



January Newsletter

Walter S. Miller Elementary School

Neshaminy School District

Paul Mahoney, Principal January 2012

Office 215.809.6360 Nurse 215.809.6366 Guidance 215.809.6365

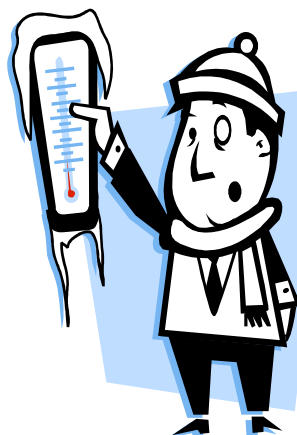
www.neshaminy.org



January Highlights

January 3	SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON TUESDAY!!!!!!
January 4	READING OLYMPICS BEGIN 3:30—4:15 pm
January 16	NO SCHOOL—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
January 21	PTO SPONSORED ICE SKATING PARTY @ GRUNDY'S -Info to follow

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Dear Miller Families,

On behalf of our entire staff, **Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!** I would like to clarify and remind you of two issues at this point in our school year.

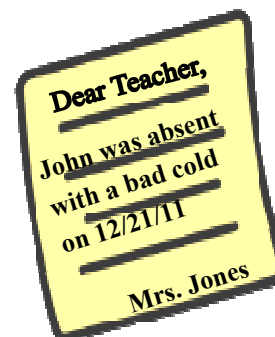
As the cold weather is now upon us, some parents have asked if and when students go outside for recess. Fresh air and exercise

are important to children, so unless it's bitterly cold (temperatures and/or wind chill below 20 degrees), or if it is raining/snowing at the time of recess, we will be going outside. Children should be prepared each day with hats, gloves/mittens, and a warm coat to wear outside. Your cooperation and support of this matter is greatly appreciated. If your child is in need of a coat, please contact me and I will remedy this confidentially.

An absence note is always required when a child returns to school after an absence. The note should be sent to the teacher, be specific concerning the reason, and specify the date(s) of absence. **In cases of excessive absences, school authorities may request a doctor's certificate for justification.**

Sincerely,

Paul Mahoney
Principal



Urgent Notice ... Dismissal Plans!!!!

We have experienced a dramatic increase in mid-day requests for changes in transportation plans. If a **true emergency** occurs in the day, we will do our best to accommodate the request. Otherwise, children are to ride their assigned bus to and from school. They may not change buses in order to visit friends or go to after-school meetings.

- ◆ Parents are requested not to ask for exceptions.
- ◆ In case of an EMERGENCY, send a note with your child IN THE MORNING and a decision will be made by the Principal.

If there is **any** change in a student's dismissal plan, written permission **must** be received from the parent/guardian. If your child is going home with another child a **note must be received by that parent as well.**



A Caring Community

Holiday trees decorated our cafeteria and office with the names of the many contributors to **"Give-A-Christmas"** and the **Red Cross Shelter**. Fourth and Fifth grade students received coupons to allow them to **"Sit With A Friend"** at lunchtime for a \$1 donation. Many thanks to the Miller staff and students who donated **\$462** for the Bucks County Courier Times **"Give-A-Christmas"** and **\$155** for the **Red Cross Shelter**.



Counselor's Corner

This month's **Takes Pride** theme is **"Service"** and over the holidays Miller Elementary students, parents, and staff can take pride in the fact that they have made a tremendous impact on local families in need. The school community rallied to raise funds and provide food and gifts for families in need by way of the **Red Cross Shelter** and **Give a Christmas** collections, **"adopting families"**, and **collecting hats, gloves and scarves**. The Miller community is a shining example of providing service to those in need. Let's keep the momentum going and continue to teach our youngsters the many ways to get involved in helping the community and providing service for the greater good.

As with adults, children are experiencing increased stress and anxiety these days. Stress can zap your child's energy leaving them feeling that if he/she can't get everything done, then why try to do anything at all. You can help your child manage stress and anxiety by simplifying his/her schedule, maintaining a routine, and making it a point to schedule some **"down time."**

Best wishes for good health and happiness in the New Year to you and your family. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 215-809-6365 or via e-mail at cconnolly@neshaminy.k12.pa.us.

Mrs. Cynthia Connolly, School Counselor



Mrs. Stanley's Kind Class

Mrs. Stanley's class adopted a needy family for Christmas. The students raised money by doing any **Random Act of Kindness**. The class raised \$200! Then they went to Target to buy things for the family. Mrs. Stanley said, "Wow! Great job raising all that money!" They shopped for the gifts on Friday, December 9th because the needy families needed presents for Christmas.

By Rebecca Kim, Logan Gildea and Nicole McCauley



Principal of the Week



Congratulations to **Grace Schoen** who won the "Principal of the Week" raffle at this year's **Family Fun Night**. Grace did an outstanding job on the bus port, reading the announcements and greeting the classrooms in the morning.

PSSA

Testing

March 2012

March 12-23, 2012
PSSA Reading
and Math
Grades 3, 4 & 5

April 16-20, 2012
PSSA Writing
Grade 5 ONLY

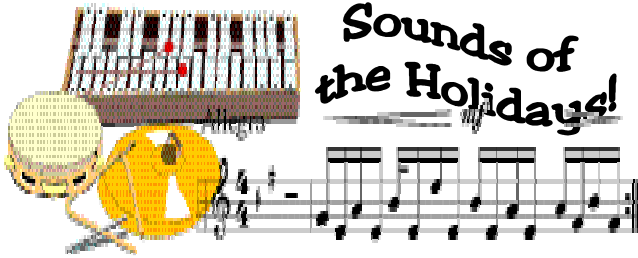
April 23-27, 2012
PSSA Science
Grade 4 ONLY



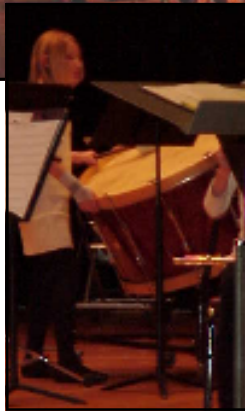
Germ Machine

Thank you to **Ms. Kelly Pavloski** of the **Department of Health** who presented a program for our **Kindergarten, First and Second** grade students on proper hand washing techniques. Students were able to check out their hand washing skills using her "germ" machine.

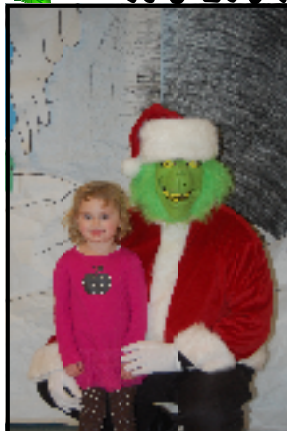




Children singing and favorite tunes played by our talented students announced the beginning of the Holiday season here at Walter Miller. The **Grade 4** chorus performed “**Have A Merry One!**” and the **Grade 5** chorus entertained us with “**Nuttin For Christmas**”. The **Orchestra and Band** also added to the holiday spirit with “**Christmas Bells**” and “**A Holly Jolly Christmas**”. What a beautiful way to set the tone for the Holiday season.



HOLIDAY SHOP AND MOVIE NIGHT!

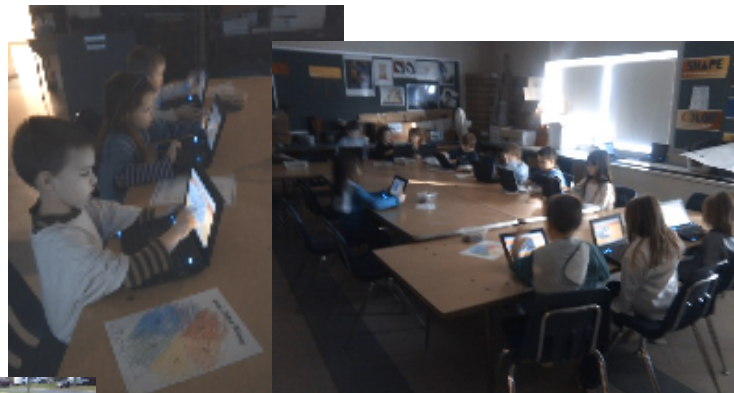


The **Holiday Shop**, sponsored by our PTO, was held during the week of December 5-9. On the evening of December 9th the **Holiday Shop and Movie Night** was held for parents and students. Students were entertained by watching, “**How the Grinch Stole Christmas**” and “**Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer**” while their parents did some shopping. The **Grinch** even made an appearance to the delight of our Miller students. Thanks go out to our **PTO volunteers** for all of their hard work in order to provide our students with an affordable place to shop.

Art News @ Walter Miller *with Mrs. Potter*

Last month...

**K students used technology to
reinforce color theory...**



**1st and 2nd graders learned through
direct observation...**



**3rd graders
explored abstract concepts using mixed media...**



**4th graders investigated
complex mathematical
patterns while painting...**



**5th graders
developed traditional art skills
while exploring the science of
light & shadows...**



The B-5 Stars Christmas Gift!

By Corinne Lobecker and Grace Stanley

Do you know how to spend the holidays? Do you know how to have the holiday spirit? Give...give...give! The **second grade students at Walter Miller did Random Acts of Kindness** to raise money for a holiday fund. We did things like...clean our rooms, help with the dishes, be kind to our sisters, help set the table and other nice stuff. Some people brought in a lot of money. Our class collected almost \$200!! WOW! I thought that was great! We adopted 3 different children to buy things for....a six year old girl, a four year old boy and a seven month old boy.

The day before we got into groups to make a plan. I was in Chloe's group. Her mom came and shopped with us. Our group shopped for the six year old girl. She wanted Justin Beiber stuff and girl toys. **Mrs. Alford** divided the money equally...so we had a lot! When we got on the bus to go to Target I sat with Chloe and we all sang Christmas carols because we were so excited! When we got there we got a cart and started to shop. Then in a little bit we had a Justin Beiber doll, Uno, Lala loopsy doll and a JB Christmas CD! We all agreed the girl would love it! Next we went to pay. We waited in line and all were given a candy cane from someone in the store. We all felt good. We went out and got back on the bus. We were happy! We sang more Christmas songs on the way back!

I felt happy when I did that for the people who needed it! At Walter Miller we always learn to give! Give! Give! That's what Walter Miller does!!!!



On Friday, December 9, 2011 the whole second grade went to Target to shop for their adopted Neshaminy family. At Target the second grade bought the children clothes and toys. The second grade got the money from doing chores at home and for friends. It took about a week to get all the kindness money. The whole second grade got about \$600 dollars. We felt excited to help the families. The holidays are about giving . . . not getting . . . and helping others.

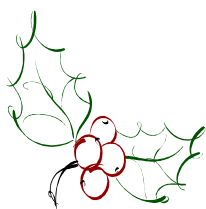
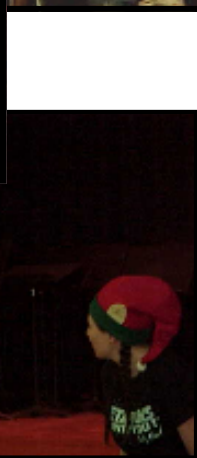
By Grace Dreisbach,
Mrs. O'Rourke's Second Grade Class



Poetry Alive!

Poetry Alive! certainly lived up to its name! Students enjoyed a holiday performance by actors from the Poetry Alive group where they brought poetry to life. Many classic and popular poems and songs were acted out, often involving our very own Walter Miller students as thespians.

The fifth grade students were treated to a special class on how to turn a poem into a play. The students learned key performance points. The fifth graders were fast learners as they quickly managed to turn a poem into a play and present it to their peers.



And the Kindness Continues . . .

Our **4th grade** students eagerly brought Christmas gifts in to help make another child's holiday brighter. Listening to Christmas music, they wrapped each gift to be taken to 4th grade students in a North Philadelphia school. Now that's the spirit of the season!





January 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 NO SCHOOL District Closed	3 Day #4 School Re-opens <div>MATH IN FOCUS—MP 9:30—11AM & 7-8:30 PM Gr. K—2</div>	4 Day #5 Rdg. Olympics 3:30—4:15 School Store Gr. 1, 3 & 5 PTO Exec. Bd. Mtg. 2:45	5 Day #1 <div>MATH IN FOCUS—MP 7-8:30 PM GR. 3-5</div>	6 Day #2 <div>MATH IN FOCUS—MP 9:30—11 AM GR. 3-5</div>	7
8	9 Day #3 District Music Rehearsals Begin-7:10 AM Miller Night @ Aquilone's	10 Day #4	11 Day #5	12 Day #1	13 Day #2	14
		4-Sight Assessment Gr. 3-5				
15	16 NO SCHOOL 	17 Day #3 GRADE 1 DIBELS TESTING	18 Day #4 School Store Gr. 2, 3 & 4 Market Day Pickup 3:30-4:30 PM Rdg. Olympics 3:30—4:15 KDG. DIBELS	19 Day #5 GRADE 2 DIBELS	20 Day #1	21 PTO Ice Skating Party @ Grundy's
22	23 Day #2 Spring Fundraiser Begins End of 2nd Marking Period	24 Day #3	25 Day #4	26 Day #5	27 Day #1	28
29	30 Day #2	31 Day #3				

Note: Day rotations are subject to change if school is closed unexpectedly.