

MVMS Newsletter

June, 2020

JUNE'S CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE:

Perseverance

Message from the Principal and Vice-Principal

Although the past eight weeks have been challenging with our school closed, the creativity and commitment by our students and staff in their remote classrooms has been impressive. Teachers and support staff have been supporting student learning with a variety of synchronous and asynchronous learning activities.

To support ongoing learning, students have access to teacher created slide decks in mathematics that guide them through a new concept in a step by step manner, including practice activities and video tutorials. Some tutorials are even created by their own teachers! Ongoing feedback is provided to students directly in their submitted work, by private comment in Google Classroom or by email. Many teachers share exemplars of student work with feedback to encourage students to make improvements to their own assignments. In order to keep sharp with their mathematical and language skills, many students are taking advantage of educational platforms like Knowledgehook, Prodigy, Epic and Raz Kids which allow students to progress at their own level.

Wellbeing continues to be a focus in our remote learning spaces. Our students participate in the daily or weekly check-in survey. Questions are fun and help staff gauge the learning and engagement of their students. Real time communication takes place using Google Meet and Hangouts where students get to connect with their teachers and peers. Many students look forward to those activities geared toward making them think or smile such as the daily version of O'Canada, the French Funny, the Hot Docs documentary and the weekly wrap up message.

For our students who seek enrichment, our rotary staff are providing challenges in Art, Music and Physical Education. Students

have had the opportunity to recreate a famous piece of art using found materials, create a playlist that reflects their current mood and participate in weight training using canned food as weights. For our students who are sharing technology, the MVMS Tic Tac Toe Choice Board includes a variety of off-line activities.

2020 – 21 SCHOOL YEAR

Each spring, a committee of teachers, the principal, vice-principal and members of School Council meet to plan the school's organization for the following year, based on the projected number of students, the staffing allocation and the needs of the students. Invariably, the model includes some combined or multi-grade classes and some single grades. Research shows that students do equally well academically in both kinds of classes.

After the teacher transfer and hiring process is completed in June, sending and receiving teachers meet to place the students of each grade into classes for September. Our goal is to create classes that are balanced in terms of gender, academic needs and strengths and social-emotional considerations. We **try** to have each student go to the new class with at least one friend and to separate students whose working relationship may have been less positive. If parents feel that there is something about their child's strengths and needs that we do not already know which we should consider during the placement process, they should send an email to the child's teacher, with a copy to the principal. Requests for particular teachers or straight versus combined classes cannot be accommodated.

Upcoming Events

June, 2020

Mid-June

Parent access to school to pick up personal belongings of students and to return school items (i.e., textbooks, library books, musical instruments)

June 22

Grade 8 Virtual Graduation Ceremony

Late June/Early July

Report Card Distribution



Children and parents will be informed of class placements on the first day of school in September. There are always factors in September, such as new or departing students, that might affect how classrooms are organized and in which class a child will be.

We have worked hard to organize for next year with the numbers of students we expect to have and are hopeful that our classes will require minimal changes in September. If any changes to classrooms are necessary, we will provide more information once school is underway. If required, adjustments to class size will take place during the first couple of weeks in September.

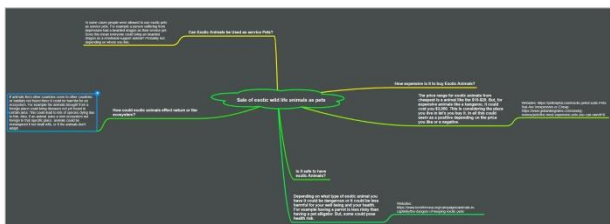
REMOTE LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Here are just a few examples of our students' work during remote learning.

Grade 7 Descriptive Writing:

The Lone Dandelion by Nevaeh (72)

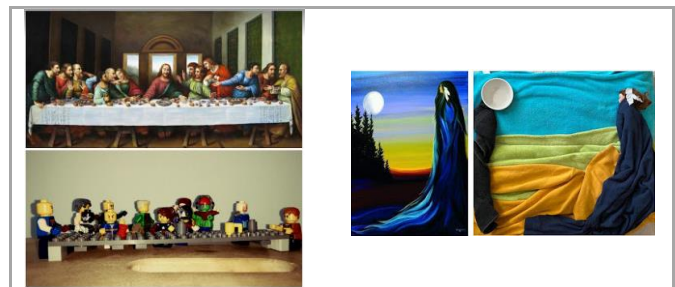
A lone dandelion shows its trusted face, its yellow head triumphant as a sure sign that spring is in the air. Cleansing the cobwebs of winter and foreshadowing the splendor of the summer season. Fresh sunlight illuminates its perfect sphere. Looking huge and luminous amongst the blades of freshly cut grass. Soon friends will join to create a cloth of gold in the lush greenery that surrounds our landscape. The yellow flower soft and sweet brings memories of past Mother's Day bouquets. Bright and vibrant in all its splendor but soon will slip it's outer shell and emerge as a white puff ball awaiting a child's wish. A light touch of a child's blow causes it's wispy whites to sail in the breeze to make new roots.



Mind Maps - planning & organizing ideas for writing

Colour	# of Cells	Fraction	Decimal*	Percentage
White	652	652/1015	0.64	64%
Red	59	59/1015	0.06	10%
Orange	11	11/1015	0.01	1%
Yellow	20	20/1015	0.02	2%
Green	47	47/1015	0.05	5%
Blue	51	51/1015	0.05	5%
Purple	16	16/1015	0.02	2%
Pink	18	18/1015	0.02	2%
Black	1	1/1015	0.00	0%
Total	1015	1015/1015	1.0	100 %

Pixel Art incorporating Math and Art



Recreation of a work of art using found materials

Some students have even used this time to seek out other challenges remotely. Congratulations to Shana in 86 who participated in the CPF National Canadian Film Day Contest and was selected as one of the winners. The Contest challenged students ages 8 to 17 to watch a Canadian film in French and to write a review

Families are reminded that a good way to stay up to date with your child's learning is to ask your child to login to their Google Classroom and show you their assignments and completed work.

Milne Valley Middle School

Principal: L. Moore Vice Principal: C. Harvey Kerr Superintendent: I. Allison Trustee: T. Doyle

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<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/milnevalley>

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PERSEVERANCE

Your child is involved in learning activities designed to develop good character and help children make good choices. Our focus this month will be on PERSEVERANCE.

What does perseverance mean to you?

Your child can show perseverance by:

- sticking to a task, even though he or she wants to give up
- wanting to continue with something he or she is finding hard to learn
- setting achievable goals and celebrating when they are met

Questions to discuss with your child:

- What does it mean to persevere?
- What can you do when you want to give up?
- Why is perseverance important and what are some of its rewards?

Projects to do together:

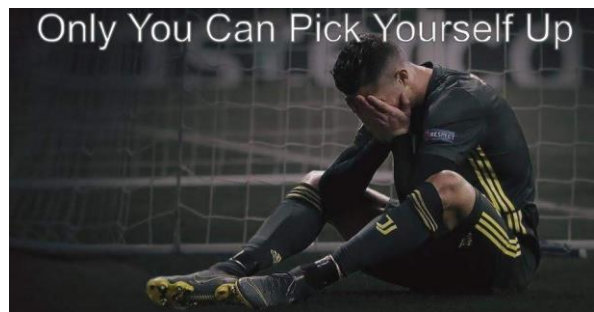
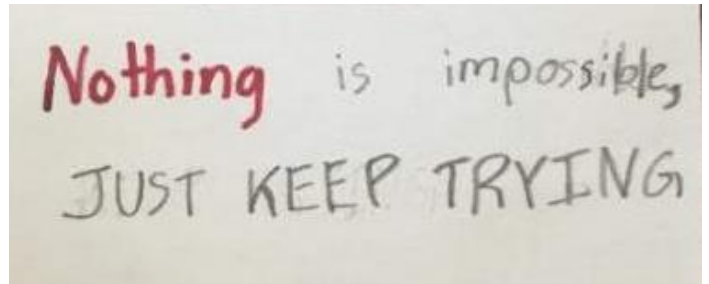
- Talk about and agree on a family commitment motto. Call a family meeting and decide on a family motto related to perseverance.
- Make a list of achievable goals, including personal goals, family goals, and school-related goals.
- Help your child set achievable goals, and assist him or her in achieving them.
- Discuss a role model and how he or she has persevered to achieve his or her goals and dreams.

Encouraging perseverance in your child:

- Encourage and praise your child to persevere, even when he or she wants to give up.
- Reflect periodically on your child's personal, academic, and social goals and whether these goals are attainable.
- Discuss the importance of planning, prioritizing, organizing, and managing time as strategies to achieve goals.
- If your child exhibits perseverance, let him or her know that you have noticed and are proud!



Thank you for supporting our Character Development program.



Six Word Memoirs from our students

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WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

As we are currently not able to welcome our new families into our school, we are excited to share our Virtual Information Centre and Tour with all of our incoming students and their families.

In the Information Centre, you will find 9 icons on the bulletin board that link to a video or a document that provides information about Milne Valley. In addition, don't forget to click on Ms. Moore's book to hear a welcome message from our principal.

A special thank you to the Grade 6 Student Council volunteers (Affan, Manal, Mithran, Rudraa and Sahar) who worked with Ms. Harvey Kerr on the information about the extracurricular opportunities.

You can access the Virtual Information Centre and Tour at the link below.

[MVMS Information Centre and Tour](#)



GATHERING BELONGINGS

We know that a number of parents/guardians are eager to collect personal belongings from our school prior to the end of the school year. The TDSB has shared guidelines with schools that will allow for the retrieval of personal belongings beginning the week of June 8, 2020. It is not mandatory to come to the school to pick up belongings and parents/guardians should only visit the school if absolutely necessary. Anything that is not collected will be bagged, labelled and stored until schools reopen. The schedule for our school for picking up and returning items will be communicated soon via email.

ELEMENTARY SUMMER SCHOOL

The TDSB elementary summer school program focus is to close the achievement and well-being gap and to continue student engagement into July. Programs for students in Grades 3 to 8 will be delivered from July 6 to 31, 2020 from 9am to 12pm. French programs will also be available for students currently in a French Immersion or Extended French Program. Remote synchronous learning will be offered. There is a possibility that learning may move from remote learning to in-class learning environments in accordance with the ongoing guidance of the Ministry of Education. Registration is online and is currently open to the public. More information is available at www.tdsb.on.ca/summer.

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES

ELEMENTARY/AFRICAN HERITAGE

The International Languages Elementary/African Heritage Program offers language classes to students Kindergarten to Grade 8. Classes will run from July 6 to 31, 2020 from 1:30 to 4pm. A minimum of 23 students is required to open a language class. Remote synchronous learning will be offered. There is a possibility that language learning may move from remote learning to in-class learning environments in accordance with the ongoing guidance of the Ministry of Education. Registration will be online and open on Monday, May 25, 2020. More information is available on www.ileprograms.ca.

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

TDSB anticipates that our 2020-2021 school year will begin on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, following the Labour Day long weekend. At this time we are waiting on approval from the Ministry of Education. For more information about important dates and holidays and for any updates regarding the upcoming school year, please visit <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/School-Year-Calendar/2020-2021-Calendar>.

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