

Millis Middle School Grade 8 Newsletter

October, 2017



Student Recognition



The grade 8 teachers would like to recognize two students who have shown exceptional respect to teachers and peers, who have inspired others through their actions and words and who have been welcoming and accepting of their classmates. While many students in grade eight are outstanding in all of these categories, Chloe Verrochi and Brendan Davis stood out from the rest this month for being compassionate, inclusive, respectful members of the Millis Middle School. Congratulations Chloe and Brendan!

Gr8 News

Tri-County Field Trip: The eighth grade will travel to Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School on **Friday, Oct 27**. Students will tour the school, and hear from Tri-County students about all that this school has to offer. *Permission slips must be signed.*

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Evening Conferences will be held on **Thursday, Oct 26** and afternoon conferences on **Thursday, Nov 2**. If you want to meet with your child's teachers and were unable to find an open slot online, please contact Ms. D'Espinosa (mdespinosa@millisps.org) to arrange a meeting with the team.

"A Christmas Carol": Students will enjoy a day at the Trinity Theater in Providence on **Thursday, December 21**, attending a live performance of **"A Christmas Carol"**, based on the classic novel written by Charles Dickens. *Permission slips must be signed. The cost for tickets and transportation is \$25 due before or by Nov. 1.* We will stop for lunch on the way home at a fast-food restaurant; students may also bring their own lunch.

Yearbook Ordering Information steps:

1. Log on to www.coffeepond.com
2. Go to "place an order" and click on "yearbooks"
3. Enter School Password: Mohawks
4. Check the box "On-Line Order"
5. Follow the instructions and place your order!

The cost is \$22.

Send your **child's baby photo** digitally to: crooney@millisschools.org. Include your child's name in the subject line! We are also looking for **cover designs** for the yearbook: Please see Mrs. Monaghan for specific details.



Community Service Project

The Millis Food Pantry provides an invaluable service to community members who are struggling to make ends meet. For many years, Millis



students in eighth grade have assisted the Food Pantry by providing Thanksgiving dinners to families.

Roche Brothers provides turkeys and the students provide the "fixings":

potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetables,

etc. Students decorate boxes which they then fill with items for the holiday meal. These Thanksgiving goodies are greatly appreciated by the Millis Food Pantry clients who receive them. We appreciate the generosity of students and their



families which makes this project possible. We will begin decorating the boxes on November 2nd; please send in any seasonal decorative items by this date.



Classroom Highlights

ELA: We are currently reading Lois Lowry's The Giver. Students are intrigued by this strict community that has complete control over its members. Imagine having to apply for a child or after being carefully watched by The Committee, being assigned a career? Groups are designing their own "perfect society". In addition, students are reading and discussing their Literature Circle books with their peers.

Math: Students started off the year using engineering and design to make catapults while engaging in productive group work practices. We have been reviewing some skills from grade 7, and we have studied linear functions in graph, table, equation and word problem form. Teachers are here regularly after school if your child would like extra help learning a skill. In the coming weeks we will delve into the Pythagorean Theorem.

Science: This month we will begin looking at how the atoms and molecules of substances are composed, and how they are rearranged during chemical changes. Through lecture, demonstrations and labs, students will learn how mass is conserved during chemical reactions. At the end of the month going into November, we will be studying acids and bases.

Spanish/Immersion: Students are reviewing all the vocabulary and grammar contents learned in 6th- and 7th-grade Spanish, focusing on authentic culture and real-life communication using Spanish spoken in Spain and Latin America. While reviewing, students are practicing reading, writing, listening, and speaking. By participating in classroom activities, students will employ critical thinking skills as they compare the Spanish language and the culture of Spain and Latin America with their own community. If your child needs extra help, Mr. Pérez is always available during lunch and after school; 8th- and 10th-grade tutors are also available if your child would like assistance.

Social Studies: In September we started our unit on the Origins of Islam. We also did a lesson commemorating September 11th. This month we are finishing up the study of Islam and making connections between this religion and our present day world. At this month's end, we will start our study of the Fall of the Roman Empire. Students will start a writing project by putting together a five paragraph essay in a collaboration between ELA and Social Studies class.



Student Council Happenings

Earlier this year, students campaigned for student council offices. All candidates worked hard in their bid for election. We wish the new members of the council a fun and productive year.

Officers:

Presidents: Travis Kierstead and Braeden McPhee

Vice President: Ryan Mullen

Treasurer: Jess Khan

Secretary: Eliza Gerrish

Grade 8 Class Representatives:

Grade 8

Maggie Graham

Bobbie Wanders

Baillie Burke

Hurricane Relief

Millis Middle School has paired with another small school in Port Arthur Texas to share our “Small School Big Family” spirit. St.Catherine’s School was flooded during hurricane Harvey and is in great need of replacing many school supplies. The Student Council had a Pajama & Hat Day on Wednesday October 18 raising \$276 to help the Art and Physical Education program at St. Catherine’s.

Cradles to Crayons Winter Coat Drive

Five Time Super Bowl Champions, The New England Patriots need our help! The Patriots are partnering with Cradles to Crayons to ensure that children in need have warm winter coats and other winter gear to weather the New England cold. Cradles to Crayons expects to receive more than 30,000 requests for gently used winter coats, new hats, new mittens and gloves for this winter. Student Council will have boxes set up to accept donations through November 15th and will appreciate any donations your family can make of gently used winter coats, or new hats, mittens or gloves.



Contact Us Anytime:

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Javier Pérez (Spanish)	jperez@millisps.org
Michelle Shepardson (Math)	mshepardson@millisps.org

The grade 8 teachers meet regularly during the school day. We welcome parents/guardians to attend our meetings to discuss any concerns they may have about their children. Feel free to request a meeting by contacting Mary-Ellen D'Espinosa mdespinosa@millisps.org

