

The Ben Murch "Festival of Lights"
Wednesday, December, 21st 2016 at 1:45PM

As the music teacher here at Murch, I would like to introduce to everyone a new holiday celebration about traditions and customs from around the world. Each, year it will be my goal to reconfirm, through music, that we are part of a larger community, one with people of many faiths and beliefs. Although different, the celebrations I would like to share with the community will have many things in common. My hope is to have all of us join together in learning more about the uniqueness of people around the world and within our school community. Within this event, many of the celebration that the children and I will perform for the "*Festival of Lights*" will be filled with light, which symbolizes birth and rebirth. Light takes away darkness and represents hope. Our celebrations will also include a procession by our Pre-Kindergarten classes: people moving forward together, toward a future: one of peace, freedom and unity.

Each grade level will perform a song or two, with costumes pieces, props and sets that will visually be appealing to the audience and represent each song and cultural well. The goal of this performance is to get every child to perform on stage in front of a live audience. While conducting on stage, Murch students will be accompanied by concert pianist Toni Roche of Alexandria, Virginia. Each family will be invited to this holiday event. Hopefully the performance will take place in the UDC gym or theater, which will fit the entire Murch community. My final request is that all students dress accordingly to the style and theme of his or he class performance. Below, please take time to read about the concert attire, so you can plan early and accordingly.

Hopefully, the information that I have provided gives you an understanding of what I hope we can accomplish as we celebrate The Ben Murch "Festival of Lights". Please call the school office and leave a message with the office staff at (202) 282-0130 or email me if you have any questions. Please save this date: The Ben Murch "Festival of Lights" will be held on **December 21st, 2016 at 1:45PM.**

Musically,

Mr. Eugene Branch, Jr. M.Ed.

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Festival of Lights Attire
Please read carefully

Girls in 2nd, 3rd and 5th Grade Classes

Solid black slacks or skirt
Solid black tights (if skirt is worn)
Solid black socks
Solid black comfortable dress or causal shoes
Solid white long sleeve shirt, turtleneck or blouse

Boys in 2nd, 3rd and 5th Grade Classes

Solid black slacks
Solid black socks
Solid black comfortable dress or causal shoes
Solid white long sleeve shirt

Boys in 4th Grade Classes

Solid black slacks
Solid black socks
Solid black comfortable dress or causal shoes
Solid “**BLACK**” long sleeve shirt or turtle neck

Girls in 4th Grade Classes

Solid black slacks
Solid black socks
Solid black comfortable dress or causal shoes
Solid “**BLACK**” long sleeve shirt, turtleneck or blouse

Boys and Girls in 1st Grade Classes

Blue Jeans
Solid red turtleneck, shirt or sweater
Solid black comfortable dress or causal shoes
Solid black socks

All Kindergarten Classes

Casual or dress clothing and shoes

All Pre-Kindergarten Classes

Girls

Solid white dresses (if possible)
Solid white stockings
Solid black or white comfortable dress or causal shoes

If you have problems finding white dresses, please let your classroom teachers know, so we can go to plan B.

Boys

Solid black slacks
Solid black socks
Solid black comfortable dress or causal shoes
Solid white long sleeve shirt

