

THE MILTON EXPRESS

DECEMBER 21, 2018

Message from the Principal

The month of December at Milton Avenue School certainly brought about some holiday cheer, in addition to all of the meaningful learning that takes place each and every day in the classrooms. The holiday concerts held during the week of December 3 truly showcased the talents of our students. The singing and third grade chimes directed by Mrs. Maldonado spread warmth for all those in attendance. The children enjoyed purchasing items for loved ones at the Holiday Shop, and the tree in our lobby was filled with hats and mittens that our staff and families generously donated during this holiday season. In addition, parent/teacher conferences at the beginning of the month provided the perfect opportunity for key members of the learning community to come together to discuss the progress of the children in many different areas.

During this time of year, children at home may be creating or fulfilling wish lists in anticipation of the holidays. In the spirit of the holidays and in preparation for the New Year, you'll notice that the grade level teachers submitted wishes that their classes created for the upcoming new year for this issue of the Milton Express. It's always so beautiful and touching to see the kindness and warmth in the hearts of our children as they express their wishes for their families, their friends, and the world around them.

Many people take time to create New Year's resolutions in anticipation of the New Year. This year, talk to your child about his/her goals as they relate to school, family, and the community around them. Perhaps your child hopes to further develop his/her writing in the year 2019. Your child may even establish the goal of reading an extra ten minutes each night in order to become a better reader and further develop vocabulary. As a family, perhaps you can establish a fulfilling goal such as spending more time together. If you are a regular 9-5 working family, then designate at least one evening each week that the entire family takes part in fun family activities. During the year 2019, perhaps your family can develop a goal that involves more volunteer time or donations made towards charities in need. Your child will further develop an appreciation for giving and kindness towards others in the community. We all can truly make a difference!

As we enter the year 2019, continue to talk to your child about his/her hopes and dreams for both now and in the future. It is always so important to have goals to work towards, and to understand that we all have the potential to not only make a difference in our own lives, but in the lives of the people around us as well. At Milton Avenue School, we are proud to say that we are a part of a faculty that continually strives to make a difference in the lives of those around us. We truly aim to meet the needs of the whole child, while preparing them for the world that awaits them beyond the walls of our school. On behalf of the staff at Milton Avenue School, I would like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year, and may all of your resolutions and wishes become a reality!

Happy New Year!
Nick Andrezza



THIS 'N THAT — REMINDERS FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

Report Cards—Report cards were posted to the Parent Portal on December 14.

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).

MLK Holiday—School will be closed on Monday, January 21.

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

CHIP Registration—The School District of the Chathams is currently accepting letters from Chatham resident families interested in having their 3 - and 4-year-olds attend the [Chatham Inclusion Preschool \(CHIP\) Program](#). For more details, [click here](#).

Our wish for the new year — that we have only one snow day this year so we have an extra long Memorial Day break!

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

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

- ◆ **After School Enrichment** registration closes on January 4 at 10:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Walk-to-School** is on Wednesday, January 9.
- ◆ **Pizza Parlor Day** is scheduled for **Friday**, January 11.
- ◆ **Story Pirates assembly** is on Wednesday, January 16 (sponsored by the PTO).
- ◆ **PTO Meeting** on Thursday, January 17 at 9:00 a.m.

MILTON MEETING



We celebrated our students at the monthly Milton Meeting on December 18. In keeping with the spirit of the season, Mrs. Maldonado led the children in a holiday sing-along. 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: Kate Librizzi, Brennan Feeley, Hudson Hindelong, and Charles Stanley

Outstanding Artist: Thomas Conneely, Julia Librizzi, and Colton Walter

Marvelous Musician: Avery Latourelle, Owen Hefferon, and Annika Engstrom

MVP Award: Kieran Lange, Alexandra Horwitz, and Sophia Alberici

Library Legend: Carter Wong, Cate Carpenter, Liam Chang, and Riya Matthew

STEM Superstar: Owen Norek, Carys Aue, Alexander Quinones, and Milo Semioli

Our Wishes and Dreams for the New Year

KINDERGARTEN DREAMS

Mrs. Wertheim's AM Class: We wish for children everywhere to get everything on their Christmas lists and to be thankful.

Mrs. Wertheim's PM Class: We wish for happiness, love, and kindness. We also wish that every child could have a pet of their own.

Ms. Farrell's AM Class: We wish for the teachers to go down to Florida for a vacation.

FIRST GRADE WISHES

Mrs. Trauger's Class: We wish for all the children in the world to have a happy life.

Ms. Vega's Class: We wish to share our things with others like our crayons, supplies, writing stories and golf clubs!

Ms. Zimmer's Class: We wish to be good friends by being up standers when we see someone being bullied and we want to include others when we see them on the buddy bench. In class, we wish to become better listeners and stronger readers.

SECOND GRADE Hopes

Mrs. Berger's Class: We wish that kindness will be spread throughout the world.

Ms. Martin's Class: We hope that there is kindness and peace throughout the world.

Mrs. Pinto's Class: Miss Pinto's class wishes that people can be healthy and get help when they're sick. We also wish for more cures to be found for different sickness.

THIRD GRADE Desires

Mrs. Cook's Class: Mrs. Cook's class wishes for world peace.

Mrs. Kurlak's Class: We wish everyone a happy, healthy and respectful Holiday Season with all your family and friends.

Mrs. Rockoff's Class: Mrs. Rockoff's class wishes that everyone can be with their family or friends for the holidays.

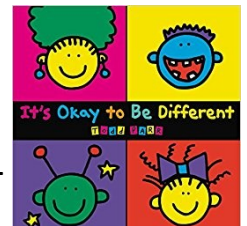


Counselor Corner Carole Soder csoder@chatham-nj.org

Small groups counseling sessions have begun and will continue through late winter early spring. Themes for our groups are: separation and divorce, friendship skills and emotional regulation. The start of each group is staggered, and a few of the groups have not begun yet, but will in the new year.

Classroom counseling lessons continue and have a specific focused on social emotional learning (SEL) and our Second Step curriculum. A combination of academic learning and SEL is considered to be critical in effective education. Students have learned about feelings, compassion, empathy, managing anger and calm-down techniques.

In January we will explore Acceptance with a book by Todd Parr titled **It's OK to be Different**





The Stetho-Scoop

Erin Zotti, RN School Nurse/Health Educator,
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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 2nd 2019**. Students *will* be excluded from school by the Health Department until March 2019 if it is not received by that date.* You will receive a message from the Health Office if it is not received as of today.

Fortunately, most of our students have been healthy over the last few months, aside from a few colds and stomach viruses. Please continue to practice “Healthy Habits” at home such as covering your cough or sneeze and washing your hands or using hand sanitizer frequently. Please keep your child home if they have a fever above 100 degrees and/or have had vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours. Children must be fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

With the colder temperatures approaching, please be sure to dress your child 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.

*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. **DO NOT email your child’s teacher as they do not enter verified absences.***

**Report absences
via ParentPortal:
DO NOT email
teacher!**

A Spotlight on Design & Technology

Amanda Turton- aturton@chatham-nj.org

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



Looking for fun ways to spend your winter break? Check out these winter and holiday themed STEM challenges and computer games. Hope you and your families enjoy a wonderful holiday season!

Computer Games

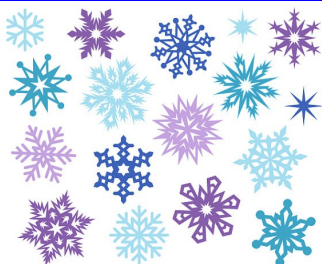
[ABCYA—Factory Balls Christmas](#)

[ABCYA—Holiday Lights Math!](#)

[PBSKids—Snowflake Match](#)

[PBSKids—Move It or Luge It](#)

[PBSKids—Weather Transformer](#)



STEM Challenges

Build a Chimney for Santa – Use items from the recycling bin to design and make a chimney.

Candy Engineering – See what you can create with gumdrops and toothpicks.

Parachute for Santa – Design and build a parachute for Santa to land safely on every home.

Plastic Cup Tree – Make the tallest Christmas tree using 100 cups.

Jingle Bell Maze – Design a cardboard maze for a jingle bell.

Snowball Catapult – Design and build a catapult to fling snowballs made of cotton balls or shaved ice.

Wrapping Paper Bridge – Build a bridge using discarded wrapping paper and tape.

Snow Fort – Use cardboard and other recycled materials to build an indoor fort.

Experiment: How long does it take ice to melt?

Design symmetrical snowflakes or 3D snowmen using recycled materials.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

Doug Finken/Marty Visitacion
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First Grade: Students discussed the "Nervous System" and how they use it in their daily life! They reviewed the brain, how the different parts function, their five senses, and how to take care of their brain.

Second Grade: During the last few weeks the students have learned about nutrition. We reviewed the *My Plate* food groups, and identified different foods that belong in each group. We also learned how to read a food label and located many things on a food label, such as: serving size, calories, ingredients, vitamins, fiber and sugar. The students showed a solid understanding of the material and we will continue to build upon this knowledge when they are in third grade.

Third Grade: Third grade students are learning about the heart. Some of the information the students learned included: blood vessels, blood cells, the chambers of the heart, and how the blood flows through the body. We ended the lessons with a fun true/false activity to see what the students knew. They did a fabulous job.



Veronica Maldonado, vmaldonado@chatham-nj.org

Congratulations to all of the MAS students for preparing and performing wonderful concerts this month! The children's smiles, excitement and singing left everyone in the holiday spirit. All of their hard work and enthusiasm was evident as they sang, danced, and played. Happy Holidays!

Quaver Music: If you have any questions about signing up for your child's free account, please follow these [Quaver Directions](#) or email Mrs. Maldonado! If your child already signed up for a free account on the QuaverMusic.com website, there is a new special code for 100 QuaverNotes this winter! When logging in, enter **DeckTheHalls** in the My QuaverCode box. Students will have until January 2, 2019 to enter the code, but the QuaverNotes don't expire.



There is also a special Holiday Gift Surprise from Quaver! Your child can click on their avatar after logging into Quaver Street, click "Change My Avatar," click "Instruments," choose one of the five mystery gifts pictured, and click save! Students will have until December 24 to select a gift! You can also read about these mystery gifts on the [Quaver blog!](#)





From the Art Room

Kenji Hasegawa khasegawa@chatham-nj.org

First, second, and third graders just finished Mona Lisa parody artworks. Students had fun re-imagining the famous painting done by Leonardo da Vinci about 500 years ago. Students were given the task of getting Mona ready for the winter months and the Holidays. Each student worked with a Mona Lisa Xerox copy and, with pencil, marker, crayon, and collage techniques, they re-imagined Mona Lisa in hilarious new ways. Mona ending up wearing fun hats, scarves, was dressed as Santa or even the Grinch. Mona became Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, even a Christmas cookie! All of these funny artworks are hanging on and around the Art room door as part of a yearly door decorating contest.



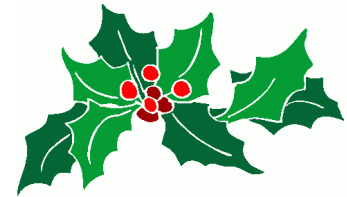
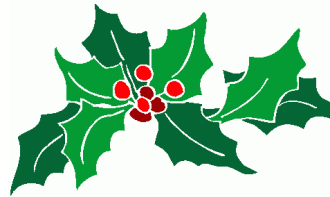
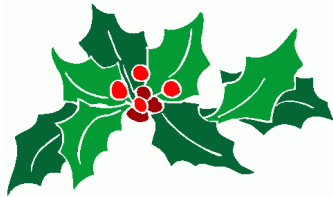
On the Run

Marty Vistacion / Doug Finken

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First Grade: Over the last couple weeks, we have played some hockey with the Pillow Polo hockey equipment. We did a couple days of skill work and then we played some games last week. The students did a nice job working together and demonstrated solid skills.

Second and Third Grade: This month, second and third grade students participated in the Reindeer Run, a fifteen minute partner jog. Focusing on cardiovascular endurance, we discussed the importance of activities that help keep the heart strong. The last week of December, we focused on muscular strength by using our climbing wall, swing and climbing ropes! Students participated in holiday games that focused on cooperation and teamwork".



Library Lore Jill Mills

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Earlier this month, all K-3 classes participated in Hour of Code. The students and I had a lot of fun! If your child would still like to practice coding for skill and fun, visit code.org/us/ learn. There are lots of games with varying level of skill-building! We wrapped up the month sharing winter and holiday stories across all grades, just enjoying the chance for read-alouds and reflections on favorite stories.

We have dedicated many new books to our collection through the reading program, so over the break, please be sure your children are reading AND recording what they read. Please visit the library website for a new [copy of the reading sheet](#) to complete.

We wish all of our Milton families a healthy and happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year!

PTO NEWS

Happy
Holidays!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to Sharon Piskadlo, Suzanne David, Michelle Manicone and Ashlee Hodge for a wonderful Holiday Shop, the children were all smiles coming out of school with all their gifts in hand. It was so sweet to see them all so excited about "giving".

I wish you all a Holiday Season filled with love and laughter. It's such a busy time, but please, try to occasionally sit, relax and hug your children tight and remember what the holidays are truly about. Enjoy the break! I look forward to seeing you all in the second half of the school year. Storybook Pirates will be here in January! The next Walk to School Day is Wednesday January 9th. Also, save the date—Milton Family Fun Night will be held on Friday March 1st!

Yvonne Greenwood
MAS PTO President

Winter After School Enrichment

The Winter ASE registration is now OPEN at <https://register.communitypass.net>. Please explore our list of winter classes. The ASE catalog is on the Milton PTO website. We are happy to offer new and exciting classes that your children will enjoy such as Sewing, Experimentania, Tae kwon Do, Dance Party, Crazy Chem Works, Passport to the World, and Plato to Playdough! Plus, we are still offering some old favorites such as All about Clay, Spanish, Cooking, Chess, Legos and more.

Registration began Friday, December 14th at 6:00 p.m. and closes Friday January 4th at 10 p.m. Classes are offered after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning Monday, January 22nd. Remember, class space is limited and children are registered on a first-come, first-served basis. If a class is full, you will automatically be placed on the wait list. Before you can register, you must create a Community Pass account for you and your family members. Once your account is created, registering is simple: from the drop-down box under "Register Now!" select "Chatham PTO - Milton Avenue School". Select the activity you would like to register for and "Register Now". Wait for the page to refresh and select the activity for which you wish to register and then follow the page by page instructions to complete your registration. A confirmation email for your registration will be sent to your email address on file with Community Pass

POP INTO A GOOD BOOK



Milton students have been reading "buckets" of books so far this year. Since the reading program began in October, students have already read enough books to dedicate 25 new books to the library. Miss Farrell's kindergarten class will get to dedicate TWO new books. Mrs. Wertheim's PM class and Mrs. Kurlak's class will each get to dedicate another book. Congratulations to Mrs. Wertheim's AM class and Miss Zimmer's class - both just earned their first book dedications! Wow! Many classes are very close to earning another book. Keep up the great reading in 2019 everyone and don't forget to turn in your reading sheets!

Number of books dedicated by class to date: **5 books:** KF-AM, **3 books:** KW-PM, 1V, 3K, 3R, **2 books:** 2M
1 book: KW-AM, 1T, 1Z, 2B, 2P, 3C