



Theme: Candyland Game On for Learning!

January, 2026

Note from The Principal

The Importance of Daily Reading & Staying Connected

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year!

As we welcome the new year, we are excited to continue our **Candyland theme—“Game On for Learning!”** This is an important time for our students and staff to stay focused and motivated as we prepare for upcoming state assessments.

Assessments such as **IREAD and ILEARN** are crucial opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning and growth. We encourage all students to take their learning seriously each day, both at school and at home. Families play a vital role by supporting daily reading, practicing skills, and reinforcing the importance of doing their best.

Attendance matters! Being at school every day ensures students receive consistent instruction and are fully prepared for assessments and continued success. Every day of learning counts.

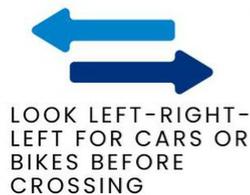
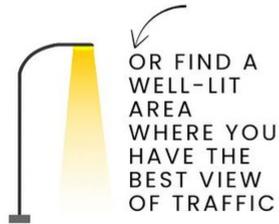
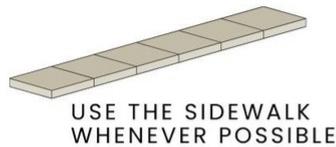
Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Let's keep the game going and make this a sweet year of learning and achievement for all!

Dean of Students

For the month of January, students are learning to foster a growth mindset. Students that have a growth mindset often embrace challenges, have better problem solving skills, and have an overall better self esteem. Some ways that you can help foster a growth mindset at home are by embracing mistakes as they are learning opportunities and praising your child child for their curiosity and effort.

Nina Gavric
Dean of Students

SCHOOL-AGE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



MAKE SURE YOU
NEVER PLAY, PUSH
OR SHOVE OTHERS
WHEN YOU WALK
AROUND TRAFFIC

LOOK

WATCH THE ROAD,
NOT YOUR PHONES



NO HEADPHONES OR
OTHER DEVICES
THAT PREVENT YOU
FROM HEARING
WHAT'S HAPPENING
AROUND YOU

Merrillville High School football team on their Victory Tour



Merrillville High School football team on their Victory Tour



IREAD

As a reminder, our 2nd and 3rd grade students will be taking the Indiana Reading assessment, IREAD. This test assesses students on foundational reading skills as well as comprehension skills. Please take a moment to review the Parent IREAD slides below to give you more insight on this assessment and the skills our students should know. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher or Mrs. Griffin.

Parent IREAD Slides: 2025-2026

IREAD: Indiana's Foundational Reading Skills Assessment 2025-2026

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1bQi4UJMkkFsreBAcFWXxZHeB0dY3LygypLxebZBJEGU/edit?slide=id.g32a5851fd89_0_4667#slide=id.g32a5851fd89_0_4667

Great News from Miller

Every month, we celebrate the exceptional achievements and admirable qualities of our outstanding students.

The Student of the Month award is an honor that recognizes those who have demonstrated excellence not only in academics but also in character and leadership.

Together we are setting the foundation for Excellence in our Students.

December Student of the Month

Kindergarten

JEREMIAH HULL
NAOMI SCOTT-REED
MAHLON LANE

First Grade

LEO LOPEZ
ZANDEN DAVIS
LAILANI RANDOLPH

Second Grade

NOLAN STANLEY
LAYLANIE HERNANDEZ
DUKE CALDWELL

Third Grade

AZALEE CONNER
AMANIE HERNANDEZ
EZRAH SCOTT-REED

Fourth Grade

IRAIS VAN DRUNEN
JUSTIN DAMPIER
AARIYAH NASH

Congratulations!

To all of our amazing pirates.
Mrs. Griffin-Principal

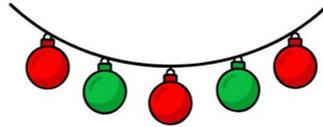
Fire Safety



Fire Safety Revised 2.mp4

drive.google.com

Staff Holiday Party at Jalapeno's



The Nurse Knows....

The in-school dentist is coming to Miller school on February 12th!

The School Smiles on-site dental program provides on-site dental care at our school for all students that sign up to participate. The dental team will set up inside our school and they accept Medicaid, private insurance, offer self-pay rates and grants through their foundation. Permission forms were sent home with each student. To participate, be sure your child brings a completed and signed form back to his or her teacher by February 6th. Signups are also available online and in other languages at <https://schoolsmiles.com/student-signup/> We're providing this service because taking care of your child's teeth is important to keep them healthy. Healthier children make better students!

What Is Reye Syndrome?

Reye syndrome is a rare but serious illness that can affect the brain and liver. It's most common in kids who are recovering from a viral infection. It's still not well understood, but studies have linked it to the use of aspirin (salicylates) or aspirin products during illnesses caused by viruses. In general, kids and teens should not take aspirin (salicylates) except on the advice of a doctor for certain conditions. Learn more about [Reyes syndrome here.](#)

Christine Wroblewski RN,BSN
Miller School Nurse

LET'S TALK PARKS!

Complete a short survey about
Lake County Parks for a chance
to win one of these prizes:
Deep River Waterpark tickets
Family 4-pack for Bellaboo's
Golf at Turkey Creek Golf Course
And more!!

Your feedback helps us make our
parks even better – and make
your summer even more fun!



Preschool Happenings....

Welcome back families:

We are pleased to welcome you and your child back to preschool. We hope you enjoyed a restful break and are ready for a new term filled with learning, growth, and joyful experiences. The children are eagerly working on letters and shapes and tracing slant lines and curved lines. This is a great opportunity to have them show you slant, and curves lines at home and point out letters and the sounds they make.

Let's make this semester shine bright with curiosity, determination, and a whole lot of fun! ✨
Learning is an adventure, and we can't wait to see where this journey takes us! 📖🌟

•General Reminders:

- Early dismissal Tuesday, January 13th, 2026 at 11:50am
- Miller classroom engagement Thursday, January 15th, 2026 at 1:30pm

- Please ensure all personal items are clearly labeled.
- Children should arrive on time to benefit fully from the daily program.
- If your child will be absent, please notify the preschool office or your child's teacher.

We value our partnership with families and look forward to working together to support your child's development throughout the term.

Miller going **GREEN** for homelessness & hunger awareness



Title1

Happy New Year Miller Families!

Title 1 staff will be assisting grades 2 and 3 students in preparing for our state IREAD test that will be given at the beginning of March. We will be working on the skills that appear on the test during these next 30 school days. Some skills that we will be reviewing are beginning, middle and end sounds; synonyms (words that have the same meaning), antonyms (words with opposite meaning), multiple-meaning words; and comprehension skills. Please have students read daily at home, as this will help build their confidence and stamina for the assessment. Encouraging your child and expressing the importance of the test will help with their success. Please feel free to reach out to me or your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Julian had invited me (Ms. Meyer) to see his Scrooge play at his church this evening. It was absolutely amazing! Way to go Julian!



Merry & Bright



Merry & Bright



Dress like a Present



Dress Up



Dress Up

F.A.C.E.S.

https://www.canva.com/design/DAG9fEOvlu8/fB6Eb01ni-JW_No4ABOusg/view?utm_content=DAG9fEOvlu8&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniqueinks&utm_id=h9324895fad

Dates To Remember



Early Release

Tuesday January 13, 2026

AM: in school

PM: E-learning

12:30 release



No School - Martin Luther King Day

Monday, January 19, 2026

All day

Social Worker Corner

I spend a lot of time talking to our students about their feelings. We call it Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). We talk about what they are feeling, why they are feeling that way and what we can do with these feelings. At the elementary level it starts out very basic, happy, sad, angry. As they move from grade to grade the feelings we discuss become more complex like jealousy, empathy, disappointed. They may have felt these feelings but may not have a name for it. Talking about feelings and emotions leads to better mental health. There are some people, even parents, think that talking about our feelings is a sign of weakness. I can understand this view point. Back in the day folks would say "children should be seen not heard" or "get over it you're fine." What we have found to be true is that children see and hear what grown ups around them say and do. Parents are the earliest teachers and most important influence in their lives. That is an enormous responsibility. If you and your partner make it important to talk about feelings then you are giving your child a great gift. They will learn to talk about their feelings and together you can figure out what's going on and what can be done. If children, and adults, suppress their feelings then, many times, it turns into something bigger then it needed to be.



Sometimes it may only take a simple conversation to makes things right instead of losing control of our emotions. Teaching our children to talk about their feelings as well as you expressing your feelings to them leads to better mental health. Here is an article on how to help our children's emotional intelligences:

[6 Strategies for Teaching Emotional Awareness to Children | Psychology Today](#)

Many companies are actively seeking candidates with strong emotional intelligence because its crucial for teamwork, leadership, adaptability, and navigating complex workplace dynamics. They are looking for traits such as self-awareness, empathy, conflict resolution and resilience according to Forbes, a global media company. This is why SEL is so important and this is why we start now.

Respectfully,
Nancy Fleming
Social Worker

By clicking on the arrows next to the pictures, they will enlarge.



Student Council Well Wishes



Siblings/Relatives in Cozy wear during Spirit Week



Walking into Winter Wonderland Spirit Week



Walking into Winter Wonderland Spirit Week



Messages of Peace & Kindness Walking into Winter Wonderland Spirit Week



Ugly/Cute Sweaters

Our very own Cindy Lou Who, our 3rd Grade Teacher, Ms. Coyle



Thank you Mrs. Reinhart and the MHS Choir for coming out for our 3rd Annual Character Luncheon



Cindy Lou Who

Character Luncheon

Character Luncheon



Character Luncheon

Character Luncheon

Character Luncheon



Character Luncheon

Character Luncheon

Student Council News....



click on the arrows to view pictures larger





That kind of the unknown, is known to all night
A song collection is waiting there,
Push one you love, a light you'll own
Fill it up with hot chocolate, rich and sweet,
A wintery treat that can't be beat.
Sip, relax, enjoy the cheer,
The winter break is almost here.
So before you go, and kiss our nose,
Come grab a mug and enjoy the best.
A warm cup, a smile, a moment to share,
Happy winter break in the cozies!



Hot Cocoa Bar

By clicking on the arrows next to the pictures, they will enlarge



6 - 7 Day

6 - 7 Day at Miller!

Happy Birthday Mrs. Chagoya



click on the arrows to enlarge pictures

Apples for the Students

We have a box at the Strack & Van Til's on 61st & Broadway in Merrillville and we also have a box in our front office at Miller

Bus Tracking



Here Comes The Bus | School Bus Tracking | GPS | Fleet Management

Here Comes The Bus, powered by the GPS services of Synovia, is the most robust and secure school bus tracking and fleet management software available.

herecomesthebus.com.

Here Comes The Bus....

1. Download Here Comes the Bus app or visit herecomesthebus.com
2. Click the "Sign Up" button
3. Enter school code 6601 and click "Next" followed by "Confirm"
4. Complete the "User Profile" box
5. Under "My Students," click "Add." Enter your child's last name and student ID number
6. Once you confirm your information, you're ready to begin.

As always, please contact the office if there is a change in your child's transportation before the end of the day. 219-650-5303

Should you have any questions, please contact MCSC Transportation Department via email, transportation@mvs.k12.in.us or by phone at 219-650-5311

Birthday/Snack List



Jennifer Griffin

Jennifer is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

