

Milne Grove School Newsletter

December/January 2011
Volume 7, Issue 4

565 East 7th Street
Lockport, Illinois 60441

Superintendent, Donna Gray
Principal, Jaime Koziol
School & Office 815-838-0542; Attendance Line 815-838-0737 extension 2



MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that ALL students can be successful in school. It is the mission of Milne-Kelvin Grove School District 91 to provide a supportive environment for learning in which students acquire knowledge and skills, develop a healthy self-image, demonstrate positive social behaviors, as well as acknowledge and respect ethnic and cultural diversity. We expect students to become life-long learners and productive citizens.

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From the Principal - Mrs. Koziol, jkoziol@d91.net

As we enter the season of giving, you may be asking yourself, "How will I meet all the needs that are put before me this year?" Even throughout this newsletter, it may seem that we ask continually for you to give of your already scarce resources.

**All we ask is that you give what you can when you can.
No pressure, no expectation.**

Students at Milne Grove School receive the message that they each have a unique set of gifts and talents to share with the world. We ask them to be of service to the school and to one another in order to foster a feeling of connectedness and belonging within their community. The various events and drives we sponsor help Milne Grove as an institution to be of service to the community and model that value of service and connectedness to your children. Thank you for helping in any way you can - each person's contribution is genuinely valued.

Nurse's News - Mrs. Gilkerson, sgilkerson@d91.net

Winter weather is here yet again. Please make sure your child dresses appropriately for the weather each day because students are outside for line up, recess, and dismissal. **Children will be outside if the temperature outside is at or above 20 degrees** (wind chill is factored) and should have a winter coat, hat, and gloves each day. **If your child is in need of winter clothing, please call the school office.** The office staff will work together to ensure that no child remains cold.

Please remember that children should not arrive to school before 8:20 am. There is no supervisor outside until 8:20 am and for the safety of the students we do not want them left unattended.

Recently, a number of children have come to the health office with "tummy aches" because they have not eaten breakfast before school. It is very important for each child to have breakfast; it truly is the most important meal of the day. The calories provided by a nutritious morning meal allow students to have the energy it takes to tackle the demands of a morning of learning. The health office does not have breakfast foods to offer hungry children. I realize that schedules can get hectic and time passes quickly in the morning, but breakfast is an essential part of a kid's successful day in school.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ PTO Book Fair
- ◆ Kandy Grove Festival
- ◆ Spirit of Giving Garage Sale
- ◆ Hornetmania Wrestling Event
- ◆ Holiday Program

Full December calendar on the last page.

Early Learners News - Mrs. Torkelson, rtorkelson@d91.net

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, December 20th - Holiday musical performance of the Milne Grove and Kelvin Grove students at 1:15pm at Kelvin Grove School

Wednesday, December 21st - Early Learners Holiday Program for their families. Families should arrive at 2:40pm to sign in at the office. The program will start at 2:45pm. The Early Learners will also have a holiday party from 1:45pm to 2:30pm.

Thursday, December 22nd through Tuesday, January 3rd - No School - HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Wednesday, January 4th - School Resumes

Monday, January 16th - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School

Tuesday, January 24th - Family Fun Night for the Milne Grove Early Learners from 6:00p.m to 7:00p.m. in the Milne Grove Gym
Thank you to all the parents who volunteered with classroom parties and chaperoned field trips!! We appreciate all your help!!!

Upcoming Themes:

Week of November 28 - The letter "C" along with the number nine. The themes of the week will include cookies and circles. Students will be decorating cookies, creating circle collages, and learning about community workers.

Week of December 5 - The letter "J" along with the number ten. They will be jumping, jingling bells and discussing what they would see in the jungle. The Early Learners will also be working on special gifts for their parents.

Week of December 12 - The letter "X" and reviewing numbers zero to ten. They will also be learning about their body parts.

Week of December 19 - The letters A, B, C, F, G, H, J, P, N, T & X. They will also continue to review numbers 0 to 10.

Week of January 2 - The letter "W" and the number eleven. The theme for the week will be winter and the color white.

Week of January 9 - The letter "I" and the number twelve. The theme of the week will be ice & experimenting with ice cubes.

Week of January 16 - The letter "S" and the number thirteen. The students will be creating small, medium and large snowmen.

Week of January 23 - The letter "M" and the number fourteen. The theme of the week will be mittens and the Early Learners will determine which mittens are the same or different.

Kindergarten News - Mrs. Lyttek, slyttek@d91.net & Mrs. Preboy, cpreboy@d91.net

Kindergarten had a wonderful Thanksgiving Feast! The students got to choose if they wanted to be a Pilgrim or Indian for the big event! We learned about the first Thanksgiving and ate many of the same things at our Feast! This was a great opportunity to talk about our Character Pillar for November, Respect. We discussed how respectful the Pilgrims and Indians were to each other. Before we enjoyed our meal everyone had the opportunity to name something they were thankful for. Thanks to all the parents who made this event possible by sending in items. It was an unforgettable experience for the students.

At this point in second quarter we are beginning to use more of our "Kindergarten Writing" as we label pictures and create sentences. "Kindergarten Writing" is when the students write the letters they hear in a word. It helps them separate the sounds and sequence them on paper. Please be sure to encourage this kind of writing at home too. The students have been working hard reading sight words along with decodable words. Each time a book comes home from school, please sure to read it three times before it goes in their Book Baggie. As the quarter progresses the books will become more challenging by incorporating more sight words and decodable words.

In Math we are comparing and making predictions about graphs. This is a skill we practice every day when students answer the Question of the Day. Each day we look at the results and summarize the results. We are also working on comparing items based on weight, capacity, and length. We weighed ourselves and compared items that weighed more and less than us. We also took autumn leaves and practiced sorting them by size. By the end of second quarter students are expected to count to 50 independently and identify numbers 1-15.

We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a great start to your 2012!

First Grade News - Mrs. O'Halloran, mohalloran@d91.net; Miss Sander, dsander@d91.net; & Mrs. Stanly, lstanly@d91.net

December is our month to review how to be responsible and to educate others on Responsibility. First graders will read stories, listen to poems, and create artwork to display throughout our school.

In phonics, first graders will continue to work on and review the short vowel sounds during the month of December, as well as the sounds of "or" and "sh". In January, we will be working on the sounds of "sh", "ch" and "ar".

In math, for the months of December and January, first graders will be working on many new concepts. They will be able to identify and count dimes and pennies together, count by tens and twos, identify one half and one fourth, and identify odd and even numbers on a number chart. Students will also continue to practice telling time to the hour on a digital and analog clock. In addition to these concepts, we will be adding the number two to even and odd numbers such as; 2+2 & 2+3. The children will also be introduced to "doubles plus one" such as; 3+4 & 4+5.

During the month of December first graders will be reading fairy tales. We will compare various versions of the story *The Gingerbread Man* and will participate in a variety of activities. During this unit the children will be invited to complete a home activity in which they can create their own gingerbread man. The completed projects will be hung up and displayed.

We wish everyone a happy holiday season!

Second Grade News

Mrs. Bolte, mbolte@d91.net

Mrs. Georgopulos, rgeorgopulos@d91.net

The second grade teachers want to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday!

Math- Students need to continue to practice the addition facts at home nightly. Once we learn all the addition facts students will be required to complete 100 facts in 5 minutes. Students will learn how to add 2-digit numbers with and without regrouping and be able to use this skill to solve story problems. Students will also continue to review place value to the hundreds place, ordering 2 and 3 digit numbers, and comparing numbers.

Reading- The students need to continue to practice the weekly spelling words. Some activities you can do at home are: making words, writing the words in sentences or in a story. The next theme in reading is, The Wild West. It will tie into our social studies curriculum when we study the Potawatomi Indians in January. It is important to read the weekly story with your child. Continue to ask them questions about what they are reading.

Social Studies- In the month of December we will continue with unit 2, Where We Live. Students will learn about: life in different places, how to use a globe, using the land, and what goods and resources we get from around the world.

Science- The next unit of study is Forces and Motion. Students will be learning about forces, gravity and magnetism.

Handwriting- We will begin teaching cursive. Students will begin by learning the strokes needed to make the letters. After the strokes we will begin the lowercase and then the uppercase letters. Students are **not** allowed to write in cursive until all the letters are learned.



Physical Education News

Ms. Sharp, lsharp@d91.net

The PE classes will be in the middle of a basketball unit. They will have practiced the skills of dribbling, passing, and shooting. Then they will be playing lead-up games and modified basketball games so they can incorporate the skills learned.

All students continue to have a fitness day each week. Kindergarten will work more with jump ropes and ball throwing. Kindergarten-3rd will also play some holiday games.

Hope everyone has a wonderful holiday!



Third Grade News

Miss Podwika, kpodwika@d91.net

Mrs. Slingerland, mshlingerland@d91.net

Mrs. Steed, csteed@d91.net

Thank you for addressing the letters for Flat Stanly. Many letters have returned from his travels and the students are discovering the fun Flat Stanley has had in different states and countries. Do not worry if your child's Flat Stanley hasn't returned to us yet, he must be having too much fun!

Several different genres will be covered in reading: historical fiction, folktales and fables. Your child will be a better reader by practicing. Have your child read to you or take turns reading to each other. As always, practice makes perfect!

Multiplication will continue to be covered this month. Your child can make multiplication fact cards and practice at home too.

Cycles of the Earth will be covered in social studies, including the water cycle, weather, and solar system.

We have a service project continuing this month. If you have any new or gently used gloves, mittens, scarves and hats please give them to your child to add to our Giving Tree at school. We will make sure these items go to needy families in our community.

It was wonderful meeting you at Parent/Teacher Conferences. We will continue to make the home to school connection strong.

Happy Holidays!

Music News - Mrs. Randolph, randolph@d91.net

D91 – All year- SAVE metal tabs off soda and other cans to help purchase gym sound system & equipment. Tell friends and family to save too. Send to school.

Wednesday, December 14 (7pm)

Chorus and Band Winter Concert and Bake Sale in KG old gym. Come enjoy music of the holidays and stock up on delicious home baked goodies.

Tuesday, December 20 (9:15 am & 1:15 pm)

The Musical “Toyland” Presented by Grades K-5 & KG Chorus

(Admission FREE and open to the public - enter Kelvin Grove Door # 1)

NOTE: Morning Kindergarten will only perform at 9:15 am; Afternoon Kindergarten will only perform at 1:15pm.

COSTUME: Students wear their best clothes for performance. (For grades 2-5 & chorus – nice clothes or red & green colors; Don't buy something just for the program. Please try not to wear anything with advertising on it. This will NOT be on TV due to COPYRIGHT restrictions. You may bring your own camera to video, but NO flash or lights.)

SEATING: Kindergarten and First Grade students will be singing on the stage and return to Milne Grove as soon as they have performed. Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth & KG Chorus (about 400 voices) will sing on the gym floor in front of the stage. Second, Third & KG Chorus Part 1 will sing on the side nearest the hall and Fourth, Fifth & KG Chorus Part 2 will sing on the side nearest the baseball field. Chorus Soloists will be on stage or the center of gym floor.

Art News - Mrs. Cravens, jcravens@d91.net

All kindergarten through third grade students will construct a personal holiday ornament to share with their families for the winter season. Please see the detailed descriptions of these projects below:

Our kindergarten, first, and second grade art students used several clay techniques to sculpt a personal ceramic ornament for the holiday season. Each grade level had a different theme for their ornament. As a finishing touch, they personalized the ornaments by carving a special message into the clay, prior to drying. All students painted their ornaments in a holiday color scheme and decorated their ornaments with various art materials, including paint, glitter, cotton, and other assorted materials to really make them shine and sparkle on the tree.

As we approach the months ahead, all grades will master the color wheel, practice color blending, and complete several paintings. Be sure to notice the new “Artist Statements” on your child’s work. Ask your child about their art, you will be amazed at what you learn!

Thank you for your support and interest in the art department at Milne Grove School. For more information on your child’s art education, please feel free to visit us on the web at www.d91.net. Happy Holidays!

LRC News - Mrs. Tumino, ltumino@d91.net

Family Reading Night

Our Family Reading Night on November 17th was a great success! Miss Sander’s class won the ice cream party!

IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A PHONE CALL/MESSAGE FROM ME AT 7 PM ON THE 17TH, PLEASE CONTACT MRS. O'BRIEN AT 815-838-0737, EXT. 104 TO UPDATE YOUR CONNECT ED CONTACT INFO!! We use an automated calling system to communicate important school information, and it’s important that ALL families are up to date in case of a school emergency.

Book Notes

The children will be bringing home an EXTRA library book for Winter Break! Please help your child keep track of all books during this hectic time, and do your best to send them all back in January!

In November we spent some time exploring OPAC, our automated cataloging system and learned about the organization of the library. We also read many great books about Thanksgiving and other topics being covered in class. In December we will cover holiday stories and lots more, and will begin reading our Monarch Award nominees.

Computer Bytes

As usual, the Computer Lab is busy! Third graders have been busy researching and getting comfortable creating, editing and saving documents in Microsoft Word. The other grades have all been making good use of their time on a variety of websites. Links to these websites can be found on the MG LRC page of www.d91.net - just click on the globe at the top of the page!

Volunteer Corner

Becky Phillips has been coming in to help put away the hundreds of books that are returned every week, and Debbie Jerrick has also been a lifesaver helping with a big copying and scanning project! Thanks to both women for all their help!



**The Spirit of Giving Garage Sale
at
Milne Grove School**

The "Shop for Free" Event will take place on December 10th from 11am until 2pm.

The entire District 91 community is invited to "shop" absolutely free!

Donations will be accepted November 21st through December 8th in the MG Office.

This is a great way to ensure that your **clean and gently used clothing, toys, household items, and furniture** get a new life with a family who can use them! Please keep our event in mind when cleaning out your closet, attic or garage.

Interested in volunteering?

Please call 815-838-0542;

contact Laurie Tumino (x122) or Jaime Koziol (x104).

Hours are flexible; choose from the following windows:

- Friday, Dec 9 from 7-10pm
- Saturday, December 10 from 9-11am
- Saturday, December 10 from 11-2pm
- Saturday, December 10 from 2-4pm

THE GIVING TREE

THE 3RD GRADE STUDENTS ARE SPONSORING A SERVICE PROJECT TO BENEFIT LOCAL RESIDENTS THAT ARE WITHOUT PROPER WINTER PROTECTION. YOUR DONATIONS OF NEW HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES, AND SOCKS ARE MUCH APPRECIATED; BOTH CHILDREN'S AND ADULT SIZES ARE WELCOME BY DECEMBER 16, 2011.



Toyland

The Musical

Presented by Grades K-5 & KG Chorus

(Admission FREE and open to the public - enter Kelvin Grove Door # 1)

Tuesday, December 20

9:15 am & 1:15 pm

See Page 4 of the Newsletter for Details

Rainbows

When something significant happens in a family, the entire family is affected. Sometimes death or divorce appears to be a grown-up problem, but it has a profound affect on the children that it touches.

If your child is experiencing some type of loss, The **Rainbows Program** may help your child put his/her feelings into words, work through their grief, build a strong sense of self-esteem, and begin to accept what has taken place. It also allows your child to have a special time each week where they can get together with other children of the same age group and talk about what is happening in their lives.

D91 is offering a Rainbows group from February through May. Students will meet once a week during their lunch/recess time. Please call Jaime Koziol at 815-838-0542 x104 if you are interested in having your child attend.



**Chorus and Band
Winter Concert & Bake Sale**

December 14 - 7pm - KG old gym

Stock up on delicious home-baked goodies!

VISIT US ON THE WEB!



District 91 Parent Athletic Association
is sponsoring

**Pro Wrestling
"Hornetmania"**
December 10th

Event Begins at 7pm
Tickets still available - \$12 each

**PTO MANNA
FUNDRAISER**

Don't forget to order your holiday gift cards through the PTO. Retailers **you already shop with** from Wal-Mart to Jewel and JCPenney to Toys R Us offer a % **back to our school** if you purchase your gift card through PTO!

**This is a quick and easy way to
make a difference.**

Contact Tricia Brasen at tbrazn1@yahoo.com for more info or stop by the Milne office for an order form.

Kandy Grove Festival



The D91 PTO will transform Kelvin Grove into a special town for one day only:

December 3, 2011 10am-2pm

Featuring:

The Sweet Read Shoppe

(Scholastic Book Fair)

Gum Drop Pass Amusement Park

(Games, Bounce Castle, Facepainting, Tinsel Tug of War, and Crafts)

Gramma Nutt's Kitchen and Bakery

The Kandy Grove Main Street:

Box Top Land, Manna Gift Card Gallery, Kandy Korner

and Wear Your Spirit Shoppe

Bring the whole family for a great way to kick off the holiday season!

BOOK FAIR

SCHEDULE/OPENING HOURS:

Tues, Nov 29 through Fri, Dec 2nd from 3:15pm – 6:30pm
& Sat, Dec 3rd 10am – 3pm

KG LRC - CASH, CHECKS AND CREDIT ACCEPTED



Reserve Your Yearbook Now!

Yearbooks must be preordered, no extras will be purchased.

**\$20 each due
February 2, 2012**

Forms available in the MG Office

Some of the organizations represented on this page of the newsletter are not affiliated with District 91, and District 91 does not sponsor or endorse these organizations or their activities. This information has been made available to D91 families pursuant to the District's policy governing the distribution of written materials from non-school organizations.

Box Tops are as Easy as 1,2,3...

1. Buy Box Tops Items
2. Cut Out the Box Top & Send to School
3. Our School Earns Money



Or shop on participating online retailer websites!
(see btf.com for a list)

Train Your Brain

With Dr. Swayne, School Psychologist

This is one in a series of articles dedicated to all of you - District 91 students, parents/guardians and grandparents, staff, and community supporters. These articles are written to help each of you to become more efficient in your learning and memory. Each of us can help our memory processes through development of various, easy to learn skills and strategies. Throughout this series, you may find the answers to questions such as:

**Why do I remember some things and not others?*

**How can I remember more?*

**How can I study more effectively?*

**How can I improve my brain's "filing system"?*

As you better understand how your brain works, you will be able to improve your memory, increase your learning skills and develop more efficient thinking & mental organization.

Interested? Let's get started!

1. What you already know can help you learn something NEW!

Whenever you can, use any personal experiences or past knowledge to make sense of new information. For example: Some students had recently studied about different types of animals. You may have seen something on TV or even had the opportunity to visit the zoo - your past knowledge can help you build on this new information.

You might enjoy building things - many younger students like puzzles or working with Legos. Your ability to put these things together helps you to understand the process from beginning to end; such abilities can help when you are designing a project for a science or art class.

2. Breaking down information into smaller parts - "chunking"

Its easy to get overwhelmed when learning new information. One of the best practices is to break down the information into smaller bits or chunks. For example, look at this string of 10 digits for five seconds, look away and write down the digits: 4256842057. How did you do? What if I wrote the digits like this: 425-684-2057. Easier? Probably. It was chunked into three groups - just like a phone number. You can apply chunking to information, long-term projects and other things that may, initially, seem difficult to learn.

These are just a few ideas for you to begin to use your brain power more efficiently.

Next month's topic: Discover Your Learning Style.

Any comments or questions? I would love to hear from you! Email me at lswayne@d91.net.

Resources include:

How to explain a brain: An educator's handbook of brain terms and cognitive processes by R. Sylwester [2005].

How the brain learns, 3rd edition. David A Sousa [2006].

Your memory: how it works and how to improve it, 2nd edition. Dr. K. Higbee [2001]

www.brainconnection.com

December 2011 / January 2012

CC! Pillar of the Months – Responsibility_(DEC) & Fairness_(JAN)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29 Fall Book Fair Begins at KG LRC	30 Fall Book Fair at KG LRC	1 Lunch Forms Sent Home Fall Book Fair at KG LRC	2 Midterm Spirit Day! Fall Book Fair at KG LRC	3 Kandy Grove Festival/ Book Fair at KG LRC 10am-2pm
4	5	6	7 Lunch Forms Due	8	9 Spirit Day! Progress Reports Distributed	10 Spirit of Giving Free Garage Sale at MG Gym 11am-2pm Hornetmania KG 7pm
11	12	13 D91 Academy – all parents invited - KG LRC - 6:30pm District 91 Board of Education Meeting; KG LRC - 7:30pm	14 Chorus Winter Concert and Bake Sale KG Old Gym 7pm	15	16 Last Day for Giving Tree Donations Spirit Day!	17
18	19 Holiday Program Rehearsal – During School Day	20 Holiday Program – 9:15am & 1:15pm KG Old Gym	21 Classroom Holiday Parties	22 No School	23 No School	24
25	26 No School	27 No School	28 No School	29 No School	30 No School	31
1	2 No School	3 No School	4 School Resumes 8:30a	5	6 Spirit Day!	7
8	9	10 Special Ed Forum 6pm – 7:30pm District 91 Board of Education Meeting; KG LRC - 7:30pm	11	12 Lunch Forms Sent Home	13 Spirit Day! End of Quarter	14 PTO Bingo KG New Gym 1-4pm
15	16 Martin Luther King's Birthday - No School	17	18 Lunch Forms Due	19	20 Spirit Day! Report Cards Distributed	21
22	23	24 Early Learners Family Fun Night MG Gym 6pm	25	26	27 Spirit Day!	28