



# THE PILOT

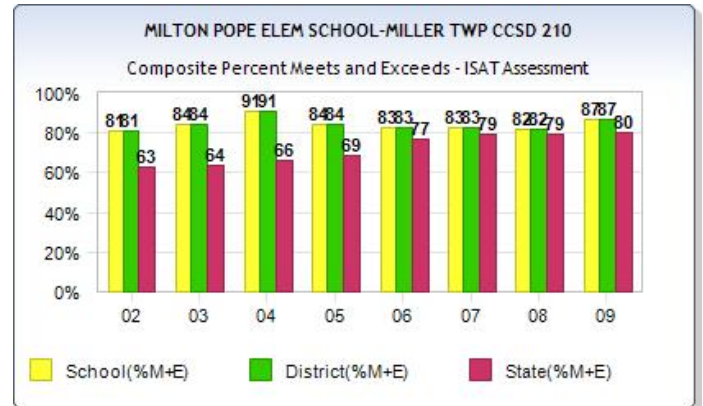


## Milton Pope Pilots NEWSLETTER March 2010

### RESPECT MONTH

**Dear Milton Pope Community,**

It's hard to believe spring is just around the corner, yet we know it will be here soon. A very important spring event in Illinois' schools is the Illinois Standards Achievement Test, ISAT. Each year, students in grades 3-8 take part in a series of tests used to determine progress toward meeting the Illinois Learning Standards. Milton Pope students consistently perform above their peers in the state. While we celebrate this success, we strive to do even better each year. This year, teachers are implementing a new math series that was selected to better align with Illinois Learning Standards. In the area of writing, a coordinated study and pilot lessons of 6-Trait Writing is underway. Full implementation of 6-Trait Writing in grades K-8 is slated for the fall 2010. We are excited about the progress our students and staff are making each day.



**Yours in excellent education,  
Dr. Leahy**

### The Principal of the Matter

I am sending out a reminder about our first Community Coffee coming up this month on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the school cafeteria. We will be updating you on School Improvement work, facility projects, and the impact of the State of Illinois' finances upon our district. If you are able to join us, please let us know by calling 815-357-8151. I look forward to spending time with you at our first Community Coffee.

Attached to this March Newsletter is a School Improvement Community survey. I would appreciate it if you would take the time to fill it out and return it to the school office by March 10<sup>th</sup>. We will be using the results to help us improve various areas at Milton Pope and your feedback is essential for this to happen. Thanks again for taking the time to fill out this survey.

**Yours in education,**

**Mr. Pinter**

### **March Dates**

- 1-5 **ISAT Week (Attendance Very Important)**
- 8 6:30 p.m. Community Club Meeting
- 16 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting  
Seneca Step Up Day for incoming Freshman
- 17 11:30 Dismissal (School Improvement Day)  
6:00 p.m. Seneca Freshman Orientation at High School
- 24 9:00 a.m. Community Coffee
- 26 **VIP (Very Important Person) Lunch (1, 4, 7)**  
2:00 p.m. Dismissal (Start of Spring Break)
- 29-Apr. 5 Spring Break

### **April Dates**

- 6 First day back from Spring Break
- 10 Solo/Ensemble Contest
- 12 6:30 p.m. Community Club Meeting
- 20 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting
- 30 **VIP (Very Important Person) Lunch (2, 5, 8)**

### **Character Counts Corner**



In the month of March, we celebrate all of the pillars of character, but we will be focusing again 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 February, we worked on the character trait of Respect. We started our “Penny War” and it has been going great so far. We have a table in front of the pillars and the classes have decorated their milk jugs. Many of the classes have done a very creative job with their decorating. I can tell you one thing, the pennies are piling up. It is such a nice sight to see the students come in and be so enthusiastic about giving.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter coupons are adding up too. We have had quite a few students already qualify for the raffle.

## **The Winter Olympics at Milton Pope**



***“Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.”***

***Albert Einstein***

We began our winter Olympics unit learning about the torch and how far it traveled to get to Vancouver and how many athletes have carried the torch in

the last 106 days. The lower grades have been carrying a torch during their warm up laps, so they have the feeling of what it is like to run 400 meters with a torch in your hand. Once the Milton Pope caldron was lit, the Olympic Games began.

For the past two weeks we did many different Olympic events in Physical Education class. Some of our events were: Curling, Bobsledding, Skeleton, Cross Country Skiing, Biathlon, Ice Hockey, and Short Track Speed Skating. Before we began an event, I shared some of the history of the event with the students and then demonstrated how we were going to do the event. Obviously, we had to use our imagination a little but the students’ have thoroughly enjoyed every event we have tried.

I hope many of you had the opportunity to watch the Olympics with your child. It has been a fun unit to teach and very entertaining to watch the students use their imagination with many of the events we tried.

## Kindergarten Registration

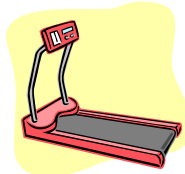


It is here already!  
Kindergarten pre-registration at Milton Pope School for the 2010 - 2011 school year will be held on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> by appointment only.

To enter kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before September 1, 2010.

If you have a child who will attend kindergarten in the fall, please contact the school (815-357-8151) to make an appointment.

## Health Corner



### Know your BMI

Find out your child's Body Mass Index. That's the number that measures height against weight and lets you know if your youngster is at a healthy weight. You can use the parent-friendly online tool at <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/dnpab/mi/Calculator.aspx> or ask your pediatrician to figure it out at your child's next visit.

## No Obstacle

For some fun exercise, help your youngster build an obstacle course. Use empty cereal boxes to scoot around, a table to crawl under, a large cardboard box to wiggle through, and a pile of pillows to dive into. The key is to create obstacles for your child to go over, under, through, and around.

## Single Servings

Keep portable snacks handy and hold your food budget down by buying items in bulk and making your own single-serve bags. Check portion sizes on nutrition labels of cereal, baked crackers, or nuts, and fill zipper bags with one serving each. Then, your child can grab a nutritious snack quickly.

## First Grade News



1<sup>st</sup> grade has been very busy lately with projects. On February 1, we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. The students brought in collections of 100 items to share with their classmates ranging from marbles to peacock feathers. Others chose to be creative with pictures, noodles, buttons, Legos and cotton balls. The students

have also accomplished the task of being 100 days smarter! Since the beginning of February, they have become diligent readers, not only at school, but also at home. They keep track of their reading on a daily basis and are often very enthused about tackling big new words and phrases. I am very pleased with the progress they have made so far this year!

## Community Club News



The Milton Pope Community Club is now accepting nominations through March 8<sup>th</sup> for the Executive Board. Elections will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm during the regular scheduled meeting, with absentee votes accepted March 29<sup>th</sup> through April 11<sup>th</sup>. All interested parties should notify Andria Sandora, Club Vice President, @ [795-4615](tel:795-4615) or email at [andria@mtipowerservices.com](mailto:andria@mtipowerservices.com) if interested in any of the following positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Hospitality Chairperson
- Ways & Means/ Market Day

## -Public Relations

The Community Club received a check totaling \$790.00 from Box Tops for Education. Great job everyone! Keep collecting, as every little “Box Top” certainly adds up. Remember you can turn collected Box Tops in to the school at anytime in a Ziploc type bag or ask the office for a Box Tops collection sheet.

A very special thank you to everyone who purchased Cookies for the Troops through Market Day. A total of 20 dozen cookies were purchased, baked and sent for Operation Soldiers. We also received a very nice plaque recognizing our support of Operation Soldiers.

The Community Club will be having a Spring Flower Fundraiser beginning in March. An order envelope will go home the first week of March and sales will continue through the end of the month. Each envelope has detailed information on the flowers and vegetables available for purchase. Items will be available for pick up at the school around the second week of May. Payment is due at time of order. Additional order envelopes will be available at the school office if needed. Let’s welcome spring everyone!

## Websites of Interest



Headlines, Birthdays, Top Songs and TV shows, etc.

<http://dmarie.com/timecap/>

PBSKids - Games

<http://pbskids.org/arthur/games/index.html>

Especially for Kindergarten, pre-school and young children (2 sites):

[http://www.rif.org/readingplanet/content/read\\_aloud\\_stories.msp](http://www.rif.org/readingplanet/content/read_aloud_stories.msp)

<http://pbskids.org/arthur/games/storyscramble/scramble.html>


For Advanced Beginners in Grades 3-5 - Grammar Gorillas

<http://www.funbrain.com/grammar/index.html>

In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the national celebration to the entire month of March:

<http://www.nwhp.org/whm/history.php>

dMarie Time Capsule - find out what happened on the day you were born or any other day in History. All sorts of interesting information is provided such as



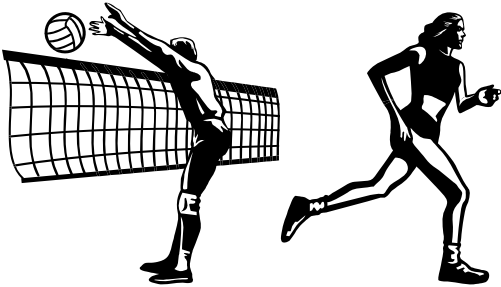
In the old days, sea captains kept pigs on board. They believed that in the event of a shipwreck a pig would always swim toward the nearest shore.

A glass of water with one teaspoon of salt has approximately the same salinity as the ocean.

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## Sports

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball team finished their season with record of 4-4. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball team has their last games this week and currently has a record of 10-3. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball teams both won the Conference Tournament Championship and are now finishing off their regular season and approaching Regionals. The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams would like to thank all of the parents, family, and fans for coming to “Pack the Place night/8<sup>th</sup> grade night,” to watch them all end their home games this year with a win. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade team finished off their last regular season game at Milton Pope with a victory over St. Pats. The track team is starting practice in the beginning of March and are looking forward to another State bound season.



## Character Count's Penny War!

March is respect month and to show a sign of respect, all the classes are having a “Penny War,” where all the students bring in pennies to collect for charity. At the end of the penny war, the class that has collected the most pennies will get a pizza party and pick the charity that they want to donate all of the pennies to. We’re looking forward to seeing a lot of pennies and seeing who will come out on the top!

