

Ross Local Schools

MORGAN ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

October 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:

I would like to thank everyone for their cooperation with the daily pick up and drop off procedures. We still want to stress the importance of sending in a note when

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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 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 – 4th 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 .

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Students of the Week for October

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K YY_ 'cZGYdh' & . Austin Hickman, Nathan Schnell, Paige Ferneding, Payzlie Combs, Leilah Casteel, Landen Drew, Elizabeth Meyer, Jackson Armentrout, David Schaefer, Bryan Butterfield, Laurel Feldman, Katie Conley, Matthew Flick, Ellie Distler, Cortney Schenk, Logan Hale, Emory Clark, Savannah Vaughn, Xavier Houpe, Easton Turner, Dylan Emery, Logan Clemow

K YY_ 'cZGYdh' \$. Landen Day, Karli Applegate, Brantley Rider, Mallory Sawyers, Ellie Michel, Masn Middendorf, Abigail Mallory, Travis Ferneding, Aubree Hennessey, Emmi Lou Easter, Jaxson Fnotaine, Julia Crowley, Remley Flieman, Isla Schnell, Addie Eastman, Ollie Mallory, Lauren Brudzinski, Noah Kirkendall

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

Happy October! Over the last few weeks our classrooms have finished up discussing seasons, our 5 senses and apples. Now that it finally feels like Fall outside we will be diving into fire safety, leaves, Halloween and pumpkins! With the weather changing outside, please dress your child appropriately for outside time, this includes close toed shoes, and a light jacket. Our students are over the moon about the Halloween party on October 31st, please be on the lookout for information from our room parents about how you can help plan for the party! Conferences are right around the corner (October 24th & 29th), please check your email for the signup link from Mr. Perry.

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 learning to become good writers by dictating sentences in our monthly journals. We look forward to seeing the fire trucks during fire prevention 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. 22, 24, 29 and 30. Please refer to your class newsletter to find the link to sign up for a time to meet with your child's teacher.

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

We are digging deep into our full day of learning. We have done some fun things with our letter sounds that deals with Halloween. We are excited to continue to learn and grow in all areas of learning. We look forward to conferences on Oct 24th and 29th.

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 learned LOOK, LIPS, STRETCH, FLIP, and CHUNKY MONKEY. 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. We work on staying on one topic on three pages.

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 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, water cycle, how water affects plants, as well as the sun's energy on the Earth.

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 also started our Second Step program about focusing attention.

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.

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

Second graders have an exciting month ahead of them! October brings our favorite field trip to the Reds Stadium/Hall of Fame to learn about timelines and how life used to be in the past. We appreciate all the chaperones that volunteered to help on this field trip!

In reading, we are focusing on the structure of a story through beginning, middle and end. We have focused on characters and setting that are introduced in the beginning. We are currently learning about the character's problem in the story that occurs in the middle of the story and the solution at the end. In the following weeks we will touch on inferencing as well as compare and contrast using fictional texts. We will round out the month with author's purpose (Persuade, Inform and Entertain).

In math, students are in the middle of learning place value to 100 and will continue learning about place value into 1000 throughout the month of October. We have been learning how to write numbers in several ways (IIII... , 53, fifty-three, 5 tens and 3 ones) as well as the difference between place and value. Place is where the number sits while value is how much a number is worth (Ex. 53: 5 is worth 50 and 3 is worth 3/The number 5 is in the tens place). We also learned about skip counting within 1000 using counts by 2, 5, 10 and 100. Practicing in the car on the way to practice or kicking a ball might be a great way to practice skip counting on the go. :)

We are currently in the planning stages of our next PBL project and we are looking forward to implementing it towards the end of October. We are excited to engage in student led conferences again this year where your child gets to communicate their own growth and areas of need with you. You will have time to discuss your child's strengths and needs 1:1 with the teacher as well during that block of time. Have a great and safe Halloween and we will see you at conferences!

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

Third graders are doing a good job of creating a good classroom culture and are working on having a Morgan Mindset each day. Families, thank you for all you do at home to support your child's education. Please continue to have your child read each evening as well as complete and turn in his/her math homework each day/week. This consistency is important as we go throughout the year.

We were very excited to receive our first pen pal letters from the Cincinnati Insurance Company. We worked hard to write a friendly letter in return and are anxiously awaiting their visit to Morgan in November. This is a wonderful program and we are so thankful for the participation from these employees.

October also brings about our field trip to Hueston Woods on October 16th. This is a great way to explore first hand some of the concepts we have been studying in science in regards to soil types as well as rock formations. We are hoping for some awesome weather and a super day.

In writing, students are working on building stamina and length of their writing pieces. They are also looking at what good authors do and trying to emulate those practices. This quarter we will spend some time focusing on personal narratives, which are small moments from our lives.

We look forward to seeing families at conferences in a few weeks. Happy fall!

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

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

ART: Hello from the Art Room! We are off to a great start this year! Keep encouraging your students to be creative. I know artwork at home can become overwhelming and you CAN'T possibly save it all. Having a sketchbook or folding a poster board in half to create an at home portfolio is a great way to keep all of their creations in one place. Taking photos of artwork and saving to google photos helps too. We save our artwork all year and create a portfolio to bring it all home at once at the end of the year.

MUSIC: It's a Great Day in the Music Room. Congrats to all the kids who have earned Ram Cards for doing their best in music!

Upcoming Concerts: November 7th Third Grade Concert 7:00 p.m. RHS
December 10th Fourth Grade Concert 7:00 p.m. RHS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: As we finish our fitness and skill testing, we are moving on to indoor activities in stations, small games, and large group. Students will also get an obstacle course or two! We will also be holding our Laps for Colton fundraiser. Students will walk laps around the back field (or in the gym if poor weather) and donating the money they collect to 2 year old Colton! We will also have more health related activities in the media lab learning about our bodies.

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 cafeteria 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 letter names and sounds. We have hand motions to help us remember them. We are working on learning sight words, which will help us to read quickly and smoothly. The little books that we are reading are fun and we are

learning to always look at the picture first and use our reading finger to point under 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 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.

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

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

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!

Student Council News:

Please join the Morgan Student Council in these fun spirit days during the Week of Oct. 7-11

AcbXUnžCWI⁺: Favorite Team/Jersey Day. Show your team spirit for your favorite team.

Hi YgXUnžCWI[,] : Dress Your Best Day. Today is Picture Day! Come to school looking your best.

K YXbYgXUnžCWI⁻ : Crazy Hair/Hat Day. Show off your wacky crazy hair dos today. Coloring your hair is allowed for this day only and it has to be out before coming to school on Thursday.

H i fgXUnžCWI^{°\$}: Pajama Day. Stay comfortable in your PJ's today. Remember shoes must be worn and no nightgowns are allowed.

: f]XUnžC Wl"%% Ross Ram Spirit Day. Show off your Ram Spirit by wearing maroon and gold.

Counselor News:

Kalli Sawyers & Aubre Cole

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Hello Parents/Guardians! We are up and running! We hope you are having a great start to the school year. As we move into Fall, the kids are starting to get used to the schedules and routines of school. We are continually building up the positive school culture with Terrific Thursdays, Student of the Week, and RAM cards. We love recognizing and celebrating the positive choices our students make.

We are very excited to continue with our second year of the *Second Step* program. This is a universal, classroom-based curriculum designed to increase students' school success, decrease problem behaviors, and promote social-emotional competence and self-regulation. We want to help our students be as successful as possible at school. We will do this by teaching them skills such as how to learn and how to get along with others. Teachers have been using the *Second Step* program in your child's classroom to teach these critical skills.

The Second Step program teaches skills in the following four areas:

- 1. Skills for Learning:** Students gain skills to help themselves learn, including how to focus their attention, listen carefully, use self-talk to stay on task, and be assertive when asking for help with schoolwork.
- 2. Empathy:** Students learn to identify and understand their own and others' feelings. Students also learn how to take another's perspective and how to show compassion.
- 3. Emotion Management:** Students learn specific skills for calming down when experiencing strong feelings, such as anxiety or anger.
- 4. Problem Solving:** Students learn a process for solving problems with others in a positive way. Your child will be learning a lot this year—and he or she will need your help!

Throughout the year, your child will be bringing home Home Links that go with several of the Second Step lessons. Home Links are simple, fun activities for you and your child to complete together. They are a great way for you to understand what your child is learning and for your child to show you what he or she knows.

If you have any questions about the Second Step program, please do not hesitate to contact us

