



November 2009

MILNE GROVE SCHOOL

Volume 5

Issue 2

Mrs. Donna Gray, Superintendent
Lockport District 91

Mrs. Tracy Carlson, Principal
Milne Grove School

From the Principal's Office



It is the time of year when the *COLD* forces us to break out our coats, hats and mittens. Please be aware that students will not be allowed outside for recess unless they are properly dressed. If the wind-chill temperature is below 20 degrees, we will have indoor recess. Once the snow comes, students will only be allowed to play in the snow if they are completely covered to protect them from getting wet. This means your child will need a coat, hat, mittens, snow pants, boots, etc. If a student is not completely



covered he/she will be allowed to go outside but will have to stay on the blacktop and away from the snow. Please remind your children that we **DO NOT** allow snowball/snow throwing or sledding during school hours.

Beginning December 1, we will bring the students inside to line up at 8:20 due to the cold temperatures. We will continue to do this through the end of February. Students should enter through the back doors where they normally enter the building each morning. Students are not allowed in the building prior to 8:20, so please do not drop them off early.

Please make every effort to attend our Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 12 and 13. This is a wonderful opportunity to ask any questions that you have and hear first-hand how your child is progressing. This is the only formal conference that we

have, though I urge you to contact your child's teacher whenever you have questions or concerns.

If your child will be absent from school, please remember to call the attendance hotline by 9:00 a.m. at 815-838-0737 extension 2. Please leave detailed information explaining why your child will be absent. If your child is sick, please include the symptoms that your child has. Remember, children cannot return to school until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen. Thank you in advance for helping us prevent the spread of the flu.

Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy and safe Thanksgiving,

Mrs. Carlson



IMPORTANT DATES

- November 4**
Market Day Pick Up
MG Gym 4:30 - 5:30
- November 10**
Building and Grounds
Committee Meeting
6:30 KG LRC
Board of Education
Meeting 7:30 KG LRC
- November 11**
No School
Veterans' Day
- November 12**
No School
Parent/Teacher Conferences 12:30 - 8:00
- November 13**
No School
Parent/Teacher Conferences 8:30 - 3:00
- November 16**
Preschool Family Fun
Night 7:00 MG Gym
- November 19**
Family Reading Night
7:00 MG Gym
- November 24**
Picture Re-Take Day
- November 25**
2:00 Dismissal
- November 26**
No School
Thanksgiving Day
- November 27**
No School
Thanksgiving Holiday
Happy Turkey Day!!

Look Inside For:

- **Classroom Happenings**
- **Art, P.E. Music, and LRC News**
- **Parent - Teacher Conferences**
- **Elks Children's Clinic**
- **Christmas Program Permission Slip**



NOVEMBER'S PILLAR: RESPECT

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN.....

EARLY LEARNERS

Upcoming Events:

Week of November 2 – The Early Learners will be learning about the letter “N” along with the number seven. The themes of the week will include November and Native Americans.

They will be making Native American head-dresses and necklaces. The Early Learners will also be working with the color brown.



Week of November 9 – The Early Learners will only have two days of school this week. They will review the letter “Nn” and the theme will be Nursery Rhymes.

Week of November 16 – The Early Learners will be reviewing the letter “T” with themes of Thanksgiving and turkey. They will be creating some turkeys from their handprints along with turkey magnets for the fridge. The Early Learners will also learn how important it is to say thank you to their families for giving them all the things they need. They will also be learning about the number eight.



Week of November 23 – The Early Learners will have a short week so they will review the letters and numbers they have worked on already. They will also dress up as Native Ameri-

cans and share a snack with some Pilgrims.

Dates to Remember:

NO SCHOOL, November 11, 12, and 13
HOME VISITS, November 12 and 13
If you have forgotten your date and time please let us know right away.
FAMILY FUN NIGHT, November 16, 5 - 6 pm
EARLY DISMISSAL, November 25
The Early Learners will dismiss at 1:50 p.m.
NO SCHOOL, November 26 and 27
HAPPY THANKGIVING!!

Please check your Early Learners folder for information on the field trip that will take place in November.

KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten students have learned to read the color words and the sight words I, a, my, the & like. During the month of November we will be introducing the sight words go, we, & on and will begin putting the letters and sounds together to make, write, and read words. The students get so excited when they find words that they know in books we are reading in our classroom and the library. As you read at home continue to look for these words in the text.

In science, we have completed our unit on spiders. The Kindergarteners were fascinated

to learn how arachnids make their webs. Throughout November we will investigate the falling leaves by comparing their shapes, sizes and colors. We will learn the life cycle of plants and trees and what they need to grow. We will learn about animals and their habitats. We are also looking forward to our Thanksgiving Feast! Yum!

In math, we have been learning how to write the numbers using proper formation and number value up to 10. November will bring graphs, ordering objects by size and weight

and positional words.

We are so thankful to all the families that have worked hard at home to enrich what we've done in school. Please remember to check your Kindergarten calendar for homework ideas, curriculum news, special events and our alphabet theme days!

Continue to read every day and practice sounds, letters and sight words.

FIRST GRADE

During the month of November the first grade students will be learning about the similarities and differences between insects and spiders. We have read both fiction and nonfiction books on this topic, including *The Ant Bully* by John Nickle and, of course, *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White.

The first graders are working hard to learn new sight words, phonetic skills, and reading comprehension skills. The phonics skills we will be concentrating on in November are



short o, short e, short u, and words with a th digraph. Each night, continue to read to your child and have him or her read to you. Daily practice of vocabulary words and additional outside reading increases your child's progress.

This month in math, first graders will be introduced to the following math facts, adding and subtracting 0 to any given number and subtracting one from any given number. In addition to these concepts we will be working on identifying and counting dimes, counting by 2's, identifying even numbers and telling time

to the hour.

Please check inside your child's report card envelope, for a confirmation of your November Parent Teacher Conference date and time. If you have not scheduled a conference please do so soon.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving,
First Grade Team

SECOND GRADE

Reading/Spelling: We have already started our second theme called "Helping Hands". All of the stories will be about cooperation or teamwork. It is extremely important for the students to practice their spelling words each night. Students can write the words in sentences or make the spelling words out of word tiles. The following spelling skills will be taught: /ur/ spelled like ear, abbreviations, /or/ spelled our and -ar, -ark and -arm. The students are doing well with their oral vocabulary words and returning the weekly reading verification form. When you are reading with your child ask them questions. A great strategy is having your child go back and look for the answer in the story.

Math : The students are working hard learning their addition facts. It is important to practice these facts every night with your child so that they can master them. Please review side A of your child's fact sheet which is completed in class. Any answers written

in red are either incorrect or problems that they have not finished in the allotted time. This is a good indicator of what your child needs to work on.

Some upcoming skills in math this month are: identifying tens and ones; identifying halves, fourths, and eights of a whole; naming fractional parts of a whole; measuring line segments to the nearest inch; adding 10 to a two-digit number; counting dimes, nickels, and pennies; and identifying a line of symmetry.

Science: Our next unit of study in science will be "Exploring Matter". In this unit students will be able to identify and describe properties of matter. They will learn the three forms of matter which are solids, liquids and gases. In this unit, students will become familiar with the following vocabulary words; matter, property, mass, solid, centimeter, liquid, milliliter, and gas.

Social Science: We will finish our unit "We

Belong To Many Groups". Students will be able to identify things that are found in a city. They will also learn the goods and services that a city has to offer. Students will then compare and contrast a city and a neighborhood.

Students will also learn about the laws we live by. In this lesson, students will discuss how laws are made. Students will recognize that laws are made to help people live together in a healthy, safe, fair, and polite way.

Students will then learn about the Earth's various landforms and create a layered book of the Earth's features. We will also talk about landforms, shelters, and climate. We will discuss how these environmental factors affect people's work and recreation.

THIRD GRADE

In November the third grade will be practicing the following reading skills: identifying



author's purpose, summarizing, and using resources. In Language Arts the students will be using graphic organizers to compose an expository writing piece while applying grammar and editing skills. Students will also be taught to identify and use singular and possessive nouns.

In Math we will be working on the following skills: pictographs, numbers in expanded form, naming line segments, identifying factors and products, capacity of containers, using thermometer skills, perimeter and comparison symbols.

We will begin our new physical science unit on exploring energy and forces. The concepts to be covered are: energy, heat, force and motion.

In Social Studies we will begin a study on economics. We will be covering producer, consumer, supply, demand and how people work together in a community.

Please use the days that you have off in November to relax with a book and practice math facts. We look forward to seeing you at conferences!

News from the Art Room

If you have any questions regarding your child's art class, please feel free to check the "Art Pages" on the school website, or do not hesitate to contact me directly anytime.

All students will need an art shirt to wear during painting and sculpture projects to protect their clothing from accidental spills or drips of material. Please note we will begin to move into our painting unit, and an art shirt is highly recommended.

All Kindergarten art students will continue to work with shape and have currently been focusing on Symmetrical and Asymmetrical shapes. Students will move into painting and learn the color wheel, with a focus on primary and secondary colors. Students will

be creating several paintings over the next few months that practice color blending.

First grade students will also be moving into painting this month. Students will also practice the color wheel and color blending and creating a painting based on the solar system and Vincent Van Gogh's, *Sunflowers*.

Second grade students will continue the use of oil pastels with watercolor to create a resist. Students were "quizzed" on turtle trivia and created their own amazing turtles with patterned shells. Students will also study the color wheel and practice color blending to create an Abstract layered painting to music inspired by Wassily Kandinsky.

Third grade students have been working hard as interior designers and finished an outrageous dream bedroom design. Students pushed their creativity to create the ultimate room with many personal details and features. Third grade students will also move into painting and the study of the artist Henri Rousseau and his jungle unique paintings.

Thank you in advance for your support of the Art Department at Milne Grove. Please let me know if I can be of assistance in any way and have a great year!

Mrs. Cravens

P.E. NEWS

The P.E. classes finished a soccer unit in October. They are now doing a basketball unit. The classes will practice the skills of dribbling, passing, and shooting. This will be followed by lead-up games and modified games.

Some of these games will involve cross-curricular activities, such as, math. The classes will be learning to throw a frisbee and play some frisbee games. Jump ropes will also be used. They will play some Thanksgiving

activities, as well. At the end of each week there will be a fitness activity that involves running and other exercises.

MILNE GROVE MUSIC NEWS - Mrs. Randolph

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! 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 – enter Door #1.



RETURN the PERMISSION FORM (found in this newsletter) to the homeroom teacher for your child to participate in the Christmas program and be transported by bus. 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 permission 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.

All D91 classes will be singing the traditional seasonal songs along with preparing for the Christmas program. Kindergarten and First Grade will be working on learning to read rhythms and play them on the Orff Instruments. Second grade has been learning the Treble or G Clef lines and spaces (lines=EGBDF or Every Good Bunny Does Flops; spaces= FACE) and learning to write music notation. Third grade has reviewed the Treble or G Clef note names and has just finished the Bass Clef note names (lines = GBDF A or



Good Bunnies Do Flops Always; spaces=ACEG or All Cars Eat Gas) and will start learning about the Orchestra and a Conductor's job. All classes will be focusing on the pillars of Character Counts.

Third Grade Music Students will be learning to play a recorder starting in November throughout the entire year. Make sure your child remembers to leave his/her recorder at home to practice and then BRING BACK TO SCHOOL the day they have music. See D91 Music Web page for the day your child has music.

Help Buy Computers and Equipment for Music : Order D91 Christmas Ornaments for \$6 each. Return order form found in this newsletter with money.



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES



Don't forget we have Parent-Teacher Conferences on Thursday, November 12 from 12:30 – 4:00 and 5:30 – 8:00 and Friday, November 13 from 8:30 – 11:30 and 12:30 – 3:00. Students are not in attendance on these days.

Conference times have been pre-arranged with your child(ren)'s teacher(s). Please contact the school at 815-838-0542 if you have forgotten your conference time or need to reschedule. This is the only designated parent-teacher conference of the school

year. Attendance is extremely important, as a lot of information is shared and communication is key to your child's success in school. Please see additional information in this newsletter on working parents' rights to attend conferences.

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.

THE LATEST FROM THE LRC Mrs. Tumino

Library News

We have been having a great time in the library! The kindergartners have learned their way around and are enjoying choosing books. Last month we read books about firefighters, trustworthiness, pumpkins, Halloween and one of my favorites: *Bark, George*. Our first graders read about those same topics, including another of my favorites, *Stop, Drop and Roll*. Try saying, "Plop, mop, and stroll" to your first grader and see what happens. Second graders learned about firefighting, some very interesting animal/human comparisons, and discussed trustworthiness while reading the story *The Wolf Who Cried Boy*, a very clever turnaround of the classic story. The third graders also read books about firefighting, trustworthiness, and wrapped up the month with a lesson on the Dewey Decimal System and library organization. In November all grades will continue to read books that correlate to the things they are learning in class, and also read some fun and informative Thanksgiving and other stories.

Does it surprise you to hear that, more often than not, when a student's books are missing on library day, they blame you, the parents, for not putting the books in their backpacks? I am trying to teach them that THEY should be responsible for remembering their own books. Please remind your students not only to take good care of their library books, but also to return them on time so

they may have a chance to see what's in the library Treasure Chest!

Computer Lab News

All classes have been keeping busy in the computer lab as well. Kindergartners continue to explore different letter sounds on the Starfall website, and also have participated in some fire safety activities and worked on patterns, sorting, and more on our Clifford's Learning Adventures software. First graders have also been taking advantage of the great range of activities on Starfall and Clifford, as well as working on some fire safety. Second and third grade classes have done a variety of activities, from the Type to Learn Jr. software to websites devoted to fire safety, spelling, math, and more. Spacey Math is a big favorite of many of the kids... at least until they work their way up to the harder levels and get frustrated! Lots of practice is crucial for memorizing the math facts at all levels. In November we will continue to utilize our software and many of the educational opportunities the internet offers.

Please remember that the District 91 website, www.d91.net has lots of helpful information from the district and teachers, as well as links to the websites we use at school. These links may be found by clicking on the globe at the top of the MG LRC page.



Headphones: Milne Grove provides "community" headphones for student use in the lab, but you are

welcome to send in a set of your own if you would rather not have your child share with others. Just be sure to mark them with your child's name and put them in a zip-style bag, also marked with their name. Any inexpensive headphones will work, but we do not recommend the earbud style – kids' ears are too small.

Volunteer Corner

Thank you again to the following great kindergarten parents and grandparents who helped out during the little ones' first few library visits: Heather Pruim, Tony Romo, Gina Howard, Donna Romano and Peggy Radziwon. Having those extra eyes sure helps get the year off to a good start and keeps the books from getting rearranged!

I would also like to thank Diane Cotter, Kristy Greene, Carmen Mancera, Donna Romano and Krista Woodworth for their additional help with putting away all those books that get returned each day.

I could always use help re-shelving 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.

REMINDER

Please notify the school if your student will be absent and state the nature of the illness by 9:00 a.m. on the date of the absence. Please be specific when reporting your child's symptoms. For both Milne and Kelvin Grove absences please call 815-838-0737 extension 2.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.

REMINDER

>> If your child has been absent due to illness, he/she cannot return to school until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.

>> If one of your children has the flu, you may want to consider keeping all siblings at home too.

>> Please contact us so we are aware of all student illnesses. If you do not call us, the absence will be considered unexcused which may lead to a truancy notice.

REMINDER

- Pets are NOT allowed on school grounds before, during, or after school.
- Children should NOT come to school prior to 8:20. Supervision begins at 8:20.
- U-turns are not allowed in front of the school and children should not enter or exit a vehicle in the middle of 7th Street.
- Send your child to school with a coat.

ELKS CHILDREN'S CLINIC



The Joliet Elks Lodge #296, in cooperation with the Illinois Elks Children's Care Program, will hold a free children's orthopedic diagnostic clinic on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. This clinic will be held at HINSDALE ORTHOPAEDIC, 951 ESSINGTON RD, in Joliet. The clinic will be from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Children will be seen by appointment only. Phone 1-800-272-0074 between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday to set up an appointment for the clinic. This free clinic is ideal for children ages 0 to 21 with flat feet, feet that turn out or in, children that complain of leg, knee,

hip, shoulder, elbow, wrist, or back pain. This is also an excellent opportunity to have children just starting to walk reviewed for proper development. The Elks provide for all diagnostic related costs including x-rays and other tests. In addition, the Elks will provide financial support for further treatment when needed and the family lacks financial resources.

Dr. Bradley J. Dworsky of the Hinsdale Orthopaedic Associates, S.C. will provide medical services for the clinic. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks have been providing help for children for 81 years. This is one of 17 locations around Illinois where

clinics are held. Further information on this clinic may be obtained by calling the Elks Children's office at 1-800-272-0074 during working hours which are 8:30 to 4:00 Monday through Friday.

Any area physician is welcome to refer a patient to the clinic for review or a second opinion which will be provided to the referring physician. While the Elks Program concentrates primarily on orthopedic problems, they will provide assistance in a variety of other areas. However, the Elks Program does not help with school physicals, eye glasses, orthodontics, cancer, organ transplants, or aids related problems.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AN OUTSTANDING DISTRICT 91 STAFF MEMBER

Congratulations to our Band Director, Mrs. Plagman (Miss Henn got married this summer), on receiving the Illinois Grade School Music Association's Barbara Buehlman, Young Band Director's District and State Awards! She was presented the District IGSM Award by Jeff Muraidda, President of IGSM District 6 at the District meeting. She received the State IGSM Award at the State Meeting on Monday, September 21.

The Award Qualifications Were:

- A Director with a minimum of 5 years teaching experience and a maximum of 10 years; majority of teaching must be in the state of Illinois



- Actively involved with IGSM and shows growth as a music educator
- Students consistently excel in IGSM events
- A well rounded person who belongs to professional organizations and is well respected by peers

Mrs. Plagman came to Lockport School District 91 in 2004 from Normal, Illinois. When she came in 2004, there were 90 students in the band program. The program has grown to 130 band students: 38 Beginning Band, 30 Intermediate Band, 62 Concert Band Students. Students can join band beginning in 4th grade.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ The Lockport Police Department has a website loaded with up-to-date information. Visit www.lockportpolice.info and open up the newsletters link for the latest police news and crime prevention events.
- ◆ The FY10 District Budget is available for you to view at www.d91.net. Click on the District Info link and then click on Budget. The budgets from previous years are also listed. Copies are also available in the Milne Grove office.
- ◆ 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 copy.
- ◆ You can find the Illinois Sex Offender Registry on the Illinois State Police's website at: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/>.
- ◆ You can find the Illinois Statewide Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry on the Illinois State Police's website at: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/>.
- ◆ There is a plethora of information on the H1N1 virus on the front page of our website: www.d91.net.
- ◆ District 91 offers free or reduced lunches to students that qualify. Please call Kelvin Grove at 815-838-0737 to inquire about the paperwork.

