

Ross Local Schools

MORGAN ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 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



3427 Chapel Road Hamilton, OH 45013
Website → <http://morgan.rossrams.com/>

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:

Third grade fall state reading scores have arrived, and 51% of Morgan students passed with a proficiency level or above, which is higher than the state average of 40%. The students will take the state reading test again in the spring. Student reports were sent home with the students last week. If you did not see your child's scores, please contact your child's teacher.

Third and Fourth grade state achievement tests will be administered during the weeks of April 12th - April 30th. The following test schedule will help you avoid testing conflicts when scheduling any necessary appointments for your child. If you know of a conflict, please contact your child's teacher ASAP.

Grade 3: 4/12, 4/17, 4/25, 4/29 Grade 4: 4/11, 4/16, 4/26, 4/30

We hope that students in grades 3 and 4 have been able to take advantage of Study Island, a web based program to help students get prepared for the state achievement tests. The students are able to access the site from any computer with Internet capability. This program allows students in grades 3 & 4 to practice items in math and reading similar to the items that will be on the state achievement tests.

Progress reports were sent home on February 8th. Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on February 19th and February 21st for grades Pre-School – 4, with an additional Parent-Teacher conference for Kindergarten students on February 26th and February 28th. You should receive information to set up a conference time with your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress.

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

Important Dates: February/March

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|-------------------------|---|
| Feb. 5 | Bookmobile |
| Feb. 8 | Progress Report #3 |
| Feb. 14 | Valentine Parties |
| Feb. 15 | No School - Inservice Day |
| Feb. 18 | No School - Presidents Day |
| Feb. 19 & 21 | Parent Teacher Conferences Grades Pre-K to 4 |
| Feb. 22 | PTO Movie Night 7:00 P.M. |

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|-------------------------|--|
| Feb. 26 & 28 | Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Conferences |
| Feb. 27 | 1st Grade Music Program, 7:00 P.M., RHS |
| Mar. 5 | Bookmobile |
| Mar. 7 | PTO Meeting |
| Mar. 8 | End of Third Nine Weeks |
| Mar. 11-15 | Book Fair Week |
| Mar. 14 | Grandparents Day Preschool & Kindergarten |
| Mar. 15 | Grandparent's Day Grades 1-4, Art Show & PTO Ice Cream Social |
| Mar. 15 | Report Cards Distributed |
| Mar. 20 | Kindergarten Registration 5:00 - 8:00 PM at RMS |
| Mar. 25-29 | Spring Break - No School |

Students of the Week for October

Week of January 14: Keira Romans, Aubrey Eads, Olivia Stayton, Brayden Way, Olivia Werling, Bohem Kugler, Riley Wolfe, Alexander Ivey, Jacob Hesselbrock, Baxter Ziepfel, Lukas Leidenbor, Drahah Marinich, Contessa Byron, Trey Partin, Parker Simpson, Konnor Commins, Ledger Angel, Xaydon Harkins,

Week of January 28: Landry Vogele, Isabella Straus, Ayla Maupin, Kaden Coulter, Kiersie Distler, Abree Maggard, Maddox Williams, Avery Hensley, Dean Morrissey, Brayden Conley, Aubrey Withrow, Abraham Garcia, Kenadi Taylor, Abby Butz, Landon Smith, Leah Vangen, Kathryn Lind, Lila Miller, Natalie Schuh, Kaylin Ponder, Trevor Campbell, Jackson Holmes, Maxson Lindsay

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

This year has been flying by. We can't believe it's already February. In February, we will be studying exercise, healthy eating, Valentine's Day, and teeth. Preschool will be finishing up collecting math, literacy and cognitive data for conferences that will be held toward the end of the month. Please visit the Morgan Elementary page under parents to sign up for a conference. Tissue boxes will be accepted up until February 11th. We appreciate your understanding and support during the water emergency. The Valentine's Day parties will be held on Thursday February 14th Am: 10:55 and Pm: 2:55. Our room mother's have been extra busy planning these parties. A special thank you to them!! Have a great month!

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

The 100th day was celebrated on Monday, Jan. 28. The students had so much fun dressing as if they are 100 years old. We spent the day counting, drawing, grouping numbers and making a 100 foot paper strip of our 100 creations. The month of February comes with much activity: Valentines Day, Presidents Day and dental health. We will express our friendship towards each other at our Valentine Party on Thursday, Feb. 14. Please have your child sign his/her name on each valentine. Do not address them to other students. This will help make it less confusing and time-consuming for the students when passing them out. Mrs. Lomax has 24 students in the AM and 25 in the PM class. Mrs Shoemaker has 22 in the AM and 24 in the PM class. We will also be learning about some of our Presidents, including George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We will learn about "Symbols" that represent the United States of America. We're looking forward to meeting everyone once again for conferences on the evenings of February 19,21,26 & 28. Conference sign ups will be online and available on the Morgan website at the following link:
<http://www.rossrams.com/4/Content/parents> If you are unable to sign up online, please contact us at 738-1986. We're very excited to share with you the progress your child has made thus far, as well as address any needs. Your Kindergarten Team!

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

February is here which means Valentines, Groundhogs and President's Day. It also brings the second half of the school year. In math, first graders will be learning about graphing and how to collect data to make a graph. We will look at picture graphs and bar graphs. We will continue to use checklists to help us with making sure our writing includes all the parts it needs to be a good teaching piece. We will be doing some animal research to help us write an informational piece about an animal we learn about. In science, we will venture into learning about solids, liquids, and gases. We will learn how these states of matter can change in different ways. In reading, first graders are

working hard on looking beyond the text to make connections. We are also working on inferring meaning when the author doesn't tell you everything. We are still retelling and using our strategies. We are also learning these same types of reading skills in non-fiction books as well. Hope you are enjoying this winter weather and hopefully we will see spring soon! We thank you in advance for your help with classroom parties.

News from 2nd Grade

(Mrs. Broering, Ms. Dorsey, Mrs. Hindery, Mrs. Morehead)

What a way to move into a new month than through a 5 day weekend due to snow days! We greet February learning all about the Iditarod race that takes place in Alaska. We have been learning about the Iditarod through the book Akiak and taking our learning across subjects into science through force and motion by creating our own Iditarod sled that will be “pulled” by our version of sled dogs.... “pull back” cars! Second graders planned out how they would construct their dog sled, then began to build. We will test our sleds throughout the month of February conducting several trials using different weights in our sled just as they do in the actual Iditarod race.

In math, we will be learning how to read and create our own graphs such as tally charts, picture and bar graphs as well as line plots. This also ties into our study of the Iditarod by placing our results from our sled trials into a chart to document how far the sled traveled. This leads into our measurement unit by measuring in both inches and centimeters.

Looking ahead as we get further into February, second graders will begin to dive into biographies after President’s Day. We will begin preparation for our famous Wax Museum that will take on a little face lift this year. Typically, a student would give a speech dressed up as the famous person they chose to research. This year, we are allowing more options for presenting the learning they have gained after researching their famous person. We will allow a speech, demonstration, video, or Google presentation to “perform” or display at Wax Museum a.k.a *A Walk Through Time*. More details will be revealed in an upcoming homework packet! We are looking forward to the upcoming weeks!

We would like to give a big shout out to our fabulous room parents for everything they do to prepare for class parties. Valentine’s Day is approaching and we are grateful for all donations and volunteers to make this day a success! Thank you, thank you, thank you! You all are appreciated!

See you all at conferences! :)

News from 3rd Grade

(Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Lanham, Mrs. McEldowney, Mrs. Smith)

Some of our third grade families decided to participate in our Morgan Township building replica project, and they are truly amazing! It was wonderful to know that students wanted to work with their families to recreate structures that are (or were!) landmark structures of our wonderful community. Teachers have worked with township representatives to an Open House for families to be able to go and see these projects on display at the Morgan Township Administration Building. The township will open their doors on Monday, February 25 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Please see our [invitation](#) with all the details. **ALL** are welcome to join us!

In writing, students are working on opinion texts. They are encouraged to include a strong thesis, good reasons for their opinion, as well as supporting details to add to their reasons. They are learning to use strong words that evoke emotion, as well as really talk to their audience in order to grab the audience's attention.

Fractions are the focus of math right now. We are using models and manipulatives to compare and order fractions as well as make equivalent fractions. We learn strategies for comparing fractions when we do not have models. Students need to be diligent in practicing their multiplication facts at home in order to build fact fluency.

We are proud of all of those students that met their January AR goal, and we are eagerly looking forward to the Valentine themed celebration to come! It is our hope that students have found genres and authors that they enjoy and that they have success with their book choices.

We would like to thank our wonderful room parents in advance for all they do for our parties. The Valentine's Day party is coming up and students are already talking about it. Thank you so much for all you do behind the scenes to prepare for these big days!

News from 4th Grade

(Mrs. Castle, Mrs. Elliott, Mrs. Miller, Ms. Williams)

Hearts will be in the air this month as we have our Valentine's Day parties on Thursday, Feb. 14th. This is always a fun party that gives us a break from the gloomy days of winter.

As we continue the second half of the school year, you'll begin seeing some increase in practice for the AIR tests that will be coming up. The fourth graders will be testing in Language Arts and Math. All testing will be administered on the computer. The testing will begin in April. You can help by encouraging your child to use good spelling and sentence structure on any homework assignments that require these skills (READING LOGS). Please encourage your child to practice typing skills. Extended responses and essays will have to be typed. Also, be sure that they are showing their work on Math homework.

You may see an invitation coming home soon for your child to participate in after-school tutoring sessions to help prepare them for the upcoming AIR tests. These sessions will help to improve their skills in Reading and Math. We are hopeful that extra practice will prove to be very beneficial for them.

In Social Studies we continue to follow the historical events that helped Ohio become a state. Ask your favorite fourth grader how the Northwest Ordinance contributed to our U.S. Constitution and Ohio becoming a state. We have let our creativity "lead the way", as we create board games that incorporate the elements that led to Ohio's statehood. We will be spending time learning about the many trials and tribulations between the early settlers of Ohio and the Native Americans.

Mathletes continue to investigate fractions. The fact practice that your student has been doing nightly is once again helping us with these investigations. Students have been moving up on the fast 50 facts and their practice is really paying off! It is important that your student work diligently to complete the nightly homework. Like soccer or baseball practice, it is essential to the building of skills we will need to demonstrate on the upcoming AIR and MAP tests. When our fraction unit concludes we will be reviewing as well as heading into Geometry.

February brings a new exciting topic in science as we move from learning about animal and plant adaptations to looking at changing environments. Students will learn how scientists use fossils to help give them clues to past environments. Recently, we had Mrs. Lynn White from Butler County Soil and Water Conservation come and share some fossils with us and discuss how scientists find fossils in Ohio and some common animals that are found in Ohio.

After months of hard work and research, 4th graders finished their traffic PBL projects. Over the last few months working on the projects, students learned collaboration, how to give and receive feedback, presentation skills, and problem-solving skills and They did an amazing job showcasing their projects to

professionals. We are so proud of all the hard work the 4th graders put into their projects. Projects will be on display during conferences for parents to see.

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

ART: Hello from the Art Room! The Art Show is Friday March 15th from 5pm-8pm. All students K-4 will have a framed piece of artwork displayed in alphabetical order by homeroom classes, hanging piece of artwork and I'm hoping to have all of the pottery finished and displayed as well. Artome is once again providing the frames for the artwork. The frames are available for purchase for \$20 cash or check written to PTO. If you purchase multiple frames, the company will make a color copy of your student's artwork to go in each frame as well! All artwork will be returned and placed in our student portfolios once the show comes down. Please plan to come enjoy the artwork, free face painting and the PTO Ice Cream Social! Flyers will be coming home soon with more info and reminders!

MUSIC: Upcoming Music Concerts: February 27th. First Grade Concert
7:00 p.m. RHS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: We are finishing up our parachute activities and games. Students will be introduced to square dancing in their next rotations along with a follow up PACER test. Some students were already tested, but due to weather, trying to get everyone caught up and back on track! Please remember to wear gym shoes or bring them in your backpack on PE days!!

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

We're already into our second month of 2019! Our students are growing and learning at a fantastic rate! Since the Map testing is over now, some of our groups may be changing a bit. However, students will continue to work on the same important reading strategies and skills in their groups. Reading at home continues to be a crucial element in order for students to become awesome readers! Thank you for taking the time to read with your child each night!

In Kindergarten, we are reviewing the reading strategies that we have been learning all year. Using the pictures helps us to understand what is happening in our story so we can always read with meaning. Now we not only use our beginning sounds, but stretch out whole words. Sight words are essential as we are getting into harder books. Thank you, parents, for continuing to work on sight words at home and listening to your child read every night!

First grade students are continuing to review hunks and chunks, blending sounds, and applying those skills to reading and writing. Along with these skills, we are also applying our reading strategies that students have learned in the classroom (i.e., Flippy Dolphin, Stretchy Snake, Chunky Monkey, and several more). 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. Keep up the great work, first grade!

In second grade, we are focusing on vocabulary. We are not only learning the meaning of the words we read, but also how to use them properly. Parents can help by using unfamiliar words as they speak and encouraging students to use them when they write. When a student stumbles upon a word they don't understand, encourage them to use context clues to find the meaning. After they have grasped it, see if they can make a sentence using the word. In addition, students are learning to inference. This concept is difficult because it requires a deeper understanding of a text. We like to call it, "reading between the lines." Be sure to ask your students questions throughout their reading each night. Why do you think the author wrote that? What do you think she means when she says....? How do you think that made the character feel? Way to go second grade!

Third grade students are reading biographies, memoirs, and chapter books. We are paying attention to point of view when we read. We are noticing the differences between first and third person. Ask your student to show you examples in their favorite book! Third graders are using their writing skills to give vocabulary definitions and they're using them properly in a sentence. Don't forget punctuation! Reading and writing go hand in hand. Great job third grade!

Fourth grade students are diving into books that require some deeper level thinking. Students are looking for the author's purpose. Why did the author write this? Were they trying to persuade, entertain, explain, or describe something? As we read nonfiction stories, we are looking to see if description, problem and solution, order and sequence, cause and effect, or compare and contrast are used by the author. As students begin to read more challenging books, vocabulary gets trickier. We are learning to use context clues to figure out the meaning of a word. Sometimes we find out that a word has multiple meanings. We too are putting our writing skills to work. Awesome job fourth grade!

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

DO YOU NEED A KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION PACKET?

The Ross Local School District is holding Kindergarten Registration on the evening of **Wednesday, March 20 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** at Ross Middle School. In order for a child to attend kindergarten, he/she must turn 5 years old on or before August 1, 2019.

If you or someone you know would like to receive a Kindergarten Registration packet, we would be happy to send one home with a current student. Packets are also available to be picked up in the Morgan Elementary and Ross Middle School offices. Sorry, packets will not be mailed.

Please return the bottom portion of this page if you would like to receive a packet.

****Packets are available beginning February 19, 2019****

MORGAN ELEMENTARY KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION PACKET

Name of student that packet is to go home with

Teacher/Grade

Name of new kindergartener

Phone Number

Address

Birthdate

Sex

Date _____ Parent(s)'/Guardian(s)' Names _____

Student Council News:



Pennies for Patients

Morgan's Student Council is again sponsoring Pennies for Patients to support the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society. For the next three weeks February 11 - March 1, students are encouraged to bring in a donation to their classroom to help support this cause. This is a contest between the classes with the winning class getting a pizza party.

This is Student Council's biggest fundraiser for the year and we have had great success in the past. Last year Morgan Elementary raised over \$4,000 for this cause.

Morgan PTO Newsletter

2018-2019 PTO Officers

PRESIDENT

Michelle McKean

VICE PRESIDENT

Mindy Kelley

TREASURER

Michele Beckman

SECRETARY

Chrissy O'Connor

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

