



MVMS Newsletter

September, 2020

SEPTEMBER'S CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE:

Empathy

Message from the Principal and Vice-Principal

We warmly welcome all of our students to Milne Valley Middle School. Whether you are joining us for the first time or are a returning family, we're glad you're here!

We have put many things into place to safely welcome our students in this exceptional year, many of which have been communicated through School Messenger by our school and by the TDSB. If you have not shared your email address with us or you have but are not subscribed to these updates, please do so as soon as possible.

Our usual first day of school forms continue to be electronic this year. You will be receiving a notification this week to direct you to the site to complete the forms for each child.

Staffing Update

With the choice for families for their children to attend school in person or Virtual School, we have had some changes to our staff allocation and, consequently, to our school organization. We are welcoming four new team members to our staff this fall – Ms Wicks, Ms Saludez, Mr. Minniti and Ms Pashkovsky. Ms Wicks and Mr. Minniti will be remaining in the school to teach in person. Ms Saludez joins our Lunchroom Supervisor Team. Ms Pashkovsky will now be starting the year in Virtual School. They each bring diverse experiences to complement and enhance student learning. Other returning members of our staff also moving to Virtual School are Ms Cusma, Ms Rosen, Mr. Vaisman, Ms Mozammel and Ms Pestonji. We look forward to staying connected with them throughout their time at Virtual School.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

As families continue to change their choice for Virtual School to in persona and back, we may have to make some minor changes to our school organization throughout the

school year at the three different entry points. Parents will be informed of any changes if they should happen. For our first week of class, here is the organizational structure we have in place:

Class	Room	Teacher
61	206	Ms Magder and Ms Cullimore
62	Café	Ms Chitnis
63	202	Mr. Yarema
64	Library	Ms Klinck
67	201A	Mr. Sham
678	100	Ms Lister
71	302	Ms Topors
72	307	Mr. Shim
73	308	Ms Dulanovic
74	306	Mr. McLean
78A	107	Ms King and Mr. Matte
78B	108	Mr. Minniti
81	102	Ms Karanovic
82	103	Ms Wicks
83	109	Ms Spiliopoulos
84	110	Ms Mihailescu

Health and Physical Education	Mr. Katsoulis
The Arts	Ms Cologna
Core French	Mr. Amirkhanian
Educational Assistant	Ms Fusco
Child and Youth Worker	Ms Thorne
Lunchroom Supervisors	Mr. Bilbrough, Ms Khatab, Ms Perrin, Ms Saludez
Caretaking	Mr. Longaphie, Mr. Nageswaran,
	Mr. Wynd
Office Administrator	Ms Psarologos
Secretary	Ms Aprile

EMPATHY

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 **EMPATHY**.

Upcoming Events

September, 2020

- September 22, 23 or 24 – Virtual Curriculum Night – to be confirmed
- September 29 – School Council Meeting
- September 30 – Orange Shirt Day and last day to change between in person to Virtual School

Safe Arrival

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.

You may also contact School Messenger (automated call-out system) directly at 1-833-250-2290 between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for the current day or a future date.

What does empathy mean to you?

- Allow your child to express his or her feelings, regardless of whether they are positive or negative.



Thank you for supporting our Character Development program.

Your child can show empathy by:

- helping, and understanding how others in the family feel
- using words to describe how others may be feeling
- understanding, sensing, and sharing in the feelings and emotions of others
- showing love, sympathy, compassion, and encouragement
- speaking from "I" and owning his or her emotions

Questions to discuss with your child:

- What is empathy? How can we show empathy?
- What does it mean to be empathetic?

Projects to do together:

- Engage your child in volunteer opportunities, such as helping at the food bank or other community organizations.
- Develop a family project that is meant to help others.
- When reading or watching the news, encourage a discussion about how those involved might feel.

Encouraging empathy in your child:

- Encourage discussion, and expose your child to the language of emotions.
- Talk with your child about the importance of showing empathy through helping others.
- Share your own feelings with your child, providing him or her with the opportunity to be empathetic.

SAFE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS

TDSB and school staff have been working hard to implement the health and safety processes necessary to make our schools as safe as possible for students, staff and families. The health and well-being of all in our school community remains our top priority. Learn more about TDSB's Safe Return to School plans <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/ReturntoSchool> and watch our video <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Return-to-School/Resources-for-Preparing-for-Back-to-School>.

As public educators, we are also committed to providing the best academic experience possible for students, supporting mental health and well-being and considering the needs of families and staff.

While we know this year may look and feel a bit different in our school, the staff team is here to support students and families in any way we can. We are looking forward to a great year of teaching and learning together.

ANAPHYLAXIS - TAKING THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The TDSB, in partnership with Toronto Public Health, is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff.

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As required by Sabrina's Law, the TDSB has established policies and procedures to prevent and manage anaphylactic reactions and to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students and please do not send any snacks or lunches with your child that contain peanuts.

If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken and to ensure everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment.

Whether you are living with the allergy yourself, caring for someone who is, or concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available at <http://foodallergycanada.ca>.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TIPS

Children under ten should be accompanied by adults or older children when crossing the street. At this age, their judgment and perceptual skills are still immature, yet they often eagerly try to cross streets on their own in order to demonstrate some independence. Learn more <https://bit.ly/2ETzMO5>.

Teach your children the rules of the road - start when they're young. Think of it as gradually training your children about safety until all the connections are in place. By the time your child reaches age ten, and can act independently, the road safety rules will be second nature.

Teach children how to cross the street safely. Teach them to stop (before stepping onto the road), look left, right and left again, and listen for traffic before stepping out into the street. Teach children to wait until the street is clear and to keep looking until they have crossed the street. They should also look the driver in the eye before crossing.

Teach children to recognize pedestrian crossing signals but not rely on them. Before crossing,

children should also be sure the traffic has stopped. Remind them to continue across if the light changes to "Don't Walk" while they are in the crosswalk.

Teach children to be extra alert when crossing at a corner with no traffic lights.

Teach your children to stop at driveways, alleys and areas without curbs and to never run out onto the street.

Teach children about the dangers of crossing the street between parked cars or when not at a corner. Children should cross only at corners and pedestrian crosswalks, not diagonally or between parked cars.

Teach children to respect the role of the crossing guard and to understand his/her signals.

Teach children that wherever possible they should walk on the sidewalk. In areas without sidewalks, teach children to walk as far away from the road as possible, facing approaching traffic (when there is no choice but to walk on the road).

Teach children that playing games at railway crossings or around trains can be deadly. Teach children that the only way to cross railway tracks is to use designated railway crossings.

Follow the same rules that you want your child to follow. You may want to cut across the street in the middle of the block, but you want your child to learn to cross at the intersection. Be a good role model.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

The official school year calendar for the Toronto District School Board runs from September 3, 2019 to June 26, 2020, inclusive. The first day of classes is Tuesday, September 3, 2019. The day schedule for the school year is included in this newsletter for your reference. A copy is also in the student agenda.

School Year Holidays and Highlights for 2019-2020 – (PA Days for Elementary Schools are not all the same as those for Secondary Schools)

Virtual Curriculum Night: September 22, 23 or 24

First School Council meeting: September 29

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Deadline to change from in person to Virtual School:	September 30
Thanksgiving:	October 12
Deadline to change from in person to Virtual School:	November 6
Progress Reports:	November 17
P.A. Day:	November 20
Winter Break:	December 21, 2020 - January 1, 2021
School Resumes:	January 4, 2021
Elementary P.A. Day:	January 15, 2021
Deadline to change from in person to Virtual School:	January 29, 2021
Elementary Provincial Report Card:	February 9, 2021
P.A. Day:	February 12, 2021
Family Day:	February 15, 2021
March Break:	March 15 - 19, 2021
Good Friday:	April 2, 2021
Easter Monday:	April 5, 2021
Victoria Day:	May 24, 2021
P.A. Day:	June 4, 2021
Elementary Provincial Report Card:	June 28, 2021
Last day of classes:	June 29, 2021

MILNE VALLEY SCHOOL COUNCIL

Through various fundraising initiatives last year organized by our School Council, the funds were used for the following:

- High volume printer for the library
- Colour printer for the library
- Double-sided dry erase board sets for our Grade 6 students to support our Math School Improvement Plan
- Transportation costs for our Grade 8 Excursion to the 905 Raptors Game
- Graduation Composite Photos for our Grade 8s
- Milne Valley T-shirt for every student in the 2020-2021 school year – distribution to happen shortly

There were other items planned for purchase however due to the school closure in March, those have been set aside until we know better what this school year will look like. We are very thankful for

the time and energy contributed by our School Council Members and members of our community during the 2019-2020 school year and look forward to working with the new council this year.

FIRST DAY MATERIALS

On your child's first day of school, they will receive one reusable cloth mask. Please wash this mask before use and use a method of your choice to put your child's name on the mask. They will also receive an agenda and a ruler that clips into their agenda. There is no cost for these items. Students will also be bringing home a copy of the TDSB Student Health Pass.

As shared in the email of September 11, 2020, prior to attending school each day, parents/guardians are asked to complete a health screening self-assessment with their child. As you will see, you are asked to complete the screening questions found on page 2 of the TDSB Student Health pass each day, and if the answer is NO to each of the questions, to please sign the form and send it to school with your child. For the first day of school, we will be asking children if they are feeling well as we understand many families will not be able to print the TDSB Student Health Pass. If they answer yes, they will proceed to class. If they answer no, they will proceed to our wellness room and families will be contacted. After the first day, if a student forgets their signed TDSB Student Health Pass, a similar process will be followed with the addition of a phone call home if the student answers yes. While there is a TDSB app that has been developed, some features are not yet available and at this time, we are not yet equipped at our school to receive screening information through this method.

We will be sending a further communication in the near future regarding our plans for our Student Nutrition Program.

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TORONTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Milne Valley Middle School
2020 - 2021

H Statutory Holiday
B Bd. Designated Break
PA P.A. Day

September

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1 PA	2 PA	3 PA	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Empathy

October

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Responsibility

November

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 PA	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Respect

December

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Kindness & Caring

January

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 PA	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Teamwork

February

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 PA	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Fairness

March

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Honesty

April

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Cooperation

May

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Integrity

June

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					4 PA	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Perseverance

Professional Activity Days:
 Tuesday, September 1, 2020
 Wednesday, September 2, 2020
 Thursday, September 3, 2020
 Friday, November 20, 2020
 Friday, January 15, 2021
 Friday, February 12, 2021
 Friday, June 4, 2021

Last day of school for students:
 June 29, 2021

Dates to Remember:
 Labour Day: September 7, 2020
 Thanksgiving: October 12, 2020
 Winter Break: December 21, 2020 - January 1, 2021 (last day of school December 18, 2020; school resumes January 4, 2021)
 Provincial Family Day: February 15, 2021
 Mid-Winter Break: March 15 to 19, 2021
 Good Friday: April 2, 2021
 Easter Monday: April 5, 2021
 Victoria Day: May 24, 2021

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