



Theme: Candyland Game On for Learning!

March, 2026

Note from The Principal

The Importance of Daily Reading & Staying Connected

Dear Parents and Guardians,

During the month of March, we are excited to spotlight attendance with a special bulletin board incentive to encourage perfect attendance schoolwide. Classes will be recognized for their daily commitment to learning, and the class with the best attendance for the month will receive a special reward! This means, no absences, late drop-offs, or early pick-ups.

We appreciate your partnership in ensuring your child arrives at school on time and ready to learn each day. Together, we can make every day count!

Mrs. Jennifer Griffin
Miller School Principal

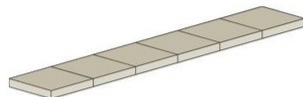
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Dean of Students

As spring approaches and the weather gets warmer, students often need a "spring reboot". Please continue to reiterate being respectful, responsible, and safe at school. Routines are important and beneficial for children so please establish and follow through with routines at home as the daylight hours get longer.

Nina Gavric
Dean of Students

SCHOOL-AGE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



USE THE SIDEWALK
WHENEVER POSSIBLE



WHENEVER THEY'RE
AVAILABLE, USE
CROSSWALKS TO
CROSS THE STREET



OR FIND A
WELL-LIT
AREA
WHERE YOU
HAVE THE
BEST VIEW
OF TRAFFIC



LOOK LEFT-RIGHT-
LEFT FOR CARS OR
BIKES BEFORE
CROSSING



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



WATCH THE ROAD,
NOT YOUR PHONES



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

Dates To Remember

Spring Break - No School

March 30 - April 6, 2026

Return: April 7, 2026

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Early Dismissal - April 14th

AM: in School

Dismissal at 12:30

PM: eLearning

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Easter Bunny Blast

When: Saturday, March 28, 2026

Time: 11am - 1pm

Where: Hidden lake Park



Event Information

E-Learning - all day - No in-School

When?

Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 08:15 AM

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





Girl Scouts



Make New Friends with Girl Scouts!

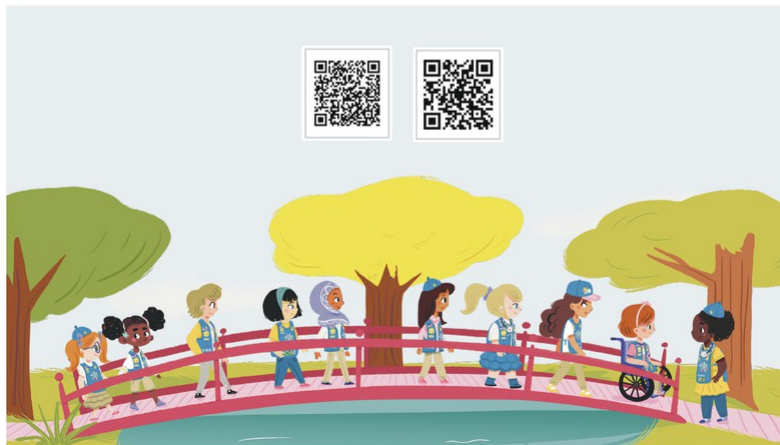


Get ready for a fun-filled four-week “Make New Friends” series where girls explore, create, and connect!

Each meeting could include hands-on activities like designing and building an invention, creating a playful animal mask, and jumping into fun teamwork games. Families are part of the fun, too. Participate alongside your girl and get time to connect. See what makes your girl's confidence shine! Plus, participants take home cool extras and so much more — **save your spot today!**

Walk-ins are welcome to the first meeting only | This is not a drop-off event

April 7, 2026	April 14, 2026	April 21, 2026	April 28, 2026
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Merrillville Public Library	Merrillville Public Library	Merrillville Public Library	Merrillville Public Library
1919 81st Ave, Merrillville, IN	1919 81st Ave, Merrillville, IN	1919 81st Ave, Merrillville, IN	1919 81st Ave, Merrillville, IN



Questions? Contact: Kristine | (312) 912-6362 | kstasi@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Fire Safety



Fire Safety Revised 2.mp4

drive.google.com

The Nurse Knows....

Spring Allergies

Spring is almost here so don't let symptoms sneak up on you or your kids. One of the most important tools for battling spring allergies is to get ahead of symptoms. Talk to your doctor or allergist. Begin taking allergy medications two to three weeks before itching and sneezing normally start to occur. Find out more about allergies and asthma at <https://allergyasthmanetwork.org/>

Sleep Health

A good night's sleep is an important part of a child's overall health and mental well being. Click on the link to see how much sleep is recommended for everyone and tips on getting a good night's sleep.

[National Sleep Foundation](#)

Community and Student Health

You may have heard in the news about measles cases and outbreaks on the rise around the country. You may wonder what measles is, why are outbreaks occurring and how I can protect myself and my family. Here's some information about measles from a source that is trusted by the National Association of School Nurses

[How to Protect Your Children During a Measles Outbreak](#)

Christine Wroblewski RN,BSN

Miller School Nurse

Nurse's direct line (219)756-5743

BasketBall



PARKS & RECREATION

YOUTH

MERRILLVILLE BASKETBALL LEAGUE

FREE

MERR. RES.

NON-RES.

\$100

\$110

*WHEN YOU REGISTER ON / DURING MARCH 23RD - MAY 17TH 2026

SEASON RUNS

JUN 2 - AUG 15

LEAGUE REGISTRATION: FEB 23RD - MAY 17TH, 2026



GET \$20 OFF / CHILD

** When register on /during Feb 23rd-Mar 22nd, 2026

\$10 (PER CHILD) LATE FEE WILL BE APPLIED WHEN YOU REGISTER ON AND AFTER MAY 18TH, 2026

JUNIOR DIVISION

(Ages 8-10)



SENIOR DIVISION

(Ages 11-13)



HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

(Ages 14-17)

SKILL ASSESSMENT: AT 5.30 PM

JUNIOR DIVISION May 12th

SENIOR DIVISION May 13th

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION May 14th

PRACTICE DAYS:

JUNIOR DIVISION Tuesdays

SENIOR DIVISION Wednesdays

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION Thursdays

GAME DAY: SATURDAYS

COACHES MEETING: MONDAY, MAY 11TH AT 6 PM.

DEAN & BARBARA WHITE COMMUNITY CENTER

6800 BROADWAY, MERRILLVILLE, IN 46410

219.980.5911

SCAN TO REGISTER



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!



LEGACY
FOUNDATION
Lake County's Community Foundation



Preschool Happenings...

Hello Families! Our preschool classrooms are full of learning, laughter, and exciting milestones as we continue to grow together.

📖 What We're Learning This Week

We are still on architecture, and cameras. You can help by pointing out building shapes, sizes and structure. It aligns with number and shape recognition. Also camera types and sizes.


We are still on our 1000 book journey, continue to read books daily to your child, or have them read a favorite book to you. Remember to keep track.

General Reminders:

- Wednesday, March 18th Parent meeting @ Miller 1:30pm – 2:20pm
- Friday, March 20th No school for preschool
- Friday, March 20th preschool enrollment event at Miller Elementary 9am-2pm Door C
- Monday, March 30th Spring Break begins
- If your child will be absent, please notify your family advocate at (219) 650-5301 ext 6151 or on DoJo.
- *If you intent for your child to attend another year with preschool, please complete the "Intent to return form" at drop off and pick up as soon as possible. It is provided by your family advocate.

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

Car Rider Line Up



Car Riders

A.M. Doors Open 8:10 - 8:25
P.M. Doors Open 3 - 3:15

Please don't walk your child(ren) up to the door, stay in your vehicle and get in line.

Don't drive around cars or attempt to pass cars in the parking lot.

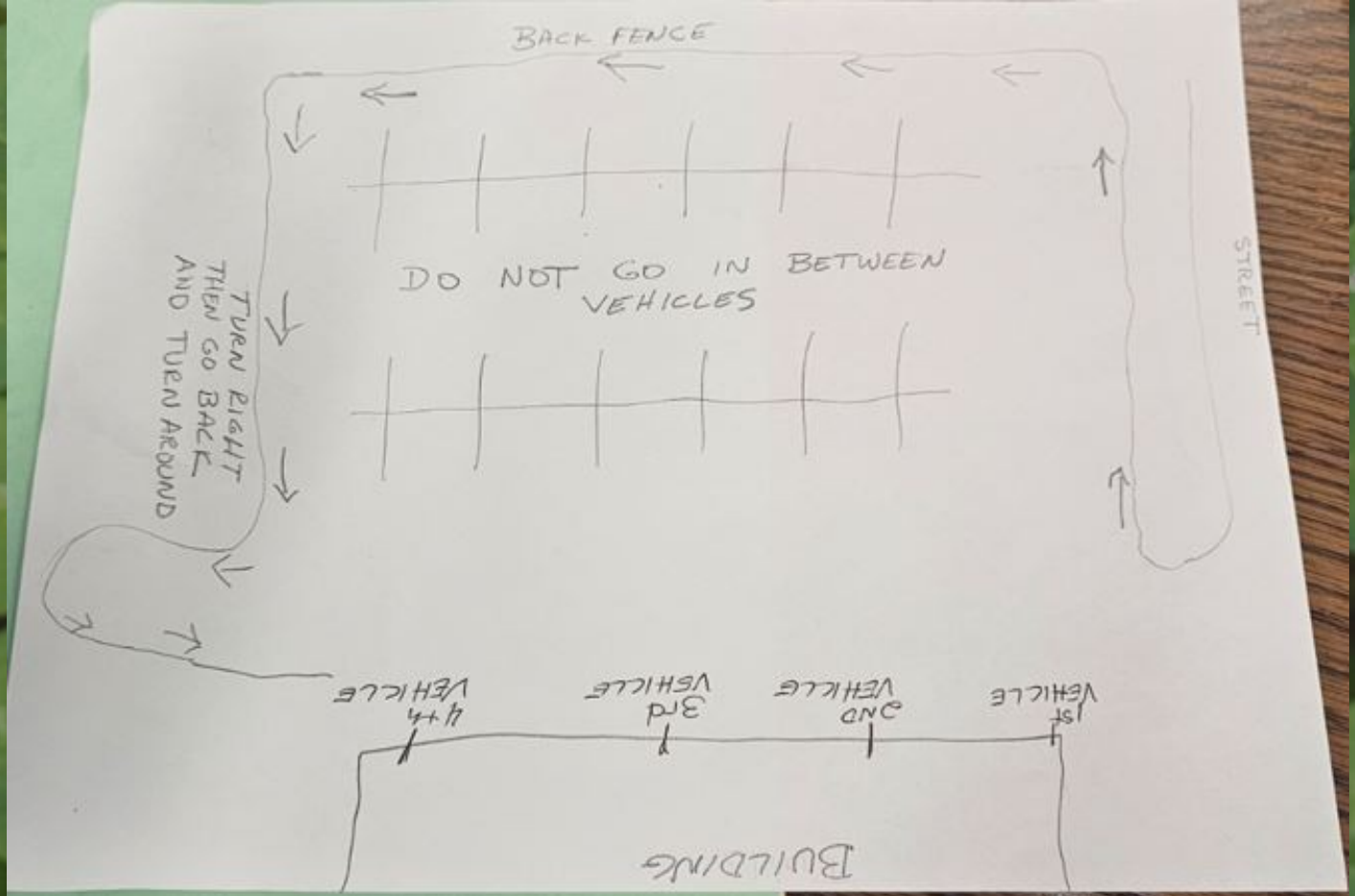
Please slow down when pulling into the parking lot. We don't want any accidents!

Please pull all the way up to the first cone, this way we can get 4 or 5 vehicles. And please have your child open the door. Sometimes we don't have enough staff to open every door!

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A NUMBER, YOU WILL HAVE TO GO TO THE OFFICE TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD.

SAFE ZONE

As you can see, we have a new pattern of drop off/pick up. Please continue to follow the arrows, don't cut through the parking lot. And don't go through or around the orange cones.



If we all follow this map, there will be no accidents. Please pull all the way up to the 1st vehicle position so that we can get 4 vehicles in the lineup.

Thank you

Social Worker Corner



Our phones have become a very important part of every day life for all of us. It keeps us connected to our loved ones. It gives us valuable information, directions, recipes and keeps us up to date on the latest news. As we know our phones can also be responsible for potentially dangerous situations. Good and bad is only a click away. As adults we have a better understanding of the potential danger than children do. It's our responsibility to keep our children safe in all aspects of their lives. In the last decade the responsibility of keeping our children safe online has grown exponentially. Many of our students have phones. There are many problems with children having a phone at such a young age.

However, that is a discussion for another time. Let's talk about how to keep your children safe on line. Life moves fast and we are all very busy but if there was anything that screams for your attention it should be keeping our children safe on all their devices. Because you are busy I took the opportunity to look up some resources for helping you keep your child safe on line. This article is from the Federal Trade Commission. It's about safeguarding our children on line:

Here is a great article with a wealth of information from the eSafety Commissioner:

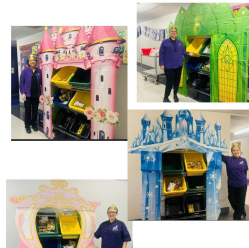
[Parental controls | How to keep your child safe](#)

Another reason I am writing about this very important subject is that schools are having to deal with the aftermath of children using their phone without parental controls and how inappropriate content and images can be easily shared with dire consequences. Many times, things that happen overnight or during the weekends on devices spill over into our schools. All school personnel are mandatory reporters so we must report any inappropriate content we are made aware of. We do not want to be put in this position but we will follow the letter of the law and make a report if necessary. Please do not put us in this position. Add parental controls to all devices your child uses. Let's all work together to keep our children safe.

Respectfully,
Nancy Fleming
Social Worker

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

Third grade students celebrating their hard work with an end of WREAO prep Jeopardy game



National Breakfast Week



Students with Perfect Attendance



Perfect Attendance



And the winners are...
1st Graders Ricary (Kelly) and Joelle (Ducre)

A Kaitlin Allen Zakiya Jyllen Ortega Kaitlin Stephens Kaitlin Smith Melody Villa Joan Woodley	A Juliana Smith
A/B Mikeli Castellanos Kerensa Carter Janelle Clinton Christina Colyer Brycen Davis Chasen Fitzgerald Jettah Hovoycott Cree Lee Ella Malinoff Jared Miller Zayden Munnery Malia Parks Janyce Porter Jasmine Quinlan Dreannah Rodriguez Danaiah Strickland	A/B Christina Castellanos Kerensa Carter Janelle Clinton Christina Colyer Brycen Davis Chasen Fitzgerald Jettah Hovoycott Cree Lee Ella Malinoff Jared Miller Zayden Munnery Malia Parks Janyce Porter Jasmine Quinlan Dreannah Rodriguez Danaiah Strickland
B	B



PBIS reward day, students who didn't receive a level 1 or level 3 offense got the chance to "Monday Jammin' Jam"



The Science of Reading

PARENT GUIDE

What is the Science of Reading?

The Science of Reading is a comprehensive, research-based approach to how children learn to read. It combines decades of studies from various fields, including cognitive science, linguistics, and education, to understand the most effective ways to teach reading. The goal is to equip all children with the skills they need to become proficient readers.

Key Components of the Science of Reading

Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words. This is a foundational skill that helps children recognize the sounds that make up words.

How You Can Help:

- Play sound games like "I spy with my little eye something that starts with the sound /m/."
- Clap out the syllables of words or blend sounds together to form simple words (e.g., /b/ /a/ /t/ = bat).

Phonics

Phonics involves understanding the relationship between sounds and the letters (or letter combinations) that represent those sounds. This skill is essential for decoding words.

How You Can Help:

- Practice letter-sound recognition with flashcards.
- Encourage your child to "sound out" new words when reading together.

Fluency

Fluency is the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression. Fluent readers can focus on understanding the text rather than decoding each word.

How You Can Help:

- Read aloud with your child regularly and model good pacing and expression.
- Re-read favorite books to build confidence and fluency.

Vocabulary

Vocabulary refers to the words children need to know to understand and communicate effectively. A strong vocabulary enhances comprehension and overall reading success.

How You Can Help:

- Introduce new words in everyday conversation.
- Discuss the meaning of unfamiliar words while reading, using context clues to understand them.

Comprehension

Comprehension is the ability to understand and interpret the meaning of the text. Good readers can make connections, ask questions, and infer meaning as they read.

How You Can Help:

- Ask your child questions about the story: "What happened? Why do you think that character acted that way?"
- Encourage your child to predict what will happen next in a story or explain why a character made a particular decision.

WHY IS THE SCIENCE OF READING IMPORTANT?

- **Proven Effectiveness:** The Science of Reading is backed by extensive research that shows it works for children of all backgrounds.
- **Prevents Reading Struggles:** Early instruction based on these principles helps prevent reading difficulties later on.
- **Supports All Learners:** Whether your child is learning to read or is a more advanced reader, the Science of Reading provides a strong foundation for lifelong literacy.

How Can You Support Your Child's Reading Journey?

Read Daily

Set aside time every day to read together. This builds both fluency and a love for reading.



Engage in Conversations

Talk about the books you read together and make connections to real-life experiences.



Provide a Print-Rich Environment

Surround your child with books, magazines, and other reading materials that encourage exploration and curiosity.



Remember: Learning to Read Is a Journey!

The Science of Reading helps break down that journey into manageable steps. With patience, practice, and the right approach, your child can develop the skills they need to become a confident, successful reader.

Ms. Garth Educational Consulting

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



Dear Parent,

Educational technology and its funding change daily. To keep up with these changes and their accompanying expenses, our school is participating in our local Strack & Van Til's Apples for the Students Program.

The Apples for the Students Program enables our school to earn computers and iPads, sporting goods, audio visual equipment, and science supplies, with choices from hundreds of other awards, too! And, they're all free!

To earn these FREE awards we simply have to collect as many register receipts as possible from September 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026. Ask your friends and relatives to shop at Strack & Van Til Food Market and save every receipt.

Send the receipts to school with your students as often as possible. The school will count the value of the register tapes collected and redeem them for great educational awards that benefit your child.

Thank you in advance for your participation!



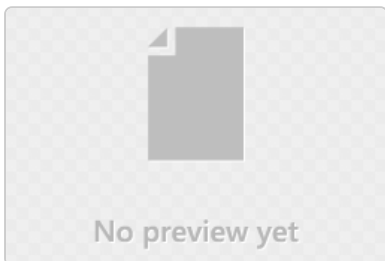
2A

Help our students earn FREE educational equipment!

Save your receipts and we'll turn them in to educational equipment for your local school.

[Click here to learn more >](#)

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[®]

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@mvsc.k12.in.us or by phone at 219-650-5311

Follow Us !

<https://miller.mvsc.k12.in.us>





https://www.facebook.com/Miller School.PTO

Birthday/Snack List



Merrillville Approved Healthy Birthday/Snack List



<p>Individually Wrapped Snacks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baked Potato Chips or Baked Tortilla Chips • Cereal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cheerios ■ Frosted Mini Wheats ■ Grape-Nuts Cereal ■ Raisin Bran ■ Wheaties Cereal • Cheese <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reduced Fat Borden or Sargento Light Mozzarella string cheese ■ Frigo Light Cheese Heads ■ Kraft Twist-Ums ■ Laughing Cow • Crackers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Pepperidge Farm Goldfish made with Whole Grain ■ Triscuit Crackers • Fruit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dried ■ Fresh ■ Canned • Granola Bars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nature Valley Crunchy Granola Bar ■ Quaker Chewy Granola Bar • Nature Valley Chewy Trail Mix Bar • Popcorn • Pretzels • Pudding • Ranch Dip to go with veggies • Rice Cakes • Vegetables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fresh ■ Canned ■ With Salad Dressing 	<p>Yogurt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stonyfield ■ Dannon ■ Horizon ■ Go-Gurt by Yoplait ■ Danimals Drinkable Low-Fat Yogurt <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><u>Birthday Treats available through our Merrillville Community School Food Service Program:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cookie, individually packaged (.75 each) * • Cupcake, individually packaged (1.00 each)* • Brownie, individually packaged (.75 each) * • Ice cream, individual cups (1.00 each) • Rice Krispie Treat, individually packaged (.75 each) * • Milk, cartons (.40 each) <p>To order treats, please complete the order form on the Merrillville Food Service Webpage. Orders must be placed one week in advance and they will be delivered to the classroom by Food Service Personnel. All treats must in paid in full through Skyward Family Access prior to delivery.</p> <p>*based on availability</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Order Here</p> </div> <p><small>Resource used to create this list: http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/SchoolFood/Resources/TN/healthyschoolsnacks.pdf</small></p>
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Jennifer Griffin

Jennifer is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

