



**From the Principal....**

**January 31, 2023**

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your family are safe and healthy. Please join me in celebrating the incredible talents and accomplishments of many of our MPE students listed below. You'll also find information in this newsletter about the Kids Heart Challenge, Cary Chamber of Commerce Honor-A-Teacher nominations, and End-of-Grade (EOG) dates.

**Reflections Winner: Wake County Visual Arts, Primary Division**

Congratulations to [Seline Lee](#) (Ms. Milberg's K class) for winning 3rd place in Reflections Competition in the Wake County Visual Arts, Primary Division. Seline has advanced to the State Level.

**2022-2023 First-in-Fitness Team**

I am proud to announce our 22-23 MPE First-in Fitness Team. These 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students will represent Mills Park at the First-in-Fitness competition against 20+ schools from across Wake County later this Spring. Congratulations to the following Student Athletes:

Grade	Mile Run	Shuttle Run	Pull-Ups	Standing Long Jump
5	<b>Eshaan Singh</b>	<b>Colin Hornik</b>	<b>Nathan Zeng</b>	<b>Jay Daily</b>
5	<b>Chloe Campbell</b>	<b>Finley Bednasz</b>	<b>Natalie Xu</b>	<b>Hannah Chu</b>
4	<b>Hady Kourany</b>	<b>David Qi</b>	<b>Alex Erickson</b>	<b>Luke Kirby</b>
4	<b>Arya Mehta</b>	<b>Mackenzie Sadler</b>	<b>Aisling Kung</b>	<b>Karissa Fleeman</b>
3	<b>Liam Liu</b>	<b>Lucas Liu</b>	<b>Keshav Villegas</b>	<b>Tristan Kennedy</b>
3	<b>Janey Zuo</b>	<b>Moriah Thomas</b>	<b>Juliette Fleeman</b>	<b>Isabel Bernhardt</b>

Grade	Speed Rope	100 yd. Dash	Triathlon
5	<b>Jiayu Cao</b>	<b>Trevor Brennan</b>	<b>Eli Craven</b>
5	<b>Avery Zhao</b>	<b>Emerson Bradshaw</b>	<b>Ziva Liu</b>
4	<b>Ian Lee</b>	<b>Drew Sloan</b>	
4	<b>Leila Abraham</b>	<b>Maeve Lareau</b>	
3	<b>Ian Chang</b>	<b>Ethan Yuan</b>	
3	<b>Thara Mani</b>	<b>Ryann Sadler</b>	



### **Spelling Bee - School and Class Champions**

Congratulations to **Reyansh Joshi**, Mrs. White's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class, for winning MPE's school spelling bee on Jan. 26th! Competing against 16 other class champions (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>), Reyansh prevailed and will now move on to the district spelling bee. Please join me in wishing Reyansh all the best at the district spelling bee on Feb. 10 at Ligon Middle School. I also want to congratulate all our classroom spelling bee winners:

Student Name	Grade	Teacher Name
<b>Nathan Li</b>	1st	Ms. Bernier
<b>Kate Istvan</b>	1st	Ms. Schindler
<b>Gautham Harish</b>	1st	Ms. Ingle
<b>Elena Hu</b>	1st	Ms. Riggsbee
<b>Grace Jin</b>	1st	Ms. Dowell
<b>Janani Nachiappan</b>	1st	Ms. Noble
<b>Architha Raghavan</b>	2nd	Ms. Puff
<b>Amyra Minhas</b>	2nd	Ms. Katzenberger
<b>Eytan Billard</b>	2nd	Ms. Blatz
<b>Adam Okiishi</b>	2nd	Ms. Cogswell
<b>Swathi Thirukonda</b>	2nd	Ms. Fayad
<b>William Zhu</b>	2nd	Ms. Smith
<b>Matthew Liu</b>	3rd	Ms. Fischer
<b>Juliette Fleeman</b>	3rd	Ms. Kist
<b>Rishi Chaudhuri</b>	3rd	Ms. Schreiber
<b>Akshar Puligari</b>	3rd	Ms. Murawa
<b>Sithara Sanjiv</b>	3rd	Ms. Pollard
<b>Eddie Zhu</b>	3rd	Ms. Moxley
<b>Hannah Lin</b>	4th	Ms. Nixon
<b>Sophia Peter</b>	4th	Ms. Brooks
<b>Xinyue (Emily) Zhu</b>	4th	Ms. Hilliard
<b>Srisha Vudanrao</b>	4th	Ms. Reichel
<b>Avika Yadav</b>	4th	Ms. Ware
<b>Jiayu Cao</b>	5th	Ms. McNamara
<b>Reyansh Joshi</b>	5th	Ms. White
<b>Isha Selvarathnam</b>	5th	Ms. Daddona
<b>Dhruv Vaishnavi</b>	5th	Ms. Rochelle
<b>Mrithik Ajith</b>	5th	Mr. Mohn
<b>Tejas Ganesh</b>	5th	Mr. Mohn



### **Honor A Teacher Nominations**

Excellence in teaching – we know it when we see it. It can be the teacher who spends extra time with the students who need it most, or the teacher who is creative enough to inspire a real love of learning in a student. Perhaps it's a teacher who cares enough to be involved with their students beyond the classroom. Whatever their methods, certain teachers make a real impact on students and their learning abilities.

We would like to recognize one such teacher and we need your help. The Cary Chamber of Commerce has been a leader in supporting education in our community through numerous programs and activities. One of the most critical needs of Wake County schools is that of attracting and retaining the best classroom teachers. With the Cary Chamber of Commerce's Honor a Teacher Program we hope to help our school system in meeting that challenge.

Building on the success of the Discovery Award first sponsored by the Ashworth family in 1991, followed by the Clara Knoll Award in 2000 by Barry and DJ Mitsch, the Cary Chamber has secured sponsors to develop a teaching awards program for all schools in the Cary Area.

We are asking our community to nominate teachers for this award. Included with your nomination, please describe why you feel this particular teacher deserves this award. Nominations must be submitted no later than Friday, February 17 at 5:00pm. These nominations will then be narrowed down to finalists that will be interviewed by a designated committee. Here is the link to the nomination form: <https://forms.gle/73dpXwsWGcNqh2HX7>

If you have any questions, please email Kelcey Ashworth, Vice President of Education & Member Business Services, at [kashworth@carychamber.com](mailto:kashworth@carychamber.com).

### **Kids Heart Challenge**

Our American Heart Association **Kids Heart Challenge** event will begin next week in PE class! It will run from the week of Jan. 30th until Feb. 17th. All donations must be online (no cash or checks) and are due by Friday, Feb. 17th. Students will receive more information next week during their PE class and will bring home a KHC letter for parents.

We need your help to accomplish our goal of having 100% of our families to know Hands-Only CPR, and you can help us by registering your child and spreading the word. Here's how you can help:

- [Click Here to Register!](#) (make sure you sign-up for the Mills Park Elementary team)
- **Complete Finn's Mission:** Watch a 2-minute video to know Hands-Only CPR, spot the signs of a stroke and more!
- **Share with friends and family** through social media, text and/or email

You can help our class win the classroom challenge! Our goal is to have 100% of our students register online and complete Finn's Mission.



### **End-of-Grade (EOG) Test Schedule**

EOGs must be administered during the last ten days of school. Below is our tentative EOG test schedule. This could change based on updated guidance from the district or state.

- May 31, 2023: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Reading EOG
- June 1, 2023: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Math EOG
- June 6, 2023: 5<sup>th</sup> Science EOG

### **----Monthly Reminders----**

### **Kindergarten Registration is open for the 2023-2024 School Year**

If your child is 5 years old by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, you can register for kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year. [Click HERE](#) to go to the Wake County website to access the online application process.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Michael Regan  
Principal

<https://www.wcpss.net/millsparkes>  
[2022-2023 WCPSS Traditional Calendar](#)

**\*\*\*\*See below for upcoming events for February 2023\*\*\*\***



### **Upcoming Events for February 2023**

Feb. 6: 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report Card go home for all students (K-5)

Feb. 6-10: Valentine's Day Candygram Sales (8:45 am), (K & 1st: Feb. 6; 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>: Feb. 7-8; 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>: Feb. 9-10)

Feb. 8: PTA General Membership Meeting (Fun & Facts Night), Media Center, 6:15 pm

- 6:15 - Sign-in/Dinner
- 6:30 - PTA Program Updates
- 6:40 - Counselors' Presentation on Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
- 7:10 - Team Trivia

Feb. 13-17: Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week

Feb. 14: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip, NC Symphony

Feb. 16: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip, Colonial Williamsburg

Feb. 17: ECS Onsite Field Trip, Mad Science

Feb. 20: Presidents' Day Holiday, No School for Students and Staff

Feb. 21: Class Picture Day

Feb. 24: ECS Field Trip, Marbles Museum