



COMING UP

- 12/22 – No School
- 1/2..... Christmas Vacation
- 1/5..... Return from break
- 1/19..... School in Session
Makeup for 12/2 snow day
- 1/30..... No School
Act 80 Day
- 2/16..... No School
Designated Makeup Day #3
- 2/18..... 2nd Grade Field Trip
- 3/5..... Family Night 5:30pm-7:30pm
- 3/13..... No School
Act 80 Day

STRODES MILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Frank Miller, Principal
fwm28@mcsdk12.org

Julie Yoder, Building leader
jap36@mcsdk12.org

PBIS REMINDERS

As we return from a long Christmas Break, please review our PBIS expectations with your students:

RESPECTFUL

- Use kind words & quiet voices
- Put trash & paper towels in the trash can
- Share recess equipment

RESPONSIBLE

- Turn in notes to your teacher
- Dress for the weather
- Listen carefully to announcements

READY

- Active listening to teachers- eyes on teacher, voices off & ears on
- Line up quickly & quietly

SAFE

- Walk in the halls with your hands at your side
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself

WINTER WEATHER

We'd like to share, again, a few important reminders as winter weather has settled in:

- * Delays, cancellations & early dismissals are based on current & forecasted road & weather conditions.
- * Decisions for delays, cancellations & early dismissals are made the night before school when possible or by 5:30 am the morning of school.
- * Announcements are made via Skylert and are posted to the MCSKD homepage (www.mcsdk12.org).
- * If school is in session but you feel roads are unsafe, remember to submit a note stating such as their excuse for the day.
- * Dress for the weather with coats, hats & gloves to stay warm during outside recess and in case of emergencies.



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.

PBIS

During the month of December, **students could use 50 paw tickets** for the paw wall prize of stuffing a stocking! We're proud to announce that **35 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 January, students can turn in **50 paw tickets** to earn the pj's & pizza party prize!

MCHS CANTARE



Our students were treated to a very special performance when the MCHS Cantare vocal ensemble visited our school as part of their "World Tour". The talented group of high school singers captivated our students with their beautiful harmonies.

The experience was inspiring as it gave our students a glimpse of what they can look forward to as they continue their own educational journey.

We are grateful to the MCHS Cantare and Mrs. Fensterbush for sharing their time and talent with us and for reminding our students of the joy and power of music.



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)

Nurse Ritchey (alr17@mcsdk12.org)

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*)

STAFF CHANGE



The start of the new year brought a staff change as we said goodbye to **Mrs. Carpenter** when leaving for Christmas break. We are grateful for the care, creativity, and dedication she brought to our students each day. While we are sad to see her go, we are very happy for her as she begins this new chapter, and we wish her all the best.

Miss Curry stepped in as Mrs. Carpenter's replacement. You may recognize her as the shared building substitute for SMES & East Derry Elementary. Her familiarity with our students, staff & routines made the transition smooth. We are excited to welcome her into this role & look forward to the remainder of the school year.



As Miss Curry steps into the 1st grade, our Building Substitute position was filled by **Miss Attick**. Even better, she will now be at SMES full time rather than splitting her time with EDES. We are thrilled to have her with us each day and appreciate the consistency and support she brings to our school community.

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.

THANK YOU:

At the Barnyard
Carousel Skating Rink
Discovery Space
Harshbarger's Sub & Malt
Shear Desire
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. Teachers can nominate any student(s) who they feel deserve extra recognition for their excellence in the classroom.

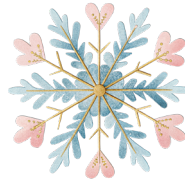
Winners get a Golden Paw Award, a golden coin to be used in the book vending machine, their picture on the Golden Paw Wall of Fame, to participate in a special pizza party at the end of the marking period, and are recognized in a post on Class Dojo school story the month they win.





POLAR EXPRESS

Kindergarten had a fantastic time on their field trip to East Broad Top Railroad. The Polar Express train ride was a hit, complete with cookies and hot chocolate!



ATTENDANCE & TIMELINESS

As we return from Christmas break, we're excited to welcome our students back and help them ease into their school routines again.

Consistent attendance plays a big role in rebuilding daily habits that support learning, confidence, and success. A steady routine- getting up on time, arriving ready to learn, and being present each day- helps students feel secure and prepared.

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, 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 _____



FESTIVE FUN

Festive fun was in full swing throughout the school!



PSA

PSA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 1/13** 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.

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!



LOST & FOUND

Our lost & found is overflowing once again! We have many coats, sweatshirts, hats, and other items. Please remind your child to check the lost & found if they are missing anything.

SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

January is School Board Appreciation Month, a time to recognize and thank our dedicated school board members for their service and leadership. These community members work behind the scenes to set policies, support student success, and ensure our schools continue to grow and thrive.

We are grateful for their commitment to our students, staff, and families!

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