

Elementary Rustler News

March 2024

Parent Teacher Conferences

Thank you for attending Parent Teacher Conferences! We had a great turnout and appreciate the time taken to meet with our staff!

Kindergarten Screening/Registration and Birth to 3 Screening on March 21 and 22

We are busy getting ready to host this year's Kindergarten Screening/Registration and Birth to 3 Screening at the Miller United Methodist Church on March 21 and 22. If you have a child who will turn 5 before September 1, 2024 please sign him/her up by calling Laela at 605-853-2711 or mailing the form found in the Miller Press to Miller Elementary, 623 East 4th St, Miller, SD 57362.

A child born before this date may attend Kinderstart or Kindergarten in the fall. Speech and Language, Hearing, General Concepts, and Fine Motor Skills will be evaluated. The screening provides valuable information for parents and school personnel.

We also conduct screenings for children from Birth to age 3 if parents are concerned about their child's development in any of the above areas. Registration forms are available in the Miller Press, or you can call Laela to sign your child up. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Boomsma-Kelsey by calling 605-853-2711 or emailing jennifer.boomsma-kelsey@k12.sd.us.

End of the Third Quarter

The third quarter will be ending soon, and report cards will be sent home between March 20-22.

Smarter Balanced Testing

Students in grades 3-6 will complete Smarter Balanced testing in April. You may remember taking standardized state tests with a paper booklet and at least two sharpened pencils. 😊

The tests are now taken on the computer, and students will be taking practice tests to get them used to how to use the online tools and navigate the test.

These tests provide one piece of information concerning your child's level of knowledge in Math and Language Arts. The fifth grade students also take a Science portion. The goal for each student is to increase his/her score from the previous year and for our third grade students to do their best.

If your child mentions the test, please remind him/her that the main goal is to try hard and take his/her time. I will be announcing a test incentive for individuals in April to motivate them!

Important Upcoming Dates

- March 8th No School
- March 15th No School
- March 21st-22nd Kindergarten/Kinderstart Screening and Registration and Birth to 3 Screening
- March 23rd Grades 5-8 Vocal Contest
- March 28th, 29th, April 1st No School/Easter Break

Vocal Contest March 23rd

We will be hosting a Vocal Contest for students in Grades 5-8 on March 23rd at the school. The public is welcome to attend to hear some of our students perform at this great event. The students are practicing and preparing; we hope to see many of you there to support them!

Students and Anxiety

Academic anxiety is the stress, worry, and fear that some students feel around their schoolwork, grades, and assignments. An especially stressful time may be when students transition from second to third grade as they begin earning traditional letter grades for the first time. Students often feel like anything less than an "A" is not good enough.

Doing their best every day without putting pressure on themselves is something I visit with students about. None of us have perfect days, and I let them know that I make mistakes every day! There are so many pressures in society, so providing a setting full of adults who support them is our goal. Talking with children about their concerns is so helpful to them, and we are here to help if you would like assistance. We have a social worker on staff and work with Community Counseling to assist students with coping skills. My door is always open to students who need to visit, as well. I enjoy the conversations I get to have with our students!

Art Expo

The elementary student council will be hosting an Art Expo in April to showcase the many talents our students have! We are working to set a date, and we have decided that there will be no categories. Our goal is for students to demonstrate any artistic talent they have for others to see and appreciate. Details will be coming!

BoxTops for Education

Remember cutting out box tops to help the school get free items such as playground balls? The program has become much simpler. Here are the steps-

Download the BoxTops app on your phone

Choose Miller Elementary School (look for Miller SD)

Scan your receipt on the app

Earn cash for the school!

You can go to BTFE.com for more information. You can enter to win \$1,000 for your family and \$1,000 for your school! On the BTFE website, go to Cash For You to see how you can enter!

Good luck and thank you for time and participation!

March Quote

"Don't give up.

I believe in you all.
A person's a person,
No matter how small."
-Dr. Seuss



Contact us

Please contact me whenever you have questions or concerns.

Email: jennifer.boomsma-kelsey@k12.sd.us

Website: miller.k12.sd.us

Location: [623 East 4th Street, Miller, SD 57462](#)

Phone: [605-853-2711](tel:605-853-2711)

Facebook: facebook.com/millerschooldistrict

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Mrs. B-K