

DECEMBER 2023

THE MILLGROVE MINUTE

The official newsletter of Millgrove School



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Mrs. Cameron

I trust this message finds you well and enjoying this lovely, yet strange, weather as we head into December. While I am looking forward to some snow for ski and snowboard season, the mild temperatures have been a lovely surprise.

Three months have passed since we first welcomed families and students back for the 2023-2024 school year! Time truly flies as we hit the ground running and maximize our time for learning every day. Thank you to those who attended Parent-Teacher Interviews, as this is an important time to connect with your child(ren)'s teacher to discuss areas of strength and continued areas of growth at school. There is much to celebrate and the time meeting with families is always very meaningful.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

-
- **Hamper Items**
 - **Winter Concerts**
 - **PSD School Calendar Survey**
 - **Mitten Tree**
 - **Fundraiser Pick-up**
-

MILLGROVE SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Thank you also for attending the Book Fair and supporting our library! It was wildly successful and Mrs. Pirie is working away to purchase new books for the library with our school-based earnings!

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, we currently have a survey open on our website for parents and guardians to provide feedback and check-in on our progress at Millgrove School. Engaging with our community on behalf of the students we serve is an important part of our growth and learning. Please feel free to "[Share a Thought](#)" with administration through this brief survey.

As we head into the holiday season, we look forward to many events celebrating music, collaboration, and community through our winter concerts and carol singing. Staff and students are working hard to showcase what is sure to be another year of amazing shows for you. On behalf of our Millgrove family to yours, I wish you a season of health, happiness, and joy through your time with family and friends. We are incredibly grateful for your ongoing support, involvement with the school, and encouragement in your child(ren)'s learning.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please feel free to reach out at any time.

Sincerely,

Lesley Cameron, Principal
lesley.cameron@psd.ca

HAPPY
Holidays



Calendar of Events



- Dec 1 Pre-paid Hot Lunch - Pizza 73
- Dec 4 Gr 2-4 Extra Concert Ticket Ballots Due
- Dec 5 Horizon Stage - Finding Nemo T/Th K, grade 1 and grade 2
- Dec 6 Horizon Stage - Finding Nemo M/W K, grade 3 and grade 4
- Dec 8 Kinette Christmas Hamper Items Due
Pre-paid Hot Lunch - Quesada
- Dec 13 Fundraiser Pick-up
- Dec 13-20 Hot Lunch and Milk Sales for January
- Dec 12-14 Grade 2-4 Winter Concerts Horizon Stage (details sent home)
- Dec 15 Pre-paid Hot Lunch - Dairy Queen
- Dec 18-19 Kindergarten and Grade 1 Concerts School Gym (details sent home)
- Dec 19 Mitten Tree Items Due
- Dec 20-21 Carol Sing School Gym - all welcome
- Dec 21 Festive Wear Day
- Dec 22 PD Day - no school for students
- Dec 22-Jan 5 **Winter Break**
- Jan 8 Back to School - Happy New Year!
- Jan 17 Millgrove Council and Foundation Meeting 6:30 pm

2024
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Kinette Christmas Hamper Campaign

Once again, as the holiday season approaches, the Spruce Grove Kinette volunteers are working towards the 50th Annual Christmas Hamper campaign.

This year, we are collecting gift cards in \$25.00 denominations for local grocery stores and new unwrapped gifts for children aged 17 and under. We know teens can be hard to buy for, and will distribute gift cards to those aged 10 to 17. Gift cards from local businesses work best for our clients in \$25 denominations.

Items will be accepted until Friday, December 8th!

Thank you in advance for your continued and amazing support with this local Christmas Hamper campaign. It truly makes a difference to these families over the holidays!

If families are interested in donating to the Parkland County Christmas Hamper Campaign online, please visit their [website](#) to donate. Thank you for supporting this important local cause.



**UNWRAPPED
TOYS AND
\$25 GIFT
CARDS
DUE DEC 8**

Mitten Tree

During the month of December, Millgrove School will be supporting families in our community to stay warm. We will accept donations of new and gently used mittens, toques, and scarves **until December 19th.**

After collecting these items in our library, we will take them to a local charity to pass them along to families in need.

Please join us in spreading kindness this season!

Thank You

**MITTENS,
TOQUES AND
SCARVES
DUE DEC 19**





Winter Concerts Gr 2-4 Horizon Stage

Each FAMILY receives two tickets. Tickets went home with students on November 28. Return the ballot at the bottom of your information letter if you would like to request more tickets. We sometimes have a waiting list for extra tickets, so if you cannot use your allocated tickets, please return them to our office for redistribution to other families.

Please keep your tickets in a safe place because each person needs a ticket to enter the Horizon Stage, including small children and babies in arms.

Concert dates are **December 12, 13 & 14 at 6:30 pm** (students arrive at 6:15 pm). Please refer to the information letter and tickets that come home with your child for your assigned performance date.

Concert Attire: The choir is being asked to wear their festive best for this year's Winter concert! If your child has a speaking role or is a dancer, they have a separate concert note which went home last week. If you have any questions regarding attire, please email Mrs. Taylor at julianne.taylor@psd.ca.

We can't wait to see this show come together!

Winter Concerts Kindergarten and Grade 1 Millgrove Gym

We're also excited to host concerts in our gymnasium for our Kindergarten and Grade 1 students on the following dates. There are no tickets required for this concert. All are welcome!
Monday, December 18, 2023

- Noon - Monday/Wednesday Kindergarten for Mrs. Fune and Mrs. McCuaig
- 2:00 pm - Grade 1 Mrs. Clarke, Ms. Long and Mrs. Coutts-Mills

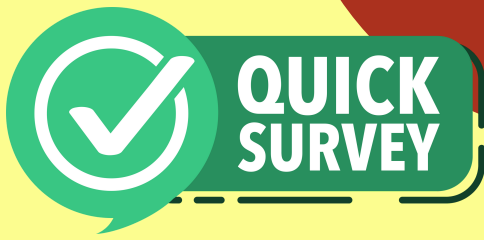
Tuesday, December 19, 2023

- Noon - Tuesday/Thursday Kindergarten for Mrs. Fune and Mrs. McCuaig
- 2:00 pm - Grade 1 Miss Careless and Mrs. Johnstone

Carol Sing

Our students gather in the gymnasium for our annual CAROL SING on **December 20 and 21 at 9:30 am**. Parents are welcome to attend this festive event!





PSD School Calendar Survey - feedback requested

Dear Parkland School Division Parents & Guardians,

Parkland School Division would like some additional feedback on the draft calendar for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. This survey takes into account previous feedback provided by our stakeholders.

Our division school year calendar is an important tool to help plan vacations, find out dates for upcoming professional development days and determine when Christmas break and spring break are being held.

Draft school year calendars are shared with stakeholders with a request for feedback and response prior to the timeline for decision-making. The Superintendent sets the school calendar for the year and presents the finished product to the Board of Trustees as information.

This survey is intended for stakeholders of Parkland School Division as well as our partners in our Regional Transportation system including Evergreen Catholic Schools and other area private schools. There are many different scenarios that are outlined in the survey.



[Click here to take the survey](#)

What FUN at Millgrove!

GIVING TUESDAY

Students in Mrs. Assinger and Mrs. Schmaus' class made cards and shared kindness with residents at Westview Health Center's Continuing Care Center.

DIWALI

Thank you to Mrs. B for working with students to create a beautiful rangoli with coloured sand and lights as part of our learning about Diwali, the Festival of Lights.



GRADE 1 ART CLUB





Literacy Tips

FLUENCY

As children develop as readers, they build fluency: the ability to read with accuracy, a just-right pace, and appropriate expression. In order to understand what they read, children must be able to read fluently both aloud and silently. When reading aloud, fluent readers group words into phrases and add intonation. Their reading is smooth and has expression.

Children who do not read with fluency sound choppy and awkward, and this can also make reading laborious and unappealing for the reader. Below we have outlined some strategies to help build a child's fluency:

- Have your child track words while you read a passage out loud. Afterward, have them read the passage matching your voice.
- Have your child practice reading the same list of words, phrase, or short passages several times.
- Remind your child to pause between sentences and phrases.
- Read aloud to your child with phrasing and expression to provide an example of how fluent reading sounds.
- Give your child books with predictable vocabulary and clear rhythmic patterns so the child can “hear” the sound of fluent reading as they read the book aloud.
- Use audiobooks; have your child follow along in the print copy.
- Support and encourage your child. Realize that they are likely frustrated by reading, and they will continue to grow with practice.

Your Literacy Leads,
Cait Barker
Colleen Schmaus



Numeracy

Interesting Facts:

Did you know that in Canada we no longer use commas to separate groups of numbers? So we write 14 257 with a space between the numbers instead of a comma.

Did you know that we do not use the word “and” when we say numbers in the hundreds? When we say “and” it means we have a fraction (decimal). So when we want to say 492 we should say “four hundred ninety two” rather than “four hundred and ninety two.”

Gift Ideas:

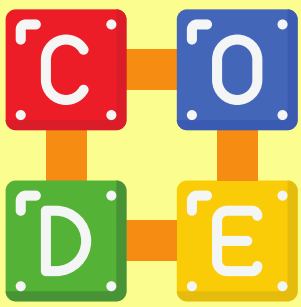
If you need a gift idea for your child consider getting a board game. They encourage many skills that transfer to academics, social skills and ways to have fun! Below is a list of a few oldies but goodies and some newer ones:

Qwirkle Rush Hour Mastermind Connect 4 Otrio
Battleship Proof Guess Who? Jenga
Outfoxed Mousetrap Sorry Smart Farmer

There are many other great board games. Check out the age level and what the game is like before you buy it. Google gives reviews on many and just reading the box often gives you an idea of whether it's appropriate for your child and family.

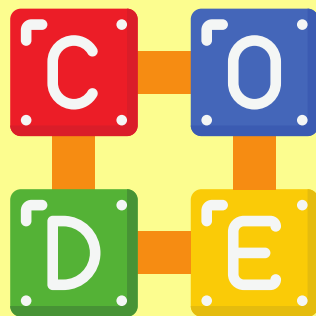
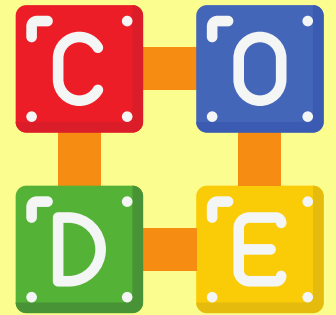
Mrs. G. Wright
Numeracy Lead/Intervention





Coding Club

The Grade Four Coding Club has been hard at work using their computational thinking for a variety of projects! We've continued to meet twice a week, and students have experimented with Dash and Dot, used the Osmos coding program, and created all the code for an online arcade game that their peers and families could play. Currently the students are building and coding Lego robots which has been a big highlight. There's been lots of learning, and the students' curiosity and camaraderie has been wonderful. They've really built up their confidence as coders, and have made some really thoughtful programs! Grade four coders will wrap up at the end of December, and then after Winter Break grade three students will have the opportunity to join Coding Club.



MILLGROVE SCHOOL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

We are **blown away** by the success of our winter fundraiser. **We would like to thank all the families that supported the fundraising campaign this past month. We managed to raise \$6,603!!**

The next round of **hot lunch and milk sales** will be **December 13-20**. This will be for January lunches as well as milk tickets. Remember to buy enough milk tickets to last 3 months as they won't be sold again until March 2024.

The **fundraiser pick-up** date is **December 13 for** Fundschrift, Calahoo Meats, Little Caesars, The Bomb Bar and Choco-licious. Times will be shared at a later date.

We will not have a Foundation meeting in December as everyone is busy preparing for the holidays. Our **next meeting** will be **January 17, 2024 @ 6:30 pm** at the school library. It will be combined with the Millgrove School Council meeting.

On behalf of the Millgrove Foundation, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Allison Chuey
Millgrove School Community Foundation
President
millgrovescfoundation@gmail.com

**THANK
YOU** 



MILLGROVE SCHOOL COUNCIL

It's hard to believe that the holiday season is almost upon us! I just wanted to take this time to thank all the parent volunteers who helped out with our awesome school. It does not go unnoticed and we truly appreciate it!

Our next parent council meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 17th, 2024, at 6:30 pm** in the library.

As always, we welcome any new faces to join us. We will also host a joint meeting with the Millgrove Foundation board. This meeting will discuss anything happening in the school or in the division. As usual, we will have a school trustee there, our lovely principal, and vice principal. Meetings are short and sweet but informative!

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Happy holiday to you all!

Thanks,

Anna-Marie Jackson
Millgrove parent council chair
millgrove.scchair@partner.psd.ca



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

In our upcoming session, we will be joined by Lesley Robinson, a certified yoga instructor, for some calm and mindful movement that will help you unwind and prepare your body for a peaceful sleep. Remember to wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat with you (you might also want to bring a bottle of water).

Date: **Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023**

Time: **6-7:30pm**

Location: **Centre for Education** (4603 - 48 Street in Stony Plain) in the Boardroom

Presenters: **Lesley Robinson** (Certified Yoga Instructor)

Please register early to reserve your spot by visiting <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/strong-families-bedtime-yoga-tickets-741709040707?aff=oddtcreator>

Did you know that PSD publishes a monthly newsletter with information, opportunities and strategies to help families navigate their children's educational journey? To view the current issue (or past issues), please visit the [Stronger Together Newsletter](#) page.

For more information, please contact:

Fristy Thomas

Family Support Coordinator

Email: fristy.thomas@psd.ca

**Tuesday
Toast is
a hit!**



**THANK YOU TO
OUR DEDICATED
VOLUNTEERS!**

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED OUR NEWSLETTER