



## September Newsletter

*From the Desk of Mr. Giertz*



The start of a new year is upon us and without a doubt, students', staff and parents are all working hard to make adjustments in our styles of how we learn here at Milton Pope. Students have been great adjusting to how we sit and learn in class, how we move in hallways and have adjusted well to grabbing their lunches for the road. We all are still working through small kinks in our eLearning procedures, but hopefully as we move past our first quarter mid-term we can begin to feel comfortable routines and get the 2020 school year moving consistently.

As students come back from summer our staff really felt like getting a good grasp on where our students' level of abilities were at, especially since we had been out of "in-person" instructions since the middle of March. Therefore, our students recently finished our first round of MAP testing to give a baseline as to where our focus of curriculum will be directed. Those

fall scores will be analyzed shortly by staff to help determine what avenue each grade needs to progress at and then given to parents in our upcoming P/T conferences (Oct. 22 & Oct. 23) when the first quarter ends in October.

**We will be having P/T sign ups very shortly for each grade level, so parents and guardians can soon begin to look for that on our school website. I will send out a School Reach message by the end of this week explaining what parents need to do in getting their times schedules for their student(s).**

Even though the start of school may look different, students are showing a strong sense of desire to learn here at Milton Pope. We will continue to look at our "In-Person" learning as the first quarter winds down and make adjustments that fit the needs and safety of our students and staff.

Once again, if you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us here at school: (815) 357-8151.

Have a fantastic October!

**Sincerely,**

**Mr. Giertz**

## **Upcoming October Activities/Dates**

- 1<sup>st</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Grad Future SHS students PSAT testing
- 2<sup>nd</sup> September SOTM Award Winners Announced
- 9<sup>th</sup> No School! Teachers' Institute Day
- 12<sup>th</sup> Columbus Day/No School
- 16<sup>th</sup> End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter!
- 19<sup>th</sup> MPCC Mtg. @ 6:30
- 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting @ 6:30
- 22<sup>nd</sup> 11:30 Dismissal  
P/T Conf. 1-8 PM
- 23<sup>rd</sup> P/T Conf. 8 AM-12 PM
- 31<sup>st</sup> Happy Halloween!

## **Recycling Competition Is Back!**

## **RECYCLE PLASTIC BAGS...**

We are recycling plastic bags again this year. We are hoping to win a bench for our school. Last year we won the bench that is in the front entrance. We want to win

another one! Trex Company is sponsoring this nationwide contest, and we are competing with other schools that are about our size. I hope that with your help and the help of our community, we can win a bench again this year.

Start bringing your bags in and place them in the cardboard containers in the hallways.

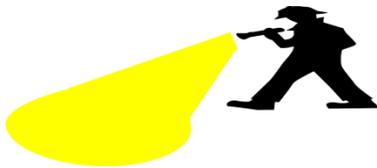
*Mrs. Fleming and our custodial staff will continually sanitize our bag area as students bring in recycling material. We will be emptying our recycling area more often to help keep these zones as clean as possible.*

## **Book Fair Coming Soon!**

The Book Fair is coming to our school from **Monday, October 26 through Friday, October 30**. Things will look a little different this year as we are keeping the book fair to classes only instead of opening it up to the public during our

P/T conference times. With our school trying to cut down on traffic through the stage area, students will be assigned times to come through with a smaller portion of their class to begin looking at books that may interest them. Parents may also go online to check out books in advance by visiting <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/miltonpoppelemschool> to help their student with shopping process. Books may be ordered through the online fair until November 11.

## Teacher Spot Light of the Month



This month's teacher spot light focuses on our Jr. High Resource teacher, Mrs. Kargle, and our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, Ms. Hamilton.

### **Mrs. Kargle writes:**

This school year is off to a great start, the students are doing fantastic adjusting to the new schedule and any changes that we have had to make. They have been familiarizing themselves with IXL a new math program to help enhance their math skills. In my class, we are reviewing basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills getting ready to start some pre-algebra work. They are able to access

the IXL program from any computer and will be using it in the afternoons while at home.

In the next few weeks we will be learning to write compare-and-contrast paragraphs as well as practice RACE (restate, answer, cite, explain) to answer open-response questions. We have also started spelling units and the students will be doing activities revolving around their spelling words while here at school but can also log in to [spellincity.com](http://spellincity.com) when at home in the afternoons to practice their spelling words.

"Education is the key to unlocking the world, a passport to freedom."

~Oprah Winfrey

### **Ms. Hamilton writes:**

September has been a busy month upstairs in second grade. We started the month learning about water cycles, where we were able to do several experiments that showed condensation, evaporation, and precipitation. We also started our Flat Stanley: Kindness around the World Project, in which students were able to make their own Flat Stanley. With their "Stanleys" they had to do an act of kindness in their community. Once they did an act of kindness in their community, they were to send their Stanley to

someone else in another state to do an act of kindness there! The students have been really creative and so far we have: decorated pictures and put them in peoples mailboxes, cleaned ditches in the neighborhood, delivered treats to friends and emergency personnel, donated candy to the police department, and made dinner for a family in need. Students get excited when we are able to fill out another section on our "kindometer," here at school!

## Character Counts



Over the last few years, we have put together a 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade group of students to form our character counts team. Our Team continues to work at creating a culture of continuous character building and at increasing the level of positive behavior in the school environment. Each year we develop a theme for our students to strive for, and encouraging them to become active leaders, volunteers, and role models for their fellow classmates. In doing so, our team comes up with "Monthly Missions" to strive for and passes them along to other classes in a friendly competition.

Below you will see what our monthly competitions will consist of

and what to be looking for when your student comes home with information. We feel that positive involvement and encouraging students to step out to be leaders is a vital attribute and our Character Counts program helps to build that here at Milton Pope.

As we move along into our school year, our Character Counts committee will adjust our plans and ideas to help continue to build student moral and Pilot excitement into our building. We see and understand that many of our original plans and ideas may not fit into the structure of our "Back to School" instruction, so we will pursue new ideas that can still get student involvement as much as possible. So, keep an eye out for Mrs. Thorsen's Character Counts Committee letters and have a fantastic 2020 school year.

**Oct. – Spirit Wear**

**Nov. – Food Pantry Drive/Pet Shelter Drive**

**Dec. – Crazy Christmas Days**

**Jan. – "Caught Being Good"**

**Feb. - Penny War Donations/Hoops 4 Hearts/Crush Pop**

**March- TBD**

**Apr. - TBD**

**May – Field Day**

