

SEPTEMBER 2025

# THE MILLGROVE MINUTE

*The official newsletter of Millgrove School*



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

**Mrs. Cameron**

Dear Millgrove Families,

As we opened our doors for another year of learning earlier this week, I want to extend a warm welcome to both our returning families and those who are joining us for the first time. We are thrilled to have your children as part of our school community.

We are so pleased to welcome back our K-4 students with approximately 465 students attending Millgrove School. The first few weeks are always filled with exciting times where peers and teachers get to know one another and engage in amazing learning opportunities as a classroom community.

## HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

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- Hot Diggity Open House
- Student Absence Reporting
- Counting Kindness by the Pound
- School Council & Foundation AGM

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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

The only new addition to our staff this fall and new voice on the other end of the call if you phone into the school is Mrs. Brooke Bilyk. Mrs. Bilyk works alongside Mrs. Regan in the office, covering Mrs. Perzylo's maternity leave.

Our school continues to focus on fostering an environment where every child can thrive, and this year we remain focused on supporting the growth and skill-building of our students in several key areas: literacy, numeracy, and wellness. We are excited to kick off our "Counting Kindness by the Pound" challenge next week. Have a peek and read all about it on page 5.

September is always a busy month at school and we encourage you to check out our [website](#) where you will find our [Calendar of Events](#). Our website is where you will also find information about hot lunch and milk programs, information about our school community, and more!

Thank you for your continued support, trust and partnership in working with your children. Here's to a fantastic year of growth, learning, and discovery at Millgrove School where "Learning Today Brightens Tomorrow"!

Please reach out by phone, email, or book a time to meet with us if you have questions or concerns.

Yours in learning,

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)



# September

## Calendar of Events

Sep 5	Welcome Assembly - Gymnasium 11:45 am
Sep 11	Cross Country Race #1, Forest Green hosting at Old Memorial
Sep 15	Dot Day
Sep 18	Cross Country Race #2, Brookwood School hosting at Woodhaven School
Sep 18	Hot Diggity Open House 5:00-6:30 pm
Sep 19	Terry Fox Run
Sep 23	Cross Country Race #3, Entwistle School
Sep 26	Orange Shirt Day
Sep 29	PD Day - no school for students
Sep 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
Oct 2	Cross Country Race #4, High Park
Oct 3	World Teachers' Day
Oct 8	School Council & Foundation AGM 6:30 pm in the library

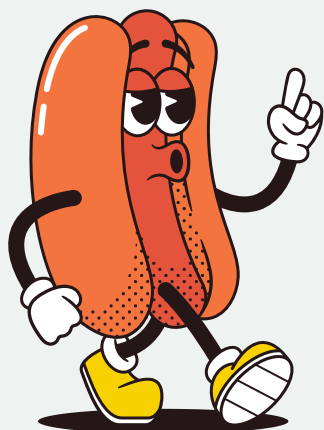
## Hot Diggity Open House September 18th 5:00-6:30 pm

You are invited to our Hot Diggity Open House!

Visit the classrooms, meet your child's teacher and visit all our shared spaces, like our library and music room. We'll be serving free Nathan's hot dogs, chips and juice in our gymnasium throughout the evening. Gluten-free and vegetarian options will be available.

We are hoping for some volunteers to help us make our evening a success. We are looking for 2 BBQ cooks and 6 helpers to set up and wrap hot dogs from 3:30-6:00 pm. If you are interested and able to help for a portion of that time, please contact Toresa Regan at [millgrove@psd.ca](mailto:millgrove@psd.ca). We'll ensure every volunteer has the time to visit classrooms with their children.

Thank you! We look forward to getting together as a community for a great evening!





# STUDENT ABSENCE REPORTING

As previously shared in an email prior to the first day of school, we wanted to remind you of an important change in our practices around reporting student absences to the school, as student safety is our number one priority.

If you had a student in the school last year, you would have received some communication about this change, and many of you began using it last spring.

While it has been common practice for families to call or email the school office or send the teacher a message on Seesaw if your child will be absent from school, moving forward, PSD is using the SafeArrival system through School Messenger. You are asked to report your child's absence using one of these three convenient methods:

1. **Get the SM Home app from your app store or visit <https://schoolmessenger.ca/>**  
Tap Sign Up to create your account. If signing up for the first time, there will be an email verification step. Please use your email address that is already on file with the school. Select "Attendance" from the menu, and then select "Report an Absence".
2. **Web and Mobile Web: [home.schoolmessenger.ca](https://home.schoolmessenger.ca)**  
Visit the website [home.schoolmessenger.ca](https://home.schoolmessenger.ca). Click Sign Up to create your account or log in if you have previously used this website. If signing up for the first time, there will be an email verification step.  
Select "Attendance" from the menu, and then select "Report an Absence".
3. **Interactive Toll-free Phone: Call the toll-free, interactive telephone system at (833) 326-7959.** Follow the instructions to report an absence.

Absences can be reported at any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in advance if an absence is known, and up until the cut-off time for the school attendance call-out system on the day of the absence (9:30 am at Millgrove School).

If you do not report your child's absence in advance, the automated notification system will try to contact you (using your communication preferences if you have set them up in SchoolMessenger Home app). This may include push notifications in the app, email, SMS text messages, and/or phone calls. You will be asked to provide the reason for your child's absence. You may do so using the mobile app, website, or phone line.

While we recognize this is a change to the familiar and current practices, we appreciate your support and shift over to one of these three methods.

# COUNTING KINDNESS BY THE POUND FOR OUR COMMUNITY

This fall, our early years schools are putting kindness into action — and making it visible in our community!

We've teamed up with Brookwood School to take on a special challenge: **collecting one pound of non-perishable food for every child in our schools.**

Here's how it works:

- **Food donations** can be dropped off in the front entryway of the school.
- Each morning, we will weigh the donations and share daily updates on the total pounds collected across our schools.
- The **final day to bring in donations** is **Monday, October 6.**

On October 6, each school will reveal its grand total — and we'll celebrate the winning school! All donations will be delivered to the Food Bank that same day to help stock the shelves for Thanksgiving.





## VISITORS TO OUR SCHOOL

We love to see your faces bright and early, but our **supervision** does not start until **8:40 am**. Please refer to the [Student Handbook](#) for information about our school.

**Our parking lot is one-way**, starting south of the school on Marlboro Drive and entering at the alley, and exiting north on Millgrove Drive.

There is no parking in bus lanes, staff parking (along the north fence and west lilac bushes), and fire lanes. Handicap parking is for registered tag holders only.

Please drive slowly and be considerate; we are a busy place!

Parents picking up children during school hours, please visit our office and sign them out in our visitor book just inside the office doors. **If you are visiting classrooms for any reason, you must sign in and wear a visitor tag.**

Thank you, we appreciate your continued support.

thanks  
for your  
support

## SCHOOL FEES

Fee notices have been sent home in your child's backpack. Please remit payment by September 30, 2025. 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 Bilyk at 780-962-6122 ext. 0 or email her at [brooke.bilyk@psd.ca](mailto:brooke.bilyk@psd.ca).

Thank you!





# Millgrove Foundation

On behalf of the Millgrove School Community Foundation, welcome to the 2025/2026 school year at Millgrove Community School!

For those of you who are new, the Millgrove School Community Foundation is a group of dedicated volunteers and elected board members who organize and manage our fundraising, Hot Lunch & Milk Program, Toast Day, and Snack Shack Prep.. The money we collect through fundraising goes to support many different programs and items that benefit the students.

## You're Invited to Our AGM!

 Date: **Wednesday, October 8th**

 Time: 6:30 PM

 Location: Millgrove School Library

Join us for the Millgrove School Community Foundation Annual General Meeting! This is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about what we do, get involved, and even run for a position on the board.

By becoming part of the Foundation, you'll have a voice in key decisions—like which fundraisers we take on and how we allocate funds to enhance student experiences at Millgrove School. Here is an overview of the positions:

### Board Positions Overview:

- President: Chair meetings, coordinate programs & fundraisers, and work with the principal.
- Vice-President: Assist the President and chair meetings if the President is unavailable.
- Treasurer: Manage all financial aspects of the Foundation.
- Secretary: Take minutes during meetings.

### Coordinator Roles:

- Hot Lunch Coordinator: Book vendors, manage the hot lunch site, and organize volunteers.

- Milk Coordinator: Order milk, manage the milk site, and organize volunteers.

### Hot Lunch & Milk Program Update

We're excited to let you know that our Hot Lunch and Milk Program will be running the same way as last year!

- Hot Lunch: Parents will continue to pre-order on a monthly basis.
- Milk Program: Milk will be available through pre-purchased milk tickets.

Both programs will begin in October, and more details will be shared soon. Stay tuned!

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact me at [millgrovescfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:millgrovescfoundation@gmail.com)

I hope to see you at the AGM!

Allison Chuey

Millgrove School Community Foundation  
President

## Millgrove Council

Just a friendly reminder to join us for our upcoming joint Parent Council and Millgrove Foundations AGM. They will both take place on **Wednesday, October 8th**, in the Millgrove library at **6:30pm**.

There are currently open positions on both boards, and volunteers truly do make a big difference. Without them, we can't run all the great extra programs that our kids all really enjoy.

Meetings are short and informative, and we'd love to see you there! Please reach out if you have any questions to the current chairs,

Anna-Marie Jackson & Allison Chuey  
Parent Council/Millgrove Foundation Chair  
[millgrove.scchair@partner.psd.ca](mailto:millgrove.scchair@partner.psd.ca)  
[millgrovescfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:millgrovescfoundation@gmail.com)



**We hope you enjoyed our newsletter!**