

# MVMS Newsletter

January 2021

JANUARY'S CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE:

# Teamwork

## Message from the Principal and Vice-Principal

With the announcement from the Provincial Government on December 21, all of our classes will be shifting to remote learning during the week of January 4. The physical school site will be closed to students.

Prior to the holidays, teachers worked with students to determine who needed a device for this remote learning period. These were sent home with students who indicated a need on December 18. We realize that there may be more students who require a device and we will do our best to accommodate these requests with our existing technology at the school. Please connect directly with your child's teacher if your child requires a device.

During the month of December, our Astronomical Club assembled, and their Google Classroom will become active this week. Students should listen to the morning announcements (they will continue through their Google Classroom as they do during in-person school every morning at 9:52 a.m.) for opportunities to join the Arts Club and possibly a Chess Club. We are also looking forward to our first edition of the Milne Messenger for this year coming out to you shortly.

Our student-elected Student Leadership Council organized their first series of events in December – Spirit Week. During the week of December 14<sup>th</sup>, students participated in the following Spirit Days:

Monday – Sport/MVMS Spirit Day  
Tuesday – Twin/Triplet Day  
Wednesday – Holiday Colour Day  
Thursday – Monochromatic Day  
Friday – Pajama Day

For some pictures of our staff and student participation in these days, please see the Snapshots from the Classroom section further on in this newsletter.

During our Grade 8 Recognition Assembly, in addition to our celebration of student achievement, we also celebrated the career of Madame Mihailescu who retired at the end of December. We wish her well in her new beginning and thank her for all of her work and contributions over the years at Milne Valley. Starting today, we welcome Mr. Hassan Khanahmadi to our team. He will be working with 84, 78A and 78B.

### GRADE 8 TO 9 OPTIONAL ATTENDANCE FORMS

If your child is applying to a regular program for Grade 9 through Optional Attendance, during the school closure, please send the completed form electronically to [MilneValley@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:MilneValley@tdsb.on.ca). As with the process prior to the break, the form will be signed by Ms Moore and returned to you within 24 to 48 hours. All optional attendance forms are due to secondary schools by Friday, January 29, 2021, therefore the last day to submit them for signature by Ms Moore is **THURSDAY, JANUARY 28.**

### TDSB CELEBRATES TAMIL HERITAGE MONTH IN JANUARY

The month of January coincides with one of the most important celebrations for Canadians of Tamil heritage, the Thai Pongal harvest festival. Millions of Tamil people around the world irrespective of their religion celebrate Thai Pongal and offer thanks for an abundant harvest. This year, the chosen theme is உண்மை - உரிமை – ஒற்றுமை: Truth - Rights – Unity. Unmai (உண்மை) recognizes that our lived experiences are our truths and these truths shape our understanding of the world around us. Urimai (உரிமை) examines our right to flourish and shine. Otrumai (ஒற்றுமை) emphasizes our shared lived experiences with other marginalized communities and our shared humanity.



## Upcoming Events

### January 2021

January 4 – Day 3 – Return to class via remote learning

January 11 – School scheduled to reopen

January 15 – Professional Activity Day – no school for students

January 21 – Skills Ontario Virtual Presentation for 81, 82, 83, 84 and 78A

January 21 – 6:45 p.m. – School Council Meeting

January 22 – Skills Ontario Virtual Presentation for 71, 72, 73, 74 and 78B

January 26 - Gr 7 Assembly

January 26 - Gr 6 Assembly

January 29 - Gr 8 Assembly

## Safe Arrival

If your child will be absent or late either to remote learning or in-person school, 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.

## TEAMWORK

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 **TEAMWORK**.

What does teamwork mean to you?

### Your child can show teamwork by:

- helping to complete a household chore with other members of the family
- working with peers in a group to complete school assignments
- participating in a sport and working as part of a team to be successful
- taking responsibility in household chores for the benefit of the family

### Questions to discuss with your child:

- What does it mean to be a team player at home and to be an integral part of the family?
- How do you deal appropriately with conflict when it occurs during teamwork?
- What are some of the ways to resolve some of the arguments that occur at home?
- Sometimes a teammate may have to make a sacrifice so that the team can succeed. What does this mean?

### Projects to do together:

- Play games as a family to develop teamwork and good sportsmanship.
- Participate in sports or leisure activities together and encourage communication including active listening.

### Encouraging teamwork in your child:

- Stress the importance of teamwork and the aspects of being a team player that make being on a team worthwhile.

- Stress the importance of being willing to work and play with others at school, in the home, and in the community.
- Share a story that will help your child understand that sometimes “fair” does not mean “equal.”

**Thank you for supporting our Character Development program.**

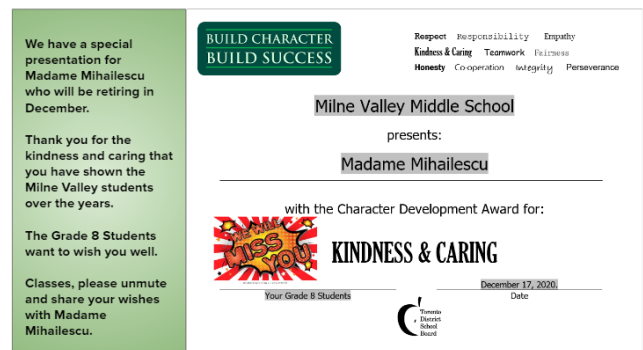


### SNAPSHOTS FROM THE CLASSROOM

Regularly, we share photographs and information on the learning in our classrooms via Twitter. Please take a look at some of our highlights from this month.



Students in 678 adding acts of kindness to their Kindness wall.



Student Leaders in 83 wished Madame Mihailescu well on her retirement during the Grade 8 Recognition Assembly.

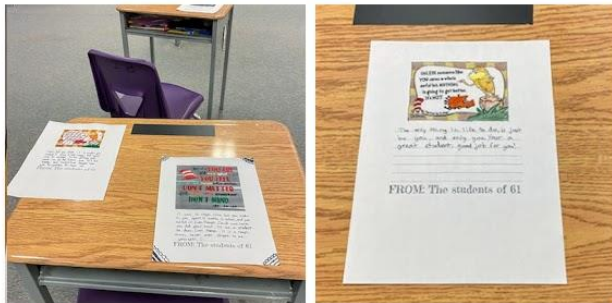
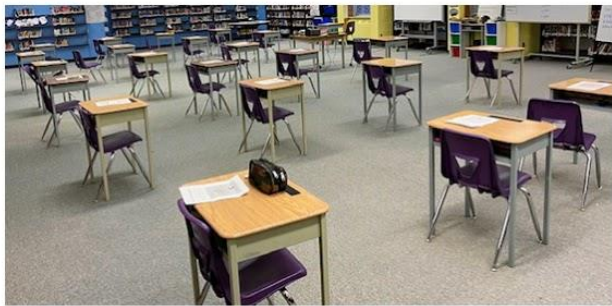
## Milne Valley Middle School

Principal: L. Moore Vice Principal: C. Harvey Kerr Superintendent: C. Alviani-Alvarez 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



Students in 61 wrote inspirational messages to their class cohort peers in 64 for Kindness and Caring month.



Students and staff participating in Pajama Day.



Students in 64 highlighted ways that a peer showed kindness or caring towards them.

### Milne Valley Middle School

Principal: L. Moore    Vice Principal: C. Harvey Kerr    Superintendent: C. Alviani-Alvarez    Trustee: T. Doyle

100 Underhill Drive, Toronto, ON M3A 2J9

416.395.2700

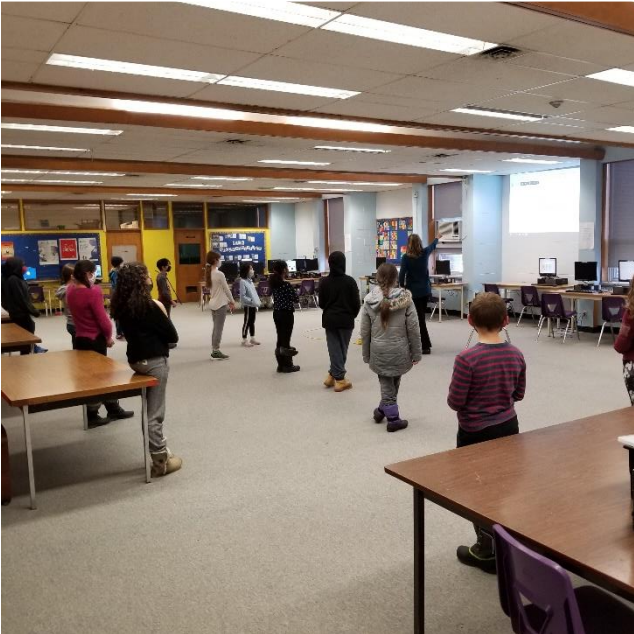
[MilneValley@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:MilneValley@tdsb.on.ca)

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

Twitter @MilneMS



Students participating in Monochromatic day.



Ms Harvey Kerr leading a session with 64 on using Read and Write for Chrome.

### TDSB RECOGNIZES CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

This week, we recognize Children's Mental Health Week in the TDSB.

During these challenging times while our schools are closed, the mental health and well-being of our students is a priority in the TDSB. Caring for others and being cared for is one of the most powerful protective factors for everyone's mental health and well-being. Research shows that providing a caring, inclusive and welcoming climate improves resilience and the ability to achieve.

We want everyone to focus on noticing, encouraging and acknowledging caring and kind interactions. We need to help ensure that every student feels that they are valued and that they matter. Caring matters now more than ever!

Take a look at our COVID-19 specific resources - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/In-Person-Learning/Resources-During-Covid-19> - as well as resources that support students' ongoing mental health and well-being needs. Follow #TDSBwellness and #TDSBcaringmatters online and join the conversation, and learn practical tips and strategies for well-being.

### PERSONAL BELONGINGS FROM JUNE 2020

If you or your child have not collected belongings left at the school from June 2020 and would like to do so, please email [MilneValley@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:MilneValley@tdsb.on.ca) by Thursday January 7<sup>th</sup>. After that date, belongings will not longer be available.