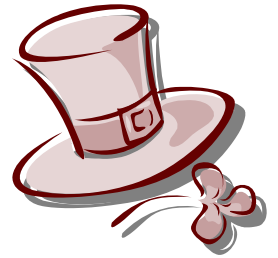




Fred W. Miller Elementary School



Miller Messages

From The Principal's Desk

March 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As spring approaches, we begin to think about student placement for next year.

During the placement process we evaluate how the needs of the individual children will be met while trying to create equitable learning groups at each grade level. This balancing act requires attention to academic abilities, social skills, gender, learning styles, personality traits and class size, among other considerations which may not be readily apparent to parents and families. Our placement process includes asking current classroom teachers to communicate information that they feel should be considered for the next school year. Classroom teachers have a good understanding of their students, including academic, emotional and social needs.

If you would like to share information about your child's learning style or any significant aspect of your child's background which may impact his or her best placement, please briefly submit your concerns in writing, to my attention on or before Friday, April 29, 2011. These letters may be shared with teachers.

Please do not feel there is any advantage in making your perceptions about placement known to us in writing. This is only true and necessary if you have information to share about your child that you do not believe we are aware of already. Equal consideration is given to the needs of every Miller student, regardless of whether or not we have received input from the parents.

I have confidence that all of our teachers are highly qualified and that they will provide an appropriate education for your child. Parents are asked not to include specific requests for teachers, as they **will not** be considered during the grouping process. If all specific teacher requests were to be honored, it is very likely that the personality of a class could be overwhelming for both the teacher and the other students. If that were to happen, children would not likely become successful in that environment, regardless of the reputation of the teacher.

Please trust our professional judgment as we work to provide all of our children with the best possible classroom learning environment.

Respectfully,

David N. Keim





17th Annual Holliston PTSA Auction Fundraiser

Rock-n-Roll Party

Friday, March 25, 2011

7p.m.-midnight

DoubleTree Hotel

11 Beaver Street, Milford

Purchase tickets online at www.hollistonptsa.org or To register using cash or check, please see the registration form on backpack express! Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted for payment of auction items at the event.

If you are **not** able to attend, please consider a tax deductible donation to Holliston PTSA. Thank you.

Companion on-line auction starts February 28. Register to bid at www.hollistonptsa.org

- Classroom Basket Drawing
- Live & Silent Auctions
- Cash Bar
- Music and Dancing
- Hot and Cold Food Stations
- Desserts

Basket Viewing:

Thursday, March 24th
from 3:00-7:00 pm in the
Miller Multipurpose room

Community Forum on Bullying Prevention and Intervention: Building a Kind and Caring Culture

Presented by Holliston Public Schools, Holliston PTSA, Youth and Family Services, and the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center

When: Monday, March 28, 2011
Where: High School Auditorium
Time: 6:30 pm Reception
7:00-8:30 pm Program

Science and Health Happenings

Did you know an adult's brain weighs about three pounds and feels like cooked oatmeal or butter at room temperature? These are some of the fun things your child has been learning in fifth grade health.



Currently, our fifth graders are studying the central nervous system. The central nervous system is the command center of your body. It's comprised of the brain, spinal cord, and nerves. The students began the unit by learning about the parts of the brain and their functions. They also explored how everyone learns differently and tends to be left brained or right brained. Refusal skills are being taught along with the effects of abusing and using drugs on the brain. Be on the look out for a study guide as we end this unit and begin our science MCAS review.

Students in fourth grade have just finished studying the four layers of the earth. They are the crust, mantle, outer core, and inner core. The students made earth models and compared the earth to an apple. What's next? The Rock Cycle! Can you name all three types of rocks?



In third grade, we have just completed a unit on magnets. The students are now learning about electricity as a form of energy. They are making simple circuits with wires, batteries, and bulbs. Next they will be using switches and making all kinds of important discoveries.



We appreciate your continued support in advancing your child's learning and knowledge of the material. Students perform better when their learning is reinforced at home. Read books, watch videos, go to a local museum or just talk about science to reinforce the activities and concepts taught in school. Remember you see your children everyday and we only see them once a week so you're their first and best teacher!

Mrs. Irving and Mrs. Foster

Miller School Science and Health Teachers

Miller School's Parent Coffee



To date, Miller School has offered two Parent Coffees where we have shared information regarding technology used in enhancing your child's education.

On January 10th, Principal David Keim, and Technology Integration Specialists, Winnie Carey and Julie Elkan introduced some of the new technology tools that are being used at Miller School. Please see the link at the bottom right of the Miller School webpage.

On February 15th, Pat Rourke and Kathy Balcom, Miller's Math and Literacy Specialists, spoke to parents regarding several *Technology Curriculum Programs* including: *My Skills Tutor, Fact Fluency, Lexia, and Accelerated Reader.*

The next Parent Coffee is planned for **April 12th at 9:00** in the Miller Library. We hope that you will join us as we talk about homework and strategies for helping your child with homework.



Library News & Book Fair information!



Thanks to the generosity of Holliston parents, we now have an interactive whiteboard in the library. We will use the board for many library lessons. This week fourth graders are working on research skills and we are using the whiteboard to explore facts about U.S. presidents. Classroom teachers will also be using the board when the library is available.

Holliston Elementary PTSA will host the Placentino/Miller Spring Book Fair held on March 23rd & 24th in the Placentino library from 3:30-8:30. The books will be provided by Bookfairs by Bookends. Proceeds benefit the Placentino and Miller libraries. Books for sale are appropriate for children preschool age through grade 5 and French books will also be available.

Teacher wish lists will be available. Parents may donate a book to your child's class on either day or buy a gift certificate only on Wednesday for your teacher to spend before the fair ends.

Don't miss this opportunity! Come before or after Placentino/Miller Math Night on Wednesday, the 23rd, or before or after viewing those great PTSA Auction baskets on Thursday, the 24th!



For further information or to volunteer, please contact Michele Winn at (774) 233-1123 or by email at thefourwinns@comcast.net. (to volunteer you must have an active CORI on file)



FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Each month the Miller School collects food and other needed items for the Holliston food pantry. Each homeroom has a food pantry box for the children to place their donations in during opening exercises on collection morning.

The food pantry is always in need of all types of paper products (paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, and tissues) and each month we also have a “**highlighted**” item.

You may be wondering why a *food* pantry is asking for donations of paper goods and other non-food items. The Food Pantry is only allowed to purchase food items, but they also need the other non-food items to distribute to those in need. They get the non-food items through collections like ours.

The dates & highlighted items for collection for the year are:



March 25th —personal care (hygiene) items

deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and conditioner



April 29th —Canned fruits and vegetables



May 20th —non-perishable sandwich items

tuna & other canned meats, mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, peanut-butter, jelly, fluff etc.

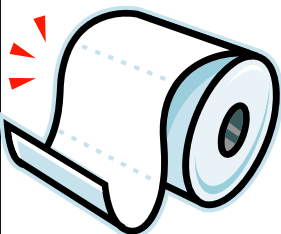


June 10th—Laundry Needs

Detergent, fabric softener sheets, stain remover etc.

Thank you for your donations they are very much appreciated by the food pantry, as many Holliston families use them.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!





Backpack Express



A reminder that our notices are now available on our website
at: <http://www.holliston.k12.ma.us/>

Click on 'parent links' and then on Backpack Express!

Miller/Placentino Family Math Night

Presented by the Staff of the Miller/Placentino Schools & HEPTSA

Wednesday, March 23 6:30-8:00 pm

Family Math Night for Miller/Placentino School families will be held in the Cafetorium.

Come play a game, solve a puzzle, and have some fun! Discover the world of hands-on-math with your family. Ideas for at-home activities & resource lists will be available.

There will be several "math stations" each offering a different math activity for children.



Dear Miller School Community,

Thank you very much for making the Miller School collection drive to "**Honor Our Local Heroes**" a phenomenal success. On Valentine's Day the entire Miller School community collected 63 large boxes of needed items. Weekly care packages will be assembled by the Holliston American Legion with our donated goods and shipped to service people from Holliston currently serving overseas. Your overwhelmingly generous response to our collection drive has allowed us to "**Honor Our Local Heroes**" while providing a meaningful community service experience at Miller School. Thank you for your support!

The 3rd grade teaching team

Fifth Grade Leadership Team

After a rigorous application and election process, two students from each fifth grade class were elected to represent their peers on the Fifth Grade Leadership team. The newly elected students promoted the Martin Luther King Jr. Book Drive by explaining it and gathering donations from their classes. They created anti-bully posters to hang throughout the school. They also sponsored the school's Superbowl Spirit Day. In addition, students are researching options to reduce waste in our cafeteria and are generating ideas for the proposed new playground project. Ideas for future projects should be forwarded to Mrs. Peters or Mr. McGourty.

Fifth Grade's Got Talent!

Mark Your Calendars! You don't want to miss the Fifth Grade Variety Show! Next Thursday, March 10, fifth grade students, who have participated in the afterschool Drama Club, will perform on the Placentino stage at 7:00 pm. Students have been rehearsing their singing, dancing, acting, instrumental and comedy acts for two months in preparation for this fun evening. All are welcome to attend!

A REMINDER TO PARENTS!!



The cold, inclement weather is coming to a close; however, we continue to ask you to send appropriate outdoor wear to school **with** your child. Classes **are** going out for recess. Jackets, Boots, Winter Hats, Mittens or Gloves, and Snow-pants (if there is snow on the ground) are all recommended!!

We are hoping to **minimize classroom interruptions** with having to deliver forgotten items!



Students not appropriately dressed will not be allowed to go out for recess.



SCHOOL STORE GIFT CERTIFICATES

The School Store is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch times in the school cafeteria. Parent volunteers and four or five students staff the store each shift. Once a child has eaten their lunch, they may request permission to go and shop at the store.

School Store Gift Certificates are available for purchase for \$1.00 each in the Miller School Office. They make great party favors for birthday parties or other small gifts.

A NOTE ABOUT NOTES!

When a student arrives tardy to school, a parent must either sign the student in at the main office or send the tardy student in with a note. When a student is absent from school, a note from a parent/guardian is required to be sent in with the student upon his/her return. (This is in addition to a parent calling the absentee line on the day of the absence.) When there is a change in a student's regular dismissal routine, a note from a parent/guardian must be sent in with the student documenting the change in dismissal plan.

All of these procedures help to ensure the safety of our students, as well as keep accurate attendance records which must be reported to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Discontinuation of Perfect Attendance Award

The successful progress of your child in school depends greatly upon their prompt and regular attendance, and therefore we strongly encourage and promote good attendance at Miller School. However, we also want to be mindful of the mandate from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for students to stay home when they are sick to prevent the spread of illnesses. As a result, the Miller School will no longer be awarding students certificates of perfect attendance. Please see the Holliston Public Schools website for more information about when to keep your children home from school.

REMINDER!



There is NO SCHOOL on Friday, March 18th due to an unpaid employee furlough day.



LOST AND FOUND



Parents,

There are many items in our lost and found box. If your child has lost anything (clothes, lunch boxes, backpacks), you are welcome to come look through the box to see if you can find it. Smaller items such as jewelry or glasses are kept in the main office.

All items not claimed will be given to Good Will during April vacation.

Also, Please make sure to **label** all your children's items (clothing, lunch-boxes, backpacks) with their name.

Thank You !