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Valentine's Day Parties: V-Day parties will be Friday, February 10th 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.

THE MILLBURN MADNESS ONLINE AUCTION OPENS ON MONDAY AND CLOSSES SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12!

The Online Auction will open this Monday, February 6 at 6:30 AM and contains almost 100 items donated by our fantastic district 24 teachers and staff members. There is NO COST for you to get an account and bid on these one-of-a-kind items. Check the virtual backpack for instructions on how to bid and a listing of all of the available items. Login to last year's account or create a new account to get those bids submitted and make sure you have the highest bid when the auction closes next Sunday, February 12th at 10:00 PM.

GET YOUR MILLBURN MADNESS TICKETS NOW - PRICE INCREASES 2/14!

We hope you will attend Millburn Madness on Saturday, February 25 at Austin's Fuel Room in Libertyville. All of the profits from this event will go directly to our schools, and we want to have a record breaking turnout this year! Millburn Madness starts at 6:00 pm with our awesome silent auction items, some great food from Austin's, a free drink and time to mingle with other Millburn parents. We will have our live auction at 8:00 pm and then enjoy a private concert by The Breakfast Club. NEW THIS YEAR - if we raise \$1,500 in our "Administrators Sing Karaoke" fund, then Dr. Lind, Mr. Jorgenson and Mr. Walshire will sing karaoke with the band!! So far we have about \$100 raised - we need your help to get this act together for one special performance! Get your tickets for \$40 each by February 13 at www.mef24.schoolauction.net/millburnmadness (on February 14 tickets will be \$50 each).

Need a sitter? Millburn Before and Afterschool Care (MBAC) will be providing childcare at Millburn Elementary School from 5:30 pm - 12:15 am on February 25. There is a childcare form posted in the virtual backpack with more information - cost per child is \$20 or \$30 per family.

Please contact Valerie (Valerie.Powley@sbcglobal.net) if you have any questions, would like to donate an item to our silent or live auction or would like to donate your time to help make this event a success. Thank you for your support of the Millburn Education Foundation and we hope to see you at Austin's on February 25!

Yearbook Pictures: Have you taken pictures at events that would be great to include in the yearbook? The more pictures we have to choose from the better. You can upload them to the Community Pictures using information provided in the Virtual Backpack.

Creative Writing Club: Mrs. Lafferty is hosting a spring session of The Creative Writing Club for Millburn's 4th and 5th graders! Students will meet once a week for ten sessions and participate in writing activities and forums that go outside the boundaries of regular academic or technical forms of writing.

Creative Writing Club will be held after school from 2:40-3:40 on Wednesdays and will begin on February 22nd.

Recycling/Trash Free Fridays: Millburn has begun a recycling project during lunches in the cafeteria. Students are being encouraged to recycle their lunchtime garbage and, after just two weeks of the program, are already making a **BIG** positive impact in our environment.

Today was our second "Trash Free Fridays!" Students who bring a cold lunch to school are encouraged to bring their food and drink in reusable containers every Friday. Our long term goal is for students to become motivated to bring trash free lunches every day of the week. Thank you for your support in this endeavor!!

Read to Succeed: Just a reminder that there is still time to participate in the Read to Succeed program. Read for a total of 6 hours, complete a reading log, and hand it in to your teacher before February 24th to earn a FREE ticket to Great America! Extra reading logs can be found in the Virtual Backpack. This year, you can also help your teacher earn a free ticket! If 8 or more students in the class participate, your teacher will also earn a free ticket to Great America! What a great reward and all YOU have to do is read!

Read Across America Week/ Literacy Night: February 27-March 3 is Read Across America Week. Throughout the week, guest readers will be coming in to read in classrooms. In addition, Literacy Night will occur on Thursday, March 2 from 5:30-7:30. We have many fun activities going on, including guest readers, Book Fair, showcasing tech programs that enhance our reading program, Art exhibits, Sight Word activities, and Oobleck fun. Feel free to come anytime during the night.

PARCC Testing: We are now about 5 weeks off, but the state assessment, PARCC, is approaching. This assessment will be administered to students in grades 3rd-5th (here at MES). Students will be taking 7 tests total (4 Math, 3 English/Language Arts). Therefore, there will be a total of seven days (1 assessment per day) of testing from March 7-15. If you would like to learn more about this assessment, visit the website below:

<http://www.parcconline.org/about/the-parcc-tests>

PTO News

MES FAMILY FUN NIGHT!! Come out for some family fun and get some exercise this winter at Bella's Skate on Grand, open only for Millburn School. The PTO is hosting our first ever Family Fun night at the roller rink on Thursday, February 9th from 5:30-7:30pm. No need to worry about dinner, take a break and have some pizza, there will be a family meal deal available, details to come. Please pre-pay and register in advance, detailed flyer in the backpack. If you have any questions, please contact Kandi Silk at familyfunnight@millburnpto.com. Thanks!!

WENDY'S DAYS!! Please join us next Tuesday, February 7th, between 5-8pm for Wendy's Night. Dine in or drive thru at the Wendy's on Route 45 & Sand Lake Rd in Lindenhurst. Wendy's will donate 15% of all sales back to the Millburn PTO! Our local Wendy's was bought by a corporation and our fundraising opportunities have changed. We used to get 15% from 5-8pm. Now we can earn 30% from 10am-10pm, **BUT WE MUST SHOW THE FLYER** to earn the credit! Please keep a snapshot on your phone to show the first two Tuesdays of every month. We have added it to virtual backpack as well so that you can always pull it up! Thanks for your support!

BOX TOPS!! Our Box Tops program is off and running! Thank you so much for taking the time to clip those Box Tops! They really do make a difference. So far, we have collected **19,595 Box Tops** which means **\$1,955.50** in **FREE** money for Millburn! Keep sending them in! Our goal is to raise **\$6,000** with Box Tops by the end of this school year! Congratulations to **Zach Grzesiak** from **Mr. Thomas'**

4th grade. Zach was the winner of our first \$25 Target gift card drawing. Please keep on clipping! Our next Box Tops Collection Sheet will be going home soon.

The February Box Tops are due back **Friday, February 17th, 2017.**

Check out the Box Tops App! It's a great way to earn extra Box Tops (and money) for the school. If you use the Box Tops app and want your student to get credit for the Box Tops earned, please take a screen shot of your activity on the app and email it to Denise Ide at boxtoplabels@millburnpto.com For every Box Tops collection sheet (complete with 25 Box Tops) that you send in, your child will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Target gift card. If you don't have enough to fill a sheet, please send in what you can in a baggie with your child's name on it. Every Box Top helps! If you need extra collection sheets, they can be printed out from the virtual backpack. If you have Campbell's Labels 4 Education labels, please put those in a separate baggie with your child's name on it. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Denise Ide at boxtoplabels@millburnpto.com

MILLBURN 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. Visit the virtual backpack or millburnpto.com and get your permission slip.

Dates to Remember: Wednesday, February 22nd

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, March 1st 6:30-9:00PM Rehearsal in the Millburn Middle School Cafeteria

Wednesday, March 15th 6:30-8PM Talent Show in the Millburn Middle School Cafeteria

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

8th GRADE FAREWELL CELEBRATION!! Attention 7th Grade Parents Only: Thank you to all the 7th grade parents who attended our 1st meeting on January 26. If you were unable to attend the meeting and are still interested in being a part of the planning process, please contact us at farewellcelebration@millburnpto.com. We are still looking for the following committee chairs and would be very grateful if you would consider joining us in our planning:

IMovie Chair is responsible for collecting all necessary photos from parents of all 8th grade students, arrange the photos along with music from iTunes, work with decorations to incorporate the theme for the DVD labels, arrange to have the DVD burned with Haapanen Brothers.

Memory Book Chair is responsible to collect all necessary memory pages from students, collect congratulatory letters from Mr. Lind, Mr. Walshire and Mr. Jorgenson, arrange to have all the memory pages and cd's delivered to Haapanen Brothers to be burned, work with decorations to incorporate the theme for the CD labels.

If your schedule does not allow you to help in the pre-event activities, we will also need help the week of the event with set up, running the event, and clean up. More information will become available when we are closer to the date of the celebration.

For questions please contact: farewellcelebration@millburnpto.com

Our next meeting is February 23rd at MMS Media Center from 7-8pm!

MILLBURN FAMILY FUN RUN!! The planning has begun for the 5th Annual Millburn Family Fun Run. The date is set for April 8th. We are currently looking for corporate sponsors who would like to take advantage of a great marketing opportunity while supporting District 24. We are also looking for

volunteers to help with the event. If you are interested in being either a corporate sponsor or volunteer, contact Marci Simmons at millburnfunrun@millburnpto.com

*Upcoming Events: WENDY'S DAYS 2/7 & 2/14, MES FAMILY FUN NIGHT 2/9,
MES & MMS HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS 2/10, BOX TOPS DUE 2/17,
TALENT SHOW PERMISSION SLIPS DUE 2/22*

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

February

10th Valentine's Celebrations
20th No School- President's Day

March

1st- Early Release @ 1PM
2nd - Literacy Night 5:30-7:30PM

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

Virtual Backpack:

Math Club Info- 2nd/3rd, 4th/5th
Directions to Upload Pictures Yearbook
Lakes High School Math Fair- 3rd-5th Grade
Millburn Madness Online Auction Info
Millburn Madness Auction Items
Gurnee Park District Swim School
Lindenhurst Park District Spring Break Camp
Lindenhurst Park District Before/After School Care

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