



Mills Moments

John Mills School
"Simply Amazing"
January 29, 2010



2824 N. 76th Avenue
Elmwood Park, IL 60707
www.epcsud401.org

Peter M. Herbert, Principal
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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Feb. 1** 6th Grade Band Practice, 7:55 a.m.; Chess Wizards, 3:00-4:00 p.m.; Going Green Science Club, 3:00-4:00 p.m.; Student Council, 3:05-3:30 p.m.; Basketball Intramurals, 3:15-4:15 p.m.
- Feb. 2** 6th Grade Band Practice, 7:55 a.m.; Drama Club, 8:00 a.m.; Speech & Drama Team, 3:15-4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 3** Late Start, student entry at 9:12 a.m.; Basketball Intramurals, 3:15-4:15 p.m.
- Feb. 4** 5th Gr. Band Practice, 7:55 a.m.; TAP, 8:00 a.m.; Young Rembrandts, 3:10-4:10 p.m.; Yearbook Meeting, 3:15-3:45 p.m.
- Feb. 5** 5th Gr. Band Practice, 7:55 a.m.; Basketball Intramurals, 3:15-4:15 p.m.; Progress Reports Sent Home

Principally Speaking

Last week we announced the winner of our District Spelling Bee, but inadvertently did not recognize two members of our staff who prepared the students for the BEE. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Powers, our gifted coordinator, for a wonderful job in planning the event and Mr. LoPresti, who served as the students' coach in practice sessions.

On Wednesday and Thursday (**Feb. 10th and Feb. 11th**) Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held from 3:30-7:00 p.m. for those students whose parents have requested one or have been notified by their child's teacher. **All** parents should have attended a conference with their child's teacher. If you did not attend one in November or you are a parent of a new student who enrolled after November 5th, you should be scheduled for a conference on **February 10th or February 11th**. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher to set up a conference time.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

The following message pertains to conferences and is for those parents who do not read English:

Uwaga Rodzice!

Zblizaja sie wywiadowki. Prosze w miare mozliwosci przyprowadzic kogos, kto pomoze porozumiec sie z nauczycielem. Szkola nie moze zagwarantowac tlumacza, choc w czasie wywiadowek bedzie nauczyciel mowiacy po polsku i pomagajacy w niektorych spotkaniach. **10 luty i 11 luty od 3:30 - 7:00.**

Padres de Familia:

Por favor, si vienen a la reunion con la maestra, vengan con alguien que pueda traducir el ingles. Es importante comunicar con la maestra de su hijo/a. Mr. LoPresti estara en la escuela para traducir, pero tal vez el no puede asistir a todas las reuniones. **10 Febrero y 11 Febrero de 3:30 - 7:00.**

Young Authors

All books are due next Friday. If parents haven't already placed their order for additional copies, they should check with their child's teacher.

Parenting Tips by Mrs. Kutrubis

*Discipline tips for parents...

- Set a good example-you are role models for your children.
- Set limits, but be careful not to impose too many rules.
- Before making a rule, ask yourself: Is it necessary?
- Keep rules simple and understandable.
- Involve children as much as possible in making family rules.
- Be flexible. Remember, not all children respond in the same way.
- Keep your sense of humor.
- Encourage independence and responsibility.
- Tell your children how much you love them. When they misbehave, let them know it is their behavior that you dislike, not them. *The National PTA

Reading Corner...

FINAL NOTICE...The **READ TO SUCCEED** recording sheets are due to classroom teachers by **Friday, Feb. 5th**. There's still plenty of time left to reach the **6 hour reading goal**. Reaching the goal will earn you two rewards; you'll become a better reader AND earn a ticket to Great America. What a great deal!

D.A.R.E. Program

Congratulations to our fifth grade students who completed the D.A.R.E. (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) program. Students participated yesterday in the D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony. In attendance was special guest speaker, Police Chief Braglia. Sandra Avila, Josette Green, Hannah Ottenfeld and Joanna Skrzeczyna were selected to read their essays on what they learned in their D.A.R.E. classes. John Mills sixth grade concert band performed during the program.

We would like to thank the Village of Elmwood Park for their time and commitment to the D.A.R.E. Program, our D.A.R.E. instructor, Officer Bogg and the fifth grade team – Mrs. Byrnes, Ms. Durkin, Mrs. McGovern and Mr. Pietroski – along with Mr. Hawk, for their contribution to this program. We would also like to thank Mrs. Bitterman and Mrs. Perrelli for their help with the refreshments.

Haiti...Change to Make a Change

Student Council's collection for the earthquake victims in Haiti ended today. We are just "simply amazed" at the generosity and enthusiasm to give to this very worthy cause. The money will be counted and we will let you know next week what our donation to the Red Cross will be.

Candy Gram Sale Ends on Friday, 2/5. →



Technology News by Mrs. Berkery

We have been very busy in Technology class since the start of the year. Students have been engaging and learning about different tools for word processing, illustrating and presenting information.

In **first grade**, we have been learning and talking about habitats. We had created illustrations on our favorite habitat in TuxPaint using the paint and stamping tool. This past week, we read and talked about an online story called “The Grumpy Bug” and then illustrated our favorite scene from the story.

Second graders finished up a unit on Nutrition and we are currently learning about different landforms. Students chose three of their favorite landforms. We rewrote their definitions and have been illustrating them in TuxPaint using the text, paint and stamping tool.

In **third grade**, we have been talking about how to maintain a healthy heart in order to prepare for Jump Rope for Heart next month. In the next few weeks, we will be learning how to create a slideshow in Open Office and each student will be assigned a planet. Students will learn how to format text, insert clipart, animations, slide transitions and save/name their files.

Fourth graders are currently learning how to use Animoto. Animoto produces TV-quality music videos using photos in just minutes. Students set up their accounts this week and experimented with the different features. Next week, they will be creating a practice Animoto on U.S. symbols and then will create one focusing on the eight planets. We will then continue on to explore eclipses, phases of the moon and more of our solar system.

Fifth graders are currently finishing up on creating Google Earth virtual tours. They were to brainstorm eight placemarks in and outside of Elmwood Park that would be important to show a new student. They are placing them in Google Earth with the pushpin icon and writing a description. When completed, they will exchange “tours” with each other completed, they will exchange “tours” with each other and engage in the tour.

In **sixth grade**, we have been working on Ancient Egyptian Glogs. Students chose one topic from each of the five sections from the Ancient Egyptian chapter in their Social Studies textbooks. Students have been creative with their placement of clipart, animations and text. I am excited to see the finished. They will be published on the web for all to see.

Lastly, my website, *The Berkery Spot* (<http://sites.google.com/site/serekspot/>) has been “under construction” for the last couple of months. I am in the process of creating a new website, changing the layout and updating links. If a student has clicked a link that is no longer available and they cannot find the information they are looking for, they are more than welcome to see me for help. Please stay tuned for launch of my new website!

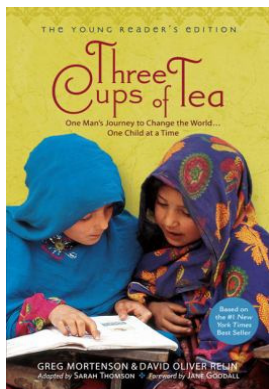
4th-6th Grade PE

Absences and Make-ups -Each student is responsible for making up any missed class work. Make-ups will be at the discretion of the teacher. If a student does not participate, he or she must have a written excuse from their parent/guardian (signed by the school nurse) or a physician. Class credit is offered on the first Tuesday, February 2 and Thursday, February 4 from 8:00 -8:20 am. It is the responsibility of the student to see the teacher for class credit following **ALL** absences.

Extra Credit - Extra credit will be offered for any 4th-6th grader interested in earning a couple of points toward their PE grade. Students that are interested in the extra credit must be in ROOM 105 NO LATER THAN 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 2 or Thursday, February 4.

Floor Hockey Vocabulary Unit Test - The floor hockey vocabulary unit test for all 4th-6th grade classes will be starting next week Monday, February 1. Every student received their vocabulary words starting Monday, January 4th. If any students need additional floor hockey vocabulary word sheets, please stop by ROOM 105 after school.

United We Read, Elmwood Park



The entire District 401 community has the opportunity to read a specially selected book and share its story, message, and the experience with others. The Elmwood Park Public Library and the Village of Elmwood Park are partners on this project. This year our book selection has three different levels. Our first through third graders will be reading Listen to the Wind: The story of Dr. Greg and Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and Susan L. Roth. Students in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades will be reading Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World...One Child at a Time by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. All classes have been exposed through the library of excerpts of the book and information about the author Greg Mortenson. Please ask your child/children to share with you some of the interesting facts about his life and journey. Also, please stop in the Elmwood Park Library to sign up for activities that will run from February through May. Remember, all these programs are free and fun.