

Mill Stream Elementary School
Sticking our necks out for kids!

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Robert Rodrigue, Principal
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November 22, 2024

Dear MSES Families,

As we step into the end of November and move into December, the season of gratitude and togetherness is upon us. The holidays are a wonderful time to reflect on the things we value most—our families, friends, and the strong sense of community we share here at MSES.

This month, we have many exciting events and activities planned to keep our students engaged and growing. As the holidays approach, let's all take a moment to express appreciation for the small and big things that make our school such a special place.

Thank you for your continued support, and we wish you a season filled with warmth and joy!

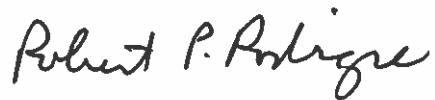
Quick Hitters

- As the colder months approach, we want to share a few seasonal reminders to help keep our students safe and healthy. With winter weather setting in, please make sure your child comes to school dressed warmly for outdoor recess. This includes a coat, hat, gloves or mittens, and snow boots and pants when necessary. Outdoor play is an important part of the day, and we want all students to stay comfortable while enjoying the fresh air. To help prevent lost items, we also encourage families to label winter clothing with your child's name.
- With flu season upon us, it's also a great time to remind students to practice good hygiene, like washing hands frequently, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home if they're feeling unwell. These small actions go a long way in keeping our school community healthy.
- As icy and snowy conditions become more frequent, we ask that everyone exercise extra caution during drop-off and pickup times. Allowing a little extra time can help ensure safety for all. Be sure to check our communication channels for any weather-related updates or delays, and make sure your contact information is current with the school office.
- As we prepare for the winter months, please take a moment to review the **Delayed Openings and Winter Storm Cancellations** letter attached to this newsletter. This document outlines important details about what to expect if school is delayed or canceled due to inclement weather.
- If your child's pickup plans change, please be sure to inform our office as soon as possible, but no later than **1:30 PM**. This ensures we have enough time to communicate the changes and get your child to the correct location safely.

Upcoming Events

- 11/23 Craft Fair 9 am-12 pm
- 11/27-11/29 Thanksgiving Break
- 12/14 Holiday Stroll 5:30 pm-8:00 pm
- 12/16 Grinch Night PreK 5:00 pm-7:00 pm
- 12/17 Winter Concert
- 12/25-12/31 Holiday Break
- 1/1 New Year's Day

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert P. Rodrigue". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent dot over the 'i' in Rodrigue.

Robert P. Rodrigue

Principal Mill Stream Elementary School

Dear Mill Stream Elementary School Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. We are excited to inform you that Mill Stream Elementary School's Winter Concert is just around the corner, and your child will be participating in this joyous event.

We understand the importance of your involvement and would love to see you there to support your child and the entire school community. The Winter Concert is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the hard work and talents of our students. Following the concert, students will return to their classrooms for the remainder of the day. We kindly ask that children stay for the remainder of the day to minimize the disruptions in our school day. Parents that have children participating in both performances are encouraged to remain in the gym to attend both performances. If you do not have children in both performances, we ask that you exit to provide room in the gym for other community members entering the school for our second showing.

Lastly, we kindly ask that all parents and guests remain seated until the end of the concert. When audience members leave during the performance, it can be distracting to the performers and may interfere with others' ability to fully enjoy the show. Your cooperation helps ensure that our students feel supported and celebrated for their hard work. Thank you for your understanding and for helping make this event a success for everyone!

Details of the Winter Concert

Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Snow Date: Thursday, December 19, 2024

Venue: Mill Stream Elementary School Gym

Performance Schedule:

Pre-K-2nd Grade Students 9:00am-9:30am

3rd-5th Grade Students 10:00am-10:45am

Student Attire

All students are asked to "dress for success" and look their best as we celebrate their hard work.

Students that are in **4th and 5th grade Band, Orchestra, or Chorus** are encouraged to wear all black or any combination of black and white. If we can support meeting this request, please reach out.

Delayed Openings and Winter Storm Cancellations

During the winter months, storms can and will cause school to be canceled or delayed in RSU 54/MSAD 54. This decision will generally be made by 6:00 a.m. Additionally, RSU 54/MSAD 54 may utilize a one or two-hour delay in the morning. This decision will also be made by 6:00 a.m.

The procedure for announcing a delay will be the same as closing school for the day or an early dismissal. Announcements will be made on the same television and radio stations as usual, and on districts instant alert system by email, voice mail, and text message. Buses and start times will be one or two hours later than normal. Staff and students should report to school one or two hours later than a normal day and be dismissed at the regular time.

We believe that this approach will cause less disruption for parents and families than an all-day closing. If it becomes necessary to dismiss school earlier than usual during the day, dismissal will typically occur at 11 :45 a.m.

Please check the following radio and television stations for specific times:

- 92Moose (92.3 FM)
- Cruisin 93.5 (93.5 FM)
- 107.9 The Mix (107.9 FM)
- WVII-TV
- WLBZ-TV
- WCSH-TV
- Fox22
- All local channels

Dismissals will also be posted on our website at www.msad54.org and sent via email, phone, and text message.

Weather and road conditions vary widely around the district. Decisions on whether to hold school are made for safety reasons. You, as parents or guardians, are always the best decision makers as to whether you believe the conditions on your road or street are safe for your child.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have questions.

Thank you,



Robert P. Rodrigue

Principal Mill Stream Elementary School