

Ross Local Schools

MORGAN ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

October 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:

I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation with the daily pick up and drop off procedures. It has gone really well for all! We still want to stress the importance of sending in a note or signing up on the Google doc. when you are picking up your child at the end of the day. If an emergency comes up and you need to pick your child up after school, please call by 1:00pm.

With Halloween approaching, I wanted to remind parents that we are allowing the students to dress up and we will be having a classroom party. However, parents and room parents are not permitted to attend the party. Teachers have sent home communication about what items parents are able to send in and when to send them in to the teacher.

Our policy for costuming is as follows: Students may come to school dressed in their Halloween costume. The criteria for dressing: students still need to wear district approved masks, and no masks that cover the entire face. No props, No Face Paint allowed. No costumes that drag on the floor or make it hard to walk up steps or to sit down. No costumes that look bloody or “gory”. No costume should interfere with the student’s day. NO make-up is to be worn. No controversial costumes are allowed.

Grade 3 students will be taking the Fall state reading test during the morning of October 26th and October 28th. Please make sure that your child is here those days for the testing. Students that are receiving remote learning will be contacted with the testing date for the remote learners.

As always, if you have any questions, please give me a call at 738-1986 or send me an email at tom.perry@rossrams.com.

IMPORTANT DATES:

October

Oct. 19 → No School/ Inservice Day

Oct. 26-30 → Red Ribbon Week

Oct. 26 & 28 → Grade 3 State Reading Test

November

Nov. 3 → No School/Inservice Day

Nov. 10 & 12 → Kindergarten Virtual Conferences 4-7:30

Nov. 13 → Report Cards Distributed

Nov. 17 & 19 → Pre-K - 4 Virtual Conferences 4-7:30

Nov. 25-27 → No School - Thanksgiving Break

Students of the Week for October

Raelyn Sizemore, Lennox Brown, Zachary Ramstetter, Paisley Wanamacher, Charlotte Taylor, Brady Quick, Eleni Baker, Connor Vinson, Hannah Brewer, Delylah Leece, Joe Hennessey, Easton Eggers, Ella Lierer, Carli Smith, Axton Kendel, Clair Eilerman, Ava Cornelius, Joseph Armetrout, Kelly Arnold, Ava Bush, Ava Cornelius, Bane Wynn, Aubrey Farris, Evelyn Day, Mia VanWinkle, Theo Elam, Claire Riesenber, Roselyn Ziepfel, Hunter Minges, Leah Bulach, Lane Harding, Katherine Meyer, Raylen Barrett, Colton Baczyk, Jesse Donley, Bradley Pence, Alexis Conrad, Adrianna Lotton, Blakely Flavin

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

Preschool has had a wonderful start to the 2020-2021 school year! The students have done a great job adapting to the new rules and routines in the classroom. We are working hard on creating a classroom community where each student feels safe, and happy. We have been working on understanding classroom expectations, this will continue to be a focus for the next few months as we get comfortable with the routine. The last few weeks have focused upon “Colors”, “Shapes”, and “All about me”. We are using this time to discuss the similarities and differences in our families. We have discussed our immediate family, extended family, pets and each students’ preferences in their lives (favorite color, food, toys, etc.) Thank you for a wonderful start to the school year!

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

The kindergarteners have settled in nicely with learning school rules and routines of the classroom. October is here and finds the kindergarteners busy learning more sight words and numbers to 10. Our sight words include number words as well as several

high frequency words. Our themes for the month include: Brown Bear Brown Bear, Fire Safety, Fall, Pumpkins, Owls, Bats (nocturnal animals) and Halloween. We have been learning our Phonics Dance song in class to help us learn our letters and letter sounds. You should have received the Phonics Dance packet containing all of the words and motions to the song. Please practice this with your child as well as practice reading the monthly sight words daily in addition to the homework packet. Hopefully, your child has already been teaching you some of the Phonics Dance.

We want to thank any parents who have volunteered to send in items for our Halloween parties. We also appreciate all your support at home with homework and helping your child practice the skills they are learning in the classroom.

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

Welcome to the beginning of the school year. Children have begun to adjust to being at school all day and enjoy having lunch and recess at school. It's important for your child to memorize his/her pin number. Your child not only uses their pin number for lunch, but we also use them to take Accelerated Reading tests, which we will begin doing in the classroom.

In Reading we have been reviewing beginning and ending sounds and rhyming words, learning the difference between consonants and vowels, and have been practicing our reading strategies. We have started guided reading in small groups, and are learning through reading workshop to find "just right" books to read. It's important to practice reading each evening for homework. Comprehension is also important. After your child reads his/her book, question them about the text to make sure they understood and remember what they read.

In Writing we are learning how to be writers and are writing every day during our Writer's Workshop time. The students have been learning how to stretch out their words when they write and illustrate wonderful pictures that match the words in the story. They have also been starting to develop details in writing pieces and learning what needs to be included to stretch a sentence and make it more interesting for the reader.

In Math we are practicing counting forward to 120, counting by 5's and 10's to 120 and 2's to 50. We are learning addition strategies, subtractions strategies, and working on different ways to practice facts. We are beginning to do more mental math to help us.

We want to thank any parents who have volunteered to send in items for our Halloween parties. We appreciate the help and know that it will benefit the students. We also appreciate all your support at home with homework and helping your child practice the skills they are learning in the classroom.

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

Welcome back! For the first few weeks of school, second grade has been focusing a lot of time on building community and instilling a growth mindset for our second graders. We have been reading a variety of books that focus on quality character that includes having a positive outlook, positive goals, being kind to others, showing empathy for those around us and helping us show respect in many different ways. Our second graders have done an amazing job keeping their masks on and staying socially distant!

Reading: We began the year with a book called The Invisible Boy where we focused on making connections. Nobody ever seemed to notice Brian or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party . . . until, that is, a new kid comes to class. When Justin, the new boy arrives, Brian is the first to make him feel welcome and when Brian and Justin team up to work on a class project together, Brian finds a way to shine. This book focused on how one act of kindness can make all the difference.

We also read the book Edward the Emu focusing on making predictions. Tired of his life as an emu, Edward decides to try being something else for a change. He tries swimming with the seals, he spends a day lounging with the lions, and even slithers with the snakes, but Edward soon discovers that being an emu may be the best thing after all. This book focuses on the importance of being yourself because there is only one YOU. Next, in reading, we will start to learn about nonfiction text features such as headings, captions, a glossary, and table of contents.

Math: We have been focusing on fact fluency this quarter. We have been learning mental math strategies where we can solve math equations in our mind. So far we have learned and practiced +/- 10 ($3+10=13/14-10=4$), Tens Partners ($7+3=10/10-3=7$) and Doubles ($4+4=8/8-4=4$). By the end of the month we will have learned and practiced the following strategies: "Count Up +1,2,3," "Doubles +1," "See Nine, Make Ten," and "Break Apart." Second graders will focus on place value next.

Thank you for all your support and we look forward to having the BEST year with your kiddos! We have so many exciting things planned for this year! :) Happy fall, y'all!

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

October brings exciting times in third grade. Students are starting to adjust to the new school year and becoming more familiar with routines and procedures.

Students continue to work tirelessly on achieving their monthly goals during independent reading time. We are also working on retelling a story by pulling out important events and analyzing the character to determine their feelings and traits. Most importantly, third grade readers are switching to deeply understanding the book rather than just reading words. Good readers think about the book as they read. Our 3rd grade AIR assessment will be October 26th and 28th! We are ready to show off all that we have learned.

Writing workshop is filled with times to express our thinking. Students are taking a walk down memory lane to help write personal narratives. We call these stories small moments because they are a tiny glimpse into one event in their life. Students are learning to include a good beginning, middle and end, interesting details, and temporal words.

October finishes up our journey through learning addition and subtraction strategies. We will start transitioning over to multiplication and division by studying scaled graphs. Students are encouraged to work through more complex problems that may have more than one step. Looking for patterns and modeling our work with number sentences are two other overarching math ideas being developed this month.

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

Fourth graders have done an amazing job getting back into the routine of school. We are so very proud of them for their continued efforts to social distance and wear their masks while learning.

In math, we have just completed the VERY important place value chapter. Everything we focus on in 4th grade is based upon those concepts so it is vital to our success. Our next unit is area and perimeter. We will investigate how to find those measurements for rectangular shapes and even some irregular shapes and where to use them in real life. Planning to redo a room, paint a wall, redo your garden or build a fence? Involve your 4th grader in the process! It is a problem-solving skill they will need.

In reading/writing, we have been working on story elements of fiction and basic features of non-fiction texts. In addition, we are working to improve our writing through complete sentences, sensory details, punctuation, and capitalization. We will begin a narrative in the coming weeks.

All parents should have received information on how to login to Progressbook to check grades. As always, please feel free to email or dojo message us with any questions. Happy Fall! Happy October!!

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

ART: Our Morgan Amazing Artists have been working on a variety of projects in each grade level. Students in grade 2nd-4th have a Digital Portfolio Google Slide show that we are adding images of each project. 1st Grade will be working toward creating a Digital Portfolio as well. Students are not sharing supplies this year, please replenish your student's markers, crayons and sharpies as needed. If a student is absent, please check Google Classroom and reach out via email if you have questions. Jenna.beyersdoerfer@rossrams.com

MUSIC: Students in all grades are having a great time in music class learning about the notes on the staff! Third grade students have also been learning the proper playing position for the recorder. First grade students have been learning about different classroom instruments such as metals, shakers and scrapers, as well as the boomwhackers. As the weather has been nice, some classes have been going outside to sing and play instruments while maintaining the required social distance.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Students have been working with eye-foot coordination with soccer skills of dribbling and passing, along with kicking a rolling ball and stationary ball. Students are building their vocabulary by learning offense, defense, passing lanes, fielding teams, batting teams, fouls, goalies, and outs. We will be outside as much as we can until the weather becomes too wet and/or cold. Students should be dressed appropriately for the weather and have gym shoes on for class. My classroom materials are also online in Google Classroom, which each student has received an invitation and/or signed in already.

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

October is a month of new adventures in Title. We are getting acquainted with new friends in our classrooms, reading new books, and learning new skills.

In kindergarten, we are excited to be learning our letter names and sounds. We are using letter cards and magnetic letters to learn how to spell our names and the sounds that each letter makes as well as how to write our names. We are also working on matching our lowercase letters to our uppercase letters. Thank you Kindergarten families for working at home to help us become great readers!

First graders are working hard to learn hunks and chunks. We are learning our reading strategies and applying those strategies when we read and write. First graders are also practicing short and long vowels, and beginning-middle-ending sounds. We are working very hard on writing each day too. After we visualize a story, we write about it using details and labels on our pictures.

In second grade, we are working diligently to apply our hunks and chunks to words and sentences. We are also working on recognizing consonant blends and digraphs when we read and write. We are using hunks and chunks, blending, and digraphs when we write, too. We spend time visualizing, then write our stories with lots of details. We are learning about setting and about how our story may change as the setting changes.

In third grade reading, we have been working on reviewing fiction and non-fiction text features. We have studied plot including beginning, middle, and end, along with problem and solution in fiction texts. We also did a character study of Pigeon by Mo Willems, Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman, and will move into Kevin Henkes books soon! Next week we will look at Henry's Freedom Box, which will help us connect character's traits to their actions and influence on the storyline. In non-fiction texts, we reviewed the basic text features and how they are there to teach us more information about our topic. We look forward to the many wonderful books awaiting us over the coming school year!

In fourth grade, we are working on story maps (setting, characters, key events, theme, etc.) as well as analyzing each character in the story. We are looking at specific genres of books and breaking down why they fit into that category. We are also looking at text features in non-fiction books, such as headings, captions, sidebars, table of contents, etc., and how they can help us better understand what we're reading. We then use all of this information to write a book review, write from a character's point of view, or write comparing and contrasting characters.

Thank you for your support and for taking the time to read with your child each night!

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

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

News from the School Nurse:

Be sure to get those flu shots!

It's likely that flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both spread this fall and winter. Healthcare systems could be overwhelmed treating both patients with flu and patients with COVID-19. This means getting a flu vaccine during 2020-2021 is more important than ever.

While getting a flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19, there are many important benefits, such as:

1. Flu vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death.
2. Getting a flu vaccine can also save healthcare resources for the care of patients with COVID-19. (CDC website)

Student Council News:

Congratulations to our newest Student Council members. The students have added some fun Spirit Days to add to Red Ribbon Week. See the School Counselor Section for the Specific Days.

Coming up in November will be our Annual Canned Food Drive. A flier with more information will be coming home soon.

Counselor News:

Kalli Sawyers

Kalli.Sawyers@rossrams.com

Red Ribbon Week is coming up October 26-30. During this week students will be able to participate in special spirit days to go along with Red Ribbon Week. We will also have a virtual assembly with Jim Basketball Jones talking about being an upstander.

Monday October 26: Wear Red

Tuesday, October 27: Crazy Hair/Hat Day

Wednesday, October 28: Western Day

Thursday, October 29: Pajama Day (remember no nightgowns and students must wear shoes)

Friday, October 30: Costume Day

Morgan PTO Newsletter

2019-2020 PTO Officers

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

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Mum Buddies Fundraiser, we sold over 950 mums. The funds raised from this event will be used through the course of the school year to help in purchasing items that the staff and students may need to help in keeping safe through these trying times. Prize winners were for selling the most mums 3rd Place - Ava Patterson, 2nd Place - Maci Fehring and... 1st Place - Easton Eggers. We also want to send a HUGE thank you to all our extra hands the day of the delivery/pick-up - Danielle, Abby, Lila, Lara, Kelly, Angie Jenna - we appreciated your time and energy that day!!

Thank you to everyone who also took part in the first Dine to Donate night this year that took place at Big Buls Roadhouse. We have our next one November 9th at Eli's Sports Bar & Grill - a flyer is necessary for us to receive credit, you can show it to them from your phone and they will have a paper copy available to attach to your receipt at the register.

HOLIDAY GREENERY SALE

We partnered with Fortsmeyer again this year for the Holiday Greenery sale that will be taking place the next few weeks, with all paper orders and money due at school by Monday, October 26th. We have an expected delivery date for the items mid to late November. They have reduced their selection this year, due to COVID and are encouraging all orders to be completed online. We look forward to this sale every year, as it kicks off the Holiday spirit within the building with the wonderful aromas the items bring with them.

BOX TOPS

The first box top collection will be on October 23rd. Send them in with your child to be taken to the front office. Please make sure your clipped tops are not expired!
