

# Millwood Elementary School News

*“Providing a high quality education for every student every day.”*

Principal : Ms. S. Dorrington

Vice principal : Ms. K. MacGillivray

Admin Assistant : Ms. C Ritchie

March 2019

*Happy St. Patrick's Day!*

<u>March-April</u>	<u>IMPORTANT DATES</u>
<b>March 7</b>	<b>Family Movie Night</b>
<b>March 8</b>	<b>Assessment &amp; Evaluation Day (no classes)</b>
<b>March 18-22</b>	<b>March Break</b>
<b>March 26</b>	<b>PRIDE Assembly 10:30am</b>
<b>April 4</b>	<b>Report Cards Go Home</b>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>Evening Parent Teacher Interviews</b>
<b>April 11</b>	<b>AM Professional Development Day (no classes)</b> <b>PM Parent Teacher Interviews (afternoon)</b>
<b>April 19</b>	<b>Good Friday (no classes)</b>
<b>April 22</b>	<b>Easter Monday (no classes)</b>



## Principal's Message

I can hardly believe it is March. The weather continues to be cold and we have been experiencing some frigid temperatures. There have been a number of students who are arriving at school much too early. Supervision by school staff begins at 8:10am. Students are not to be dropped off and left alone on the school grounds prior to that time. Please put safety first!

We continue to enjoy some wonderful celebrations and learning at Millwood Elementary. We celebrated African Heritage Month through a variety of activities. Some of which included such as an Assembly, a Comic Art Tour for students in grade 3 to 5, artwork, literature, and daily inspirational quotes on the announcements.

Registration continues for students who will begin primary in September 2019. Please register early as the number of students registered influences our staffing allotment for September. Primary students must turn five on or before Dec.31, 2019. Parents/guardians must present the child's birth certificate or passport, proof of residence, and health card at the time of registration. Out-of-Area Requests can be made on or after April 1st.

On Tuesday February 28th teachers and administrators were celebrated with an appreciation dinner compliments of the students and families at Rock Church. On behalf of the teachers, Mrs. MacGillivray and myself, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Pastor Julia Benwell, the students and their families, as well as the volunteers, for organizing a most wonderful evening. Once again this evening was most appreciated and truly a joy for all in attendance.

Our Family Movie Night showcasing "Small Foot" is scheduled for Thursday March 7th. There are still tickets available if you wish to join us. Tickets are \$3.00 per person and must be purchased in advance. There will be NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR. We hope to see you there. Doors open at 6:15.

Sincerely,  
[Stephanie Dorrington, Principal](#)

## Momo Challenge

Concerns have been brought to our attention about the online Momo challenge and the possible safety risk it could pose for students. If you haven't heard of this, It is allegedly a pop-up message appearing on platforms such as WhatsApp and YouTube, through which children receive a picture of a bird-like grinning figure and messages compelling them to engage in dangerous activities or self-harm, and not to tell their parents about it. It has been online for a few months now, but it seems to be increasing in frequency. You can learn more from the attached media clip: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/police-in-u-k-issue-warning-about-momo-challenge-urging-kids-to-self-harm-1.4313148>

It is important to remember that urban legends and internet hoaxes spring to life periodically and can cause concern, especially among young children. You may remember that talk of clowns caused disruption in the fall of 2016. Any situation, even a hoax, that frightens children is one we need to take seriously. Often the best strategy is not to draw attention to it, however, here are some tips to **share with your staff** to assist in addressing the issue with students if necessary:

- Talk with students about what's real and what's not;

- Keep discussions low key to avoid creating alarm;
- Encourage students to share their concerns with adults as speaking with their peers could cause further distress;
- If you are concerned about a student, bring this to the attention of the principal, vice-principal or guidance counsellor. They would know the appropriate student services personnel to contact if needed;
- If you have any evidence that a child has been directly involved in this challenge, please bring to the attention of parents/guardians.

## Safe Arrival

In order to ensure the safety of our students, we run a **Safe Arrival** program. Therefore when students are absent, their homes are called. It is very important that parents notify us in the event their child/children will be absent or late. The phone number is **902-864-6774**. Students arriving "LATE" (after 8:25 am) will need to check in at the main office to get a "late slip" prior to going to class. This is an important part of the safe arrival program, as it ensures that all students are accounted for. Thanks for your cooperation.

**Please do not leave messages on the school voicemail regarding a change in plans for your child's dismissal as there is no guarantee the message will be retrieved prior to the end of the school day. If a change is necessary, please send a note to your child's teacher. Thanks for your cooperation as we work together to keep our student's safe.**



## Safety Corner!!!!

The Halifax Regional School Board Student Protection Policy requires all parents, visitors, and volunteers to sign in at the main office and get an identification/access badge upon entering the school. This badge is to be returned to the office before leaving. The front doors at Millwood remain locked. Please buzz and the secretary will unlock the door.

The parking lot continues to be a very busy spot in the morning and at dismissal time. With the cold weather upon us and the icy conditions it is important that parents and visitors respect the parking lot signage. Please refrain from double parking. Remember

**it is safest to use the Kiss and Go Lane and have your child exit the vehicle from the passenger side.**

**Millwood Elementary is a Nut Aware and Scent Aware Site. We currently have a number of students and staff who have serious allergies within the school. We ask that all staff, students, and visitors respect these alerts. Please refrain from sending nut products to school with your children and wearing scented products to school.**



## Help Your Child Succeed in School

### Late Students:

When students come to class late, it can disrupt the flow of instruction or discussion, distract other students, impede learning, and generally erode the quality and start to the day. Some students are late almost every day and need to make an extra effort to be on time for school. If there is anything that we can do to help ensure your children are here in time to line up with their peers by 8:25am, please let us know.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in primary, too many absences or lates can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Teachers report that morning routines are regularly impeded by students that are chronically late for school.
- Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves.
- Start building this habit in primary so they can learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important.
- Good attendance will help children do well throughout their whole educational career.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

**Set a regular bedtime and morning routine for younger children. Make sure they get 9 to 11 hours of sleep. You can lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before. For older children, you can help set homework and bedtime routines that allow for 8½ to 9 ½ hours of sleep. Make sure that when the lights go out, so do the cell phones, video games and computers.**

## Good Attendance Matters

