

Fairfield Public Schools
MILL HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
635 Mill Hill Terrace · Southport, Connecticut 06890-1262
Kevin Chase, Principal · Telephone: 203-255-8320 · Fax: 203-255-8205

Since this is always such a busy time of year, I have chosen to use this principal's newsletter to update and remind you about some school and district initiatives.

News Items

PTA National School of Excellence Survey: In collaboration with Mr. Chase, the Mill Hill PTA is excited to announce its participation in the National PTA School of Excellence program, which celebrates partnerships between PTA and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well being of all students. As a National PTA School of Excellence, families feel welcomed and empowered to support student success, and the PTA is a key partner for continuous school improvement. **We need your help!** As part of our participation in the School of Excellence program, the National PTA requests feedback from families at two points in the school year; the beginning and end. Your feedback in the beginning of the program will help to generate a customized plan which will provide specific recommendations to our school for improving our family-school partnership and achieving excellence. Please take 5-10 minutes to reflect on your experience at Mill Hill by clicking on the link below and completing the online survey. There are **no right or wrong answers** to these questions and the **survey is completely anonymous**. Your honest feedback is invaluable to us and your responses and ideas will help drive school improvements. If you prefer, you may pick up a paper copy of the survey in the school office or download it from the PTA website.

Link to ONLINE Family Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MHFamilySurvey>

Link to PAPER Family Survey: [Mill Hill Family Survey](#)

We ask that surveys be completed no later than **Friday, October 17th**.

Thank you in advance for your participation and please let us know if you have any questions!

Kelly Jacobson School of Excellence Committee Chair: keljacobson@yahoo.com

Wendi Malone PTA President: wendimillhillpta@gmail.com

Kristin Nierman PTA President-Elect: kristinmillhillpta@gmail.com

School Climate Survey: Please be aware that all parents are invited to take a School Climate survey between October 20 and 31. It will be located in Infinite Campus and is an important way for us to get feedback about Mill Hill's school climate. A notice with details about the survey will be sent out soon. Additionally, students in grades 3-5 will take a student version of the survey at school. Their feedback is extremely helpful as we continue to refine our school climate procedures.

CMT Science and SBAC: We recently received our fifth grade science CMT results. Please be aware that even though the CMT has been replaced with the SBAC assessment, as of now, grade 5 students will



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continue to take the CMT science assessment. As always, Mill Hill's students did very well. 85% of our students scored at/above goal level. Additionally, 23% of students scored at the highest level (advanced) and 96% scored at/above proficiency. We continue to be very proud of their hard work and effort. Finally, I have no updates on how Mill Hill's grade 3-5 students performed on SBAC. We may get limited information from the State of CT in December. I will let you know if/when we do.

Infinite Campus: Please make sure you register. Most of our school communication will come through Infinite Campus. In order for you to receive attachments, you must click the email option for how you want to receive messages. You are able to receive messages in multiple ways at once. Also, if you need to make any informational changes to your IC account for example, your emergency contacts, you can do this yourself. There is a parent guidebook that we have attached to our website under School Related Links.

Anti-Bullying Policy: The district has adopted (based on state guidelines) some new procedures about reporting possible bullying incidents. First, it is the school's responsibility to notify the parents of any child being accused of bullying about an investigation, which we already do at Mill Hill. Second, we need to offer both students and parents an opportunity to make an anonymous bullying report. Thus, we have placed a box in the library called a Heads Up Box. Both students and parents can write a note, or complete a form that will be next to the box alerting us to any specific concerns they may have related to potential bullying. This note/form can be completed anonymously or with a name attached to it. Either way, the School Climate Committee members and I will check this box on a regular basis and follow up on any specific concerns. Within the next week, teachers will be letting students know about this procedure.

Safety: Some basic safety procedures you should be aware of: The building does not open until 8:45 and remains locked all day. If you are entering the school, please make sure to sign in at the front desk and get a visitor's badge. Finally, as you know, upon ringing the buzzer the secretaries will screen any visitor attempting to enter Mill Hill. Please be patient with them when they ask you why you are visiting Mill Hill.

Walkathon: What an amazing afternoon it was!! Thank you to all who made this day possible. Harley the Hawk showed up for the action as students and staff walked and danced their way around the school for several laps. The weather couldn't have been more beautiful and I'm pretty sure the kids got a good laugh out of their principal getting several whipped cream pies in his face!

School Spirit Days: Please remember that our School Spirit Days are scheduled for the last Friday of every month, so our next one falls on October 31. We will be having our Costume Parade as we did last year, but costumes are put on at the end of the day, so there is still plenty of time to sport your school colors! It is a delight to see all of the children in blue and white throughout the school on School Spirit Days! Mill Hill truly is *a Home for the Mind & Heart!* Please remember to celebrate our school spirit on these days.



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Get to know our staff: I'm Miss Grapski. I will be teaching kindergarten at Mill Hill this fall. This will be my first year at Mill Hill, but I've taught in the Fairfield Schools for 25 years, 11 of them as a kindergarten teacher. I taught first grade at Stratfield Elementary School for the last six years

I've lived in Fairfield most of my adult life, and my three children graduated from Fairfield Warde High School; all three are in Connecticut universities where they are pursuing degrees in education.

I completed my undergraduate degree in elementary education at Southern Connecticut State University and my Master's Degree at Fairfield University. I also completed sixth and seventh year graduate programs through the University of New England and the University of Massachusetts.

I love teaching, but when I'm not in a classroom I can often be found reading a good book, photographing or kayaking with my family. My aunt and I kayaked the Connecticut River from the Massachusetts border to its estuary in Long Island Sound. This summer I hope to explore many of the river's backwaters and tributaries.

I'm excited to be joining the Mill Hill faculty and community!

Please remember to visit our website (<http://fairfieldschools.org/schools/mh/>) and/or Infinite Campus for an up-to-date calendar of events and regular communication.

