



# Millersport Messenger

## News from Millersport Elementary

August 2014

<http://www.walnuttsd.org/es/>

Mrs. Angie Harrison  
Principal



### Principal's News

Welcome back to school! We are looking forward to spending another year with your children. I know that I get much energy and happiness from these little faces. I have missed them!

Millersport Elementary continues to do well on the Ohio Achievement Tests. Our preliminary results show that we obtained 8 of 10 indicators on our state report card. In fact, we beat many of our Fairfield County counterparts in several areas! Final ratings will be released soon. The world of education continues to experience many changes. Whether or not you agree with all the changes, they are a reality, and we must do our best to reach the accountability standards from the state. We are up to the challenge!

We are pleased to say that our "targeted instruction" appears to be working for both our high and low learners. Our students showed much growth last year, and we are quite pleased. We will continue to "target instruction" in order to meet the learning needs of all our students. We want ALL of our kids to grow in their learning. Your child was placed in a classroom which meets his or her unique learning needs. This benefits both the struggling learners and the higher learners.

One of our primary goals is to maintain consistent communication with you regarding your son or daughter's progress. Always feel free to contact your child's teacher or myself if you have any questions or concerns.

Remember that my door is always open. I want us to work together so that your child has a great school year and a greater future.

Angie Harrison- Principal

## New State Tests

This year, most Ohio students in grades 3-8 will take a new and different set of state achievement tests that are based on Ohio's New Learning Standards. Both the standards and new tests reflect higher expectations for what students should know and be able to do in math, English language arts, science and social studies. The new tests also will better measure what students have learned and what they can do with their knowledge.

In grades 3-8 math, the new state tests will replace the Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA). The new tests also will replace the OAAs in grades 4-8 English language arts. All grade 3 students will take the OAA in reading this fall. Students who reach a promotion score on that test will switch to the state's new third-grade reading test next spring. Those who do not receive a promotion score will take the OAA in reading again next spring.

The new state tests also replace the grade 5 and 8 science tests and bring back the social studies tests at grades 4 and 6.

Each of these state tests has two parts. The first is performance-based. Students will provide answers and explain how and why they chose them. The second part is an end-of-course exam in which students simply select responses. A student's final score will combine the scores from both parts.

If you have questions about the new state tests, contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Harrison at 467-2216 or by email: [aharrison@walnuttsd.org](mailto:aharrison@walnuttsd.org).

### Upcoming Events

- ✓ August 27-September 1 Sweet Corn Festival Break and Labor Day
- ✓ September 2 School resumes
- ✓ September 9 School pictures
- ✓ October 9 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading OAA



## New Teachers



We would like to welcome two new teachers to our Millersport Elementary staff. Mrs. Katie Gilreath is our new intervention specialist, and Mrs. Laura Brown (not to be confused with fifth grade Ms. Brown) will be teaching fifth/sixth grade math. Both teachers tell me they are excited to be here! For more info, take some time to read their bios which will soon be posted on the website. We are proud to have them as our newest LAKERS!

# Recognizing Positive Behavior

Not only do we have high academic goals for your child, we are also striving to develop personal responsibility and a strong work ethic in your child. We want school to be a safe and productive learning environment. We are up to the challenge! This year, we are concentrating more on positive behavior. In addition, we are setting clear school wide behavior expectations, and we are making students accountable for following them. Among the changes:

- Laker Leader tickets: Students “caught” being good will receive a ticket. These tickets go in a drawing for fun prizes every quarter
- Anchor Award: This award is for students who go above and beyond. Maybe they turn lost money into the office or report an incident of someone being bullied. These students will receive a certificate, get their name displayed in the hall, and receive “bling” (jewels) for their behavior clip.
- Golden Plunger Award- This reward will be given by the custodians each week. The “Golden Plunger Trophy” will be awarded to the cleanest class!
- Attendance Tokens- Students who go an entire month with no tardies or absences will receive an attendance token. Tokens will be drawn at the end of the year. There will be a girl winner and a boy winner for a BRAND NEW BICYCLE!
- We held Behavior Stations last Friday. At each station, behavior expectations were reviewed. Behavior expectations are now displayed throughout the school! The Color Wheel will reinforce these behavior expectations.



3rd Grade  
Reading  
Guarantee



## Third Grade Reading Guarantee

The third grade is an important milestone in a child’s education. A student must possess good, basic reading skills by the end of grade 3 as a basis for learning in higher grades. Research shows that youngsters who enter grade 4 without proper reading skills are at least four times more likely to drop out of high school. Last year, Millersport Elementary began implementing the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. The state law requires schools to assess the reading skills of K-3 students at the beginning of each school year and provide extra help to those who are behind.

If your student is in third grade for the first time this year, he or she will soon take the Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA) in reading. A score of 394 will be needed on the OAA either in the fall *or* next spring for your child to move to grade 4 in fall 2015.

This fall, Millersport Elementary\_K-3 teachers will notify the parents of every reader who appears to be behind pace and immediately start giving these students extra reading help in the classroom. If you are notified that your child struggles to read, keep in touch with your teacher and ask what you can do to help at home. Working with your child and the teacher, you can increase the chance that your student will catch up by the end of the school year.

Students with certain disabilities or those who speak English as a second language may be affected differently by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Again, talk to your child’s teacher to find out more.

For parent’s guides to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee by grade, [visit education.ohio.gov](http://visit.education.ohio.gov) and type *Parent Roadmaps* in the Search box.

# A Few Reminders

1. Remember that our dress code does not allow students to wear pajama pants (flannel pants) to school on typical school days. We may occasionally allow pajama pants to be worn during special school events such as Read-a-thons or “Jammie Days.”
2. Tardy Rule- If a student has more than five tardies in a grading period, he or she will be given a consequence. Recess detentions and/or after school detentions will be considered.
3. PLEASE note that we have a Wellness Policy which discourages parents from bringing things like cookies, brownies, and cupcakes for school parties and birthday celebrations. Instead, we ask parents to bring healthier alternatives. A list of suggestions is provided in the handbook.

## Volunteers Needed

Do you have some extra time? Do you love spending time with children? Books? If so, we could use you!

We are currently in need of volunteers to work with our struggling readers during the school day. This program is called Project More, and the coordinator is Mrs. Holly King, our K-3 intervention specialist. The time commitment is minimal, and it really makes a difference with our students!

We also need a few volunteers to help label books in our school library. Labeling new books each year is a huge undertaking, and Mrs. Bush could use some help!

If you are interested in either of these projects, please contact the elementary office at 467-2216.

## Math Facts

Memorizing basic math facts is critical to success in math. Three years ago we began a new “math fact focus.” It paid off! Our students scored higher on our local and state math assessments. We will continue this focus at Millersport Elementary. To become proficient means practice at school **and home**. At each grade level, teachers will once again dedicate a portion of each day to practicing math facts. We are also implementing a reward system to try and make it more motivating for the students. Ideally, your child will be independently studying at home and occasionally asking you to help them practice.

By mastering math facts, a student becomes more fluent and more accurate when completing math problems. Mastering the facts is a must. Students who fail to master the facts may eventually spend some of their free time here at school studying. Students must be held accountable for this learning! Learning these facts NOW will pay huge dividends down the road.

# Bullying

We believe that school should be a safe and nurturing environment for students. The administration and faculty of Millersport Elementary are dedicated to making sure schools remain safe learning environments for all students. Bullying is a serious issue that every school in the nation faces. Nationwide, research shows that more than half of all school-aged children will be involved in bullying this year as a victim or a perpetrator with many more witnessing bullying acts on a regular basis.

At our school, we believe in working together with parents to combat bullying. We know this problem isn't confined to school grounds. Bullying at school affects and is affected by what happens at home between siblings, what happens in the neighborhood, and what happens when kids go online. We must work together to take immediate action, whether a child bullies, is a victim of bullying, or is a witness to bullying.

New legislation allows school districts to now investigate and enforce consequences for cyber bullying. That means that students may receive consequences for bullying via texting, email, Facebook, and other electronic means.

## Drop Off and Dismissal Procedure Reminders

As you may recall, we recently made some changes in order to make our building safer for our precious children.

For safety reasons, parents are NOT permitted to walk their children to class or pick up their children in the hallway or at the classroom door. Parents who bring their children to school in the morning are requested to drop their children off **at the double doors near the basketball court at the rear of the rotunda**. A teacher is on duty at this location; it is the safest way for your child to enter the building. We ask that you do not visit your child's classroom in the morning UNLESS you stop by the office first to obtain a visitor badge. In addition, we ask that you do not enter the auditorium after the first week of school.

At the beginning of the year, please notify your child's teacher about the routine your child should follow daily at dismissal time. **Any changes in a student's dismissal routine must be written in a note to the child's teacher; otherwise students will be dismissed according to their normal dismissal routine.**

We ask that parents picking up students by car, **park in the back parking lot**. Please enter the building through the cafeteria doors and wait for your child in the cafeteria. For safety reasons, we request that you sign your child out daily on the appropriate log. After your child is dismissed from class, he/she will walk to the pick-up location and meet you there. **Everyone is urged to be courteous and patient, and to drive slowly in the parking lot at all times.**



# Young Philanthropist

Did you know we have a young philanthropist among us? Katie Hall is an exceptional young lady who raised over \$60.00 for Operation Feed and the Mid Ohio Food Bank. That equates to 480 meals! She did this by selling loom bracelets.

She worked hard and exhausted some of her colors. She persevered and kept her goal in sight! We are so proud of her! Many students can learn from her example. We are proud to call Katie a LAKER!



# School Fees

\$30.00 per student  
Due Oct 1

## Cafeteria Online Bill Pay

We are pleased to announce that we have online bill pay for our cafeteria. We sent these letters home the first day of school, and the link is provided on our website. We hope you enjoy this added convenience.

# Extra, Extra?

Many students frequently ask to purchase extra food and milk at lunchtime from their lunchroom accounts. While we would love to provide these extras to a hungry student, we need to have your permission in order for your child to purchase them. Please take a moment to complete the attached form (or write us a note). If we do not receive permission from you, we will assume that he/she is not allowed to purchase extra items at lunchtime.

**Ate School Breakfast**      **Didn't eat School Breakfast**



**EAT SCHOOL BREAKFAST**  
it gives you energy

Breakfast Times: 8:30-8:55am

Prices: \$.75 (No charge to students who get free or reduced lunches under the National School Lunch Program.)



Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

- Yes, my child may buy extra milk at \$.40 each.
- Yes, my child may buy an extra entrée at \$1.75
- Yes, my child may purchase an extra snack for \$.50
- No, I do not want my child buying extras.

