

# MVMS Newsletter

March, 2021

MARCH'S CHARACTER ATTRIBUTE:

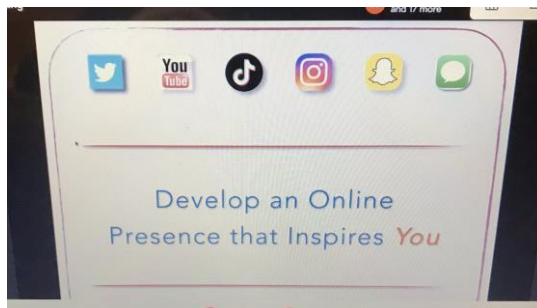
# Honesty

## Message from the Principal and Vice-Principal

It has been great to be back in our school building these past two weeks to welcome students back to in-person learning. As you know, there have been some changes to the daily health screening process, and we want to thank everyone for adapting to this. As there are several previous versions of the screening tool, we would ask that students please bring the **yellow** sheet that we have provided so that we know the most recent screening tool has been used. We have recommended that students keep their **yellow** screening sheet in a pocket on their backpack at all times, so they always know where it is.

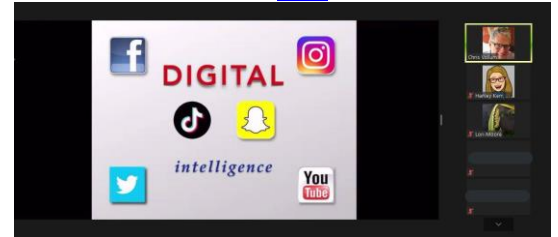
As you know, the traditional March Break, originally scheduled for March 15 to 19 has been moved to the week of April 12 to 16. Classes will continue as usual and the school day schedule will just follow the usual pattern, March 15 being a Day 5, March 16 being a Day 1 and so on.

On February 18, our students learned about the ways positive and appropriate use of Social Media can contribute to their success and also how negative use, even one small post, can adversely impact their future. We welcomed Mr. Chris Vollum of [CMV Social Media](#) to speak with our students and share ways for them to think about what they want to be known for.

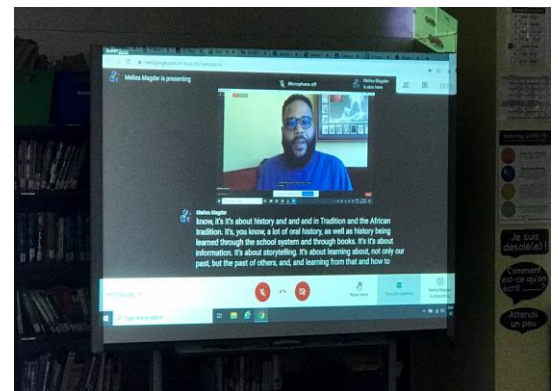


In the evening, Chris presented, "An Evening with the Apps" for those who had registered for the event, teaching parents about Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok, highlighting

how to follow accounts, which accounts may be of interest and how to create posts in the various apps. There was also information around how conversations and relationships can grow with children through the use of and interest in Social Media apps, helping to encourage children to present their best self online. Worksheet information from the sessions can be found [here](#).



Our grade 7 students have been working with our social worker, Susan Loizzo and our child and youth counselor, Koryn Marshall to further talk about their identity and the identities of others. In addition, they have been discussing the importance of positive relationships. The next grade 7 workshops will focus on positive identities and relationships online. We encourage all of our families to continually have conversations with their children about their use of social media to ensure that they are always making safe choices and presenting their best selves online.



On February 25, many of our classes were able to participate in the Stronger Than Hate presentation from the TDSBs African Heritage Committee and Jewish Heritage Committee.

## Upcoming Events

### March, 2021

- 8 Term 2 IEPs sent home
- 19 Rock Your Socks Day
- 25 Grade 7 Recognition Assembly
- 30 Grade 6 and 8 Recognition Assemblies
- 26 TDSB Earth Hour
- 31 School Council Meeting

### April 2020

- 2 Good Friday – No School
- 5 Easter Monday – No School
- 12 – 16 – April Break
- 29 School Council Meeting

## 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 SchoolMessenger (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.

This virtual presentation featured Anthony Anderson as a surprise guest, Max Eisen (Toronto-based Holocaust Survivor, author of the award-winning “By Chance Alone”), Joe Wilson Jr. (Author of “The 761st “Black Panther” Tank Battalion in World War II, Son of Joe Wilson Sr, a member of the 761st Tank Battalion), John L. Withers II (Author of “Balm in Gilead”, former UN Ambassador to Albania and Son of Lieutenant John L. Withers, a WWII soldier who befriended and saved two Jewish Holocaust Survivors).

Students heard about how stories create the possibility to learn about ourselves and others, and how we can affect change right now.

The 761st Tank Battalion was the first all African-American Tank Battalion in World War II. They were instrumental in helping defeat the Nazis as well as liberating several concentration camps. Holocaust survivor Max Eisen was in one of the camps they liberated.

Our world has seen an increase in Anti-Black racism and Antisemitism. This conversation helps us consider what we have learned from history and witnesses to genocide, and reflect on how that knowledge can help us take action to counteract hate.

### **HONESTY**

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 HONESTY.

What does honesty mean to you?

Your child can show honesty by:

- sharing his or her feelings and being truthful
- telling the truth, even though he or she may know that there will be consequences
- being reliable and responsible in completing a job

Questions to discuss with your child:

- What does it mean to be honest? Discuss different ways to be honest with yourself, with your peers, and with others.
- What should you do if you need to tell the truth, but you know there will be consequences?
- How do you feel when someone else has been dishonest with you? What would you do?
- Once trust has been broken, what can you do to get it back? Have you ever lost someone’s trust? Has someone lost your trust?
- What’s the difference between being honest with your own family and being honest with someone you’ve just met?

Projects to do together:

- Watch TV shows or movies. Talk about the ways in which the characters were honest or dishonest with each other.
- Read the story entitled The Boy Who Cried Wolf, and discuss the importance of being honest.

Encouraging honesty in your child:

- Give your child opportunities to tell the truth.
- Make sure that you explain to your child that you always want the truth, even though he or she may be afraid that you might be angry.
- Encourage and praise your child when he or she is honest.
- Model honesty by returning lost items.

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



### **Milne Valley Middle School**

Principal: L. Moore    Vice Principal: C. Harvey Kerr    Superintendent: C. Alviani-Alvarez    Trustee: T. Doyle  
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## MARCH IS GREEK HERITAGE MONTH AT THE TDSB

March is Greek Heritage Month. It is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Greek Canadians to Canada and an occasion to mark and enjoy the history of Greek culture.

The theme for this year is “1821-2021 - Freedom and Unity – Ελευθερία και Ενότητα  
Learning from Our Roots...Shaping Our Future”

## TDSB EARTH HOUR - FRIDAY, MARCH 26 - 2 TO 3 P.M.

At schools we'll be using as little electricity as possible during the hour – in the office, in the halls, in the classrooms.

At Milne Valley, we will be turning off most classroom lights during the official TDSB Earth Hour although we will look to turn lights off in classrooms for longer periods of time throughout the day. Our office will be embracing the natural light that streams in our windows with all of our blinds open.



## EARTH HOUR

### GLOBAL EARTH HOUR

From the Earth Hour website:

“Started by WWF and partners as a symbolic lights-out event in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour is now one of the world's largest grassroots movements for the environment. Held every year on the last Saturday of March, Earth Hour engages millions of people in more than 180 countries and territories, switching off their lights to show support for our planet.

But Earth Hour goes far beyond the symbolic action of switching off - it has become a catalyst for positive environmental impact, driving major legislative

changes by harnessing the power of the people and collective action.”

We encourage everyone to take part in the global Earth Hour event on Saturday, March 27 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in your own neighbourhood.

To learn more, visit

<http://www.tdsb.on.ca/aboutus/innovation/ecoschools.aspx>. To find out more about Earth Hour or to download resources to discuss with your children visit [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org).

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SUPPORTS AND RESOURCES

A reminder that TDSB Professional Support Services Staff have weekly virtual drop-in hours available for families on [Tuesdays from 10:00 am – 11:00 am](#) and [Thursdays from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm](#). A wealth of resources can be found on the TDSB website - <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/In-Person-Learning/Resources-During-Covid-19>. The TDSB Psychological Services team has put together a newsletter called Hearts and Minds. The February version can be found here: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/milnevalley/docs/Hearts%20%20Minds%20February%202021.pdf>

## END OF SCHOOL DAY ROUTINES

We are working hard at Milne Valley to ensure that our students follow the recommendations of Toronto Public Health (TPH):

- Wear a mask
- Stay 2 meters away from other people
- Avoid congregating in groups

To ensure a safe return to school TPH has also recommended that students go home immediately at the end of the day. We appreciate all our families' cooperation to keep all of our students safe.

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