



February Newsletter from Principal Pauls....

February 27, 2026

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the MPE teachers and staff, we sincerely appreciate the wonderful Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week (February 23–27). Your thoughtfulness made every day feel special, uplifting, and generously celebrated. We are truly thankful for all you did to recognize us.

We wish you a safe and refreshing Spring Break (March 30–April 3). Students will return on Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership.

Sincerely,

Anne Pauls
Principal, Mills Park Elementary

Upcoming Events for March 2024

- Mar. 3: Teacher Workday, No School for Students
- Mar. 4: Middle School Parent Meeting, 5:30pm
- Mar. 4: PTA Board Info Social, 11:00am
- Mar. 4: 1st Grade Field Trip, Martin Marietta Rock Quarry
- Mar. 5: Severe Weather Drill Practice
- Mar. 6: Battle of the Books Competition
- Mar. 6: 1st Grade Field Trip, Martin Marietta Rock Quarry
- Mar. 10: PTA Book Club, 7:00pm
- Mar. 12: First-in-Fitness Competition, Southeast Raleigh HS
- Mar. 16: 5th Grade Field Trip, Greensboro
- Mar. 20: Teacher Workday, No School for Students
- Mar. 22: PTA Spirit Night, Triangle Rock Club, 6:00pm
- Mar. 24: PTA Coffee Talks
- Mar. 26: 3rd Grade Field Trip, Morehead Planetarium
- Mar. 30 - April 3: Spring Break, No School for Students & Staff
- April 6: Teacher Workday, No School for Students

[2025-2026 WCPSS Traditional Calendar](#)



Kids Heart Challenge Update (from Mr. Rood)

I would like to thank everyone for participating in our Kids Heart Challenge event this school year. Our school did an amazing job raising \$12,800! All this money goes directly to the American Heart Association to help fight and find ways to cure heart disease. What an amazing thing our Mills Park family did! Thanks again for all your support for this great cause!

End-of-Grade Test Schedule

Below is the tentative schedule for End-of-Grade (EOG) testing for grades 3-5. State law requires EOG testing to take place during the last ten days of school.

- Friday, May 29: 3rd, 4th, & 5th Reading EOG
- Tuesday, June 2: 3rd, 4th, & 5th Math EOG
- Thursday, June 4: 5th Science EOG

Spelling Bee - School and Class Champions

Congratulations to **Architha Raghavan**, Ms. White's 5th grade class, for winning MPE's school spelling bee! I also want to congratulate all our classroom spelling bee winners:

Teacher Name	Grade	Student Name (First and Last)
Bernier	1st	Ali Kassem
Noble	1st	Krithik Bhagat
Schindler	1st	Isha Sathish
Kellogg	1st	Logan Josephson
Haskins	1st	Taylor Uliasz
Cupick	2nd	Aiden Li

 **Panther
Pride**

Hilliard	2nd	Hannah Liu
Smith	2nd	Arteus Kung
Dowell	2nd	Leo Vaughan
Katzenberger	3rd	Emma Higaki
Mihm	3rd	Karthik Pidaparathi
McCann	3rd	Siddesh Ananthanarayan
Murawa	3rd	Siya Ahuja
Moxley	3rd	Keiran Baht
Howald	4th	Grace Jin
Ware	4th	Vinamr Tikoo
Reichel	4th	Gautham Harish
McNamara	4th	Elena Hu
White	5th	Architha Raghavan
Zhang	5th	Amyra Minhas
Mohn	5th	Akira Chauhan
Murray	5th	Pranathi Pattisapu



Participants in the 2025-2026 “I Belong”

Reflections Competition



Primary Division (PreK- Grade 2)

1. Visual Arts Category:

Honorable Mentions for Visual Arts:

- Matthew Hsu “The House”
- Ojasvi Kilambi “Our Beautiful World”
- Akshara Devulapalli “I Belong to Home Earth”
- Saanvi Sharma “Be Kind”

2nd Place for Visual Arts:

- Hannah Liu “Belonging Wings”
- Hannah Liu “Together on the Sea” (Honorable Mention)

1st Place Visual Arts:

- Colette O’Neil “I Belong, Thanks to Friends”

Intermediate Division (Grade 3-5)

1. Visual Arts Category:

Honorable Mentions for Visual Arts:



- Nabiha Quazi “Alone or Standout”
- Krish Saxena “The Boy of Many Colors”
- Dido Liu “The World of Dreams”
- Sandhya Hariharan “Beauty of Nature”
- Vedhika Menon “Home Is Where the Heart Is”

2nd Place for Visual Arts:

- Janani Nachiappan “My Mommy”

1st Place for Visual Arts:

- Akira Chauhan “We Belong to Each other”

2. Photography Category:

Honorable Mention for Photography:

- Ishaan Neradugomma “The Vase”

Second Place for Photography:

- Vedhika Menon “The Glowing Sunflower”

First Place for Photography:

- Akira Chauhan “Lasting Impression”
- “Legacy” (honorable mention)

3. Literature

Honorable Mention for Literature:

- Akira Chauhan “I Am Different, yet I Belong”

Second Place for Literature:



- Ishaan Neradugomma “This Place is for Me”

First Place for Literature:

- Janani Nachiappan “Where Do I Belong?”

4. Music Composition

Second Place for Music:

- Aashvi Patwari “Things I Belong To!”

First Place for Music:

- Akira Chauhan “I Belong, So Do You”

5. Film

1st Place for Film:

- Akira Chauhan “Synergy”

Not Returning to Mills Park Elementary for the 2026-2027 School Year

This is the time of the year when we begin planning for the next school year. Teacher allotments as well as other staff allotments are based on the total number of students enrolled at Mills Park. To this end, it is critically important for us to know if your child(ren) will NOT be returning to Mills Park Elementary for the 2026-2027 school year.

If your child is a current K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th grade student, please click on the link below and complete the short form for each of your students who will NOT be returning to Mills Park Elementary for the 2026-2027 school year. You do not need to complete this form if your child is a current 5th grade student. Click Here>>>>[NOT RETURNING FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR](#)

Lightspeed Content Filter Transition

On February 23, school-issued devices were updated on how websites and online content work.

WCPSS made these updates as part of an ongoing effort to strengthen online safety and ensure digital resources align with instructional and age-appropriate expectations. As a result, some websites or online activities that were previously accessible may now be limited.



These updates are districtwide and will continue to be reviewed and adjusted as needed. If a website required for instruction is blocked, or if a student encounters content that seems inappropriate, families are encouraged to contact their school so the issue can be reviewed.

Thank you for your partnership as we work together to support safe and responsible technology use.

*****Reminders*****

Kindergarten Enrollment for 2026-2027

If you have a child who will turn 5 years old by August 31, 2021, enrollment for Kindergarten has begun! Please click on the following link for enrollment details. [26-27 Enrollment Information](#)

Carpool Morning Arrival

During arrival time (8:45-9:10), please follow the carpool line to the designated unloading zones in front of the building. When you reach the unloading zone, a staff member or safety patrol will open your car door to welcome you and let your child out. Please make sure your child is exiting on the passenger side of the car. For the safety of all students and parents, please do not park and walk your child into the building. Please drive slowly and follow the blue carpool line to ensure the safety of everyone.

Carpool Afternoon Dismissal

Carpool tags must be displayed on your rearview mirror for pick-up. To ensure a safe and smooth carpool dismissal, please adhere to the following carpool dismissal procedures:

- Hang carpool tag on rearview mirror.
- Follow the blue carpool line.
- Do not park and walk up to check your child out of carpool.
- Pull up to a designated loading zone.
- Students will be loaded by an adult or safety patrol on the passenger side of the car.
- If you do not have a carpool tag, you will be asked to sign your child out at the main office.

 Panther
Pride