

# Millgrove School

## Newsletter

January 2020

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### A Message from our Administrators

From all of the staff at Millgrove School we wish you all a Merry Christmas the Happiest of New Years!

Just a reminder, please keep an eye on your child's attendance at school in the new year. Upon reaching approximately 15% days absent we'll be working with parents to identify any concerns and how we can support better attendance.

Congratulations to Mrs Davies and her team for the wonderful Christmas Concerts, all seven of them went very well!

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We have been so lucky with the weather and the wind chills that we have not had to worry about how cold it is yet. In Alberta our children are outside until the windchill is at - 23 degrees celsius. Please dress your children in layers so that they can be outdoors.

It may be an odd request but we can always use empty paper towel and toilet rolls for our classrooms as well as kleenex boxes. If you would collect them and send them in please do so, make sure they come to Mr. Lillico.

As always the calendar is in the newsletter indicating many of the happenings that we have for the school - remember that they are always subject to change.

Archie Lillico

Linda Madge-Arkininstall

## Lost or Damaged Bus Passes

Keep tabs on your child's bus pass over this Christmas break. Keep it in a safe place or attach it to your child's backpack so it's ready to go in the New Year. If a student has lost their bus pass, a new pass can be picked up at the Transportation Office at the Centre for Education at 4603-48 Street in Stony Plain. Please report any lost or damaged cards to Transportation Services by calling 780-963-8452, so they can deactivate the card and issue a replacement. **Replacement cards will be issued at \$20 per card.**

Occasionally a pass may appear to be malfunctioning with no physical damage to the card. In those cases, a new bus pass will be issued free of charge.

## Parent and Student Literacy Night - January 16

Last year we hosted two wonderful nights for parents to come and play numeracy games with their children under the instruction of the team consultants from Box Cars and One-Eyed Jacks. **January 16** is another opportunity to work with John but instead of numeracy our focus will be literacy games. This evening is open to students with parents from kindergarten to grade 4! We will start at **6:00 pm with a pizza supper** and at **6:30 pm we will launch into the games**. The night will be done by 7:45 pm. We will host this evening in the Millgrove Library Commons and are limited to 60 people so don't delay in registering. Each child must be accompanied by a parent to play the games with them.

Please pre-register by contacting [aclillico@psd70.ab.ca](mailto:aclillico@psd70.ab.ca). Please indicate parent names, student names and grade. **We've extended the deadline to Friday, January 10**, please rsvp soon so that we can ensure we have space and resources for the evening. If we are at capacity we will send out a message via our email services.

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## Health Champions

Happy Holidays!

With the longer nights and shorter days it seems more and more difficult to get ourselves and our children out of bed in the morning. When our mornings become more rushed we all look for ways to get out the door on time and often that means skipping breakfast (the most important meal of the day). That is not just an old wives tale. Research shows that having a good nutritious breakfast increases students ability to concentrate, learn new skills and focus on tasks. Breakfast also increases our ability to absorb nutrients, helps to maintain a healthy body weight and reduces the number of sick days our students take.

For more information and some easy healthy breakfast ideas check out <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/breakfast.html>

Best wishes from your Health Champions

## Choir

**Grade 2-4 Choir will begin in January** starting on **Monday January 13th**. We will be rehearsing during second recess on all Mondays leading up to Choral Celebration which is the week before spring break. Any students in grades 2 to 4 who love to sing are welcome to join!

## Archery

**The NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program) archery program is starting up again at Millgrove!** We are hoping to repeat the successes we have had in previous years. Last year our team won 3 tournaments and we received the Bronze medal at the Alberta Provincial Archery Tournament. **Archery trials began in December for ALL grade 4 students and the trial period will end during the first week of January.** These initial practices will introduce the students to archery so they can decide whether or not they are interested in joining the competitive team, which starts in January and goes until the end of March. The competitive team attends up to four tournaments around the Edmonton area during the months of February and March. The team practices at least 2 times a week before school and twice a week during lunch hours. Joining the team is a commitment so it is important that if your child is interested in the archery program, that they are committed to attending the practices and 3 of the 4 tournaments the team attends. The practices will be during lunch hour on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and announcements will be made to remind the students to attend. The only requirement for the archery team is that a child must be able to pull an 18 pound bow. This is a mandatory obligation we must follow in order to follow the safety regulations of the NASP program. If your

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child has trouble pulling the bow but still wants to join the archery team, Mr. Cherry will contact you directly to discuss options for your child. If your child is interested in joining the archery team, Mr. Cherry will give your child a form the week after Christmas break to sign up. This form will also include further important information about archery, practice times and tournament dates/fees. PLEASE remember that to be on the archery team your child MUST be committed and be able to attend tournaments. The school provides ALL necessary equipment. Any grade 4 student who has a great attitude, wants to have fun and is willing to face new challenges is welcome to try out archery and be on the team!

This year NASP is not allowing Grade 3 students to compete at archery tournaments, HOWEVER, the organizers of the NASP Alberta Provincial Tournament, held during the middle of March in Edmonton, is still allowing grade 3's to compete ONLY at their tournament. Mr. Cherry is willing to organize a grade 3 team to attend this tournament so this means that Grade 3 students will still get an opportunity to join the archery team IF they are able to attend that one tournament in March. The grade 3 students will begin their archery training during the middle of February and information about the grade 3 archery team will be sent out during the first week of February. If you have any questions please contact our head archery coach, Mr. Cherry, by phoning the school or emailing him at [mcherry@psd70.ab.ca](mailto:mcherry@psd70.ab.ca).

## Tabs For Wheels

We have been asked to join a local community member in a year long drive. He is collecting the pull tabs off of cans to then be turned in for a wheelchair. Please collect the tabs and send them into us so that we can see families that can not afford wheelchairs get what they need for their child.

## Acts of Kindness

The Kindness committee introduced a challenge to the whole school to aim for 500 acts of KINDNESS by December 20th. The acts of kindness could be anywhere and with anyone. Our goal was for the kids to recognize what kindness not only looks like but what it feels like. The children wrote about others asking them to play, their friendships, their siblings, being helped when they are hurt, being shown how to do things, kindness from a staff member. And parents you also have been recognized on our chain. Many children wrote about something special they had with a parent.

**We are almost to 700 acts of KINDNESS! Thank you for guiding such KIND Kids!**

Submitted by : Mrs E Drynan



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# Numeracy Tips & Literacy Tips

## **Incorporate Basic Math Concepts**

Try to incorporate basic math concepts into everyday activities. Have your child count objects regularly and pose easy counting challenges, such as counting the number of steps on a flight of stairs or the number of red cars you see while driving. Take opportunities to count by twos or fives or tens, for example, if you've bought many of the same items at the grocery store or need to count a pile of coins.

## **Practice Shape Recognition**

Practice recognition of different shapes. Have your child spot things that are triangular, like pieces of pizza or the roof of a house, or rectangular, like paper money. As you talk about different shapes, have her describe why a shape she spots is a triangle (three sides) or a square (four equal sides) or a rectangle (two opposite equal sides and two other opposite equal sides of longer length).

## **Solve Jigsaw Puzzles**

Doing puzzles is a great way to develop important visual discrimination skills, or the ability to recognize differences and similarities in shape, form, pattern, size, position, and color.

## **Apply Math in Everyday Life**

It's especially memorable to children when they can use their new math concepts in their everyday life. Have your child arrange their favorite stuffed animals in a circle for a party and give two or three crackers to each toy. Have them add up the total number of crackers distributed. Ask them to predict how many more crackers they would need if one of their toy action figures joined the party. Then ask them to predict the total number of crackers needed with yet another guest. This gives them an opportunity to "add up" in their heads and then see if they are correct when they actually add the next figure and count up the new total. The game can be played in reverse when one of the figures leaves the party, taking their crackers with them.

## **Literacy**

When children are first learning to read and write, it is important to talk about the ideas they are reading about. This will help build their comprehension skills.

In this stage, your child:

- Begins to match written words to spoken words and to see relationships between sounds and letters
  - Begins to experiment with reading and says words out loud when reading
  - Finds pictures on the page or screen helpful in understanding the meaning of words
  - Begins to experiment with writing – for example, writes symbols that resemble letters, writes groups of random letters and then eventually writes real words
  - Asks questions about what he or she would like to learn (encourage this interest!)
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Fluent readers think about what they are reading in the context of other experiences they have had.

In this stage, your child:

- Connects ideas and experiences in print to his or her own knowledge and experience
- Predicts events in a story • Values reading and does so on his or her own initiative
- Extends reading skills to writing and begins to:
  - Use a variety of strategies to spell words correctly
  - Use a variety of types of sentences
  - Write about things he or she cares about (it could be your family, a video game or a pet)

## Library News

The learning commons is gearing up for their Book Fair on February 3, 4, and 5. Help is needed to work sales at lunch hour. Please see Mrs. Smith in the library if you can help.

The wonderful staff at Indigo Books in Spruce Grove each donated a book to our learning commons. A wonderful thank you to them as well.

Our Learning Commons was very excited to be chosen by Indigo books for their Adopt a School Program this fall. We are very grateful to everyone who donated books online and donated money at the store. Our students will be very happy with their new books.

## January Classroom Happenings

### Whole School

January 1-3 - Winter Break

Friday, January 10 - Hot Lunch - Pizza 73 - pre ordered

Friday, January 17 - Hot Lunch - Dairy Queen - pre ordered

Friday, January 17 - School wide Pajama Day

Friday, January 24 - Hot Lunch - KFC - pre ordered

Friday, January 31 - Hot Lunch - Boston Pizza - pre ordered

### Kindergarten

Monday, January 13 - Clay for Kids (in school field trip)

Tuesday, January 14 - Clay for Kids (in school field trip)

Wednesday, January 22 - Field Trip to Aerials Gymnastics - 12:30 - 2:30

Thursday, January 23 - Field Trip to Aerials Gymnastics - 12:30 - 2:30

Friday, January 24 - PD Day NO SCHOOL for all Kindergarten children

### Grade 1

Friday, January 24 - 1R, 1S, 1m Aerials Gymnastics- 1:45 - 3:15 pm



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Friday January 31 - 1V & 1C to Aerials - 1:45 - 3:15 pm

### Grade 2

Tuesday, January 7, 14, 21, 28th - 2A & 2B safety presentation

Wednesday, January 8, 15, 22, 29th - 2W & 2S safety presentations

Thursday, January 9 - Play Parkland Gr 2A & 2W Skating & Yoga - 1:00 - 3:15

### Grade 3

Thursday, January 16 - Play Parkland Gr 3SK & 3T skating & land activity - 12:45 - 3:15

Thursday, January 23 - Play Parkland Gr 3D & 3P skating & land activity - 12:45- 3:15

Thursday, January 30 - Play Parkland Gr 3SK & 3T skating & land activity - 12:45 - 3:15

### Grade 4

Monday, January 6 - Play Parkland Gr 4C & 4D Aerials Gymnastics 1:00 - 3:15

Wednesday, January 8 - Box car building letter going home

Monday, January 13 - Play Parkland Gr 4C & 4D Aerials Gymnastics 1:00 - 3:15

Monday, January 20 - Friday, January 24 - Cross Country Skiing (weather permitting)

## School Council News

Happy Holidays! The next Millgrove School Council meeting is **January 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm** in the Millgrove teacher's lounge. All parents are welcome to attend.

Tara Zieminek

Millgrove School Council Chair

millgrovescchair@psd70.ab.ca

## Millgrove School Community Foundation News

Happy Holidays Millgrove Families!

I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Our Hot Lunch program will start again on January 10th for those that ordered in December. Some of our grade 4's will also be starting their new "jobs" on January 10th. In December all the grade 4's were given the opportunity to apply to hand out milk at lunch time. This process has given them the opportunity to build a resume and partake in an interview. By volunteering for the milk program the grade 4's will learn about commitment and accountability. For those that were not chosen this time they will have another opportunity to apply in March for April - June.

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We will be having our Spell-a-Thon and Family dance in April. If you are interested in co-ordinating or helping with either of these events please come to our next meeting or email Jody at [millgrovescfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:millgrovescfoundation@gmail.com)

Foundation meetings for 2020:

January 14, 2020 - 2:30pm

February 11, 2020 - 6:30pm

March 10, 2020 - 2:30pm

April 14, 2020 - 6:30pm

May 19, 2020 - 2:30pm

June 9, 2020 - 6:30pm - AGM

Jody Bergey

Millgrove School Community Foundation President

## Offerings from Division Office & The Community

### Center For Education

Parkland School Division is proud to present another **FREE** information series for local families.

#### **Dealing with Disobedience - A discussion group**

Does your child ignore you or fuss when you ask them to do something? It is always difficult when children just won't do as they are told. In this group discussion, you will learn the reasons why children are disobedient, choose positive strategies you can use to prevent this challenging behaviour and make a plan to deal with it when it does happen. Having a few positive strategies in our back pocket can help us stay calm...even when we're frustrated!

**Date: Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020**

**Time: 6-7:30pm**

Location: Centre for Education (4603 - 48 Street, Stony Plain)

Presenter: Rebecca Plant (Alberta Parenting for the Future Association)

A light supper will be provided. Limited childcare is available.  
Space is limited, so please register early to reserve your spot.

To register, please contact:

Vicky Mamczasz, Family Supports Facilitator

phone: 780-963-8472

email: [vmamczasz@psd70.ab.ca](mailto:vmamczasz@psd70.ab.ca)



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## Positive Parenting Program: TEENS

Learn ways to help your teenager communicate well, develop healthy routines, follow rules and solve problems. Think of this session as a toolbox of ideas. You choose the tools you want to make your family life better. You can adapt the ideas you learn to suit your culture, beliefs and personal situation, using them to build better relationships with your child, solve problems, become a more confident mom or dad and give your child the best start to life.

**Dates: Tuesday, Jan. 21, 28 and Feb. 4, 11 and 25, 2020 (no session on Feb. 18)**

**Time: 6–7:30pm**

Location: Centre for Education (4603 - 48 Street, Stony Plain)

Presenter: Rebecca Plant (Alberta Parenting for the Future Association)

**Information and topics discussed will build on each other, so participants are asked to attend all dates, if possible.**

A light supper will be provided. Limited childcare is available. Space is limited, so please register early to reserve your spot.

To register, please contact:

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