdockpta.org

Historian: Karrie Schultz

historian@murdockpta.org

www.murdockpta.org

Fall Festival

Planning Committee Meeting

Attention Volunteers:

Our first after school Fun Family Event and Fundraiser is fast approaching. Help us plan and ensure our event is a HUGE success.

First Meeting – Wednesday Sept. 25th
@ 8:00am – Murdock Workroom

Room Parents if you can, Please Attend

We will be going over our game booth opportunities.

Please email fallfestival@murdockpta.org
for more information

We need help in organizing volunteers, game booths, planning the bbq, trunk or treat, chili cookoff, teacher experience auction and so much more.

Thank you! – Murdock PTA



Murdock Elementary's Online Read-A-Thon!

Read Books...

Log Online...

Get Sponsors...

Raise Money!



Children choose whatever they want to read.

Children log their reading on their secure profiles.

Parents invite sponsors via email, text, and social media.

Your school keeps 85% of funds raised!

Let's read and get sponsors so



Who will have the coolest Owlavatar?!

Keep reading and thinking outside of school.

Join the fun and sign in at www.whooosreading.org!



MURDOCK ELEMENTARY PTA PRESENTS

FALL
Festival

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FUN!

November
2nd

& HELP RAISE
CLASSROOM AND
SCHOOL FUNDS

3:00pm -
6:00pm

FOOD - GAMES - CAKEWALK - HAUNTED HOUSE - INFLATABLES - PETTING ZOO - FACE PAINTING

Be sure to enter the Chili Cookoff & Buy your Wristbands Early