



# MVMS Newsletter

October 13, 2020

## OCTOBER'S CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE:

# Responsibility

## Message from the Principal and Vice-Principal

### Upcoming Events

#### October, 2020

- October 21 – Virtual School Council Meeting
- October 22 – Virtual Curriculum Night #2
- October 28 – Grade 6 and 8 Virtual Recognition Assembly
- October 29 – Grade 8 to 9 Virtual Transition Presentation – 7:00 p.m.
- October 30 – Grade 7 Virtual Recognition Assembly

#### November, 2020

- November 4 – Grade 8 to 9 Transition Q&A
- November 6 – Deadline to request change in school format – virtual/in-school
- November 11 – Remembrance Day
- November 17 - Progress Reports go home
- November 23 – New School Organization takes effect

### 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.

We continue to 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!

#### Staffing Update

We have some staffing changes to announce with this transition for staff and students between in-person and Virtual School. Mr. Matte has now transitioned to Virtual School. Our school organization had a minor change. The combined grade 6 and 7 class has been redeployed into other classes, Mr. Sham has moved to take over class 81 and Ms Karanovic has moved to now team teach with Ms King in class 78A. Ms Saludez who joined our Lunchroom Supervisor Team this fall will be returning to her previous location of C. D. Farquharson JPS. At the same time, we were allocated an additional lunchroom supervisor and we are welcoming back Ms O'Driscoll who supported us in the same role during the 2019-2020 school year.

#### SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

For the period of October 13 – November 19, 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
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 Ms Karanovic
78B	108	Mr. Minniti
81	102	Mr. Sham
82	103	Ms Wicks
83	109	Ms Spiliopoulos
84	110	Ms Mihalescu
Health and Physical		
Education		Mr. Katsoulis
The Arts		Ms Cologna

Core French and Special Education	
Resource	Mr. Amirkhanian
Educational Assistant	Ms Fusco
Child and Youth Worker	Ms Thorne
Lunchroom Supervisors	Mr. Bilbrough, Ms Khatab, Ms Perrin, Ms O'Driscoll
Caretaking	Mr. Longaphie, Mr. Nageswaran, Mr. Wynd
Office Administrator	Ms Psarologos
Secretary	Ms Aprile

#### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

In addition to the three main field areas aligned to our three floor entry doors, we have designated four outdoor classrooms for mask breaks and they are also available for use by classes for instructional time. Some staff will be connecting with our TDSB Outdoor Education Specialists to start exploring the local community once we have the TDSB Walking Excursion Forms returned.

A reminder that students are asked to arrive as close to 8:55 a.m. as possible. Students are asked to dress for the weather as we will be going outside, rain or shine, for lunch recess, instruction and mask breaks. As the pavement area is only for students moving to or from an entry door, students should have some type of waterproof shoe or boot on rainy days. Here is a link to a diagram used for our TDSB Outdoor Education Centres around dressing for the weather which may be helpful to your or your child: [https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/forestvalley/docs/What%20to%20Wear%20\(revised%20Feb%202015\).pdf](https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/forestvalley/docs/What%20to%20Wear%20(revised%20Feb%202015).pdf)

## RESPONSIBILITY

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

What does responsibility mean to you?

### Your child can show responsibility by:

- taking care of himself or herself and others in the family
- getting up on time, getting ready for school, and having breakfast
- completing homework and keeping his or her school work organized
- helping with household chores without being asked
- keeping promises

### Questions to discuss with your child:

- What is responsibility, and what does it mean to be responsible?
- What are some of your specific responsibilities at school, at home, and in the community?
- How can acting irresponsibly affect others?
- 

### Projects to do together:

- Assist your child with organizing his or her school notebooks and agenda.
- Plan family activities, and involve your child in the planning process.
- Set clear expectations for your child, and hold him or her accountable for his or her actions (for example, setting bedtimes, curfews, and wake-up times).
- Teach your child to be financially and environmentally responsible.

### Encouraging Responsibility in Your Child:

- Remind your child about being responsible for his or her school work by checking his or her agenda and/or school work every day.
- Remember to be patient as your child learns to become responsible.
- Encourage and praise your child when he or she is responsible.
- Share an example of a situation in which someone you know behaved responsibly.



Thank you for supporting our Character Development program.

### STUDENT NUTRITION PROGRAM

After a careful review of all required processes for the Student Nutrition Program, we will be starting snack distribution during the week of October 19 with a two food group choice. All food will be delivered to the classroom and will be individually wrapped. We are not collecting any donations at this time.

### MORNING ANNOUNCER TEAM

Since school started, we have been having virtual video announcements via Google Meet into all classrooms. As of October 13, all classrooms have either a Google Classroom or a Brightspace area. A post has been shared in all classrooms areas for interested students to fill out a Google Form to express their interest. During the week of October 19, students will be provided with a script to practice and will be asked to submit a video audition or will be provided with an opportunity to audition in person during a lunch period, in a physically distanced manner if they do not have a device to record their audition. Students who are successful to be members of the Announcer Team will broadcast from their classroom for a week at a time and will be provided with a schedule.

## Milne Valley Middle School

Principal: L. Moore    Vice Principal: C. Harvey Kerr    Superintendent: I. Allison    Trustee: T. Doyle  
100 Underhill Drive, Toronto, ON M3A 2J9  
416.395.2700

[MilneValley@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:MilneValley@tdsb.on.ca)

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

Twitter @MilneMS

## OCTOBER IS SOMALI HERITAGE MONTH

Since June 2016, the TDSB has had the privilege to recognize Somali Heritage Month. The TDSB affirms our commitment to celebrating Somali Heritage Month and encourages students and staff to take this opportunity to learn about the history, heritage and diversity of the Somali community. The theme "Educate. Elevate. Excel." continues to be explored this year.

There are many Somalians who immigrated to Canada who continue to participate and to educate others in their traditions within their new environment. Music has always been an integral part of Somali tradition, and one well-known Somali-Canadian artist who has been sharing his love of songs on the world stage is Keinan Abdi Warsame (K'naan). K'naan was born in May 30, 1978 in Mogadishu which is located in the southeastern Banaadir province of Somali and later moved to Toronto's Rexdale community as a young teenager with members of his family. K'naan is identified as a poet, rapper, singer, songwriter and instrumentalist; however, he is renowned for his song "Waving Flag" as it was chosen as Coca-Cola's promotional anthem for the 2010 FIFA World Cup that was hosted by South Africa. This song continues to be a favourite across the globe today.

## OCTOBER IS ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH

At the Toronto District School Board, Islamic Heritage Month is proudly recognized during the month of October. On June 22, 2016, the TDSB passed a motion to recognize Islamic Heritage Month in October.

Subsequently, in 2016, the province of Ontario established October as Islamic History Month (IHM) through the Islamic Heritage Month Act, "proclaiming a month to be Islamic Heritage Month in Ontario will provide all Ontarians, both today and in future generations, with an opportunity to reflect, celebrate and learn about the rich and longstanding Islamic history in the Province and the diverse roles and contributions of Muslim people in communities across Ontario. This new understanding will in turn help combat anti-Islamic sentiment."

## BACK TO SCHOOL CONFIRMATION FORM

Toronto Public Health has developed a Back to School Confirmation Form for parents/guardians to sign in the event their child has a suspected or confirmed illness to confirm their child is safe to return to school. The form can be found here - <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/9095-Attestation-for-Return-to-School.pdf> - and will be sent home with a child should they not be feeling well at a school. The parent/guardian will also receive an email with this form upon their child being sent home. Toronto Public Health is not recommending or requiring medical notes for return to school.

## PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS

As COVID-19 is affecting all aspects of our lives, including parenting, our TDSB Professional Support Services has organized two different virtual group sessions for parents. The first is a five week session, starting on Wednesday, October 21, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., entitled "Parenting Your Child Through Challenging Times". It will highlight:

- How to manage COVID-19 stressors
- Positive parenting
- Self-care
- Structure and Routines
- Relationship Building

For information on registration, please click here - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iJIH1X4LbmEmqBSKxPp9EaQi6gtm6SHk/view?usp=sharing>

The second is a four week session, also starting on Wednesday, October 21, from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., entitled "Supporting Parents of Children with Disabilities", with a focus on parents with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder or a Developmental Disability with similar areas as above.

For information on registration, please click here - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZtjU8BGKuT2Rm1c\\_vrNFcML\\_K0N2rB5F/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZtjU8BGKuT2Rm1c_vrNFcML_K0N2rB5F/view?usp=sharing)

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