I can no other ANSWER make but thanks, and thanks and ever thanks.  
**William Shakespeare**

As we enter this week of giving thanks, I want to take a moment to thank our Murray community of families and staff for what you do to support our students as they grow and learn. I also want to thank our community from the bottom of my heart for your support as we have continued to work through our challenges this year, such as filling our teaching vacancies. I know that this has been frustrating to our families and staff members that have been impacted. Our families were patient as we worked diligently to find candidates, our staff were unbelievable as they stepped up to guest teach and support curriculum needs, and our students stepped up and continued to take care of business as they were greeted by at times, multiple guest teachers in a day. Wishing you all a warm week surrounded by friends and family.

Thanks, and thanks and ever thanks.

**Updates –**
Great Staffing News! (Complete Update)
8th Grade Math – Filled. Ms. Mattila is well underway with our community.
Additional ELA Allocation – Offer extended and accepted. We are hoping to start our new community member as soon as possible!
Special Education – Please join me in welcoming Mr. Rick Wachholz to our community. He will be starting December 2.
Health – We have worked with HR to secure Mr. Craig Boyer for the remainder of the year. Ms. Bierman and Mr. Combs will continue to support curriculum in the class.
Additional Security Support – I have been working all year on securing an additional staff member for support throughout our building, and we were finally able to confirm a new staff member. Please welcome Ms. Jen Bowman.

We are so very happy to welcome these new team members to our community!

**Celebrations –**
Barnes and Noble Book Fair – Our annual tradition of partnering with our local Barnes and Noble store continues as we work to support our teachers with literary resources and raise funding for Murray programming. We are so very thankful that this partnership can continue. We look forward to seeing you all there on December 5th from 6PM-9PM. There will be games, food, and wonderful performances by our Varsity Band, Orchestra, Concert Band and Murray Rock Band.
Murray School Musical – Another amazing tradition continues at Murray as preparations for our Murray Musical are getting underway. Auditions are scheduled for December 3rd–5th. Stay tuned for the big revealing of what our presentation will be for this school year!

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Sixth Grade

**English with Ms. Curran:**
ELA students are reading non-fiction books of their choice. After writing three research questions, they will present their digital book in a slide show to their classmates next week! They also are writing an informational booklet for our classroom library! Topics range from Rollerblading to Siamese Cats to Recycling Electronics. We can’t wait to read them!

**English with Ms. Stedje:**
Sixth-grade Readers’ Workshop is beginning a unit on non-fiction research. We have chosen a book about a topic we care about and we are digging into the different text elements and using guided questions to help us focus as we research.

Sixth-grade Writers’ Workshop is beginning to draft the first of several informational books to inform our peers about various topics of our choice. We will be using our reading work to help our books become more research-based as the quarter progresses.

**Math with Ms. Brion:**
Second quarter is well underway, and soon homework and test/quiz scores will be recorded. To help your child be successful, we encourage you to check Schoology to make sure that they are up-to-date on all of their assignments. If missing homework seems to be a problem, check the backpack or trapper for lost assignments. Remember that assessments (quizzes/tests) can be retaken, but please retake them promptly. The end of 2nd quarter, January 23, seems a long way away, but don’t forget we also have Thanksgiving and Winter break during that time.

In Math 6 we have been working on changing fractions to decimals and decimals to fractions. Soon we will be multiplying and dividing decimals. If your child is struggling with their math facts, pull out the flashcards to so some speed drills. A deck of playing cards works also, with the jacks as 11, and the queens as 12.

In Accelerated Math 6 we will be working on solving one, two, and multi-step equations. Soon we will be solving equations with fractions and decimals! Math is so much fun! Check the calendars for assignments and dates for quizzes. And always, please call or email your child’s teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

**Social Studies with Ms. Major:**
6th Grade MN Studies students wrapped up a very successful study of the Fur Trade. After a great experience on the field trip, our young historians used their iPads and created a visual presentation of their knowledge of the Fur trade. We are now delving into early MN land treaties between the Dakota, Ojibwe and the United States. As we approach the New Year, 6th grade will begin topic exploration so that after winter break we can break new barriers of scholarly research! Thanks for supporting social studies -- and History Day! -- at Murray!

Seventh Grade

**Math with Ms. Abler:**
Accelerated Algebra students are wrapping up their unit on solving complex equations.

Pre-Algebra students are continuing their work with rational expressions.

**Social Studies with Ms. Newman:**
Murray Historians are deep in the trenches of WWI. Fortunately only in our minds! We are studying the causes and struggles of this conflict known as the Great War and the War to end all Wars. We are also dipping our toes into History Day Topic choices. The theme this year is Breaking Barriers - which is a brand new theme! In December, we will try to have every student pick a topic in US History that they wish to learn more about - so they can go into break knowing which topic they want to spend time researching!

Eighth Grade

**English with Ms. Roe:**
8th Grade English is launching a new unit to start Quarter 2! We will be spending the next few weeks reading non-fiction texts to prepare for debates. Students will start out debating about a whole class topic and will move into topics of their choosing. iPads are SUPER vital to this unit, so please make sure you bring them charged each day!
Staff Spotlight

Greetings and thank you for welcoming me to Murray Middle School, my name is Dana Nelson and I teach Developmental Adapted Physical Education (DAPE) here during period 3 in the auxiliary gym, and I also work at 6 elementary schools in the Como/Midway area.

I have been working with St. Paul Schools since January 1997 as a DAPE and PE teacher, and because I am an itinerant, I travel to multiple buildings each day and have worked at over 60 of the St. Paul schools in the district ranging from ECSE to high school level. I enjoy working with DAPE as class sizes tend to be smaller and the students are awesome. I have also coached the adapted athletics sports of soccer, hockey and baseball at Humboldt, as well as coaching wrestling, volleyball, and badminton at other secondary sites.

My undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree was in Education at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls (1994), my DAPE licensure was from the University of MN-Twin Cities (1997), and I received my M.Ed from MN State-Mankato in 2010.

I have been married for 25 years to my best friend and we both grew up in St. Paul. My son is a junior in college and my daughter is a senior in high school. We like to travel, ride bikes, take walks, and enjoy keeping up with quality programming on Netflix. I am looking forward to being a part of the quality environment that is Murray Middle School.

Staff Spotlight

Hi There! My name is Kristin Urbanz and I am happy to join the Murray Middle School community this school year as an Educational Speech/Language Pathologist. I am proud to have taught in the Saint Paul Public School District since 1997, starting my career at Roosevelt Elementary School where I was able to incorporate my Spanish speaking skills into my daily work with students. Most recently, I was one of two Speech/Language Pathologists at St. Paul Music Academy where I spent time teaching communication skills to students in three Level III Autism classrooms, two pre-K classrooms and a variety of Level I and II speech/language students.

I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire with a Bachelor’s degree in English and minors in Spanish and Psychology. From there I worked in banking (yes, banking) as a teller, loan officer and assistant branch manager. When that became unfulfilling I decided to go back to school, enrolling in the Communicative Disorders program at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. In 1997 I received my Master of Arts degree in Education, started my career in SPPS, and later that school year welcomed my first child!

When I am not at school, I spend time with my husband and three children, two of whom are away at college, while my youngest is a sophomore in high school. We stay busy watching him run cross-country, play hockey, and fly his homemade drones. We are crazy Packer/Badger/Husker fans and enjoy hiking, winter sports and traveling. It’s going to be a GREAT year!

Science Fair

An invitation to be a judge at the 2020 Murray Middle School Science Fair!

Project Judging – January 14, 2020 (5:40pm – 9:00pm)

We provide guidelines and training on being a judge from 5:40 to 5:55. We have a general welcome and judges pick the evaluations they want to do at 6:00. Since the event runs through the dinner hour, a light meal will be provided.

The judge reviews and discusses the displayed project with the student. Each project has 3 judges who independently view the project and evaluate it. You will evaluate approximately 10 projects.

If you can help us, please mark your calendar and reply by email to stefanie.folkema@spps.org or call 651-744-3922.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks cost $17.00. You can personalize your yearbook up until 12/31/2019. Students can pick up an order form from the office or see Ms. Pittman. The easiest way to buy a yearbook is to purchase it online at https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/high-school-yearbooks.html
Barnes and Noble!

Save the Date!

Murray Middle School presents the Barnes and Noble Bookfair.
Thursday, December 5, 2019 6:00pm

Barnes & Noble – Har Mar Mall
2100 Snelling Avenue
Roseville

The night will include performances from students and the opportunity to donate books directly to teachers.

Murray Wear!

Murray wear is now available.
Instructions for ordering:
http://athleticoutfittersmn.com/web-stores/

Click on Murray logo
Enter password: murrayholiday19
Click on the item you would like
If you would like to see measurements for sizing purposes, click on “Size Chart” at the bottom of the description.
Select size and color (adult and youth available)
When you add an item to the cart it will ask you to enter your teacher name and grade
Also please enter if this item is a gift Yes or No. If gift please note the following when selecting shipping method in checkout. 1) Group Delivery – you pick up at office, 2) Individual In-Store Pickup at Athletic Outfitters (Shoreview), 3) Ship to Home (additional fee at checkout)

Enter Payment and Shipping information

Note: Shipping information options.
- Group Delivery – All Group Delivery items are sent to school and distributed by staff for students to bring home.
- Store Pickup – Those that live near Athletic Outfitters can select this option. Once the order is complete that individual will be called or emailed to pick it up in store at their convenience.
- Ship to Home – For an additional fee of $10 we can ship directly to your home.

Orders received from 10/28-11/24, expect to receive week of 12/15.

Tutors Needed at Murray Middle School!

Murray Middle School (located at 2200 Buford Ave, St. Paul, in St. Anthony Park) offers a comprehensive tutoring/study skills support program called the Murray Pilot One-on-One Tutoring Program. This program (now in its 13th year) is offered during the school day as an elective class Monday through Friday during the last three class periods of the day from 12:29-1:17, 1:21-2:08 and 2:12-3:00 pm. Volunteers pick a day/time that works best with their schedules!

The 7th and 8th grade children involved in the program are students who benefit from obtaining daily support from a tutor/mentor. Tutors work with students on developing solid study skills and they work on core subjects including: English, Science, Math and Social Studies. The goal is to have 75 tutors each week. People enjoy working at Murray because it is an urban middle school with a diverse population and they have an opportunity to work with the same student each day. This lends itself to developing positive relationships with the Murray students. Cindy Thrasher is present in the classroom during the entire time so that both the Murray student and the tutor have a support system in place at the school.

We ask that all tutor volunteers participate in a 90-minute training/orientation session which allows time for us to further describe how the program works at Murray.

Please contact Cindy Thrasher, coordinator, to sign up for a training session or for more information at 651.293.8740 or cindy.thrasher@spps.org

Thank you!

Flipside afterschool classes have started! Class schedules and bussing information are posted in the cafeteria. Students can still register to participate in Flipside! If you have questions please contact:

Kari Gonzalez – Flipside Coordinator
kari.gonzalez@spps.org
651-774-3189

Library News!

The month of November highlight is Science Fiction. See the sheet in the library group or get one from your Foundations teacher to participate in the Read-a-Thon for November. Try to read at least one or two Sci-Fi novels over this month and then turn in the sheet to a teacher or Ms. Decourt to be eligible for a prize. There will be a dress up day on November 21st – any Sci-Fi costume or character you can think of (no hats or hoodies). Have Fun! Happy Sci-Fi November!
Murray Middle School

Barnes & Noble

Bookfair

Thursday, December 5th, 2019
Barnes & Noble – Har Mar Mall
9 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Student Performances 6:00pm – 8:30pm
A percentage of all sales benefit
Murray Enrichment Activities
Books! The Café! Games! Toys! Music and More!
Come early for supper in the Café, play board games and
listen to great music by the Murray Varsity Band,
Orchestra, Concert Band and Murray Rock Band.

Can’t attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?

Bookfair ID 12505368 at checkout.
A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases
will benefit our school/organization
Career Fair

Thursday, December 12th 9-11am at Murray Middle School

A Career Fair is a way to let students explore different career options and journeys. Students will be able to speak with professionals about their day-to-day activities and how they chose their career or profession.

Contact Stefanie Folkema if you plan on joining your student at the Career Fair  651-744-3922

Career Fair

Thursday, December 12th  9-11am

- Students will have an opportunity to speak with individuals in careers like Nursing, Construction, Mortician, Esthetician, Pipe Fitter, Professional DJ, Military, Firefighter, Nutritionist...just to name a few!
- Students can learn what postsecondary pathways will get them to careers they might be interested in pursuing
- Parent/Guardians can join their student(s) as they visit the Career Fair
Como Park is currently accepting students for Shadow/Tours

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SIGNING UP FOR OUR SHADOW/TOUR DAYS, PLEASE REGISTER AT SPPS.ORG/VISITCOMO

We are excited to welcome you!
COME ONE COME ALL!
LET'S CELEBRATE FALL
AT THE INAUGURAL
CHelseA HEIGhtS EleMEntary

FALL ARTS AND
CRAFTS FESTIVAL

Get ready for the holidays, and shop for products made by our talented Chelsea Heights staff members (spice rubs, water painting, jewelry, and more). Local vendors and artisans will be on display as well. The kids will love the cotton candy, sand art, and snowman game.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24
1-4 PM
NORTHWEST COMO REC CENTER
(ChelsEa heights gym)
ST. PAUL

PROCEEDS SUPPORT CHelsea Heights. ThanK you!

Vendors! Tables are available for $25. Email the Chelsea Heights PTO for more information: chelseaheightspto@gmail.com
Children's Dental Services

Children's Dental Services (CDS) provides dental care at school, which may include exams, x-rays, cleanings, fluoride treatment, sealants, silver diamine fluoride (SDF), fillings, crowns, extractions and other treatments as needed during regular school hours. If you would like your child to receive dental care or if you are able to fill out this form as an adult (18 years or older), please fill out this form and return it to school. Please note: Annual permission is required. CDS may need to call with questions prior to treatment; please be sure to provide a number to reach you during the school day.

If you DO NOT want your child to be seen, please DO NOT fill out this form.

Step 1: Patient Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Name (print)</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>□ Male □ Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents' Names (print)</td>
<td>Zip Code:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>2nd Phone ( )</td>
<td>Race/Ethnicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone ( )</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child's School</td>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 2: Dental Information

IS THE PATIENT HAVING ANY DENTAL-RELATED PAIN OR CONCERNS? □ Yes □ No
If yes, please explain:

HAS THE PATIENT SEEN THE DENTIST IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS? □ Yes □ No
IF YES: Approximate date of last dental visit: ____________ Name of Clinic ____________

Step 3: Insurance Information

CDS offers reduced cost to families who are income eligible.
If your child has no dental insurance, please call CDS at 612-746-1530 and ask about our sliding scale program.
A. Does the patient have insurance through the state? □ Yes □ No If yes, what is the member ID number (FMID)?
B. Does the patient have private insurance through a parent’s employer? □ Yes □ No If yes, fill in information below:
Name of Dental Insurance ____________ Name of Employer ____________
Policy Holder's Name/Name of Employee ____________ Date of birth ____________
Dental Plan Identification Number or Social Security # ____________

Step 4: Medical History

1. Indicate YES to all that applies to the patient, and indicate NO to all that DOES NOT apply to the patient.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADHD/ADD</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDS/HIV</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anemia</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Artificial heart valve</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Artificial joint</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Autism spectrum</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blood transfusion</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemical dependency</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cold sore or fever blister</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital heart disease</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital heart disease</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dental anxiety</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depression/psychiatric</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developmental disability</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drug addiction</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epilepsy or seizures</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heart murmur</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hemophilia</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hepatitis/liver disease</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>High blood pressure</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kidney disease</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lung disease</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radiation/chemotherapy</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rheumatic fever</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis(TB)</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please explain any boxes marked yes:

CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE
2. Does the patient have any disease, condition, or problem not listed? □ Yes □ No
   If yes, please list_________________________________________________________

3. Does the patient have any allergies to food, drugs, SILVER, or medicines? □ Yes □ No
   If yes, to what and how do you/your child react? _______________________________________________________

4. Is the patient taking any medicines, drugs, herbal supplements or vitamins? □ Yes □ No
   If yes, list all medications_____________________________________________________

5. Has the patient ever had any unusual reaction to a dental anesthetic? □ Yes □ No
   If yes, for what reason?_________________________________________________________

6. Has the patient ever had any excessive bleeding requiring special treatment? □ Yes □ No
   If yes, for what reason?_________________________________________________________

7. Has the patient seen a physician within the past 2 years? □ Yes □ No
   If yes, for what reason?_________________________________________________________

8. Has the patient been hospitalized within the past 2 years? □ Yes □ No
   If yes, for what reason?_________________________________________________________

9. Has the patient ever had any operations or surgery? □ Yes □ No
   If yes, what was the reason?_____________________________________________________ 
   Were there any complications? (describe)_________________________________________

10. Is the patient pregnant now or possibly pregnant? □ Yes □ No □ N/A
    If yes, when is your due date?_________________________________________________

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**Step 5: Review Authorization Information**

Children's Dental Services Authorization for Dental Exam and Treatment: I give permission for DDS to provide a dental exam, preventive services, and required orthodontic care (dentures treatment). Specifically I consent to routine dental treatments being performed on my child, including examinations, x-rays, cleanings, fluorides, and prophylactic exams. For the treatment of minor cavities, I consent to the use of silver diamine fluoride (SDF). I am aware that SDF will not restore the decayed area of the tooth, and that SDF may require a filling. I understand that DDS staff may be in contact with me to obtain additional information consent to provide informed consent to provide treatment services such as fillings, crowns, extractions and other treatments if needed. I understand that will any procedure there is associated risks, but that these risks are often outweighed by the benefits of such treatment. Risks of not having treatment done include the following:

1. Toothache, tooth infection, or dental abscess that may cause pain, fever, swelling, and/or spread of infection to other parts of the body that can lead to potential life-threatening complications.
2. Difficulty chewing and/or maintaining good nutrition.
3. Gum inflammation.
4. Development of cyst in gum tissue.
5. Facial swelling.
6. Tooth sensitivity to hot or cold.
7. Ongoing pain, bad breath, unpleasant taste in mouth and difficulty opening mouth.
8. Loss of teeth.

I also understand that while rare, there are certain inherent and potential risks in any treatment plan or procedure, and that such operative risks include:

1. Occasional bleeding of the gums that can last up to 12 hours.
2. Swelling of the face or pain or jaw stiffness that can last for several days.
3. Injury to adjacent teeth, gums, or tissues.
4. Fracture of the jaw and necessity to surgically treat the fracture.
5. Injury to the nerve underlying the lower teeth, resulting in numbness, tingling, pain, or sensory disturbances to the lip, cheek, chin, gums, teeth, and tongue.
6. Unexpected reaction to the anesthetic.
7. Infection in the tooth socket that can be painful, tender, and swollen if a permanent tooth is extracted.
8. Blistering lips and/or mouth.

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**Step 6: Sign and Date Consent Form**

I give permission for DDS to bill my insurance for any services provided to the individual listed for care and I understand that I am responsible for any amount not covered by the insurance. I give permission for DDS to share the patient’s oral health information with the school and the school permission to share information necessary for the provision of care to the patient to provide the most comprehensive care possible. I also give permission for the school to share student information with DDS (including class schedules and data). This consent form is valid for one year from the date signed unless revoked in writing to DDS. If I had any further questions about the risks and benefits of treatment or alternate treatment options I have contacted a provider at DDS to ask such questions and they have been answered adequately. I have had adequate time to make the decision to give consent freely. The medical history provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge. If my medical history changes I will inform DDS.

Parent/Guardian (or patient's 18 years of age or older) Signature ____________________________ Date ____________________________

**Please note: If you or your child is seen by one of DDS' hygienists this does not take the place of an exam; we recommend a full examination with the dentist within 6 months if he/she has not already done so.**