

Ross Local Schools

MORGAN ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

December 2020

Our Mission:

Morgan Elementary School exists to help each unique child reach his or her full potential. We aim to equip all children to:

- Make responsible contributions within their communities, their country, and the global society
- Function productively in the world of technology and the world of work
- Lead richly literate lives
- Continue to grow in understanding and respect for themselves and others



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A message from our principal, Mr. Tom Perry:

Things at Morgan continue to move forward as students and staff continue to do an outstanding job following all of the protocols put in place. Other than seeing the students in masks, you would not realize that we were in a Pandemic as the students smile, laugh, and enjoy the socialization with their peers. We continue to try to keep things as normal as possible as the teachers strive to make learning gains from lost instruction from the spring remote learning. All Morgan students participated in a four-week Bullying Prevention Unit through our Second Step Program. They focused on the three R's: recognizing, reporting, and refusing. The students learned how to be an upstander and look out for their friends and others that cannot look out for themselves. Morgan Student Council collected canned and nonperishable items during November. As a school, Morgan students brought in 3,043 items. In addition, Mrs. Miller's class collected cereal foods and juice to contribute to the food drive. These are all directly donated to the RAMM Food Pantry. Students participated in various Veterans Day activities in their classrooms to honor the memories of our fallen heroes and current and former military members. Our tech staff has been busy getting ready for our first shipment of 300 Chromebooks to the elementaries, and hope to have them distributed to grade 4 and grade 3 students. It will be so nice to have the technology to run all of our programs available. We just finished up our virtual conferences in which 90% of our parents attended a conference with their child's teacher. A big shout out to the staff, students, and parents of Morgan students for the support and cooperation that has been demonstrated during this time. It has been absolutely amazing!

Sincerely,

Tom Perry

IMPORTANT DATES:

December

Dec. 11 → Progress Reports

Dec. 23-Jan. 1 → Winter Break

January

Jan. 4 → School Resumes

Jan. 15 → End of 2nd Quarter

Jan. 18 → No School-Martin Luther King Day

Jan. 22 → Report Cards Distributed

Students of the Week for November:

Rory Weber, Parker Erk, Donald Combs, Blake Arnold, Sheldon Henderson, Rose Hudson, Sammi Bennett, Vera Fitterer, Lynze Menkhaus, Dylan Romani, Matthew Payne, Jesse Tompkins, Bohem Kugler, Liam Hesselbrock, Devyn Alexander, Emory Clark, Kinley Michel, Emma Kate Gill, Remley Fliehman, Elizabeth Haun, Hank Toon, Kenzie Ohe, Kellen Clark, Kendall Sizemore, Jordan Jackson, Harper Carroll, Jacob Hesselbrock, Jazlin Cooper, Ben Ledford, Nathan Schnell, Brooke Rumpke, Mila Sibble, Sydney Garcia, RJ Fliehman, Emma Baron, Caleb Cornelius, Brantley Taylor, Oktober Phelps, Timmy Bernau, Keaton Middendorf, Kylie Minges, Kori Phelps, Abe Garcia, Kenadi Taylor, Levi Hale, Maci Gottlieb, Faith Gill, Henry Dillingham, Emmy Meyer, Logan Summe

News from Preschool

Mrs. Byron and Ms. McClanahan

We hope everyone had a relaxing Thanksgiving break! This month in preschool, we are focusing on exercise, healthy eating habits, and holidays from around the world. Preschool will be learning about different types of exercises, sports, healthy eating habits, and obstacle courses. Holidays being discussed include Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Ramadan. We are discussing what each holiday represents and the traditions associated with each. We are working on counting, one-to-one correspondence, sorting abilities, letter recognition, spelling and writing and spelling their full name. We are looking forward to our holiday parties before break and a big thank you to everyone who has supported our classrooms. Please continue to send extra masks and weather appropriate coats for the students.

News from Kindergarten

Mrs. Lomax, Mrs. Shoemaker

The month of November has come and gone with much activity. As we move into December, we will continue discussions about holidays and customs. The kids have really enjoyed our "Holidays Around the World" unit. We will be visiting 8 different countries and learning about their costumes and traditions at this time of year.

Reading: We will focus on hearing ending sounds in words. We will continue learning strategies for becoming better readers/writers. A few strategies for reading include: looking for picture clues, getting your lips ready to say the first letter in an unknown word, pointing to each word on the line of text, looking for familiar focus words.

Math: We will continue to increase our number sense by counting in various ways: by 2's, 5's and 10's. We will practice addition and subtraction as we finish Chapter 5 and begin Chapter 6 in our GO Math workbooks.

Writing: We will share stories and try writing more words in "a snap." We will focus on

the most important part of a story.

Our month will end on December 22nd with our Christmas parties. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

News from 1st Grade

Mrs. Bittner, Mrs. Hughett, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. VanNatta

Although the weather gets colder, our hearts are only getting warmer through the holiday season. However, that still means we need to wear warm hats, coats, gloves and scarves depending on the weather outside. We go outside for recess unless it rains, snows, or is below 32 degrees. So please help keep your child warm by making sure they have the appropriate attire for the weather.

As we venture on in math, we are going to connect the strategies we have been learning with tens and ones. We will be comparing numbers and using the tens and ones to help us. Keep working on memorizing those doubles facts. We will also be learning about a strategy using the sum of 10.

As we continue on in Reading we are going to be focusing on the whole reader. Therefore students will continue working with the reading strategies: look, skip, repeat, chunk it, get your lips ready, stretch it, flip it and ask. However, we will be adding comprehension strategies to help the young readers understand and retell the story as well as focus on fluency (reading with intonation and being aware of punctuation). The hunks and chunks we are still learning will help us. We will continue to study the differences between fiction and non-fiction.

In writing we continue to write for readers by working on our spacing, sounding out, using our word wall, and using good handwriting. We are also working to make our stories interesting by having a good strong focus and a variety of details. We will continue to focus on the areas that bring our stories to life. We will work on movement, feelings and thoughts in our stories. We will make sure we have a realistic problem our characters can solve.

We want to thank all the parents for their help with sending in items for the holiday parties. We wish everyone a great holiday season and a wonderful break.

News from 2nd Grade

Mrs. Broering, Mrs. McGinnis, Mrs. Hindery, Mrs. Morehead

Second grade has been VERY busy! As Thanksgiving came and went, we were reminded of how truly grateful we are for our students and families and for the ability to learn in person. We missed our students during those two remote learning days!

In reading, second graders continue to use text features (caption, heading, photographs, etc.) to help us understand what we read. We are also starting to dive deep into determining the main idea of a paragraph and a whole text. In addition, students are learning how to break words into syllables so that they can decode larger words.

In math, we will wrap up our unit on addition and subtraction with regrouping. There are so many fun games you can play to practice these skills so ask your child about one of the games and have a family fun math night! As January approaches, we will start to move into learning basic multiplication.

For writing, students have gotten to be experts at writing complete sentences. We are starting to really expand our writing by adding details when we teach about our favorite holiday, write a narrative about our favorite holiday tradition, and write letters to Santa Claus. Look for those letters to come home before our break. They are always a class favorite! We hope everyone has a safe and relaxing holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone after break!!!

News from 3rd Grade

Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Lanham, Mrs. McEldowney, Mrs. Smith

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, and the half way point in the year. One of the best gifts we have received this school year is seeing our kids every day in the classroom. Third grade students are making tremendous gains in reading for longer periods of time on their own. This is a big focus that is necessary for reading harder nonfiction books and chapter books. Students continue to work on accomplishing their reading goals during independent reading time.

In reading, we are studying identifying the main idea and supporting details when reading nonfiction. We are also focusing on vocabulary words and phrases and how to identify what they mean in fiction texts.

Multiplication and division are words you will hear everyday in math class. Students have worked on developing strategies to solve problems. Now, we are starting to pick up speed and work on being more efficient and quicker. The ultimate goal is memorization of all multiplication facts. We will move into identifying how division is connected to multiplication.

We want to thank everyone for connecting with us during conference times and working through distance learning before Thanksgiving break. Students did a much better job navigating the computer programs and Google Classroom. Merry Christmas and have an enjoyable break!

News from 4th Grade

Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Miller, Ms. Williams

As we head into December we are coming to the midterm of the second quarter already which will be on December 11. Midterm reports will be going home on that day. The end of quarter 2 will be January 15. Thank you to all the parents that joined us remotely to discuss their amazing 4th grader(s) at conferences.

Mathletes will be moving on from multiplication and heading into division this month. We will also examine factors, multiples and how those two types of numbers are related. Fluency with our math facts aids in all we are doing GREATLY, so keep studying those facts via Xtramath! Students should be completing homework independently in 4th grade. Parents can help by asking them questions to redirect their thinking if they need it. Making your 4th grader into an independent mathematician is an important goal we have for this year.

Students are beginning the journey into Folktales. We will be reading Traditional Literature including Legends, Fairy Tales, and Fables. Students will read a variety of stories from different cultures and discover that there are some common themes among the tales. We will end the month learning more about cultures as we spend a few days learning about Holidays Around the World! Joyeux Noel! Feliz Navidad!

Balloons Over Broadway is a book that discusses the life of Tony Sarg and his journey to becoming the puppeteer for Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. After learning about his journey, 4th graders in Miss Williams and Mrs. Elliott's classes took their turn at creating their own balloons. They had a great time showing off their designs in a digital Parade!

As you may already know, this year all students at Morgan have the option to eat breakfast at school. Paid for by a grant, this program is helping to ensure students are not going hungry. While most students are eating the breakfast items, there are leftovers. To prevent these items from being wasted, Mrs. Miller's 4th graders have started collecting the unopened leftovers and will be donating them to RAM Ministries. So far we have collected over 2,599 items. Great work, 4th graders!!!

News from Art (Mrs. Beyersdoerfer) Music (Mr. Thatcher) P.E. (Mrs. Steigerwald)

ART: Art Class is still rollin' with the creativity! Students in 2nd-4th grade have a digital portfolio in Google Classroom with images of their artwork from the entire year. I have started doing this with 1st grade as well. If we have a snow day, future remote days, or your student is home in quarantine or sick; this is where your student should be posting the artwork they do at home. Since we are not able to do painting or messy projects in the classrooms, I encourage you to let your student paint or do other creative projects at home. Also, please replenish your student's crayons, sharpie, and markers as needed...crayons seem to disappear into thin air and markers dry up or get lost easily. Happy Holidays!

MUSIC: Music classes are going great! The students are studying a variety of topics such as identifying the note names of the music staff, rhythmic notation, as well other musical activities using the chromebooks. Happy Holidays!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Physical Education has been outside all Fall and just now moved inside! We are super excited to have our WHOLE gym back thanks to Mr. Perry!! We are working on all kinds of skills and strategies. Throwing, rolling, striking, passing, dribbling, offense, defense, defensive positioning, locomotor skills, movement in general and personal space!! We are celebrating being together and working mainly as teams and enforcing teamwork and sportsmanship!!

News from Title I

Mrs. Volker, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Price

Kindergarten students are making great progress in learning to read! We have made great progress learning letters, sounds, and sight words. We have been practicing blending sounds and reading and writing consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words. We thank our families for reading with us and helping us learn our letters and sounds. We are making this great progress because of all that you are doing for us at home!

First grade students are continuing to learn hunks and chunks, blending sounds, and applying those skills to reading and writing. They are learning about the setting of the story, characters, retelling, and genre. Comprehension is also an important element as we work on fluency. Oftentimes, once our fluency improves, our comprehension improves. We are concentrating on visualizing before we write our stories - including characters, setting, and labeling our illustrations. First grade students are also continuing to learn about writing sentences - capital letters at the beginning of the sentence, spacing between words, and punctuation at the end. Keep up the great work, first grade!

Second grade students are challenging themselves as they move up to higher reading levels. We are using our prior knowledge of hunks and chunks, blends, and digraphs to find patterns in words to help us read and spell. We are working on visualizing before we write. We are learning about making inferences and distinguishing character traits/feelings. Additionally, we are working hard to write meaningful sentences with descriptive words. We need to remind ourselves to use capital letters at the beginning of a sentence, space between words, and to use some type of punctuation at the end. Students should be reading a book to an adult every night! Great job second grade!

Third grade students are hard at work this month! We are focusing our time on non-literal (figurative) language and how it adds to the mood and interest of the story. We are reading books and poetry about winter and the holidays while looking for types of figurative language including onomatopoeia, hyperbole, alliteration, rhyme, repetition, similes and metaphors! It's exciting when we find examples in the books and poems we are reading! We continue to work on decoding words using strategies and making sure we have no fuzzy feelings while we read. We are working toward our December AR reading goals in order to participate in the AR celebration at the end of the month. Nice work, third grade!

Fourth grade students are working hard this month! We are focusing on fables, folk tales, and fairy tales this month! We are currently reading various versions of Cinderella stories, such as The Korean Cinderella, Cendrillion, and The Egyptian Cinderella. We are focusing on the characters, setting, problem/solution and the magical elements of a fairy tale. We will then take those elements and compare them to the Disney version of Cinderella. Using our venn diagrams, the students will use that information to write a compare/contrast essay. Great job, fourth graders!

News from the Office

Mrs. Kohlman, Mrs. Gentry

Just a reminder to pay your student's school fees. Payment may be sent in with your student, mailed to Morgan Elementary at 3427 Chapel Road Hamilton OH 45013, or called in and put on a credit card. If you have any questions, please contact us at 738-1986.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

News from the School Nurse:

Please remember if anyone in your household is being tested for the COVID virus to keep your child home, until the results come in. Also, if your child has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for the COVID virus, please contact the office, to discuss a return date and getting work for them. Please contact the clinic, if you have any questions or concerns.

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Student Council News:

Our November canned food drive was amazing. We collected over 3,000 canned food items. This is double the amount we collected last year. Congratulations to Mrs. Lomax's AM class for bringing in the most items. They have won a pizza party. All the food was donated to the RAMM food pantry in Ross. To say they were elated to receive this, was definitely an understatement.

Counselor News:

Kalli Sawyers

Kalli.Sawyers@rossrams.com

During the months of December and January, I will be visiting all the classes and doing classroom lessons focusing on careers. We will read a book about careers and also do an activity. Before leaving for Thanksgiving Break each student was able to add to the hallway bulletin board by answering the question, What Brings you Joy? The students had some excellent answers and are enjoying seeing their words up on the wall in the hallway.

Morgan PTO Newsletter

2020-2021 PTO Officers

PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	TREASURER	SECRETARY
Sara Schoenecker	Kaitlyn Flieman	Angela Balash	Andrea Meyer

We can not say thank you enough to how supportive the Morgan Families have been to the PTO - we had a successful Greenery Sale, we've had success in the Basket Raffle tickets for the Basket Bonanza and we are seeing signs of positive results with the online auction that ends Friday, December 4th at 9 PM EST.

SPIRITWEAR

Everyone has been asking for spiritwear options and we have been successful in granting those requests. We now have two vendors who are producing spiritwear for Ross and manage all aspects of order taking and delivery for us!

We have partnered with a local vendor for spiritwear where they have a physical storefront to visit and make purchases, or you can go to the website as well - <https://mysmalltownapparel.com/>, orders can be shipped or scheduled for pickup at the store in Shandon.

And we have another partner that is an Ohio based company, where we earn a percentage from the sales and will receive quarterly profit checks, orders can be made 365 days a year and they deliver directly to your doorstep, they offer a Morgan specific product line and a Ross Schools product line as well.

Morgan apparel: <https://1stplacespiritwear.com/.../Morgan+Elementary+School>

Ross Rams apparel: <https://1stplacespiritwear.com/.../Hamilton/Ross+High+School>

We want to wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday season, and the kids will be getting a special treat from the PTO before they leave school for the Holiday Break!! The PTO elves have been busy working on goodie bags for each student!!