

STRODES MILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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COMING UP

- 4/3..... No School
Good Friday
- 4/6..... School in session
Makeup for 1/27/26 snow day
- 4/10..... PSA pizza party
- 4/21..... 1st grade field trip
- 4/21-4/23..... PSSA's: ELA testing
- 4/28-4/29..... PSSA's: Math testing
- 5/13..... Spring concert @9:30
- 5/15..... Assembly- author visit
- 5/25..... No School
Memorial Day
- 5/26..... Yearbooks & treat
- 5/27..... Field Day
- 5/28..... Field Day Rain Date
- 5/29..... LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

PSSA'S

Our 3rd grade students are gearing up to take the PSSA's this month. Our young learners have been working hard all year, & this is their chance to show what they've learned in Math & English Language Arts (ELA). Testing windows are as follows:

ELA: 4/21, 4/22, & 4/23

Math: 4/28 & 4/29

Being in school leading up to testing helps students feel prepared and confident, as instruction and review continue right up until the testing begins.

On the day of testing, it's important that students are present **come to school on time**, and are **well rested** for each testing session.

Arriving late or missing a session can cause added stress and may require make-up testing. Being on time allows students to start calmly with their classmates and follow the regular testing routine.

FAMILY NIGHT FUN

Thank you to all of the families who joined us for Family Night!



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.

Questions? Reach out to our nurses: Nurse Yoder (jsy43@mcsdk12.org) & Nurse Ritchey (alr17@mcsdk12.org)

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR PARENTS OF CURRENT SECOND GRADERS

Attention, parents of students in 2nd grade! According to the Pennsylvania School Health Act, all school-aged children are required to have a dental examination upon initial school entry, as well as in 3rd and 7th grades.

If your child sees a private dentist, please ensure that the dental form previously sent home is completed & returned to the school nurse for the 2026-27 school year. Remember, the dental exam can be conducted up to one year before the start of the school year. Completed forms can be dropped off, sent in with students, or faxed to 717-242-5839.

Thank you.

TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?

Please ensure your child remains at home if they have experienced any of the following symptoms within the last 24 hours.

- **Fever: 100.0 or higher:** The child should be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
- **Vomiting and/or Diarrhea**
- **Respiratory Symptoms:** Constant coughing, difficulty breathing, or wheezing.
- **Thick nasal drainage**
- **Contagious Illnesses:** Pink eye, strep throat (until 24 hours of antibiotics), or a rash with a fever.
- **Severe Pain:** Intense stomachaches, headaches or earaches.

Symptoms should be resolved for 24 hours without the use of medication prior to returning to school.

Thank you.

PARAPROFESSIONAL APPRECIATION

Each year we recognize paraprofessionals who work in classrooms to support students.

In honor of Paraprofessional Appreciation Day, we would like to recognize the four paraprofessionals in our school who work closely with students each day- Ms. English, Mrs. Fultz, Mrs. Goss, & Mrs. Kratzer.

Their dedication, patience, and support make a meaningful difference in the success and well-being of our students. We are grateful for all they do and appreciate the positive impact they have on our school community!



SCHOOL LIBRARIAN DAY

April 4th is National School Librarian Day & we are proud to celebrate & recognize the incredible impact of our very own librarian, Mrs. Dill.



Mrs. Dill inspires a love of reading, helps students discover new interests, & supports school projects. She makes the library a welcoming & exciting place for all. Her kindness, creativity, & dedication truly make a difference in our school community every day.

Please join us in thanking Mrs. Dill for all she does to support our students and staff. We are so lucky to have her at SMES!

PBIS SPONSORS

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

At the Barnyard | Carousel Skating Rink
Cora's Creekside Tavern | Discovery Space
Giant Stores- Burnham & Lewistown
Harshbarger's Sub & Malt | Hartley's Potato Chips
Holy Crepe | Lewistown Florist
Lewistown Lanes | Pizza Hut
Shear Desire | Urban Air | YMCA

PBIS

During the month of March, students could turn in their paw tickets for bucket prizes OR they could use 50 paw tickets for the paw wall prize of a Bunny Hop Party! Only the first 24 students were accepted for this prize and we're proud to announce that the prize was filled by March 20th!

Coming up for April, **the first 20 students** who turn in **50 paw tickets** will win an extra special prize of participating in the **Chalk the Walk** with the MCHS Kindness Club prize! Once those spots are filled, the next mega prize students can earn will be **extra recess and popsicles** by turning in **50 paw tickets!**

GOLDEN PAW WINNERS

The Golden Paw Award is presented each month to students who have done an **EXCEPTIONAL** job at showing Respectful, Responsible, Ready & 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 for the book vending machine, their picture on the Golden Paw Wall of Fame, a special pizza party at the end of the marking period, & are recognized on Class Dojo.



RAISING TROUT

We are another month into our trout-raising experience, and the trout continue to grow! As they get bigger, their markings & colors are becoming more distinct, which has been exciting to observe.

Next month, our 3rd graders will join Mr. Conner & Mr. Miller for the trout release. This is always a fun & memorable way to wrap up our journey, and it's an experience students eagerly look forward to!



MCHS JAZZ BAND

Our students were treated to an incredible performance by the MCHS Jazz Band! It was inspiring to see the talent of these young musicians & the excitement it sparked in our students.

Several of the performers were former SMES students, making the experience even more meaningful for our school community.



ATTENDANCE & TIMELINESS

Spring is here & April can be a busy month filled with activities, holidays, & changing weather. While it's an exciting time, maintaining strong school attendance is still very important for student success.

With longer daylight hours, it's easy for bedtimes to drift later. Keeping a consistent bedtime and morning routine helps students stay rested and ready to learn.

Lets make April a month of strong attendance for continued learning!

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

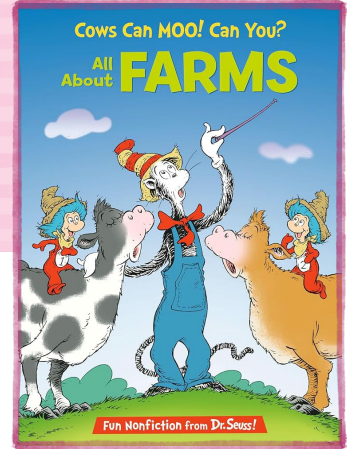
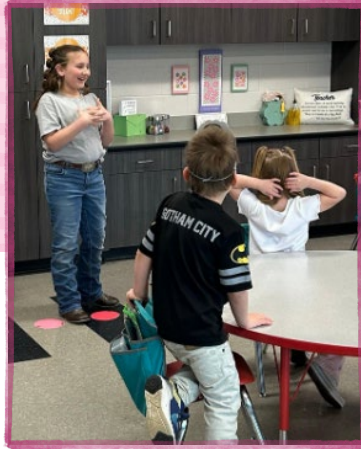


AG LITERACY

On March 27th, we welcomed representatives from the Mifflin County Farm Bureau & Mifflin County 4-H into our kindergarten classrooms to celebrate Ag Literacy Week.

This year, we were especially excited to have student guest readers from MCMS, MCJHS, & MCHS, as well as one of our very own second graders serving as a presenter. They read *Cows Can Moo! Can You? All About Farms*, a fun & engaging story all about farms.

Our kindergarten students loved the experience! The readers did a wonderful job connecting with the students—listening, interacting, & making the story come to life. It was a pleasure having them in our classrooms!



PSA

PSA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 4/14 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!



BOOK FAIR

Thanks to your participation in the book fair, we sold over \$6,200 in books & earned \$3,700 in Scholastic Bucks.

These funds were shared with classroom teachers to support their libraries and our book vending machine. We appreciate your support in getting more books into students' hands!

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY

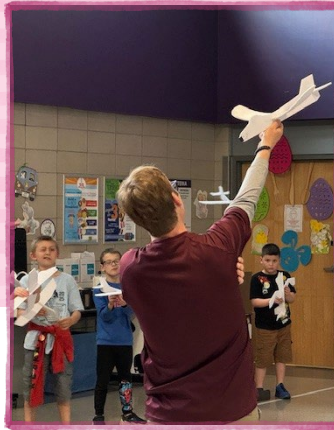
April 28th is School Bus Driver Appreciation Day, a special day to recognize the important role our bus drivers play in our school community. Each day, they safely transport our students too & from school while building positive connections along the way. We are grateful for their friendly smiles, patience, & commitment to keeping our students safe. Thank you to our bus drivers for all you do!

This is also a great time to remind students of the importance of positive bus behavior. Following expectations helps drivers focus on the road & ensures everyone has a safe & smooth ride.

STEM ROVER

Our third graders recently participated in the Foam Core Gliders Project Workshop. In this hands-on experience, students modeled what real-life engineers do around the world. They explored the physics of flight, took a brief look at connections to biology, & then designed and created their own custom gliders.

After building their gliders, students went to the gym to learn techniques for successful flight. They then had the opportunity to test & fly their creations, making for a fun & engaging learning experience!



MR. YUK



Our first grade students recently welcomed Penn State Master Gardeners for a "Mr. Yuk" Poison Prevention presentation. During the visit, students learned about pests, pest management, & important safety tips related to household products.

They were introduced to danger words & symbols they might see on labels & the importance of the Mr. Yuk symbol as a way to identify potentially harmful products with phrases like "Mr. Yuk is mean, Mr. Yuk is greener" & "Mr. Yuk means NO".

Students brought home Mr. Yuk stickers to share with their families. These can be placed on products that display the signal words discussed, helping to reinforce safety at home.

AUTISM AWARENESS



April 2nd is World Autism Awareness Day. This day highlights the importance of awareness, acceptance, & inclusion for individuals with autism, reminding us that every person is valued & important.

Throughout April, we celebrate what makes each of us unique and encourage our students to show kindness, understanding, & acceptance towards others. It's a great time to remind everyone that our differences are something to appreciate & celebrate!



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

We enjoyed welcoming our incoming kindergarten families during registration & look forward to an exciting 2026-27 school year!

