

THE MILTON EXPRESS

NOVEMBER 30, 2018

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 collection we were able to accomplish for Operation Jersey Cares. 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.

There are so many things that come to mind as the colder weather begins to set in during this time of year. One can find comfort in sipping a mug of hot cocoa, holiday lights begin to twinkle, and the malls get more and more crowded! I find that the best way to stay out of the cold is by warming up with a good book.

I'd like to share some ideas that may be helpful to you, the parents, as you read with your child at home. Experts and educational research show that there are many benefits associated with parents reading with their children on a consistent basis throughout elementary school and beyond. Some of these benefits include instilling a positive attitude towards reading on the part of the child and increasing a child's ability to read and recognize new vocabulary. Here are a few suggestions you can explore while staying out of the cold by reading an exciting book with your child...

- **Location, Location, Location:** Make reading enjoyable by choosing a comfortable place to read where you are able to listen to each other read. The location chosen should be quiet and free from outside interference.
- **Timing is Everything:** Be sure to set aside a specific time dedicated to reading each day with your child. This will allow your child to recognize reading as a priority in daily life, and it will ensure "bonding time" between you and your child as you embark upon new adventures within each book.
- **The Possibilities are Endless:** Reading with your child can go well beyond simply reading the words on the pages. While reading, be sure to help your child learn as you read by using sound strategies to decode new words. Ask your child questions as you read, and encourage your child to talk about the book. By incorporating some of these suggestions into your daily lives while reading with your child, you can allow your child to experience the warmth and comfort of reading books, while promoting a positive attitude towards reading and increasing literacy skills at home.

I would like to wish you and your family a healthy and happy holiday season!

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 4-6. Please check the website for school hours (early dismissal all three days!)
- ◆ **Holiday concerts** are on Tuesday, December 4 (First Grade), Wednesday, December 5 (Second Grade) and Thursday, December 6 (Third Grade). All concerts are at 9:00 a.m.
- ◆ **Walk-to-School** is on Wednesday, December 5.
- ◆ The **Holiday Shop** will be open on December 10 and 11.
- ◆ **Pizza Parlor Day** is scheduled for Friday, December 14.
- ◆ **REPORT CARDS**—Report cards will be posted to the Parent Portal on December 14. You will receive a School Messenger notifying you that report cards are available to review.

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 17 TO 21

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



Tuesday: Wear festive holiday hats or socks (or both)!

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

Thursday: Help your teacher decorate your classroom door to show MAS Holiday Spirit!

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 harvest and explored different types of vegetables that grow on a farm. We shopped, paid for, and cooked vegetables with friends in our classroom farmers market and kitchen. We washed vegetables in our water table and created art with peppers, carrots, and broccoli at choice time.

A farm isn't complete without someone to scare the crows away so we strengthened our motor skills by stuffing our own classroom scarecrow! Preschoolers learned what it means to be thankful for family and friends. We sang songs, danced like turkeys and listened to stories about Thanksgiving. We even practiced good manners while having a Thanksgiving feast in the dramatic play area. The pre-school classes look forward to beginning a winter study in December. Our dramatic play area will be transformed into a bakery as we prepare for the wonderful winter season!

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 and Rereading 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 learned about our tradition of Thanksgiving in Social Studies and by playing the Gratitude Game with our 2nd Grade Buddies. 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 high frequency words and for decoding. We are becoming word detectives by learning how to notice a problem and how to stop to 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 students are learning different addition strategies such as recognizing doubles, near doubles and when and how to use a ten frame. We also have learned about open number lines. We are starting to come to the end of Small Moments writing in Writing Workshop and soon we will bring home a few of our writing pieces to share. We are learning to edit and revise our work by "Fixing and Fancying" it up! We are looking forward to learning about different holidays around the world and our Holiday Concert on December 4.

SECOND GRADE: During the month of November, second graders have been busy learning about the tolerance of people from different backgrounds using Barbara Cohen's book, *Molly's Pilgrim*. Through both independent and group work, students have gained the understanding that pilgrims are anyone who comes to America seeking a better life. Second graders are loving science! The scientists have been participating in hands-on investigations to teach them about the structure and properties of matter. They have been planning and conducting investigations, observing, analyzing and interpreting their data, and making arguments based on evidence. As we look ahead to December, second grade writers will complete the unit on personal narratives, spending time revising and editing their small moment stories. Second grade mathematicians will be introduced to subtraction strategies within 100. We look forward to celebrating and discussing your child at conferences.

THIRD GRADE: The month of November was a month of deep level learning throughout all subject areas for third graders. In reading, the students used their fiction reading skills while focusing on a new genre: mysteries. Mystery lingo like crime solvers, suspects, culprits, motives, clues and red herrings were used while trying to solve mysteries before the crime solvers did. In writing workshop, the students are finishing up narrative writing pieces. They are demonstrating all they know about hooking their readers into reading their stories, developing the middle or heart of their stories with details, description and dialogue and lastly ending the stories with an action, talk or feeling. Third graders will share their stories next month with someone special at home. This month in math, third grade mathematicians have been mastering multiplication and division concepts and skills. They enjoyed writing their own math stories and displaying them in the hallway. Please encourage your child to continue to practice basic facts daily. In social studies, third graders have been focusing on the first inhabitants of NJ, the Lenni Lenape Native Americans. On November 13, we all enjoyed the morning at the Reeves Reed Arboretum to get a first hand feel of the Lenni Lenape culture and way of life. Lastly, in science, third graders are becoming meteorologist by studying weather maps and tools. They are learning what effects weather and the climate all around the country.





The Stetho-Scoop

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

**Report absences
via ParentPortal:**

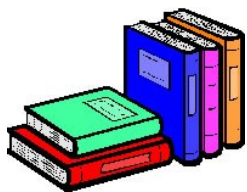
**DO NOT email
teacher!**

Holiday Celebrations - Remember to contact the Room Parents of your child's classroom to arrange bringing food in for the class Holiday celebrations. I ask that you do this well in advance of the party. 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.

***Reminder:** - 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, 2019**. Students will be excluded from school by the Health Department until March 2019 if it is not received by that date.*

Thank you for entering absences in the Parent Portal or calling the absentee line. As the holiday season continues, please enter your child's absence in the Parent Portal or call the absentee line with the dates of absence. I can process absences well in advance if your family will be out of town. You **will** receive a notification from School Messenger if your child is not entered or called into the absentee line. You will be contacted multiple times until we verify the location of your child.

Please enter absences in the Parent Portal or call the absentee line before **8:30am and 12:00pm for the afternoon sessions**, if your child will not be coming to school or will be late.



Library Lore Jill Mills

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 for more information!

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 29. Mr. Andreazza talked about “thanks” and “giving. He highlighted all the wonderful things that students and staff did for the troops, UNICEF and the local food bank. Please see page 8 for more information about Milton giving. 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:** John Haynes, Christina Stepanian, Hudson Astolfi, and Ella Kerins
Outstanding Artist: Madelyn Garlewicz, Jane Shuster, and Emily Piskadlo
Marvelous Musician: Madeline Mierkiewicz, Thomas Patellaro, and Giuliana Freyre
MVP Award: Sarah Alcantara, Cooper Barrette, and Cooper Pizzonia
Library Legend: Max Arent, Brandon Androski, Ava Bell, and Bennett Doroskit
STEM Superstar: Sebastian Nyilas, Grant Hargrove, Alexis Grundy, and Abigail Tivade



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

Doug Finken, dfinken@chatham-nj.org
Marty Visitacion, mvisitacion@chatham-nj.org



First Grade: Students discussed emotions and the importance of communication. Children learned how emotions can affect their actions and . learned how to express their feelings to help them with peers and family.

Second Grade: The students learned about bones and the heart. The students showed an impressive amount of understanding of the terminology and concepts in these two subjects. It has been a pleasure having this year’s second grade students in the Health classroom so far.

Third Grade: Third grade has recently learned about bones and the heart. We reviewed some previous concepts and learned some new ones. They have done a great job following along and showing understanding of the material. Many of the students have been choosing to take notes in class, which I feel is a great skill to practice along the way.

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 are learning about what animals need to survive in their habitats and using this information to design a desert island habitat for a polar bear named Benny.

1st Grade—The Engineering Design Process

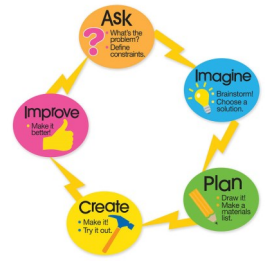
Students are learning about the steps of the engineering design process and how engineers use this process to solve problems and complete challenges.

2nd Grade—Introduction to Google Apps

Students are learning about the various programs to use through Google Apps, including Google Docs, Google Draw, and Google Classroom to create a poster for their house for the little pigs.

3rd Grade—Using Google Draw

Students are learning more about the drawing and creative tools in Google Draw, which they are using to create posters for their Gummy Bear Escape parachute designs.



[Typing Rocket ABCYa-Typing Practice for Kindergarten](#)

[Learn how to access EduTyping from home!](#)

From the Art Room

Kenji Hasegawa

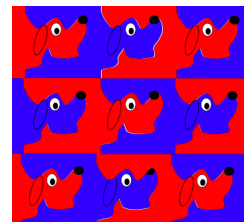
khasegawa@chatham-nj.org



First Grade is working on Optical illusion hand art. Students have learned to trace their hands and add curved lines in a pattern to show the hands' contours. In the background they used rulers to create horizontal patterns. The curved line patterns in the hands create the illusion that they are 3D.

Second Grade have created outer space art. This lesson allowed students to apply various art skills like drawing, painting, cutting and gluing. After creating a starred background on black paper, students created a multicolored watercolor painting that was used to trace and cut planets to be glued to the background. Students even learned how to add shadows to the planets to make them appear more like spheres.

Third Grade has been working on tessellation art. A tessellation is a shape that is repeated in an infinite pattern, fitting into itself like a puzzle, with no gaps or overlaps. Students will be challenged to use tessellation tracers of animals to create a pattern on drawing paper. They have to do problem solving work along the way and will finish project with some colored markers.





Veronica Shaw, vshaw@chatham-nj.org

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

First Grade Concert - Tuesday, December 4

Second Grade Concert - Wednesday, December 5

Third Grade Concert - Thursday, December 6



Professional DVD recordings of our concerts are available again this year! All 3 grade levels will be included on one DVD. Late orders cannot be accepted. Please remember to return your completed form with payment no later than **Friday, December 7**. [DVD Order](#)

THIRD GRADE CHORUS SINGS AT TREE LIGHTING!

All 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 1, 2018. The Chorus will perform at 5:30 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!



Please give the gift of warmth to a child in need through the annual Milton Avenue School "Hat and Mitten Tree." Please decorate our tree with **NEW** hats and mittens/gloves. Donations may be placed to adorn the tree in the school's entryway or placed in the bin next to the tree. Donations will help "It Takes A Village to Succeed", a non profit organization based in Bloomfield, New Jersey. **Items will be collected December 3 through December 14.**



On the Run
Marty Vistacion / Doug Finken

mvisitacion@chatham-nj.org / dfinken@chatham-nj.org

First Grade has started using scooters. The students learned how to ride safely and we played some scooter games. The students did a great job staying safe, working together, and navigating general space throughout the gym.

Second and Third Grade students completed the "Turkey Trot, a fifteen minute partner jog. Each student completed three laps around the gym in a relay fashion with a partner. The importance of cardiovascular endurance and exercise were discussed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful and happy Thanksgiving with their loved ones. I am continuously reminded of how grateful I am to be surrounded by such amazing people in this Milton community. Thank you to all who lend a hand at Milton; you are why Milton is truly special.

Thank you to everyone for their generosity in donating Halloween candy to the troops and for the abundance of donations for the Operation Jersey Cares Packages.

Thank you to Jill Mills and Amanda Turton for their very enlightening presentation on Internet Safety at our last PTO Meeting. Our next PTO meeting will be January 17th. Our Principal, Mr. Andreazza, will be presenting. I hope you can all join us.

Sharon Piskadlo, Ashlee and Chris Hodge, and Michelle Manicone have a very festive Holiday Shop planned for our students on December 10th and 11th.

Don't forget that we have our Holiday Concerts and Parent/Teacher conferences next week. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday are half days.

We are almost at the end of our Fall After School Enrichment session....some days have ended. Check your emails—the Winter catalog will be coming out shortly and we have some new and exciting classes planned for our students.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday Season. Wishing you all a New Year filled with peace and happiness.

Yvonne Greenwood
PTO President

In this season of giving, the Milton family collected \$660 for UNICEF and donated "mounds and pounds" of candy and supplies to Operation Jersey Cares for our troops. Milton staff donated \$255 to the "Jeans for the Troops" organization.

Additionally, Milton Staff donated over 165 items to the Morristown Community Soup Kitchen as part of our Milton Gives Back program.

Thank you, Milton Families and Staff!



March 1 is Family Fun Night:

Please save the date of [Friday, March 1](#) for Milton's Family Fun Night. The committee is in search of items for this event's Silent Auction. Items that have been collected in the past include sports tickets, collectibles/memorabilia, rounds of golf, theater tickets, themed gift baskets, brand new electronics and toys, and gift certificates for restaurants, gyms, and dance studios. Proceeds from Family Fun Night and its Silent Auction benefit Milton students through program enhancements and school improvements. Contact Patricia Hogan (colmmoo@yahoo.com) if you would like to donate or have any questions.

PTO NEWS



MAS Annual Holiday Shop

On December 10th and 11th, 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. It's a wonderful opportunity for you to be a part of your child's experience. Visit the following link to sign up to help: <http://signup.com/go/AMQvaFb>

The Holiday Shop will also be open from 3:00 to 5:00 on Tuesday, December 11th. Parents and siblings are welcome to come during this time; however, quantity may be limited due to the amount of shopping that happens during the day. We encourage your child to do the bulk of their shopping during their visit with the class.

If you have any questions please contact, Sharon Piskadlo spiskadlo@yahoo.com, Michelle Manicone novamich99@optonline.net, Ashlee Hodge three_hodges@yahoo.com, or Suzanne David Suzanne.david25@gmail.com.

POP INTO A GOOD BOOK



Milton students to have been making great reading progress the past few weeks!

Eight classes have earned a book to dedicate to the library and will get another popcorn kernel added to the bulletin board.

Mrs. Trauger's class, Mrs. Berger's class and Mrs. Pinto's class have each earned their first book. Congratulations!

Mrs. Martin's class and Mrs. Kurlak's class have each earned their second book. Keep up the great work!

Miss Farrell's kindergarten class, Miss Vega's class and Mrs. Rockoff's class have each earned their THIRD books for the library. Wow!

All of the classes are doing a super job. Many are SO close to earning another book! Keep reading everyone!



LUMINARIA

Chatham's annual holiday tradition is aglow! Don't forget to light your luminaries December 24th and help illuminate the streets of town! It truly is a beautiful sight. If you did not receive an order form from your block captain, please email dhcarroll@gmail.com to place an order. All orders and payments must be received by December 3. Happy Holiday season everyone!

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE



Sweet! Walk to School Wednesday, is almost here(December 5).

Stop by our table to help us count candy canes!.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

- [CEF Holiday Teacher Tribute](#)
- Tree Lighting at the Gazebo and Green Village Fire House