

JANUARY 2025

THE MILLGROVE MINUTE

The official newsletter of Millgrove School



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Mrs. Cameron

Happy New Year! I trust that you had a wonderful Winter Break and are looking forward to all 2025 has in store. I hope that 2025 brings you and your family much health, happiness, and joy.

We would like to thank everyone who was able to enjoy our Winter Concerts and celebrate the musical talent of our students. Our students in Kindergarten through Grade Four did an amazing job singing, playing instruments, and acting! A huge shout out to Mrs. Kathryn Davies for all of her work with the Music classes and our homeroom teachers for their work in supporting all of the pieces that bring our shows together. It truly takes a team to pull off our concerts, so thank you to all staff for your contributions!

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

-
- **Report Cards**
 - **PJ Day & PEP Rally**
 - **Choir**
 - **Rainbows Program**
 - **Archery**
-

MILLGROVE SCHOOL

Phone: 780.962.6122

Email: millgrove@psd.ca

Website: millgrove.psd.ca

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

We would also like to thank all of our parent volunteers for your ongoing generosity with your time and efforts. We are thankful for the parents and community members who help with the Snack Shack preparations daily, as well as our Toast Tuesday and milk and hot lunch parent crews! Thank you for your time and dedication to the school!

Term One report cards will be live to families on Thursday, January 30th, 2024. Report cards can be accessed through the Parent Portal on PowerSchool. If you have any questions about your child's learning and progress, you are encouraged to reach out to your child's teacher.

We also look forward to welcoming new Kindergarten students for the 2025-2026 school year and their families to our Kindergarten Open House on Wednesday, February 12th at 6:00 pm. If you have a child entering Kindergarten next fall, please Save the Date! More information to come on our website in the coming weeks.

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please call, email, or book a time to meet in person.

Sincerely,

Lesley Cameron, Principal
lesley.cameron@psd.ca

Michael Cherry, Assistant Principal
michael.cherry@psd.ca

HAPPY
New Year

JANUARY

Calendar of Events

- Jan 10 Pre-paid Hot Lunch - Dairy Queen
- Jan 14 School Council & Foundation Meeting 6:30 pm
- Jan 15 In-School Field Trip - Clay for Kids - Grade 1's
- Jan 17 Pre-paid Hot Lunch - Pizza 73
- Jan 17 Whole School PJ DAY and PEP RALLY! 1:50 pm in the Gym
- Jan 22 Educational Assistants Appreciation Day
- Jan 24 Pre-paid Hot Lunch - Pretzel Shack
- Jan 28 Pre-paid Booster Juice
- Jan 30 Report Cards Available on the Parent Portal
- Jan 30 Pre-paid Hot Lunch - Subway
- Feb 1 Counsellors, Therapists & Wellness Workers Appreciation Week
- Feb 5 Pre-paid Hot Lunch - Boston Pizza
- Feb 5 Winter Walk Day
- Feb 6 & 7 Teacher's Convention (no school for students)



**To all of our
Educational
Assistants,
Thank
You!**

Educational Assistants Appreciation Day | January 22

Report Cards Coming Soon!

Report Cards will be available on the [Parent Portal](#) on **Thursday, January 30th**. Please log in to your [PowerSchool account](#).

Once in Power School, you'll see the Report Card icon on the left menu.

If you need a password reset or any other help, please email our office at millgrove@psd.ca or call 780-962-6122 ext. 0.

Music Notes Millgrove Choir



Welcome back and Happy New Year!

Millgrove runs a choir for students in grades 3 and 4 that starts in early January and runs until early April. We rehearse once a week during second recess and prepare to perform at Choral Celebration. Choral Celebration is a district wide performance opportunity that brings together choirs from across our district to perform for each other and celebrate making music. Interested students simply need to commit to coming to rehearsals to learn the songs and participate positively. **A field trip permission letter will go home closer to the performance date, which is TBA.** Cost is usually \$5.00 that covers a pizza lunch after we return for Choral Celebration. We also perform for the parent volunteer tea and we may also be participating in a Choral Day at Greystone Middle School.

Finally, as an early reminder, when we perform the choir looks absolutely wonderful when everyone dresses alike. Choir members are to wear black bottoms (pants, skirt) and a black top (no pictures, words, spaghetti straps, and tank tops) for performances.

Mrs Davies



PJ Pep Rally!

Families are invited to our Millgrove Pep Rally on **Friday, January 17th at 1:50 pm** in the gym.

We will celebrate belonging to our Millgrove School community by gathering together and sharing our school song, a new cheer, and even a skit by a few staff members!

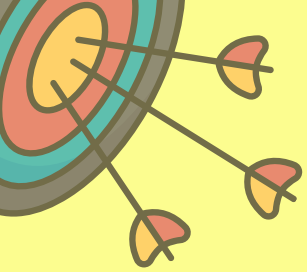
After the assembly, students will return to their classrooms and cozy up in their PJs for some school-wide reading.

Rainbows Program

Rainbows is a school-based program led by trained facilitators supporting children with grief and loss. Students who may benefit from the Rainbows Program are those who are dealing with changes in family structure, including separation or divorce and/or loss of a loved one. With parent permission, students become part of a cohort group run during lunch recesses, typically on a weekly basis for the duration of the program.

If you would like to refer your child for this program, please contact your child's homeroom teacher or call Mrs. Cameron or Mr. Cherry at the school.





Millstone Archery Club

We are excited to announce the beginning of the archery season!

The National Archery in the Schools Program aims to improve educational performance among students in grades 4 to 12. Students learn focus, self-control, discipline, patience, and the life lessons required to be successful in the classroom and in life. This will be the 9th year that the NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program) program will be running at Millgrove. Our team has several NASP-trained archery coaches and has gained a reputation throughout the years as having one of the best-trained teams in Alberta. The team has won multiple tournaments throughout the years and earned back-to-back Provincial Championships in the Elementary Division and Reserve Champions in the Middle School Division. We are looking forward to continuing this success. With over 150 archers on the team ranging from grades 4 to 12, we hold the distinction of having the largest archery team in Canada! The school provides ALL of the necessary equipment, and archery is for ANY child who ENJOYS archery and is willing to learn and follow directions. All grade 4's will be able to try out archery in January. They also have the opportunity to join the Millstone Archery Team if they are further interested in archery and archery competitions. Team practices are after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, with the first competitions happening in February. ***Watch your inbox for an email on how to sign up.***

If you have any questions about the archery program, please contact Mr. Cherry.
michael.cherry@psd.ca



Literacy

COMPREHENSION

Comprehension is the understanding and interpretation of what is read. To be able to accurately understand written material, children need to be able to (1) decode what they read; (2) make connections between what they read and what they already know; and (3) think deeply about what they have read.

One big part of comprehension is having a sufficient vocabulary, or knowing the meanings of enough words. Readers who have strong comprehension are able to draw conclusions about what they read – what is important, what is a fact, what caused an event to happen, which characters are funny. Thus comprehension involves combining reading with thinking and reasoning.

Here are some clues for parents that a child may have problems with comprehension:

- They are not able to summarize a passage or a book.
- They might be able to tell you what happened in a story, but can't explain why events went the way they did.
- They can't explain what a character's thoughts or feelings might have been.
- They don't link events in a book to similar events from another book or from real life.

What parents can do to help at home:

- Hold a conversation and discuss what your child has read. Ask your child probing questions about the book and connect the events to his or her own life. For example, say "I wonder why that girl did that?" or "How do you think he felt? Why?" and "So, what lesson can we learn here?"

Help your child make connections between what he or she reads and similar experiences he has felt, saw in a movie, or read in another book.

Help your child monitor his or her understanding. Teach them to continually ask themselves whether they understand what they're reading.

Help your child go back to the text to support his or her answers.

Discuss the meanings of unknown words, both what they read and hear.

Read material in short sections, making sure your child understands each step of the way.

Discuss what your child has learned from reading informational text such as a science or social studies book.

Your Literacy Leads,
Colleen Schmaus and Kelli Holden

Literacy



Numeracy

Fractions are a key part of math success, yet they're often one of the most challenging concepts for students to master. With hands-on experience and a focus on making connections, we can help children build a strong foundation and confidence in understanding fractions—making them less intimidating and more fun!

Fractions: A Natural Part of Life

Fractions are essentially about sharing, something children encounter daily. Whether dividing a pizza, sharing cookies, or splitting toys, kids already understand the idea of “fair shares” and the need for equal parts. This real-world experience gives them a head start in understanding fractions as parts of a whole.

Connect Fractions to What Children Already Know

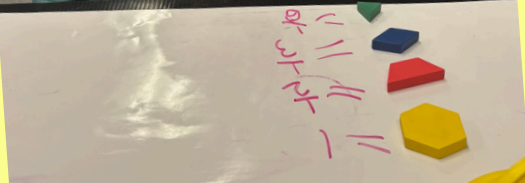
Fractions shouldn't feel like brand-new content. Instead, they should be connected to what children already understand about numbers and counting. For example:

- Counting forward and backward with fractions is similar to counting with whole numbers. Instead of 1, 2, 3, children can practice $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{3}{3}$, $\frac{4}{3}$, etc.
- Recognizing wholes and parts builds on their existing knowledge of splitting objects into equal groups, like dividing a snack or sharing toys.
- Seeing fractions in everyday contexts—like cooking, sharing, or measuring—reinforces that fractions are just another way of describing numbers.

Key Concept: What is the whole?

To truly grasp fractions, children need plenty of hands-on practice and opportunities to connect fractions to their everyday lives. One critical concept to emphasize is understanding the whole.

What is the whole? This is the first and most important question when working with fractions. For example, if $\frac{4}{3}$ is written, we need to identify the whole to understand that $\frac{4}{3}$ equals 1 whole and $\frac{1}{3}$. If I've eaten $\frac{3}{8}$ of an orange, the whole orange had 8 pieces.



Numeracy continued

Key Concept: Denominators and Piece Sizes

One area where children often get confused is with denominators—the number of equal parts a whole is divided into. A key idea to reinforce is that the larger the denominator, the smaller the piece. For example, cutting a pizza into 8 slices creates smaller pieces than cutting it into 4 slices. Use everyday experiences like slicing cakes, sandwiches, or fruit to help your child visualize and understand this concept.

Fractions in the Kitchen

Cooking is a fantastic way to practice fractions in a real-world context. Recipes often include fractions, providing a perfect opportunity to explore concepts like:

- Adding fractions (e.g., combining $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sugar with another $\frac{1}{2}$ cup to make 1 cup).
- Equivalent fractions (e.g., $\frac{2}{4}$ cup equals $\frac{1}{2}$ cup).

Measuring and mixing ingredients make math meaningful, interactive, and delicious!

Making Fractions Fun at Home

Here are a few ideas to integrate fractions into everyday life:

- Play with food: Divide pizzas, cakes, or sandwiches into fractions and discuss the sizes of the pieces.
- Cook together: Let your child measure ingredients, adjust recipes, and explore equivalent fractions.
- Practice counting: Count forward and backward with fractions, connecting them to the idea of wholes and parts.

By turning fractions into a hands-on, engaging experience, you can help your child build a strong understanding and confidence in this important area of math!





MILLGROVE SCHOOL COUNCIL

Hello Millgrove families!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season!

Our next **school council meeting** will be held **Tuesday, January 14th 2025 at 6:30pm** in the library at the school. This will be a joint meeting with the Millgrove Foundation board. This meeting will discuss anything happening in our school or in the division.

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

Thanks,

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

MILLGROVE SCHOOL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Hello Millgrove Families!

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a great start to the New Year!

Hot Lunch Sales: The next round of hot lunch sales will be from January 15-22 for the February menu. Please ensure all orders and payments are completed by 3:30 pm on January 22.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be on **January 14, 2025, at 6:30 pm** in the school library. This meeting will be in combination with the Millgrove School Council Meeting. We encourage everyone to come out and have input on the next fundraiser as well as finalize options for school apparel.

We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your ideas!

Allison Chuey
Millgrove School Community Foundation President

*Come
join
us!*



WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED OUR NEWSLETTER