

*Ross Local Schools*

# MORGAN ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

October 2018

## 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 help with the new pick up procedures. Things are running well, and we are able to get students to their parents in a safe and efficient manner. We still want to stress the importance of sending in a note 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 2:00pm.**

**With Halloween quickly approaching, I wanted to remind parents of the procedures for the parties: A.M. Preschool and Kindergarten parties will begin at 10:55 A.M. on October 31st . Please enter the front doors and wait in the office until 10:55 when you will be able to go to the classrooms.**

**The P.M. parties for Preschool – 4<sup>th</sup> grade will begin at 2:55 P.M. on October 31st. Please park in the parking lot behind the school and enter the glass doors, which will open at 2:40, and wait in the cafeteria until 2:55 when you will be able to go to the classrooms.**

**Our policy for costuming is as follows: Students may come to school dressed in their Halloween costume. The criteria for dressing is: No masks, 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. Also, because of all the incidents involving clowns, NO clown costumes are to be worn to school.**

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](mailto:tom.perry@rossrams.com) .

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## **Important Dates: October**

Oct. 12	End of First Nine Weeks
Oct. 12	Fire Prevention Day
Oct. 15	No School - Fall Break
Oct. 19	Report Cards Distributed
Oct. 22-26	Book Fair Week & Red Ribbon Week
Oct. 23	Bookmobile
Oct. 23 & 25	Parent-Teacher Conferences Grades PK-4
Oct. 29 & 30	Grade 3 State Reading Test
Oct. 30	Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Conferences
Oct. 31	Halloween Parties

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## **Students of the Week for September**

**Week of September 17:** Julia George, Matthew Pickens, Brantley Jarvis, Reese Holland, Karli Applegate, Eli Langworthy, Aubrey Black, Cooper Baum, Anabel Johnson, Abby Allgeier, Coleston Hoover, Ava Cornelius, Kinsey Hughett, Ellie Distler, Ellie Parrott, Surrayah Ash, Braden Balash, Ripley Carroll, Rowan Richards, Payton Gentry

**Week of September 24:** Haylee Houpe, Caleb Cornelius, Ryker Fliehman, Kelsy Voss, Killian O'Connor, Logan Clemow, Lynze Menkhaus, Raylen Fliehman, Emma Williamson, Landon Bolia, Kamryn Becker, Lauren Brudzinski, Lilly Ann Foster, Reid Richey, Bryslon Spivey, Eli Armstrong, Collin Baker, Luke Distler, Cassius Brown, Sam Marcum, Austin Hickman

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## **News from Preschool (Mrs. Byron and Ms. Theiler)**

This month we are studying Fall topics such as leaves, Halloween, Fire Safety, and pumpkins. We are focusing on name writing, math topics such as counting, one to one correspondence, quantification, and literacy topics including sequencing events, print concepts, letters, and letter sounds.

Conferences are coming up quickly and will be held on October 23rd and 25th from 4-7:20 in increments of 20 minutes. Please check your email for the like link to Signup.com. If you need us to resend you the link, please let one of us know. The Fall classroom parties will be held on October 31st at 10:55 and 2:55. Please

check for notes or emails from our room mothers as they are working hard to plan fun filled parties. Thank you so much for your continued support, it is greatly appreciated!

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### **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 are busy writing short narratives in writing workshop. These are small moments in our lives. We look forward to all the fire prevention activities this week and our Halloween parties on October 31. Mrs. Lomax and Mrs. Shoemaker look forward to sharing your child's strengths as well as address any needs on conference nights- Oct. 23, 25 and Oct.30 or Nov. 1.

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### **News from 1st Grade (Mrs. Bittner, Mrs. Hughett, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Martin)**

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, subtraction strategies, and working on different ways to practice facts. We are beginning to do more mental math to help us.

In Science we have begun practicing how to be a scientist through discovering things about the sun and how water can change. We will be talking about seasons, as well as the past, present, and future.

In Social Studies our main focus has been classroom and school rules as well as classroom procedures. We are learning how to function within the classroom as a community and get along with others. We are learning how to share ideas and respect one another as learners. We will be moving into learning about animals and their habitats.

We want to thank any parents who have volunteered to come into the classroom. 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.

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## **News from 2nd Grade (Mrs. Broering, Ms. Dorsey, Mrs. Hindery, Mrs. Morehead)**

Second Grade began reading groups this month! We work as a grade level to provide the most tailored instruction for your child's needs. Some students see different teachers based on skills where they need further practice. This model provides great differentiation for each student in second grade.

### *Reading:*

Throughout the month of October, we have developed our skills in identifying characters, the setting, problem and solution within a fictional story using great read alouds such as Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, When I Was Young in the Mountains and Koala Lou. We also are learning how to make inferences as we read (context clues from the text and pairing it with our background knowledge). We practiced inferring with Those Shoes which was a heartfelt story about a boy who desperately wanted a pair of shoes even if they didn't fit and A Visitor for Bear which discussed the importance of friendship. We will continue to explore the genre of fiction by comparing and contrasting books written by Kevin Henkes which will then lead us into our informational unit about the first Thanksgiving.

### Upcoming reading skills:

Compare/Contrast (Sheila Rae the Brave & Chester's Way)

Nonfiction Text Features (Wampanoag Tribe and Pilgrims)

*Math:*

In math, we are working hard on learning mental math strategies for fact fluency. We learned about Plus and Minus Ten, Partners of Ten, and the Doubles facts. We will continue to learn more strategies to help build fluency in addition and subtraction such as Doubles +1, Count Up +1,2,3, Count Back -1,2,3 and See Nine Make Ten.

We will also explore place value towards the end of the month. We will be learning about even and odd numbers, locating the ones and tens place and determining the difference between where the number sits and how much the number is worth.

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

Third graders are experiencing some great learning here at Morgan! In reading, students are engaged in working on their individual monthly AR goals. They are also using strategies to determine character traits and feelings as well as determine main idea and details of informational texts. Students are finding authors and genres that they enjoy and are enjoying the act of reading.

Speaking of reading, third grade students will be taking the Ohio state assessment for reading (AIR test) on Monday October 29th and Tuesday October 30th. Please be sure that your child is at school on both of these days.

In math, we are heading into one of the major math concepts of third grade, which is multiplication. Students will first model multiplication through drawings and manipulatives, and then will transfer to more abstract thinking. Families will see this through the nightly math homework.

We have finished up our writing unit on personal narratives. The students seemed to enjoy working on zooming in on a small moment and stretching it out like the accomplished author Karen Hesse. Your child's on-demand writing piece will be included in their report card envelope.

As you have probably noticed, students are actively corresponding with their Cincinnati Financial Pen Pals. We are thankful for this opportunity and we look forward to meeting our pen pals face to face in November.

We look forward to the Halloween party on October 31st. Thank you in advance for making it a success!

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

Fourth graders have been so busy reaching our A.R. Reading goal!! The goal for all of us was to earn 13 points and read 2 nonfiction books before the end of the 1st quarter. As an incentive, when students reach their goal, they will receive a note from their teacher stating that students do not have to write in their reading log for homework, but they are still expected to read 20 minutes each night for the rest of the quarter. So get busy reading 4th graders and reach your goal for next quarter! Our new quarter begins on Oct.16th. Second quarter's goal is to get 13 points and read 3 nonfiction books.

In Social Studies, we have been mastering the use of a map scale. We have learned about our first amendment rights by studying the constitution, and how we can get involved in our government.

In Science, we will be wrapping up our unit on fast earth processes or fast ways that the earth's surface can change. We will spend the next couple of weeks learning about different types of landforms that are found on earth.

Mathletes recently investigated the concepts of Area and Perimeter. We will continue to review these topics as we continue in our multiplication unit. Students have been learning various ways to multiply numbers and will need to practice the different strategies. Fact practice has also started! Each night students should practice math facts for a minimum of 10 minutes. This practice significantly helps our studies of multiplying/dividing larger numbers.

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

**ART:** Hello from the Art Room!

**MUSIC:** Upcoming Concerts: November 8th Grade 3 7:00 pm RHS  
December 5th Grade 4 7:00 pm RHS

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** We have been finishing up some fitness testing. We had special visitors from Miami University Goggin Ice Center present to all students in grades K-4. They provided each student with opportunities available at the Ice Center and had the student move through 4 stations of activities! Please remind your student to always wear gym shoes and comfortable clothes to participate in during your child's rotation!

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## **News from Title I (Mrs. Roberson, Mrs. Shumate, Mrs. Volker)**

Our Title 1 Parent Information night will be held the same nights as conferences. We will be meeting families in the gym for our Title night. Please stop by to meet your child's Title 1 teacher and bring any questions you may have. More information about our Title 1 night will be sent home soon.

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

In Kindergarten we are excited to be learning our letters and sounds. We have lots of hand motions to help us remember them. We are working on learning sight words, which will help us to read quickly and smoothly. Rhyming words are lots of fun and they will help us read many word families. We love the little books that we can read and are learning to always use our reading finger to point to words as we read. Thank you Kindergarten families for working at home to help us become great readers.

First grade is working hard to learn hunks and chunks. We are learning our reading strategies and practicing applying those strategies to our new books. First graders are also practicing rhyming, short and long vowels, and beginning-middle-ending sounds. Sight words are very helpful to us as we learn to read. Practicing these often at home is essential.

In second grade, we are working diligently to apply our hunks and chunks to words and sentences. We are also using our skills to learn and apply consonant blends and digraphs. We like to use rhyming as a way to identify patterns in our words so that we can train our brain to remember the sounds as we read.

Third graders are working to decode harder words using prior knowledge of hunks and chunks and word patterns to give us clues to what the word might be. We are focusing on specific genres (fiction, nonfiction, realistic fiction, fable, fairy tale, etc...). We are also learning to identify setting by asking, "Where, when, and what time?" Plot structure and character analysis are also very important. What happened at the beginning, the middle, and the end of the story? Lastly, we are looking for important clues within the text to describe a character.

Fourth graders are learning how to identify a main idea using details and clues from the text to support it. We also use graphic organizers to identify the beginning, middle, and end of a story. Another skill we are building on is compare and contrast. Vocabulary is an important tool as well. Students are identifying unfamiliar words and using context clues to find the meaning of a word. We will be writing in our journals to keep track of all of our progress and build on skills as we master them.

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

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

**Please remember to call the school by 10:00 a.m. when your child will not be attending that day, and send in an absence note in order to make it an excused absence. Thank you!**

**A reminder that if you send in any notes, box tops, fees, etc. please put your child's name and teacher on it so when it comes to the office we will be able to identify where it came from.**

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## **Student Council News:**

Congratulations to the newest officers for this school year.

President: Kainen Sawyers

Vice President: Sam Marcum

Treasurer: Aubrey Black

Secretary: Emily Albrinck

This month Student Council is collecting items for the Hurricane victims from both of the recent storms. We will be collecting items the week of October 16-19. The following items are needed:

Baby care items (diapers, wipes, baby food)

Paper Products (paper towels, toilet paper)

Toiletries (shampoo, toothpaste, soap)

# Morgan PTO Newsletter

2018-2019 PTO Officers

**PRESIDENT**

Michelle McKean

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Mindy Kelley

**TREASURER**

Michele Beckman

**SECRETARY**

Chrissy O'Connor

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Oct. 15: No School
- Oct. 22 - 26: Book Fair
- Nov. 15: PTO Meeting @ 6:30 pm (Morgan Media Center)

**THANK YOU ROOM PARENTS!!!**

This year's Fall Carnival was a huge success, and the Morgan PTO would like to THANK all the families, staff and volunteers who came out to support us on Friday night.

A special thank you goes out to those of you who took time away from your families and volunteered your time during the carnival— without your commitment this event would not have turned out as great as it did. There was also a handful of you who worked multiple shifts throughout the evening, and we were grateful for your willingness to stay and help.

**VOLUNTEER HERE!!!**

PTO is always looking for parents who are generous enough to volunteer their time. If you would like to help, we need volunteers for the following event(s):

**BOOK FAIR**

Morgan's 1st book fair of the year will be held the week of October 22 – 26th.

We will need parents/grandparents to fill a 1- hour shift to help students shop for books. Watch for more information next week regarding how to sign up to help.

**CLASS HALLOWEEN PARTIES**

Halloween parties for all grade levels will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 31st. All AM class parties will begin at 10:45 and PM classes will start at 2:45. Check with your Room Parent to see what items or treats may be needed for your child's party.

**BOX TOPS**

The first box top collection will be on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Send them in with your child to be taken to the front office. Please make sure your clipped tops are not expired!

# Counselor's Corner

Kalli Sawyers & Aubre Cole, Morgan School Counselors

Hello Morgan Families! We are enjoying each day with your amazing kids. They truly make Morgan a great place to be. Mrs. Sawyers and I visited every classroom during the first month of school. We started our lessons with introducing ourselves as school counselors and what role we have in our school and then read a book. In PreSchool & Kindergarten we read the book *How Kind*, in 1st & 2nd grade we read the book *Do Unto Others*, in 3rd grade we read *The Friendship Recipe*, and in 4th grade we talked about our school's expectations.

Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign to raise awareness for the prevention of drug abuse and violence. Students at Morgan will be participating in special themed days to show their commitment to making healthy choices for themselves and staying drug-free!

Monday October 22 - Wear Red to Kick off Red Ribbon Week.

Tuesday October 23 - Team up against Drugs - wear your favorite team jersey or t-shirt.

Wednesday October 24 - National Unity Day - wear Orange against bullying.

Thursday October 25 - Too bright for drugs-wear Neon colors.

Friday October 26- Wear maroon and gold to show Ross Rams Don't Do Drugs