



**August Newsletter from Principal Pauls ....**  
**August 31, 2023**

Dear Mills Park Families,

We have had a wonderful first few days of school and we're excited to have our new kindergarten students with us next week.

We have some new faces at Mills Park this year, so I'd like to formally introduce you to our newest teachers and staff:

<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Position</b>
Jennifer Kennedy	Kindergarten Teacher Assistant
Kamal Joshi	First Grade Teacher Assistant
Kristin McCann	Third Grade Teacher
Lindsay Howald	Fourth Grade Teacher
Samantha Tawfik	Third Grade Teacher
Mia Zhang	Fifth Grade Teacher
Leslie Legler	4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Special Ed. Teacher
Gretta Elchik	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Special Ed. Teacher
Poorvi Gupta	Building Substitute

For the remainder of the year, you will receive my Parent Newsletter on the last Thursday of the month. It will be posted on our school website, emailed to you by your student's teacher, and texted via SchoolMessenger. Please take a few minutes to read my parent newsletters as they contain important information, updates, and upcoming events.

I look forward to working with you this year to ensure a successful school year for your child. If you need assistance during the school year, please do not hesitate to contact me or Chris Lewis, our assistant principal. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Anne Pauls  
Principal, Mills Park Elementary



### **Upcoming Events for September 2023**

- Sept. 1: Kindergarten Meet-the-Teacher, 2:30-3:30 PM
- Sept. 4: Labor Day Holiday – No School for Students and Staff
- Sept. 5: First Day for all Kindergarten and PreK Students
- Sept. 6: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Beginning-of-Year Reading Test (BOG)
- Sept. 11: MPE Fall Fundraiser Kick Off
- Sept. 11: Girls on the Run Begins
- Sept. 12: K-5 Open House, 5:30-6:15 PM, Classrooms
- Sept. 12: 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade AIG Process Overview, 6:00-6:15 PM, Room 2401
- Sept. 12: General PTA Meeting, 6:20-7:00 PM, Media Center
- Sept. 19: MPE Fun Run, times TBD
- Sept. 21: Spirit Night – Papa John’s
- Sept. 25: Teacher Workday, No School for Students
- Sept. 29: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Interim Reports Sent Home

### **[2023-2024 WCPSS Traditional Calendar](#)**

### **Open House – September 12, 2023**

Parents, please join us on September 12th for MPE’s Open House Nights (see schedule below). During Open House, you can expect to hear information about curriculum, grading, expectations, etc.

#### Tuesday, September 12, 2023

- 5:30 – 6:15 PM: K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Open House
- 6:00 – 6:15 PM: 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade AIG Process Meeting (Room 2401)
- 6:20 – 7:00 PM: PTA General Meeting (Media Center)

### **Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Fall Nomination Window**

The AIG fall nomination window for fourth and fifth grade students is open through September 22. You may nominate your child to be considered for an AIG (Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted) referral. You do not need to nominate your child if he or she is already identified, but you may nominate your child if you would like your child considered for a second area of identification (ELA or Math). Please complete the Google form linked [here](#), forwarded by classroom teachers, or via the AIG website. Please know that nominations for the fall nomination window will not be accepted after September 22, but may be added to the spring nomination window. If you have further questions, please visit the AIG website or contact our AIG teachers (mblewett@wcpss.net or kamurray@wcpss.net).



### **MPE Fall Fundraiser - Boosterthon**

Our Mills Park Elementary Boosterthon Fun Run fundraiser kicks off on 09/11/2023. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. Our students register online then get pledges from friends and families for running laps during the Fun Run on Sept. 19th. Boosterthon staff will be at the school from kick-off until the event day running a character education program. You can also see them at carpool, getting the kids pumped up with music and dancing.

Every share and donation makes a difference! And, don't forget...

- All students get to participate in the event day, regardless of financial participation
- All students will receive a free t-shirt
- Students will experience an incredible character development program.
- Students receive a prize just for registering
- Register before 9/11 to be entered in a drawing

The fun run is a great community event. Parents are invited to come cheer for their students and be part of the fun!

Register your child at [mybooster.com](https://mybooster.com) - every registered student automatically receives a reward and students can receive a reward just for sharing.

Our school has always relied on fundraising to provide exceptional opportunities to enhance student learning and we need YOUR HELP registering your student(s) and sharing with friends and family.

### **Key dates to remember:**

Kick Off - 09/11/2023

Event Date - 09/19/2023 (There will be three runs, by grade level. Look for the times announced in Panther Press and teacher newsletter.)

### **Here Comes the Bus**

WCPSS Transportation provides families of students who ride a yellow bus to school with a free bus tracking system called **Here Comes the Bus**. **Here Comes the Bus** translates GPS data into an easy-to-use customizable map that works on a computer, tablet, or smartphone. The app allows you to see where the bus is and how close it is to your stop.

Get started with **Here Comes the Bus** at <https://herecomesthebus.com/parents/get-started/>. You will need the district code and your student's ID number to sign up. For your smartphone or tablet, download the **Here Comes the Bus** app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

The WCPSS school code for Yellow Bus is **67500**. The WCPSS school code for Vendor Transportation Services is **67501**. [Learn more about Here Comes the Bus for Vendor Transportation Services.](#)



When entering your student's last name on the app, spell it as it appears on your Home Base/PowerSchool account. If there is a hyphen in the name, make sure you include it. Only enter the first 18 characters of your student's last name. If your name is, *Yellow-School Bus Wake*, you will enter *Yellow-School Bus* in the last name field.

### **\*\*\*Reminders from August 8, 2023 Newsletter\*\*\***

#### **Visiting the School – New Visitor Management System**

All exterior doors will remain locked during the school day. When visiting the school, our front desk receptionist, Mrs. Burnet, will routinely engage with you through the speaker before buzzing you into the building. WCPSS has installed our new Visitor Management System that will be used district wide. To sign in, you will be asked to provide identifying information, including name, date of birth, and have your photo taken. For an easier check-in process, ***please have your driver's license or state-approved ID from any state ready*** each time you enter the building.

#### **Possible Changes After the 20<sup>th</sup> Day of School**

Teacher allotments are based on the number of students who show up within the first twenty days of school. After the twentieth day of school, we may need to make changes to class assignments due to an increase or decrease in student enrollment.

#### **Breakfast/Lunch Information**

- Breakfast = \$1.50                      Lunch = \$3.25
- [Click here to apply for free/reduced meals](#)
- [Click here for Information about school meals and menus](#)
- [Click here to Pre-pay for Meals Online](#)

#### **School Menus**

Menus will now be available on WCPSS's interactive website, [Mealviewer](#). Monthly school meal menu PDFs will no longer be posted on the district website. In [Mealviewer](#), families will be able to:

- View 5 weeks of menus in PDF and print if desired
- Set up multiple profiles at the schools of your choice
- See any menu changes posted by the manager at each site
- Choose menu items based on allergens
- View nutrients and carbohydrate count for each menu item
- Print menus with carb counts per item and items with allergens designated



### **Volunteer Registration 23-24**

Every parent/volunteer will have to fill out a NEW volunteer application for the 2023-2024 school year (even if you were an approved volunteer last year).

#### **WCPSS Volunteer Registration for Parents and Community Volunteers**

All WCPSS parent and community volunteers are required to register through the new MyVolunteer system. Please complete your registration on a computer at home or school. It is very difficult to complete using a mobile phone. It can take several weeks for your registration to be approved so don't wait until field trips to try and register. Register now so you are ready and able to volunteer in the classroom, volunteer for school events, or chaperone at any time this school year!

1. Click the link below to start your volunteer registration: <https://myvolunteer.com/wcpss/volunteer/login>
2. Click create new account.
3. Complete the online form and select all the schools that you are requesting to volunteer or chaperone for the 2023-2024 school year.
4. It will then say pending.
5. Soon after you will receive an email with a customized link for you to complete next steps for your background check. This link expires 10 days from the day you receive the email. Follow the instructions in that email. You will fill out all items in red boxes and then you will review and digitally sign four documents (Summary of Rights Under the FCRA, Disc & Auth, NC Security Freeze Notice, and WCPSS Volunteer Agreement).
6. If you leave the CRC background site before completing your contact information, you will have to begin the process again.
7. You must include your social security number to register to volunteer. If you do not have a social security number, please contact [volunteers@wcpss.net](mailto:volunteers@wcpss.net) or call 919-694-8233.
8. Great news is that this year you will be notified by the MyVolunteer system if you are approved to volunteer!