

MARCH 2022

THE MILLGROVE MINUTE

The official newsletter of Millgrove School



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

By Mrs. Madge-Arkininstall

Welcome March as we look forward to some warmer days and maybe the hint of spring in the air. Your children continue to arrive ready to learn, and I am grateful to each of you and your commitment to your child's education.

Our literacy and numeracy interventions are going very well and the progress that our students are making is impressive. Our grade 1 numeracy intervention will begin soon and we are excited to get that program going.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

- **Report Cards**
- **Spring Break**
- **Registration for Next Year**
- **Albert Education Assurance Survey Gr 4**
- **Strong Families: The Teen Brain**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Field trips are back in full swing and the students have been skiing, swimming and skating. How wonderful to watch our students enthusiastically load the bus and head out on an adventure. When our grade 4 students were skiing we received many compliments on their positive manners and behaviour. Way to go grade 4, you make us proud! It is not unusual for our students to receive this type of positive feedback when they are out and about, which is a reflection of this lovely group of students.

Our February parent/teacher interviews were well attended and on March 17 the report cards will be available. Please be sure to read through the report cards as our staff share valuable information that will keep you updated on your child's progress.

Enjoy spring break with your wonderful children. I am hoping that this will be a time of rejuvenation, connection, outdoor activities and good fun!

Respectfully,

L. Madge-Arkininstall



Step 2 - Easing Health Measures in PSD

February 28, 2022 - On Saturday, February 26th, the Government of Alberta announced that Step 2 of its three-step plan on easing public health measures will proceed.

“Effective March 1, Alberta will begin step two, which will include the end of limits on social gatherings, capacity limits for large venues, remaining school requirements, screening of youth for activities, the mandatory work-from-home order and public masking requirements except in high-risk settings.”

Masks

Parkland School Division will align its protocols with the Government of Alberta as well as the municipalities of the City of Spruce Grove and the Town of Stony Plain with respect to mask mandates. In Step 1, the mask mandate for students in K-12 was already lifted and now staff and volunteers in schools will follow suit. Staff, students and visitors are still encouraged to wear masks while in school. Although transitioning from a pandemic to an endemic response is a promising sign, many people have mixed emotions towards this. As such, we must all remember to respect each others' comfort levels and choices. Staff and students will be supported regardless of their choice.

Isolation and Quarantine Requirements Remain in Effect

Isolation is still legally required for people who have COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive. Learn more about the isolation requirements for vaccinated and unvaccinated Albertans. This measure will turn from legally mandated to a recommendation only in Step 3 of Alberta's plan. The timeline after March 1st is still to be determined and will depend on hospitalization rates continuing to trend downward.

Volunteers/Visitors

Non-essential visitors will gradually be welcomed back into Parkland School Division schools. Parents/guardians can attend the school if they are required as part of the educational programming needs of the school. For a full summary of current measures in place in PSD, please refer to the updated Guidance for School Re-Entry - Principals' Handbook.

For more information, contact:
Parkland School Division
Email: DivisionOffice@psd.ca
Phone: 780-963-4010

Please visit our updated STAY AT HOME GUIDE

COVID-19



Office News

School Fees Now Due

School fees were due September 30, 2021. A statement was emailed home on March 1, 2022.

Please pay fees online through the Parent Portal. Methods of online payment include Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Interac Online Debit. Alternatively, we will accept cash or cheque payments at the school office. Please make cheque made payable to Parkland School Division.

The division does have a waiver process outlined on their website or payment options are available through the Parent Portal. Please visit [PSD's REGISTRATION FEES page](#) for more information.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Tanya Nelson at 780-962-6122 ext. 0 or email her at tanya.nelson@psd.ca.

Please Note when paying school fees through the parent portal please use the following link, do not use the Parent Portal App.

<https://powerschool.psd.ca/public/home.html>



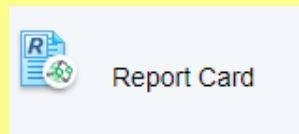
Report Cards

Kindergarten to Grade 4

We're pleased to have Term 2 report cards available to parents on **Thursday, March 17** through your [PowerSchool account](#).

If you require assistance with setting up your account or resetting a password, please email our school office at millgrove@psd70.ab.ca and our secretaries will be happy to help.

Once logged in, go to the Report Card button on the very bottom left margin as shown below.



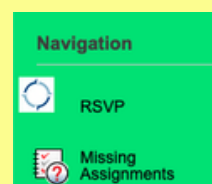
2022-2023 Returning Registration NOW OPEN!

Important Busing Deadline: March 18

Visit <https://powerschool.psd.ca/public/> and log into your parent account. Once inside the Parent Portal:

1. Select your child's name in the blue bar at the top of the screen.
2. Select the RSVP icon on the left side of the screen.
3. Begin reviewing all of your current Student Information we have on file, and follow the instructions on the screen to navigate through the various tabs in the form (Student Info, Address, Contacts, Medical, etc.).

If you require any help logging into your parent portal or run into technical issues, please contact the office.



TAKE SURVEY



Calling all Library Volunteers!

We are looking for volunteers to help in our library with shelving, labelling and repairing books.

Tuesday mornings are ideal but we're willing to accommodate any schedule.

If you are interested, please contact our office at 780-962-6122 ext. 0 and speak to Toresa or Tanya.

Thank you!

Alberta Education Assurance Survey for Grade 4 Parents

In the next few days, you will be receiving a survey package from Alberta Education in the mail. This package is sent to families who have students in grades 4, 7 and 10 and will include a copy of the Education Minister's letter, a letter containing a Random Access Code (RAC) and instructions for accessing the survey.

The survey package is fairly comprehensive and will guide you through the process. I am so appreciative of the time and effort it takes to complete the survey, the information is beneficial as we plan for next year. Your grade 4 child will also be completing a survey here at school and their feedback assists as we reflect upon our student needs.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,
L. Madge-Arkininstall



Class Placements for 2022-2023

We will soon be moving down the path of planning a successful transition for our students as they move into next school year! This seems like a good time to share a bit about our process for creating class lists for our grade 1-4 classrooms.

Our staff devotes a tremendous amount of effort and time into the creation of class lists and student placement in an attempt to maintain balance for each classroom. The process starts with each homeroom teacher who sits with their grade level team and discusses every student within the grade.

Teachers discuss many critical elements such as individual learning styles, individual student strengths and areas for growth, social relationships and the emotional wellness of each of our students. We very much understand the value of student friendships and take every step to ensure that all students have some peer support and friends within their classroom. When teachers have taken all of these (and more) factors into account, they then begin to create class lists for the following school year. They work to create classes that will ensure success for all of our students.

When these lists have been created by the classroom teachers we work through these lists with our Inclusive Education Lead (Assistant Principal), Mrs Donna Miners, who can provide additional information on our students with diverse learning needs. Finally, we work to match the resources that we have available with the needs of our students.

As you can certainly appreciate, the staff of Millgrove School invest much time and energy to ensure success for all of our students throughout the school year, and transitioning into next year is no exception.

While we cannot manage all parent requests for 2022-2023, if you feel that your child has a learning need that their classroom teacher is not aware of, or which would assist us during this placement process and you have not yet had the opportunity to share this need with your child's homeroom teacher, please do so in the coming months. We greatly value your unique understanding of your child as a learner in our school community.



march

Calendar of Events

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| March 2 | Millgrove School Online Council Meeting 6:30 pm |
| March 3 | Play Parkland Skating Field Trip 4T/4G and 3B/3K |
| March 4 | Prepaid Hot Lunch - Boston Pizza |
| March 8 | Millgrove Online Foundation Meeting 6:30 pm |
| March 9 | Grade 3 Field Trip - Telus World of Science
Foundation, Kernels Popcorn and Fundscrip Pickup Day |
| March 10 | Play Parkland Aerials Gymnastics Field Trip - 4T/4G |
| March 11 | Prepaid Hot Lunch - Pizza 73 |
| March 17 | Term 2 Report Cards released to PowerSchool Parent Portal
Play Parkland Skating Field Trip 4T/4G and 3B/3K |
| March 18 | Prepaid Hot Lunch - KFC
World Down Syndrome Day - wear funky socks! |
| March 21-25 | Spring Break - no school |
| March 28 | PD Day - no school for students |
| March 31 | Play Parkland Aerials & Swimming Field Trip 3B/3K |
| April 1 | Prepaid Hot Lunch - Pizza 73
World Autism Awareness Day - wear blue shirts! |

Literacy Tips



Working with Sight Words

First, determine if they have all the letter sounds. Work on the ones they are missing. Check to see if they have them in the initial, medial, and final position. The younger students will be spending more time working on this. Here are some terms that will help you:

Phoneme: The smallest unit of sound within oral words. For example, sat has three phonemes /s/ /a/ /t/.

Phonemic awareness: Main focus is on phonemes (sounds), deals with spoken language, is auditory and students work with manipulating sounds in words.

Orthographic Mapping: The mental process we use to store words for immediate, effortless, retrieval. It requires phoneme proficiency and letter-sound proficiency.

Before you show your child the sight word, ask them how many sounds they hear in the word and then you can put lines on a piece of paper to represent each sound. Then ask them the sound at the beginning, middle and ending and write in the corresponding letter (or have your child write in the corresponding letter). When you have tricky words with irregular sounds point out the inconsistency to your child.

The following are videos on introducing sight words to your child.

Focus on: Introducing Sight Words

1. [Orthographic mapping](#) (4 min)
2. [Orthographic mapping to teach sight words](#)(8 min)

More next month on working on sight words once they have been introduced.



Numeracy Tips



Numeracy is really easy to fit into your child's day and does not take long or require fancy materials. Below are some numeracy tips you can use at home!

- **Tap into your child's curiosity.** Go on a number hunt together and discover places where numbers are used such as a clock, TV, computer keyboard, calendar, telephones and license plates.
- **Use everyday activities.** Your child's world is filled with everyday math problems that can be solved. For example, "Dinner is at 6:00 and it's 4:30, how many hours until dinner?", "How many people in our family? How many eyes, fingers and toes in our family?" "What's our house number? What would the house number be 4 houses down?"
- **Predict and compare.** Start to measure and estimate things like how many steps it is from the driveway to the house or how long a trip will take and then measure and compare the actual time it takes.
- **Kids LOVE to grocery shop!** Give part of your shopping list to your child. Have them find the item and tell you the price. For older students, have them find the cheapest item or look for an item that is more than 20% off! They can write down the price of each item on their list and total it up.
- **Cash is a BLAST!** Give your child a loonie or a toonie. Ask your child, "How many quarters, dimes, or nickles are in that loonie or toonie." "How many toonies would you need to pay for a toy worth \$20?"
- **Bring back family game night!** Commit to a day each week that your family plays a board game or card game. Add some addition and subtraction by incorporating 2 or 3 dice. The dice can be added or subtracted to determine the amount moved. Older students can multiply the dice together and divide that number by 2, 3, 5, etc. to determine the amount moved. The card game War can be spiced up by drawing 2 cards and adding or multiplying those cards together.
- **Cooking can be counting fun!** Involve your child in helping out at dinner time and let them help measure ingredients for recipes or estimate the number of potatoes that are needed to feed everyone.
- **Play the estimate game.** Ask your child to estimate measurements, distances and grocery bills. Compare the estimate with the actual number.
- **Mystery Number!** Think of a number and give your child clues and see if they can guess your number. You can give clues like; my number is even. My number has 3 digits. There are 2 even digits and 1 odd digit. The number in the tens position is how many days in a week. The number in the ones is how many quarters in \$2. The number in the hundreds is how many vertices on a cube. My number is between 700 and 800.

What's my number?



Strong Families: The Teen Brain

Parkland School Division is proud to partner with Alberta Parenting For The Future to present another FREE information session for local families.

In our upcoming Strong Families session, Parkland School Division's own Meghan Cox will teach parents about the changes their children's brains go through when they reach puberty, and how brain development may account for some teens' irrational behaviour. Parents will also learn how to help their teens through this turbulent time and emerge with the skills they need to take on adulthood.

Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022

Time: 6:30-8:30pm

Location: Online Zoom Webinar / Discussion Group

Presenter: Meghan Cox, Parkland School Division High School Counsellor

When it comes to your teen's antics, ever wonder what were they thinking? We often feel that teens "should know better". This informative session will give insight into how the teenage brain develops, and what we now know about brain development in general. We will also discuss ways to help your teen through these trying times, working together to build the skills they'll need to last a lifetime.

Please register early to reserve your spot by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/what-were-they-thinking-the-teen-brain-registration-272229193847>

For more information, please contact:

Vicky Mamczasz

Family Supports Facilitator

Email: vicky.mamczasz@psd.ca



Strong Families:
What Were They
THINKING?
The Teen Brain

MILLGROVE SCHOOL COUNCIL

We welcome you all to attend our next parent Council meeting this coming **Wednesday, March 2nd at 6:30pm**. As always, if you haven't had a chance to join in, please come! It's a very informal way to catch up on what's happening at Millgrove, and in the school division.

A link for the meeting will follow shortly.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thanks!

Anna-Marie Jackson
Parent Council Chair
millgrove.scchair@partner.psd.ca

MILLGROVE SCHOOL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

We are constantly amazed at the support of our Millgrove families, with our last round of fundraising we raised approximately **\$5800!** Thank you to everyone that purchased items. This money will go towards extra things at the school to support our students such as replacing broken/missing playground equipment, items for the school quiet room and much more.

THANK YOU

Pick up for Kernels Popcorn, Indeygo and Fundscrip will take place on **March 9, 2022** in the afternoon. Times will be sent out closer to the date.

Pick up for **Pots & Pansies** will take place **May 25, 2022**. Times will be sent out closer to the date.

The **next round of hot lunch and milk sales** will be **March 16-23** for the April menu. Please make sure all orders & payments are completed by 4:30 pm on the last order day. If you are paying by cash you will need to have your cash/cheque to the school by March 18th as the next week is Spring break and the school will be closed.

Our **next meeting** will be **March 8, 2022 @ 6:30 pm**. It will be online so watch for a meeting code email to come out that week. Would love to see more people come out to talk about where our fundraising money goes!!

Allison Chuey
Millgrove School Community Foundation President

