

Ross Local Schools

MORGAN ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

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 second quarter ended, and report cards were distributed on January 11th. 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 29th and Tuesday,

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Find Morgan on Twitter → [@MorganRossRams](https://twitter.com/MorganRossRams)

October 30th. The parent reports will arrive January 22nd, and we will send them home along with your child's progress towards the 3rd grade guarantee promotion status the week they arrive.

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.

- If someone other than the parent/guardian wishes to eat lunch with a Morgan student, we need a note beforehand giving permission for someone other than the parent/guardian to join your child for lunch. As before, you will come to the office and sign in, where you will be given a visitor's pass. You or the guest, and your child only will be able to eat lunch at a separate table in the cafeteria.
- No parking the fire lane in the front of the building.
- 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 try to drop your child off after 9:14 (cones will already be out at the turnaround 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 3:00 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 the middle doors in the back. The doors will unlock at 3:30 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: January/Beginning of February

January 1-4	No School - Winter Break
January 7	School Resumes
January 8	Bookmobile
January 10	PTO Meeting
January 11	Report Cards Distributed
January 21	No School - Martin Luther King Day
February 5	Bookmobile
February 8	Progress Report #3

Students of the Week for December

Week of December 3 : Alexia Kettering, Skylar Foster, Logan Slaughter, Anna Schaefer, Piper Rieke, Caleb Tabler, Ainsley Hoover, Haddie Richards, Joe Kelle, Chloe Armstrong, Coen Brady, Alice Taggart, Hannah Hardy, Carys Alexander, Reid Harding, Evan Vangen, Oaklen McKean, Sammi Bennett, Louise Schuler

Week of December 10 : Lillianne Hartman, Sidney Gentry, Lane Harding, Cash Alvis, Kashtyn Lauck, Bradley Coberly, Jocelyn Alexander, Greyson Kelley, Abraham Gross, Quinn Tincher, Blakely Flavin, Zander Johnson, Hunter Minges, Caleb Dunn, Hank Toon, Dyllan Brandenburg, Landen Kennedy, Aurora Villalobos, Carson Spencer, Easton Menkhaus

4th Grade Honor Roll

High Honors: Travis Tallent, Nora Haenning, Kaylin Commins, Caleb Dunn, Brayden Meade, Jayden Brown, Aubrey Eads, Aiden Beckman, Aiyla Adams, Jaylyn Ewing, Ripley Carroll, Joseph Godbey, Dominic Valentino, Leah Vangen, Haylee Houpe, Bryan Pence, Jocelyn Alexander, Briana Frazier, Kainen Sawyers, Austin Sparks, Reese Holland, Keegan Bush, Anthony Krabbe, Josey Smith, Collin Ante, Adelyn Marcum, Anna Schaefer, Cash Alvis, Paige Baker, Josiah Lynch, Hunter Roberson, Wyatt Bulach, Quinn Laurens

Honors: Oliver Reed, Krew Brown, Cohen Rice, Callie Morison, Jacob Gilbert, Joseph Rack, Meadow Martin, Diesel Casey, Lilyann Foster, Piper Rieke, Taylor Cain, Kaine Scheidt, Cody Harville, Landon Smith, Brady Kendall, Easton Menkhaus, Sam Marcum, Taylor Bertram, Braiden Jaspers, Collin Schneider, Braxton Plvan, Trey Partin, Julianna Combs, Savannah Schlamb, Ethyn Lewis, Prestin Walters, Jacob McConnell, Violet Kimbrough, Kaden Coulter, Charlie Armstrong, Morgan Aller, Zachary Stevison, Avery Maupin, Kailyn Ponder, Maddie Reed, Logan Harrington, Andrew Brunner, Kelsy Voss, Ashton Withrow, Ledger Angel, Morgan Minges, Eli Langworthy, Jace McIntosh, Daniel Schneberger

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

Preschool has been busy learning about pets, winter, and the importance of eating healthy and exercising. This month, we will be beginning our winter data collection on literacy and mathematics skills. Conferences are coming up the week after President's day. Please keep an eye out for an email regarding sign-ups. We are going to be making Valentine's Day mailboxes before the day of the party. These will be used to collect

Valentine's Day cards. Please send in an empty tissue box by February 8th. If you would like to send in any extra, that would be awesome! We will send home a list of student names in order for the cards to be addressed before the party on the 14th. A huge thank you to our wonderful room mother's planning our Valentine's Day parties. We are looking forward to a great time!

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

It's hard to believe we are almost halfway through our school year! We have learned so much already and have plenty more to discover. We hope this newsletter finds everyone well rested and ready to get back to a regular routine. Students are eager to read during our small group reading sessions. We will continue to find books at the right level for your child. We are continuing to discover many new math concepts through our Go Math program. This month, we will be working with our teen numbers and begin numbers beyond twenty. We completed our Narrative Writing Unit and will begin writing Opinion pieces. Students will begin to write about how they feel about a particular thing or event. The children are doing well with the routines of the classroom. Most days, students are engaged in whole group, table work and centers. It's exciting to see how well the kids are following the different ways of instruction in the classroom. We're looking forward to 2019 by making each child feel successful!

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

Burrr!! What a cold couple days January has been. We are excited to be back in the classroom to learn.

In reading and writing we will be focusing more on non-fiction (real) books and stories. We will learn how to pay attention to details in the pictures that teach us information. We will also be researching topics to write about in our writing unit. We will be working more on comprehension and thinking about stories.

In math we have begun our measuring unit. We are starting with comparing lengths of objects. We will learn about measuring in inches and centimeters as well. We will be learning time at the end of Chapter 9. We will continue to work on facts and understanding how to add and subtract.

In Science we are learning about properties of matter and how things can change their form.

In Social Studies we will be learning about history with Martin Luther King JR. and the Presidents. We will also exploring maps and how to read them.

We hope you had a great and restful break. We look forward to our third quarter and all the ways we can learn and grow as a first grader.

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

Second grade thoroughly enjoyed winter break and has returned to their course of study in math reviewing telling time and money. We just recently took our summative tests over both skills and will be reviewed with you at conferences. We are now moving into multiplication! Second graders usually LOVE this unit and we are excited to dive right in. They will be exploring repeated addition, equal groups and arrays.

In reading, students dived right into nonfiction text features learning all about Sharks. We reviewed identifying text features in isolation as well as in an article. We will continue to use nonfiction text features to gain more information when reading nonfiction texts as well as determine the main idea of the whole text and individual paragraphs.

A new year brings new reading groups to second grade! Students will be exploring different skill groups this quarter which may lead to a different guided reading teacher. This opportunity provides differentiated learning meeting the needs of all students.

We will be exploring Force and Motion this month with hopes of incorporating new STEM activities such as building race tracks, catapults, or bring in elements of robotics. Fun times coming in second grade!

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

Third grade students have been enjoying winter themed activities in writing and reading. Students have learned from mentor texts such as Owl Moon and have tried out writing moves that published authors use in their writing. We will soon be moving to opinion writing, where students will need to state a strong claim and support it with reasons and evidence.

In math, students have been exploring fractions. Students are noticing how fractions can name part of a whole, as well as that fractions can name more than one. We use number lines and fraction tiles to help visualize these concepts. It is important to note that students still need to work on becoming fluent with their multiplication and division facts. Please be sure to practice these for a few minutes at home each night.

We are very encouraged by the number of responses to the Morgan Township project! Please remember that projects are due to school by February 1st. All projects will be returned to students at a later date. We are so excited to see this all come together!

Science topics for January into February include studying heat, light, and sound, which are all products of energy. We will do fun explorations for each and we hope to learn a lot!

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

2019 is here already and that means your favorite 4th grader is halfway through fourth grade already! Time sure does fly!

This month in reading, we will be traveling around the world and spending some time in the country of Greece. We will learn about the origins of some

Greek words and phrases found in our English language by studying Greek mythology. We hope we have the Midas touch this month as we embark on this Herculean task!

Students will be finishing up division this month. We will then be moving forward into fractions! Next time you eat pizza or make brownies your student may comment on the fraction they get to eat. The fact practice we have been doing for the last three months has been helping! Keep up the focused practice as it helps us through fractions as well. The hundredth day of school is coming up at the end of January. We have some fun activities planned to celebrate this numerical milestone!

In Social Studies, we are celebrating our nation's victory in the Revolutionary War. We are going west to learn about the Northwest Territory, and how the Harrison Land Act encouraged many settlers to move to the Ohio territory. We will also remember Martin Luther King Jr. and all that he did for equal rights in our country.

In Science, students are beginning a new unit focusing on ecosystems. We will be studying all the ways plants and animals adapt to their environments. The Butler County Water and Soil Conservation District will be coming in to share fossils found in Butler County.

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

ART: We are working hard on artwork for the March 15th Art Show! 1st, 2nd, and 4th are creating their pottery pieces and 3rd is working on artwork that will be framed and then will be moving onto pottery! Mark your calendar! Check out the Hamilton IceFest for a fun art related event happening in Downtown Hamilton! The sculptures are amazing!!!

MUSIC: Upcoming Music Concerts

February 27th, 2019: First Grade Concert 7:00 p.m. RHS

April 17th, 2019: Second Grade Concert 7:00 p.m. RHS

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

Title 1 is back in gear after our Christmas break! We are reviewing materials from December and learning new reading strategies. We appreciate all the time parents take in their busy evenings to read and work with their children.

Kindergarten students are making great progress in learning to read! Many groups are learning the sounds of the digraphs sh,th,ch, and wh and using them to read and write words. As our books are becoming more complex, it is important to recall what we have read, infer how our characters feel, and predict what might happen next. We continue to review letter sounds, sight words, and blending sounds in order to read and write. Our sentence writing is making nice progress as we remember that every sentence starts with an uppercase letter, has finger spaces, and ends with a sentence stopper. We thank our families for reading with us and helping us learn our letters and sounds as well as studying sight words every night.

First grade students are continuing to review hunks and chunks, blending sounds, and applying those skills to reading and writing. 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. First grade students are also writing sentences using capital letters at the beginning of each sentence, finger spacing, and punctuation at the end. Keep up the great work, first grade!

Second grade students are using reading strategies to help comprehension skills in our stories. We are learning problem and solution, cause and effect, sequencing events, and are completing graphic

organizers to aid in our comprehension of the story. As we continue to read more challenging books, the content is getting more difficult. In nonfiction books, we are learning about text structure, headings, titles, important tables and graphs, and learning how each picture helps us identify important information. We are also identifying important facts from the story that might help us determine the main idea. Additionally, we are working on writing meaningful sentences in order to form well developed paragraphs. Great job second grade!

Third grade students are making connections in fictional stories. We are learning to put our thoughts on paper by writing four or five sentence paragraphs. We are using our knowledge of hunks and chunks, blends, and sight words to spell words correctly. Students are also noticing new vocabulary as we read. We are identifying meaning by using context clues in the story. We use graphic organizers to identify the main idea along with supporting details. We are also looking at the author's purpose. What is he/she trying to tell us? Are they trying to persuade, inform, explain, describe or compare/contrast? We are also writing important facts from the story. We are learning the difference between a fact and an opinion. Students that continue to read to an adult tend to have more success with vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Keep up the hard work third grade!

Fourth grade students are enjoying chapter books for some of our fiction reading. We are learning to identify big problems and little problems and how they are resolved. We are also identifying point of view (who is telling the story). We are learning the difference between main characters and supporting characters and what their roles are in the story. Additionally, we are noting how the setting forms a picture in our minds. Without it, the story would not be the same. We are identifying adjectives that the author uses to describe the setting. In nonfiction, we have been reading about special people who have achieved great things and their contribution to

society. We are learning about the big picture - what is the purpose of this book and why did the author write this book? Great job fourth grade!

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

Watch for information explaining an opportunity for you to purchase a Morgan Yearbook!

Thank you!

Student Council News:

We are now collecting pop can tabs! We will continue to collect these through the month of April. We collect, count and donate the tabs to the Ronald McDonald House. The class that donates the most will win a pizza party. Make sure your child's name and homeroom teacher are on the containers when they are sent in.

Start saving your Pennies for Pennies for Patients. Our annual Penny Drive to Support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society starts soon. Look for more information to be sent home at the end of the month.

Morgan PTO Newsletter

2018-2019 PTO Officers

PRESIDENT

Michelle McKean

VICE PRESIDENT

Mindy Kelley

TREASURER

Michele Beckman

SECRETARY

Chrissy O'Connor

UPCOMING EVENTS: We will be sending information home soon about Movie Night which will be February 22nd!

Thank You Room Parents!!!

We greatly appreciate those of you who signed up to be room parents in your child's classroom. It's a fun way to volunteer, and without your help holiday parties and other extra activities would not be possible. A special "thank you" also goes out to Sara Schoenecker who has stepped into the Room Parent Coordinator role and responsibilities for this school year.

If you have any questions about room parent responsibilities, please contact Sara Schoenecker at: SLSchoenecker@gmail.com