



# Milne Valley M.S. Newsletter



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## December 2017 Message from the Administration

**Winter has arrived early!** Students are reminded to dress appropriately for the cold weather. A warm jacket, a hat, gloves/mittens, boots are necessities as students walk to school/take the bus or are outside for the lunchtime recess. Please encourage your child to zip up their jacket!

If you have older jackets or other winter-wear that is now too small for members of your house-hold, please consider dropping your used winter-wear in the donation boxes located in the front foyer at Milne Valley. Donations will be shared with community collection organizations.

**Lost and Found** items are stored in the locker area across from the office entrance. Once it is overflowing, items are set out on a table in the front foyer for two weeks. Unclaimed items are donated to Value Village. Please encourage your child to check the Lost and Found for their missing items.

**Lunchtime at the Underhill Plaza** is a busy time with many community members running their errands and stopping for lunch. Students who visit the plaza are reminded to behave in a respectful manner, to keep clear of the shops' doors when meeting with their friends, keep the noise to a minimum and place their garbage in the appropriate containers. Occasionally students are running through the lot and this creates hazards for students and for the drivers. Students are expected to return from the plaza by 12:10 p.m. and use the crosswalk for crossing the street. As the plaza is not supervised, we ask that parents review safety rules and expectations with their child(ren) if they are going to the plaza.

Finally, as the December holidays approach, we wish all our families peace, joy and a safe holiday season. We wish all our Milne families and community a happy and healthy New Year! We look forward to seeing you in 2018!

**School Council News:** Here is a special request for parents especially for newcomers, if they need any assistance or information please join us in the next meeting on Dec 21, 2017 at 7 pm in the library to learn about the school offered programs, extracurricular activities, and services and opportunities to support and voice any change. Children are the first priority of every parent and together we can work with the school system to retrieve the best of available resources.



One great way to get involved at Milne Valley is through the School / Parent Council. Stay involved by, volunteering in our school, joining our school council. Stay connected by emailing us at [milnevalleycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:milnevalleycouncil@gmail.com) for any suggestions or feedback. We are here to build this partnership

### Upcoming Events:

Pizza Lunch - Friday December 8<sup>th</sup>

School Council Meeting - December 21 at 7:00 pm (library)

The School / Parent Council wishes everyone a restful, safe and wonderful Holiday season. We look forward to meeting you in the upcoming Parent Council meeting. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Watch for the School Council corner in future editions of the newsletter for news and updates from the Council. To subscribe to School Council mailing list please go to <http://goo.gl/CnrWPI>

## Upcoming Dates:

**December 8:** Pizza Lunch

**Dec. 8:** Gr 7/8 Volleyball

**Dec. 8:** Hour of Code

**Dec. 13 to 15:** Mono Cliffs trip # 1

(Gr. 7)

**Dec. 15:** Hep B and Meningitis C vaccines

**Dec. 15:** VIP program with Toronto Police (Gr. 6)

**Dec. 18 to 20:** Mono Cliffs trip # 2

(Gr. 7)

**Dec. 21:** School Council meeting 7:00 p.m.

**Dec. 20 to 22:** Mono Cliffs trip #3

(Gr. 7)

**Dec. 25 to January 5, 2018:**

(inclusive) Winter Break

**January 8, 2018:** School resumes

**Jan. 12:** MADD presentation

**Jan. 15:** VIP program with Toronto

Police (Gr. 6)



**Safe Arrival Phone Number: If your child will be absent or late, please call: 416-395-3951**  
**Kindly leave a message with your child's full name, homeroom number and reason for absence.**

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## Extra Curricular news

### Quebec City Trip

This spring, Milne Valley is headed to La belle province and visiting Quebec City. The trip runs from April 24th -27th. We have had many registered already but are still looking for a few more to make this trip happen. The trip is open to all students. If your child is interested in joining us, please contact Mr. McLean, [darcy.mclean@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:darcy.mclean@tdsb.on.ca) or connect with your child's French teacher for more info. The FINAL deadline to register is Friday, December 8th. If we do not get enough students then we will be forced to cancel the trip and all deposits will be refunded. Venez nous joindre!

### The Milne Valley GSA

This year has kicked off with a bang! Thanks to everyone support, we've welcome the Roseneath Theatre's powerful performance of *Outside*. All staff and students walked away with something to think about. In November, we were fortunate enough to welcome PFLAG Toronto to speak with our grade 6 students. They delivered a short presentation and followed it up with a lively Q & A. We look forward to having both groups back in the building in the future. A reminder that the GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance / Gay Straight Alliance) meets every other Thursday in room 108, our next meeting is December 14. Open minds and questions encouraged. All are welcome.



### The Student Newspaper: Milne Messenger

Congratulations to our student journalists who have worked diligently to report on the ongoing events at Milne Valley! Find a link to the Milne Messenger on the school webpage and **READ ALL ABOUT IT!**



## From the LLC

### Book Fair

Thank you to all students and parents who came out to the book fair. Look for a slew of new books coming to the shelves in the LLC in the coming weeks. If you missed out, don't worry, we've arranged to have Ella Minnow come in again in February, stay tuned for more details. Thanks again for your support!

### Forest of Reading

The Forest of Reading® is Canada's largest recreational reading program! This initiative of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) offers eight reading programs to encourage a love of reading in people of all ages. The Forest helps celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators. Here at Milne Valley, we encourage all students to pick up and read this year's Silver Birch (Grade 6), Red Maple (Grade 7 & 8), Prix Tamarack (French) and Prix Peuplier (French) nominated titles. All nominated titles will be on display in the LLC starting NOW! Encourage your young reader to stop by and grab some of Canada's best books. All students that participate will be recognized and for every book read, they will also be entered in a draw to win some fabulous prizes. For more info, please see Mr. McLean or Ms. Rosen.

### Book Club

This fall, a group of student met weekly to read and discuss Estelle Laure's first novel *This Raging Light*. The book drew up lots of conversation and many questions. The book club will be changing gears for January, we have chosen to read *Between Heaven & Earth* by Eric Walters. After the death of his grandfather, DJ is tasked with one last challenge. Along the way, DJ discovers his own strength will only take him so far though, and learning to take things slowly and rely on others just might get him further than he would if he were alone. If you're interested in having your child join in the discussion, have them stop by the LLC to sign out a copy. Our first meeting will be Monday, January 15 @ lunch. No experience required. All are welcome!

### Math League at Milne Valley MS!

We currently have 10 students in grades 7 & 8 enrolled in Milne Valley's math league, and they will be participating in a written math contest with students all over the country in February 2018.

The math league meets once/week at lunchtime, and students are given an online account to access past math contests.

Please refer to the URL [www.mathleague.com](http://www.mathleague.com) for more details. Please contact the school if your child is interested in participating in Milne Valley's math league.



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## From the TDSB:

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**Stay Healthy During Flu Season** Flu season is here again. In Canada, flu season tends to run between October and April. The Ontario government is encouraging Ontarians to avoid getting sick this flu season by getting their annual flu shot.

Toronto Public Health is recommending that whenever students and staff experience flu-like symptoms, they are sent home and do not return to school until they are no longer infectious to others. Therefore, ill students and staff should be symptom-free (especially from vomiting and diarrhea) for at least 48 hours before returning to school.

The primary concern is for the health and safety of all students and staff. Please note that no special measures are required when there is a case of influenza in a school or daycare. However, everyone should do their part to stop the spread of the flu. As parents, you can also assist by: - *reminding children to wash their hands often especially after using the washroom and before and after eating;* - *reminding children to cover their sneeze and cough;* - *watching for symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, and/or high fever;* - *informing the school if your child is ill;* - *keeping your child at home when he/she is ill.*

For more information, please visit the Toronto Public Health website [www.toronto.ca/health](http://www.toronto.ca/health), contact your family doctor, or Telehealth Ontario. 1-866-797-0000.

**Traffic Safety Tips: Help Make this a Safe Winter Season** As winter approaches, we know that severe weather will be part of our daily lives for the next several months. While traffic safety is an important matter all year long, this is a particularly good time to review what we can do to keep students safe.

The need to be aware and alert at all times, on any road, and even in the most routine circumstances is key to traffic safety. This applies to students and drivers alike. Road conditions can be challenging in the winter months. So to those of us who drive, please take extra care on the roads and in parking lots, especially in areas where children might be present.

School staff periodically review street and traffic safety with students. Parents can help reinforce these safety messages with children at home. Here are some tips that might be helpful to review: • *Stop, look, and listen for traffic.* • *Only cross at corners and crosswalks.* • *Make eye*

*contact with drivers.* • *Walk on the right side of the crosswalk.* • *Wear appropriate footwear to reduce the chances of slipping.* • *Never run into the street.* • *Obey crossing signals.* • *Cross only if clear.* • *Walk on sidewalks.* • *Where there are no sidewalks, walk as far away from traffic as possible, facing traffic.*

The safety of our students is always a top priority. Let's work together to make the winter season safe so we can enjoy all it has to offer.

**High School Information Nights** To help you make an informed decision when choosing a high school, TDSB schools host information nights for parents and grade 8 students each year between October and January. Learn everything you need to know about our incredible variety of schools, programs and courses. The dates and times for all High School Information Nights are available online at <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/HighSchool/GoingtoHighSchool/OpenHousesandInformationNights.aspx>.

**SmartSAVER** The TDSB has partnered with SmartSAVER on a board-wide campaign to help families access free money for their children's future education. What FREE money? It's the Canada Learning Bond, available now through [www.tdsb.on.ca/SmartSAVER](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/SmartSAVER). This is a Government of Canada contribution to a child's Registered Education Savings Plan. It provides up to \$2,000 in savings for the post-secondary education of eligible children.

Who can get it? You are eligible if your child was born in 2004 or later and you have ever been eligible for the National Child Benefit Supplement as part of the Canada Child Tax Benefit. All eligible children receive at least \$500 and will receive \$100 more for each year they're eligible up to age 15 or a maximum of \$2,000.

How do I get the Canada Learning Bond? - SmartSAVER can help you apply for the Canada Learning Bond and start an RESP with \$0 when you use the Start My RESP online tool at [www.tdsb.on.ca/SmartSAVER](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/SmartSAVER) You'll need a Social Insurance Number for yourself and your child to complete the application. There is no cost and you don't need to contribute any money to get the Canada Learning Bond. Don't wait! Get started at [www.tdsb.on.ca/SmartSAVER](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/SmartSAVER)

## National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women - December 6

On December 6, TDSB students and staff mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Established in 1991 by the Parliament of Canada, this day coincides with the anniversary of the death of 14 young women who were tragically killed on 6 December, 1989, at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal because of their gender.

On this national day of remembrance, we honour the memory of these women and reflect on the ways that gender violence continues to affect us. For more information, visit Status of Women Canada and participate in their #ActionsMatter campaign. To find out how you can help prevent violence against women visit [www.ontario.ca/page/lets-stop-sexual-harassment-violence](http://www.ontario.ca/page/lets-stop-sexual-harassment-violence)

Within the TDSB, please contact [www.tdsb.on.ca/gbvp](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/gbvp) for further support or questions on any issues related to gender-based violence.

## Winter Weather and Student Transportation

From time to time, it may be necessary to cancel student transportation, classes and/or programs due to severe weather. On rare occasions, severe weather makes it necessary to close schools, administrative offices or sites.

With approximately 246,000 students in our schools and sites each day, any decision to cancel buses, classes and/or programs or to close sites can have a significant impact on thousands of families across Toronto. This decision is not taken lightly. When schools remain open on days with inclement weather, parents/guardians make the final decision on whether to send their children to school and they can keep children home from school if they so choose.

Should a cancellation or closure be necessary, information will be posted on the TDSB website, TDSB social media and provided to local media by 6 a.m. For more information, please see the TDSB's Procedure for Severe Weather: <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Detail/docId/242>

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