

OCTOBER 2023

THE MILLGROVE MINUTE

The official newsletter of Millgrove School



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Mrs. Cameron

It has been a busy, but fabulous September! Students are settling in and learning is well underway.

September brought us several opportunities to connect as a school community, including our Welcome Assembly and Terry Fox Assembly. These assemblies are led by our incredible students who are strong ambassadors for the great work here at Millgrove School. We were also so pleased to host many, many families at our Hot Diggity Dog Open House. Thank you to the many parent volunteers who helped cook and prep 960 hot dog meals for our families. Students were excited to introduce their teachers and show their parents their classrooms and common spaces around the school.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

- **President's Choice Childrens Charity**
 - **Picture Days**
 - **Medication at School**
 - **Volunteering - record checks**
 - **Attendance Matters**
 - **Coding Club**
 - **Foundation News**
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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Thank you to all parents who attended our first School Council and Foundation meeting of the school year. We are so incredibly grateful for your engagement with the school community.

Construction of the link connecting the main building to our portable pods is nearly complete. We are hoping to have access very soon. Thank you for your continued patience as it has taken some additional time to have students come to the main office for early pick-ups, appointments, Running Club races, etc.

As the 2023-2024 school year is underway, please find some time to read our [Development Plan](#) if you have not done so yet. This plan sets the direction for our work throughout the year. Our top two priority areas at Millgrove School are:

- To continue to focus on literacy and numeracy growth and to provide learning opportunities for our students that are evidence-informed, thoughtful, and intentional.
- To continue to create an environment that is safe and caring and promotes belonging and acceptance, and celebrates the uniqueness of each person.

The baseline data and initial assessments, along with our knowledge of evidence-informed pedagogy, set the stage for strategies to meet our school goals and for strong programming, growth, and progress for all students. We are proud of our students and maintain a high standard of academic achievement and growth, beginning where each child is at.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any feedback or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Please feel free to email, call, or book a time to meet.

Yours in learning,
Lesley Cameron
lesley.cameron@psd.ca



President's Choice Children's Charity

In keeping with Parkland School Division's commitment to student success and well-being, we are once again working to promote healthy eating and create a positive food environment for all students.

We would like to acknowledge the President's Choice Children's Charity Power Full Kids program in providing support for food security at Millgrove School for the 2023 - 2024 school year.



Dogs at School



With the nicer September weather, we have seen an increase in dogs at school, particularly after school near the playgrounds. As noted in our handbook:

- Due to student and staff allergies and safety, pets cannot be brought inside Millgrove School, so we kindly ask that you do not bring your animals inside the school or on school property at any time.
- As much as we all enjoy pets we ask that you keep your dog at home or away from the playground and general school population during school hours. For the safety of our students and your pet, distance is key.
- We like to honour our pets at the year-end pet parade to give students a chance to show off their furry friends.

If you do walk your dog to school to meet your children after school, please kindly wait on the west side of the fence near the alley way in. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.

School Fees



Fee notices have been sent home. Please remit payment by October 15, 2023. Families can pay online through the [Parent Portal](#). Methods of online payment include Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Interac Online Debit. Alternatively, we will accept cash, cheque, and credit card payments at the school office. Please make cheques payable to Parkland School Division.

See our website for detailed [Field Trip Information](#).

The division does have a waiver process outlined on its 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 get in touch with Mrs. Perzylo at 780-962-6122 ext. 0 or email her at tanya.perzylo@psd.ca.

Say
cheese!



Picture Day - Oct 3 & 4

Picture Day is on Tuesday, October 3 for all students.

Our **Monday/Wednesday Kindergarten** classes will be photographed on **Wednesday, October 4.**

ORDERS ARE DONE ONLINE! View images and order pictures online at smartorders.ca. Ordering information and online access code will be sent home with students on picture day. **View your photos online 4-8 business days after picture day.** We will send a reminder.

Important time-sensitive reminders:

- Photos will be available at smartorders.ca approximately 4-8 business days after picture day, and **FREE** shipping is available for delivery to the school for **one week** after proofs are online. After that date, orders can be shipped to your home address with a minimal shipping fee. There is no deadline to order.
- All students and staff will receive a complimentary class photo, courtesy of SMART Photography.
- Memory books will be available to purchase online in the spring. Watch for further details at a later date.

Picture retake day will be on November 2nd.

Medication at School

If students require medication at school, a medication form must be completed in our office, and medication must be kept in the office where it can be locked up, and our office staff can administer it. There are some exceptions for students to have puffers on their person however, the same medication forms must be filled out.

If your child has medication and you haven't already been in touch with our office, please call us so we may ensure documentation is in place.

Thank you for your cooperation with this important matter.



Volunteering

We look forward to having volunteers in our school helping with our Hot Lunch/Milk programs, field trips and classroom helpers. If you anticipate volunteering in excess of 10 hours over the course of the 2023-2024 school year, we do require a volunteer form and criminal record check to be completed. This is done on an annual basis.

See our [Volunteer Registration Form](#) online or feel free to stop in the office to pick one up. Part of this package includes a letter to waive the fees associated with getting a criminal record check.





PARKLAND SCHOOL DIVISION **ATTENDANCE MATTERS!**

In PSD, we help support families who need help getting their child(ren) to school. We know there are many factors that affect attendance:

- Parents' work schedule
- Transportation
- Family events
- Appointments

Often families don't realize how much school their child is missing and the impact that has on everyone. They are more behind than you think.

1 DAY MISSED = 2 DAYS BEHIND



19 or more days

Missing just **TWO** days every month can add up to **19** days in a school year. This is the equivalent of missing an **ENTIRE MONTH** of instructional days.



10 to 18 days

Students who are absent an average of 15 days per year miss **1 YEAR'S WORTH** of school by their graduating year.



9 or fewer absences

Students with good attendance generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more.

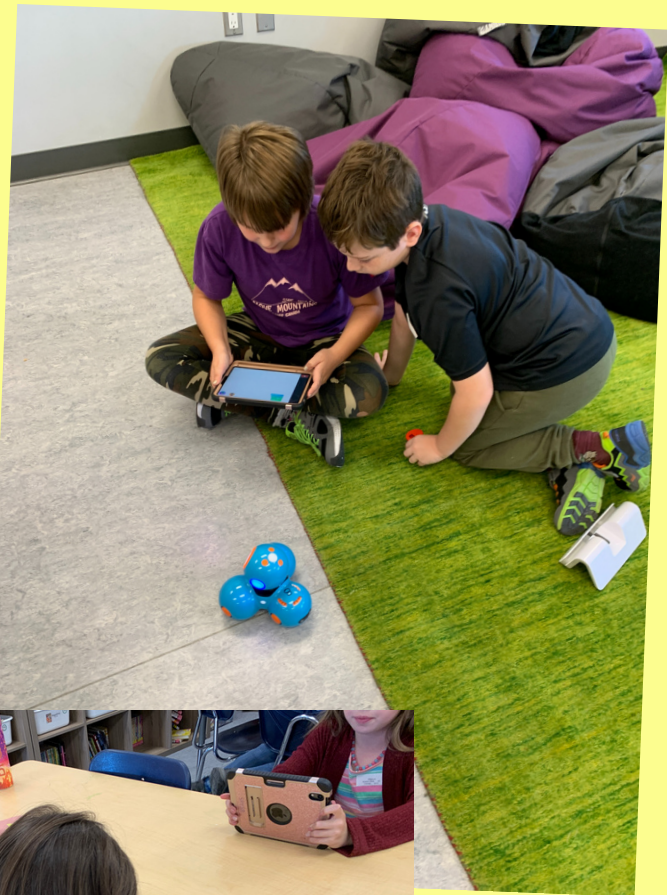


Coding Club

It's been exciting to get Coding Club up and running this past month! We're starting with all interested grade four students this fall, and the group meets twice a week. As a group we decided that each Tuesday at second recess will be a "Learning Day" where we will learn a new coding concept and apply it to a project. We agreed that Thursdays at second recess will be our "Explore Day" when we get to use our background knowledge to play and code with a variety of devices we have at Millgrove.

In October we'll be working on coding video games using computational thinking, and the students already have lots of ideas for creating their own mini arcade games

~ Mrs. Barker



Literacy Tips

Word Decoding Tips



As children learn to read, there are two crucial skills they need: word decoding and linguistic comprehension. Decoding is the ability to apply knowledge of letter-sound relationships, including letter patterns, to correctly pronounce written words. Understanding these relationships gives children the ability to quickly recognize familiar words and to figure out novel words. Although some children may figure out some of these relationships on their own, most children benefit from explicit instruction in this area. Phonics is one approach to reading instruction that teaches students the principles of letter-sound relationships, how to sound out words, and exceptions to the principles.

How to help

With support from parents and teachers, children can learn strategies to overcome word decoding and phonics problems that affect their reading. Below are some different activities to foster those strategies.

How children can practice at home

- Write notes, e-mails, and letters to your friends and family. Represent each sound you hear as you write.
- Play with magnetic letters. See how quickly you can put them in alphabetical order while singing the alphabet song.
- Look at written materials around your house and at road signs to see if you can spot familiar words and letter patterns.
- When you're trying to sound out a word, pay close attention to the print.
- Try to look at all the letters in the word, not just the first one or two.

How parents can support at home

- For a beginning reader, help your child learn the letters and sounds of the alphabet. Occasionally point to letters and ask your child to name them.
- Help your child make connections between what they might see on a sign or in the newspaper and the letter and sound work they are doing in school.
- Encourage your child to write and spell notes, e-mails, and letters using what they know about sounds and letters.

Literacy

NEWS CONTINUES...

- Talk with your child about the “irregular” words that she’ll often see in what she’s reading. Irregular words are words that don’t follow the usual letter-sound rules such as said, are, and was. Students must learn to recognize them “at sight.”
- Consider using computer software that focuses on developing phonics and emergent literacy skills. Some software programs are designed to support children in their writing efforts. For example, some programs encourage kids to construct sentences and then cartoon characters will act out the completed sentence. Other software programs provide practice with long and short vowel sounds and creating compound words.

Happy reading!

Colleen Schmaus and Cait Barker
Literacy Leads



Numeracy Tips

With the beginning of the second month of school, we are getting into our routines and working on learning new Mathematical concepts. Our goal is to start children where they are at, help them make connections to new concepts, enjoy Math activities and continue to grow as Mathematicians. Below, you will find a link to an overview of the curriculum for each grade from Alberta Education. If you would like more information about what your child is working on in Math please contact your teacher.

https://curriculum.learnalberta.ca/cdn/ciihub/docs/Mathematics%20Subject%20Overview_Final.pdf

Math is everywhere, and we use it every day!

Mrs. G. Wright
Millgrove Numeracy Lead/Intervention

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

- Oct 3 Picture Day - Whole School
COSC (Council of School Councils) Centre for Education @ 6:30 pm
- Oct 4 Individual Picture Day & Groups - Mon/Wed Kinder only
- Oct 5 Cross-Country Run #4 @ Brookwood School - *Hosted by Woodhaven Middle School*
World Teachers Day
- Oct 6 PD Day - No School
- Oct 9 Thanksgiving Day - No School
- Oct 10 World Mental Health Day
- Oct 11 Millgrove School Foundation Meeting 6:30 pm
- Oct 12 Cross-Country Run #5 @ École Meridian Heights School
- Oct 13 Dress Like a Teacher Day
- Oct 16 School Bus Safety Week *until Oct 20th*
- Oct 19 Cross-Country Run #6 @ High Park School
- Oct 24 Teachers Pet In-School Field Trip for Grade 4's
- Oct 31 Halloween Parade
- Nov 2 Picture Retake Day



MILLGROVE SCHOOL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

We recently held our AGM and voted in a great group of people for the upcoming school year. I would like to welcome a few new faces: Kayla Repetowski and Melissa Halliday-Ostash to the Foundation. And welcome back Kristine Giurissevich, Joella Anderson, Jamie Stewart-Normand and myself Allison Chuey.

The Hot Lunch and Milk Program is up and running. The next round of ordering for hot lunch only is October 18-25, 2023. Milk tickets will be sold again in December. If you are paying with cash/cheque, please deposit it in the lockbox that has been installed in the main office. Please remember that orders and payments are due by 4:00 pm on October 25; no late orders will be accepted.

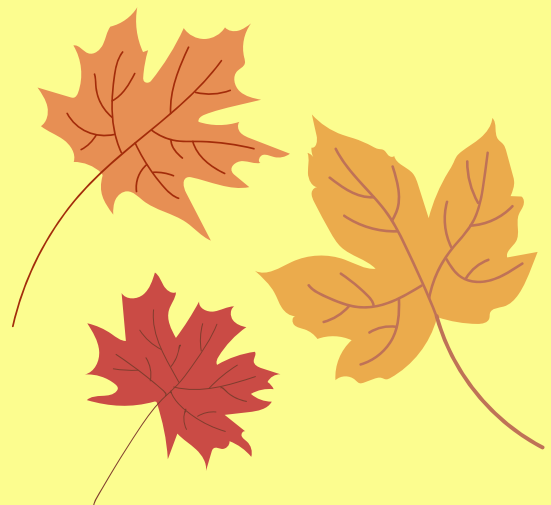
An update from our 2-day casino fundraiser that occurred in May 2023. We received our money in August for a total of **\$18,861.22!** Thank you to everyone who helped out!

Fundraising information will be coming out at the beginning of November. I'll be sure to follow up with more details.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 11 at 6:30 pm. It will be in the Millgrove School library. We will be discussing upcoming fundraisers and are always looking for new ideas. We hope to see you there!

Allison Chuey

Millgrove School Community Foundation
President
millgrovescfoundation@gmail.com





Thank
YOU!

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED OUR NEWSLETTER