



Morse Newsletter



March 27, 2023

Notes from the Principal, Mrs. Roux ...

The weather is starting to feel a little warmer and I think most of us are ready for this change. While some days may start to feel like the summer days we know are coming, we are not quite there yet and students should still be dressing appropriately for outside activities. As the snow continues to melt, we all know that mud season comes next and it would be helpful for students to have a change of clothes/shoes in their backpacks if possible.

This week I would also like to ask families for additional support with addressing student behaviors. We have wonderful students in all of our schools, and often in the smaller schools we become even more of a family due to single classrooms with students who have been or will likely be together as a class for multiple years. Much like in a family, this constant “togetherness” can be a good thing and at times a challenge.

While it is not uncommon for students in schools to exhibit a variety of behaviors, lately the term “bullying” has been coming up in various conversations. I would like to assure families that bullying is not a significant issue in our schools. We definitely have continued work to do to support students with self-management and impulse control and this includes giving them the tools to make safe, responsible choices for dealing with frustration, anger, etc. The types of behaviors we are seeing in school are not typically malicious behaviors, but more a response in the heat of the moment that leads to a variety of behavior choices including: sometimes becoming argumentative or non-compliant with adults, disrupting the learning environment, getting upset with peers for perceived injustices (ex. “he/she won’t stop looking at me, he/she laughed at me), and at times putting hands on in an impulsive way (ex. “he/she bumped into me in line so I pushed him/her). While none of these behaviors are acceptable, they do not necessarily constitute bullying. Whenever we process with students about how these behavior choices impact others, they are all very quick to own their choices and want to make amends to the person they “harmed” in some way. In fact we often discover that many situations start out as students “playing” (mutual roughhousing that gets carried away).

Our focus in school is to give students appropriate tools to support their development of impulse control. We talk often about these strategies and provide opportunities to practice. Through our PBIS efforts, we work to reinforce positive choices and strengthen students’ ability to pause and think about the impact their actions will have. We still have a lot of work to do on this topic, as more and more students are finding it hard to regulate their emotions and manage their impulses. **I assure you that this will continue to be an important focus at school.**

We would sincerely appreciate your support at home by:

- Reinforcing the difference between safe/appropriate choices and unsafe/unkind/inappropriate choices.
- Check in with your child every day and prompt them to give all of the details when they share about events that sound unsafe or upsetting (possibly including the part they may have played in the situation)
- Remind your child to always report to an adult when they feel unsafe or upset, if they know that someone else is feeling this way, or if they even think that something unsafe or unkind may be going to happen.
- Always reach out to your child’s teacher or to me directly with any questions or concerns so that they can be addressed as soon as possible.

Again, we recognize that there is continued work to do and I want to acknowledge the entire staff for their hard work every day, supporting all students in developing life-long skills in academics, behavior, and social-emotional learning. I cannot express enough how much I appreciate their efforts, patience, and positivity as they embrace some of our daily challenges. They truly adore your children and want what’s best for them. We all appreciate the team approach we have between school and home and we know that together we will help all students to grow up to be amazing, kind, responsible citizens. Thank you for your continued support!

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions, concerns, or need support for your child or your family. Have a great week!

Notes from the Office:

Don't forget about Bikes For Books. The more students read, the more chances they will have to win a bike and even more importantly, the stronger they will become as readers!



Important Upcoming Dates.....

April 10 - School Board Meeting @ Mt. View

April 13 - Fun Fluency Fair - see info. below

April 14 - Early Release Day For Students

April 17 - 21 - April Vacation






Check Out What's Happening at Morse School: **Week of 3/20**


K/1	<p>This week, we continued making our HOW TO non-fiction books. Everyone is very excited about their books, and we are working on editing for capital letters, punctuation, and spacing. We are looking forward to sharing the books with some "big kids" this week.</p> <p>***Please remember that our first trip to the YMCA is this Wednesday for the first grade students. Make sure your permission slips are returned and remember to pack any needed items.</p>
1	<p>This week we did some experiments with shadows, "Can a statue's shadow move?" Students used flashlights to represent the sun. We also learned that you can use the sun if you get lost in the woods. This week we will be learning about the moon and phases of the moon as we prepare for our field trip to Troy Elementary's Planetarium in early April. The students made a sun craft as well to display on the bulletin board.</p>
2	<p>This week in math we will be finishing up the chapters we are working on. Students will begin learning 2-digit addition or 2-digit subtraction strategies. Ask your child what strategies work best for them. We have spent time talking about our math thinking and their explanations are fantastic.</p>
3	<p>This week we will be closing another chapter on multiplication and taking our chapter four test. Next step division! In reading we are working on answering questions about the text while using complete sentences.</p>
4	<p>We started our math unit on division this week and discussed the relationship between multiplication and division. Students used models to represent division equations. Several students applied for the leadership team and will be a part of helping us follow our ROARs!</p>
5	<p>This week fifth grade started thinking about what we already know about fractions. We also reviewed the data from our field trip and reflected on what we learned there. We also began practicing our Readers Theater</p>






	performance for the Fluency Fun Fair on April 13th. Students have begun thinking about their parts and what kind of costumes they want to create. If you have any materials that you think might work for creating wolf, sheep, shepherd, or farmer like costumes, please consider donating them to 5th grade.
SEL	This week at Morse, 3,4, and 5 started on their groups projects. We also unpacked a rubric that will help us with working with each other. Grade 2 worked on problem solving in some situations. They practiced ways to better talk through frustration without placing blame on others. K and 1 worked on ways to problem solve in friendships.
Garden	Seeds are baby plants! Our kindergarten and first grade students learned all about the parts of a seed. We dissected bean seeds and identified the seed coat, cotyledon, root, and leaves. Our second and third graders explored the art of making maple syrup, exploring sapping equipment and learning to calculate the age of maple trees. Fourth and fifth grade students continued pruning efforts in our orchard and started preparing our hoop house for planting. Spring is here!

Attendance Update ...

  Regular hand washing is an effective way to prevent the spread of germs and illnesses, **which can improve school attendance** by keeping students healthy. When students are absent due to illness, they miss out on important learning opportunities and can fall behind.

 Here are two fun rhymes to help make hand washing more memorable for young children:

1 "Wash, wash, wash your hands,
Make them nice and clean.
Scrub the dirt and germs away,
And keep them good and clean." 

2 "Soap and water,
Wash and scrub,
Make those germs
Go down the drain with a rub-a-dub-dub!"  
Try incorporating these rhymes into your day!   

[#attendancematters](#) [#intervention](#) [#handwashing](#) [#germs](#)

Morse Memorial's

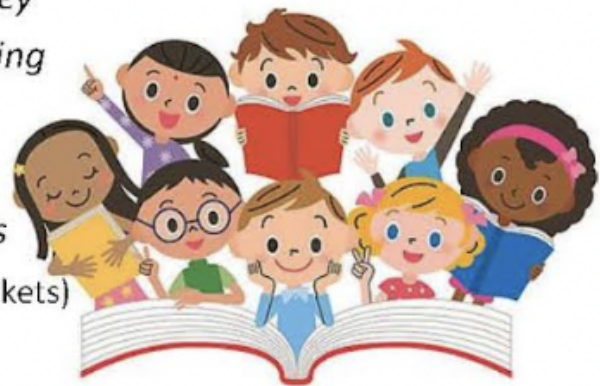


FUN FAIR

Thursday, April 13th at 1:00pm in the Gym

Watch and listen to your child perform **"Fluent Reading!"**

Fluency is the ability to read at an appropriate rate, read accurately, and use proper expression. In order to understand what they read, children must be able to read fluently whether they are reading aloud or silently. When reading aloud, fluent readers notice all the punctuation, read in phrases and add intonation appropriately. Their reading is smooth and has expression. (Reading Rockets)



Group Reading Acts:

Reader's Theatre Skits • Whole Group Choral Poetry Reading

2 Part Reading Acts: 2 Reader Short Skits

Individual Reading Acts:

Individual Poetry Reading • Song Lyric Reading/singing

Jokes and Riddles Reading • Alliteration or Tongue Twister Reading

The "Betty Botter" Reading Challenge



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