



# Mills Moments

John Mills School  
"Simply Amazing"  
February 19, 2010



2824 N. 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Elmwood Park, IL 60707  
[www.epcsd401.org](http://www.epcsd401.org)

Peter M. Herbert, Principal  
Donna J. Kutrubis, Assistant Principal

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Feb. 22-26** PTA Book Fair, open after school until 3:30 p.m.
- Feb. 22** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Practice, 7:55 a.m.; Art Club, Gr. 6, 3:00-4:00 p.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.; 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Band Fest, EPHS, 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 23** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Practice, 7:55 a.m.; Mrs. Byrnes/Mrs. McGovern's Field Trip; Drama Club, 8:00 a.m.; Stamp Club, 3:00-3:45 p.m.; Variety Show Practice, 3:00-4:30 p.m.; Speech & Drama Team, 3:15-4:00 p.m.
- Feb. 24** Late Start, student entry at 9:12 a.m.
- Feb. 25** 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Band Practice, 7:55 a.m.; TAP, 8:00 a.m.; The 50 States Assembly, 1:00 p.m.; Art Club, Gr. 4-6, 3:00-3:45 p.m.; Speech & Drama Team, 3:15-4:00 p.m.; Young Rembrandts, 3:10-4:10 p.m.
- Feb. 26** Choir, 7:50 a.m.; 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Band Practice, 7:55 a.m.; Ms. Durkin/Mr. Pietroski's Field Trip

### Principally Speaking

I would like to thank everyone who supported our Jump Rope for Heart last week. A total of **\$1,851.00** was donated to the American Heart Association for their fight against heart disease. A special thank you to our staff members, Ms. Rodriguez, Mr. Tsagalis, Mrs. Demas and Ms. Andrews, along with student council members and parent volunteers, for running a very successful fundraising event.

I am pleased to announce that Daniel Surowiec, District 401's Spelling Bee winner, won first place at the Com Ed/ Suburban Cook Regional Spelling Bee last week and came in seventh at last night's event. Congratulations Daniel for all that you have accomplished!

### PE Announcements

Any 4<sup>th</sup> grade student that has missed the "Jumping Scientist" assignment and needs to make it up may come promptly at 8:00 a.m. to the gym **Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** or **Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

Any 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade student that missed performing the "Jump Rope Routine" with their group may come to the gym promptly at 8:00 a.m. on **Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>** or **Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**. Any member of their group that helps them perform will receive an extra credit point.

Fitness Testing starts for grades 1-6 on **Monday, February 22**. All classes will have the Endurance Run on their first day of PE next week."

### Attention: Parents of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

If you haven't already done so, your child's completed dental form must be turned in **as soon as possible**.

### Please Mark Your Calendars

March 1-5

Illinois Standards Achievement Test, Grades 3-6  
It is very important that your child(ren) are in attendance for the test.

### Parenting Tips by Mrs. Kutrubis

Attendance is directly linked to achievement. Parents who let their kids miss a lot of school may be setting them up for failure. Researcher Mary Frase tracked students who dropped out of high school. One thing that nearly all of them had in common was poor attendance. To date there have been **1,220** tardies. One of the most important things you can do as a parent is to get your child to school on time each day.

### District Band Festival

Come and enjoy the musical talents of District 401's 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, middle school and high school concert bands on **Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. at Elmwood Park High School.

### It's a Celebration

**Gung Hay Fat Choy!** (May you prosper in the New Year!) Second graders celebrated Chinese New Year, which began on February 14<sup>th</sup> this year and will end 15 days later with the Lantern Festival. The students dined on fried rice and sweet and sour chicken as part of their celebration.

On **Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**, the fourth grade students celebrated Mardi Gras, otherwise known as "Fat Tuesday". Students have been studying the southeast region of the U.S. specifically major cities, one being New Orleans, Louisiana. Students celebrated with a Cajun feast which included jumbalaya prepared by room parents. Students also enjoyed paczki, which is a dessert filled with custard or jelly. Students wore crowns, bracelets, masks as they do at the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans. It was a great festive event!

### Flat Stanley

Ms. Bartolini's class just completed reading a wonderful book called Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown. After reading the book, the students completed a project based on the story. In the book, Stanley Lambchop is squashed flat by a falling bulletin board. One of the advantages of being flat is that his parents can put him in a large envelope and mail him for a visit to his friends in California. The students mailed Flat Stanley, along with a letter, to friends and relatives all around the world for a visit. The recipient is asked to treat Stanley like a guest, complete a daily journal, take him places, take a few pictures with him, and mail him back after a few days. The students are anxiously awaiting the return of their Flat Stanleys!

PTA Family Fun Night Volunteer Meeting  
Please refer to the backside of Mills Moments  
for more information. →



## Family Fun Night Volunteers Needed

Please come to sign up and see how you can be a part of this "Simply Amazing" Event!!

When: Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:15 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge

---

\_\_\_\_\_ I cannot make the meeting, but would like to volunteer for the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ At-Home volunteer (cutting, making calls, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Bake or donate for cake walk on March 12th (All items will need to be delivered to school by 1:00 p.m. that day.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Set-up day of event

\_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer night of event

Please print clearly:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Any questions, please contact Deanna Wassom at (708) 214-8012 [dmwgotcandles@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmwgotcandles@sbcglobal.net) or Lisa McManus (773) 531-5881

**Please complete and return to the school's main office.**