

MILLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



"Message from the Principal" - Mr. Geoff Bontrager

Miller Elementary School wrapped up the 2006-2007 school year with some wonderful events, which included the Hope Run, Field Day, and the Mackinac Trip. These are examples of the outstanding opportunities our students have had throughout the school year. Kids were recognized monthly for all the noteworthy things they were doing by way of The Tree of Recognition, Student of the Month, and the Eagle Excellence Programs. Teachers and support staff should be congratulated on preparing our students for the MEAP test taken last fall. Students were praised for their diligent work, which produced excellent scores. We have worked hard to recognize all the great achievements and fine attributes of our kids here at Miller Elementary. Our Student Council was recognized for the sixth consecutive year by The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and was presented the 2006-2007 ASCA Honor Student Council Excellence Award. Schools receiving this award have demonstrated excellence in leadership training, community service, and a dynamic school spirit. The State of Michigan through the Education Yes Report awarded Norman A. Miller Elementary with a letter grade of an "A". Since the 2000-2001 school year, N.A. Miller Elementary has earned two "Golden Apple" awards and five consecutive "A's" recognizing the school for Academic Excellence. "Good, Better, Best, never let it rest, until your Good is Better, and your Better is Best!" Enjoy a fun filled summer! We're looking forward to a terrific 2007-2008 school year!



Miller Volunteers Made the Year a Success!

Article submitted by PTO President, Ms. Barb Burge

How many volunteers does it take to support a school for the whole year? At Miller Elementary it took approximately 320 people. Our parents and grandparents really understand what it means to "give back" to the school and we are so appreciative of them. This year at MES we added four new events for our school to enjoy. We had our first ever Donuts with Dad, Muffins with Mom, a Parents Night Out, and a Family Reading Night - used book sale. The Donuts with Dad and Muffins with Mom were paired with our Scholastic Book Fair. Together these two events enabled us to put close to \$6,000 in books into our school. Our tried and true events such as our Frankenthumb Fundraiser, Santa Secret Shop, Daddy/Daughter Dance and the Spring Carnival all helped our organization to enhance the school environment. Volunteers are definitely the key to success at our school. Every event takes people power to make it happen. When we all do a little, we can do a lot!



Miller Student Takes Steps in Becoming Future Leader

By Jeffrey Bush, Reporter

As soon as Miller Elementary School Teacher Ms. Willow Jeffreys got information about the People to People World Leadership Forum she immediately thought of Grant Hohlbein. As a straight A Student, Grant is also well rounded in athletics, church activities, and was Class Council President. He will be traveling to Washington DC in October to join other students around the country in visiting The Smithsonian and also delve into the greater workings of the government along with other activities. "Making a difference in the world begins with developing my own leadership skills," says Grant. The forum was founded in 1956 to enable students from different cultures to build self-confidence, communication skills, and leadership abilities. Upon doing further research on the People to People program, Ms. Jeffreys has gained interest in applying for a facilitator position with them.



Valentines for Vets

By Jeffrey Bush, Reporter

Some United States Veterans were made happy this past Valentine's Day because of a simple good deed by Ms. Carol Moran's transitional first grade class and Ms. Amy Wheaton's preschool class. The two collaborated to make valentine cards for the Battle Creek V.A. Ms. Moran stated, "the kids like to be together." In fact they spent the afternoon with their card making followed up by a Valentine story and a snack. She speculated that the two have been getting together for about eight years now. Ms. Wheaton added that, "they (preschoolers) are very interested about what goes on in the other rooms. They always want to know what the bigger kids are doing."



Miller Speller Advances

Joey Clouse (pictured left) was the runner up and Scott Weatherwax was the winner of the Miller Elementary annual spelling bee for fifth graders. Scott correctly spelled "possibilities" to advance to the County Spelling Bee where he proudly finished in the top ten.



Muffins Flavor the Day

By Jeffrey Bush, Reporter

First there was Donuts With Dad (well, I guess first may be the dinosaur), then came Muffins With Mom. Miller Elementary PTO hosted their first ever Muffins With Mom this past spring to help promote their biannual book fair. Moms and students were treated to the quick bread treats as they contemplated which books to select for purchase. The turnout was tremendous and if you didn't get there early you had a hard time finding a place to park and a long wait in line for books. Once again PTO President, Ms. Barb Burge and members put on a successful fund raiser that not only promotes literacy but funnels funds back into the school. The muffins were handed out to all smiling faces that attended and there were also a few dads spotted in the crowd.



Around the World in One Class

By Jeffrey Bush, Reporter

When Ms. Linda Roberts wanted to teach her first grade class about the different continents she threw a party. The students were offered treats from different continents during their Social Studies hour. There was anzac (a type of cookie) from Australia, coconut bars from Africa, tea biscuits from Europe, and baked bananas from South America to name a few. Elementary student Ruger Hamlin stated, "The different foods were good. Some I've never tried before." Ms. Roberts says that before all the fun began the kids learned something about each continent. They located the continents on a map and heard stories about each continent. They also read about children on other continents and how their culture differs from their own. Then came the goodies. "I thought a continent party would be a fun way to help the children learn about the world," explains Ms. Roberts. The class also took a trip to Hawaii. Well, just an imaginary one. Complete with a pretend plane ride and all the trimmings including hula dancing.

