

Ross Local Schools

MORGAN ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 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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Phone: 513-738-1986 Fax: 513-738-0347
Find Morgan on Twitter → [@MorganRossRams](https://twitter.com/MorganRossRams)

A message from our principal, Mr. Tom Perry:

It is hard to believe that Winter Break and the New Year is less than a month away. Students and staff have been working hard this month with many learning activities and special events. Many of our activities are “tweeted” out on Morgan’s Twitter account @MorganRossRams, so you may want to follow us.

We hope that you have been taking advantage of the ability to keep up with your child’s progress with the “click of a mouse.” If you are not aware, you have the capability to login to the web based electronic grade book program, Progressbook, currently being used in Grade 4. You can access Progressbook through the link on our school website.

Grade 3 students took the State Reading test October 29th and October 30th. The parent reports should arrive the week of January 21st. We will send home the results as soon as they arrive.

As the year 2018 comes to an end, we look forward to the New Year and what lies ahead. The Morgan Staff would like to take this opportunity to extend to all our parents and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

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

December 2018 Calendar

December 3-7	PTO Santa Shop
December 5	4th Grade Music Program, 7:00 PM, RHS
December 12	PTO Staff Christmas Luncheon
December 20	End of First Semester
December 20	Christmas Parties & Last Day Before Winter Break
December 21-31	No School Winter Break
January 1-4	No School Winter Break
January 7	School Resumes
January 8	Bookmobile

Students of the Week for November

K YY_`cZBcj Ya VYf`) . Isabelle George, Chloe Klamo, Colt Thoman, Gabriel Kandil, Reagan Keller, Rylie Gentry, Josiah Lynch, Tilly Westrich, Harper Rizor, Addie Eastham, Violet Kimbrough, Taylor Bertram, Noah Ledford, Landen Day, Ethan Mason, Liam Hesselbrock, Jacob Reinhardt, Nora Haenning, Maci Taylor, Jade Miller

K YY_`cZBcj Ya VYf`&* . Nathan Schuler, Avery Maupin, Xander Hughes, Milo Molnar, Maci Gottlieb, Cooper Holmes, Sam Mason, Blake Arnold, Josey Smith, Eric Albrinck, Nathan Spahn, Pearl Fisher, Livvy Hesselbrock, Noah Ante, Dylan Emery, Christian Spahn, Krew Brown, Ian Harris, Johnathan McLain, Austin Sizemore, Maeve Berry

K YY_`cZBcj Ya VYf`&* . Kate Minges, Candace Fathman, Keegan Bush, Bella Jaspers, Oliver Allen-Day, Chloe Meyer, Maddie Reed, Xavier Houpe, Remley Flieman, Hayden Jackson, Anna Brudzinski, Ellie Michel, Alexis Wyant, Joseph Godbey, Keaton Middendorf, Waylin Ruskaup, Bryce Shoenecker

First Quarter Honor Roll

<]] \ `<cbc fg. Brayden Meade, Jayden Brown, Aubrey Eads, Aiden Beckman, Jaylyn Ewing, Braxton Plvan, Leah Vangen, Juilianne Combs, Jocelyn Alexander, AJ Sparks, Reese Holland, Morgan Aller, Adelyn Marcum, Anna Schaefer, Paige Baker, Josiah Lynch, Hunter Roberson

<cbc fg. Travis Tallent, Nora Haening, Krew Brown, Kaylin Commins, Caleb Dunn, Jacob Gilbert, Meadow Martin, Diesel Casey, Seth Capetillo, Aiyla Adams, Piper Rieke, Taylor Cain, Kaine Scheidt, Cody Harville, Landon Smith, Ripley Carroll, Joey Godbey, Sam Marcum, Taylor Bertram, Dominic Valentino, Ian Harris, Braiden Jaspers, Savannah Schlamb, Haylee Houpe, Prestin Walters, Bryan Pence, Jacob McConnell, Violet Kimbrough, Briana Frazier, Kainen Sawyers, Brayden Nawrocki, Kaden Coulter, Charlie Armstrong, Anthony Krabbe, Josey Smith, Zachary Stevison, Collin Ante, Kailyn Ponder, Maddie Reed, Cash Alvis, Andrew Brunner, Reagan Philpot, Kelsey Voss, Wyatt Bulach, Brycen Gognat, Eli Langworthy, Quinn Laurens, Jace McIntosh, Daniel Schneberger

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

This month in preschool, we are focusing on clothing and holidays from around the world. Preschool will be learning about fasteners, sorting clothing based on different characteristics,

and clothing options depending on the season and weather. 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 positional words, social emotional skills, physical including gross motor, and literacy skills which include retelling stories and details that include parts of a book (title, illustrator, front/back, spine, and the flow of print). We are looking forward to our holiday parties before break and a big thank you to everyone who is volunteering their time and donations to make this a special time for our students.

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

The month of November has come and gone with much activity. Thanks to everyone for helping participate in the creation of the turkeys! Everyone enjoyed viewing them. As we move into December, we will continue discussions about holidays and customs. 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. 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. In writing, we will share stories with a partner, try writing more words in "a snap" and focus on the most important part of a story. Our month will end on December 20th 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. Martin)

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.

We are very excited about our new adventure in science. First graders are exploring and learning about animals and their habitats. Students also get to examine animal adaptations

that help them get food. Lastly as we enter winter, students are learning about what animals are doing to get ready for the winter months. In Social Studies we are learning about past, present, and future.

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 the holiday parties. We wish everyone a great holiday season and a wonderful break.

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

Second Grade thoroughly enjoyed Colonial Day this year with our special guests from the Butler County Historical Society! Thank you to all who helped make this special day happen!

Math: Second graders just finished up their double and triple digit addition and subtraction unit and dived right into telling time and counting money. For the month of December, second graders will receive an introduction to telling time to five minutes as well as identifying coins and counting money. When we return in January, second grade will dive deeper into our money unit mastering the skill of counting coins and making change.

Reading: For the month of December, second graders will be learning about identifying text features and touch briefly on identifying the main idea of a book before Winter Break.

Reindeer Article- (Text Features)

Night Tree- (Main Idea & Text Features review)

We want to genuinely thank all our Morgan families this year for all of your support. We are grateful for each and every one of you. Thank you for a fabulous first half of the year! Merry Christmas!

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

Third grade enjoyed a wonderful visit with their Pen Pals from Cincinnati Insurance Company. It was so heartwarming to see the adults invest in young children and truly have good conversation with one another. We are so grateful for them!

In math, students are focusing on division strategies. Students will begin to see the relation between multiplication and division as we build arrays, model with cubes, and act out problems. It is essential that students spend 5-10 minutes each evening practicing their multiplication facts for fluency. Ipad apps, tablet games, fact triangles, or traditional flash cards will do the trick!

Students are very engaged in their informational texts during writing. They are working on using expert words, deciding on text structure, text features, and strong leads and conclusions. Reading a variety of nonfiction texts will help students emulate what good nonfiction writers do as they write.

Students will be taking the STAR reading test this month. This online assessment will give students and teachers alike the ability to see how reading levels have grown since the end of first quarter. Be looking in your child's reading log for updated reading levels at the beginning of the third quarter. Since it's cold outside and daylight is minimal, enjoy these dark cozy nights with your child by snuggling up with a great Christmas picture book!

As we wrap up 2018, we would like to thank all of the amazing Morgan families for all you do to support the students and the staff. Big ways or small ways...your actions contribute to the success of our kids and our school! Merry Christmas!

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

Time has passed so quickly. It's impossible to believe that we've come to the last month of 2018. Half of our school year will be over when the kids leave for Christmas break. The fourth graders have had a lot to do and will probably appreciate a well deserved rest at the end of this month.

In Social Studies, students finished up their project over their favorite Historic Indian Tribe of Ohio. We want to thank the parents who helped their favorite fourth grader with this assignment. We will begin learning about how the French and Indian War had an influence in causing the American Revolution. Students will learn how colonists felt about "taxation without representation" while studying the Boston Tea Party and the Stamp Act. We will also see how the Northwest Ordinance impacted Ohio becoming the 17th state of the United States.

It's great to see Mathletes applying various strategies we have been discussing to help them complete more difficult problems. They are really working hard to see and apply mathematical strategies. While we have officially wrapped up our multiplication unit, we will still be practicing problems to strengthen our process skills. In addition, keep studying those math facts. We have spent a short amount of time focusing on factors and multiples and recognizing patterns. As we transition from multiplication to division, knowing those facts really helps!

In Science, students are learning all about landforms. Students are working on completing a slide presentation about one of the Earth's landforms. As we finish up with landforms we will begin looking at living things and their environments. Students will be exploring the many ways that living things adapt to the world around them.

Our project-based learning experience has been going great! Students enjoyed presentations last month from Officer Liddil, and Mr. Dale and Mr. Kar from the Butler County Engineer's Office. This month students will be focused on research and design and development of their ideas. We can't wait to see what the students come up with.

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

ART: If you are interested in art classes for your after school or this summer please check out the Fitton Center in Downtown Hamilton. (They offer a free scholarship you can apply for.) A FREE fun stop motion animation app is called Stop Motion Studio. Try it out with your kids! I'd love to see what you create with them! Art For Kids Youtube channel had some fun step by step drawings to follow along with. These are great things to try out over the Holiday Break!

MUSIC: Upcoming Music Concerts: February 27th, 2019 First Grade Concert

7:00 Ross High School

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: We continue working on eye/hand coordination and have included some basketball skills! We have played Slide Tag to work on our defensive sliding! Don't forget to follow our Twitter MorganPhysEd !!

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

Happy Holidays from Title I! We are down to the last few weeks here before our Christmas break, but our students are still plugging away and working hard.

Kindergarteners are continuing to practice letter names and sounds as well as sight words. We are getting really good at blending our letter sounds to make words. Clapping the number of word parts is super fun! Our books are starting to have many more words and are not as repetitive so we are being very careful to look for sight words and use our picture and beginning sounds. Be sure to ask questions after reading together. What is this book all about? (main idea) How did the characters feel? How do we know they were happy, sad....? What does this book remind you of? Thanks so much for working with your child at home!

1st graders are learning new hunks and chunks! We are using those hunks and chunks to read new words. It's fun to be a reading detective as we look into a word and identify these chunks. We are really trying to use our strategy friends: Eagle Eye, Lips the Fish, Stretchy Snake, Chunky Monkey, Tryin' Lion, Skippy Frog, and Flippy Dolphin. Ask your student what these strategies mean. They know how to use them and are finding such success as they become stronger readers. Please be sure to ask them to retell the story and ask questions like, "Why do you think the character did that," or "How do you think the character is feeling?" It's great to ask questions like, "What did you learn," and "What does this story remind you of?" Thank you for reading with your child each night.

Our 2nd grade friends are becoming amazing readers. We are reading both fiction and nonfiction. We are learning terms like: heading, label, graphic, diagram, and glossary. We are

learning why the author puts these in books and what we can learn from them. Nonfiction books are a lot of fun and very interesting! In fiction, we are learning about inferencing. Inferencing involves using what you know to make a guess about what you don't know, or reading between the lines. Some good questions that you can practice at home are: Why did? How do you know that? What might happen if? What can you infer from the picture on the page? Why do they? How do you know? Do you think? Why do you think that? Why does the author use the word? What is the author trying to tell us? What message is the author trying to give? Additionally, ask them what they think might happen next. Making predictions is an important skill! Thank you for reading with your student each night!

3rd grade students are learning about different genres. We have many different types of fiction and a few different types of nonfiction. We are learning what makes each one unique. Like second grade, we too are working on inferencing. Please read the questions above to see how you can ask these questions at home. These questions work on any book that your student is reading. Also, ask your student to retell the story. What happened in the beginning, middle and end. Encourage them not to leave out important details. When a student is reading, be sure they correct themselves when they make a mistake. They should do this by rereading the whole sentence if the mistake affected the meaning of the sentence. They should also reread if they didn't pause at punctuation. This all affects the meaning of the story. Thank you for reading with your student each night!

4th grade students are learning about how helpful it is to take notes. When we use post-its to write down something important from each page that we read, we find it easier to retell what we read. Sometimes these stories can be long, or difficult to remember. If we take small steps, we can make it easier on ourselves. We are practicing reading and then closing our book. Hopefully what we remember is the most important stuff. Additionally, as books become more difficult, so does the vocabulary. We are working on expanding our vocabulary through the use of context clues. These clues are found within the sentence or within the paragraph. They are clues that help us to understand words that we may otherwise not recognize. 4th graders do not bring home a title book at night, but it's still very important that they are reading each night with an adult. It's also important that you are asking them questions about their reading. "Retell the story. Why did the character do this? Why did this happen? What is the author trying to tell you? What is the message in the story?" Thank you for reading with your student!

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

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Student Council News:

Congratulations to Mrs. Smith's third grade class for bringing in the most canned food items. They are receiving their pizza party this month.

We will start to collect pop can tabs in January. Make sure to write your child's name and teacher on the container. We will collect these until the end of April.

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