

MILNE GROVE SCHOOL

December 2009

Volume 4


Issue 3

Mrs. Donna Gray, Superintendent
Lockport District 91

Mrs. Tracy Carlson, Principal
Milne Grove School

From the Principal's Office

I want to thank all parents and guardians for attending Parent-Teacher Conferences. Communication is the key to success! Please continue to contact your child's teacher anytime you have questions or concerns.

Please remember to make sure your children are appropriately dressed for the outside weather. Students will only be allowed to play in the snow at recess if they are dressed in a coat, hat, mittens/gloves, boots **and** snow pants or a snowsuit. Those without boots and snow pants must remain on the black-top during recess. If the wind chill is below 20 degrees the children will stay inside for recess. Don't forget that from 

December 1 – March 1, the students will line up inside the building at 8:20 due to the cold temperatures. The children will still enter through the same doors each morning. This also applies to our afternoon pre-school and kindergarten.

I want to remind parents/guardians that if you take your child out of town or on vacation during school, it is an unexcused absence even if the absence is prearranged. If time away from school is unavoidable, you need to obtain a prearranged absence form at least one week in advance. This form will ensure that your child receives all the work he/she will miss. Without the prearranged absence form, students will not receive any credit for the work/tests they miss while gone, even if they only miss a half day. Please refer to the Parent/Student Handbook attendance section for more details or contact the school if you have any questions.

It's never too early to plan ahead. ISAT testing for

students in 3rd – 8th grade is March 2 – 8. Please do NOT schedule doctor appointments during this week. Attendance is extremely important during ISAT, and students perform much better when they take the state tests with their class during the scheduled time.

We will have our classroom holiday parties on Friday, December 18th at the end of the school day. We will dismiss at our regular 3:10 time on December 18th. School resumes on Monday, January 4th at 8:30.

On behalf of the entire staff I would like to wish you a happy and safe holiday. I hope to see you at the PTO Holiday Fun Fair on Saturday, December 5th and at our Holiday Program at Kelvin Grove on Tuesday, December 8th!

Mrs. Carlson



ATTENDANCE AND HOMEWORK REQUESTS

All absences must be called in to the attendance line at 815-838-0737 x 2 (YES, this is Kelvin Grove's phone number) by 9:00 a.m. This includes if your child will be late or leaving early. Please make sure you leave your child's first and last name, grade, and the specific reason for the absence. Please leave full details for illnesses.

If you would like to pick up homework for your absent child, leave that request on the attendance line when you call to report the absence. Homework will be sent to the office at the end of the day IF we receive the request by 9:00 a.m. Homework can be picked up in the office from 3:15 – 4:00.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 4

PTO Santa's Secret Shop During PE

December 5

PTO Holiday Fun Fair MG Gym 10:00 - 2:00

December 8

Holiday Program 9:15 & 1:15 @ KG

District 91 Academy Meeting @ KG 6:00

Board of Education Meeting @ KG 7:30

December 11

Miles of Smiles Dental Checks

December 21 -

January 1
Winter Break

January 12

Special Education Parent Meeting @ KG

Board of Education Meeting @ KG 7:30

January 15

End of 2nd Quarter

January 18

No School

January 22

Report Cards Distributed

Look Inside For:

- **Classroom Happenings**
- **Art, P.E. Music, and LRC News**
- **Volunteer News**
- **Ways Our Schools Can Earn Money**
- **PTO Holiday Fun Fair**
- **Emergency School Closing Information**
- **Save the Date**
- **Student Records**

Visit us on the web!

www.d91.net

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

EARLY LEARNERS

Upcoming Events:

Week of November 30 – The Early Learners will be learning about the letter “C” along with the number nine. The themes of the week will include cookies and circles. The Early Learners will be decorating cookies and creating circle collages. They will also be learning about community workers.

Week of December 7 – The Early Learners will be learning about 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 14 – The Early Learners will be learning about the letter “X” and reviewing numbers zero to ten. They will also be learning about their body parts.

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, December 8th, the Early Learners will be attending the holiday musical performance of the Milne Grove and Kelvin Grove students at 1:15p.m. at Kelvin Grove School.

Tuesday, December 15th, the Early Learn-

ers will be taking a field trip to the Des Plaines Valley Public Library in Lockport. Friday, December 18th, the Early Learners will perform their own little holiday show for their families. The families should sign in at the office after drop off and the show will start at 12:40p.m.

NO SCHOOL, December 21st – January 1st Winter Break HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Thank you to all the parents who volunteered with classroom parties and chaperoned field trips. We appreciate all your help.

KINDERGARTEN

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 be-

ginning 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 be 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 2010!

FIRST GRADE

During the month of December we will be focusing on the Pillar of Responsibility. In our classrooms we will discuss ways we can be responsible. 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, as well as the sounds of “th” and “ch”.

In math this month first graders will be working on many new concepts. They will learn to identify and count dimes

and pennies together, count by tens and twos, identify the fraction one half, and locate even and odd numbers on a number chart. Students will practice telling time to the hour on a digital and analog clock. In addition to these concepts, the students will be introduced to adding two to even and odd numbers such as; 2+4, 2+6, 2+8, 2+3, 2+5 and 2+7. At home, please continue to practice the math flashcards with your child, until they have mastered the facts.

Also in December first graders will be reading fairy tales. We will compare various versions of 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 displayed in the classroom and hallway.



We wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!

SECOND GRADE

Language Arts/Spelling: 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 students will be introduced to different reading genres over the next couple of months such as plays and expository non-fiction. It is important to read the weekly story with your child. Continue to ask them questions about what they are reading.

Handwriting: In December, we will begin teaching the students how to form the strokes needed for cursive letters. We will then begin teaching the students the lower case letters first. The students will NOT be allowed to write in cursive until all the letters have been taught. The students will begin to receive cursive homework 1-2 times a week.

Math: Continue practicing the addition math facts we have covered so far. Over the course of the next few weeks, we will learn the addition facts with sums of 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18. Once all the addition facts have been introduced, we will move on to subtraction.

Some upcoming skills in math for December and January are: ordering two-digit numbers; counting dimes, nickels, and pennies; identifying a line of symmetry; adding two digit numbers; drawing a number line and locating points on a number line; drawing line segments to the nearest inch; identifying angles of a polygon; adding three or more single-digit numbers and writing fractions using fraction notation.

Social Studies: The students really enjoyed learning about the Earth's various landforms and creating their layered book of the Earth's features.

Students will begin learning about the life of the Potawatomi. We will discuss the French Fur Trade; the tools the Potawatomi used for hunting; the roles of the men, women, and children in the tribe; and what type of shelter the Potawatomi lived in. We will also have a visitor from Isle a la Cache visit the students and give a presentation called "A Potawatomi's Life."



Science: We will continue our unit on "Exploring Matter". In Chapter 2, we will focus on the changes in matter. Students will look at and investigate what happens when you mix matter. They will also look at and learn how water can change. In this chapter, students will become familiar with the following vocabulary words, mixture, reversible, and irreversible.

THIRD GRADE

Third graders were the proud sponsors of the Trustworthiness Pillar of Character. School wide activities included cutting out and signing camel stars with our trustworthiness quote. The camel is the animal that represents Trustworthiness. During announcements, third graders also read quotes over the intercom during the last week of October. We are very proud of our trustworthy third graders. In November students will continue the writing process practicing Narrative and Expository writing.

Before they begin writing, students develop a plan for writing with a topic sentence, three main points and a conclu-

sion. As part of our Reading curriculum students will read Rosie, a Visiting Dog's Story, while learning about singular possessive nouns, words with the letter pattern "ough," compound words, classifying and categorizing words, study word relationships, and will decode long words. Students will then read The Stories Julian Tells and The Talent Show. They will learn about sequencing while reading these two realistic fiction stories.

In Science, your child will continue their study of animals learning about traits, types of species, hiberna-



tion, migration, camouflage, mimicry and extinction.

In Math, students will be conducting a survey, drawing and reading a pictograph, identifying place value to the hundreds, writing three digit numbers in expanded form and naming line segments. We will continue our practice of money, time and patterns. Please continue to have your child practice subtraction facts.

During Social Studies, third graders will be reviewing landforms and beginning a study on Community Development.

MRS. DONNA GRAY, SUPERINTENDENT

MRS. TRACY CARLSON, PRINCIPAL

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.

P.E. NEWS

The P.E classes are doing a basketball unit. They practiced the skills of dribbling, passing, and shooting. They play many lead-up games to work on these skills. Some games will incorporate math



skills. The 2nd and 3rd will play some modified games. In November, the classes played some Thanksgiving games. They will also play some Christmas/Holiday games in December. At the end of each week, the classes do a fit-

ness activity. At the end of the month, the classes will do a 5 minute jog. Other skills they will work on is throwing frisbees, jumping rope, and using the rock wall.

News from the Art Room

All kindergarten through third grade students constructed 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 posed for the digital camera, and painted a picture frame to be used as a photo ornament. Each grade level had a different theme for their photo frame. All students decorated their frames with various art materials, including paint, glitter, cotton, and other assorted materials to really make them shine and sparkle on the tree.



Our third grade students used cookie cutters as inspiration to create ceramic ornaments. Students painted their ornaments with acrylic paint, and also added additional embellishments, such as glitter. As a finishing touch, they personalized the ornaments by carving a special message into the clay, prior to drying.

As we approach January and February, all grades will master the color wheel, practice color blending, and complete several paintings.

The projects above require materials that would recommend your child to wear an art shirt to protect their clothing from ac-

cidental spills. If your child does not have an art shirt, they will not be able to use the materials. Please send an art shirt with your child if you have not done so already, and thank you for your assistance with this request.

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!

Mrs. Cravens

MILNE GROVE MUSIC NEWS

I am so proud of the grades 2-5 music students this year who have been doing all their music worksheets. They are doing a great job! No worksheets/ music homework until after December. Students who were sick have no music make-up work this nine weeks.

All students in grades K-5 and KG Chorus are preparing for the Christmas program "Christmas On Candy Cane Lane" to be presented Tuesday, December 8 at 9:15am and 1:15pm in the KG old gym. Make sure to return the permission form to the homeroom teacher for your child to participate in the Christmas program and be transported by bus when it comes out in November. This year we will NOT be filming the program for cable television. The amount of paperwork and copyright permission needed for EVERY SONG USED in the program for legal broadcast rights is not worth it. It took three months to get permis-

sion to perform some of our songs in the past. If you wish to film your own child from your seat using no flash, you may.

THIRD GRADE MUSIC

Students have started learning to play recorders (small plastic wind instrument) during music as well as learn the Christmas musical.

THIRD GRADE PARENTS:

(Students who did not return a permission slip to borrow or purchase a recorder will use a sanitized recorder during class period, but will not take a recorder home.) ALL students who purchased or borrowed a recorder & book are to practice the assigned pages before the next music class and come prepared to play the assignment to earn a sticker.

CLEANING RECORDERS:

All instruments taken home should be dried out after each practice at home with a soft cloth (ex. Handkerchief). Separate the recorder in the middle (do NOT remove the small end), wrap cloth around the cleaning swab (stick) and run through the middle section of each end of the recorder. If your child has a COLD or is SICK: wash the instrument in soapy dishwater, rinse thoroughly, and dry with a clean cloth.

STUDENTS WHO PUR-

CHASED A recorder & Book: please make sure your child's name (First and Last) is marked clearly on the recorder and the book.

STUDENTS WHO BORROWED AN INSTRUMENT & BOOK: are to return them in good condition - with all parts, at the end of the year.

Library News

The kids and I are continuing to enjoy our time together each week. We had a fantastic November, reading about Respect, Thanksgiving, classroom topics and so much more. In December we will begin reading some of the Monarch Award nominees. This award is given each year by the Illinois School Library Media Association to the author whose nominated book receives the most votes from Illinois elementary school students. We will be reading these books together in the library from now until February, when we will vote for our favorite. The kids really enjoy listening to and discussing the selections, and the whole voting process. Of course, we will also continue with books that enhance what the children are learning in class and will end the month with some of our favorite Christmas stories. January will bring us books about winter weather, classroom topics, and more Monarch nominees.

At the end of the the quarter, when the children get to shop in our School Store with the Character Coupons they have earned, I will be selling tickets to our first *Lunch in the Library* of the year. A limited number of tickets to spend lunch and recess in the library will sell for 15 coupons each. Keeping with tradition, I provide dessert and bring in a CD player and some kid-friendly dance music. We like the children to learn that the school library, just like the public library, is no longer just a silent reading destination, but can be a place to learn, have fun and participate in not-so-quiet activities too! Our hope is that children learn to think of libraries as places that can meet many needs.

Reading Incentives

Thank you to all the families that came to our D91 Family Reading Night on November 19th. We had a great turnout, and parents and students alike had a good time. Special thanks go to our PTO for providing the yummy treats we had after the show, and to Pat Jarog from the Lockport Library, who was on hand to answer questions and sign people up for library cards. We now have ten new library card holders!

Please be on the lookout for Six Flags Read to Succeed information that should be coming home in December. Students in grades K-6 are invited to read for six hours over a several week period, and then turn in a record of that reading to receive a free admission to a Six Flags theme park. We will also be participating in Jammer's Book Buddies again in the spring.

Student Author Project

Thanks to the generosity of the PTO, we were able to offer a student author project to the kids this year. We took requests earlier in November on a first come, first served basis, and at this point we do still have a few spots available. Packets were sent home for the kids to complete, and are due back when we return from Winter Break, on January 4th. The PTO is paying for one copy of each book to be added to our library's collection, and families have the option of purchasing additional copies for themselves.

Computer Lab News

As always, the kids are enjoying their time in our Computer Lab every week. Our third graders have been learn-

ing to type, working in Microsoft Excel and Word, practicing math, learning about our government, research skills and more. Second grade students have spent their time on math activities like Spacey Math, and language arts activities on the Trophies and Spelling City websites, learning about hedgehogs, and more. First grade has been brushing up on following directions, letter sounds, reading skills and more on the Clifford software, Starfall website, and others. The kindergartners have worked on sorting, patterns, problem-solving, counting and adding while using the Clifford software, and pre-reading skills on Starfall. Most of the classes also spent a little time on some autumn, Halloween and Thanksgiving websites.

Remember – the district website, www.d91.net, has tons of worthwhile information as well as links to the websites we use here at school.

Volunteer Corner

I would like to thank parent volunteers Carmen Mancera, Donna Romano and Debbie Jerrick for their help with putting away all those books that get returned each week. There just isn't enough time in the day for me to get it all done myself! Special thanks also go to Kristy Greene who helps me every day with my RTI group!

I could always use even more help reshelving books, so if you have any time to spare, and like to restore order to things, keep the library in mind – we'd be grateful for any time you can give us! Just contact me at tumino@d91.net or 815-838-0542, ext. 122.

Transportation Reimbursement



Schools in Illinois were recently notified that the Parent/Guardian Transportation Reimbursement Program did not receive funding. This means that those who filed claims for reimbursement from the 2008-2009 school year will not receive any reimbursement money. In the event that funding is restored this fiscal year, 08-09 claims will be paid.

At this time there is no information available regarding funding of this program for 2009-2010 or future years. You can visit the Illinois State Board of Education's website at www.isbe.net for more information.



CHARACTER COUNTS!



DECEMBER'S PILLAR: RESPONSIBILITY

Volunteers, Chaperones, and Room Parents

In case you were not aware, the Board of Education recently updated our policy and procedures on volunteers, chaperones, and room parents at both of our schools. If you plan to volunteer for any reason or help out at a field trip or class-

room party, you must now fill out our volunteer form in advance. The minimum background check that occurs is running all names through 3 online databases (State and National), including child and adult sex offenders and the

Child Murderer and Violent Offenders Against Youth Registry. The School Board is also currently looking into other measures to screen volunteers and/or others that enter the building. Please contact us if you have any questions.

\$\$ Help Our Schools Earn Money \$\$

- Recycle your empty printer cartridges by sending them to school. Our library receives cash for each recycled cartridge turned in.
- Support our PTO and their fundraisers. Every penny that the PTO generates supports our schools and family events that they provide for you and your children.
- Shop at any of these stores: Target, Footlocker and/or Office Max. You must ask them (or go online to find out) how your purchase can result in CASH for our schools.

District 91 Academy

Please join our committee. Some of our topics of discussion include School Improvement, RTI, and Discipline. Please contact Mrs. Carlson at 815-838-0542 if you are interested in attending our next academy meeting on December 8th. We will meet in Kelvin Grove's LRC from 6:00 - 7:30 PM.



Visit Us On the Web

If you have access to the internet, then you should visit www.d91.net for the latest school updates. From school policy to your child's homework, we've got it all posted on our award-winning school web page.

Our school calendar and events are posted on the site, as well as our teacher web pages, PTO information, H1N1 information, and SO much more. Visit the Community and Area Events, which you can

find on the front page if you scroll down. Here you can learn about parent resources and/or workshops offered in Lockport and the surrounding communities.

Secret Santa Workshop,
Crafts to make and take,
Games, Bake Sale, Concessions,
Buy One Get One
FREE Book Fair, Box Top

PTO's
HOLIDAY FUN FAIR
SATURDAY, DEC. 5, 2009
10:00 - 2:00

Store, Basket and Prize Raffles and a visit from Santa.

The Holiday Fun Fair is a great place to start the holiday season.

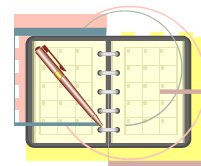


EMERGENCY CLOSING INFORMATION

PARENTS: YOU CAN CHECK THE STATUS OF EMERGENCY CLOSINGS FOR MILNE GROVE SCHOOL THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

1. **We advise our parents to listen to radio station WJOL - 1340 AM.**
2. **Log on to our website www.d91.net.**
3. **Log on to public website www.emergencyclosings.com and search for Milne Grove School by name and city or by our main phone number.**
4. **Call 847-238-1234 using a touch tone phone and enter our main phone number.**
5. **Receive an e-mail notification of a change by signing up at www.emergencyclosings.com.**
6. **Listen to WGN Radio 720 AM, WBBM Radio 780 AM or watch CBS Ch. 2, NBC Ch. 5, ABC Ch. 7, FOX 32, WGN TV or CLTV cable for closing information.**
7. **If you are signed up for our automated phone and/or e-mail system, *Connect-Ed*, you will receive a phone call and/or e-mail notifying you of any school closings. PLEASE keep your phone number and/or e-mail address up-to-date. Call us with any changes.**

Save These Dates!!



Mark your calendar, take off work, and try to attend any or all of our second semester events. More information will come home as these dates approach, but please call us if you have any questions.

Donuts for Dads – Friday, March 19 Parent Lunch Date – Tuesday, April 13

Muffins for Moms – Friday, May 7 Kindergarten Parent Day – Thurs., May 27