



THE PILOT



**Milton Pope
Pilot
February 2010
NEWSLETTER**

Respect Month

You're Invited!

In our ongoing effort to know our neighbors better and share news of the exciting events at Milton Pope with our community, we extend an invitation to each of you to join us for our first Community Coffee on Wednesday, March 24 at 9:00 am. We'll gather in the Milton Pope cafeteria to update you on School Improvement work, facility projects, and the impact of the State of Illinois' finances upon our district. We will provide a time for you to give feedback and ask questions on these topics. If you are able to join us, please let us know by replying to 815-357-8151 so we are sure to have enough coffee to go around. I look forward to spending time with you at our first Community Coffee.

**Sincerely,
Dr. Leahy**

**The Principal of the
Matter**

We are updating our list of people who receive the Milton Pope Newsletter by asking a few questions.

- Does your name and address need to be corrected on this newsletter?
- Do you want us to stop sending you a Milton Pope Newsletter?
- Would you rather receive the Milton Pope Newsletter by email?

If you have answered yes to any of these questions, please give our secretary Michele a call and she will assist you with your request. Thank You!

Yours in education,

Mr. Pinter, Principal

February Dates

- 8 6:30 p.m. Community Club Meeting
10 11:30 Dismissal (School Improvement Day)
Midterms
15 No School (President's Day)
17 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting
19 **VIP (Very Important Person) Lunch (K, 3, 6)**
23 Ottawa High School Freshman Registration at Milton Pope

March Dates

- 1 2:00 Dismissal (Articulation Day)
1-5 **ISAT Week (Attendance Very Important)**
8 6:30 p.m. Community Club Meeting
16 8th Grade Seneca Step Up Day
6:30 p.m. Board Meeting
17 11:30 Dismissal (School Improvement Day)
6:00 p.m. Seneca Freshman Orientation
26 2:00 p.m. Dismissal
29 Start of Spring Break (See you on April 6th)

Character Counts Corner



In the month of February, we celebrate all of the pillars of character, but we will be focusing on Respect during this particular month. Parents and guardians can promote respect in their children by:

- Treating each youngster as a social equal
- Modeling and expecting good manners
- Embracing diversity and cooperating with individuals that are ethnically and culturally different
- Respecting privacy unless suspicious behaviors necessitate otherwise

During the month of January, we worked on different activities dealing with fairness in their classrooms.

During the months of February and March we will be working on Respect. The Character Counts Team has decided to again have a “Penny War.” We are setting up a table in front of the pillars and every class will have an empty gallon milk jug to fill up with **just**

pennies. After two months we will see which class has collected the most pennies. The winning class will then pick out a charity to receive all of the money raised. That class will also have a pizza party on a certain day. We will engage the students in various other respect activities throughout these two months.

We started the third 9 weeks and that means something different will happen with the character counts coupons or tickets. This 9 weeks, the students have a chance to win prizes at a raffle we will conduct at the end of the 9 weeks. When the students earn a blue ticket for showing one of the pillars of character, they will put their ticket in a container according to their grade level. The Character Counts Team is rounding up some raffle items for the different groups. The team has split the classes into 3 groups and they are K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. We are getting prizes that are age appropriate for each group.

Cell Phone Reminder



We just wanted to send a reminder that cell phone usage during the regular school day is prohibited. In the School Handbook, it states that all electronic devices must be kept off and in the student's hall/classroom locker during the regular school day. Cell phones are included as electronic devices. The first time a student is caught with a cell phone on them, the cell phone will be confiscated and only returned to a student's parent or guardian.

The 3 R's



The third graders have been working hard on learning the 3 R's: 'R'eading, W'R'iting, and A'R'ithmetic. These are the three subject areas that the third graders are tested on in the spring. Each third grader will take the ISAT test in March for the state of Illinois. It includes not only multiple choice questions, but also written answers in each area.

For Reading, third graders focus on a new story each week. We work on comprehension skills, learn 10 new vocabulary words, and do written response. In our story One Small Place in a Tree, we are learning facts such as how a tree is affected by the creatures that interact with it. In addition, the third grade classes are working on Biography Book Reports. They are reading for information and will present the class with their reports. Some famous people the students have chosen are Harriet Tubman, Ben Franklin, and Jim Hensen.

Writing is also an important part of third grade. We write journal entries, stories, poetry, and essays. The current focus in third grade for writing is

the five paragraph expository essay. An expository essay is written to inform or explain. The students will be tested on their expository writing skills on the ISAT test. Our newest essay has us writing about how trees make life more enjoyable. Imagine life without trees!

Math has been a lot of fun this year. We are using a new series called Saxon Math. We do a morning meeting together to complete the calendar and to solve patterns, number problems, money, time, and temperature. We learn new concepts and review old concepts every single day! Some of our learned concepts are addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, geometric shapes and lines, and measurement. The students really seem to like the new style of learning and don't even seem to mind the homework to do at home! They will really be ready for the Math portion of the ISAT test, too!

My third graders keep commenting on how fast this year is going. Time sure flies when you are having fun!

Mrs. Linda Coleman

Student Arrival and Departure Time



We would like to take a minute to remind parents/guardians of a couple safety issues that are outlined in our current Student/Parent Handbook.

The school day begins at Milton Pope with the arrival of buses at 8:20 a.m. **Parents who bring their children should also arrive at this time. Students are not allowed to be dropped off and left unattended before 8:15 a.m. each day.**

School starts at 8:25 a.m. and is dismissed at 3:00 p.m. Students not riding the buses should be picked up at 3:00 p.m., unless they are participating in after school activities.

To avoid children being mistakenly put onto busses, parents must call the school by **noon** or send a note in the morning if they are planning to pick up their children after school, so the children will not be put on the bus.

Due to safety issues, at the end of the day, students riding the bus will be released first. Students being picked up by a parent or guardian will be released shortly thereafter.

Winter Weather and Snow in Mrs. Gage's 3rd Grade



The month of January in 3G was spent doing a mini-unit on winter weather and snow. We read a story about Snowflake Bentley and his research on snowflakes. Snowflake Bentley found that all snowflakes have six branches and each one is unique. We used an internet site, United Streaming, to watch a video titled Winter Weather and Snow.

We have been learning about the effects of winter weather on your body and how to be safe! We went through a checklist of the items that everyone should have in their car in their emergency kit. Do you have an emergency kit? If you don't, you need to pack things like a flashlight, water, snacks, gasoline, blankets, heavy clothes, sand, shovel, matches, jumper cables, first aid kit, cell phone, etc. The students figured out how wind chill and temperatures affect the feel of cold on our skin. Important vocabulary words from this section were hypothermia and frostbite.

We have a few things left to do. We will venture outside to collect snowflakes on black paper to explore how they are different. We will also grow snow in our classroom; the students are very excited to see what they use in the movies as snow. Who knows maybe you'll see us skiing to our pencil sharpener!

Hoops for Heart



Throughout the month of January, the students have been busy collecting donations for the American Heart Association. Along with their task of collecting donations, the students learned many interesting facts about the heart during their Physical Education time. On Tuesday, January 19th, the 6th -8th grade Health classes listened to a guest speaker, Pat Cravens, from Morris Hospital. Mrs. Cravens is the head of cardiac rehabilitation. Mrs. Cravens spoke to the classes about the heart and how important it is for them to take care of their heart. During that week, in Physical Education class, the students learned how to take their pulse. The students checked their resting pulse rate and then they

exercised and took it after exercising so they could see the difference.

On Friday, January 22, the students participated in Hoops for Heart during their Physical Education period. Many of the classes were combined that day to allow students to have more time to participate in the activities. The gym was divided into two different activities. At the north end of the gym, the students played Trash Can Basketball and at the south end of the gym, a basketball obstacle course was set up. On the stage, students were busy with hula hoops and jump ropes. With the help of many volunteers, Hoops for Heart was a very enjoyable day for everyone.

As a school, the students raised \$1,929 dollars that will go to the American Heart Association. Our top two student fundraisers for the year: Peter raised \$ 310 dollars and Ben raised \$ 150 dollars. Great job to all the students!!!

Websites of Interest



A Parenting advice website

<http://justparentingadvice.com/>

The Library of Congress page has some outstanding links regarding George Washington such as viewing his original First Inaugural Address of April 30th, 1789.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/feb22.html>

February marks the beginning of Black History Month - an annual celebration that has existed since 1926.

Black History Month information:

<http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/specials/bhm/0,8805,97217,00.html>

Poetry for Kids:

<http://www.poetry4kids.com/>

KidsRead:

<http://www.kidsreads.com/index.asp>

Donation



Members of the 5th and 6th grade raised \$100 for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The money was donated to UNICEF, a charity that focuses on children in need.

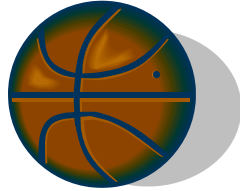
Student Section

Sports

The boys' basketball team has come to a close. The 7th grade team ended with a record of 13 – 9 and the 8th graders had a record of 9 - 11. Wednesday night was their Pack the Place Night/8th Grade Night and we wanted to thank all of the parents, students, and other fans for coming to cheer on the Pilots.

Also, the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade volleyball team is in the midst of their season. The 5th graders have a record of 2 – 3

and the 6th graders have a record of 6 – 2. They are coached by Mr. and Mrs. Kargle. The 7th graders have a record of 4 – 6 and the 8th graders have a record of 2 – 8. They are coached by Miss Witte. Although 7th and 8th grade have had a rough start, they have high hopes for another winning season. Good Luck Girls!



cookies, sprinkled doughnuts, and suckers.

4th graders' favorite Valentine cards: SpongeBob, devil-cupid, family guy, monster truck, flowers, Spiderman, and dogs.

5th graders' celebrity valentine: Megan Fox, Will Ferrell, Cole Sprouse, Britney Spears, Bret Metcalf, and Brad Pitt.



Favorites

Last month we asked the junior high what their New Year's Resolutions were, and the month before we asked the K – 2nd graders what they wanted for Christmas. Since this month is Valentine's Day, we decided to go around and ask some classes what their Valentine's Day favorites were, and here are a few:

3rd graders' favorite Valentine treats: chocolate, fun-dip, sugar