



# Welcome!

August 29, 2014

Dear Murch Families,

Welcome to the 2014–2015 school year! Since 1928, the Murch Home and School Association (HSA) has actively worked to support the education of Murch students. The purpose of the HSA is simple, but broad: “to serve the best interests of the pupils of Murch Elementary School, and to promote mutual cooperation among parents, teachers, and staff.” We will work towards that purpose in three primary ways:

### **Fostering family participation and a strong school community**

Family involvement is what has made Murch strong for generations. There are so many ways families can support the school by volunteering their time or talents. We hope that each Murch family will find a way that suits them and offer a little of their time this year. The HSA also hosts a variety of events for families. In the coming months, there will be coffee on the playground, Outdoor Movie Night, the Family 5K Fun Run, and the annual Fall Fair. Please come, have fun, and get to know other Murch families.

### **Providing educational resources**

The HSA supports school programs and initiatives by financing many things that help students, but that are not covered in the school’s budget. This currently includes seven classroom aides (in first through fifth grade), field trips, classroom technology, instructional resources, and more. Our primary fundraisers are the fall “Support Our School” campaign and the spring Auction; look for information about both in the coming months.

### **Facilitating communication between staff, families, and the District of Columbia**

HSA volunteers maintain the school website, produce a weekly newsletter, and publish the school directory. We hold monthly meetings and hope you will participate and provide your input as a member of the organization. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to the two of us or a member of the HSA executive board.

Ben W. Murch, an educator and the school’s namesake, had a favorite saying: “Give to the world the best you have, and the best will come back to you.” We look forward to working with the entire community this year to give Murch students our best!

Sincerely,

Maggie Gumbinner and Martha McIntosh  
HSA Co-Presidents  
HSAMurch@gmail.com

*Turn the page!* ↘

Check [www.murchschool.org](http://www.murchschool.org) throughout the year for the current calendar, Mr. C’s blog, and more information!

Ben W. Murch Home and School Association/PTA, Inc.

P.O. Box 6356 Washington, D.C. 20015