



January/February
2010

MILNE GROVE SCHOOL


Volume 5

Issue 4

Mrs. Donna Gray, Superintendent
Lockport District 91

Mrs. Tracy Carlson, Principal
Milne Grove School

From the Principal's Office

As you know, District 91 teaches and models the Six Pillars of Character (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, citizenship) through the CHARACTER COUNTS! Program.  When your child does something really great at home, remind them which of the pillars they modeled. If they need guidance on how to behave properly, one of the six pillars usually fits right in. By working together and using a common language at school and at home, we can help the children make good decisions that will lead them in the right direction and keep them on a positive path.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and guardians of the importance of communicating with the teachers. If you have a concern, please contact your child's teacher first. The classroom teacher knows your child best, and she can answer any questions regarding curriculum, homework, behavior or classroom routines. If the problem persists, please contact me.

The Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) takes place March 2 - 5. Students in 3rd - 8th grade throughout Illinois take the ISAT test. Please make every effort to have your 3rd grade

child in school during ISAT testing. Attendance is extremely important during ISAT, and students perform much better when they take the state tests with their class during the scheduled time. They should come to school well rested and well fed. We will be offering breakfast to 3rd grade students that week. Order forms will go home in February.

Please support our PTO and have some fun too! PTO Family Bingo is Saturday, January 30 from 1:00 - 4:00 at Kelvin Grove. I hope to see many of you there!

Stay warm and keep smiling!

Mrs. Carlson ☺

IMPORTANT DATES

January 22
Report Cards Distributed

January 30
PTO Bingo
KG Gym 1 pm - 4 pm

February 6
PTO Candlelight Bowl
7:45 pm at Strike 'n Spare

February 10
11:30 Dismissal
School Improvement Day

February 15
No School
Presidents' Day

February 19
Progress Reports Distributed

February 23
Spring Pictures

February 26
No School
Teachers' Institute

March 1
No School
Casimir Pulaski Day



Look Inside For:

- **Classroom Happenings**
- **Art, P.E., and Music News**
- **Drop-Off and Pick-Up Reminders**
- **Notes From the Nurse and Lunch Coordinator**
- **Emergency Closing Information**
- **PTO Family Bingo**



SAVE THE DATES!

Donuts for Dads - Friday, March 19 - 8:00 AM:
Preschool - 3rd Grade

Parent Lunch Date - Tuesday, April 13 - Midday:
1st - 3rd Grade

Muffins for Moms - Friday, May 7 - 8:00 AM:
Preschool - 3rd Grade

Grandparent Library Day - End of May - All day:
Kindergarten - 3rd Grade

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION



We continue to receive data that tells us we have several wrong/disconnected phone numbers in our telephone messaging service databank through *ConnectEd*. This system allows us to commu-

nicate with you regarding emergency situations and/or school closings, school events, and other important issues impacting you and your children. If you have not received any prerecorded phone messages from Mrs.

Carlson this school year, please call us today so we can update our records. If your phone number changes during the school year, please let us know, so we can update your emergency contact sheet.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

EARLY LEARNERS

Week of January 4 – The Early Learners worked on the letter “Ww” along with the number 11. The theme was winter and the color was white. The Early Learners also experimented with weight using a scale to see which items were light and which ones were heavy.


Week of January 11 – The Early Learners worked on the letter “Ii” along with the number 12. The theme was ice and the color was blue. The Early Learners did a lot of experimenting with ice.

Week of January 18 – The Early Learners worked on the letter “Ss” along with the number 13. The theme was snowmen. The Early Learners also worked with the snowball sizes of small, medium and large.

Week of January 25 – The Early Learners will work on the letter “Mm” along with the number 14. The theme will be

mittens. The Early Learners will identify which mittens are the same and which ones are different.

Upcoming Events:

Week of February 1 – The Early Learners will work on the letter “Dd” along with the number 15. The theme will be Dental Health and the color will be pink.  The Early Learners will also discuss what happens first, next and last when they brush their teeth.

Week of February 8 – The Early Learners will work on the letter “Vv” along with the number 16. The theme will be Valentine’s Day and the shape will be a heart. The Early Learners will also be working on “caring”, one of the pillars of Character Counts.

Week of February 15 – The Early Learners will work on the letter “Ll”

along with the number 17. The theme will be Abraham Lincoln. The Early Learners will hear a story about Abraham Lincoln when he was young.


Week of February 22 – The Early Learners will work on the letter “Qq” along with the number 18. The theme will be quilt. The Early Learners will create some special quilts.

Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, February 10th NO SCHOOL, Milne Grove Early Learners
Monday, February 15th, NO SCHOOL, Presidents’ Day
Tuesday, February 16th, Parent Workshop 5:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. Milne Grove gym. One parent must attend if they did not attend the fall parent workshop.
Tuesday, February 23rd, Spring Pictures

KINDERGARTEN

The children in kindergarten are beginning to notice words they know EVERYWHERE! They are reading so many sight words and also learning strategies to blend sounds together to read words. As they continue to use their “Kindergarten Writing” to strengthen their ability to segment words, they are also learning to write sentences independently. We had fun in January celebrating Q & U’s wedding! We are certain this wonderful experience will help students remember that Q always travels with U!

In February we are looking forward to our field trip to see a puppet show based on Eric Carle’s book The Very Hungry Caterpillar.  To prepare for this field trip we will be completing an Eric

Carle Unit, so students will become very familiar with his popular books and illustrations.

Since the first day of kindergarten we have been counting each day we come to school using straws. February will bring us to the day we’ve been waiting for....the 100th day of school! The 100th day of kindergarten will be filled with lots of fun math activities. In February we will also be practicing estimating, reading graphs, counting by tens, and learning to read an analog clock to the hour.

We celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day by discussing ways in which he practiced our Six Pillars of Character in his own life. As Presidents’ Day approaches we will learn and write about

Abraham Lincoln and George Washington and how they exhibited great character too.

In Science we will be busy with our Earth Science Unit. We will learn about air, land, and water and using these natural resources wisely. We will also be working on weather and seasons in the next few weeks.

Please remember to check for special days on our monthly calendar. Continue reading each and every day!

The Kindergarten Team

FIRST GRADE

Towards the end of January, Milne Grove first grade students will be learning about how to be safe through the GREAT program (formerly known as D.A.R.E) presented by the Lockport Police Department. This program consists of several individual class lessons. Students will learn about ways to keep safe including not talking to strangers, obeying street signs, and not taking medicine without their parent's supervision.

On Friday, February 5th, we will celebrate the 100th day of school. Each first grade class will make a special snack called "G.O.R.P." During the day we will be counting by 100's, reading 100th day storybooks, and completing activities which focus on the number 100.

February is also dental health month.

The students will be participating in activities related to learning about dental hygiene, the parts of a tooth, and dental careers.

During January and February new concepts in Math include adding 2, identifying pairs, counting dimes and pennies; and writing money using cent signs, subtracting "2" from a number, using a ruler to draw a line segment, counting by 5's, sorting common objects, adding two digit numbers and adding doubles plus one. In class we will also continue to work on counting by 2's and 10's, identifying odd and even numbers, and telling time to the hour.

In January, we will be working on the sounds of /or/, /sh/, /ch/, and /ar/ in language arts. In February we will begin to move from short vowels to long

vowel sounds. Students will be introduced to the mighty silent "e". We will also be looking at other long vowel patterns. We strongly encourage you to continue to review short vowel sounds as well.



Please encourage your first grader to read to you or read independently a little each night. As we enter into third quarter we will continue to build on our level of

comprehension. We ask that as you read with your child, please stop throughout the story and ask your child to make predictions about what might happen next. Review the characters, setting, problem, and solution of the story.

The First Grade Team

SECOND GRADE

Reading- Our next theme is Imagine That! As we move into the third quarter the weekly stories are beginning to get more complex. It will be important for you to check your child's understanding by asking them questions pertaining to the story. In spelling the students will learn: ou, ow, oi, oy and suffixes -ful and -less.

Social Studies- We are finishing the unit on the Potawatomi Indians. The students have enjoyed learning all about this tribe. Our next unit we will concentrate on is Abraham Lincoln. Students



will learn how he impacted our nation.

Science- The next area of study is Hearing Sound. Students will learn what makes sound, how sound travels, and identifying how sounds vary.

Math- In school, we will not be practicing the addition facts on a daily basis. We will, however, continue to assess students on the addition facts. Students will be expected to continue practicing these facts at home. It is equally important to study the subtraction facts. Some

upcoming skills are: measuring line segments to the nearest half inch, identifying place value to the hundreds place, using base ten blocks, telling and showing time to the five-minute interval, and using comparison symbols.

Handwriting- We are continuing to learn the lower case letters in cursive. Please remember students are not allowed to write in cursive until all letters are learned. When practicing cursive at home, remember to have good posture, a sharpened pencil, and correct pencil grip.

THIRD GRADE

Welcome back and we wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year! During the month of January third grade students will be busy with the following skills:

Reading: identifying conflict/resolution in a story, summarizing, studying the genres: historical fiction, proverbs and fables

Language: composing expository writing pieces, identifying and using adjectives and object pronouns

Math: strategies for story problems, multiplication, symmetry, subtraction facts, capacity measurement, perfect squares, and square roots

Social Studies: communities are built for government

Science: observing weather, atmospheric layers, temperature and weather maps



We encourage you to have your child read chapter books and practice subtraction and multiplication facts!

Thank you.

P.E. NEWS

The P. E. classes are doing a hockey unit in Jan./ Feb. They will work on the skills and then play lead-up games and modified games. In mid- February, the classes will start a volleyball unit. Some other activities the classes will



be doing are, bowling, using ball scoops, jump rope, and scooters. JUMP ROPE FOR HEART will be in February. Your child will be bringing home a form. This activity will take place during their P.E. time. Any donations will be wonderful. Not only

will it benefit the American Heart Association, but if the school raises \$1500.00 or more, we will get a certificate for P.E. equipment. Thank you in advance for your help.

Ms. Sharp

News from the Art Room

Currently, all students are working hard, mastering the color wheel and practicing their color blending skills. Each art class at Milne Grove will be working on several paintings over the next several months before moving into the art of three-dimensional sculpture.

Kindergarten students are currently working on an abstracted painting with layers - without the convenience of brushes. Students must use a variety of objects to create the lines, shapes, and colors they require to create these one of a kind masterpieces.

First Grade students will be working on an outer space mixed media painting. Students learned about the planets and will use a variety of materials to create their own outer space inspired art!



Second grade students are continuing their Paul Cézanne inspired watercolor fruit still life. Students learned the art of highlight and shadow and demonstrated this concept in their paintings.

Third grade students are working on a piece of Abstract art using the

warm and cool colors they mix and create.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly anytime at extension 110 at Kelvin Grove, or via email at jcravens@d91.net. Don't forget to check out the Art Department on the web at www.d91.net for a current listing of all projects.

Happy New Year and thank you for your continued support of the arts.

Mrs. Cravens

MG MUSIC NEWS



Second and Third Grade Music students do NOT have any music worksheets at this time. Check the music web site for current information and details concerning future worksheets.

Congratulations to all D 91 K-5 and KG Chorus Music students on their performance of "Christmas On Candy Cane Lane" in December! I am so proud of you! Keep up the great work!

Kindergarten students are learning about notes that move upward, downward, and repeat, as well as high and low. They are learning to play the Orff instruments. January's lessons feature "The Caterpillar's Secret" where the caterpillar

changes into a butterfly.

First Grade is continuing to play the Orff instruments and beginning to learn to read basic notation – line or space. They are playing "Gallump Goes the Little Green Frog".

Second Grade is learning a variety of styles of music including songs in other languages – Spanish. They continue to play Orff instruments.

Third grade students have started learning to play recorders (small plastic wind instrument) during music. Watch for the stickers that come home with their books or special sticker papers. Parents help your child make SURE they are practicing

at home and covering the holes completely with no air leaks under their fingers + remind them to blow gently to get a nice tone.

REMINDER: 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.



OUR CHARACTER PILLAR FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY???



CARING !

NOTES FROM THE NURSE



I would like to introduce myself. My name is Kim Cast and I am very happy to be a part of the Milne Grove School staff. Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful. I am still learning the children's names and they have been very patient with me!

Although I have lived in Lockport my entire life, I feel as if I have come home. I was a student at the "old" Central Grade School (now designated an historic site!!) and Kelvin Grove School many moons ago! Prior to coming to Milne Grove, I was a pediatric hospice and palliative care nurse and manager for 18 years. I also was responsible for continuing education, clinical skill testing and supervision for all hospice employees.

I would like to remind everyone that it is flu and cold season. Please keep your child

home if they are complaining of a sore throat, cough, have a fever, headache, or any other flu like symptom. A thermometer is a wise and worthwhile investment to have in your home. Taking a temperature is quick, easy and is very important during flu season. **Not all children with the flu will have a fever, so listen to your child's complaints and keep them home when they don't feel well.**

Preventing the spread of germs is important and keeping sick children separated from well children is a great way to prevent the spread of illness. Remind your children to wash their hands, not to share food or drinks and to keep from touching their face if at all possible. Coughing and sneezing into a tissue or the bend of their arm is also important. The staff at Milne Grove is working hard each day to keep the environment a healthy and safe place

for your children. We all need to work together for prevention to be effective.

Lastly, at the beginning of the year everyone was required to fill out and return an **orange emergency form**. This form is used to call you if your child is sick or injured. It is vitally important that the phone numbers you have provided are up-to-date. **We have had many phone numbers that are no longer in service, especially cell phone numbers.** This makes it especially difficult when a child becomes ill or has an injury and needs to go home. **Please be sure to notify the office by phone or letter when a phone number is no longer valid, so we are able to update our records.**

Please feel free to call or stop by the Health Office if you have any questions or concerns about your child.

MILNE GROVE GARAGE SALE....A HUGE SUCCESS!!



On December 22 Milne Grove hosted a free garage sale for District 91 residents. We had a wonderful turnout and an outpouring of donations from the community. Thank you so very much for contributing to the garage sale. We hope to make

this an annual event!

I also want to thank the wonderful volunteers that helped to set up and clean up the garage sale: Mrs. Tumino and her family, Mrs. Barker and her daughters, Mrs. Cankar and her family, Mrs. Kovanda and her family, Mrs. Stanly and her children, Mrs.

Steed and her family, Mrs. Gray and her family, Mrs. Ferry, Mrs. Knize, Kerri Kristoff and her family, Tammy Latham and her daughter, Bev Carlock and her son, Lynn True and her daughter, Nina Beavers, and Krista Woodworth. I am so grateful for your time! Mrs. Carlson

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.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP REMINDERS



We understand that frustration levels are high as you try to safely drop-off and pick-up your children, but please try to be patient and model the six pillars of character. Please review the following procedures:

- Please do not leave your vehicle while in the drop-off and/or pick-up zones OR while waiting in line.
- Move along as quickly as possible and encourage your children to move as quickly and safely as possible too.
- Pull up as far as possible to make room for more vehicles.
- Avoid talking on your cell phone during drop-off and pick-up. ***
- At pick-up time, PLEASE do not arrive before 3:00 p.m. Traffic is backed up all the way on Madison Street. It is best to come at 3:15 when the area is less congested.
- Do not park along the cemetery/6th Street curve where it is illegal to do so.
- Do not block the entry or exit driveway.
- Do not walk through the staff parking lot or up/down the driveway. Stick to the sidewalks and crosswalks.
- Be sure to have your child dressed for the weather. They may be outside for up to 10 minutes waiting to be picked up.
- Students who are not picked up are brought back into the building at 3:20.

If you have some time to volunteer during drop-off or pick-up time, we could really use your help. Call the office if you are interested. Thank you!

***Effective January 1, 2010, House Bill 71 and 72 took effect. These new laws prohibit talking on a cell phone while driving in a construction zone or a school zone. Sending or reading text messages is also prohibited.

FREE PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT CARDS AVAILABLE

Lockport School District 91 is expecting to receive a supply of FREE discount prescription cards from American Consultants Rx, Inc. These cards entitle the user to receive discounts up to 40% on name brand drugs and up to a 60% discount on generic prescription drugs. Anyone can use

these cards, but we would first like to get them out to those who are uninsured, underinsured, or on Medicare. There is no expiration date, unlimited usage, and no forms to complete and are good at over 50,000 chain pharmacies like Walgreens, Walmart, Eckerd's, Kmart, Kroger, Publix,

and many more.

If you are interested in getting a card for your family, please contact Mrs. Krumlinde at the Kelvin Grove Office, 815 838-0737 x 101, or by e-mail at krumlinde@d91.net.

NEWS FROM THE LUNCHROOM



When filling out the lunch order form, please be sure to fill out the form in its entirety, including the teacher's name. All free/reduced lunch children must fill out order forms

each and every month. All students must turn in lunch orders on the due date unless absent. Lunches are ordered monthly. A full price lunch is \$2.80 and includes one carton of milk. Extra milk can be pur-

chased for an additional 50¢. March lunch orders will go home in February and will be due on February 17.

Mrs. Thomason

HARDCOVER TEXTBOOKS AVAILABLE AT LOCKPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Lockport Public Library has copies of our classroom hardcover textbooks. Just go upstairs and ask about them at the Children's Department desk! These books may be used at the library, but not taken home. Your child does use more books at school, but many of those are softcover and/or workbooks – those are available only through the classroom.

The following are available at the library:

- First Grade
Trophies Reading
1-1 – Guess Who
1-2 – Catch a Dream
1-3 – Here and There
1-4 – Time Together
1-5 – Gather Around
- Second Grade

Trophies Reading

- 2-1 – Just for You
- 2-2 – Banner Days

- Third Grade

Trophies Reading

- 3-1 – Changing Patterns
- 3-2 – On Your Mark

Harcourt Science

Living in Our World – Social Studies



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.

Visit us on the Web: www.d91.net

DID YOU KNOW?

- The FY10 District Budget is available for you to view at www.d91.net. Click on Facts & Figures, which is a new link on the left side of the main page.
- We are STILL looking for volunteers to help students during Power 1/2 Hour from 12:15 - 12:45 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Please call us at 815-838-0542. We need your help!!
- You can view our District and School Report Card on the web to find information on our schools' academics, finances, and demographics. Visit www.d91.net, open up the District Info link, and then click on School and District Report Cards. If you prefer you may come to school for a hard copy.
- District 91 offers free/reduced lunch to qualifying students. Please call Kelvin Grove for more information at 815-838-0737.
- Visit www.charactercounts.org to learn more about the CHARACTER COUNTS! Program.