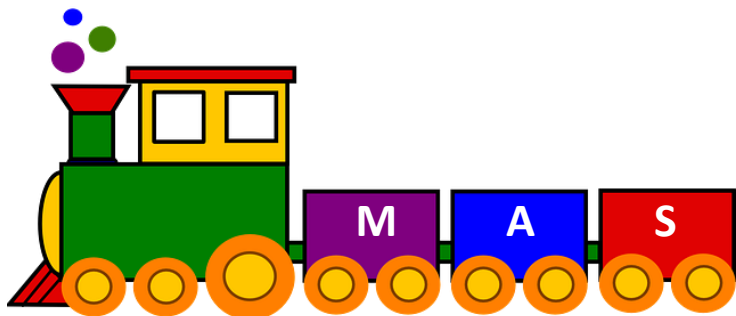


THE MILTON EXPRESS

February 28, 2020



Message from the Principal

"Oh, the Places You'll Go!"... the possibilities are endless when you enter the pages of a memorable book. No author has demonstrated this more than Dr. Seuss. In his world-famous books for kids, Dr. Seuss created colorful characters and inspired generations of children of all ages to explore the joys of reading. Each year, Read Across America in March commemorates the famous author's birthday by engaging children across the nation in reading activities throughout the school. Although the purpose of this day is to encourage and motivate children to read, we need to continue to find ways to help motivate children to read all year round.

Here are a few Dr. Seuss titles you can read with your child to further develop the enjoyment of reading...

- The Lorax:** This is a wonderful story to use to discuss such important concepts as respecting other's space, greed, and protecting the environment.
- Fox in Socks:** Read this book if you are really looking to have a few laughs with your child. This story is filled with tongue twisters and rhyming words that will put a smile on anyone's face.
- Oh, the Places You'll Go!:** This Dr. Seuss book truly conveys the important message that you can always be successful so long as you give it your best try. Through his rhyming words, Dr. Seuss informs the readers that they will experience bumps along the journey of life, but it's important to keep on trying whenever setbacks occur.
- There's a Wocket in my Pocket:** As children read this story, they will gain a better appreciation for society and how various creatures of different habitats can come together to live in harmony. This, too, is a great Dr. Seuss title to read to reinforce rhyming concepts.

Motivating children to read is an important factor in student achievement and creating lifelong successful readers. Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school. Although children across the country celebrate reading and literature as part of Read Across America each year, let's continue to stress to our children that reading is a lifelong celebration that should never come to an end. We will kick off our celebration of Read Across America on March 2 as we will hold a school-wide reading assembly in the morning. We look forward to having our entire school participate in our school spirit days during the week of March 2! Please check out the Milton calendar on the school website for information about our spirit activities.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in reading to your child and having him/her read to you on a daily basis!

Sincerely,

Nick Andrezza

Sunday, March 8,
2020

Move your clock
ahead one hour!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOMS...

PRE-SCHOOL: The preschoolers completed their study on Clothing by learning about special clothing that people wear for their jobs. This was a perfect introduction to community helpers and our current study on Buildings. We will spend the next few weeks exploring buildings in our community. The students will learn about the people inside of buildings and what happens in specific buildings. If your child frequents a specific building, please snap a photo and share with your child's teacher!



KINDERGARTEN: February was packed full of excitement for our kindergarteners! We began by discussing our different types of feelings with Mrs. Soder and even got to practice our belly breathing to help us calm down when we get upset or angry. In Reading Workshop, we focused our attention on making our super powers extra strong to help us decode prepositions and to check our reading to make sure it "makes sense." Our kindergarten sweethearts loved sharing their valentines with each other and creating our crafts. We also celebrated the 100th day of school by making crowns, reading 100th Day stories, and playing 100th Day activities with our friends. In March, we're looking forward to celebrating Read Across America!

FIRST GRADE: First graders have been very busy during the month of February. On the 100th day of school, we had fun rotating between the first grade classrooms and completing activities around the number 100! We are still delving deeply into our nonfiction reading and writing units. First graders have been discussing prior knowledge about topics and asking questions as we read. We have learned to take "stop and jot" notes on our post-it pads. Students have learned the importance of keywords in reading nonfiction books and how those keywords help us with retelling a nonfiction book. In math, we are continuing to learn about place value. We have learned to show a two-digit number in different ways. First grade will soon be learning how to compare two-digit numbers using greater and less than symbols. We are looking forward to March with the arrival of Family Fun Night, Read Across America, Author's Day, and Spring!

SECOND GRADE: February has been a fantastic month for second graders. Second grade scientists have been busy studying earth changes and how wind and water can change land over time through several hands on investigations. Second grade readers and writers are also wrapping up their study of nonfiction. Writers are working hard to publish their nonfiction expert books. As we move into March, second grade writers will begin to write poetry and see the world in a creative, new way. Second grade mathematicians will continue concepts related to place value and learn strategies for adding and subtracting within 1000. Please encourage students to practice their math facts using flashcards or XtraMath at home. We will continue to focus on growth mindset and fostering healthy social-emotional learning in the classroom.

THIRD GRADE: February has been a busy month for third graders. The students have finished their nonfiction reading unit and are now back working with fiction books. However, this time they are focusing on character traits and getting to know the characters in their books just as they would get to know a new friend. They are enjoying discussing the characters with their reading partners and book clubs. During writing workshop, the third graders are writing opinion/ persuasive pieces and understanding the structure of an essay. As always, elaboration with reasons, examples, and details is a major focus as they write their pieces. In math, the students are well involved with their fraction unit. This is a very important math concept for third graders as they work with fractional parts of wholes, fractions on a number line, compare fractions, and use fractions while measuring. Please encourage your child to continue to practice multiplication facts at home frequently. During social studies, the students are involved in understanding New Jersey's role in the Revolutionary War, Colonial period and how all of this helps New Jersey change. Third graders fully enjoyed the Robotics Assembly earlier this month. See if your child remembers the three components to all robots! A special thank you to the PTO for this enriching science opportunity.





Kindergarten and First Grade Registration

Registration for First Grade and Kindergarten is still ongoing. Please visit the [PARENT RESOURCES](#) section of the district website to register. Click [here](#) for the Full Day Lottery.

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

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

- ◆ **Walk-to-School** is on Wednesday, March 4.
- ◆ **Full Day Kindergarten Lottery** is on Thursday, March 5 at 3:30 p.m. in the Media Center
- ◆ **Family Fun Night** is Friday, March 6. (Snow date is March 13).
- ◆ **Early Dismissal for Teacher in Service** on Friday, March 13. See below for details.
- ◆ **Pizza Parlor Day** is scheduled for Friday, March 20.
- ◆ **Report Cards** are available in the Genesis Parent Portal on Friday, March 20.
- ◆ **Author's Day** is Friday, March 27. Check out "Library Lore" for more information about the author and ordering books for personalization.
- ◆ **Third Grade Bake Sale** is afterschool on Friday, March 27.

SCHOOL HOURS FOR MARCH 13

Friday, March 13—Early Dismissal

Full Day Kindergarten and Grades 1-3 will be dismissed at 12:35 p.m. for Teacher Professional Development.

No lunch will be served.

Half Day Kindergarten hours are: **AM** - 8:35 to 10:35; **PM** - 10:35 to 12:35.

Preschool hours are: **Full Day** - 9:00-12:00; **AM** - 8:40-10:30; **PM** - 10:40 to 12:30.

READ ACROSS AMERICA SPIRIT WEEK

Help us celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday by wearing fun and festive outfits in honor of several of his books!

Monday, March 2: "Wear Many Colors" - wear an outfit with your favorite colors

Tuesday, March 3: "All the Places You Will Go" - wear a shirt or hat from a place you have visited

Wednesday, March 4: "Wacky Wednesday" - wear your clothes inside/out, backwards or create a wacky hairstyle

Thursday, March 5: "I'm Not Going to Get Up Early" - wear your pajamas

Friday, March 6: "Hooray for Diffendoofer Day" - wear your Milton spirit wear



The Stetho-Scoop

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

**Report absences
via ParentPortal:**

**DO NOT email
teacher!**

Reminder Please continue to enter your child's absence in the Parent Portal or call the absentee line. **** Any students that will be absent before or after the upcoming Spring Break April 6-10th, you may enter the dates at any time prior to the absence.**

Contagious Illnesses: We continue to have reported cases of influenza, gastrointestinal illnesses, and colds over the last few weeks. Please keep your child home if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:

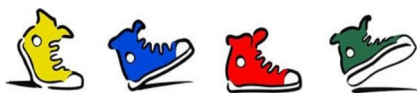
- A fever 100 degrees or higher. **Students should not return to school until their temperature is normal for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.**
- Sore throat with fever, rash, or headache
- Vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours
- Persistent cough (your child may be required to wear a mask while in the Nurse's office and may be sent home if the cough is severe or requires a physician's note to re-enter school)

Seasonal allergy tip: If your child suffers from seasonal allergies and depending on the severity of their allergies, you may want to talk with their Allergist about starting their allergy medication in the coming months. If your child will require seasonal allergy medication during school hours, an Authorization for Medication Administration form must be submitted to the Health Office.

In School Medication: If it is determined that your child requires medication during the school day, even if it is over the counter, the Department of Education and the Board of Nursing require the following:

- Written parent permission for the administration of medication at school
 - A legal order from the physician or nurse practitioner, detailing the diagnosis or type of illness being treated, the name of the drug, dosage, time of administration and the side effects.
 - The medication should be brought to the school in the original prescription-labeled container.
- You can find many forms here: <https://www.chatham-nj.org/page/122>

Please let me know if you need any help with this and we will work together to relieve your child's allergy symptoms as much as possible.



On the Run

Marty Vistacion /Doug Finken

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

Kindergarten students worked on cooperative skills using the parachute! They either worked in small groups or in large groups, using different size parachutes, emphasizing movement and fitness.

The **first grade students** recently participated in lessons where we worked on hockey skills. We use the Pillow Polo hockey sticks that have a hard foam end. We did some stick handling and passing activities, and played a variety of lead up games that help to bolster their skills. The students did a great job of not only improving upon their skills, but also of staying safe .

Second and third grade classes have been working on offensive, defensive, and cooperative strategies with various games. Students have also been practicing fitness concepts to prepare for their upcoming fitness challenges; Pacer Run, Curl Up and Push Up test.

Counseling News

Our Second Step Lessons for kindergarten and first grade this month have focused on feelings and controlling our anger. Belly breathing, taking a break, and counting to 10 were skills we practiced together to help ourselves calm down and feel relaxed when big emotions come on suddenly.

Our second and third grades practiced using their "ABC's Emotional Toolbar." This lesson focuses on 3 steps that can help to calm down strong feelings and finding a solution to help move past the issue. The steps include: 1—Pause and Breathe, 2—Rewind; ask yourself "why am I feeling this way", and 3—Play; "what choice can I make to move to a calm and safe place and move past this feeling"

We shared ideas and discussed solutions as a whole group, spending the most time on tools to help us calm strong feelings.



MILTON MEETING

We celebrated our students at the monthly Milton Meeting on February 28. Mrs. Soder shared the random acts of kindness package we received from Lafayette students and reminded students that we will have a fun "Read Across America" spirit week next 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: Luca Soares, Harper Gibbons, Maya Daley, and Liam Chang

Outstanding Artist: Neal Alteveer, Finn Collins, and Julia Librizzi

Marvelous Musician: Patrick Walker, Eva Kovaleva, and Yaolin Wang

MVP Award: Etta Wang, Mannix Mahoney, and Robert Maluga

Library Legend: Madelyn Androski, Aiden Sheth, Lili Sigalov, and Arjun Nair

STEM Superstar: Casey Feeley, Hudson Wong, Madeline Mierkiewicz, and Tony Lin

Library Lore Jill Mills

jmills@chatham-nj.org

As we wrap up our research across the grades, I am so proud of how diligently our students worked and how supportive they were of each other during the process. Our students continue to grow as responsible digital citizens!

On Friday, March 27th, NJ author Tara Lazar will be visiting MAS. Tara uses word play and familiar characters to tell fun and engaging stories. Please visit her website, taralazar.com, to learn more. A book order form went home with your child in the January Milton Express. You can also find it at the school library [website](#). If you would like to purchase an autographed book for your child, please be sure to complete the form and return it by Monday, March 9th.





Salvatore Bonafede, sbonafede@chatham-nj.org

First Grade has been hard at work practicing quarter notes and beamed eighth notes. Don't be surprised if your child starts creating "ta" and "ti-ti" rhythm patterns with objects such as pretzel sticks or crayons! This month, they worked on composing four beat rhythm patterns with craft sticks. In March, first graders will learn about quarter rest, or one beat of silence!

Second Grade continues to work on reading, composing, and performing rhythm patterns - now with half notes and half rests! We've played Music Math games to review rhythm and rest durations and learned a fun dance to practice our two-beat half notes!

Third Grade is quickly progressing in learning their Spring Concert music! Students are asked to complete and return their concert program drawing by Tuesday, March 3rd. If students need a [new blank copy](#), they can visit the [Music - Forms and Schedules](#) webpage to print a new one right at home! We are practicing rhythm patterns that include beamed sixteenth notes, called "ti-ka-ti-ka." If your third grader has signed up for a free Quaver Music account at home, they can compose using quarter notes, beamed eighth notes, beamed sixteenth notes, and quarter rest in the "Meters of 4 + Sixteenth Notes" activity, available in the Music Creation section of the Student Interactives (accessed from the yellow sign on Quaver Street)!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

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



First Grade: Students discussed friendships and proper manners (share, play together help each other), to grow and help with friends.

Second Grade: We spent time in class this month discussing the concept of being able to identify and handle conflicts. Students encounter conflicts throughout their lives, and the idea is to try to empower the students to try and solve their own conflicts themselves, prior to just asking an adult to help. I introduced a concept called "The Wheel of Choice," which was a wheel that we drew with 8 different ways to possibly handle/ settle conflicts. The students are aware that there are way more than 8 ways to settle a conflict, but these 8 are ones that could possibly help with conflicts that may arise in their lives. The 8 wheel of choice options are: apologize, share and take turns, talk it out, count to 10, go to another game, ignore it, tell them to stop, use an "I" message. We went through a few scenarios and the students discussed which method may be best to solve different conflicts.

Third Grade Health: The third grade students recently learned about the heart. This is a topic we have been reviewing and building upon over the last few years. The students were able to label the chambers of the heart on a diagram, locate their pulse on either their neck or wrist, and demonstrate knowledge about the circulatory system. The students learned about the difference between arteries and veins, the role of red and white blood cells, and other concepts about the circulatory system.

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 working on designing and building their model of their deserted island habitat for Benny the Bear. They used materials to make models of food, water, air, and shelter resources for the animal in its new habitat.

1st Grade – 21 Elephants Bride Challenge

Students are planning out and building their bridge models to see if they could stand on their own and hold 21 toy animals, similar to the story of how the Brooklyn Bridge was tested with 21 circus elephants.

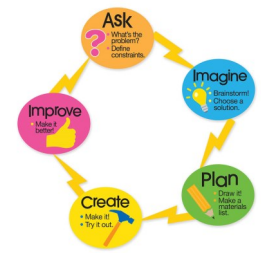
2nd Grade – Larry the Leprechaun Boat Challenge

Students are working on building their boat designs to float on water and hold at least 50 pennies for Larry the Leprechaun.

3rd Grade – Safety Helmet Challenge

Students are designing and building their safety helmets while thinking about design aesthetics, comfort, and optimal protection for athletes playing sports such as soccer, basketball, and gymnastics.

Don't forget to practice your typing skills at home!
Click here for [directions on how to access Type to learn from home](#).



From the Art Room

Kenji Hasegawa khasegawa@chatham-nj.org

Kindergarteners had fun this month learning about warm and cool colors and using them to paint heart artworks. Warm colors are red, orange, and yellow, and cool colors are green, blue, and purple.

First graders are using warm and cool colors to create an ocean artwork with a sunset. Students used a crayon to draw their picture first, and then added color using tempera paints.

Second graders recently finished working on a rainy day drawing that includes an umbrella that also doubles as a color wheel.

Third graders learned about proportions of the face. Proportions have a lot to do with the size of things in relation to one another. We learned where to draw the features of the face using guidelines. Students applied these new understandings as they worked on Self-Portraits.

PTO NEWS

Family Fun Night is Coming!

Family Fun Night is just around the corner! This night is one of our children's favorite Milton memories and there is still time for you to help out. Visit our [MAS Sign Up page](#) to volunteer to help with set up or clean up (you will be done by 9pm) or to contribute to our FFN Bake Sale or grade level Silent Auction baskets. To make additional Silent Auction donations, please contact Laura Bojanowski at MASFFN2020@gmail.com. Some ideas include (but are not limited to): dinner and/or cooking classes; concert or Broadway tickets, Sports experiences and memorabilia, jewelry/accessories, Apple watch, private tutor services, piano lessons, vacation homes.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The month of February was filled with lots of fun for our little ones at Milton. Thanks to the support from our parents and your generosity to the MAS General Fund, our little ones enjoyed a great assembly on robots! The children were very excited and had a great time seeing how robots help make our lives easier and more efficient. We, unfortunately, don't have robots that can run all of our stations at Family Fun Night! We need some help from our parents. Family Fun Night takes a village to make the night a success. Please consider volunteering, even if it is just for an hour.

Our preschool will be enjoying an assembly from Eyes of the Wild on March 13th. The children love seeing all the fun animals that are brought to school. We have Rizzo's Wildlife coming to visit K-3 in April. They will be excited to see the extra animals we added to the program! Again, because of your contributions to the General Fund, these assemblies are possible.

Thank you to the Third Grade Spirit Committee for running a great Mr. A Party. The children had a great time. Be on the lookout for their next fundraiser! I would also like to give a special thank you to the parents that are running our car line in the morning. These parents are outside in the cold and rain and still always have on a smile. Please thank them the next time you are dropping off your child, and please also be respectful to the rules that go along with the car line. Their job is to keep our children safe, not to get parents to where they need to be on time. Believe me, I understand we are all in a rush, but please take the extra minute and follow the rules.

Please be sure to read over the Spring ASE catalog. Registration closes on March 10th at 10pm. Thank you to our ASE team for picking such amazing programs for our children to enjoy.

Thank you to all the parents that are constantly volunteering and willing to lend a hand. You are all so much fun to work with, and we couldn't run these events successfully without your help. I look forward to seeing you all on March 6th for a night of organized chaos and fun!

Sharon Plskadlo
President

On Your Mark, Get Set, READ

Milton students have continued their awesome reading this month! Working together, they have earned 17 more medals in February, bringing the school-wide total to 58 so far! Individual classes are reading so many wonderful books and students are remembering to submit their reading sheets. As they do, their class finishes more laps around the track so that they can earn more new books to dedicate to the library. Progress to date by class:

7 laps completed: KF-AM and 1Z

6 laps completed: 1V and 3C

5 laps completed: KW and 2B

4 laps completed: KF-PM, 2P, 3K and 3R

3 laps completed: 1T and 2M

Keep up the great reading everyone! Students can pick up new reading sheets when their class visits the library or you can print them at home.



After School Enrichment: Registration for the spring session of After School Enrichment will open on Tuesday, March 3 at 6pm and will close on Tuesday, March 10 at 10pm. Course offerings can be viewed under our "ASE" tab on the [Chatham PTO](#) website. Our Winter session of ASE will **end** this Tuesday (Mar. 3) for All Ball Sports, Reader's Theater and Kids can Code (K-1) and on Monday, March 9 for all Monday ASE classes.