

# MILLARD FILLMORE ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025

## PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season. As we begin 2025, it's a great time for our students to set new goals and reflect on their progress so far in the school year. At Millard Fillmore Elementary, we believe in the power of goal-setting and how it helps children grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

### Setting Goals for the New Year

The start of a new year offers an excellent opportunity to consider what we want to accomplish. Setting goals is a powerful way to stay focused and motivated, whether it's improving friendships, achieving a higher grade, or trying a new activity.

We are encouraging students to think about personal goals they'd like to achieve in the coming months. Our teachers will be working with them to set both short-term and long-term goals, helping them track progress and celebrate success along the way.

We invite families to participate in this process by helping their children reflect on their strengths and areas they'd like to improve. A goal-setting conversation can be a great way to start the year, and it will remind your child that growth comes through effort and perseverance.

At Millard Fillmore Elementary, we are all committed to helping our students shine. Whether in the classroom, on the playground, or at home, we believe we can accomplish amazing things when we all work together and support one another. Let's make this year one where every student feels inspired, valued, and empowered to reach their full potential.

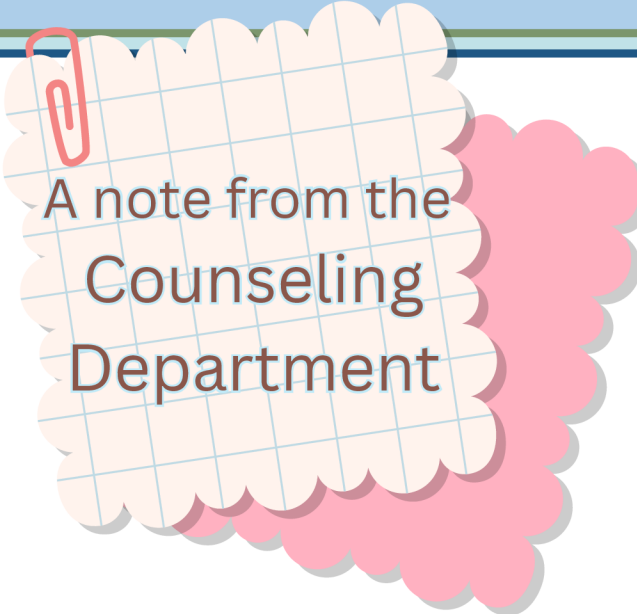
Thank you for being an important part of our school community. With your support, we know our students will continue to shine bright together!

-Mrs. DiVietro



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 20th: MLK Jr. Day / No Classes
- Jan. 29th: Lunar New Year / No Classes
- Feb. 17th: Presidents' Day / No Classes
- Feb. 17th-21st: Mid-Winter Recess / No Classes



### A note from the Counseling Department

This year, during SEL time with the counseling team, we've been focusing on the growth mindset and how our brains work. Lessons have taught students that the brain grows stronger with practice and that making mistakes is okay. We've emphasized that challenges are opportunities to learn and grow, helping students feel more confident in their ability to tackle new things and keep improving.



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LOOK WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO!

Haudenosaunee Day  
Wampum Belts



Holiday Spirit Week



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EXCELLING IN YOUTH SPORTS...

## Cheerleading



## Gymnastics



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Hockey



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## Wrestling



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Our students have been working hard in PE the last couple months. In December, we spent a few weeks working on our basketball skills. The students spent time practicing their dribbling, passing, and shooting skills while getting a chance to utilize them in different competitions and activities. Hopefully, this will assist them in their future practices/games with travel and biddy basketball if they are participating in those.

Since we have been back from holiday break, we have been practicing our jump roping skills with our UPK - 5th grade students. All classes have had the chance to practice some basic jump roping skills and some tricks as well. Our 3rd - 5th grade students have had the opportunity to try out for the 1, 2, and 3 minute "club." In these, the students have to be able to jump rope for the given amount of time without stopping or making a mistake to achieve this accomplishment. Our K - 2nd grade students have had the opportunity to try and achieve the kangaroo club where they need to jump 5 times in a row for kindergarten, 10 times for 1st grade, and 15 times for 2nd grade. We have had a lot of students already make it into each of these clubs and are seeing more and more improvement each time.

Some things to look forward to in PE for the rest of the year is our Kids Heart Challenge Fundraiser in March and our Field Day at the end of the school year.

Keep working hard and be active!  
-Mrs. Moseley and Mr. Valentino



# MUSIC & BAND



The school's music program has started an exciting new year across all grade levels. Students have shown incredible dedication in their musical development.

In December, students explored music from different holidays and cultures, practiced sight-reading, and enjoyed learning to play the dreidel. UPK, Kindergarten, and first graders learned how tempos evoke emotions and explored tone color while identifying instruments by sound.

Second graders completed a study of the string family and began exploring the brass family. They'll soon produce sounds on a trumpet and trombone before moving on to the woodwind family, where they'll create their own instruments.

Third graders have been advancing in the "Recorder Karate" program, mastering skills and earning belts for their achievements.

Fourth graders are working on a composer travel brochure project, researching historical composers and presenting their findings to the class. Fifth graders have been immersed in a musical theater unit, learning about Ancient Greece's influence and stage performance fundamentals.

The Elementary school's bands and choruses gave a memorable holiday concert in December and are now preparing for the All-District Vocal and All-District Instrumental Concerts in March as part of Music in Our Schools Month.

Meanwhile, fourth-grade band students are working toward earning their Yellow Belt in Band Karate, while fifth graders aim for their Green Belt. Both groups are building strong instrumental skills.

The Orff Ensemble performed for the first time in December and is now studying musical elements such as melody, harmony, and accompaniments like ostinati. The drama club is rehearsing for their production of "The Legend of Mulan," with anticipation building for February's opening night.

The music program continues to thrive, thanks to the hard work of students and the support of their families, promising another year filled with creativity and learning.

-Mr. Little and Miss Fland

