

# Mill Hall Elementary

*Keystone Central School District*



## Notes From Dr. Breon

As we enter the month of Thanksgiving, I want to let you know how thankful I am for the wonderful students and families we serve at Mill Hall Elementary! Our staff is committed each day to the care and support of each of our students as we partner with you in preparing our children for the challenges and opportunities

of the future. These partnerships are truly a blessing!

Here are some highlights from our month of October:

- October 3rd: Mr. Bitner joined our staff for Bus Safety Training to be sure all our students understand the importance of following our safety rules for riding the buses.
- October 10-13th: Our students had the opportunity to purchase some new books from our PTO Scholastic Book Fair
- October 13: It was a beautiful day for a walk as students participated in our annual Mill Hall Miles PTO Fundraiser.
- October 16-17: It was great to see parents in the building discussing the successes of their children with their teachers during Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- October 20: We were fortunate to have Mr. Anthony Walker and his crew from the Mill Hall Volunteer Fire Company teach our students about being safe in the kitchen and to bring our students some treats in honor of Fire Prevention.
- October 23-31: With a great deal of spirit and fun, we celebrated Red Ribbon Week and the need to stay drug free!
- October 24: The Keystone Foundation and our PTO provided the students with a thrilling assembly from a BMX group which reminded us of the importance of taking care of ourselves and the 4-Bs.
- October 30-Nov. 2: Students were excited about the additional opportunity to learn from our Mobile Ag Lab.
- October 30: Buddy Bench Dedication Ceremony in memory of MHE Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Shadle-Smith.
- October 31: Students who demonstrated Being Present to Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Kind during the month of October were rewarded with a hayride provided by

Sue and John Dotterer. In the afternoon, we were able to show off our Halloween Costumes to our families, friends, and the school during our Halloween Parade which was followed by classroom parties.



**Bus Safety Training**



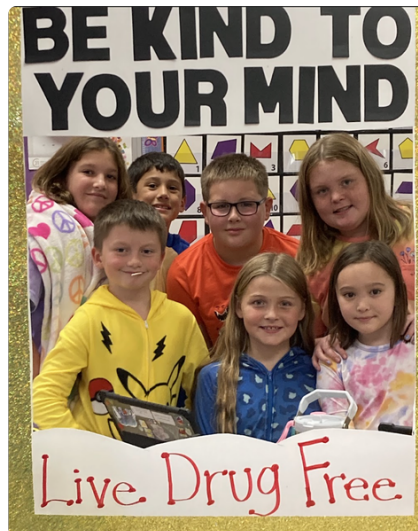
**Smiles at the Book Fair**



**Mill Hall Miles**



**Fire Prevention Training**



**Red Ribbon Week: Be Kind to Your Mind**



**Red Ribbon Week: Food Drive**





**Mrs. Kaluzny Being Brave  
at the BMX Assembly**



**Mobile Ag Lab**



**New Buddy Bench on the  
Playground**



**Halloween Class Parties**



**Getting Ready for the  
Parade**



**Keeping Warm on the  
Hayride**

## Upcoming Activities

**11/1:** Mobile Ag Lab

**11/2:** Mobile Ag Lab

**11/3:** 3 Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Dismissal Begins at 11:30

**11/10:** Veterans' Day Celebration: 9:00 am

**11/13-17:** Author: Alan St. Jean Visits to Classrooms

**11/16:** Fall Picture Retakes

**11/21:** PBIS Monthly Reward

**11/22:** 3 Hour Early Dismissal: Dismissal Begins at 11:30

**11/23 thru 11/28** - Thanksgiving Break

**11/29:** School Starts Back Up

**12/4-12/8:** Santa Shop for Students

**12/4:** K, 1st & 2nd grade Winter Concert- 6:30 pm at the CMMS Auditorium

**12/5:** 3 & 4th grade Winter Concert- 6:30 pm at the CMMS Auditorium

**12/15:** No School

**12/20:** PBIS Monthly Reward

**12/21-1/2:** Winter Break

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### Writing Olympics at Mill Hall Elementary

Author Alan St. Jean will be visiting Mill Hall Elementary during the week of November 13th and will share with our students what he's learned about the wonderful world of writing. He discusses the necessary elements of storytelling such as plot, conflict and resolution in a way that's fun and memorable for students and teachers alike. Mr. Alan St. Jean works personally with each classroom to develop a story and create drawings using structured writing and illustrative techniques. We are excited to have Mr. St. Jean challenge our young writers and create the most amazing stories!

## WRITING OLYMPICS




## Free Book Fridays



- Each Friday, your child can choose a book to take home and keep!
- We encourage you to read to or with your child from their new book each weekend!
- Sharing a love of reading with your child is a great gift and a great opportunity for them to show what they know!
- Thank you for your support!



## School Day Schedules

	<b>Mill Hall Elem. (K-4)</b> <b>Liberty-Curtin Elem. (K-4)</b> <b>Robb Elem. (K-4)</b> <b>Renovo Elem. (K-6)</b> <b>Woodward Elem. (K-4)</b>	<b>Central Mountain Middle School (5-8)</b>	<b>Bucktail High School (7-12)</b> <b>Central Mountain High School (9-12)</b>
Doors Open Bus Arrival Parent Drop-Off Breakfast	7:20 am	8:00 am	8:00 am
Instruction Begins	7:55 am	8:20 am	8:20 am
Instruction Ends	2:30 pm	3:15 pm	3:20 pm
Bus Departure Parent Pick-Up	2:30 pm	3:15 pm	3:20 pm

### Messages and Updates through Class Dojo

Elementary schools have moved back to ClassDojo as our messaging app. Please be sure to connect (or reconnect) so you don't miss any important information from your child's school or teachers.



**ClassDojo**

Stay informed about:

- School events and activities
- Family-teacher conferences
- Important deadlines and assignments
- Emergency alerts and school delays/dismissals/closures

### Receive District-Wide Notifications

Scan the QR code below to receive district-wide notifications which includes:

- Weather alerts/delays/early dismissals/closures
- Emergency alerts
- District-wide events
- Important dates



**Join your child's adventure  
on ClassDojo!**



**Scan to join Administration's Class**

## **Federal Programs**

### **Annual Notices and Policy Review**

Click on the button above to access the information.

#### **Fall Federal Programs Updates**

At the end of October or during early November, each elementary school will hold a Policy 917/918 Committee Meeting. As Title I schools, we are required to make sure that we hold at least one meeting per year where we review and revise our community engagement strategies. During these meetings we also review our Schoolwide Improvement Plans, because this is a good way to let families and community know what we are working on, what our goals are, and how we plan to grow our Title I program with the Federal funds we are provided through Title I. If you are interested in becoming a part of our Title I team, please reach out to your building Interventionist or principal.

All elementary schools within the district are Title I schoolwide schools and receive Title I federal funds to support the positions of Interventionist and Title I Associates. We determine how to use the funding to staff our buildings based on family input and our school data.

At all school levels, we use Title IV federal funds to purchase incentives for PBIS (our positive school-wide behavior supports) rewards, and we emphasize the goal of following school rules in



all schools.

Required documents for families:

Right to Request Qualifications of Teachers (see Annual Notices and Policy Review button above) - if you wish to request a paper copy, please contact [rmurty@kcsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:rmurty@kcsd.k12.pa.us).

Note: If your child is taught for four or more weeks by a teacher who is instructing in a content area for which they are not currently certified, the district must notify you. Four-week notification letters will be added here if that becomes necessary.

Non-Discrimination Statement (see Annual Notices and Policy Review button above) - if you wish to request a paper copy, please contact [rmurty@kcsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:rmurty@kcsd.k12.pa.us).

[Title I District Parent Policy - Policy 918](#)

[Coaching Newsletter for Families - How We Teach Reading](#)

[Title I Complaint Procedure](#)

[School Improvement Plan](#)

## Family Connections

### #KeystoneCares - Homeless Awareness

#### Homeless Awareness Month Activities

#KeystoneCares is partnering with KCSD and Sleep in Heavenly Peace to bring awareness to homelessness.

If you believe that you or someone you know is experiencing homelessness, please reach out to Christina Manning, KCSD Homeless Liaison, [cmanning@kcsd.us](mailto:cmanning@kcsd.us) or 570-893-4900 ext. 2105 or Kyle Galer, KCSD School Social Worker, [kgaler@kcsd.us](mailto:kgaler@kcsd.us) or 570-893-4900 ext. 2341

DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS	LOCAL RESOURCES
<p>Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.</p> <p><b>Shelters/Transitional Housing</b> This includes temporary shelters, hostels, homeless shelters, group homes, and other temporary housing. It also includes emergency shelters for women, children, and families. It does not include long-term housing.</p> <p><b>Unsheltered</b> This includes sleeping in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, and other places not intended for habitation.</p>	<p>If you are in need of resources but don't know where to look, PA 211 (<a href="https://www.pa211.org/">https://www.pa211.org/</a>) is a great place to start.</p> <p>From help with a utility bill to housing assistance, after-school programs for kids, and more, you can dial 211 or text your zip code to 898-211 to talk with a resource specialist for free.</p> <p>The specialists will listen to your needs, and give you information on programs in your community that might be able to help.</p> <p>You can also download the Finding Your Way in PA App or check out the website: <a href="https://findyourwayinpa.com/">https://findyourwayinpa.com/</a>.</p>

Look for information coming home with your student about a food drive being held from 11/11 - 11/17. Each grade has been assigned a specific category to donate. The class with the most donations wins a donut party!!

**RED** is the color for homelessness. We are asking that everyone wear **RED** on Friday, 11/17 to show your support.

The National Day of Giving is on 11/28. KCSD will be recognizing the National Day of Giving on 11/22. Look for information from our school on how our school plans to give to [Sleep in Heavenly Peace](#). Sleep in Heavenly Peace helps build beds for students in need. Each school will either be collecting monetary donations or donations of pillows and bedding supplies. Please help them ensure that **NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!®**.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

### Attendance a priority at KCSD!

Help us reach our Attendance Goal of 94.1%.

For the month of October, our students showed up 93.1% of the time.

Remember: Excuses need to be turned in within 3 days of an absence. Use your school's attendance email to make sure that the excuse notes get turned in on time.

### Wildcats on the Prowl: AttendanceMatters Now!

## ATTENDANCE EMAILS

Email your excuses to the addresses below  
→ Save them in your phone contacts today!

BTAttendance@kcsd.us - BHS & BMS  
CMHSAttendance@kcsd.us - CMHS  
CMMSAttendance@kcsd.us - CMMS  
LCAttendance@kcsd.us - Liberty-Curtin  
MHAttendance@kcsd.us - Mill Hall  
RVAttendance@kcsd.us - Renovo  
ROBBAttendance@kcsd.us - Robb  
WWAttendance@kcsd.us - Woodward



*Going on a trip?*  
Please complete the educational trip form & submit it to your learner's attendance office for review & approval - this must be turned in at least 1-week in advance.

Having issues with getting your student to school? Is your student experiencing school stress?

Reach Out TODAY:



Or go to: [tinyurl.com/KCSDhelp](https://tinyurl.com/KCSDhelp)

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

In one school year

When a student misses 2 days a month, they will **MISS**

- 20 DAYS A YEAR
- 30 DAYS OF MATH
- 60 DAYS OF ELA

**+ 1 YR** & OVER 1 YEAR OF SCHOOL BY GRADUATION

It's never too late to improve attendance!

- Going to school more often will make a difference
- Attendance habits will follow your student into work & life.

### EVERY DAY COUNTS

School & future success starts with **GOOD ATTENDANCE!!**

How parents can help?

Make sure your student is at school **on time, every day**

Have conversations with your student. Attending school **DOES** make a difference!

Schedule appointments outside of the school day, if possible.


## Counseling Connection

### SAP

If you are concerned about a student for any reason, you can make a SAP referral. The SAP referral can potentially lead to any needed services and/or supports the student may need to be successful.



Click on the picture to make a referral!



**SAP: Student Assistance Program**

**What is SAP?**  
The Student Assistance Program (SAP) identifies school concerns, mental health issues, and barriers to a student's success. SAP connects the student and family with resources. The primary goal of SAP is to help students problem solve barriers and advance academically.

**Our SAP Teams**  
All team members are specially trained on SAP best practices. SAP Team members consist of: Principals, Teachers, School Counselors, School Psychologists, School Social Workers, School Nurses, County Mental Health Liaisons, and area providers.

**Not a Treatment Program:**  
The SAP program is an intervention and confidential referral process; not a treatment program. Services may include consultation, referrals to SAP liaisons to help access mental health services, in-school intervention supports, and referral for supports in the community.

**When to Refer:**

- Withdrawing from family, friends, and/or activities
- Refusing to go to school
- Feeling sad for 2 or more weeks
- Talking about suicide
- Defying authority, both at home and school
- Aggression toward others
- Declining grades

**SAP Referral:**  
Anyone can refer a student to the program including friends, family, teachers, and any school staff. Typically, consent from the student's parent must be obtained before starting intervention. Complete a referral on our school website or by contacting your student's school counselor.

There is no charge for participation in the SAP program. Financing of follow-up treatment services is not covered as a part of a SAP intervention. Students and families without private insurance or ineligible for Medical Assistance may be eligible for other options.

## Interoception - A Fancy Name for the Signals Your Body is Sending to You

We've always heard that if we listen to our five senses (vision, hearing, taste, smell and touch) it will help us to understand a situation more fully. Interoception is the name given to listening to another sense - the sense of signals that come from inside your body (heart beat, breathing, the feeling in your stomach, ringing ears and more). The key with body signals is that they can mean different things for different people. [This article](#) opens our eyes to awareness of what our body is trying to tell us and encourages us to listen. It's challenging as an adult to try to figure out what a child's interoception is trying to tell them, and sometimes even the child (or adult) has difficulty understanding what this sense is trying to tell them.



### What is Interoception and Why is it Important?

What is the word for the sense of signals that come from inside your body, such as feeling your heart beating and your breathing, or knowing when you are hungry? This is called interoception. Interoception is one of our senses, like vision, hearing, taste, smell, and touch.

📄 [kids.frontiersin.org](https://kids.frontiersin.org)

## Healthy Mind, Healthy Home, Healthy YOU!

## Report to Parents: Developing Healthy Habits in Kids that Last a Lifetime

Families can use these tips to stay protected from illness-causing germs in the fall and winter seasons.

### Teach Proper Cold Etiquette

Teach kids to cough or sneeze into their elbows or a tissue and dispose of the tissue properly.



### Maintain a Disinfected Home Environment

Regularly disinfect frequently touched surfaces in your home, such as doorknobs, light switches, and remote controls throughout cold and flu season to help stop the spread of illness-causing germs.

### Boost Immunity through Nutrition

Eating a well-balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, proteins, and dairy can give your child's immune system the strength it needs to ward off potential illnesses.

### Stock Up on Essentials

Put a travel-sized pack of tissues for personal use and a small bottle of hand sanitizer in your child's school bag to empower them to maintain cleanliness while at school and help cut back on pathogens they might bring home.

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## VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

<https://www.smores.com/361wz-keystone-central-school-district#:~:text=VOLUNTEER%20INFORMATION,to%20Clearance%20Page>

The link in the button above/QR Code should take you to our Volunteer Application.

You need to apply on-line at

<https://www.applitrack.com/kcsd/onlineapp/> instead of using a paper form.



Clearances and Mandated Reporter training are also required. Here are the links:

- Clearances
- (Act 34) PA State Police <https://epatch.pa.gov/home>
- (Act 151) PA Child Abuse <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>
- (Act 114) FBI <https://www.identogo.com/locations/pennsylvania>

Use service code to receive the correct clearance: 1KG6XN

Mandated Report Training <http://www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu/>

Elizabeth Nace is our Personnel Secretary & Volunteer Specialist, you can use the information below to contact her, and she said she is happy to help you and answer questions!



570-893-4900 x 2319

<https://www.kcsd.k12.pa.us/en-US/human-resources-32e72bfeenace@kcsd.k12.pa.us>

86 Administration Drive, Mill Hall, PA 17751

[General Link to Clearance Page](#)

## Translation Services

If your family speaks a language other than English, the district has access to translators and interpreters that can accompany you in meetings with teachers and school members. If you would like to be connected with a translator or interpreter please reach out to your child's teacher or the school guidance counselor. The accessibility features in the top right corner of this Smore allow you to translate this page.

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## MHE School Counseling

With the Thanksgiving holiday coming up, I have been thinking a lot about what I am thankful for and I wanted to extend my thanks to all of the Mill Hall families! I have found the students here to be so kind and loving!! I hope that you all are able to enjoy the time with your loved ones. Here is a short video on appreciation and thankfulness that I think our students will enjoy:

[https://youtu.be/Yv\\_K9Fn00SY?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/Yv_K9Fn00SY?feature=shared).

To learn more or to schedule a meeting, please contact your student's school counselor.

**Mrs. Smith: School Counselor**

Phone: 570-893-4900 x2969

Email: [bsmith@kcsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:bsmith@kcsd.k12.pa.us)

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## ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

Check out our School websites for CMHS Athletics or BHS Athletics



**Central Mountain High School**

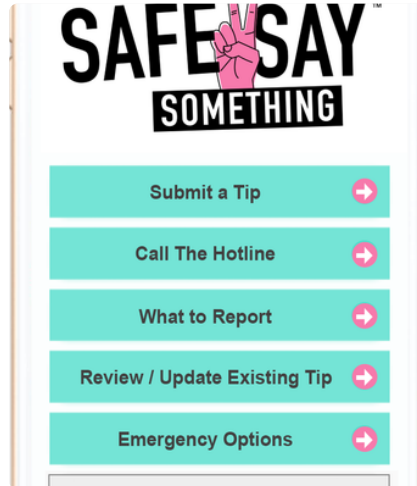
Just another SportsHub Sites site

## Safety & Security



### Safety & Security

[Click here for updates and information about KCS D Safety and Security.](#)



### Safe 2 Say

[Click here to access information about Safe 2 Say.](#)



### School Gate Guardian

[Click here for more information about School Gate Guardian and the district requirement for all visitors to show ID.](#)

**Keystone Central School District has School Resource Officers throughout our district for safety and security.**

Officer Scott VanGorder - Central Mountain High School

Officer Cory Beaver - Bucktail High School & Renovo Elementary

Officer Luke Motter - Central Mountain Middle School

Officer Mike Fetzer - Elementary district-wide and District Attendance Officer

Officer Todd Brian - District-wide

## Keeping Up With Keystone

### Virtual Academy

[Did you know the Keystone Central School District offers a full cyber program to students K-12?](#)

### Keystone Central Career & Technical Center

Please use the following link to read the upcoming events and information for October.

<https://www.smores.com/mw64j>

### Data & Performance

#### Upcoming Assessments



**ASVAB- CMHS December 11-12 and BTHS Feb.16** (10th grade students and any 11th/12th grader who still needs a graduation pathway)

**Winter Keystone Exams - Jan. 3-17** (Semester 1 Biology, Alg1 and 10th grade Literature Students)

**Local Assessment Winter Benchmark - Jan.10-17** (K-8 Math and ELA)

**Grade 11 Civics and Government End of Course Exam - Week of Jan.17-24** (Built into course)

### **Local District Assessments**

All students in grades K-8 will be participating in our upcoming local district assessments which will be administered in the Fall, Winter and Spring. Students in K-2 will be tested using the Acadience assessment and students in grades 3-8 will be tested using NWEA MAP assessment. These assessments are administered in the Fall, Winter and Spring and will provide you as well as their teacher valuable information on academic growth. To learn more about our assessment please click the links below.

[NWEA Family Toolkit](#)

[NWEA FAQ](#)

[About Acadience](#)

[Need to take the SAT, Click here for upcoming dates and registration](#)

### **Quick Links**

Many questions can arise concerning your child's laptop, internet access, busing information or maybe you'd like to volunteer in your child's school. These links below can help you get answers or point you in the direction of who to speak to.

#### **KCSD Technology Department**

Click on the button above to access the information.

#### **KCSD Transportation Department**

Click on the button above to access the information.

#### **KCSD Volunteer Application & Information**

Click on the button above to access the information.

#### **KCSD Student Handbooks**

Click on the button above to access the information.

## KCSD Food & Nutrition Services

Click on the button above to access the information.

## Special Education

Click on the button above to access the information.

## Shop @ Weis, Earn \$\$ for your School!

### Mill Hall Elementary School Contact Information

Elementary Principal: Dr. Breon- [abreon@kcsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:abreon@kcsd.k12.pa.us)

School Counselor: Mrs. Smith- [bsmith@kcsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:bsmith@kcsd.k12.pa.us)

School Secretary: Mrs. Collins- [gcollins@kcsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:gcollins@kcsd.k12.pa.us)

School Phone: 570-893-2900 ext. 2910



### Keystone Central School District

Respect for Yesterday \* Pride in Today \* Plans for Tomorrow