

Ross Local Schools

MORGAN ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

December 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:

Dear Morgan Parents:

We continually evaluate and assess the facility, activities, and programs at Morgan Elementary to make sure that the safety of our students is of the utmost importance. Over the past several months, various parents and staff have brought up concerns about the current party procedures

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and the number of people attending. Therefore, we formed a committee consisting of Morgan PTO officers, parents and staff to discuss any concerns, and if changes are needed, what would the procedures look like. The committee generated the following concerns, which were then shared with Morgan staff, and with parents at the November PTO meeting:

- Number of people showing up ranges from 250 - 450
- The ability to make sure the students go home with the approved adult
- Knowing who is in the building
- Purpose for adults attending is to volunteer to help with the party
- Adequate Parking
- Possible non-custodial parents or adults attending

Based on these concerns, it was decided that the following changes will be implemented for the Christmas party: (You will be receiving information from room parents regarding "signing up" to attend the Christmas party)

- Only parents and guardians are permitted to attend the parties (the number of parties that parents can attend is not limited)
- Only 1 parent or guardian per classroom
- No students in grades 5-12 are permitted to attend
- Register through the class party link "SignUpGenius" (call room mother or office if you do not have computer access)
- Parents will be checked in as they enter the building.

I do understand these changes will cause discomfort for some, and I do not want to make parents feel like they are not welcome at Morgan, but I also know that we all want to make sure that we have a safe and secure environment for our students. Thank you for your understanding, and if you have any questions please let me know.

Sincerely,

Tom Perry

Important Dates: December

Dec. 2-6	PTO Santa Shop
Dec. 9	Bookmobile
Dec. 10	4th Grade Music Program, 7:00 P.M., RHS
Dec. 11	PTO Staff Christmas Luncheon
Dec. 20	End of First Semester
Dec. 20	Christmas Parties & Last Day Before Winter Break
Dec. 23-31	No School - Winter Break

Beginning of January

Jan. 1-3	No School - Winter Break
Jan. 6	School Resumes
Jan. 9	PTO Meeting
Jan. 10	Report Cards Distributed

Students of the Week for November

Week of November 4: Landon Bolia, Sammi Bennett, Colt Eldridge, Wylan Robbins, Aubrey Hensley, Skylee Towe, Alyvia Cole, Bryce Schoenecker, Ethan Mason, Jesse Tompkins, Avery Hensley, Charlie Taylor, Maria Eldridge, Jessa Smith, Avamay Schneider, Austin Hickman, Kori Phelps

Week of November 11: Abe Gross, Anna Brudzinski, Hope Gill, Terra Willsey, Sam Kimbrough, Ceci Thom, Maci Taylor, Aubrey Black, Riley Blust, Aubrey Withrow, Kinley Michel, Waylen Fontaine, Quinn Speicher, Blakely Flavin, Ryder Romani, Jocelyn Ledford, Isaac Smith, Branson Huxel, Connor Gessner, Riley Reeves, Cooper Hampton

Week of November 18: Collin Baker, Brody Reece, Raegen Keller, Clare Adams, Alexander Ivey, Colton Baczyk, Greyson Elam

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

We hope everyone had a relaxing Thanksgiving break! This month in preschool, we are focusing on transportation and holidays from around the world. Preschool will be learning about different types of vehicles, sorting transportation types (air, water, land), discussing traffic laws, and learning new traffic themed games. 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 counting, one-to-one correspondence, sorting abilities, letter recognition, spelling and writing their full name. 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. VanNatta)

First Grade - December News

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 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)

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break! We have a full month of activities planned for December and we are ready to grow our brains as much as we can before winter break.

Math: We are continuing our double and triple digit addition and subtraction unit for the next week or so. We will test our knowledge on regrouping and will continue to revisit this skill throughout the year. Second graders will venture into another PBL this month leading into January surrounding the topic of “Business Trucks.” We will engage in learning about the different types of business trucks there are available and what would be attractive for the Ross community. This will be the premise to our economic unit where second graders will make a product to “sell” to their peers through the business model of a “Business Truck.” This PBL will cover economics, time, money, adding and subtracting, informational writing as well as persuasive writing. This unit will be covered through the next two months.

Reading/Writing: Second graders hit the ground running learning about informational texts with a focus on nonfiction text features. We are learning about captions, headings, photographs, table of contents, and a glossary. Gathering our knowledge of nonfiction text features in reading helps us write informational pieces in writing. We are currently writing “All About...” and “How to...” writing pieces.

Continue to work on addition and subtraction facts to maintain fluency and continue to practice spelling high frequency words this month for the 2nd Quarter Spelling Test. Thank you for all your support!

We hope that your family has a fabulous Christmas break in the upcoming weeks surrounded by all the people you love the most! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

November was a great month for third graders. We had a fabulous time meeting our Cincinnati Financial Pen Pals for the first time face-to-face. It is so heartwarming to see how much these pen pals care for our students and truly form a solid relationship with them. Thank you to all of the families that donated snacks for this event, as well as for the parents that helped greet our visitors and set up the snacks.

Math for December will consist of furthering multiplication strategies, as well as delving into division. It is imperative that students know their multiplication facts fluently as we head into our unit on division. Please be sure that your child is practicing these facts at home through the various ways suggested by your child's math teacher.

In writing, students are working on informational pieces. This will call for students to write about a topic with the intention of relaying information to the reader. Students need to understand how to group topics together and add facts, definitions and details. They also need to have illustrations and text features as aides. It is always an enjoyable genre for students to write.

New AR goals are set for December. Please be sure to discuss your child's goal and remind him or her to be working towards their goal. We are anxiously awaiting the AIR state reading assessment scores. The school will notify you once scores are released.

We hope you have an enjoyable Christmas break and are able to have some quiet time with family. This is what matters most! 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 2019. Half of our school year will be over when the kids leave for Christmas break. The fourth graders had a lot to do and will probably appreciate a well-deserved rest at the end of this month.

In STEAM, students have prepared their presentations on recycling and will have an opportunity to share with their chosen audience. The students are excited to educate and

encourage the other students and staff members at Morgan Elementary! We are beginning our next unit on prehistoric Native Americans and how the earth has changed.

It's great to see Mathletes applying various strategies we have been discussing to help them complete more difficult problems. 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 Reading, we have been working on dissecting folktales and differentiating between myths, legends, fables, tall tales and fairy tales. As we head into December we will be reading about different cultures around the world. This is a fun and eye-opening unit as students learn not everyone celebrates the holidays in the same way as they do.

In writing, we have continued to work on developing our skills. We have focused primarily on joining in on a conversation about a hot topic (ex: school lunches) and recognizing that there are not always just 2 sides to an issue. There are multiple perspectives to consider. Students are working on formulating their thoughts into a claim and supporting that with reasons, details, and evidence.

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

ART: Hello from the Art Room! **"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep."**~Scott Adams

Please keep reminding your student that it's ok to make mistakes. Mistakes are often "Happy accidents" as long as we learn from them or use our creativity to turn them into something else as Bob Ross used to say!

MUSIC: Upcoming Concerts:

December 10th: 4th Grade Concert 7:00 p.m. RHS

February 12th, 2020 Second Grade Concert 7:00 p.m. RHS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: December will be mostly skills related to basketball: dribbling, passing, moving without the ball, passing lanes, passing with purpose, defense and shooting. We will also play some holiday games along the way! As you clean out items over Christmas break (or any time of the year), I am always looking for exercise balls, tennis balls, any types of racquets, hula hoops, small gloves....I can pretty much find a use for anything sports equipment!

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

Kindergarten students are making great progress in learning to read! Our books are beginning to become less repetitive and have a lot more words. As our books are becoming more complex, it is more important than ever to know our sight words in a snap. Comprehension is important. We recall what we have read, infer how our characters feel, and predict what might happen next. We have made great progress learning letters, sounds, and sight words. We can read and write word families and many students are blending sounds to read and write consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words. 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. We are making this great progress because of all that you are doing for us at home!

First grade students are continuing to learn hunks and chunks, blending sounds, and applying those skills to reading and writing. They are learning about the setting of the story, characters, retelling, and genre. Comprehension is also an important element as we work on fluency. Oftentimes, once our fluency improves, our comprehension 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 continuing to learn about writing sentences - capital letters at the beginning of the sentence, finger spacing, and punctuation at the end. Keep up the great work, first grade!

Second grade students are using comprehension skills in fiction stories. We are learning problem and solution, cause and effect, and sequencing events in the story. We are challenging ourselves as we are moving up to higher reading levels. In nonfiction, we are learning about text structure. We are identifying 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 lead us to the main idea. We are using knowledge of hunks and chunks and blends to find patterns in words to help us spell and read. Additionally, we are really trying to write meaningful sentences. We need to remind ourselves to use capital letters at the beginning of a sentence and to put some type of punctuation at the end. Students should be reading to an adult every night! Great job second grade!

Third grade students are making connections in fictional stories. What book does this story remind me of? If not a book, does it remind me of something that I have done or seen? 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 adding new words and definitions to our journals. 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. Are they trying to persuade, inform, entertain, 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. Ask your child how they can tell the difference. Please continue to have your child read to you each night. Students that read to an adult tend to have more success with vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. Keep up the hard work third grade!

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

Just a little reminder for the upcoming Christmas Parties. We will accept student pick up notes beginning December 16th through December 20th. Please remember to specify who will be picking your child up, and make sure they are listed on Final Forms as an Authorized Pickup. Here is the link to get into your Final Forms.

<https://ross-oh.finalforms.com>

You can also go to www.rossrams.com, click on Morgan Elementary under Schools, Parents, and click on the Final Forms instructions link.

It is helpful to send notes in early, for picking up after the Christmas Parties, to avoid the last minute rush and confusion. Thank You!

Have a wonderful holiday and Happy New Year from Gwen and Holly!

Student Council News:

A huge THANK YOU to all that donated for our canned food drive. As a school we collected over 1,835 items that were donated to the RAMM Food Pantry.

Ms. Williams class collected the most items with 258.

Starting in January we will begin taking pop can tabs. Please make sure all tabs are labeled with the student's name and teacher's name so they can be correctly counted. The pop can tab donations go to the Ronald McDonald House.

Morgan PTO Newsletter

2019-2020 PTO Officers

PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	TREASURER	SECRETARY
Danielle Ruskaup Sara Schoenecker	Randi Hale Melissa Mason	Kelly Berry	Kaitlin Fliehman

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Dec. 9th [Dine to Donate @ Eli's](#)
Dec. 11th Staff Holiday Luncheon

Dec. 20th Christmas Parties
Jan. 9th January PTO Meeting @ 6:30 Media Center

Thank You to our Volunteers!!!

November was amazing with COSI on Wheels coming for the day on November 8th, and we want to say THANK YOU to the parents who volunteered that day. Without their helping hands in the various stations set up for the kids to experiment, we could not offer this event.

November 25th we hosted the Holiday Greenery pick up from 6 PM to 7 PM. Holiday Greenery is an annual fundraiser that the PTO puts on to raise funds for various classroom materials and resources for teachers and students.

If you still have not picked up your items, they are available for pickup in the office during regular school hours.

We had 79 students who participated this year and we were able to raise \$2,174.50!!

DINE TO DONATE @ Eli's

These are new fundraising ideas we are excited to introduce for the 2019-20 school year. Dine to donate is an event where we have partnered with a local restaurant to earn proceeds from their net food sales on a scheduled day (and sometimes time frame of their business day).

[Monday, December 9th we are having our first one at Eli's Sports Bar & Grill in Ross.](#)

How it works - you will need to present the flyer while ordering your food between 4 PM and 10 PM, then the PTO will earn 15% of the net food sales. Flyers were sent home with students on Friday, November 22nd or Monday, November 25th. They were also available during Cookies with Santa at the Spiritwear table. If you forget it that night - you can show it to them at the register from your mobile device and they will have copies to attach to receipts.

We will be taking the profit from this fundraiser and providing it back to the school to use towards miscellaneous items that may have been overlooked during the insurance inventory after the "flood" that closed school for 2 days in November.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Room Parents should be sending out their online signups any day now soliciting for parent volunteers (5) per classroom and for party supply donations - food, drink, plates, napkins, etc. The parties are on December 20th, the last day of school until the new year.

We are excited to see all the fun ideas the room parents have come up with for the kids to participate in during the parties this year.

Thank you Julie Rumpke and all the room parents for planning these parties. We know the kids love them!

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3425 Hamilton Cleves Road, Hamilton, OH 45013

Date: June 8 - 12, 2020

Time & Cost: 9:00am - 3:30pm | \$235 (before discount)

Extended Day Hours Available: 7:30am to 5:30pm | Additional \$80

Camp Director: Lauren Jenkins | lauren.jenkins@rossrams.com | 513-863-1251

If these dates/times don't work for you, please visit invent.org/camp for other locations near you.

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Snow Delays

Morgan Elementary School/ 738-1986



TWO HOUR DELAY

On the days when our school is operating on a **TWO HOUR DELAY** (school will start two hours later than usual), **the morning Kindergarten & Preschool classes will be cancelled.**

In the event afternoon classes are cancelled due to early dismissal, parents will be notified. If you have any questions, please feel free to phone the school at 738-1986.

Respectfully,

**Tom Perry, Principal
Morgan Elementary School**

