

*Mustang Minute: February 8, 2019*

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**Valentine's Celebrations:** V-Day parties are Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. The PTO is working hard to get all the activities ready to go for our students. We do want to remind families that our holiday parties are **FOOD-FREE**. Do not send Valentine's Day cards that include candy such as NERDs boxes, FunDips, Candy heart boxes, etc. Also, do not send goodie bags filled with food items. Our holiday parties are designed for fun without the need for treats or goodie bags. There is no need to send anything that day with your child, except Valentine's Day cards for their fellow students. Any candy or goodie bags brought in will not be distributed to students and will be sent home with the child or parent who brought them. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**Updated Calendar:** Due to the weather this winter we have days we need to make up. We want to make sure everyone is aware of how this affects our calendar. To date, we have had 4 days canceled due to weather (Nov. 26, Jan 28, Jan 30, Jan 31).

One of the days will be made up on March 4, Casimir Pulaski Day. The other three days will be added on to the end of the school year. Therefore, our **NEW last day of school will be Monday, June 10, with an early release if 1 pm.**

**1st Grade Music Concert:** 1st Grade families..... mark your calendars for *Tuesday, February 19th*. Mr. Gorr is working with students on a great performance. Please direct yourselves to the Virtual Backpack for more information about the concert, specifically what your child needs to wear for the performance. KDG, 2nd and 3rd Grade will have performances as well, information will be coming soon.

**Literacy Night 2019:** Literacy Night will be held at Millburn Elementary on Friday, March 1st. What a great way to celebrate Read Across America Week! We will be hosting our event from 5:30- 7:00 pm. Stay tuned for more information! We look forward to seeing our Millburn Readers!

Author Goerge Vlasis will be here on Friday, March 1 to talk with K-3, but will also be here for Literacy Night. George has written a great book called Helmet Man and the Chocolate Cake. He is taking orders for students who would like to get a copy for him to sign while he is visiting us. Look for order forms in the virtual backpack. **Orders are due on Thursday, February 12.**

**Child Safety:** We have provided a few safety videos for families to use with their child(ren). We encourage families to visit the site and review these videos with your child. Videos provided include Pedestrian Safety, Bike Safety, Pool Safety, Child Passenger Safety, Handwashing, Fire Safety, and Lightning Safety. We will continue to add resources over the course of time.

### [Child Safety Videos](#)

**5 Essential Survey:** Millburn would once again like to hear from parents. The 5 Essential Survey helps us understand areas of strength in our district, and areas that may need to be improved. The past survey data from teachers, parents, and students have helped shape our decisions and priorities in the past. Thank you for taking the time to fill this out. We have met the threshold of completed surveys. Yet, if you have not completed the survey and would like to, you have until February 15. It should take about 10 minutes and you are able to access it via your smart device. The link is below. If the link does not work, please copy the following address into your browser: <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois>

Thank you for your time and input.

**Read to Succeed:** The Six Flags Read to Succeed program has officially begun! All students at MES are eligible to earn a FREE ticket to Great America by simply reading for 6 hours over the next few months. All you need to do is keep track of your child's reading times on a reading log, make sure it totals at least 6 hours, sign, and send it back to school before February 22, 2019. Reading logs were sent home with students this past week or can be found in the virtual backpack on the Millburn website. The FREE Great America ticket can be used next summer during the months of June & July. It also includes an offer to upgrade to a season pass. (Last year the fee to upgrade to a season pass was \$29.99.) If you have any questions, please contact your child's classroom teacher or Renee Marasco at [rmarasco@millburn24.net](mailto:rmarasco@millburn24.net).

**New State Assessment:** Illinois is renaming the state assessment to Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). The format and questions will be very similar to its predecessor, PARCC. It will continue to assess skills in Literacy and Math for students in grades 3-8. Students will take the assessment on their iPads within their classrooms. One new feature is less testing. Students will now do 3 math assessments (down from 4) and 2 literacy assessments (down from 3). Yet, the state is requiring our students to participate in a field test for recently developed ELA passages and items. The purpose of the field test is to try out new material and to replenish and expand the item pool for future operational tests. Therefore, students will take 3 ELA assessments.

Students will be testing the week of April 8th. Students who are not in school during testing sessions will need to make- up those assessments on a later date, which would involve students being taken out of the classroom. Therefore, please do your best to arrange appointments outside the testing week. We want to make sure the state assessment makes as little an impact as possible for our students.

**Communication:** We encourage all families to reach out to us (teachers, administrators, office staff) if you have any question or concerns you would like for us to address. We aim to make our school the best learning experience for your child and your input is valuable in making that happen. Do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to help!

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#### PTO News:

- o District Talent Show
- o 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Farewell Celebration
- o Kids Resale
- o Spirit Wear
- o Dinner Night Out
- o Fun Run

o Scrapping Day

**District Talent Show: Thursday, February 21 at 6PM.** All Millburn Students are welcome to participate in the talent show but must attend Thursday, February 7 rehearsal from 6PM-8PM. Acts can be individual or small groups and can include singing, dancing, playing an instrument, gymnastics, karate, baton, jump rope, magic or any other school appropriate talent you may have! Any questions? Please contact Tracy & Sherri: [districttalentshow@millburnpto.com](mailto:districttalentshow@millburnpto.com)

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Farewell Celebration:** Attention 7<sup>th</sup> graders and parents - please continue to submit themes. Our kickoff meeting for parents/students will be **February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm MMS in the LRC.** If you have any questions contact [farewellcelebration@millburnpto.com](mailto:farewellcelebration@millburnpto.com)

**Kids Resale: REGISTRATION TO BE A SELLER IS OPEN!!!**

Are you unable to sell at the resale? You can still help by donating your kid's outgrown toys and fall/winter clothes.

Our donation drive is next week - **Saturday February 16<sup>th</sup> 9-11 am** at Millburn Middle School

What you can donate:

- Spring & Summer, clean, re-sellable clothing
- Toys, Puzzles, games, books
- Gently used bikes and kid's sports equipment
- Baby Gear: Strollers, High chairs, Bouncy Seats, etc.
- Misc. Items: Yard toys, doll houses, Kitchen Sets, etc.

Questions please contact us at [millburnkidsresale@yahoo.com](mailto:millburnkidsresale@yahoo.com)

Come shop the Resale April 12th & 13th

All proceeds from donations go 100% to Millburn PTO

**PLEASE LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND SHARE OUT PAGE- MILLBURN KIDS RESALE!!!**

**SpiritWear:** Want to swap out Spirit Wear your children may have outgrown for something new (to them)? Drop off a Spirit Wear Item and get a ticket for a different item at the Swap Shop. Don't have any to swap? Join us at the Swap Shop - all items \$5.00!

**2 Spirit Wear Events:**

*RECYCLE DRIVE (DATES BELOW)*

Spirit wear will be dropped off at the below listed school activities. In addition, you can drop off items at MES or MMS in the front office or email [spiritwear@millburnpto.com](mailto:spiritwear@millburnpto.com) to coordinate a pickup (before April 5). For every item donated to the recycle drive, your will receive a ticket for our "Swap Shop" for the exclusive shopping time.

**DRIVE DATES**

-Kids Resale Donation Drive (Feb 16 from 9-11am at MMS)

-Talent show (Feb 21 at 6pm at MMS)

-PTO meeting (March 12 at 7pm at MES)

-Family Fun Night (March 15 from 6:30-8pm at MES)

SWAP SHOP (APRIL 6 AT MMS)

*Swap Shop*

**Saturday, April 6 at MMS** in conjunction with the Millburn Family Fun Run. Exclusive shopping time from 8-9am for those who donated and received a ticket. Remaining items go on sale from 9:30-11am for \$5 per item.

QUESTIONS OR VOLUNTEER: EMAIL [SPIRITWEAR@MILLBURNPTO.COM](mailto:SPIRITWEAR@MILLBURNPTO.COM)

**PTO Dinner (or Lunch) Out:** Where: MOD Pizza in Gurnee  
When: **Monday, 2/18 ~ 10:30AM - 9PM**

Please visit MOD pizza in Gurnee on Monday, 2/18 anytime between 10:30am - 9pm and mention you're there for the Millburn fundraiser and the school receives 20% of those sales! It is an easy and efficient way to fundraise for the school with delicious pizza or salads to boot! You do not need to show a flyer or anything. Just make mention in person at time of order.

Thank you for your continued support!

**Fun Run:** Millburn Family Fun Run is scheduled for **Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**. We are currently seeking corporate sponsorships for this event. Please reach out to our committee at [millburnfunrun@millburnpto.com](mailto:millburnfunrun@millburnpto.com) if your company would like additional information in sponsorship. We love our local business owners!

**Scrapping Day:** The PTO is excited to announce that we will be hosting a Scrapping Day in 2019! For 12 hours you can scrapbook, card-make, or craft to your heart's content. There will be vendors on site, raffles, and giveaways. Space is limited so you will want to check your calendars and reserve your table. See the flier in the Virtual Backpack for more details.

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

Mr. Ben Walshire  
Millburn Elementary Principal

### **February**

13th- MES Band Concert @ 6:00  
14th- PTO Valentine's Celebrations  
18th- No School- President's Day  
19th- 1st Grade Music Concert  
21st- PTO Talent Show @ 7:00 (MMS)  
Feb 25-Mar 1- Read Across America Week

### **March**

1st- Literacy Night

Link to [Parent Calendar](#)

### **Virtual Backpack- [LINK](#)**

Author Visit Pre-Order  
Gurnee Rotary Club Charity Dance