



From the Principal....

November 30, 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a wonderful, safe, and relaxing Thanksgiving break with family and friends.

COVID-19 Voluntary Testing Program at Mills Park ES

Our school, in partnership with MAKO Medical, will begin offering weekly, on-campus COVID-19 testing for students and staff. COVID-19 testing is an effective way to reduce transmission, especially when layered with other measures.

Participation in the program is voluntary. A parent or guardian must register any K-12 student under 18 years old in order for a COVID-19 test to be administered. Pre-K students who attend school within K-12 school buildings are eligible for the state-approved vendor testing with Mako.

The testing is simple: Trained MAKO Medical staff quickly and gently swab students' noses. They place all the swabs in a single tube (that's the pooling step). The samples in that tube are then tested as a single sample, using one test. If a positive test is received, everyone in the "pool" will return to school the next day to take another test to identify the person who tested positive for COVID-19. [Learn more about pooled testing.](#)

[Register now>](#)

First Day of Testing

- First Testing Day: Thursday, December 9, 2021
- Weekly Testing Day: Thursdays
- Testing Location: Care Center (Rm. 1305)

Thank you for helping to keep our school community safe and healthy.

MPE's Warms the Heart Program

Through December 13th, Mills Park Elementary conducts a program called Warms the Heart where Mills Park families contribute gift cards to other Mills Park families to assist them with the holidays and/or winter months. If you need assistance this year, please contact Nancy Stavarakakis at nstavarakakis@wcpss.net. Your name will be kept confidential. If you are wanting to donate, you may drop gift cards off at Mills Park Elementary through December 13th. There is a locked box on the cart outside during normal school hours, or you can ring the bell and our receptionist will assist you. We are asking that all gift cards be in \$25 increments and are from grocery stores or other stores that will have food, clothing and toys like Target or Walmart. If you have questions regarding donations, please email Teri Armstrong at tarmstrong@wcpss.net. Please see [this LINK](#) for more information.



AIG Fifth Grade Spring Nomination Window

The nomination window for nominating students to be considered for the AIG program is open through December 5. Please complete [this Google Form](#) to nominate your fifth-grade student.

Reminder - Spelling Bee 2022

By now you should have received the Class Spelling Bee and School Spelling Bee Study Lists from your child's teacher. If you have not, please contact your child's teacher.

- Class Spelling Bees (grades 1-5) will be held the week of Jan. 3rd (the week we return from the holiday break)
- The School Spelling Bee is scheduled for January 14, 2022. Only class spelling bee winners from grades 3, 4, 5 participate in the School Spelling Bee.

----Monthly Reminders----

Early Arrival Program – Space Available

Mills Park's on-site Before-School Care program has room for more students. If your child is enrolled in the program, you may drop him/her off as early as 7:00 am (park along bus loop and walk student into the cafeteria). The cost per month for each child is \$94.65. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$15.00 per child. You can enroll your child(ren) in Before School Care now by completing this [Before School Care Registration form](#).

Kindergarten Registration is open for the 2022-2023 School Year

If your child is 5 years old by August 31st, 2022, you can register for kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year. [Click HERE](#) to go to the Wake County website to access the online application process.

Isolation/Quarantine & Continuing Education

If a student attending school in-person must quarantine due to exposure to COVID or isolate due a positive test, your child's teacher will post assignments on their Google Classroom site. Parents will be contacted within three days on how to access the Google Classroom site and to provide any other pertinent information.



Students Experiencing COVID-19 Symptoms

Students must stay home if experiencing any of the following COVID-19 symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If a student is experiencing one of the COVID-19 symptoms listed above, he/she must meet 1 of 3 pathways to return after COVID-19 symptoms:

- negative PCR/Molecular COVID-19 test
- alternate diagnosis
- presumed positive

View wcpss.net/WhenToReturn for requirements to return after a COVID-19 diagnosis, exposure, or symptoms.

WCPSS COVID-19 Metrics

To find the most current data on COVID-19 cases at all WPCSS school, please go to [WCPSS's COVID-19 Metrics site](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Michael Regan

Principal

<https://www.wcpss.net/millsparkes>

******Scroll to the next page to see upcoming events for December 2021******



Upcoming Events for December 2021

Dec. 1-17: 2021 Staff Holiday Treat Exchange, Part I: Staff Lounge Treats ([see PTA website](#))

Dec. 1: Fall Picture Make-ups

Dec. 7: PTA Board Meeting, Media Center Office, 9:30 am

Dec. 8: Deadline to drop off Staff Lounge Treat (**see This Week's PTA Announcements*)

Dec. 15: 2021 Staff Holiday Treat Exchange Part II: Holiday Loaf Lowes Foods Bag ([see PTA website](#))

Dec. 16: Lowes Community Shopping Night, 3-8 p.m. ([see PTA website](#))

Dec. 20: Teacher Workday, No School for Students

Dec. 21: Teacher Workday, No School for Students

Dec. 20-31: Holiday Break

Jan. 3: First Day back for Students after the Holiday Break