

MILL CREEK NEWS

January 2017

What's New?

The second quarter of the 2016-2017 school year has come to an end. Let's go spring! One thing that's new this year is the addition of four Smart Boards – one in the computer lab, one in the science lab, and two in downstairs classrooms. This will enable teachers and students to have more access to technology in an ever-changing world. It will also provide our students with a more interactive learning environment.

We also have some special events coming up for the second half of the school year, including our annual **Winter Blues concert, our Art Show, Spirit Week, Career Day**, and of course, **graduation**.

Spirit Week will be February 13 to 16. Students will participate in a number of special activities and events over the course of the week to generate school spirit and to help everyone get energized for the warmer months!

Career Day will take place on Friday, March 10. Students will have the opportunity to sign up for several sessions with professionals from a variety of fields so they can learn about career options. They can also ask questions about schooling, expectations, and job availability for each field.

This year's **Winter Blues** concert will be held on Friday, April 7. Students in our music classes will show off their talents by performing a number of selections with their classmates and teacher, Ron Chmar. Students in the music club will also have an opportunity to participate. Families are welcome to attend this annual tradition.

Community Service

During the third quarter students will have the opportunity to volunteer at Cradles to Crayons. This organization, located in Conshohocken, provides children from birth through age twelve living in homeless or low-income situations with the essential items they need to thrive – at home, at school, and at play. The items are donated by communities that are able to give. Students who sign up will sort clothes, toys, and school supplies in preparation for donation. This has been a wonderful charity for Mill Creekers in previous years.

February 6 marks the kickoff campaign for our annual Pennies for Patients charity drive, sponsoring the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. For three weeks students will participate in a number of special events, like a bake sale and an egg hunt, to raise money for children with blood cancers. Students are encouraged to bring in loose change (not just pennies!), and parents are welcome to donate as well. We'll wrap up the campaign with a fun karaoke event. Our goal for this year is \$600 – last year we raised almost \$450. Mill Creek families have donated thousands of dollars over the years to this worthy charity.

Mindfulness

Dr. Southerling (Tamara) continues to meet with students in small groups for our mindfulness program, newly started this year. Students meet in small groups for 6-week sessions where concepts related to attention, emotion regulation, and overall well-being are discussed. Hopefully all students will be able to participate before the end of the school year.

Students' Page

Perfect Attendance

Students who earn Perfect Attendance for an entire month are recognized at Mill Creek, and they are invited to participate in an activity acknowledging this accomplishment.

Students earning Perfect Attendance in **November** were: **Emily A., Adam C., Nick C., John G.,** and **Joe R.**

For **December**, Perfect Attendance students were: **Abby B., Adam C., John G., Keturah M.,** and **Joe R.**

Special recognition goes to **Joe R.** for maintaining perfect attendance throughout the second quarter. Keep it up!

Merit Status

Emily A., Tessa B., Alec C., Matt M., Shane M., Rebecca P., Grace S., and **Hunter V.** were all on Merit Status during the second quarter! They received this honor by maintaining an acceptable rate of attendance, staying up to date in their classes, and exhibiting good behavior in school. Congratulations!

The Barnes Foundation

On Friday, January 13, 2017, Mill Creek art students had the opportunity to visit the Barnes Foundation for a one hour guided tour of the Post-Impressionist and Early Modern Art collection. The Barnes Foundation was established by Albert C. Barnes in 1922 to "promote the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts and horticulture." The Barnes holds one of the finest collections of Post-Impressionist and early Modern paintings, with extensive works by: Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Paul Cézanne, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Henri Rousseau, Amedeo Modigliani, Chaim Soutine and Giorgio de Chirico, as well as American masters Charles Demuth, William

Glackens, Horace Pippin, and Maurice Prendergast.

Shakespeare Residency

Thanks in part to the generous support of the William Penn Foundation, Lantern Theater Company will again offer our students a mini-residency in which professional actors and theater educators develop lessons and activities related to a Shakespeare play for our students to enjoy. This year's production is Coriolanus, a tragedy based on the legendary life of the Roman leader Caius Marcius. Interested students will participate in four workshop sessions, and will also attend a live production of the play at the Lantern Theater in Center City. This activity has been met with great success in the past.

3rd Quarter Dates to Remember

1/24 Third quarter begins
2/6 – 2/28 Pennies for Patients Charity
2/13 Spirit Week begins
2/17 Teacher Workshop Day – No Classes
2/20 President's Day – No Classes
2/24 Progress Reports
3/6 Shakespeare Workshop begins
3/17 Alert Notices
3/31 Advisee Day: End of 3rd Quarter – Early Dismissal at 12 PM

Parents' Page

Absences: When your child is going to be absent or late, please remember to notify Diane Hill at diane.hill@uphs.upenn.edu or by calling 215-471-4900, x100.

Transportation Reminder: If your son or daughter is going to be arriving late to school or leaving early on a given day, it is important that you call the Mill Creek office to let us know the arrangement for that day. You should also inform the transportation provider/bus company.

After School Tutoring: The Mill Creek School has a strong academic program during the school day and continues the program after school. Mill Creek offers after-school academic help for students in need of specific course tutoring or time to catch up on work. After-school hours are 2:45-3:45 pm, Monday through Thursday. To confirm arrangements, parents must contact their son or daughter's advisor before noon of the day scheduled. Parents are responsible for providing transportation.

Parent Support Meetings: Parents are invited to attend our monthly meetings focusing on key topics. Meetings run from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at Mill Creek and are led by Bob Reed, Clinical Coordinator, and Traci Pescatore, Social Worker.

Parents Support Group was held on Tuesday evening, 1/24/17, at Mill Creek. The topic was **Parenting Teens with Mood and Anxiety Disorders**. There was much lively discussion and sharing of stories related to this topic. The **next Parents Support Group** will be on **Tuesday 3/28/17** from 7:00-8:30. The topic will be:

Helping Your Teen Plan for College

What should parents/guardians know about what students need to do to adequately prepare for all that college life entails?

If you have any questions or suggestions about the group meetings, please contact Bob Reed robert.reed@uphs.upenn.edu or Traci Pescatore traci.pescatore@uphs.upenn.edu.

Inclement Weather Policy:

If the Philadelphia School District is closed due to inclement weather, the Mill Creek School will also be closed. In the event of a two-hour delay for the Philadelphia School District, Mill Creek would also have the same delay.

Students are not expected to attend school if their local school district is not providing transportation due to weather related conditions.

New Edition of the Mill Creek Student Handbook: Our school's handbook has been updated and is available online at www.millcreekschool.org. If you prefer a print copy, please contact Diane Hill.

Phone Number Changes: Please notify Diane if your phone number or email address changes at home or at work, or if your emergency contact number changes.