



THE PONY EXPRESS

A Monthly Newsletter From Mill Street's Home & School Association



The Naperville District 203 Home & School Association's mission is to encourage and facilitate a cooperative partnership among our students, parents/guardians, and District staff and administration to support and enhance the school experience of each student. Home & School initiates and/or supports various programs through the donation of time and sponsorship from its District school population and community members.

Home & School Executive Board 2017-18

Co-Presidents
Dani Bourgeois
Tonya Schmidt

Vice-President
Cindy Smucker

Treasurer
Amy Swiatek

Secretary
Kate Connolly

Classroom Holiday Parties



December 21st
10:00-10:45 a.m.

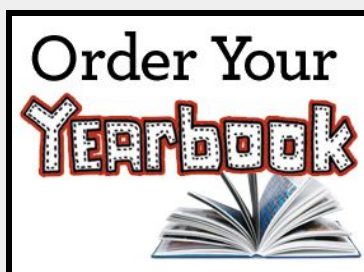
Please make a note this party will occur in the morning as stated above, versus the traditional afternoon timeframe.

If you are interested in volunteering, please utilize the Sign-Up Genius link that has been circulating in the weekly Mustang Minute.

The deadline to sign up for volunteering is December 11th.

We look forward to your participation in helping spread holiday cheer at Mill Street!

Email Coyanne Inglis at Inglis05@me.com with any questions.



Last Chance to Pre-order 2017-18 Yearbooks!

Don't miss out on our terrific 72 page, all color, yearbook! Students really love the yearbooks and treasure looking back at them year after year.

The only way to pre-order now is online.

<http://shop.balfour.com/smi22223>
(\$1.00 convenience fee)

COST \$20.00/each

Online orders will close on January 12, 2018.

This is the last chance to order and guarantee a yearbook for your student. We don't know how many extra overruns we will get from the publisher for walk-in sales, and we always sell out.

Yearbooks will be distributed May 2018.

PRE-ORDER TODAY!

Candy Cane Caring is Coming...DEC.11TH!



From **December 11th-15th**, we will be selling Candy Cane Grams during the lunch hour for \$.25 a piece. Classroom sets that include a Candy Cane Gram for each student in the classroom will also be available for \$5.

Candy Cane Grams are paper messages decorated with a candy cane that can be purchased for other students, teachers or staff. On each Candy Cane Gram, students will be able to write a caring message to express their kind wishes for others during the holiday season.

Candy Cane Grams offer two ways to care about others, as the funds collected from the purchase of Candy Cane Grams will help families at our school with special needs they may have throughout the year. In the past, Candy Cane Caring funds have helped to purchase clothing and coats, spirit wear, yearbooks, Fun Fair tickets, Holiday gifts and other items for families in need of this assistance.

December 21st Candy Cane Grams will be delivered to the classrooms, just in time to spread some holiday kindness to the entire Mill Street family. Let's make Candy Cane Caring a big success in 2017!
Questions, please contact kristin.fitzgerald@comcast.net or loritorcasio@yahoo.com

INSIDE OUT CLUB



SFCP and i Support Community-Inside Out Club would like to thank all the students and parent volunteers that made our November meeting such a success! Our next meetings will be:

Wednesday, December 13th – Mindfulness Matters

Wednesday, January 24th – Same, Only Different

We can't wait to see you there!

Please note that for each session, you must personally contact your child(ren)'s teacher to provide permission to dismiss them to Inside Out Club after school. You can do this via whatever method you normally use to contact your teacher (e.g. e-mail, text, app, written note sent in your child's backpack). This is the expectation for any after-school activity or any change to your child(ren)'s normal dismissal routine. Without this approval, your child will be dismissed via their normal means of departure.

Please contact Meena Banasiak @ meena.banasiak@gmail.com if you have any further questions.



THANK YOU FOR DONATING 250 POUNDS OF FOOD TO NAPERVILLE'S LOAVES & FISHES!!!

November's meeting was filled with students designing, engineering, and building tables out of paper, to serve their Thanksgiving feast. Some of our groups had over 26 boxes & canned goods stacked on only 5 sheets of paper!
Great job to all the kids on tackling this challenge.

November Science Club runs with the support of our wonderful Mill St School Staff & Parent Volunteers-

Ms. Carrico	Viki Kinder	Custodian Crew	Sarah Alaimo
Anita Ganesh	Jessica Child	Ying Frey	Sara Haumesser
Ginny Mezo	Shelly Murphy	Tonya Schmidt	

If you would like to volunteer for the January 10th meeting, please sign up:
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4aa8ab2fa7fc1-science>

We look forward to seeing you!
Carrie Hess, Kelli Notacker, & Sarah Gibson Hoag/Science Club Co-chairs

Science Club is funded by Mill Street Home & School

Mill Street Night Out



Thank you to all the families who supported the Mill St Night Out fundraiser at Portillo's in October.

We raised \$466.00!!!

By supporting this fundraiser, you helped to fund field trips, school assemblies, and other Home & School activities. Hope to see many more of you at the upcoming Night Outs!

The Mill Street Home & School Hospitality Team thanks everyone for donating to the Veterans Day event.

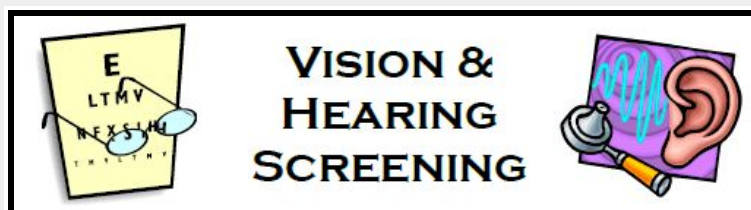


Special thanks to: Angie Langman, Sara Haumesser, Kyla Putman, Melissa Scacco, Adri Boudeman, Amy Wagner, Jackie Snyder, Tonya Schmidt, Laura Fraser, Kara Lee Anderson, Jen Weber, Jessica Child, and Beth Wolf-Senall for your donations and the Mill Street staff who helped with set-up and clean-up.

We greatly appreciate your support in making this very special event a success!

If you have any questions or would like to be added to our email list of Hospitality volunteers, please contact Lauren Ferguson (lferguson@hotmail.com), Heather Wolf (hparrilli@yahoo.com), Susan Czochara (susanczochara@yahoo.com) or Jessica Kelly (jfsmithkelly@gmail.com).

THANK YOU!!!



A big **thank you** to those who helped make the Vision and Hearing screenings run so smoothly:

Suzy Shinkle, Sara Hoag, Shirley Brockman, Irma Mebane Sims, and Sinetra Lee.



SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE FUN FAIR COMMITTEE!



THE MILL STREET FUN FAIR WAS A GREAT SUCCESS AND WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS! THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME, DONATED CAKES FOR THE CAKE WALK AND/OR POPS FOR THE RING TOSS!

THANKS TO FIREWATER BBQ FOR DONATING THEIR
BBQ PORK SANDWICHES AND SIDES!



Also, thanks to Evviva Pizza, Belgio's Catering, Mill Street's Custodian Staff,
and The Fun Fair Committee



THANKS SO MUCH TO ALL THE THE MILL STREET FAMILIES AND STAFF
THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THE RAFFLE!

Special Thanks to our Mill Street Staff for Volunteering and helping out at the
Fun Fair!

It wouldn't be the same without you!

*Thank
You!*

THANK YOU FROM MILL STREET HOME & SCHOOL EXECUTIVE BOARD!



Thank you to all who have contributed this school year to Mill Street Home & School. Whether it was buying tickets and attending Fun Fair, purchasing books at the Book Fair, purchasing items from the Fall Fundraiser, sending in Box Tops for Education, or volunteering your time in the LC, at a classroom party, or in other ways at our school, it all makes a difference! So far this school year, money raised through Home & School efforts has been used to fund items that will benefit our Mill Street students:

- Circuit Training Equipment for all students' use
- Playground balls for all grade levels
- Mill Street spirit T-shirts for new students and staff
- Field trips
- Car visor signs for carpool families to assist with dismissal

Thank you to all who have been a part of Home & School's efforts so far this year, you are making an impact on our students!

*The Mill Street Home & School Exec Board: Co-Presidents—Dani Bourgeois and Tonya Schmidt
Vice President—Cindy Smucker, Secretary—Kate Connolly & Treasurer—Amy Swiatek*

*Thank
You!*



Did you know Mill Street Home & School and the Principal, Mrs. Salness, have Facebook pages? **“LIKE”** the **“Mill Street Home & School”** and the **“Mill Street Principal Communication”** pages today!

Mill Street also has a twitter feed under the hashtag **#millstreetmustangs**

MILL STREET BAND NOTES



Happy Holidays! By the time you get this, our first concert of the year will have come and gone! Thank you, parents, for all of your support of your young, blossoming musicians! I know you are just as proud of their hard work as I am.

Concert Schedule for the rest of the year (please mark these dates on your calendar):

- ***March 7, 2018 – Please note date change***
 - 1:15PM – 4th and 5th Grade Band/Orchestra Assembly
 - 6:30PM – 4th and 5th Grade Band Concert
- **April 25, 2018**
 - 12:00-2:00 – 5th Grade Band Field Trip to JJHS for rehearsal
 - 7:30PM – 5th Grade Band Concert @ JJHS
- **May 1, 2018**
 - 1:15 – 4th and 5th Grade Band/Orchestra Assembly
 - 6:30PM – 4th Grade Band Concert
- **May 14, 2018**
 - 9:00AM-1:30PM – 4th and 5th Grade Band/Orchestra Field Trip Performance
 - @ Wentz Hall in Downtown Naperville followed by lunch in Central Park
 - Performance at 10:30

Over winter break, please ensure that your child dusts off their case and plays their instrument a few times. A Holiday Concert for the family is a great way to encourage at-home practice over break and a fun way to include the entire family.

Once school starts back up after break, please continue to encourage REGULAR at-home practice by establishing a practice schedule. Students should be practicing daily (with one or two days off per week). Band students are expected to practice 60 minutes (4th grade) or 80 minutes (5th grade) each week. They should record their practice time in the practice log on Essential Elements Interactive. This is also where you can find their weekly assignment.

Thank you for the encouragement and support that you provide for your children's music education.

Julie Higgins,
Band Director
jhiggins@naperville203.org

From the Desk of Mrs. Salness



Mill Street Parents,

During their weekly SEL (social emotional learning) lessons, your students have been working to create common behavior expectations for Mill Street School. These expectations are posted in each classroom and in various locations throughout the building. They will also be made available on our building website for your reference. These expectations support our goals in keeping students safe and in fostering responsibility and kindness in all areas of our building.

Providing student voice in generating these expectations will promote ownership and self-directedness and make expectations clear to all. Please take the time to review the Mill Street, whole school expectations with your children.

Thank you,
Mrs. Salness

In the bathrooms we will . . .

BE SAFE	BE RESPONSIBLE	BE KIND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash our hands with soap and water Use walking feet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only use the bathroom if we have to actually go Use an inside voice Clean up after ourselves-flush the toilet, keep soap and water in the sink, wipe up any mess we make Tell a teacher if there is a problem or a mess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect each other's privacy- do not look in or under the stalls

On the bus we will . . .

BE SAFE	BE RESPONSIBLE	BE KIND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep food and drink in our backpacks Stay in our seat when the bus is moving Keep the aisle clear Use an inside voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen for when the bus driver says, "stop" Pay attention to when you need to get off at your stop Tell the bus driver if there is a problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to the bus driver at all times Use kind words to one another



In the hallways we will...

BE SAFE	BE RESPONSIBLE	BE KIND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keep the building safe and do not open outside doors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use “whole body listening” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hands to self ○ Eyes forward ○ Body still ○ Ears listening ○ Quiet mouth ● Make good choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Admire artwork and bulletin boards with eyes and not hands ● Greet people quickly, quietly, and keep walking

In the lunchroom we will...

BE SAFE	BE RESPONSIBLE	BE KIND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eat our own lunch and not share food ● Be aware of allergies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keep hands to ourselves ● Use time wisely and eat as much as you can ● Clean up after ourselves ● Keep our feet under the table ● Not bring or use toys or electronics during lunchtime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raise hands if you need something ● Use an indoor voice ● Not talk during chew time

On the playground we will...

BE SAFE	BE RESPONSIBLE	BE KIND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Go down the slides feet first ● Swing on the swings, no twisting or climbing ● Not climb on the back stop ● Play within designated playground areas ● Climb safely on the rocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Respect equipment ● Listen for the whistle ● Play games that are allowed: follow the rules of the game ● Keep balls on the blacktop and grass areas only ● Not play with balls in the wood chip areas ● Pick up equipment after each grade level recess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keep hands to yourself ● Treat others the way you want to be treated ● Line up quickly when you hear the whistle ● Remember the buddy bench ● Respect teachers ● Use polite language

From the Desk of Mrs. Salness

Inclement Weather Parent Pick Up Procedures

Parents,

To support the safety of our students during times of heavy rain, thunder/lightening/below freezing temperatures, we are asking that all regular carpool parents implement our new parent pick up procedure. We will be providing visor signs to all regular carpool parents so that the sign, labeled with student name, can be made visible to staff as you pull through the carpool lanes. We will hold all students in the gym on days when it is not appropriate to have them waiting outside. As parents pull up through the lane, staff will radio to the gym and students will be dismissed to your vehicle through door 6.

Please know that on days in which we experience light rain or snow, students will wait outside and the process will not be implemented, so always dress students for weather conditions. Visor signs will come home soon with students whose parents have indicated that they are regular carpool riders. Look for them in your student's backpack. If you do not receive a visor and wish to have one, please stop by our office to pick one up.

Feel free to use the visor daily to support easier identification of vehicles and a faster pick up process.

Thank you,
Mrs. Salness

District 203 2017 Holiday Giving Program

There is a greater need this year than in years' past for the Holiday Giving Program. Within hours of announcing the program, 426 elementary students were claimed for personal shopping. However, there still are 300+ junior high and high school students slated to receive a \$50 gift card. These require cash donations.

A financial gift of support may be made by visiting the Naperville Education Foundation web site at www.nef203.org. Click on "Donate Now" and select "Holiday Giving Program" as the gift designation. Checks payable to Naperville Education Foundation can be sent directly to Naperville School District 203, 203 W Hillside, Naperville, IL 60540, Attn: Holiday Giving Program. Thank you for your generosity to this important program!

Focus 203 a "Community Conversation about Suicide"

Please join Naperville Community Unit School District 203 and Loyola University Chicago professor, author, and suicide intervention expert Jonathan Singer, PhD, LCSW for a "Community Conversation about Suicide," during the upcoming Focus 203 community engagement sessions.

Join us at either 7 p.m. in the Naperville Central High School cafeteria November 30 or 9:30 a.m. at the Pavilion at Meson Sabika, 1025 Aurora Ave. in Naperville, December 1. Everyone in the Naperville 203 attendance area is invited to attend.

IMPORTANT - SAVE THE DATES!

General Home & School Meetings for 2017-2018

Tuesday, January 16, 7:00 p.m. in the LC

Tuesday, March 13, 9:00 a.m. in the MPR

Tuesday, May 8, 9:00 a.m. in the MPR

Environmental Club Dates:

December 20 - Homemade Craft

January 17 - Windy Energy

February 21 - Knoch Knolls Prairie Center Presentation

March 21 - Low Carbon Energy

April 21 - Conservation Foundation

May 11 - End of Year Celebration during lunch - NO MORNING MTG!

DECEMBER/JANUARY

Winter Vacation: December 22nd - January 7th

Donuts with Dads: January 13th

FEBRUARY

Open House: February 1st 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Valentine's Day Parties: February 14th 1:45-2:20 p.m.

Presidents Day, NO SCHOOL: February 19th

Institute Day/Parent Teacher Conferences/Book Fair, NO SCHOOL: February 15-16th

MARCH

County Institute Day, No School: March 2nd

Kindergarten Preview: March 8th

Movie Night Grades 3-5th: March 9th 2018

Spring Break: March 26-30th

DECEMBER 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26.	27.	28.	29.	30. D203 Focus 203 Naperville Central High cafeteria 7:00 p.m.	1. D203 Focus 203 Meson Sabika Pavilion 9:30 a.m.	2.
3.	4.	5.	6. 4h/5th Band/Orchestra Assembly 1:15 p.m. 4th Band/Orchestra Concert 6:00 p.m. 5th Band/Orchestra Concert 7:00 p.m.	7.	8. Student Council 7:15-8:00 a.m.	9.
10.	11. Candy Cane Caring sales at lunch	12. Candy Cane Caring sales at lunch	13. Candy Cane Caring sales at lunch Inside Out Club 2:30 p.m.	14. Candy Cane Caring sales at lunch	15. Candy Cane Caring sales at lunch	16.
17.	18.	19.	20. Environmental Club 7:25 a.m.	21. Classroom Holiday Parties 10:00-10:45 a.m.	22. No School Winter Vacation	23. No School Winter Vacation
24/31 No School Winter Vacation	25. No School Winter Vacation	26. No School Winter Vacation	27. No School Winter Vacation	28. No School Winter Vacation	29. No School Winter Vacation	30. No School Winter Vacation

Winter Vacation: December 22nd - January 7th