

Ross Local Schools

MORGAN ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

February 2021

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:

The second quarter ended and report cards were distributed on January 22nd. If your child did not bring home a report card, please check with his/her teacher.

The Third Graders took the State Fall Reading Test on Monday, October 26th and Wednesday, October 28th. The official state copy of the parent reports were sent home, along with your child's progress towards the 3rd grade guarantee promotion status.

Third and Fourth grade state achievement tests will be administered during the weeks of April 13th - April 30th. The following test schedule will help you avoid testing conflicts when scheduling any necessary appointments for your child: If you know of a conflict, please contact your child's teacher.

Grade 3:

ELA part I - 4/13, ELA part II - 4/15, Math part I - 4/27, Math part II - 4/29

Grade 4:

ELA part I - 4/14, ELA part II - 4/16, Math part I - 4/28, Math part II - 4/30

Progress reports will be sent home on February 19th. Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on February 23rd and March 2nd for grades Pre-School – 4, with additional Parent-Teacher conferences for Kindergarten students on March 4th and March 9th. You will receive information soon to go online and set up a conference time with your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call at 738-1986.

Important Dates: February

Feb. 4	PTO Meeting (6:30 virtual)
Feb. 4	No School (Calamity Day)
Feb. 12	Valentine Parties (students)
Feb. 15	No School - Presidents Day
Feb. 19	Progress Reports
Feb. 23	Parent-Teacher Conferences Grades Pre-K - 4
Feb. 25	No School (Calamity Day)
Mar. 2	Parent-Teacher Conferences Grades Pre-K - 4
Mar. 4 & 9	Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Conferences

Students of the Week for January

Week of January 18: Trace Gognat, Samuel Geiser, Travis Ferneding, Carter Low, Jackson Armentrout, Konnor Commins, Clare Adams, Eli Armstrong, Emmitt Hautzenroeder, Emily Lykins, Amelia Renner, Kiersten Distler, Harper Deck, Charlie Kinney, Taylor Emory

Week of January 25: Oaklen McKean, Lizzy Miller, Deklin Bush, Leo Ziepfel, Annabelle Arno, Johnny Moad, Luke Hesselbrock, Kate Minges, June Hess, Lillie Butler, Terra Willsey, Luke Distler, Clara Miller, Jude Sebastian, Reagan Keller, Kaylee Gognat, Hunter Burwinkel

News from Preschool (Mrs. Byron and Ms. McClanahan)

This year has been flying by and the students have done great with all the changes. We can't believe it's already February. In February, we will be studying the recreational balls unit from Creative Curriculum, Valentine's Day, and dental care. We will also continue to have amazing alphabet day every week. Preschool will be finishing up collecting math, literacy and cognitive data for conferences that will be held via zoom at the end of the month. A special thank you to the families that have donated toys and puzzles to the preschool classrooms. It has been very helpful with the student's individual play bins. Please continue to encourage your students to be independent with taking care of their own needs and belongings.

News from Kindergarten (Mrs. Lomax, Mrs. Shoemaker)

The month of February comes with much activity: 100th Day, Valentines Day, Presidents Day and Dental Health. The 100th day will be celebrated on Friday, Feb.12. Please refer to the note sent with the class newsletter regarding dressing up as if you are 100 years old. We will spend the day counting, drawing, grouping numbers and making a 100 foot paper strip of our 100 creations. We will also express our friendship towards each other at our Valentine Party on Friday, Feb. 12. Please have your child sign his/her name on each valentine. Please send them to school by Tuesday, Feb. 9. Do not address them to other students. This will help make it less confusing and time-consuming for the students when passing them out. Mrs. Lomax has 23 students in the AM and 17 in the PM class. Mrs. Shoemaker has 21 in the AM and 19 in the PM class. You may choose to dress up as if you are 100 years old or wear your Valentine attire as these celebrations both fall on the same day. We will also be learning about some of our Presidents, including George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We will learn about "Symbols" that represent the United States of America. We're looking forward to meeting everyone once again for conferences on the evenings of February 23, Mar.2, 4 & 9. We're very excited to share with you the progress your child has made thus far, as well as address any needs.

Your Kindergarten Team!

News from 1st Grade (Mrs. Bittner, Mrs. Hughett, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. VanNatta)

February is here which means Valentines, Groundhogs, 100th Day and President's Day. It also brings the second half of the school year. In math, first graders will be learning about graphing and how to collect data to make a graph. We will look at picture graphs and bar graphs. We are finishing up learning how to tell time to the hour and half- hour. We will continue to use checklists to help us with making sure our writing includes all the parts it

needs to be a good teaching piece. We will be doing some animal research to help us write an informational piece about an animal we learn about. In reading, first graders are working hard on looking beyond the text to make connections. We are also working on inferring meaning when the author doesn't tell you everything. We are still retelling and using our strategies. We are also learning these same types of reading skills in non-fiction books as well! Don't forget to sign up for conferences when the sign up comes out soon. We would love to see and talk to you all about your child's learning. We thank you in advance for your help with classroom parties.

News from 2nd Grade (Mrs. Broering, Mrs. McGinnis, Mrs. Hindery, Mrs. Morehead)

February is an exciting month in second grade! In reading, we are diving deep into understanding how to find the main idea of a paragraph. We will be comparing and contrasting texts while understanding how an author feels about a certain topic. While the topics are getting more complex, students are growing tremendously and we are so proud of their hard work and how much they have grown their brains this year already.

In math, we are going to celebrate the 100th day of school on February 12th and enjoy our Valentine's Day parties. We will be immersed in learning how to measure things around us in various units. Also, we will be learning how to graph results from simple surveys and read more complex graphs using keys.

In writing, we are focusing on writing opinion pieces. The students have been enjoying giving their opinions about various topics. Along the way, they are learning how to write strong supporting details for their opinions using transition words, correct capitalization and punctuation, and strong words that would convince a reader of their opinion. Some students will still be working on reinforcing their nonfiction skills by writing informational pieces.

We look forward to conferences at the end of February and can't wait to talk to everyone about their child's tremendous progress in second grade!

News from 3rd Grade (Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Lanham, Mrs. McEldowney, Mrs. Smith)

In February, students will kindle their love of learning. Third grade is all about understanding longer and more complicated books. Students continue to work towards their reading goals and build stamina along the way. We continue to find evidence to support our answers and make inferences about the characters in books. A big part of nonfiction is finding the “heart” or main idea of a paragraph and details to support the main idea.

Our love for writing will continue with the opportunity to craft our own opinions. Students are getting better at elaborating their reasons and writing in paragraphs. They love to express their feelings and being able to support your feelings with evidence is even more empowering.

Finally, February also brings the love of fractions for 3rd graders. The major focus will be setting foundational understanding of fractions using pictures, models, words and numbers. Students will work on comparing fractions as well as finding equivalent fractions.

We look forward to seeing everyone during conferences towards the end of the month and celebrating Valentine’s Day on February 12th.

News from 4th Grade (Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Miller, Ms. Williams)

This month our focus in reading centers around Greek Myths. This is a fun and educational unit that opens our eyes to the influences the Greek culture has had on our society today. Our government, sporting events, and thousands of words (just to name a few) originated in Ancient Greece. We will also be writing informational pieces this quarter. We will investigate animals, famous Ohioans and other areas of expertise to assist us in that writing.

In math, we are concluding our division unit and heading into parts of a whole. That's right-FRACTIONS! Fractions will be our focus for most of the month as we will compare, find equivalent, add/subtract, multiple/divide, convert and relate to decimals. We will be fraction connoisseurs when we finish.

In the Second Step lessons we are focusing on dealing with emotions using calming down strategies. These lessons are very helpful in our everyday lives and we encourage you to discuss the lesson weekly with your student.

Be looking for Spring Conference information to be coming out soon. We look forward to speaking with you about your fabulous 4th grader!

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

ART: Hello Amazing Art Parents! Please ask your student to view their Digital Portfolio to see what they have been working on! Also, please replace any art supplies for your student as needed!

MUSIC: Students are having a great time learning how to read and perform rhythms from notation. Students are also learning to read and perform pitch patterns on the music staff. The best news is that with the new Covid protocols, music classes are now allowed to sing while wearing masks! So it is good to hear the kids singing wonderful music again!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: We are finishing up basketball, floor hockey, throwing and catching. We will begin Rhythm activities, tumbling, and parachute along with other low equipment games. Students are doing a great job wearing their masks in the gym along with bringing their water bottles. Please remember to wear athletic shoes on PE days.

News from Title I (Mrs. Volker, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Price)

We're already into our second month of 2021! Reading at home continues to be a crucial element in order for students to become awesome readers. Thank you for taking the time to read with your child each night!

In Kindergarten, we are reviewing the reading strategies that we have been learning all year. Using the pictures helps us to understand what is happening in our story so we can always read with meaning. Now we not only use our beginning sounds, but stretch out whole words. We are

using letter sounds to read and write words. Reading sight words quickly is essential as we are getting into harder books. Thank you, parents, for continuing to work on sight words at home and listening to your child read every night!

First grade students are continuing to learn hunks and chunks, blending sounds, and applying those skills to reading and writing. Along with these skills, we are also applying our reading strategies that students have learned in the classroom (i.e., Flippy Dolphin, Stretchy Snake, Chunky Monkey, and several more). We are reviewing the setting of the story, characters, retelling, and genre. Comprehension is also an important element as we work on fluency. Our comprehension tends to improve as our fluency improves. We continue to write words and sentences using hunks and chunks, short and long vowels, blending, and sight words. Keep up the great work, first grade!

In second grade, we are focusing on decoding (hunks & chunks), writing, syllables, and vocabulary. When a student stumbles upon an unknown word, encourage your child to use reading strategies and hunks and chunks to try to read the word. Using context clues may also help them to read the word. What word makes sense in the sentence? Talking about the unknown word, using it in a sentence, and writing the sentence helps to solidify new information. As you read with your child each night, be sure to ask them questions throughout their reading. Why do you think the author wrote this selection? What do you think she means when she says....? How do you think that made the character feel? Way to go second grade!

Wow- third graders have been rocking their reading skills! We are so proud of the growth they've shown on their winter MAP test. Third grade students are working on identifying the point of view (first vs. third person) in a narrative piece. We are also working on author's point of view and comparing/contrasting that to our own opinions using details to support our answers. Third graders are learning about strategies smart readers use when they come to a new vocabulary word in a text. We can look for definitions, synonyms, antonyms, and using reference materials like dictionaries and glossaries. Lastly, we can infer meanings of new words to expand our vocabulary. Students will continue to work on their February AR reading goals and earn great test scores (90% or higher) to prove comprehension. Keep working hard, third grade! We are very proud of you!

In fourth grade, students are reading nonfiction chapter books and picture books. We are using context clues to understand new vocabulary and looking up definitions of words we can't figure out. Also, we are working to pull out the main idea of a text and details that support the main idea. We then use those details to write a summary of the information we read. As you and your child are reading, ask them about the genre of the book, why it is that specific genre, and what text structure it may be such as: descriptive, chronological order, compare and contrast, cause and effect, or problem and solution. Great job, fourth graders!

News from the Office (Mrs. Kohlman, Mrs. Gentry):

YEARBOOKS - Don't forget to order your 2020-21 yearbooks. Students love to have them for yearbook signing day at the end of the school year!

We have flyer/order envelopes in the office to help you order online (ybpay.lifetouch.com, use ID Code 14023321), send to school in the yearbook envelope, or send a note with how many yearbooks for \$15 each and current events insert for \$2 additional. Checks must be written to Morgan Elementary. Call the office if you need a flyer envelope (738-1986). Deadline is March 23rd.

Student Council News:

Pajama or Hat Day

On Friday, February 19, Morgan Student Council is sponsoring a Pajama or Hat Day. We are asking that in order to wear your PJ's or a Hat on that Friday to please donate a dollar. The money collected will be donated to the Haven House. Students can bring in a dollar to their classroom anytime until Friday the 19th.

On March 1, Morgan Student Council will begin collecting change for Pennies for Patients. A flier will be sent home closer to March and we are asking for everyone to check out our online fundraising page. With all that is going on this year, we would love it if families would consider donating online instead of bringing in large amounts of change. The classrooms will still have their change bags and we will follow all safety protocols when collecting and counting the change. The upcoming flier will have the website link and we will send home an email with the direct link as well. Pennies for Patients is our largest project of the year and we hope

everyone will help us in raising money for the Leukemia & LYmphoma Society.

Counselor's Corner:

4th Grade Honor Roll

2nd Quarter High Honors:

Oaklen McKean, Katherine Meyer, Isaac Smith, Mallory Sawyers, Josi Alvis, Landan Becker, Caleb Cornelius, Levi Hale, Emmitt Siekerman, Raylan Rider, Connor Vinson, Ellie Parrott, Ellie Distler, Bailey Allen, Abraham Gross, Kenley Bulach, Clare Adams, Mason Middendorf, Abby Allgeier, Jacob Anderson, Ava Bush, TJ Drennen, Aubrey Hensley, Coleston Hoover, Blake Sackenheim, Austin Sizemore, Rory Weber, Ellie Michel, Brooklyn Hall, Kylie Minges, Savannah Barnes, Trenton Vicars, Ethan Mason, Lila Miller, Quinnlyn Tincher

2nd Quarter Honors:

Harper Carroll, Nathan Schueler, Maya Johnson, Carter Smith, Joshua Dunn, Aubrey Farris, Scarlet Love, Aubrey Withrow, Leah Fraasman, Kate Minges, Ella Mills, Cash Brown, Mari Courtney, Waylin Ruskaup, Gavyn Mato, Brody Akridge, Maci Taylor, Chloe Ellerman, Clair Eilerman, Elizabeth Meyer, Luke Hesselbrock, Bella Jaspers, Holden Crussel, Jonathan Tenney, Konnor Commins, Wyatt Watson, JJ Reiners, Cole Bryant, Chase Romans, Keira Romans, John Moad, Hudson Breeden, Kylie Feldkamp, Landon Johnson

I am excited to announce that Morgan has a new Catalyst Counselor working with our Morgan students. Lindsay Ryan is our new Catalyst Counselor click the link below to see her bio. <https://www.catalystcounselingllc.org/ross-team-1/lindsayryan>

Notes from the Nurse:

Please remember that if any member of your household is being tested for COVID, we request that your student remain home until those test results have been received. This will help protect our students and staff in this difficult time.

kelli.coffey@rossrams.com

NEWS From The Cafeteria

Happy February! February brings Valentine's Day, Celebration of the 100th Day of school and longer hours of daylight. This is a Great Month to let your student try our tasty lunch with our nutritional treats on special days. Lunch is FREE until the end of the school year, so check us out. On the 100th day of school we will be including a Free Mini Ice Cream Sandwich to Celebrate that special day. The Smiling Masked Lunch Ladies are also planning some fun activities for March, and hope your student will join us for Lunch .

Morgan PTO Newsletter

2020-2021 PTO Officers

PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	TREASURER	SECRETARY
Sara Schoenecker	Danielle Ruskaup	Angela Balash	Andrea Meyer

We want to say thank you to everyone who has been supporting us through these unusual times. We know that this year has been peculiar and we are excited for the 2021-22 school year in hopes we are back to normal, starting with hosting our Annual Fall Carnival at Stricker's Grove - so mark your calendars for Friday, October 15th - 5 - 9:30 PM!!

We encourage everyone to join us at our meetings, everyone is welcome and we will soon be announcing some big shoes to be filled for next year, look for more details in March!

Upcoming 2021 PTO EVENTS CALENDAR

February 4	ZOOM PTO Meeting @ 6:30
February 8-21	Virtual Book Fair http://bit.ly/MorElemBookFair
February 20	Chipotle Dine to Donate (5 PM -9 PM)
March 4	ZOOM PTO Meeting @ 6:30
March 1-26	Advance Ticket Sale for Drive-in Movie Night
March 8 - 22	JOCO Spring Flower Sale
April 6	Drive-in Movie tickets come home
April 9	Drive-in Movie Night at Holiday Auto Theatre (5 PM - 10 PM)

SPIRITWEAR

Reminder these links are open for shopping 24/7 to purchase your family Ross Gear and we earn 10% from every sale!!

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

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

Kindergarten Registration

If your child turns age 5 on or before August 1, 2021 and resides in the Ross Local School District please mark your calendar for our contactless kindergarten enrollment beginning March 14th - and ending March 28th.

Registration Packets with all needed information will be available online and at Elda Elementary, Morgan Elementary, Ross Middle School, and the Ross Local Schools' Administrative Offices beginning February 1, 2021.

Information regarding tuition-based all-day kindergarten can be found on the District webpage (rossrams.com).