

DECEMBER 2024

# THE MILLGROVE MINUTE

*The official newsletter of Millgrove School*



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

**Mrs. Cameron**

Three months have passed since we first welcomed families and students back for the 2024-2025 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. 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!

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

- 
- **Winter Concerts**
  - **Hamper Items**
  - **Giving Tree**
  - **Fundraiser Pick-up Dec 10**
  - **Literacy & Numeracy**
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**MILLGROVE SCHOOL**

Phone: 780.962.6122

Email: [millgrove@psd.ca](mailto:millgrove@psd.ca)

Website: [millgrove.psd.ca](http://millgrove.psd.ca)

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

Winter is here, bringing snow, wind, and chilly temperatures! Well, last week anyway! To keep our students safe, please make sure your child is dressed warmly for outdoor activities. Our Severe Weather Protocol allows for outdoor activities to continue unless the temperature or wind chill reaches or drops below  $-23^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

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, we wish you a season of health, happiness, and cherished 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](mailto:lesley.cameron@psd.ca)

Michael Cherry, Assistant Principal  
[michael.cherry@psd.ca](mailto:michael.cherry@psd.ca)



# December

## Calendar of Events



Dec 3	Moana Jr - Horizon Stage - Gr K, 3 & 4
Dec 4	Moana Jr - Horizon Stage - Gr K, 1 & 2
Dec 6	Pre-paid Hot Lunch - KFC
Dec 9	Grade 2-4 Winter Concert Deadline for Ticket Ballots & Permissions
Dec 10	Millgrove Foundation Fundraiser Pick Up - School Lobby
Dec 13	Pre-paid Hot Lunch - Pizza 73 Kinette Christmas Hamper Items Due
Dec 16, 17 & 18	Grade 2-4 Winter Concerts - Horizon Stage (details sent home)
Dec 17 & 18	Grade K & 1 Winter Concerts - Millgrove Gym (details sent home)
Dec 19 & 20	Carol Sing 9:15 am - Millgrove Gym
Dec 20	Festive Wear Day
Dec 23-Jan 3	Winter Break
Jan 6	Return to School
Jan 10	Pre-paid Hot Lunch - DQ

## Stronger Together Newsletter

A monthly newsletter with information to help you and your family navigate your child's educational journey.

[December 2024](#)



## Winter Concerts Gr 2-4 Horizon Stage

Concert dates are **December 16, 17 and 18** at the Horizon Stage. Each family receives two tickets. Please keep them in a safe place because everyone entering the Horizon Stage requires a ticket, including babes in arms.

Information and tickets have gone home to families. **There are two important pieces that need to be returned by Monday, December 9th:**

1. Extra Ticket Ballot - if families want more tickets, please return the ballot at the bottom of the information letter.
2. Permission Form - please return the permission form to allow students to walk to their dress rehearsal on the day of their evening concert.

## Carol Sing

Our students gather in the gymnasium for our annual CAROL SING on **December 19 and 20th at 9:15 am**. Parents are welcome to attend this festive event!

## Winter Concerts Kindergarten and Grade 1 - Millgrove Gym

Concert dates are **December 17 and 18** at the Millgrove School Gymnasium. No tickets are required for this concert. All are welcome to attend!

Dates are:

### **Tuesday, December 17**

- Noon - Tuesday/Thursday Kindergarten classes
- 2:00 pm - Mrs Mills and Miss Careless

### **Wednesday, December 18**

- Noon - Monday/Wednesday Kindergarten classes
- 2:00 pm - Ms Long and Mrs Johnstone



# Kinette Christmas Hamper Campaign

As the holiday season approaches, the Spruce Grove Kinette volunteers are working towards the 51st Annual Christmas Hamper campaign.

There are three ways to give.

- \$25 local GROCERY gift cards
- unwrapped GIFTS or \$25 local retail gift cards for children 17 and under
- donate directly to the [Spruce Grove Kinettes](#)

**Items will be accepted until Friday, December 13th!**

Thank you for your support with this local Christmas Hamper campaign. It truly makes a difference to families over the holidays!



**UNWRAPPED  
TOYS AND  
\$25 GIFT  
CARDS  
DUE DEC 13**

## Giving Tree



During the month of December, Millgrove School will be supporting families in our community to stay warm. We will accept donations of **new mittens, toques, scarves and socks until December 13th.**

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,  
SCARVES  
AND SOCKS  
DUE DEC 13**



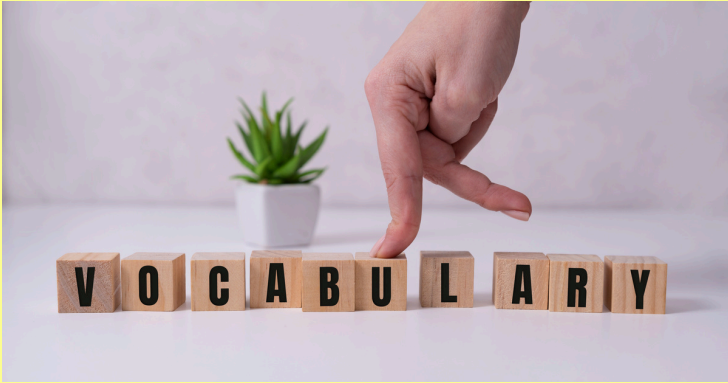
## BUDDY CLASSES



## WE REMEMBER



# Literacy Tips



Vocabulary refers to the words we must understand to communicate effectively. We often consider four types of vocabulary: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Listening vocabulary refers to the words we need to know to understand what we hear. Speaking vocabulary consists of the words we use when we speak. Reading vocabulary refers to the words we need to know to understand what we read. Writing vocabulary consists of the words we use in writing.

Vocabulary plays a fundamental role in the reading process, and contributes greatly to a reader's comprehension. A reader cannot understand a text without knowing what most of the words mean. Students learn the meanings of most words indirectly, through everyday experiences with oral and written language. Other words are learned through carefully designed instruction.

Here are some clues for parents that a child may have difficulties as a result of his or her vocabulary:

- They are unable to tell about their day in a way that makes sense.
- They misuse common words.
- They don't link words from a book to similar words from another book or from real life.
- They are often not able to find the right word to describe something.

Kids can overcome vocabulary limitations that affect their reading. Below are some tips and specific things to do at home to help your child.

- Engage your child in conversations every day. If possible, include new and interesting words in your conversation.
- Read to your child each day. When the book contains a new or interesting word, pause and define the word for your child. After you're done reading, engage your child in a conversation about the book.
- Help build word knowledge by classifying and grouping objects or pictures while naming them.
- Help build your child's understanding of language by playing verbal games and telling jokes and stories.
- Encourage your child to read on his own. The more children read, the more words they encounter and learn.

Your Literacy Leads,  
Colleen Schmaus and Kelli Holden

# Numeracy

## Math Fun Over the Holidays!

December is a time to gather with friends and family—and what better way to enjoy those moments than by playing games! Games provide a fun, engaging way for children to build automaticity with math facts, practice problem-solving skills, and develop a strong sense of number—all while having a great time with loved ones.

When children play games, they often get two to three times the practice they would during traditional learning. Plus, they don't even realize they're learning! Thinking about strategies while playing enhances number sense and builds confidence in math.

### Family Favorite Board Games

Here are some fantastic board games that help reinforce math skills and are fun for everyone:

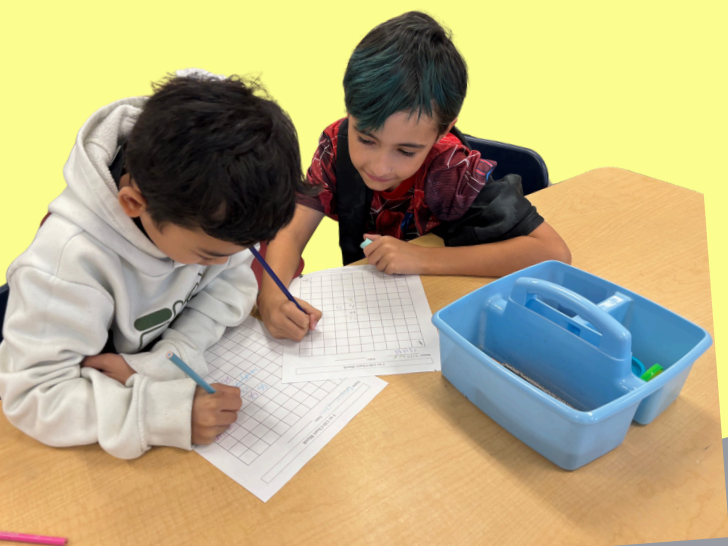
- **Connect Four:** Great for developing strategic thinking and pattern recognition.
- **Wits and Wagers:** A fun way to practice estimation and probability.
- **Prime Climb:** Builds multiplication and division skills in a colorful and engaging way.

For even more ideas, check out Gord Hamilton's site for an extensive list of math-focused games ([link](#)). Gord is a Calgary-based math teacher and mathematician who has curated an amazing collection of games that will delight kids of all ages. Another great collection is listed on this [link](#).

### Card and Dice Games

Simple card and dice games are another excellent way to practice math facts and strategies:

- **Cribbage:** Reinforces addition, counting, and patterns in numbers.
- **Ten Thousand** (a popular dice game): Builds number sense, addition, and probability skills. ([link](#))





# Numeracy

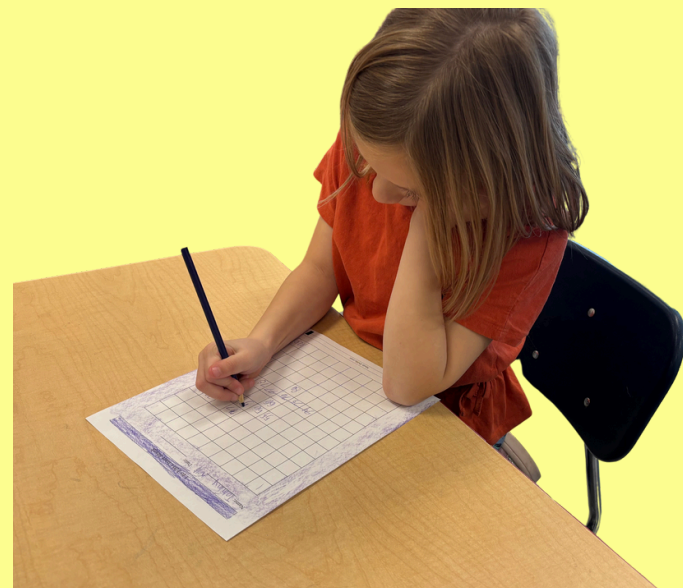
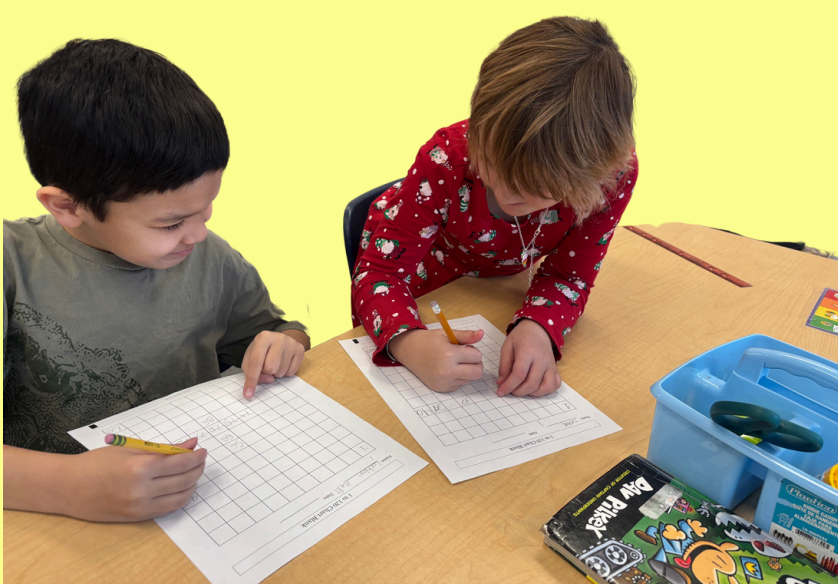
## Number Grid Tic Tac Toe

Looking for a game that builds counting skills, place value understanding, and addition and subtraction? Try Number Grid Tic Tac Toe! ([link](#))

- Start with a grid from 1 to 120. If your child needs extra support, fill in some of the numbers ahead of time.
- For a challenge, try a reverse countdown from 120 to 1 or start with a larger number like 501.
- This game is easy to play on paper or even on napkins while waiting for a meal at a restaurant.

## Make Math a Family Tradition

This holiday season, consider building in a tradition that incorporates numeracy. Whether it's a board game night, a quick card game after dinner, or a math-based challenge during a holiday gathering, every bit of practice helps your child develop math confidence and fluency. Thank you for supporting your child's learning and making math fun at home. Wishing you a joyful and math-filled holiday season!





# MILLGROVE SCHOOL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Winter Fundraiser Success!

We are thrilled to announce the incredible success of our winter fundraiser! Thanks to the overwhelming support from our amazing community, we managed to raise an impressive **\$6,093!**

**Important Reminder:** Pick-up for all orders is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th. Please remember that we do not have the fridge/freezer space to store items, so it's crucial to pick up your orders on this date. If you are unable to pick up your orders, please make arrangements with family or friends to collect them on your behalf.


The next round of hot lunch, milk and booster juice sales will be December 11-18. This will be for January.

We will not be having a Foundation meeting in December as everyone is busy preparing for the holidays. Our next meeting will be January 14, 2025 @ 6:30 pm at the school library. It will be combined with the Millgrove School Council meeting.

On behalf of the Millgrove Foundation I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Allison Chuey  
Millgrove School Community Foundation President

**Fundraiser  
Pick-up  
Tuesday,  
Dec 10!**

*Thank you...* 



**WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED OUR NEWSLETTER**

