

## *Mustang Minute: September 18, 2015*

**Student Achievement:** Each year, students in grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> at Millburn Elementary take the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) in the areas of math and reading. This computer-based assessment is done twice a year (Fall, Spring). We use these assessments to not only see how many students are proficient in these areas, but most importantly, to show student growth. Most of our students saw tremendous growth last year! In Reading, we went from 82% of students proficient, to 85%. In Math, we grew from 81% to 85%. We continue to move onward in seeing success for all students and look forward to seeing these numbers only get higher.

This year's MAP testing begins next week for students in grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Step Program:** Millburn Elementary students are taught weekly lessons on social-emotional skills. Social-emotional skills—like math skills—build on each other. We use the 2<sup>nd</sup> Step program to teach these skills. The program is designed to educate children how to understand and manage their emotions, control their reactions, be aware of others' feelings, and have the skills to problem-solve and make responsible decisions. These lessons are taught weekly on Wednesday mornings in all classrooms.

For more information on the program visit <http://www.cfchildren.org/second-step/elementary>

**Student Pick Up:** We are starting a new procedure with parents picking up their child at the end of the school day. First, we will be dismissing students by grade level starting with KDG and moving up from there. Older siblings will sit with their younger siblings and will be released together. Parents will be called up by grade to sign their child out. We appreciate everyone's flexibility and patience so we can assure students go home safely.

**School Access After Hours:** If your child forgot something in their classrooms at the end of the day, you will need to come to the school before 3:00. Parents cannot access the building through the Millburn Before and After School Club entrance. Those doors are strictly for parents picking up their child from the program. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Book Challenge:** We will once again hold our Book Challenge this year. Last year we reached 15,000 books read, so we need to go over 15,000 books this year. We need everyone's help with this. So please find a time to read, go to the link below, fill out the information, and submit. If we reach this year's goal, Mr. Walshire will work on the roof of the school or the entire day.

[Book Challenge](#)

**Math Challenge:** We are also looking at a math challenge as well this school year. More information will come in the next few weeks, but this challenge will involve families working together to complete math challenges, which will be available twice a month.

**Recess Volunteers:** Millburn Elementary School is looking for volunteers to assist on the playgrounds during this 2015-2016 academic year. Recess volunteers are needed Monday-Friday between 11AM-1215PM. Recess volunteers can sign up for one day a week, one day every other week or even one day each month. Kindergarten parents are also asked to go through this process if you wish to volunteer for recess. For further information, please contact Recess Volunteer Coordinator Tracy Behnke at [tracybehnke@hotmail.com](mailto:tracybehnke@hotmail.com).

**Immunizations:** Parents or legal guardians who object, for religious reasons, to their child being immunized for school entrance must submit a Certificate of Religious Exemption, which now must be signed by a health care provider. Signed into law on August 3, 2015, this new legislation requires a health care provider to sign the certificate confirming they have provided education to parents or legal guardians about the benefits of immunizations and the health risks of not vaccinating students. The certificate also reflects the parents or legal guardians understanding that their child may be excluded from school in the case of a vaccine-

preventable disease outbreak or exposure. This new requirement will be in place for religious exemption requests beginning October 16, 2015. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Vanko, our school nurse.

**Apple Sale:** Get a healthy, locally grown, seasonal treat for your family while supporting the Millburn School & Community Garden! It's not too late to order your 8 pound bags of Apples from Royal Oak Farm Orchard! Bags are \$16 each and can be picked up near the garden on September 26th from 9-4, or other arrangements can be made. Order forms are in the Virtual Backpack. Don't delay--orders are due Monday, September 21st.

## PTO News

**PTO MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!!** In order to continue our investment in the district and to our students, we need your support and membership. Please consider joining us to help keep all of our fabulous programs alive for the 2015-16 year. Please register at [www.MillburnPTO.com](http://www.MillburnPTO.com). Our PAPERLESS PTO system is where all signups, calendars, eblasts, membership directory and purchases can take place in one centralized location. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the PTO Board Members at [www.MillburnPTO.com](http://www.MillburnPTO.com).

**SUCCESSFUL PTO MEETING!!** A huge THANKS to all who attended our first PTO Meeting! It was wonderful to meet some new parents! We got a lot done! We got some valuable feedback on PTO activities and several new parents stepped up to help chair events!! We also voted in our new Vice President of the Middle School. A warm welcome to Alicia Keys, who will make a wonderful addition to the PTO Board!

**KIDSTUFF COUPON BOOKS!!** KidStuff Coupon Savings Book Fundraiser ENDS ON 9-18-15!! We hope you are enjoying browsing your Kidstuff book. Spend 25\$ and Save at Macy's, Dick's Sporting Goods, Sears, Loft, Aéro, Payless, Outback and MORE. Use just a few coupons and easily save more than the cost of the book. Most coupons are long-term and valid for 16 months. AND...our school earns 50% or more profit for every book we sell.

This is a NO OBLIGATION fundraiser, but it is the sale DEADLINE TODAY!

Please return your envelope with payment of 25\$ (cash, check made out to Millburn PTO or online at [www.millburnpto.com](http://www.millburnpto.com)) OR return the unused book to school to your child's homeroom. You can also order more books for family and friends, which is a great gift idea for the holidays. Sell 5 books and get 1 FREE.

Questions? Contact us at [www.millburnpto.com](http://www.millburnpto.com) or email [vicepresidentelementary@millburnpto.com](mailto:vicepresidentelementary@millburnpto.com).

**FALL FEST!!** Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 26th from 12:00-4:00pm at Millburn Elementary for this year's Fall Festival! It will be fun for the whole family. Events include: pony rides, 18 foot inflatable slide, inflatable obstacle course, games and new, bigger prizes! Also, get ready to get some of Millburn's teachers wet in a power shower! Hit a target and see your teacher get soaked! Tickets for the fest will become available starting next week. We need volunteers for the event! Go to <http://vols.pt/xkpTHC> to sign up.

**KIDS RESALE!!** It's that time of year again! The Fall Millburn Kids Resale is on October 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24th!

*Donation Drive:* Do you have any kid's items lying around collecting dust? Donate them to the Millburn Kids Resale (any donation receives a tax donation letter). We are having a donation drive on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 11:30 at the Middle School (front entrance). 100% of sold donated items go to the PTO.

*Be a Seller:* This is a great opportunity to clean out those overstuffed basements and closets and earn some money for the holidays! Any district parent, student, or employee can register to be a seller. You earn 50% and the PTO earns 50%. Register early and be entered into a raffle to earn 75% of your items sold. The registration form and fall guidelines can be found on the PTO website and in the virtual backpack.

**BOX TOP CLASSROOM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!** Box Tops classroom volunteers needed! The PTO has kicked off our General Mills Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Label for Education programs for the 2015-2016 school year. Thank you so much to the parents who volunteered to be coordinators at Curriculum night. Unfortunately, there were quite a few classrooms that did not have anyone sign up. We hope you can find a small amount of time to help us out with this important resource for our schools. The volunteer is responsible for collecting, counting and sorting the labels. This can be done in the convenience of your home and then handed over to the Committee Chair, Janis Moore. This would be the perfect job for a parent who would like to help out but does not have a lot of time to spare. Please consider helping us out. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up at [www.millburnpto.com](http://www.millburnpto.com). Any questions please email Janis Moore at [ltwmoore@comcast.net](mailto:ltwmoore@comcast.net)

**HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS SIGN UP!!** The Holiday Celebrations Committee is looking for parent volunteers for the PTO Halloween class party scheduled for the afternoon of October 30. If you would like to volunteer, please register

for PTO membership at the Millburn PTO website: [www.millburnpto.com](http://www.millburnpto.com). Once you are a member, you can sign up for the Halloween room party. The PTO will contact you if you have been selected.

Upcoming Events: KIDSTUFF FUNDRAISER ENDS 9/18, FALL FEST 9/26, KIDS RESALE DONATION DRIVE 9/26

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

**September**

26<sup>th</sup> PTO Fall Fest @ 12:00

**October**

7<sup>th</sup> 1:00 Early Release

9<sup>th</sup> NO SCHOOL- Teacher Institute Day

12<sup>th</sup> NO SCHOOL- Columbus Day

24<sup>th</sup> PTO Kids Resale

30<sup>th</sup> Halloween Celebrations @ 1:00

**\*Remember to view the Millburn Elementary calendar online to find all the events and activities.**

**Virtual Backpack:**

**Apple Sale Order Form**

**Millburn School and Community Garden Newsletter**

**Warren Feeder Girls Basketball**

**Lake Villa Baseball/Softball Fundraiser**

**Link to Virtual Backpack:** <http://www.millburn24.net/parents.cfm?subpage=1225444>