



Milaca Tracks & Tales

500 Hwy 23 West, Milaca MN 56353

Reminders

Tuesday, May 22
Last Day of School



**Thank you
for voting
on May 8**

Small Perks

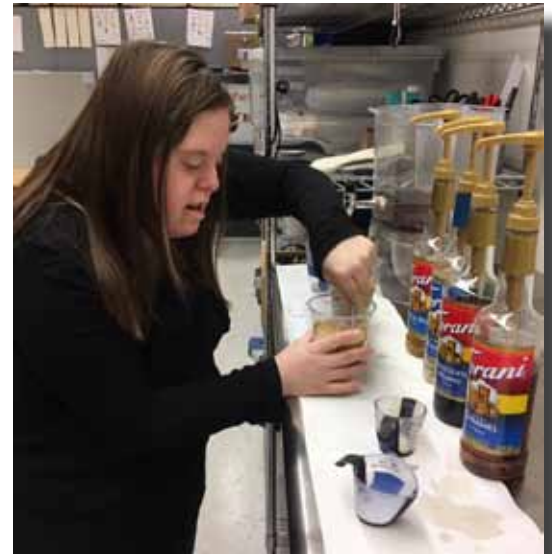
Sarah Marte, Work-Based Learning Coordinator

Work Skills classes at Milaca High School focus on teaching employment skills to students in the special education program. As part of the program, Small Perks, a coffee cart business, was developed in 2016 to provide students with real-life work experiences. Small Perks offers high school and elementary staff almost 40 different beverages including coffee, tea, hot chocolate, cold brew lattes, and the newest addition, smoothies. Business is booming! High school staff is served on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the elementary staff is served on Fridays. To date, student workers have prepared almost 4,000 beverages!

Students are responsible for preparing and delivering the beverages to staff. After staff places their order by using a Google form, students organize and process the orders, clean and prepare workstations, and make the beverages. There are three beverage stations set up in the classroom to help students manage the number of orders. They work at the coffee machine, hot chocolate and tea station, or the cold beverage counter until the orders are complete. Once the beverages are made, they load up the coffee cart and plan their delivery route. Students use a prepared script while working with customers and collect cash or punch the correct amount on prepaid punch cards.

Students are also responsible for restocking supplies, cleaning workstations, and counting money. With assistance from teachers or job coaches, students complete timecards that rank their job performance. Students are paid in plastic coins, or other bonuses, according to how they were ranked. Students have the opportunity to spend their coins weekly, on payday, for various incentives.

We also have incentives for staff, such as earning a free beverage with a punch card purchase, monthly drawings for a free punch card, and other seasonal specials. Milaca staff enjoy the Small Perks beverage cart and are supportive of the Work Skills program.



Maud Hart Lovelace Award

Michelle Leom, Grade 4 Teacher

Last fall, Ms. Leom's fourth grade classes started reading books being considered for the Maud Hart Lovelace 2018 Award. Maud Hart Lovelace was a Minnesota



author who wrote books about her life growing up in Mankato, MN in the early 1900s. The Minnesota Youth Reading Awards developed the Maud Hart Lovelace Award to encourage students to read for fun. The winner is determined by students selecting and reading books from a designated list, then voting for their favorite.

Fourth graders read in various ways, such as Ms. Leom reading to the class, students reading independently, and students reading in small groups. In early April, students who read at least three books were invited to vote for their favorite book using a Google form on their iPads. On Friday, April 27, fourth grade students from Ms. Leom and Mr. Greninger's classes were invited to participate in a MN Historical Society History Live! videoconference to meet and interact with an actress portraying Ms. Lovelace in real-time. At the end the videoconference, the winning book was revealed! Cynthia DeFelice's 2016 book, *Fort*, won the 2018 Maud Hart Lovelace Award. It was exciting for students to be actively involved in determining a new award-winning book!

Students Tour Washington D.C.

Colleen Bell, Social Studies Teacher

On April 5, thirty-two 10th grade students traveled throughout Washington D.C. for four days. Over the course of their travels they toured Arlington Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the National Cathedral, the National Zoo, the White House, several Smithsonians, the U.S. Capitol Building, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the National Mall and the Newseum.



This year there were new highlights for the group, including an interior tour of the West Wing of the White House. In addition, Alec James, Dalton Berger, Stella Concannon and Courtney Wallace laid a wreath inscribed with Milaca High School at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during the Changing of the Guard ceremony in the Arlington Cemetery. This was the fifth annual spring Washington D.C. trip. Invites will soon be sent to all students in ninth grade for the opportunity to participate in the sixth annual trip in April of 2019.



Milaca Public Schools - Instilling Pride and Achieving Excellence

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