



## COMING UP

- 12/1..... No School  
Designated Makeup Day #1
- 12/5..... PSA Ornament Craft
- 12/9..... MCHS Cantare Performance
- 12/18..... Santa's Workshop
- 12/18..... KG Caroling Field Trip
- 12/19..... Christmas Movie Day
- 12/22 – No School
- 1/2..... Christmas Vacation
- 1/5..... Return from break
- 1/19..... School in Session  
Makeup for 12/2 snow day

# STRODES MILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Frank Miller, Principal  
fwm28@mcsdk12.org

Julie Yoder, Building leader  
jap36@mcsdk12.org

## WINTER WEATHER

Chilly morning and snowy days are here! As we settle into the season, we'd like to share a few important reminders to keep families informed:



School delays, cancellations, & early dismissals are based on current & forecasted road & weather conditions. When possible, decisions are made the night before school or by 5:30 am the morning of school.



For 2 & 3 hour delays, breakfast will not be served. Lunch will be served- main meal and craveable are an option, but salads are not.



To ensure you receive notifications, make sure your phone numbers & email addresses are up to date in our system. You can opt in to receive text alerts.



Remember to send a note with your child if school is in session, but you feel roads are unsafe for travel.

## A NEW KIND OF HOLIDAY CHEER

Each year, families look forward to seeing our students perform in our annual Christmas Concert- a tradition that fills the season with music and joy. This year, we'll be celebrating a little differently. While Mrs. Mills enjoys her new baby, we won't be holding our traditional concert.

But don't worry- the music and magic of the season will fill our school! Mrs. Dill has been working with students to create something special using our green screen technology. Each school day in December, a fun and festive video will be shared on Class Dojo featuring our classes caroling, reading seasonal stories, and spreading holiday cheer.

We're thrilled to offer this creative alternative to our concert and can't wait for families to enjoy these joyful moments. Keep watching Class Dojo throughout December for some holiday spirit!



## SPIRIT WEEK

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Mon</b><br><b>12/15</b> | <b>MERRY MONDAY</b><br><i>Wear a festive outfit</i>                              |
| <b>Tue</b><br><b>12/16</b> | <b>RUDOLF THE RED-NOSED REINDEER</b><br><i>Wear something shiny &amp; bright</i> |
| <b>Wed</b><br><b>12/17</b> | <b>RUN RUN GINGERBREAD MAN</b><br><i>Wear your sweats</i>                        |
| <b>Thu</b><br><b>12/18</b> | <b>CHRISTMAS CARD DAY</b><br><i>Wear your ugly sweater</i>                       |
| <b>Fri</b><br><b>12/19</b> | <b>GRINCH DAY</b><br><i>Wear your pj's for our movie day</i>                     |

## PBIS

During the month of November, students could use **40 paw tickets** for the paw wall prize of turkey bingo! We're proud to announce that **34 students** earned this prize!

Students have also been turning in their paw tickets for bucket prizes.

These fun rewards give students even more options to celebrate their positive behavior and hard work.

Coming up for December, students can turn in **50 paw tickets** to earn the "stuff a stocking" prize!



## MOVIE DAY

We're excited to continue a SMES holiday tradition- movie day! On Friday, 12/19, students are invited to wear pajamas and enjoy a festive movie with the whole school!

The movie will be announced soon, so stay tuned for this fun, cozy celebration!

## NURSE NOTICES



Over-the-Counter Medication forms were distributed on the first day of school. This form must be completed and signed by a parent/guardian in order for students to receive medication from the school nurse. **If your child has not submitted the Over-the-Counter Medication form to the Nurse's Office, your child will not receive medication at school.** Forms are available online and in the nurse's office.

As a reminder, students are NOT permitted to carry any medications on their person during school hours. This includes cough drops, medicated creams, eye drops or anything used for medicinal purposes. **ANY MEDICATION THAT IS REQUIRED TO BE TAKEN AT SCHOOL MUST BE TRANSPORTED TO AND FROM SCHOOL BY A PARENT/GUARDIAN OR DESIGNATED ADULT AND ACCOMPANIED WITH A PHYSICIAN'S ORDER.** Parents and guardians are required to sign medications into the nurse's office at drop-off. Failure to do so is a violation of the MCSD Medication Policy.

### REMINDERS:

- Please work with your child to be able to use the restroom independently.
- Keep a change of clothes in your child's backpack in case of spills or accidents.

Questions? Reach out to our nurses:

Nurse Yoder ([jsy43@mcsdk12.org](mailto:jsy43@mcsdk12.org))

Nurse Ritchey ([alr17@mcsdk12.org](mailto:alr17@mcsdk12.org))



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If your child will turn 5 years old by 9/1/26, it's time to get them registered for the 26-27 school year!



Just scan the QR code to start the adventure or fill out the last page of this newsletter & submit it to the office.

Spread the word and share the QR code or form with friends and family who may have a child ready for kindergarten next year.

## SICK- WHEN TO STAY HOME

- **Fever** (100° +) within the last 24 hours. Must be fever free for 24 hours without medication to return
  - Vomiting and/or diarrhea in the last 24 hours
- **Upper respiratory symptoms** (*persistent coughing, thick nasal drainage, severe congestion that is affecting their ability to function*)
- **Pink eye** (*must be on treatment for 24 hours and discharge resolving prior to returning to school*)
- **Impetigo** (*must be on treatment for 24 hours prior to returning to school*)
- **Strep throat** (*must be on treatment for 24 hours prior to returning to school*)
- **Hand, foot, mouth disease** (*must be fever free for 24 hours, sores no longer open and draining, and feeling well enough to participate in normal school activities*)



## HOLIDAY MEAL BAG SUCCESS!



Thanks to the generosity of our amazing families, we've created **190** holiday meal bags! These bags have been distributed and are set to spread joy & warmth throughout our community this season.



## PBIS SPONSORS

Our PBIS program is made stronger thanks to the generosity of our community partners! Their donations help us celebrate positive behavior and reward our amazing students. We are truly grateful for their commitment to our students' success and for making a lasting difference in our school community.

At the Barnyard | Discovery Space  
Harshbarger's Sub & Malt | YMCA

## GOLDEN PAW WINNERS

The Golden Paw Award is presented at the end of each month to students who have done an EXCEPTIONAL job at showing Respectful, Responsible, Ready and Safe behaviors in the classroom all month long. Classroom teachers can nominate any student(s) who they feel deserve extra recognition for their excellence in the classroom.

Golden Paw Award Winners get a Golden Paw Award certificate, a golden coin to be used in the book vending machine, their picture on the Golden Paw Wall of Fame, to participate in a special pizza party at the end of the marking period, recognized in a post on Class Dojo school story the month they win.





## SKYLERT NOTIFICATIONS

We want to ensure every family stays informed- especially with winter weather approaching when timely updates about delays, closures, and more are essential.

- Accurate phone numbers and email addresses are vital for receiving school notifications- make sure to notify the office of any changes.
- **You can receive Skylert alerts by text!** It can be helpful to add numbers for babysitters, grandparents, or other caregivers to receive the same timely updates. To sign up:
  - Log in to **Family Access**
  - Go to the **Skylert** tab
  - Scroll to the **Text Message Information** section
  - Add up to 4 numbers
  - Select Emergency and General



## NATIONAL COMPUTER SCIENCE WEEK

National Computer Science Week will be celebrated December 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> across the country. Here at SMES, we are fortunate to have a fully equipped computer lab and two fabulous teachers who make learning technology fun and engaging.

Mrs. Dill introduces our youngest learners- kindergarten and first grade- helping them build their foundational skills.

Mrs. Hartzler takes over with second and third graders- guiding them to build on those skills.

With the use of technology, Mrs. Dill worked with students across all grades to provide a creative alternative to the Christmas concert using green screen technology.

We're also lucky to have support from the **MCHS STEM Club**, whose members visit to work with our students on hands-on coding and technology challenges.



## ATTENDANCE & TIMELINESS

As the winter weather settles in, we know mornings can get chilly and the temptation to stay cozy at home can be strong! However, it's important to remember that good attendance makes a big difference in your child's success at school.

We understand that with winter weather comes illnesses that can make it difficult to attend.

Having a backup plan can **reduce stress and help make sure your child doesn't miss valuable learning time**. Every day counts!

Let's work together to help every student build strong habits for a bright future!

### REMEMBER:

- School starts at 8:20am. Students arriving after are tardy.
- Students arriving or leaving between 9:30 & 2pm will receive a 1/2 day's absence.
- Excuses must be submitted within 3 days of an absence. They can be sent in your child's folder, emailed to Mrs. Peterson at [alp35@mcsdk12.org](mailto:alp35@mcsdk12.org), or entered in Family Access.

Reach out if you need support—we're here to help! Every day counts, and every student matters!

## Absence Note

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Absent: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

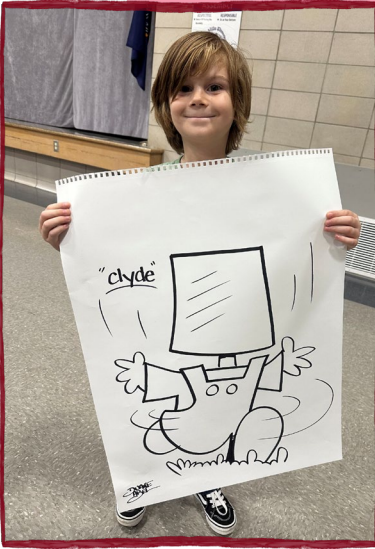
\_\_\_\_\_



Signed \_\_\_\_\_



## CORKEY'S COMICS- DRAW YOUR DESTINY



Students earned their first PBIS assembly, and it was a hit! We had the incredible Duane Able, the cartoonist behind Corkey's Comics, join us for a fun-filled day.

Students dove into the exciting world of art while learning important lessons on goal setting, the power of literacy, and the value of education- the perfect blend of creativity and inspiration!



## PSA

PSA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12/9 at 6pm. **Children should NOT attend PSA meetings.** They often involve planning events that are meant to be surprises for students. Childcare is not provided.

### DISCOUNT CARD FUNDRAISER

Discount cards are back, and they're just \$10! Get ready to unlock amazing deals and special offers from over 20 fantastic local businesses. Don't forget, orders and payments are **due by Friday, 12/5**. Let's make the most of this opportunity together!

### WEIS FOR KIDS

Link your Weis Rewards Card to help our school earn money just by grocery shopping! Scan the QR code below and follow the steps. Each time you shop, a portion of your purchase goes toward our school.

It's a simple way to make a big difference!



## SEW MUCH FUN

As winter settles in and the days grow shorter and colder, we're spending more time indoors. Mr. McClure, our gym teacher, has a special request that could keep you creatively occupied!

We're in need of handmade bean bags for use in gym class— 4.5-inch squares, double-stitched for durability, and filled with dried beans, rice, or poly pellets.

If you enjoy sewing and are looking for a fun, simple project to keep busy this winter, this is a great way to help out the school!

## NATIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION DAY

As we celebrate **National Special Education Day** on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, we recognize our exceptional special education team- teachers, paraprofessionals, and staff. Their dedication ensures that all students are included, supported, and encouraged to reach their full potential and we appreciate the difference they make every single day!

Dear Parent:

The Mifflin County School District is conducting registration for children who will be eligible for enrollment in a kindergarten class for the 2026-2027 school year. A child must be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2026. There are no exceptions or provisions made for early entrance to kindergarten.

Information gathered from this form will enable the district to properly plan for its new enrollees and will provide an opportunity for school officials to communicate directly with parents and guardians concerning enrollment requirements.

Proper enrollment for school includes: a physical examination performed within one year of the start of the 2026-2027 school year, verification of birth date, proper immunization, proof of residence, and custody agreements/court orders (if applicable). Once enrolled, a kindergarten assessment will be administered to each child to determine learning potential. While this assessment has no bearing on eligibility for enrollment, it does aid the school in structuring meaningful and appropriate educational programs for new students. Once your child is registered you will receive more information about the assessment program.

**Please complete the form below and return it to your child's school :**

**East Derry Elementary School - Mrs. Alesia Baumgardner - (717) 543-5615, alb50@mcsdk12.org**

**Indian Valley Elementary School - Ms. Rylie Kepner - (717) 667-2123, rek14@mcsdk12.org**

**Lewistown Elementary School - Mrs. Kaitlin Lorson - (717) 242-5823, kml29@mcsdk12.org**

**Strodes Mills Elementary School - Mrs. Amber Peterson - (717) 248-7154, alp35@mcsdk12.org**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ SEX: *Male or Female*  
Last First Middle Month / Date / Year

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable) Last First Middle

Child Resides with: \_\_\_\_\_  
Father/Mother/Guardian

Address where Child Resides \_\_\_\_\_  
Street / Box No. City

Name of a local friend or relative to contact if parents are not available.

Name	Address	Telephone	Relationship
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