

# Maverick Newsletter

## News From Mills Elementary

### Principal's Corner

Mrs. Logan

**Chilly weather is on its way. Did your child remember his coat today?**

As the temperatures start to drop this month, remember to send your child in appropriate attire. If your child is in need of a winter coat and you do not have the resources, contact Kiwanis Club member Aaron Baker at 234-7855 and inquire about the Coats for Kids project.

While these brisk fall days can fill up fast with activities, don't forget to make time to read with your child! Reading an extra 20 minutes a night will help your child make great growth towards the Building's Goal as well as the Classroom Goal #1: 100% of Mills students will read at the 50% as measured by NWEA.

Mills has recently formed a Parent Goal Team. The team will work together with staff to review and possibly revamp school policies. It will meet once a month from 6-7:00 p.m. (See the Dates to Remember on

pg. 2 for the next meeting.) If you are interested in participating, please contact Jillian or Cora in the office at 253-3700 so that they can plan in advance for any childcare needed.

Our feature on pg. 4 this month is the Mills Elementary Parent/Visitor Policy. The staff and I have had some concerns this year about adults coming and going on school grounds. We want you to feel welcome and comfortable here in your school, but our policies are in place to maintain the safety of our staff and most importantly your children. This policy will be strictly enforced from here on out. Please take the time to read it over carefully in order to avoid any surprises the next time you stop in to visit.

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#### Dates to Remember

Please mark your calendars with the important events and dates provided.

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#### Tip of the Month

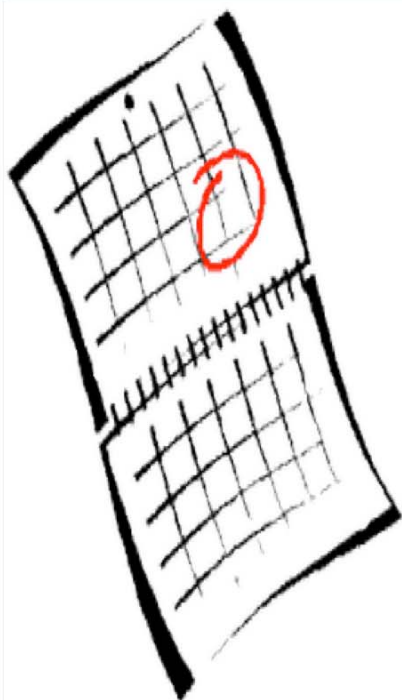
Helpful tips for parents from our literacy coach, Dr. Russell.

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#### Teacher Contact Hours

Discover the best times to contact your child's teacher to clarify information and resolve issues.

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## Picture Day Reminder

Dust off those dress shirts and tame that crazy morning hair: Picture Day is Thursday, October 7!

A 'mark your calendar' flyer should have come home earlier this week. On Monday, October 4, a Portrait Packet will be sent home with your student(s). It will explain all of the

many options that come with your child's picture.

The Portrait Packet **MUST** be filled out and returned on Picture Day *with the money included* for your pictures to be ordered. Students should return the packet to their teacher.

## Dates to Remember

### OCTOBER 7

\*PICTURE DAY  
\*PARENT GOAL TEAM 6-7:00 p.m.

### OCTOBER 15

\*FALL BREAK - NO SCHOOL

### OCTOBER 18-19

\*PARENT/TEACHER CONF. 4-7:30 p.m.

### OCTOBER 21

\*PARENT/TEACHER CONF. 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.  
\*NO SCHOOL

### OCTOBER 22

\*NO SCHOOL

## After School Clubs

Lego Robotics meets on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Library.

Science Club meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Ms. Peterson's room. They will continue to meet until October 19. The cost to participate is \$15.00. Also,

the club is in desperate need of plastic bottles of any size. Contact Ms. Peterson at 253-3760 if you're interested in joining or donating empty bottles.

The Recorder Club is still welcoming newcomers (gr. 3-5). They meet Thursdays from 3:30-4:15 p.m.

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place on the nights of October 18-19 and all day October 21. Teachers will cover goal setting as well as NWEA fall data with parents.

Be on the lookout next week for your invite letter, which will schedule the date, and time(s) for your

meeting(s). We will work our hardest to arrange siblings on the same nights so that parents won't have to come back and forth on different days.

You will then receive a confirmation letter. If you need to reschedule, please notify us immediately.



## Tip of the Month

Helpful tips for parents from Dr. Russell

### Talk WITH Your Kids

Focus on talking with your kids. This does not sound like “Pick up your shoes” or “Go to bed”.

This sounds like “Which part of the show/movie was your favorite *and* why?”

This kind of talk will get K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students ready for PAWS writing!



### Mills Mission Statement

Our Community’s actions result in a learning environment that fosters and celebrates the education of the whole child!

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## Parent/Visitor Protocol

For the safety of Mills staff and students, please read and follow this policy. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 253-3700.

- Parents are welcome to visit their child's classroom to observe instruction time.

However, we ask that you refrain from visiting with the teacher during that time. All Mills' teachers have contact hours during which issues may be discussed and resolved. Please see them on pg. 5.

- Any time you enter the school building, you must first sign-in at the office and receive a visitor's badge. Any person not wearing a visitor's badge or a NCSID ID card will be stopped and instructed to return to the office.

- If you need to drop something off for a student during the school day, please leave it with an office staff member and they will get the item to the student at the earliest break in instruction. You will not be allowed to walk the item down to the classroom. This is to avoid interruption and distraction of students.

- If you need to pick up a student for an appointment, please arrive at the school with enough time for the office staff to call them down from the classroom. We appreciate it very much when you call ahead, but we will not retrieve the student from class until you arrive at the school in order to avoid missed class time should you not arrive at the time you informed us of.

- If someone other than a parent/guardian is picking up your student, please let us know in advance. Also, if the person is picking them up after school, please make sure that they are aware of where the student will be located (on the playground, at an after-school club, etc.). Roaming the hallways searching for students is not an acceptable option.

- 8:10 a.m. is the absolute earliest time that students may be dropped off (excluding Boys & Girls Club students). Students are to be dropped off on the playground each morning, not at the front doors. Dropping your child(ren) at the front doors creates a dangerous situation with early morning traffic.

- *Nearly two months into the school year, it is no longer*

*necessary to walk your child to class.* If you'd like to remain with them on the playground until class begins, you are welcome to do so. If your child's teacher has a contact hour in the morning and you'd like to speak with him/her, please sign in at the office first.

- If your student is picked up after school, they need to be picked up at 3:30 p.m. on the playground. **Parents may not enter the building through the playground doors.** This means you cannot enter through those doors to retrieve lunch boxes, coats, etc. Again, if you'd like to speak with a teacher or retrieve an item, please sign in at the office first. Students who walk home must leave immediately after school. If a non-bus student wishes to play on the playground after school hours, they may return after 4:00 p.m. No supervision will be provided.

- Preschool parents must drop-off and pick-up their student(s) at the Pre-K door on the front side of the building.

AM Drop-off: 8:20

AM Pick-up: 11:30

PM Drop-off: 12:20

PM Pick-up: 3:20

## Teacher Contact Hours

Although walk-ins are welcome during certain hours, our teachers prefer pre-arranged meetings, or at least a quick heads-up that you're coming to speak with them. In this way, enough time can be put aside and both parent and teacher can come prepared for the discussion. (In the table below, starred times are by appointment only!)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pre-K	8:20-8:30	8:20-8:30	8:20-8:30	8:20-8:30	8:20-8:30
	12:10-12:20	12:10-12:20	12:10-12:20	12:10-12:20	12:10-12:20
Mrs. McLellan	7:30-8:30		7:30-8:30	7:30-8:30	7:30-8:30
	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00
Miss Yentes	8:00-8:20		8:00-8:20	8:00-8:20	8:00-8:20
	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00
Peterson/Holt	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00
Ms. Hensley	1:00-2:00*	3:00-3:30*			
Mrs. Warren	8:00-8:30		8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30
	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00
Mrs. Bower	8:00-8:30		8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30	8:00-8:30
	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00	3:30-4:00
Mrs. Ferguson	8:00-8:25		8:00-8:25	8:00-8:25	8:00-8:25
	11:45-12:30		11:45-12:30		
Mr. Hult	7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00	7:30-8:00
Mrs. Flammang	7:45-8:30		7:45-8:30	7:45-8:30	7:45-8:30
		11:45-12:30			

## Halloween at Mills

Our Halloween celebration will take place on Friday, Oct. 29. Students are NOT to wear costumes to school that day. They may pack them and change during last recess. If a student arrives in costume, they will be asked to call home for school clothes. Staff will not put on costume make-up for students. Parents are asked not to send students in costume make-up or allow the student to put make-up on during the school day.

Parents are welcome to attend the costume parade and party in the gym beginning at 2:15 p.m. You are welcome to take your student home when the parade and goodies are over, usually around 3:15 p.m.

The AM Preschool class may change into their costumes at their recess and will have short parade to the First Grade and Kindergarten rooms, followed by a short 20-minute party before pick-up. The PM Preschool class will participate in the school-wide parade and celebration.

As the day draws closer, please watch for communication from your child's teacher about snacks for the celebration!

# Delicious Delights Fundraiser Results

## Raising Money for the Outdoor Learning Area

**With your determination and hard work,  
\$4,005.60 was raised for the Outdoor Learning Area!  
Congratulations Mills families and thank you for  
your help!**

Over 789 items were sold in the latest Delicious Delights fundraiser, with Mills families earning 62 free items overall for their participation, as well as cash prizes.

The money raised will go towards the construction of an Outdoor Learning Area that will be located next to the new greenhouse. The space will have grass, benches and even a gazebo where kids can play and learn in the fresh air.



## Earn Money for Your School as You Spend

There are several local programs that can earn money for the school of your choice when you spend!

For example, Smith's has the Earn and Learn program. When you purchase items at Smith's and present Mills' barcode (which can be obtained at our office), your purchase earns points for Mills.

Another program that is more well-known is the Box Tops for Education program. Look for the box tops logo on the products you buy, clip the logo, and

bring it in to the school. Each box top earns 10¢! Visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) to learn more.

The purpose of this article is not to persuade you to spend money at particular merchants. It is to encourage you to check with the businesses you currently frequent to see if they have a program similar to those mentioned. In tough economic times, there are still a few ways to stretch that dollar for our kids!