



## September Newsletter

***From the Desk of Mr. Giertz***



The start of a new year is upon us and September has already flown by. Students' and teachers' both are cruising into their routines and we are off to a great start. Our soccer team wrapped up a very successful season placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in our MP Tournament for the first time. The 5/6 and 7/8 Girls Basketball teams are off to great starts and Coach Williamson and Coach Peterson have their teams working extremely hard every day.

Our students recently finished our first round of MAP testing to give teachers, parents, and students a good baseline as to where our focus of curriculum will be directed too. Those fall scores will be given to parents in our upcoming P/T conferences (Nov. 2 & 3) when the first quarter ends in October.

Once again, we will be starting our After School Academic Assistance Program at the beginning of October. Each Tuesday and Thursday, we will be offering academic assistance to notified students in need. This program will

run from 3:00-4:00 on Tuesday's and 2:30-4:00 on early dismissal Thursdays' by one of our staff members here at school.

Once again, if you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us here at school: (815) 357-8151.

Have a fantastic October!

**Sincerely,**

**Mr. Giertz**

### **Upcoming October Activities/Dates**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 5/6 GBB Home 5:00<br>MPCC Mtg. @ 6:30   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 7/8 GBB Home 5:00<br>5/6 GBB @ Woodland 5:30  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Halloween Community Club Mtg. 7:00<br>5/6 GBB Home 5:00                                 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | 5/6 GBB @ Home 5:00<br>7/8 GBB @ Grand Ridge 5:00<br>Articulation Day (Dismissal @ 2:30 |

5<sup>th</sup> No School! Teachers' Institute Day

8<sup>th</sup> Columbus Day

9<sup>th</sup> 7/8 GBB @ Odell 5:00

10<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Grad Future SHS students PSAT testing  
5/6 GBB Olgesby Tour. TBD

11<sup>th</sup> 7/8 GBB @ Home 5:00  
Articulation Day (Dismissal @ 2:30)

12<sup>th</sup> 5/6 GBB Olgesby Tour. TBD

13<sup>th</sup> 5/6 GBB Olgesby Tour. TBD

15<sup>th</sup> 5/6 GBB @ TCA 5:00

16<sup>th</sup> Paul Merklein Assembly  
5/6 GBB @ Ransom 5:00

17<sup>th</sup> 5/6 GBB @ Home 5:00  
Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

18<sup>th</sup> 7/8 GBB @ Ransom 5:00  
Articulation Day (Dismissal @ 2:30)

19<sup>th</sup> End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter!

20<sup>th</sup> OHS Students' PSAT Testing @ 8:30 AM

23<sup>rd</sup> 7/8 GBB @ Waltham 5:00

25<sup>th</sup> 7/8 GBB @ Home 5:00

26<sup>th</sup> Honor Roll Breakfast 8:00-8:20

27<sup>th</sup> State Speech Contest

30<sup>th</sup> SHS Play @ 9:00 (Jr. High)  
7/8 GBB @ Home 5:00

31<sup>st</sup> Happy Halloween

Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> P/T Conferences 1:00-7:00 p.m.

2<sup>nd</sup> P/T Conferences 8:00-Noon

## Teacher Spot Light of the Month



This month's teacher spot light focuses on our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Richardson and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, Mrs. Coleman.

Mrs. Richardson writes:

### Second Grade News

Hard to believe summer is over, and school is back in session. This year I have a small, but eager class! We are reviewing school rules and learning new routines.

The end of September we will be going on a field trip to Environmental Activity Day, at Shabbona Park near Harding; the LaSalle County Soil & Water Conservation District sponsors it. Conservation professionals will cover topics on conservation, wildlife, agriculture, and the environment.

We should be ready to start cursive writing sometime in November. Second graders also look forward to our play and Brookfield

Zoo trip. Both of these activities are in the spring.

I will be retiring at the end of this year. It is hard to believe how fast 35 years have gone. I have enjoyed my years here at Milton Pope. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful parents, students, school board members, administration, staff, and fellow teachers it has been my pleasure to work with.

Mrs. Coleman writes:

#### Third Grade News

Third grade has started the year out all ready to learn and have lots of fun! We are reading the novel, Charlotte's Web, and have talked a lot about being a good friend and classmate. In the book, three main characters share a special friendship. Third graders will learn about spiders and their special characteristics in the month of September as well. It is always important to know that spiders are good for the environment, no matter how scary they seem! Charlotte, the spider from Charlotte's Web, teaches us that. In addition, the third graders get to attend the 2018 Sandwich Fair as a nice addition to our novel study.

The book takes place on a farm and at a country fair. It is a great way to start a new year!

## **Recycling Competition Is Back!**

## **RECYCLE PLASTIC BAGS...**

We are recycling plastic bags again this year. We are hoping to win a bench for our school. Last year we got off to a late start and still did very well. Trex Company is sponsoring this nationwide contest, and we are competing with other schools that are about our size. I hope that with your help and the help of our community, we can win a bench this year.

Last year we won a bird feeder.

Start bringing your bags in and place them in the cardboard containers in the hallways.

# Trex Plastic Film Recycling Challenge

Trex utilizes millions of plastic grocery store bags each year to create its composite lumber product, keeping this material out of landfills locally and across the country. By building a partnership with schools students can learn the importance of recycling, keep plastic out of the landfills and be rewarded for their efforts.

- plastic grocery bags
- stretch film (no household saran wrap)
- plastic department store bags
- water bottle case wrap
- newspaper sleeves
- toilet paper/paper towel over wrap
- dry-cleaning bags
- bread bag / cereal bags

By reducing, reusing, and recycling plastic bags, you and your child can help reduce litter, prevent pollution and save natural resources. Please help by recycling your plastic bags and packaging.

## Book Fair Coming Soon!

The Book Fair is coming to our school from Tuesday, October 23 through Friday, October 26.

There is also the online Book Fair Opportunity. The web address is

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/miltonpopeelemschool>

All books purchased online will be sent to the school with free shipping. Books may be ordered through the online fair until November 10.

## Character Counts



Over the last few years, we have put together a 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade group of students to form our character counts team. Our Team continues to work at creating a culture of continuous character building and at increasing the level of positive behavior in the school environment. Each year we develop a theme for our students to strive for, and encouraging them to become active leaders, volunteers, and role models for their fellow classmates. In doing so, our team comes up with “Monthly Missions” to strive for and passes them along to other classes in a friendly competition. Below you will see what our monthly competitions will consist of and what to be looking for when your student comes home with

information. We feel that positive involvement and encouraging students to step out to be leaders is a vital attribute and our Character Counts program helps to build that here at Milton Pope.

This month's "Friday Spirit Wear" classroom winner was. . . . **5<sup>th</sup> GRADE!**  
Congratulations 5<sup>th</sup> grade for winning the banner for the month of September!

**Sept.- Friday Spirit Wear**

**Oct. – Red Ribbon Week/Anti-Bullying Assembly/Boo Grams**

**Nov. – Door Decorations/Pack 4 Pals**

**Dec. – Crazy Christmas Days**

**Jan. – Hot Chocolate Read Aloud**

**Feb. - Penny War Donations/Hoops 4 Hearts/Crush Pop**

**March- Pancake Breakfast**

**Apr. – Poetry Month**

**May – Field Day**

