



TRACKS & TALES

instilling pride & achieving excellence

Reminders

December 23 - January 3

Winter Break

No School for Students & Staff

Monday, January 25

Teacher Workshop Day

No School for Students

Friday, February 12

Teacher Workshop Day

No School for Students

Monday, February 15

President's Day

No School for Students & Staff

Friday, March 26

Teacher Workshop Day

No School for Students

April 2 - 5

Spring Break

No School for Students & Staff

The Strength of the Wolf Pack

A wolf pack cares about each other as individuals. They form friendships, take care of the sick and injured, and educate their young. We are the Milaca Wolves. Over the past 9 months, COVID-19 has tested the strength of our pack, but we continue to support and work together. To say it has been an interesting year is an understatement. We were fortunate to start the school year with all students in-person. Although the



Egg catch experiment in Mr. Jergens' grade 9 Science class.

experience was different, with social distancing and wearing masks, the building was filled with energy and excitement as students returned and the pack was reunited. They were ecstatic to be with friends, to see teachers, and to learn in the classroom. We were fortunate to keep all students in the building until October 5, when the high school shifted to hybrid learning. The elementary maintained in-person learning until November 2, when they also shifted to hybrid learning.

Although students and staff did a great job social distancing, wearing masks, and using proper hygiene to mitigate the spread within our school community, the external spread within the county continued to increase. Finding substitutes became a challenge as staff absences increased due to testing positive or needing to quarantine to care for themselves or their children. On November 16, the high school shifted to distance learning and the elementary followed a few weeks later on November 30.

The learning shifts have scattered our wolf pack but can not break its cohesion. The staff and teacher's flexibility and creativity to keep students engaged and learning during the learning shifts is a demonstration of their compassion and dedication to the students. Teachers meet with classes during Google Meets and individually with students as needed. Students work together in Google Breakout Rooms. Nothing can replace learning in-person, or having the pack together; nonetheless, learning continues and connections are made.

Parent and family support has been integral throughout these transitions. Internet connection, childcare, expecting children home alone to log in at the required time, helping with homework, and picking up supplies and homework packets are just a few of the obstacles families have faced. We are thankful to our families for their continued patience and understanding as we face each of these learning model changes. Our families are the cohesion that keeps the pack together.

As we move into the new year, we are filled with hope. We are hopeful to mitigate community risk and spread. We are hopeful for a decrease in community cases. We are hopeful for the return of the pack to learn together in-person. Although we do not have a specific return date, we are working to develop a re-entry plan for when that time comes. Thank you for your continued support as we navigate the learning model changes throughout the year. Through the strength of our pack, we will return to learn!



Wreath materials ready for no contact pick up for Ms. Pietzrak's Floral Design students.



Sidewalk chalk mask break in Ms. Kipka's Second Grade class.

Milaca Schools New Construction

Thank you to the Milaca area voters who in the November 2019 election approved a \$5,100,000 bond referendum for the betterment of school facilities! This bond allowed for repairs and upgrades to the building over the summer of 2020, including replacing the roof, a project bay addition, and renovations to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) department, replacing pool tiles and other pool area upgrades, replacing elementary school windows, and security upgrades.

Construction began in early April, with the roof replacement project, and progressed through the entire summer. Some of the projects were overdue building maintenance and upgrades (roof and elementary window replacement and security upgrades) to continue to provide a safe learning atmosphere and to

increase building efficiency. Other projects not only updated the building appearance but will provide new learning opportunities for students. The Small Business class and activities will enjoy a larger, more modern concessions stand and new school store. Students taking CTE classes will benefit from renovations in the woods productions shop, small engine shop, welding shop, as well as a new design lab and project bay. In addition, new equipment was purchased for many of the CTE spaces that allow students to learn using the same tools used in the field today.

These projects were made possible by the district voters choosing to vote YES for our students. Thank you for supporting our students and their continued learning.

