

MORGAN ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 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



A message from our principal, Mr. Tom Perry:

The first quarter came to an end, and report cards were distributed on October 19th. If your child did not bring home a report card, please check with his/her teacher.

Parent-Teacher Conferences were held October 23rd and 25th. If you did not sign up for a conference and would like one, please contact your child's teacher.

The Third Graders took the State Fall Reading Test on Monday, October 29th and Tuesday, October 30th. The results will arrive in December, and we will send them home after the winter break.

As we continue to provide a safe and secure environment for the students at Morgan, the staff would like to remind you of a few procedures that will help ensure school safety and security:

- All volunteers and visitors must enter the front doors of the Building except for the end of the day dismissal.
- No parking in circle drive during morning drop off. If you want to walk your child to the door, please park in the back parking lot.
- Student drop off is between 9:00 and 9:15 A.M. The doors will unlock at 9:00 and lock at 9:15. If you drop your child off after 9:14, please make sure he/she is able to enter the doors. After 9:14 A.M., cones will be set up to block the circle and students must enter the front door of the building.
- **When picking up your child after school (or on party days), please send in a note. If you call after 2:30 PM we may not be able to notify your child that they will be picked up.**
- When picking students up at dismissal time, parents need to park in the back parking lot and enter door #12 in the back. The doors will unlock at 3:25 P.M.
- No animals are permitted in building without permission from the office.

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

Important Dates: November/Beginning of December

November 6	No School - Teacher Inservice
November 8	3rd Grade Music Program, 7:00 P.M., RHS
November 15	PTO Meeting
November 16	Progress Report #2
November 21-23	No School - Thanksgiving Break
November 27	Bookmobile
December 3 - 7	PTO Santa Shop
December 5	4th Grade Music Program, 7:00 P.M., RHS

Students of the Week for October

Week of October 1: Adelyn Marcum, Aubrey Hensley, Emory Clark, James Donley, Raylan Rider, Nolan Rice, Lennox Brown, Julia Crowley, Jacob Flick, Aubrey Farris, Riley Latimer, Kinley Michel, Lydia Day, Katherine Meyer, Jayden Brown, Andrew Brunner

Week of October 8: Briana Frazier, Emily Lykins, Elizabeth Haun, Hannah Anderson, Isaac Reeves, David Craven, Sam Kimbrough, Julian Byron, Emmitt Siekerman, Mallory Sawyers, Carter Doherty, Bryan Butterfield, Makenna Vangen, Josi Alvis, Riley Blanton, Sam Burwinkel, Sophia Dawson, Julianne Combs, Meadow Martin, Lily Kern, Emma Mills

Week of October 15: Anthony Sunderhaus, Lucy Day, Sam Foss, Abby Buschur, Connor Day, Isla Schnell, Collin Ante, Clare Adams, Courtney Schenk, Aubree Hennessey, Abby Reeves, Lucas Vickroy, Adam Criswell, Levi Hale, Zachary Ramstetter, Hunter Roberson, Tucker Elliott, Ava Bush, Dominic Valentino, Joshua Dunn

Week of October 22: Joelene Lewe, Meghan Eldridge, Connor Burge, Harper Carroll, Reagan Philpot, Carter Hicks, Aubrey Charles, Sydney Garcia, Callie Morison, Liz Baker, Laylyn Ewing, Mia VanWinkle, Logan Hale, Milo Byron, Emma O'Connor, Emily Albrinck, Paige Ferneding, Brooklyn Hall, Connor Vinson, Dylan Baum, Gavin Mato

Week of October 29: DJ Rhodes, Kainen Sawyers, Jessa Smith, Tristan Doherty, Alyvia Cole, Harley Jenkins, Kam Scheidt, TJ Drennen, Bella Jaspers, Landen McDonald, Koleman Commins, Savannah Barnes, Leo Dittman, June Hess, Annabelle Schmidt, Brooke Rumpke, Brady Kendall, Chase Moore, Daniel Schneberger, Skylee Towe

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

Believe it or not, November has arrived! This month we will be focusing on topics that include Thanksgiving, Fall, and Winter. Within these topics we will be addressing writing, letter recognition and sounds, name writing, counting, patterning, and gross motor skills. Students will be completing art projects based on Thanksgiving topics such as our favorite foods, what we are Thankful for, and making a large turkey for our doorway.

We want to thank our room mothers and families for your continued support. Our students had an awesome time at the Halloween parties. Please note that picture makeup day is November 30th. Make sure that your child has an extra set of clothing here at school so if accidents occur, they can quickly change. Have a safe and fun filled Thanksgiving break with your families.

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

October has come and gone so quickly! We would like to thank all our parents who were able to help with the Fall Carnival and Halloween parties. We also enjoyed all the goodies during Red Ribbon Week.

The month of November also brings many exciting activities as one of our biggest Kindergarten projects is here! TURKEYS!!! The Thanksgiving holiday is discussed with much emphasis on family life/traditions. The Morgan kindergarteners are keeping the tradition of creating a family turkey to be displayed for all to see. Please start bringing them in for all to enjoy! We politely ask everyone to look, not touch as you view them.

The children are doing a nice job stretching out unknown words while reading. They are

learning many new songs to help them remember the letter sounds. Students are beginning to stretch words during our daily writing/reading workshop time. We practice daily putting spaces between our words and writing the best we can, then move on. We never stop as writers because we can always add more details to our picture and more words in our stories. In Math, we will begin Chapter 5. We will be learning more about addition problems.

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

November is the time where we start to actually enjoy more Fall like weather. Remember that we do go out for recess as long as it is above 32 degrees, so make sure your child has a coat to wear when they go out.

Reading: We are working hard on using our strategies more independently. We are starting to do more AR quizzes with our book buddies, as well as trying some on our own. We are working on comprehension strategies like making connections to the stories we read.

Writing: We are focusing on making sure we plan out a story with characters, a problem, and a solution. We are working hard on trying to use more hunks and chunks to help us spell words. We are using more details in our writing like people talking, moving, and feeling.

Math: We are working on subtraction strategies and using some more mental math ideas to help us solve subtraction. We will be moving into place value where we will see how numbers are groups of tens and ones. We will be counting and using numbers higher than 100. Please continue to practice math facts at home with your child.

We are looking forward to Thanksgiving and learning about the past of our country. We have a special guest coming to show us some old devices they used in the past like telephones and radios. We will be learning about the holiday and how it was an important part of our history.

Science: We will be exploring animals and their habitats. We will be looking into four types of habitats: rainforests, ocean, desert, and the arctic. We will learn how animals survive in each habitat and what makes them different. We will be looking at a lot more non-fiction books to help us with that.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving.

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

November is an exciting month for second graders! This month second graders learn the story of Thanksgiving across subjects in preparation for *Colonial Day*! We are looking forward to going back in time and experiencing life as colonial citizens. With the help of the Butler County Historical Society, we are trying something new this year with our Colonial Day and we know the kids will absolutely love it!

Reading:

Throughout the month of November, we are beginning to focus on nonfiction texts learning text features such as headings, subheadings, table of contents, captions etc. We are learning about nonfiction text features through the story of Thanksgiving reading books on the topic with a focus on the Wampanoag Tribe and the Pilgrims. We also incorporated these features into our writing block where students are writing an informational piece based on what they are learning about the First Thanksgiving using a brochure.

In addition to nonfiction text features, we will introduce coding through this unit as well. We will introduce binary codes as a Thanksgiving activity with the book, *Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving*.

Upcoming reading skills:

- Nonfiction Text Features (Wampanoag Tribe and Pilgrims)
- Review of Author's Purpose (*Turk and Runt*)

Math:

In math, we are working hard on learning addition and subtraction with two and three digit numbers with regrouping. We are currently teaching several strategies students can use in order to help them solve these types of problems. We are gaining practice with word problems as well helping them apply their strategies through problem solving. Continue to work on addition and subtraction facts at home as a foundational skill that will be very helpful with adding and subtraction with regrouping.

We want to thank all of our parent volunteers that assisted in planning great Halloween parties as well as all of your help with the preparation for Colonial Day! We are so grateful for each and every one of you and all of your support! *Happy Thanksgiving from Second Grade! :)*

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

The fall state reading assessment is behind us and we continue to push forward with reading groups, comprehension skills, and fluency. We are encouraging students to find books, authors, genres, and book series that they love. This is so important and it will help students fall in love with reading!

We are anxiously awaiting our first face-to-face visit with our Cincinnati Financial Pen Pals on Tuesday, November 20th. Please be looking for more information from your child's classroom teacher regarding snack and drink donations for this wonderful visit.

In math, students are finishing up multiplication skills and will soon be using these skills to conceptualize division. It is going to be vital that students spend 5-10 minutes each night at home doing multiplication (and eventually division) fact practice. This can be done through fun skip-counting songs (iTunes, YouTube, etc have great options), apps on the child's tablet or iPad, traditional flash cards, or fact triangles. Consistency and routine is key!

Writing for the second quarter focuses on informational texts. Students always seem to enjoy writing about their topics of expertise, and will be learning ways to structure their writing and present their knowledge. Adding nonfiction text features is always an added fun component of informational writing. Ask your child about their topic of choice and take some time to let them check out books on that topic from your local library!

Thank you to all of the room parents that helped with the wonderful Halloween parties. You all never disappoint! We are thankful for all of the support that Morgan families give to our students and staff alike. Happy Thanksgiving!

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

Thank you to all of the parents and students who came to conferences! It is always a pleasure to meet with the parents of our students and to get to know you better. Thanks to all of the parents who volunteered and sent goodies in for our Halloween parties. A good time was had by ALL!

Fourth grade students have completed research on Prehistoric Indians in Social Studies. We are now moving on to Historic Indians of our great state of Ohio! We will spend some time learning about interactions among these groups and how these interactions resulted in both cooperation and conflict. We will also learn how the European settlers had a direct influence on these Historic Indian tribes.

The writing focus for this quarter is Opinion Essays. We will be learning the direct steps to take to write a successful opinion piece. Our focus has been on "taking a side" as we practice debating major issues!

Students will continue to read nightly and write in their Reading Log. This quarter's AR goal is to earn at least 13 points, which also includes reading 3 nonfiction books. Most students completed their goal for the first quarter. Please encourage your favorite fourth grader to "keep up the hard work." We want to thank our wonderful PTO for providing us the wonderful opportunity to spend all of those AR points that we work so hard for.

Mathletes are multiplying maniacs! It is amazing to see how easily students are using multiple techniques to find products. Students have learned the regrouping method which is the technique most parents use. We will be continuing our investigations and applications of multiplication. Keep up the great problem solving! Students are becoming more comfortable with multi-step problems and how to attack them. Also, continue to focus the fact practice each night. Students are seeing how imperative it is that they be fluent with their basic facts as we do more and more multiplication. Students are learning about factors, multiples, and prime and composite numbers as well this month.

In Science, students have been learning all about landforms. They are learning about the characteristics of various landforms and how they are formed on Earth. Students are discovering many land features we have in our community such as hills, plains, and rivers. Canyons, plateaus, deltas, and sand dunes are some of the other landforms they studied.

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

ART: Hello from the Art Room!

MUSIC: Upcoming Music Concerts: November 8th Third Grade
December 5th Fourth Grade

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: We have been working hard on eye/hand coordination in various activities! We have learned a "shake hands" grip for a racquet, paddle, and scooter hockey stick. We have played new games and activities that will also work these skills and tried cup stacking! We are also celebrating the end of October with a massive obstacle course! Follow us on Twitter! **MorganPhysEd @morgan_phys**

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

It was so nice to meet everyone at our Fall Title One Open House and conference night. We just wanted to take a moment to thank you for your support in making your student a great reader! A small report card was sent home with your student in their book bag. If you have any questions about it, we would love to discuss it with you!

Kindergarten students are mastering their letter names and sounds and know many of their 25 kindergarten sight words. Reading and writing word families is getting easier every week. They have read over 20 books with excellent use of their reading fingers, beginning sounds and sight words. Comprehension skills are growing as they not only recall the facts, but are learning to predict what will happen next and understand the feelings of the

characters. They have learned so much in such a short time! Thanks so much for all the work our families are doing at home!

First graders are working to learn their hunks and chunks and word families. We are working hard to learn the difference between a short vowel sound and a long vowel sound. We are recognizing these word parts in words as we read and feel excited to see our success. Additionally, we are chugging away at our sight words. It's important to be able to recognize these words as we read without hesitation because so many of them don't follow the traditional rules that we are learning about. Keep reading every single night! Great job first grade!

Second grade students are setting goals! We are learning how to set small goals that can be achieved in a month. It's fun to see our success and be rewarded for it. We are also learning about the difference between fiction and nonfiction books. In nonfiction, we are learning about text features such as: headings, titles, captions, labels, maps, and graphs. We are learning why the author includes these items and how they're helpful for understanding the book. Additionally, we are practicing our hunks and chunks a couple of times a week. We are using our journal to write many words that include these hunks and chunks. It's amazing how many we can find. We also play fun games to learn our sounds. We enjoy earning stickers on our incentive charts when we have success remembering.

Third graders are also making goals. Students are setting goals that are appropriate for their learning path. We are learning good reading behaviors and good strategies to use on our own and with an adult while reading. We are learning to go deeper with our thinking. We are learning about main idea, author's message, author's purpose, and inferencing. We are also learning the importance of re-reading for understanding when the text doesn't make sense the first time. Sometimes it's because we made a mistake, and sometimes it's because we didn't process what we read correctly. As a parent, it's a huge help for your student if you ask them to summarize what they read after they read. Examples of other questions you can ask: What are the characters like? Where did the story take place? When did the story take place (time of day, season, day of the week, month, night/day). Thank you for listening to your child read every night. It's a vital part of becoming a great reader!

Fourth graders are diving deep into more complex texts. We are reading some interesting nonfiction texts that encourage us to think about the world around us and how we can connect. We are using our journals almost on a daily basis to write about what we read. We answer questions that require deeper-level thinking. It's important as fourth graders that we can go beyond the text to understand and interpret ideas within the text so that we can have meaningful discussions and give careful thought about what we are reading. We are using context clues to learn new vocabulary. We love to make inferences to understand motives of characters and why certain events happen in a story. We are also noticing patterns in words that help us understand how to spell words. We use our strategies of prefixes, suffixes, and base words to add and take away word parts. Although fourth graders do not bring a Title 1 book home, it is still crucial that they are reading every night with an adult in addition to independent reading. Ask them questions about what they read to be sure that the students are understanding what they read. If you need help coming up with some good questions, please contact your child's Title 1 Teacher for some tips!

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

If your child is absent, please call the office in addition to informing the teacher. Reminder: Prior to your vacation, please send a note to the office for Mr. Perry's approval. After your child is ill, send a written note to the office in order for the absence to be excused.

Please remember to send a note in with your child if you plan on picking them up at the end of the day. If you forget to send a note we ask that you call before 2:30. If you call later than that there is a chance that the pickup notice may not get to the teacher early enough.

Student Council News:

Student Council is collecting canned and nonperishable food items through Friday November 16. All of the donations will go to the RAMM food pantry which is located in Ross. This is an annual project for Student Council and last year we collected 1,255 items. We are hoping to beat that this year. This is a contest between the classes and the winning classroom will win a prize.

Morgan PTO Newsletter

2018-2019 PTO Officers

PRESIDENT

Michelle McKean

VICE PRESIDENT

Mindy Kelley

TREASURER

Michele Beckman

SECRETARY

Chrissy O'Connor

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Nov. 15 PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m./Morgan Media Center

Nov. 21-23 Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 3 - 7 Santa Shop

Dec. 6th Cookies with Santa

Dec. 21 - 31 Winter Break

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Morgan PTO hopes all of you enjoy some time with family and friends this Thanksgiving! We're especially thankful to all the parents, grandparents, and caregivers who take the time to volunteer and help with all of the activities that take place at school. If it weren't for your time and commitment, much of the "extras" we do for the students would not be possible.

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):

SANTA SHOP

Santa Shop will be held December 3 - 7. We need parents to help students shop during their scheduled times throughout the school day. If you are available, please contact Stephanie Voss at 513-218-5435 or at sulrich@shepchem.com.

For more information, contact any of the PTO Officers at morganpto1@gmail.com

PTO (cont'd)

SANTA SHOP

Santa Shop is an activity organized by the PTO which gives Morgan students the opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for their family. All of the items in our shop have been bought at super discounted prices throughout the year by our dedicated volunteers – this means the gift options are coming from nice retail stores and can be modestly priced to make it affordable to the students. Money can be sent in with your student on the day they are scheduled to shop. Parent volunteers will help them choose their gifts. There are items for family, friends and even pets!!!

COOKIES WITH SANTA

PTO will again be sponsoring an evening of “Cookies with Santa” on Thursday, December 6th at 6:00pm at Morgan Elementary. Children will have the opportunity to talk to Santa while enjoying cookies, milk and a small craft. There is no charge for this activity and it will only be open to the families of Morgan.

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At Morgan Elementary, we recognize students who put forth great effort to be high-achieving students of good character and great effort by being respectful, responsible, and good problem solvers. So far this year we have celebrated a variety of student accomplishments.

-Student of the Week-Teachers nominate 1 student per class each week for recognition.

-Perfect Attendance Pizza: Students who have perfect attendance for an entire quarter earn an invitation to a lunchtime pizza party with Mr. Perry, Mrs. Sawyers, and Mrs. Cole.

-Terrific Thursday: Every Thursday, Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Sawyers visit the cafeteria for the last 10 minutes of lunch for grade levels 1-4 and recognize all students who have received a RAM card that week for being Respectful, Responsible, and Problem Solvers. Then, 2 names are drawn for a prize. For Preschool and Kindergarten, Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Sawyers meet with students at the beginning of their day in the cafeteria. So far, since the beginning of 2nd quarter we have recognized 235 Respectful students, 240 Responsible students, and 199 Problem Solving students.

“Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional and academic success.” Our teachers and staff members will teach our students how to behave in all areas of our school. We are going to reinforce this throughout the year with refresher lessons and the use of RAM cards to reinforce the positive behaviors.

We will be handing out RAM cards to students who go above and beyond what is expected of them. These are used to recognize students who exhibit being Responsible, Respectful, and Problem Solvers.

If you have any connections to local businesses that would be willing to donate some prizes for our weekly winners please contact Mrs. Cole or Mrs. Sawyers, thank you!



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