

Mustang Minute: December 21, 2017
Have a wonderful Winter Break!

MES Website: [Link](#)

Follow us on Twitter: [@MillburnMustang](#)

Mustang Highlight: [Link](#)

I want to take this time to wish everyone a relaxing and fun winter break. I have been extremely proud of all our Mustangs this first half of the school year. It is great to see students excited about learning and I have seen some great things coming from them. Use the next two weeks to rest up because we expect more excitement and hard work when we return in 2018!

I also want to keep you updated on our curriculum. As I mentioned at Parent Night, we are exploring new Social Studies, Science, and English Language Arts curriculums. Currently, we are piloting Mystery Science in all K-5 classrooms. So far the reviews have been great not only from our teachers, but our students as well. We will continue to use Mystery Science this year and determine if this will be our future science curriculum.

We also are exploring Social Studies curriculums. Studies Weekly is what we are currently piloting in 6 of our classrooms K-5. Right now it is too early to tell how we like this program. We will continue to pilot Studies Weekly and review if the programs fits our needs.

In addition, we have begun looking at reading curriculums. It was 2008 when we last adopted a reading series. We have talked with local school districts in the county and had a number of companies show us programs to consider. Reading is a cornerstone to a child's learning, therefore, we will be very careful when choosing a program. We want a program that is not only rigorous for our students, but engaging as well. We would like to have the new program for next year, but in all reality, it may not be until the 2019-2020 school year.

Finally, we continue to work on updating our report card. Our first steps were to create Power Standards for both Math and English/Language Arts. When developing Power Standards, we are analyzing all the common core standards and then combining and prioritizing the essential skills we want students to master. It is our intention that the Power Standards will be the basis for our future report card. This fall, grade level teams developed Math Power Standards. Our next step is looking at ELA and developing Power Standards in that area. We are still shooting at 2019-2020 to roll out the new report card for grades K-5.

Again, have a wonderful winter break and I look forward to seeing everyone in January!

Topics for this week:

- Job Openings at MES
- Dismissal Changes
- Yearbook
- Next Week's Schedule
- Read to Succeed
- Spring Art Club
- Spring Math Club
- Recess Volunteers
- Millburn Madness
- PTO News
- Important Dates
- Virtual Backpack Items- None this week

Job Opening: Millburn Elementary is looking to fill recent vacancy for:

Recess Supervisor- 1 hour/day. 11:15 am -12:15 pm, \$10.40

If interested in this position, contact Ben Walshire at bwalshire@millburn24.net

Dismissal Changes for Students: There are times that your child may have a change in their dismissal procedures. We understand that happens on occasion. To make sure changes are properly communicated to not only the teacher, but to the office as well, we ask for parents to do the follow in the event of a dismissal change.

- 1) Reach out to the teacher **and** to Ms. Sooley (rsooley@millburn24.net) via email/note, or phone call about the change *prior* to the school day starting.
- 2) If the change is made once the school day begins, contact the office only. Teachers have such a busy day and although they check emails on a regular basis, there might be a time they get caught up and may not check before dismissal time.
- 3) No need to send a note if you are picking your child early from MBAC. No matter what, you are picking the child up from there. The teacher nor the office needs to know about early pick-up from MBAC. Contact us only if they are not to go to MBAC.

Bottom line, the office always needs to know of changes to assure that is communicated to teachers prior to dismissal.

Yearbooks: Yearbook ordering countdown is on! Place your order by January 7, 2018 to receive a yearbook for your child. The basic yearbook is currently \$18.00 and will increase to \$25.00 on January 8, 2018.

If you are unsure if you ordered or not, please check for an email from Lifetouch YBPay or YBPay@lifetouch.com. You can access the yearbook site at <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/Order/SelectJob>. When prompted, put in the following code: 4190018. Please make sure you are entering orders for year Millburn Elementary. You can find the name in the upper left hand corner.

If you are ordering for both schools you will need to enter the orders under separate codes.

Read to Succeed: The Six Flags Read to Succeed program has begun! Every student who completes six hours of reading (outside of school) before February 23, 2018 is eligible for a free admission ticket to Great America! In addition, a season pass upgrade offer is available during the ticket valid dates. The upgrade offer information will be printed on the ticket, which your child will receive at the end of the school year. (Valid dates are typically between June and August. In the past, the season ticket upgrade has been offered for \$30.) In order to participate, please print a student reading log (located in the Millburn virtual backpack), record the reading your child does at home, sign the reading log, and submit the completed reading log to your child's classroom teacher by February 23rd. If you have any questions, please contact your child's classroom teacher or Renee Marasco at rmarasco@millburn24.net.

Art Club: INTERESTED IN JOINING ART CLUB? Mr. Lacey will be sponsoring an after school art club for 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. The mission of the art club will be to offer students the opportunity to explore visual arts at a deeper level. Students will benefit from being exposed to concepts, materials and techniques that are not a part of the general visual arts curriculum. Projects will involve painting, sculpture, drawing and mixed media.

Dates & Times

- 2nd & 3rd Grade Art Club
 - The spring session will begin Monday, February 5th and will meet weekly for 10 sessions, ending on May 7th. Art club will begin at 2:35 and end at 3:45.
- 4th & 5th Grade Art Club
 - The spring session will begin Tuesday, February 6th and will meet weekly for 10 sessions, ending on April 10th. Art club will begin at 2:35 and end at 3:45.

If your student is interested in enrolling into Millburn's after school art club, please visit my [art webpage](#) and complete the online form. I will then email you sign-up forms for art club prior to the opening of the enrollment window. Sign-up will begin Monday, January 8th. The sign up deadline will be Friday, January 26th. Enrollment is limited to 28 students for each section. The first 28 students to sign-up will be enrolled.

[Art Club Webpage](#)

Math Club: Miss Maier will be hosting a Math Club for 2nd and 3rd graders, held after school on Mondays starting February 5th, 2018. The purpose of the math club is to engage students in fun math activities that go beyond those of the classroom. There will be opportunities for higher-level thinking problems, enrichment, and team problem solving.

If your student is interested in enrolling in Millburn's math club, please fill out and submit the form on our [website](#). Enrollment is limited, and will be considered first come, first serve.

Outdoor Playground Recess Volunteers: Is winter your favorite time of year? Do you enjoy the cooler temperatures? Do you love watching kids play in snow? If you answered yes, then we need you as a playground recess volunteer for all students on both playgrounds from 10:55 AM - 12:20 PM, Monday - Friday. Recess volunteers can sign up for once a week, once every other week or even once a month. Advance sign up required. Please contact Tracy Behnke (MES Recess Volunteer Coordinator) at tracybehnke@hotmail.com for additional information.

Millburn Madness - February 24th at Austin's in Libertyville

The Millburn Education Foundation board is excited to announce that we are a mere 12 weeks out from Millburn Madness, an amazing district fundraiser. If you have never been, Millburn Madness is a fun parent night out at Austin's with a silent auction baskets, live auction, prize wheel, wine pull and music by the Breakfast Club. If we raise enough money there will also be a special musical performance by our school administrators. A selection of Austin's delicious appetizers and a drink ticket is included in every Millburn Madness ticket. Mark your calendars now to join us for this exciting night to raise funds for our school district. Tickets will go on sale later this month and will be \$40 prior to the event and \$50 at the door.

We are currently looking for business partners to sponsor this event or donate items for our silent or live auction. Any donation is appreciated and the Millburn Madness Sponsorship and Donation form is posted in the virtual backpack or email us at MillburnEducationFoundation@gmail.com and we can send one to you. Thank you in advance for your support and please let us know if you have any questions.

PTO NEWS!

8th GRADE FAREWELL CELEBRATION!! We are looking for a 7th grade parent to host this very special Millburn tradition. ***Please help us keep this treasured Millburn tradition going!*** If you have any questions or interest please email presidentmiddle@millburnpto.com

PTO HELP WANTED!! ***Please consider volunteering to keep these Millburn PTO Events in 2018-19!***

8th Grade Farewell Celebration: Chairperson(s) needed immediately *Event is scheduled for 5/11/18

District Talent Show: Chairperson(s) SHADOWS needed for 2/7 & 2/21 dates

MMS Activity Night: Chairperson(s) SHADOWS needed for 1/26 & 4/13 dates

MMS Staff Appreciation: Chairperson(s) SHADOWS needed for 1/30 and May dates

World's Finest Chocolate: Chairperson(s) SHADOWS needed

SHADOWS will learn from this year's chairpersons and will be needed to take over these events for the 2018-19 school year! If you have any questions or interest please email presidentmiddle@millburnpto.com

KIDS RESALE!! Who has a New Year's Resolution to clean out the clutter and get organized? Let Kids Resale help by taking those old toys and outgrown clothes off your hands. We will be holding a **DONATION DRIVE** on Saturday January 20th from 9am to 11am at the front entrance of the middle school. We will be accepting gently used toys, baby equipment, and spring/summer clothes for our Spring Resale. All items should be in working order and clothes should be in clean, resell-able condition. Questions? Contact us at millburnkidsresale@yahoo.com

MMS ACTIVITY NIGHT!! The 2nd **Middle School Activity Night** of the year is **Friday, January 26th**.

Thank you to all of the students that suggested themes and for taking the time to vote! **The theme for the night is Sports.** Students may choose to dress for the theme by wearing their most creative sports gear. This is a chance for them to be creative, however, please adhere to the dress code regarding short/skirt length, no masks, and no showing of any undergarments. Failure to abide by these rules will result in the student being asked to return home to change. **There will be a DJ & NITRO BALL!!!!**

We are looking for volunteers to help chaperone this fun-filled evening! Please contact Denise Ide or Sarah Moore Primack at activitynight@millburnpto.com if you'd like to join us!

DISTRICT TALENT SHOW!! If you have a talent you would like to share, this is your chance to shine! Any Millburn student is welcome to take the stage! There are no "try-outs," but we do require you to attend a rehearsal. Winter break is the perfect time to get together with your friends and put an act together! Visit the virtual backpack or millburnpto.com and get your permission slip.

Friday, January 26th Signed permission slips & music due back to school *If your act requires music, you must turn in a CD clearly labeled with your name when you turn in your permission slip so we can make our master play list. You will get your CD back at rehearsal.

Wednesday, February 7th 6-8PM Rehearsal in the Millburn Middle School Cafeteria

Wednesday, February 21st 6:00-7:30PM Talent Show in the Millburn Middle School Cafeteria

Any questions, please contact Denise Ide or Carissa Casbon LaTourette at talentshowelementary@MillburnPTO.com

BOX TOPS!! Millburn PTO is kicking off its **BOX TOP HOLIDAY DRIVE!** We need our families to reach out to their aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents for box tops. Also, find your neighbors who don't have District 24 students any longer and ask them to save their box tops for you. Extended families and neighbors are buying groceries with box tops, and they could be throwing them out. Decorate a baggie or envelope for them and just remind them that we CAN use that "FREE" money! Please see the flyer in virtual backpack! **Every student who turns in 200 box tops will receive an exclusive PTO drawstring bag! The winning classroom at MES will receive a special prize! One random student will win a \$25 Target Gift Card in our monthly drawing!** Questions? Please feel free to email: boxtoplabels@millburnpto.com

Upcoming Events: Box Tops Holiday Drive 11/20-1/26, Kids Resale Donation Drive 1/20, Middle School Activity Night 1/26, District Talent Show Permission Slip Due 1/26, PTO Meeting 1/31 @ MMS @ 7pm

If I can be of any assistance or if you have questions, please contact me at bwalshire@millburn24.net or (847) 356-8331.

Mr. Ben Walshire
Millburn Elementary Principal

January

8th- School Resumes
10th- Early Release @ 1:00
15th- No School- MLK Jr Day
16th- No School - Teacher Inservice
18th- MES School Spelling Bee
24th- Beginning and Concert Band Concert @ 7:00

Link for MES School Calendar- [LINK](#)

Virtual Backpack- [LINK](#)

None