THE MARINER NEWS

Millen Woods Public School

http://mil.wrdsb.ca

Volume 6, Issue 4 **Date: December 7 2015**

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Mon., Dec. 14

Junglesport begins

Wed. Dec. 16

Progress Reports Home

Fri., Dec. 18

Last day of school

Mon., Jan. 4

First day back

Wed., Jan. 18

School Council 7:00 p.m.

Administrator's Message

On Friday, Dec. 4 we had our kick-off assembly for the **Week of Giving** beginning this Monday, December 7th. Students were challenged to think of those in our community who are less fortunate and to take action to make a difference. Listed below are the "giving" themes for each day of the week:

- Munchkin Monday— Baby items such as formula, wipes and diapers, to be donated to *Mary's Place* and other family shelters
- Toiletries Tuesday—small items such as shampoo, soap, and toothpaste, also to be donated to *Mary's Place and Anselma House*
- Woolly Wednesday—warm adult socks (new or gently used and clean, wool are the best, but sports socks work too) to be donated to the Out of the Cold program
- Toys Thursday—all donations will go to the *Salvation Army Toys for Tots* program
- Food Bank Friday—Canned goods and non-perishables will go to our *local Food Bank*

We thank you for donating items to our Week of Giving blitz. On Friday, Mr. Kavanaugh spoke on behalf of the Out of The Cold program to our students and shared the many reasons we give to others to help during this very cold season. To recognize our students' efforts in collecting all these goods, we will hold our annual Sock Relay Superhero Challenge Friday, December 11th. Students will once again face off against our team of sock superheroes, led by our very own "Sock-it-to-me Dude" Mr. Kavanaugh!

We also have our Tree of Warmth up in our front foyer where all the additional "woolies" such as scarves, hats and mitts will be placed on our tree and delivered to the Out of The Cold program along with the socks. Many students have taken time to create wonderful and colourful posters with information about the days of the week of giving and are up in our hallway.

This year we will be holding a Festive Sing-A-Long evening event on Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30pm out front of our school (details inside newsletter). So come out and enjoy a festive song or two and a warm cup of hot chocolate with friends and family before we depart for the holiday break.

Wishing all the families of Millen Woods a happy, merry festive time of year!

Ms. T. Starodub and the Millen Woods Staff

Inclement Weather

Now that winter seems on our doorstep, we need to review procedures in case of bad weather or deteriorating weather. In the morning, the local radio stations will announce whether busses are running and schools are open. On the rare occasion that schools are closed, that announcement will be made by 6:30 A.M. on the radio and also through School Day. The School board will also post a message on its website and on all school websites. If the bus is cancelled on a day when school is open, parents may choose to bring their children to school. Parents are then responsible for picking their children up at the end of the day. Currently it is not WRDSB practice to close schools after opening. We NEVER send students home before regular dismissal time without assurance that someone is home to receive the child. This policy applies to both walkers and bus students. If busses are cancelled for the day, then any off-campus trips requiring a bus will also be cancelled.

We encourage everyone to check with radio and school websites the evening before and early morning when snow storms are imminent. Please have your child come prepared for the cold weather with the appropriate clothing and footwear. We play outdoors every day unless the weather is colder than –20 degrees Celcius with the windchill.

SAFE, ACTIVE AND HEALTHY TRAVEL TO SCHOOL

Millen Woods continues to participate in a new project involving a network of organizations and individuals with a shared interest in promoting mental wellbeing, and an active and sustainable lifestyle for students. The project hopes to establish a Walking School Bus route along with volunteers from the community so that children travelling to and from home and school are safe. Colleen Cooper is the coordinator with the School Travel Plan Committee from the WRDSB region who is heading up the plan:

- **Engineering improvements at/or near school sites (e.g. pedestrian crossings, adult crossing guards, repairs and upgrades to sidewalks, signage and bike lanes)**
- **Making school infrastructure improvements (e.g. bike shelters or bike racks)**
- **Providing education and raising awareness (e.g. safety training for walking and cycling)**
- **Community mobilization (e.g. walking school busses, winter walking days, cycling programs, ride sharing)**
- **Encouragement (e.g. event days (hot chocolate for winter walking days), recognition and rewards for walking/biking (green tree display)**

If you are interested in contributing your ideas to this discussion, please notify Ms. Starodub. More details will be posted on our website this month.

Junglesport is Coming!

This is just a reminder that December 14th marks the beginning of an exciting week of adventure in our gym. Junglesport brings in a challenging ropes and climbing course, appropriately set up for each age level, and staffed by qualified instructors. Students will work in their individual comfort zone, and will wear protective headgear, (plus a harness for junior students). A consent form has been sent home; please return it to your child(ren)'s teacher as soon as possible. All students should wear gym shoes and comfortable, loose clothing (no skirts or dresses) to school for the entire week.

Eastbridge Community Concert

This past Saturday, December 5, 2015 our Kodaly Choir performed at the community's annual Tree Lighting event for the season!. Many of the community commented on how wonderful the choir performed and how it added a touch of magic to the treelighting festivities this year. A special thank you to Ms. M. Firth (in for Mrs. Kazamzadeh this term) for all her work with our Kodaly Choir this festive season!

Ice Skating at Millen Woods

Once again this year, students in Grades 1 to 6 will have the opportunity to skate at Rim Park. We are so fortunate to be in walking distance of the area and to be able to provide this activity free of charge! Please check your child's skates over the holiday to make sure they still fit and have good laces. As of last February, the board has stipulated that all students and staff must wear a **CSA** helmet (approved for hockey or skiing but NOT for biking). More information will be coming home with your child along with permission forms to attend this program. Your child's teacher will also be providing you with a schedule of their selected ice skating times should you wish to come out and join in on the activity (please be aware that this activity is considered as one with an element of risk, and so you are responsible for your own well-being should you choose to participate). We are looking forward to participating in the ice skating program offered at RIM Park again this year!

School Council News

Ah, the holiday season. While it is most certainly the most wonderful time of the year, it is also one of the busiest, and School Council has been very busy with initiatives to enhance the learning for all students at Millen Woods.

With your support, we have had yet another successful FundScrip campaign. Thanks to everyone who purchased gift cards through this program. Together we raised over $1500, so well done!

Are your little monkeys ready? It's almost here—the week that Mariners anticipate all year! Council is once again sponsoring Junglesport for one week in December! Students get ready to have fun, test your limits, and climb!

At our most recent meeting, Mrs. Webber shared he enthusiasm for the learning that is happening on Google Chromebooks at Millen Woods. With Google Apps for Education (GAFE), students are able to create, edit, and share files with one another and their teachers in 'real' time. The school would like to purchase enough Chromebooks so that there is a class set (25) to share between two classes. Council has not yet voted on this matter, yet, general discussion would indicate that there is interest in contributing Council funds toward the purchase of more Chromebooks in addition to those purchased at the end of last year.

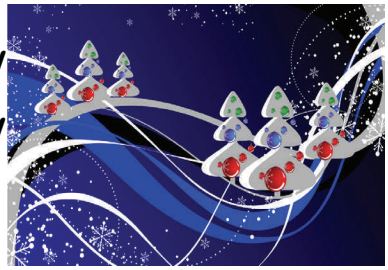
Looking ahead to 2016, we will be once again planning a family fun movie night, and of course, our biggest fundraiser of the year, and popular student event; the Dance-A-Thon! Stay tuned for more details in the new year.

We would lvo0e to have you join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, January 20th, 2016 at 7:00pm in our school library. All are welcome!

So, we have been busy, and I know that you have been as well. I hope that we can all find some time over the winter break to slow down and enjoy time with our families. We'll see you in the new year 2016!

By Sarah Boyd

On behalf of School Council



Please join us on <u>Wednesday, December 16th</u>

At 6:30pm

Outside our front entrance way to the school

For our first

FESTIVE SING~A~LONG!

Staff, students and families are invited to come out and sing together songs of peace, unity and festive spirit together in a community of giving and kindness. As we usher in the festive season and the new year, may we take the opportunity to come together and enjoy the sounds of peace and harmony through song. Our choir, Electric Singing Club and students will be sharing their musical pieces together along with music. Our staff will be serving hot chocolate to keep away the chill! Please come and join us before we break for the holiday season!

May Peace and Joy be with you all this year!