

# THE MILTON EXPRESS

NOVEMBER 27, 2019

## Message from the Principal

We are so thankful for the many experiences we had at Milton Avenue School during the month of November. In addition to the children experiencing solid instruction in the classrooms, many events and activities highlighted the happenings in our school. Our families demonstrated how giving they are to important community members through our Candy for the Troops campaign and the school-wide Lego collection. Our Veteran's Day assembly gave us the opportunity to recognize and honor some of the Veterans from our Milton learning community through song and special speeches from our students and the Veterans themselves.

Thanks to the generosity of our PTO, we were able to welcome an artist in residence, Caren Frost Olmsted, who worked with all of our students to create a beautiful mural that represents many of the things that make Milton Avenue School as special as it is. This was truly a team project as parent volunteers, students, and staff all had a helping hand in the creation of a piece of art that will be part of Milton Avenue School for years to come.

Below is a picture of our new mural. Each letter is filled with images or symbols that represent our learning community. The "M" includes the front of our school, strongly defined by its columns and front door. The "I" includes an image of a parent walking a child to school. The "L" includes kids playing outside with a focus on "4 Square," which is a popular game to play at recess. The "T" includes various symbols that represent the many content areas that children learn at our school. The "O" includes pictures such as helping hands and hearts to show our strong belief in being kind and caring. Finally, the "N" symbolizes the idea that we have a growth mindset, but our students also grow in height as they progress from preschool to third grade. Our beautiful new addition to our school was mounted in the gym on Monday, November 25!

We just ended our "17 Days of Gratitude" where we discussed someone or something that we are thankful to have in our lives. I continue to be thankful for the wonderful students, parents, and staff that I deal with daily. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving break!

Best Wishes!

Nick Andrezza



## DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

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

- ◆ **Parent Teacher Conferences** are December 3-5. Please check the website for school hours (early dismissal all three days!)
- ◆ **Holiday concerts** are on Tuesday, December 3 (First Grade), Wednesday, December 4 (Second Grade) and Thursday, December 5 (Third Grade). All concerts are at 9:00 a.m.
- ◆ **Walk-to-School** is on Wednesday, December 4.
- ◆ **PTO Meeting** will be on Thursday, December 12 at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Andrezza will be our speaker.
- ◆ **REPORT CARDS**—Report cards will be posted to the Parent Portal on December 13. You will receive a School Messenger notifying you that report cards are available to review.
- ◆ The **Holiday Shop** will be open on December 9 and 10.
- ◆ **Pizza Parlor Day** is scheduled for Friday, December 20.

## THIS 'N THAT — REMINDERS FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

*We have lots of half days and days off in December.* Please check out the [school calendar](#) and [website](#) for reminders of school closings and events.

**LOST AND FOUND**—Please visit the Lost and Found table in the main hallway while you are at Milton for your Parent Teacher Conference. Now that the weather has turned cooler, we have lots of coats and jackets that are missing their owners.

**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 cereal bag or a turkey and cheese sandwich. Hot lunch will not be served when school has a delayed opening.

**OUTDOOR RECESS** - Students will go outside for recess during the winter months as long as the temperature (including wind chill) is 20 degrees or higher. Please dress your children for school with that in mind!

## MAS HOLIDAY SPIRIT WEEK—DECEMBER 16 TO 20

**Monday:** Wear your favorite holiday socks!

**Tuesday:** Wear festive holiday hats!

**Wednesday:** It's Here! Ugly Holiday Sweater Day.

**Thursday:** Wear your favorite holiday colors—red, green, candy cane white and red, blue—you decide!

**Friday:** Pajama Day! Let's get comfy as we head into the holiday break!



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOMS...

**PRE-SCHOOL:** The Pre-school classes had *Fun On The Farm* in November. We learned about farm animals and explored many different types of foods that grow on the farm. During play time, we pretended with the barn and the animals. We also washed fruits and vegetables in our sensory table. We finished the month by talking about Thanksgiving and the many things we are thankful for. We moved around like turkeys while we sang the Turkey Hop! We learned how to work cooperatively to make a friendship fruit salad. We each brought in a piece of fruit from home to add to the salad. We enjoyed this special activity with our friends. The pre-school classes look forward to beginning our winter study in December.

**KINDERGARTEN:** It's a bird... it's a plane...No! It's our kindergarten students! Kindergarteners have begun to use their SUPER READING POWERS to help them decode words in books. They can tell you all about Pointer Power, Rereading Power & ECHO Power! In math, we are learning to compare numbers by using math vocabulary words such as "more" and "fewer." Our kindergarteners are learning to show gratitude for people and things in their everyday lives as they learn about our tradition of Thanksgiving in Social Studies. Hope you enjoy the holiday and warm up with a good book and your Super Reader!

**FIRST GRADE:** November has been a fast and busy month! We are becoming Word Detectives in Reading Workshop. First graders have been learning strategies for using snap words and for decoding. We are word detectives by learning how to notice a problem and how to stop and solve it. We know to look CLOSELY, from start to end, with unknown or tricky words, use everything we know (and have learned), and how to do a s-l-o-w check with a word to make sure it is the correct word and that it makes sense when we are reading. In math, we are learning that addition and subtraction are related to each other and learning about fact families. We are learning that 3 related numbers can show us 2 different subtraction and 2 different addition sentences (unless they are doubles). We will soon be ending our Small Moments unit in writing workshop, and will bring home some reading pieces from that unit. We are learning to edit and revise our work by "Fixing and Fancying" it up! In Science, we are learning about the moon and the patterns the moon makes with the different phases. We are looking forward to the fun month of December and learning about different holidays around the world. We can't wait for our Holiday Concert on December 3.

**SECOND GRADE:** Where has the time gone?! Here we are, wrapping up a very busy November already. The students in second grade have been enjoying their study of the novel, *Molly's Pilgrim* by Barbara Cohen. Project information was sent home with all second graders. We hope the students are enjoying getting to know more about their families and where they have come from as they complete this project. In December, the students will present their pilgrim dolls and share their family's history with the class. It would be helpful if you could remind your child to practice reading their information sheet; speaking loudly and clearly. Just a friendly reminder that the completed doll and information sheet is due on Monday, December 2nd. Second-graders are loving science as they get their hands dirty learning about the properties of matter! In Math, the students continue to practice their math fact fluency while learning to regroup and use a variety of strategies, such as open number lines, hundred chart, and partial sums to add. Please encourage your child to practice their facts at home either using the XtraMath website and/or flashcards. In December, second-grade readers will study characters and their stories. They will also learn to ask questions about what they're reading. In writing, we will learn about and compose Realistic Fiction stories. Finally, we look forward to discussing your child's progress with you during conference week. See you then!

**THIRD GRADE:** The month of November was a month of deep-level learning throughout all subject areas for our third graders. In writing workshop, they have concluded their unit on Personal Narrative Writing. They studied other authors and used strategies like hooking the reader with a lead, elaborating with "Show not Tell" details, descriptions and dialogue and developing the most important part (heart) of the story. Next up is informational writing and studying the structures that go with that genre. As readers, third graders used their fiction skills most recently by studying mysteries. Mystery lingo like crime solvers, suspects, motives, opportunity, clues and red herrings were used to try to solve the mystery before the crime solvers. Following that, third graders jumped into nonfiction reading and learned to identify the main ideas along with the most important facts within the text. In math, the third grade mathematicians concluded their formal instruction on multiplication and division by calculating the area of a flat shape which enabled them to use multiplication and division concepts in real world applications. Please encourage your child to practice his or her multiplication facts daily as the goal is to automatically recall facts 0-10. In social studies, the students are learning about the early people of New Jersey, including the Lenni Lenape Native Americans and early European Explorers. The students are learning significant events using photos, timelines, maps, globes, and texts, both in print and through the use of technology. Lastly, in science, third graders are concluding their study of weather and climate. They have learned how meteorologists and climatologists use weather tools and study maps. They then looked at patterns to understand the climates around our country and the world.



Counseling Lessons this month (from our Social Emotional Curriculum, Second Step) focused on Empathy and Compassion as well as Feelings. Students watched short videos, engaged in group discussion and responded to scenarios in their journals about these topics.

In addition, the small group counseling sessions are underway! The current groups will run through the New Year, and will be offered again in early spring. Themes for our groups are: separation and divorce, friendship skills, and emotional regulation.



## MILTON MEETING

We celebrated our students at the monthly Milton Meeting on November 26. Mr. Andreazza talked about the beautiful new addition to the gym, our Milton Mural. He explained what the elements of the mural represent and why they are important to the school. 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:** Olivia Kudrako, Kate Librizzi, Madelyn Garlewicz, and Lexi Grundy

**Outstanding Artist:** Caitlin Pollack, Colin English, and Sofia Passet-O'Brien

**Marvelous Musician:** Tristan Hamilton, Sonia Aasland, and Maddie Rowell

**MVP Award:** Jake Ryan, Bella Flood, and Erik Absek

**Library Legend:** Hayden Leung, Charlie Bruno, Ryan Hogan, and Nolan Barnes

**STEM Superstar:** Richard Huang, Tristan Perez Correa, Kiara Puello, and Sadie Derkowski

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

Doug Finken, [dfinken@chatham-nj.org](mailto:dfinken@chatham-nj.org)  
Marty Visitacion, [mvisitacion@chatham-nj.org](mailto:mvisitacion@chatham-nj.org)



**First Grade:** Students discussed emotions and feeling sand related them to daily interactions with peers and family. We practiced using "I words" and problem solving when they are frustrated or upset.

**Second Grade:** We are beginning a set of lessons about nutrition. Students reviewed the foods on the MyPlate diagram. They will also be learning about how to read a food label, and to gain a basic understanding as to what is included in the nutrition facts. The students already seem quite knowledgeable about different types of foods, which speaks to the exposure to many different kinds of foods they may have tried up to this point in their lives.

**Third Grade:** The third grade students have started a unit on Nutrition. We have reviewed food labels, and how to read and interpret them. This is a concept that the students learned in second grade, and reviewing it is very helpful to the students' level of understanding. Additionally, we will learn more about how calories work and the three sources of calories (protein, fat and carbohydrates). Finally, we will examine our own food and consumption choices and how they effect the environment around us.



## The Stetho-Scoop

Erin Zotti, RN School Nurse/Health Educator,  
[ezotti@chatham-nj.org](mailto:ezotti@chatham-nj.org)

**Brrrr...**As the weather gets colder please dress your child appropriately for the outside temperatures. Students participate in outdoor recess if the **temperature is above 20 degrees Fahrenheit**. Students may be kept indoors if not dressed appropriately.

\*Please make sure to update your child's Emergency contacts in the Parent Portal. We need to have an alternate contact besides the student's primary caregiver in case of a medical emergency or unforeseen circumstance that can arrive at the school within 30 minutes if necessary.

**Contagious Illnesses:** Please keep your child home if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- A fever of **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, and/or headache
- Vomiting 2 or more times within 24 hours.

\*It is **required** that **any** child attending Preschool, ages 59 months and younger obtain a flu vaccine and documentation is provided to Mrs. Zotti by January 2, 2020. Students will be excluded from school by the Health Department until March 2020 if it is not received by that date.\*

**Holiday Celebrations-** Remember to contact the Room Parents of your child's classroom to arrange bringing food in for the class Holiday celebration well in advance. All classrooms are peanut and nut-free and all items being served must be listed on the [Food Permission Form](#) due to severe life threatening allergies.

***Report absences  
via ParentPortal:***

***DO NOT email  
teacher!***



## Library Lore Jill Mills

[jmills@chatham-nj.org](mailto:jmills@chatham-nj.org)

Welcome to the Holiday Season! I want to begin by thanking all of our Milton families for their continued support of the library program. Our library has parent volunteers who shelve our books and assist our students. Our PTO Reading Program provides over 120 books to our collection every year, along with motivating our students to keep reading! In addition, our Birthday Book program contributes over 100 books each year, too. When I am visiting with other librarians, I always feel so fortunate to know how well-regarded and well sponsored our library program is, through the generosity and dedication of our community. So thank you!

Looking ahead, Milton Avenue School will again be participating in the Hour of Code in December. Due to our conference schedule, MAS practices coding a week after the national event; that works in our favor, with less traffic on the site and fewer glitches when our students are learning! It's always a lot of fun, and often our students want to continue working at home. Please visit [code.org](http://code.org) for more information!



## Salvatore Bonafede, [sbonafede@chatham-nj.org](mailto:sbonafede@chatham-nj.org)

We've been practicing very hard to put together great performances and there are only a few more days until our December concerts. We ask that children participating in the concert wear a fancy outfit that reflects this special event – the more festive, the better! There are no specific color requirements and it is recommended to avoid wearing multiple layers since it gets very warm in the multipurpose room. All the concerts start at 9:00 a.m.

**First Grade Concert - Tuesday, December 3**

**Second Grade Concert - Wednesday, December 4**

**Third Grade Concert - Thursday, December 5**

Professional DVD recordings of our concerts are available again this year! All three grade levels will be included on one DVD. No late orders will be accepted. Please remember to return your completed form with payment no later than **Friday, December 13**. Please see the [Milton website](#) for a copy of the DVD order form (under Announcements)..



### THIRD GRADE CHORUS SINGS AT TREE LIGHTING!

Third Grade Chorus ensemble students from Milton Avenue, Washington Avenue and Southern Boulevard Schools will sing together at the Chatham Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 7, 2019. The Chorus will perform at 5:15 p.m. You are invited to join us at **Reasoner Park** to watch our performance in front of the gazebo! Thank you for joining together in celebrating this festive holiday event in our community!



### *On the Run*

*Marty Vistacion / Doug Finken*

*[mvisitacion@chatham-nj.org](mailto:mvisitacion@chatham-nj.org) / [dfinken@chatham-nj.org](mailto:dfinken@chatham-nj.org)*

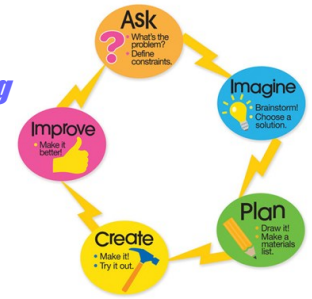
**Kindergarten** students participated in a fifteen minute partner jog, the "Turkey Trot". The importance of cardiovascular endurance and being "Heart Healthy" was discussed and reviewed. In other lessons, students practiced personal and general space related to games and activities. Students also worked on general locomotor and manipulative skills using bean bags and scarves.

**First grade** students practiced climbing in the gym. The students were able to choose from 3 different stations: the climbing wall, the climbing rope, and the swinging ropes. Climbing is a great activity, not just for the fitness benefits, but students are really able to try to continually improve upon their own personal best efforts. I was blown away at the amount of students who were receptive to feedback regarding their technique, and most students not only showed continual improvement, but also showed that they were willing to challenge themselves with a skill that, for many students, was difficult.

**Second and Third grade** students participated in a fifteen minute partner jog, the "Turkey Trot". The importance of cardiovascular endurance and being "Heart Healthy" was discussed and reviewed. .

# Let's Peek Inside... Design & Technology

Amanda Turton, [aturton@chatham-nj.org](mailto:aturton@chatham-nj.org)



This month has brought more exciting projects and events for our D&T program including some special guest teachers and administrators from China who visited our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade classes to learn about Design & Technology at the elementary level last month! We are still talking about their visit.

We are still taking donations for recycled materials that can be used in some of our design challenges, so please consider donating and send them in with your child(ren) on their D&T days. Thank you so much to all of the families that have been sending in donations last month!

You can check out more information about our design projects and helpful resources on Milton's Design & Technology website: <https://www.chatham-nj.org/Page/15211>.

## Kindergarten

- ◆ *Rosie Revere's Flying Machines*: Students finished creating their flying machines and presented them to their peers.
- ◆ *Turkey Google Drawings*: Students are learning how to click and drag on the trackpads while creating a turkey picture for the holidays.

## First Grade

- ◆ *Haunted House Halloween Bridge Challenge*: Students designed, planned, and built haunted bridges to help them get to the Halloween party. They practiced writing out steps for their design plans and using rulers to measure length and width.

## Second Grade

- ◆ *Little Piggy House Design Challenge*: Students tested their piggy houses, observed and discussed the outcomes, then practiced sharing and giving feedback to their peers to help them improve their house designs.

## Third Grade

- ◆ *Gummy Bear Parachute Design Challenge*: Students tested their parachutes in the Milton gym, collected and data about the falling time and safety of their designs, then shared feedback with other groups to help improve their parachute designs.

### DONATIONS WANTED

- ◆ Cardboard (e.g. tissue & shoe boxes)
- ◆ Egg cartons (cardboard only)
- ◆ Paper towel/toilet paper rolls
- ◆ Newspaper

**In this season of giving, the Milton family collected \$645 for UNICEF and donated over 12 cartons of candy to Operation Jersey Cares for our troops. Milton staff donated \$130 to the "Jeans for the Troops" organization and over 122 pounds of Legos to the Lego Replay program.**

**Thank you, Milton Families and Staff!**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving break with your loved ones. I am very grateful to be surrounded by such amazing people in our Milton community. Thank you to all the parents for your continuous support for our PTO.

The Mural Project is complete! Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents that came to lend a hand. The children had a great time leaving their little mark on Milton.

We have a very festive Holiday Shop planned for our students on December 9th and 10th. Please consider volunteering and helping the children shop.

We are almost at the end of our fall ASE session. The Winter catalog has some new and exciting classes!

Thank you to David Bojanowski for being our Luminary Dad and to all the parents who have volunteered to be block captains.

Have a relaxing weekend with your family! Happy Thanksgiving!

Sharon Piskadlo  
PTO President

## PTO News



This year, MAS is partnering with Family Promise of Morris County to provide the gift of warmth to families and individuals in transition from homelessness. From December 2nd - 13th, MAS will once again decorate our annual Hat & Mitten Tree with hats, gloves and mittens for children, teens and adults of all ages (new items only please!). **In addition**, we will also be collecting \$10 gift cards from Dunkin' Donuts or Starbucks to allow those served by Family Promise to enjoy a warm drink or treat during the colder months (at the request of Family Promise, we will not be collecting gift cards for higher amounts). So, whether you are grabbing your morning caffeine on your way to the mall or getting that extra burst of energy before pick up, please consider adding a gift card to your order for someone in need.

### PTO Meeting:

Our next PTO meeting will be Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Our guest speaker will be our principal, Mr. Andrezza. If you have any questions or concerns to share or if you have an idea that you would like to put into action here at MAS, come to a PTO meeting—we are always looking for new solutions and extra helping hands.

### Winter ASE:

Registration for the winter session of After School Enrichment is from Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pm to Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10pm. Registration instructions and course catalog are available on the PTO website – be sure to see what we have to offer! The session will begin on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Email [masenrichment@gmail.com](mailto:masenrichment@gmail.com) with any questions.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Keep up to date on the latest happenings in the Chathams! Information is available on the [Milton website](#) for the following activities and events:

[CEF Teacher Tribute](#)

[Santa's Arrival and Tree Lighting at Green Village Fire Department](#)



# MORE PTO NEWS



## MAS Annual Holiday Shop

On December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, the STEM Tech Lab will be turned into a winter holiday wonderland. Students will be able to shop for their loved ones at our annual Holiday Shop. This is a fantastic event to [volunteer](#) for and get into the holiday spirit.

The Holiday Shop will also be open from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Parents and siblings are welcome to come during this time; however, quantity may be limited due to the amount of shopping that happens during our class visits. We encourage your child to do the bulk of their shopping during the time allotted during the day for their class.

If you have any questions please contact, Sharon Piskadlo [spiskadlo@yahoo.com](mailto:spiskadlo@yahoo.com), Suzanne David [Suzanne.david25@gmail.com](mailto:Suzanne.david25@gmail.com)), Jackie Mierkiewicz ([jfedgirl@gmail.com](mailto:jfedgirl@gmail.com)) or Tamara Aue ([tamaradaue@gmail.com](mailto:tamaradaue@gmail.com)).

## On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!

The reading program just started last month and Milton's Reading Racing Team has already earned seven books for the library!

Mrs. Wertheim's kindergarten class finished their second lap and dedicated two books. Mrs. Fanning's AM and PM classes each completed their first lap and dedicated a book. 1V, 1Z, and 3C each also finished their first lap and will get to dedicate a book. Many other classes are very close to finishing a lap. Keep up the great reading everyone and don't forget to bring in your reading sheets! Additional reading sheets can be found [here](#).



## LUMINARIA



Thank you to everyone who volunteered to be a block captain for this annual holiday tradition. Orders are due to block captains by Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Kits will be delivered to you by your block captain mid-December. If you did not receive an order form from your block captain or if your neighborhood did not have a block captain and you would like to place an order, please email David Bojanowski at [dbojanowski@gmail.com](mailto:dbojanowski@gmail.com) (Note: kits ordered for neighborhoods that did not have a block captain will need to be picked up from David Bojanowski—the kit will not be delivered directly to your home).

## Milton Mural Project

A huge **Thank You** to everyone who volunteered during our Milton Mural Project--whether you were there for one hour or through every stage, your help was a critical part of making this endeavor a success. From the parents who helped with prep and set-up, to the ones who guided our students in their painting, to those who calmly completed the final touch ups and details, this project could not have gotten done without you. Our mural will be on display in our gym/cafeteria during our upcoming holiday concerts. Be sure to check out the beautiful mark our students have left on our school.