

THE MILTON EXPRESS

January 31, 2019

Message from the Principal

Although it is the shortest month of the year, February is certainly a busy and meaningful month. February is known for such things as Black History Month, Dental Health Month, and American Heart Month. Students will engage in exciting activities and lessons dedicated to such important events as the 100th Day of School, Groundhog Day, and President's Day.

When identifying February 14 as Valentine's Day on their calendars, many people begin to think about being kind and caring towards others. At Milton Avenue School, the students are consistently reminded of the importance of engaging in activities that show kindness towards others. Students and staff at Milton Avenue School took part in the Great Kindness Challenge during the week of January 28. Throughout the week, the children were encouraged to tally as many Random Acts of Kindness as possible. Let's continue to work together in allowing the children to become better citizens and make positive choices when interacting with their peers each day.

At Milton Avenue School, we continue to engage the students in activities aimed at developing social and emotional learning on the part of all of our students. At the PTO meeting on January 17, I had the opportunity to share information about Social and Emotional learning and how we promote it at Milton Avenue School. I encourage you to review this [presentation](#) to learn more about this important goal of ours. More information can also be found at the NJ Department of Education [website](#).

In closing, we appreciate all that you do at home to further promote the importance of kindness, caring, and respect towards others not only during the month of February, but throughout the entire year as well. During this time of caring, I can't help but to recognize and thank all of the teachers and staff who care for your children on a daily basis. I would also like to say a special thank you to the parents who volunteer their time for the school to allow the learning community to be such a special place!

Sincerely,
Mr. Andreazza

Presidents' Day Holiday

Early Dismissal -- Friday, February 15, 2019

NO LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

Grades 1, 2, and 3: 8:35 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.

Kindergarten: **AM** session hours: 8:35 a.m. – 10:35 a.m. and **PM** session hours: 10:35 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.



Preschool: Full Day session hours: 9:00a.m. - 12:00

AM session hours: 8:40 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. and

PM session hours: 10:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

School will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2019

THIS 'N THAT REMINDERS FROM THE MAIN OFFICE



Lost and Found—There are lots of warm coats, hats, gloves, and mittens in our Lost and Found. Perhaps they belong to your family!

Lunch on Delayed Opening Days—in anticipation of a snowy winter, if there is a delayed opening, the **only** Chartwells lunch offering will be a turkey and American cheese on a whole wheat roll, fruit, vegetable and milk **OR** a cereal lunch bag (Cheerios, Graham crackers, yogurt, String cheese, Fruit and a milk).

Kindergarten Registration—Interested in registering your 5 year old for Kindergarten? Please visit the [PARENT RESOURCES](#) section of the district website.

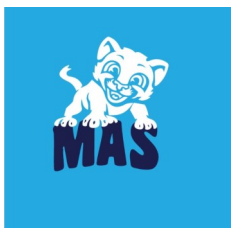
Grade 1 Registration—Please visit the [PARENT RESOURCES](#) section of the district website.

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

The month of **February** provides many opportunities for members of the learning community to come together to support our school and families.

- ◆ **Walk-to-School** is on Wednesday, February 6.
- ◆ **Pizza Parlor Day** is scheduled for **Friday**, February 8.
- ◆ **PTO Meeting** on Thursday, February 21 at 9:00 a.m. Come hear guest speaker Dr. Michael LaSusa, Superintendent for the school district.
- ◆ **Presidents' Day**—see page 1 for early dismissal information and school closing

MILTON MEETING



We celebrated our students at the monthly Milton Meeting on February 1. Mr. Andrezza talked about the week of kindness and complimented the students on their kindness efforts during the week. He asked everyone to “go out of your way to spread kindness.” Milton students performed over **3250** acts of kindness during the week! We also recognized students for achievement in Art, Music, P.E., Library and Technology, as well as the Principal’s Student of the Month. Congratulations to all of our students who were recognized at our Milton Meeting!

Principal’s Student of the Month Award: Ethan Sherman, Maya Daley, Jane Shuster, and Will Garton

Outstanding Artist: Eva Kovaleva, Molly Davis, and Liam Rowell

Marvelous Musician: Cameron Walter, Sofia Passet-O’Brien, and Logan Doroski

MVP Award: Sierra Cantillon, Hailey Bastidas, and Connor McDonough

Library Legend: Amelia Schell, Charlie Schroeder, Grayson Loock, and Justin Ferguson

STEM Superstar: Mae Bruzzo, Andrew Ferguson, Eloise Haynes, and Henry Ferro

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOMS...

PRE-SCHOOL: The preschool students jumped into the new year learning about winter topics such as penguins and snow. The water table was filled with icebergs and arctic animals and the students created cute penguin crafts. The pre-k students also began their study on clothes. They explored features of clothes, what clothes are made of and how to take care of clothes. The dramatic play area transformed into a nursery filled with babies and baby clothes and the sensory bins filled with clothes to wash and dry. We will end our clothing study with a focus on what uniforms various community helpers wear and then begin a study on buildings and community. The preschoolers are looking forward to playing in their new post office, and preparing to celebrate Valentine's Day next month!



KINDERGARTEN: 3... 2... 1... HAPPY NEW YEAR! The kindergarteners began 2019 by setting new reading goals for themselves. The children thought about which "Reading Super Power" they felt they needed to improve on and have been persevering each day towards accomplishing their goal. We also added Pattern Power to our list of Reading Super Powers! In math, we learned about subtraction and are practicing decomposing numbers. Kindergarten scientists are learning about pushes and pulls by studying roller coasters! We're looking forward to Valentine's Day with our Kindergarten Sweethearts!

FIRST GRADE: Happy New Year from first grade! First graders made goals for the New Year. They not only made goals for themselves, but they made a plan on how they will work to achieve their goals. In reading and writing we are learning about nonfiction. We are reading more nonfiction books and learning about all of the features that go into nonfiction books. Students are learning to recognize, read, and understand those features as they learn about the world around them. As writers, students are writing *All About* books. They are putting Table of Contents, headings, captions, boldface print, and glossaries in their books. They are experts and are teaching readers of their books all the things they know about a topic. Please have your child point out all of those features to you when they are reading nonfiction books at home. In math, we have learned about graphs. We have learned how to collect, represent, and interpret data for tally charts and picture graphs. Please have your child continue to practice their math fluency at home with Splash math. We are looking forward to the busy month of February with the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day!

SECOND GRADE: Second graders began 2019 plunging into nonfiction in both Reading and Writing Workshop. Our students have been engaged and motivated as they diligently work on writing expert books on topics they know well. Second grade mathematicians have become more confident in solving math stories with and without regrouping. Fact fluency is important for all students to continue to work on at home. As we enter February, second grade scientists will continue to explore landforms on earth, how they changed over time, and investigate how Earth's events can change the shape of the land. Social emotional learning, as well as growth mindset, continues to be reinforced in the classroom.



THIRD GRADE: Third graders rang in the New Year by setting new goals. These included enhancing a reading skill, memorizing math facts, or improving on a work habit. In language arts, students read informational texts and wrapped up the unit by learning about narrative nonfiction. As mathematicians, third graders read data tables and created graphs. We have moved into addition and subtraction and are practicing rounding to the nearest ten and hundred. In science we are learning about forces and motion - ask your child what starts an object in motion and about Newton's first law! All third graders are enjoying learning about colonial NJ and the Revolutionary War as we read **George Washington's Socks**. We enjoyed the Story Pirates assembly and have started writing some stories of our own to possibly be chosen for the next assembly.

Counseling News

We ended the month of January with The Great Kindness Challenge (GKC: the happiest week of the year)! This week is dedicated to creating a culture of kindness on school campuses across the nation. Our theme was "KINDNESS BEGINS WITH ME." We challenged our students to do up to 5 kind acts each day and had our Milton Meeting to celebrate, not only our award recipients, but the total amount of kind deeds completed throughout the week!

In preparation for our GKC, our K-3 lessons emphasized the importance of Kindness, in particular how kindness looks, how kindness sounds, and how kindness makes people feel.

Counseling groups are still going strong. We have several topics that are offered: Divorce, Social Skills, and Emotional Regulation. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.



The Stetho-Scoop

Erin Zotti, RN School Nurse/Health Educator,
ezotti@chatham-nj.org

Contagious Illnesses: There have been a few reported cases of influenza, 'strep-throat' and colds over the last few weeks. Influenza-like-illness is listed as high activity during this time of year in New Jersey according to the CDC. Please keep your child home if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- A fever 100 degrees or higher. **Students should not return to school until their temperature is normal for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.**
- A frequent cough (*may be associated with Strep-throat and/ or colds*)
- Ear pain and/or eye drainage (*ear infections are not contagious, but the viruses that usually cause them are*)
- Sore throat with fever, rash, or headache

Please seek prompt medical attention if you think you or your child(ren) have **flu-like symptoms** as anti-viral medications can reduce the severity of flu-symptoms.

Flu-like symptoms appear quickly and may include high fever, a severe headache, muscle and body aches, chills, sore throat, exhaustion, and dry cough. Children may also have nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Please visit cdc.gov for more information about influenza in our area.

Reminder Please be sure your child dresses appropriately for the weather. Recess is required for **every** child and they **will** be outside if the temperature is 20 degrees Fahrenheit (with the wind chill) or greater. If your child does not have or refuses to wear appropriate clothing, they may not be able to participate in recess.

***Report absences
via ParentPor-
tal:
DO NOT email
teacher!***



Veronica Maldonado, vmaldonado@chatham-nj.org

First Grade has started learning to read and sing two of the eight solfège notes, called so and mi, on the music staff. Fun singing games, such as “See Saw” and “Lemonade,” have given students the chance to practice reading and singing these notes. We also continue to practice quarter note and eighth note rhythm patterns, and will be ready for quarter rests soon! We played Staff Champion to practice identifying lines and spaces of the music staff.

If your child has signed up for a free Quaver Music account at home, Staff Champion games are available in the Music Theory section of the Student Interactives (accessed from the yellow sign on Quaver Street).

Second Grade continues to review quarter notes, eighth notes and quarter rests, as well as reading and singing so, mi and la on the music staff. We’ve learned singing games such as “Pizza, Pizza, Daddy-O” and “We Are Dancing in the Forest” to help review reading and writing rhythms and rests.

Third Grade has already started to learn their Spring Concert music! They are excited to sing songs all about colors this April! We continue to review reading and singing the pentatonic solfège notes: do, re, mi, so, and la. We recently learned about sixteenth notes and rests through the singing games “Dinah” and “Paw Paw Patch.” Knowing all of our rhythms will be very important when we play recorders later this year!

Chatham High School videography students posted our December Holiday Concert videos. Please visit <http://www.chatham-nj.org/Page/15783> to view these videos or check out the rotating banner on Milton’s home page.

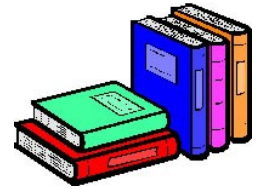
Quaver Music: If your child has already signed up for a free account on the QuaverMusic.com website, there is a NEW special code for another 100 QuaverNotes! When logging in, enter **NewYearNewStart** in the My QuaverCode box. Students will have until **February 3, 2019** to enter the code, but the QuaverNotes don’t expire. If you have any questions about signing up for your child’s free account, please follow these [Quaver Directions](#) or email Mrs. Maldonado!

If you are looking for an interesting museum experience this winter, don’t forget about the Morris Museum! In addition to their large collection of mechanical musical instruments, they have a special trumpet exhibit from the National Music Museum through March 17th! Visitors to the museum can see more than forty trumpet-like instruments from different times and cultures with a variety of shapes, sizes, and features. What a fun way to learn more about this popular Brass family instrument!



Library Lore Jill Mills

jmills@chatham-nj.org



January has been a month of research across the grades. While our students discovered new ways to gather information, they also showed me many tricks on using Google Classroom. They are great teachers as well as great learners!

Third grade's research on climate tied in with their classroom study on weather. We learned about regional influences, surprising weather, and extreme conditions. We will wrap up our work by creating a digital closet that reflects the climate we studied.

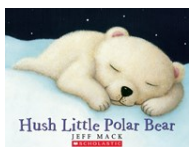
States were the focus of **second grade** research, with each student exploring a different state. Although each student was working independently on his or her state, there was still great collaboration and sharing of information and skills. I was really impressed with how well these classes worked with one another.

First graders worked in pairs to learn about animal adaptations. Their partnerships not only brought great information, but also demonstrated teamwork and cooperation. I was so impressed with their work and effort!

In **Kindergarten**, we did an author study on the ever-popular Mo Willems. While most students know his Elephant and Piggie series, along with his Pigeon books, students were surprised to discover the "Elephant and Piggie Like Reading" series, written by other authors, but endorsed by those two beloved characters. We also learned about Mo Willems earlier success on Sesame Street. Mo Willems has been compared to Dr. Seuss and has been awarded the most *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honors for Best Books for Beginning Readers*.

Which brings me to my favorite way to wrap up January - the ALA Book Awards. In the coming weeks, we will be taking a look at the most recent Geisel, Caldecott, Sibert, and Newbery Award and Honor books. For more information on the ALA Book Awards, visit <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia>

Finally, I am including an early peek at the Jeff Mack Author Visit book order form. Jeff Mack will be visiting Milton Avenue School on Tuesday, March 26th. Here are some of the books we will be offering. For more information on Jeff Mack, visit jeffmack.com. More information about ordering books can be found on Milton [website](#).



*Hush, Little Polar Bear** \$6.00

*Paperback *



*Good News, Bad News** - \$6.00

*Paperback



*Hippo and Rabbit** \$4.00

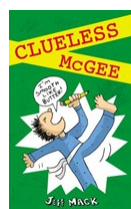
*Paperback



Duck on a Disco Ball \$18.00



Frog and Fly: Six Slurpy Stories
\$13.00



Clueless McGee \$13.00



From the Art Room

Kenji Hasegawa khasegawa@chatham-nj.org

First grade classes have been focusing on winter themed art projects. Students recently learned how to draw a polar bear using white chalk pastel. The texture of the pastel worked well for the fur of the Polar bear. Students also learned how to create a mixed media Snowman using black crayon to sketch and tempera cake paints to add color. Students even used white oil pastel with paint layered over it to create a high contrast snowy background.

Second Graders are working on perspective. After discussing how objects appear large or small depending on how far away they are, we began a city that shows trees and buildings on either side of a street in perspective. Students so far are doing a splendid job drawing their city and the best part is it really seems like we were looking up the street into the distance. Students will finish their work with crayon and watercolor paint.

Third graders have learned how to draw layered buildings in perspective to create stunning cities. Using a process of sketching diamond shapes for the top of the buildings and then drawing from foreground to background students have made cities that appear three-dimensional. Students added plenty of detail and are using a variety of materials to add color.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

Doug Finken/Marty Visitacion
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First Grade: First grade students have been reviewing different body systems; skeletal, nervous and cardiovascular. We have identified the associated anatomical parts and how they help us every day!

Second Grade: The students have just learned about tobacco in health class. They started with a basic introduction to the different methods by which people smoke and use smokeless tobacco, as well as ways they may try to quit. They had great questions and showed a strong understanding of the material being discussed. We also learned about medicine, with students learning about the difference between prescription and over the counter medicine. We covered the importance of having an adult supervise their medicine use, among other safety concepts.

Third Grade: Students began the year by writing a personal health goal. The emphasis was on learning to set good goals for anything they may do in life. We used the acronym S.M.A.R.T. when designing the goals. Are the goals *specific, measurable, relevant, achievable, and timely*? Each student wrote a health goal, but not all goals dealt with physical health. Some students had goals that were geared towards social and emotional growth, which made me proud to see that the students are recognizing that health is not limited to just physical health.

A Spotlight on Design & Technology

Amanda Turton- aturton@chatham-nj.org

Milton's D&T website: <https://www.chatham-nj.org/Page/15211>



Kindergarten – Benny the Bear’s Deserted Island Habitat Design Challenge

Students have made their design plans to help Benny survive on the island. Now they are on to building a model of the island using classroom materials.

First Grade – 21 Elephants Bride Challenge

Students have researched different types of bridges and learned how the Brooklyn Bridge was tested. Now they are planning and building their own models of bridges to be tested for strength and stability.

Second Grade – Larry the Leprechaun Boat Challenge

Students have been researching about how boats are designed to float and carry weight on water. They will now use that information to design their own boat to help Larry the Leprechaun carry home gold he discovered.

Third Grade – Safety Helmet Challenge



Students have been learning about how helmets are used to protect athletes from injuries while playing sports. They will now design and build their own safety helmet for a sport that does not require one.



[Typing Rocket ABCYa-Kindergarten](#)

[EduTyping- 1st-3rd grades](#)



On the Run

Marty Vistacion /Doug Finken

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First grade students worked on hockey skills; stick handling and passing. We also played lead up games that worked on these skills. Last week, we played games of floor hockey using the Pillow Polo hockey sticks. I like to have the students play with 4 balls at a time, as it spreads the students out. This allows more students to get involved in the action and it also helps minimize the risk of students getting hit with a stick. The students did a great job and seemed to have fun with the hockey unit.

Second and Third grade students participated one day each week in a fitness based activity and one day each week with a skills based activity. For fitness, we have been working on running activities to build cardiovascular endurance. Our skill focus has been on throwing and catching, concentrating on the multiple sports that utilize those skill.

PTO NEWS

THIRD GRADE FUNDRAISER

Support Milton by ordering yummy Valentine's treats. All orders can be placed online before February 11th and will be delivered to your children at school on February 14th. It is super easy and yummy! Place your order now at: <http://bit.ly/MiltonValentinesDay>.



WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE! FAMILY FUN NIGHT MARCH 1, 2019 DONATIONS NEEDED:

FAMILY FUN NIGHT is Friday, March 1st —please save the date! Volunteers are desperately needed! *Flyer is attached to the Milton Express.* Please sign up at <http://signup.com/go/sdUHKSb>. If you have any questions, please contact Patricia Hogan at colmmoo@yahoo.com.



The Grades 6-12 Chinese Program will be hosting their annual Chinese New Year Celebration at CHS on February 12 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. All district elementary students are invited to join the celebration with their families in the hope that students experience Chinese culture and possibly consider taking Chinese in the future at CMS. Please check out the [flyer](#) for more information.



POP INTO A GOOD BOOK

Milton students have been keeping up their awesome reading progress into 2019! Six classes have each earned another popcorn kernel for the bulletin board and will get to dedicate another book to the library.

Mrs. Wertheim's PM kindergarten class, Mrs. Rockoff's class and Mrs. Kurlak's class have each earned their FIFTH books! Ms. Zimmer's class, Mrs. Pinto's class, and Mrs. Cook's class have each earned their second books. So many other classes are very close to earning more books too!

So far, 31 books have been dedicated to the library as a result of all of this great reading! Keep reading and don't forget to send in your reading sheets.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please check out the Milton [website](#) for information about upcoming events in the Community and at Milton Avenue School!

[Chatham Education Foundation Casino Night](#)

[A-Day Camp](#)

[Chatham Baseball](#)

[Chatham Softball](#)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you are all enjoying the New Year despite this frigid cold! I'd like to take time to thank ALL the parents who run our many events, committees, and help make Milton an amazing experience for our children. January was an exciting month at MAS.

At our January PTO meeting, parents were given a very informative presentation by our own principal, Mr. Nicholas Andrezza. He educated us on the impact of social and emotional learning in our children's development and the steps Milton is taking to address this. The teachers are doing so many great things in the classroom and practicing mindfulness daily. The skills that the children are learning will help them in life and be able to approach difficulties and challenges with confidence.

The students experienced a fantastic *STORY PIRATES* assembly in mid January. The assembly is a writing workshop for our students - through improvisation, the actors encouraged the children to start writing and let their imaginations take the lead in creating stories, a few of which will be chosen and brought on stage on March 14th at their next assembly.

Our Winter After School Enrichment session kicked off on Tuesday, January 22nd with students engaging in chemistry experiments, developing rhythm and coordination through dance styles and games, and tackling obstacles in our ninja warrior course using their strength, agility, balance, and confidence. Be on the lookout for our spring registration.

Please be sure to mark your calendar for March 1st which is our annual MAS Family Fun Night! Last year, Family Fun Night was run much differently than in the past. Patricia Hogan, our amazing coordinator, along with many parent volunteers, put a great deal of effort into making the night run smoothly and to be enjoyable not only for the children, but parents as well. Throughout the evening, I constantly heard parents (who have been to several Family Fun Nights) giving compliments and saying it was the best Family Fun Night they had ever been to. We are very excited for this year and there are many great prizes that will be in our Silent Auction and Tricky Tray, including Disney Park Hopper Passes! We hope that you and your family can come and enjoy a night together and actually have FUN at the Milton Family Fun Night! Please look for the pre-sale ticket form that will be coming home in your child's pass back folder and order your tickets to play games, win prizes, dance and bounce the night away! **We still need many more volunteers and contributions** for the night so please tap into your resources and consider volunteering or donating auction items and baked goods! All your contributions go back to the children! We can't wait to see MAS families enjoy another super fun evening at the Chatham Middle School Gym on March 1st

It takes an army of parents to keep up with all we have going on. The PTO can use your help and skills! A signup with all of our committees will be included in one of our early February PTO blasts. Please keep an eye out! There are lots of fun ways to get involved and make an impact on your child's experience here at MAS, many of which can also be done outside of the school day. In the meantime, please reach out to our Vice President Sharon Piskadlo at spiskadlo@yahoo.com with any questions or special interests.

Please join us and our guest speaker, Dr. Michael LaSusa, Superintendent for the School District of the Chathams, at our next PTO meeting on **Thursday, February 21st at 9:00 a.m.** in the MAS Library.

Stay Warm!

Yvonne Greenwood
MAS PTO President

