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MURDOCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC.
Foundation Matters

Welcome to Foundation Matters!

Foundation Matters is now a quarterly publication of the Murdock Elementary School Foundation (MESF), designed to keep you informed of the progress we are making toward our goals.

What is the MESF?

It is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. A twelve person board of directors and large group of parent, teacher and community volunteers manage and execute the business of the Foundation.

Our Mission

To provide resources that will enhance the learning environment and educational opportunities of the students at Murdock Elementary School.

Our Vision

To help each child achieve their personal best.
To help meet 'No Child Left Behind' requirements and maintain Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).
To attract and retain top teachers and staff.
To help our students remain competitive locally, nationally and globally.

What You have helped MESF accomplish:

2005-06 school year: MESF raised \$61,000 (net of all expenses).

We used this money to pay for and/or allocated funds for the following items:

- 6 "Shurley English" kits
- 5 overhead projectors
- 1 Beyond Question unit
- 3 Beyond Question carts
- 7 Smartboards
- 9 LCD Projectors
- 4 Laptops
- 2 Wireless Microphones
- 5 AVerkeys
- Six Trait Writing Kit & Training
- Spanish teacher salaries
- 400 daily planners for 3rd, 4th, 5th grades
- 1 NSSNRS Speech Therapy Resource Kit
- 1 "Clicker Writing" Software Program



We also received a state grant for \$28,820 in '05-'06, which will be used to purchase a new freestanding copier; 7 network printers; and 4 desktop computers.

2004-05 (our inaugural year) MESF purchased/allocated funds for the following items:

6 Sound Field systems; 1 "30-user" Beyond Question unit; 1 Network printer; Laptop batteries; teacher supplies.

(All of the above purchases were made based on the Teachers' Priority List and/or Community Requests.)

The Present and the Future:

Hold a world of promise. With your continued support, we can reach our goals for 2006-07... and beyond.

MESF: Educate, Equip, Excel

Message from The President

Welcome to a new school year at Murdock which includes new offices, new students and new teachers!

Thanks to all of your support, MESF ended the 2005-06 year very strong raising over \$61K. Over the summer, we were able to approve the purchase of Smart Boards and ceiling mounted LCD projectors for all fifth grade classrooms. Your early donations during the spring Spanish donation drive put us in a great position going into the fall with 46% of the needed funds for this program already in hand.

MESF is now entering our third year and we are excited about our plans for this coming school year. Our technology goals include additional rollout of Smart Boards and projectors, memory upgrades for the student laptops, additional student laptops, and sound field systems where needed. Our curriculum goals include supplementing resources and training associated with the rollout of the new Science curriculum; helping provide 6 Traits Writing training for our new teachers; and math facts software.

All of this can only be accomplished with your support. Volunteer your time and talents. Make your Spanish donation, if you haven't already. Watch for events that appeal to your family and join in the fun!

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MESF President

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Mission Statement

To provide the Murdock Elementary School Community with resources that will enhance the learning environment and educational opportunities of the students.

MESF website
www.mesf.org

Greetings from Mrs. Richman!

Sandy feet, sleeping late, long car trips, seeing family...all the things Murdock families love about summer. As we have enjoyed getting our building ready this summer, we received postcards from many of you about the faraway (and nearby places you visited). It was so great to see all of our hard work in writing have some real life application.

Along with one new addition, (and 3 more projects in progress), Murdock has many exciting things to boast about for the 2006-2007 school year. We are thrilled that the Foundation has extended our Spanish program to all grade levels. Through MESF's generous support of our curriculum initiatives, we will have the resources to train our new teachers in 6 Traits Writing. In the next month, we will have 12 interactive SMART boards along with mounted LCD projectors. MESF's persistent grant writing earned us over \$28,000 in grant funding from the state. I could add many more things that OUR foundation has done to support the high caliber education program at Murdock.

I am amazed at the amount of revenue and manpower this young foundation has created. This year I encourage each of you to support MESF both financially and with your own human resources. Come to the Gala, join us for the monthly social events, contribute to the Spanish program and if you are able, make a personal or corporate donation. By doing these things, you are making an investment in the future of Murdock and on behalf of all children and staff, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Natalie Richman
Principal, Murdock Elementary School

New for 2006-07: Info about MESF events will be sent home either by flyer, MESF Matters e-News, or through your class PTA/MESF Room Parent.

Got Spanish? Murdock Does!

The 2006-2007 school year will be the first year that Spanish instruction will be available for all grades K-5 at Murdock. This makes Murdock one of a very few schools in Cobb County that can say that!

After a successful pilot program for Kindergarten and 1st grades, enthusiasm grew and parents came together to financially support the rollout of Spanish to all grades much earlier than had been anticipated.

This year, Sra. Curry will continue to teach Kindergarten and 1st grade. A second instructor, Sra. Gotuzzo will teach grades 2 - 5. Sra. Gotuzzo previously taught Spanish in Fulton County and happens to be a Murdock parent! Welcome Sra. Gotuzzo!

We are off to a phenomenal start, but we still need your donation if you have not made it yet! If you need a form, they will be available on the MESF website. The continued success of Murdock's Spanish program depends on your support. Gracias!

If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact Michele Grace at 770-973-1689. We have a place for you no matter what your time schedule is!

Have FUN with this year's Fundrai\$ers!

While MESF's main goal is to raise money for the benefit of the students of Murdock, we want Murdock families to have fun while supporting these fundraisers!

This year, you'll find yourself enjoying some 'old favorites' like our "Ice Cream Social" and "Pump-It-Up" and new events like the all new "Teacher FUNraisers!" and "Chick-fil-A Nights". There's something for everyone!

Watch for details in the Murdock Weekly and in your child's backpack on MESF's upcoming *funtastic* events!

To make a tax deductible donation to MESF or the Spanish Program, please visit our website at www.MESF.org