

MARCH 2025

# THE MILLGROVE MINUTE

*The official newsletter of Millgrove School*



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

**Mrs. Cameron**

Hello Millgrove families,  
After a very cold February, we have some lovely early spring weather to help us welcome the month of March!

After needing to reschedule due to the cold wind chills a few times, our Snow Maze Day was a tremendous success again this year! Thank you to our parent organizer and volunteers for making this such a great experience for our students. Your time and support is greatly appreciated.

We have some exciting events coming up with our Choir and another Pep Rally celebrating all things numeracy on Pi Day! Check it out in the coming pages.

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

---

- **Millgrove Choir Updates**
  - **Millstone Archery Club**
  - **Pi Day Pep Rally**
  - **Literacy - Encouraging Writing**
  - **Numeracy - Spatial Awareness**
- 

**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

As you may have seen in your email inbox, registration for the 2025-2026 school year is now open. This is for returning students as well as new students. Please ensure registration is completed by March 28, 2025 at 4:30 pm, especially if you require bus transportation. This helps our planning at the school level and ensures your child is routed on a bus.

Due to the ongoing [CUPE labour strike](#), our schools are currently experiencing staffing shortages, which have required adjustments to regular operations. As a result, the parent-teacher interviews that typically take place at this time of year will be postponed. We understand the importance of these conversations and will re-evaluate the situation in April.

In the meantime, we encourage families to use all the tools available to them to stay engaged in their student(s)' learning progress. The PowerSchool Parent Portal remains a valuable tool for monitoring grades (where applicable) and staying informed. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Thank you for your continued engagement with your child(ren)'s learning and our school. We greatly appreciate our parents and families as important partners in education.

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

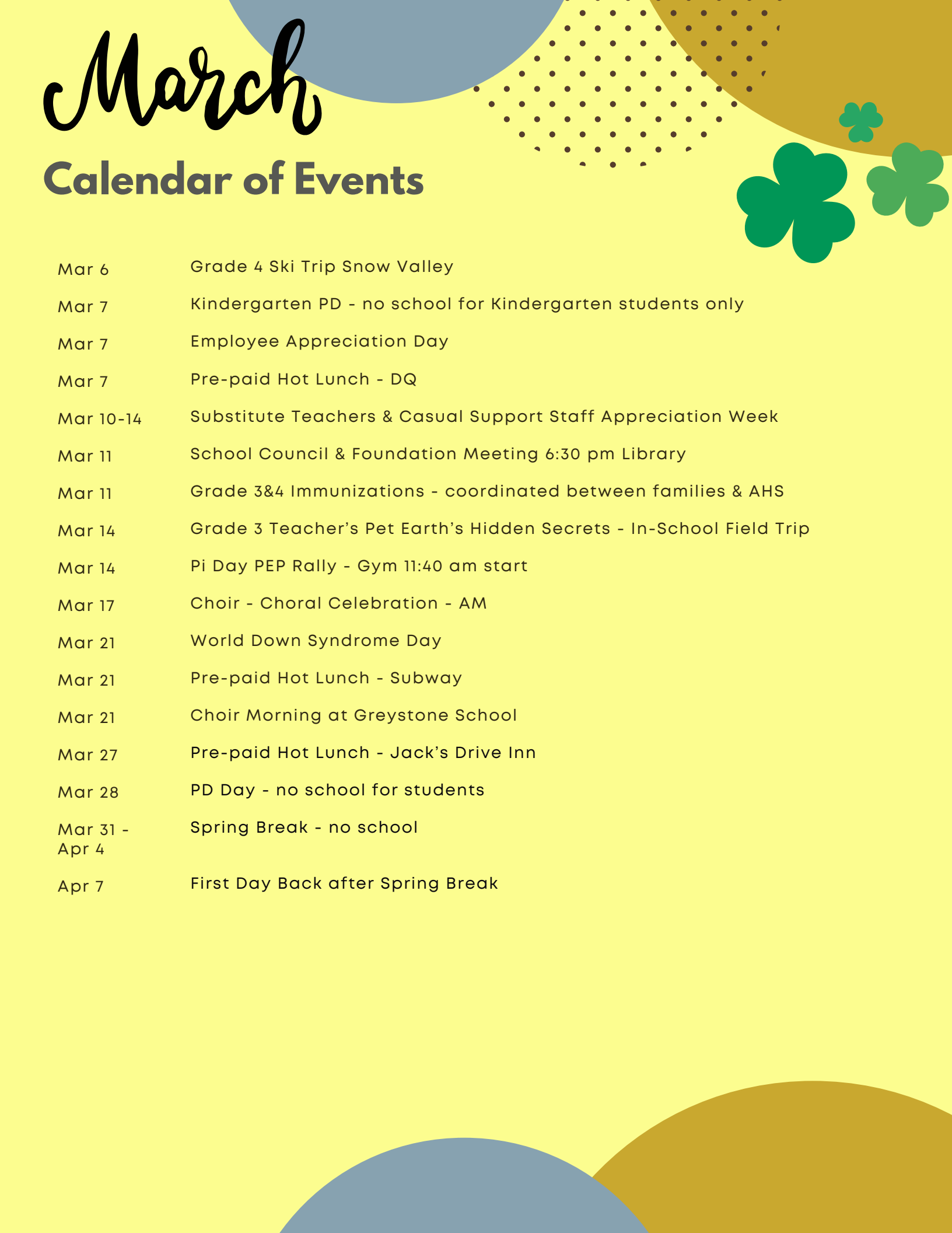
Sincerely,

Lesley Cameron, Principal  
[lesley.cameron@psd.ca](mailto:lesley.cameron@psd.ca)

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

# March

## Calendar of Events



Mar 6	Grade 4 Ski Trip Snow Valley
Mar 7	Kindergarten PD - no school for Kindergarten students only
Mar 7	Employee Appreciation Day
Mar 7	Pre-paid Hot Lunch - DQ
Mar 10-14	Substitute Teachers & Casual Support Staff Appreciation Week
Mar 11	School Council & Foundation Meeting 6:30 pm Library
Mar 11	Grade 3&4 Immunizations - coordinated between families & AHS
Mar 14	Grade 3 Teacher's Pet Earth's Hidden Secrets - In-School Field Trip
Mar 14	Pi Day PEP Rally - Gym 11:40 am start
Mar 17	Choir - Choral Celebration - AM
Mar 21	World Down Syndrome Day
Mar 21	Pre-paid Hot Lunch - Subway
Mar 21	Choir Morning at Greystone School
Mar 27	Pre-paid Hot Lunch - Jack's Drive Inn
Mar 28	PD Day - no school for students
Mar 31 - Apr 4	Spring Break - no school
Apr 7	First Day Back after Spring Break



# Millgrove Choir Updates

We are thrilled to have approximately 55 students from grades 3 and 4 join the Millgrove Choir this year! We have three important dates to remember:

**March 17- Choral Celebration (daytime)**

**March 21- Choir Day at Greystone (daytime)**

**March 24- Greystone Spring Concert (evening)**

We are busy practicing for **Choral Celebration** which is being held on **Monday, March 17** at West Meadows Baptist Church (9333 - 199 St NW) from 9:45am-12:05 noon. Parents are welcome to attend and the concert should also be live streamed.

We will be going to **Greystone School** for a Choir Day (morning) on **March 21**. Students will enjoy learning a song together and performing for each other. This event is not open to parents.

Finally, we also have been invited to perform at **Greystone Middle School's Spring Concert** which is being held **March 24** at 6:30pm at Greystone School. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our choir and sing for a different audience. Parents are absolutely welcome to attend this show! More details will be found in the permission forms. Questions can be directed to Mrs Davies and Mrs Davidson!

**Permission forms for March 17th and 21st have gone home with choir students. Please return ASAP if not done so already.**



# Millstone Archery Club

The Millstone Archery Team's season is in full stride, with all 200 archers continuing to work hard and fine-tune their skills. March is a busy and exciting month for the team as they compete in several tournaments, leading up to Provincials on March 22nd. The elementary team is especially eager to defend their provincial title!

A highlight of the month will be our **home tournament on March 15th at Greystone**, marking the third consecutive year our team has hosted this event. We look forward to welcoming teams from across the province for what promises to be an exciting day of competition.

Thank you to our dedicated volunteer coaches and supporters who have made this season such a success.

If you have any questions about the archery program, please contact Mr. Cherry at [michael.cherry@psd.ca](mailto:michael.cherry@psd.ca).

**REMINDER**

## Registration for ALL Returning Grade 1-4 Students

In addition to New Kindergarten registration, Parkland School Division's annual online registration/verification process for **ALL RETURNING STUDENTS** is **NOW OPEN**.

### Important Registration Dates

- **Friday, March 28, 2025 at 4:30pm - Registration deadline.** For further information, visit our [Registration](#) page.
- **Friday, June 20, 2025 - Bus pass deadline** to make payment arrangements or pay-in-full.
- **Early July 2025** - Bus passes and route numbers will be mailed to parents starting at the beginning of July.



## Pi Day Pep Rally!

Families are invited to another **Millgrove Pep Rally** on **Friday, March 14 at 11:45 am** in the gym.

Join us as we celebrate the magic of numbers at our **Numeracy Assembly!**

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 4 will showcase their number skills through songs, cheers, a fun-filled skit, and exciting math activities—including a special focus on **Pi Day** and the **Power of Ten**. With music, movement, and math-tastic moments, this assembly will prove that **numbers are everywhere—and they add up to fun!**

Students are encouraged to wear math-themed clothing. It could be a shirt with numbers, or even a collecting of items - like polkadots!

Following the assembly, students will engage in math games back in their classrooms to practice many great skills.

# Literacy

## 7 GREAT WAYS TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD'S WRITING

If your child struggles with writing, it's important to find new and exciting ways to encourage them to write. Here are some creative ways to try:

### 1. Write a "Convince Me!" letter

Writing isn't just about telling stories or reporting on books. There are many ways your child can use words, including trying to convince others to agree with them. You can help them practice this type of writing by letting them argue with you—in writing! Choose a topic you don't agree on, such as allowance or bedtime. Have your child write you a letter trying to convince you to change your mind. The catch? They have to use facts, quotes and logic to back up their argument.

### 2. Play a game with pictures

Photos and images are great story sparkers. Do a web search and find a few interesting images. Or cut out pictures from magazines. The pictures can be realistic, such as a photo of students on a playground. Or they can be fantastical images, such as a superhero flying in space.

Glue a couple images into a notebook. Then ask your child to write about one of them. You can prompt them, asking them to include what they see, what the people are thinking, what will happen next—or just let their imagination run free.

### 3. Play "Tell Me How"

In this activity your child pretends they're writing to a space alien who doesn't know anything about our culture. This alien does everything exactly as it's said or written.

Your child's job is to choose an everyday task, like brushing their teeth or making a sandwich. Then, they need to write step-by-step directions about how to do the task for the alien. When they're done, you get to be the alien and try to follow the steps exactly as they wrote them. They may be surprised at what they left out!

### 4. Make an "I Can" book

As your child learns to write, they'll also be learning other new skills. Making an "I Can" book will let them practice writing skills and keep track of their other accomplishments. Staple together a bunch of blank sheets of paper to make a book. As your child reaches a new milestone, such as learning to tie her shoes or hit a baseball, they can draw a picture on a new page of the book. Younger kids can then write, "I can tie my shoes." Older kids can write a few sentences about what they've accomplished.

# Literacy continued

## 5. PLAY “FORTUNATELY/UNFORTUNATELY”

This turn-taking writing game is based on a classic kids’ book by Remy Charlip called *Fortunately*. In it, something lucky happens and then something unlucky happens. Each event is introduced by either the word “fortunately” or the word “unfortunately.”

To play, take a piece of paper and write a sentence beginning with “Fortunately,” such as “Fortunately it was a sunny day. I wanted to play outside.” Pass the paper to the next player, who will add an “unfortunately” sentence, such as “Unfortunately, I had to clean my room.” Keep going until the story is too silly to continue.

## 6. Make a journal jar

A journal doesn’t have to be a diary. It can also be a book where your child writes about ideas or answers questions, like “If you could do anything next summer, what would you choose?” A journal jar is a place to keep all those ideas and questions.

Wash and decorate a wide-mouthed jar, like one that used to contain peanut butter. Then, write or print out journal prompts on slips of paper. Ask your child to pull out one prompt each day and write about it in their journal.

## 7. Create a family scrapbook

A family scrapbook is a great way to save memories and jump-start your child’s writing. Use an inexpensive photo album to keep souvenirs of things you do together. This can include photos, ticket stubs, and found objects, like pretty leaves.

Your child can begin by writing the date and a line about where you were and what you did. Then, you can work together to write a more detailed summary. Don’t forget to include funny or even annoying moments!

Happy writing!

Your Literacy Leads,

Colleen Schmaus and Kelli Holden

# Numeracy

## Math Focus: The Importance of Spatial Awareness

Did you know that strong spatial awareness skills can lead to greater success in math? Research has shown that early spatial skills—like understanding how objects relate to each other in space—are closely linked to later achievement in numeracy.

### What is Spatial Awareness?

Simply put, spatial awareness is the ability to understand where your body and objects are in space. It helps children visualize shapes, navigate their environment, and recognize patterns—all essential skills for math learning.

### How Can You Support Spatial Awareness at Home?

Although spatial awareness isn't always a major focus in the curriculum, it plays a crucial role in developing math skills. The good news? You can help your child build these skills through fun, hands-on activities!

**Building and Creating:** Encourage your child to build with blocks, LEGO, or magnetic tiles. Ask them to design and recreate structures to develop their understanding of 2D and 3D shapes.

**Puzzles and Patterns:** Completing jigsaw puzzles, tangrams, and pattern-building games can strengthen their ability to visualize and manipulate objects in space.

**Exploring Maps:** In the age of GPS, we don't always rely on maps, but using them is a fantastic way to develop spatial thinking! Look at a map with your child before a trip, talk about directions, and predict what will come next. You can also explore how turning left or right changes your position on the map.

**Obstacle Courses & Movement Games:** Create a simple obstacle course at home or at the park. Have your child crawl under tables, jump over pillows, or weave between objects. Activities like Simon Says and Twister also encourage spatial thinking and body awareness.

**Drawing and Origami:** Encourage your child to draw objects from different perspectives (e.g., "What does the house look like from the top?"). Origami and paper-folding activities help children follow step-by-step instructions while improving spatial reasoning.

**Mirror and Symmetry Play:** Use a mirror and different objects to explore symmetry. You can also create half of a picture and have your child complete the other side to match!

**Play with Mazes & Treasure Hunts:** Have your child complete maze puzzles or create their own. You can also set up a scavenger hunt where they follow spatial clues like "Take three steps forward, turn left, and look under the chair."

Spatial awareness helps children in many areas of math, including geometry, measurement, and even problem-solving. By encouraging hands-on exploration and play, you're helping them build a strong foundation for future math success!

Your Numeracy Lead,

Kelli Holden



# Millgrove School Foundation

Hello Millgrove Families!

## Exciting Fundraisers Coming Up!

We are thrilled to announce our upcoming fundraisers at the end of March. These events are a fantastic opportunity to support our school!

**School Apparel Fundraiser:** Get ready to show your school spirit! Our first fundraiser will feature a variety of school apparel. From t-shirts to hoodies, there will be something for everyone. Stay tuned for more details on how you can purchase and support our school.

**Spellathon:** Sharpen your spelling skills and get ready for our Spellathon! This fun and educational event will challenge students to spell their way to success while raising funds for our school. More information on how to participate and sponsor will be available soon.

Keep an eye out for more information in the coming weeks. We appreciate your support and look forward to making these events a great success!

**Hot Lunch Sales:** The next round of hot lunch sales will be from March 12-19 for the April menu. Please ensure all orders and payments are completed by 3:30 pm on March 19.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on March 11, 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 attend and participate in the discussions.

Allison Chuey  
Millgrove School Community Foundation  
President

# Millgrove School Council

Hello Millgrove families!

Our next **school council meeting** will be held **Tuesday, March 11 2025 at 6:30pm** in the library at the school. This will be a joint meeting with the Millgrove Foundations board. If you have any questions about anything happening in the school or division, this is a great meeting to attend. There will be a PSD trustee in attendance as well as our Millgrove leadership team, and they are always happy to dig into any topic we would like to discuss.

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

Thanks,

Anna-Marie Jackson  
Millgrove School Council Chair  
[millgrove.scchair@partner.psd.ca](mailto:millgrove.scchair@partner.psd.ca)



**WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED OUR NEWSLETTER**

