



MORSE

Newsletter Vol. 10 No. 3



TELEGRAPH

February/March 2009

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Morse Community,

In this issue of the telegraph I have decided to write about the Morse School Council. It has come to my attention that many of our parents and guardians might not understand the role the school council plays in our school. It is not to be confused with a parent council or a parent teacher organization.

As a public school in Massachusetts, we are required by law (MA General Laws Chapter 71, Section 59C) to have a school council. A school council is defined in the law as "A representative school building-based committee composed of the principal, parents, teachers and community members." The councils are part of the Education Reform Act and help a public school in developing site-based management.

In general, school councils allow teachers and parents to become more informed and responsive to the school's needs. They gain a deeper understanding of the educational community, the specific needs of a particular grade or the school as a whole and act as a guide to the principal in making school wide decisions. This usually is done by the reviewing of school data such as MCAS, looking at the school district and the individual school climate and benchmark data. Another function of the council is in providing various perspectives when discussing improvement goals and plans for change or growth in the school. The school council also reviews the annual school building budget and gives input or feedback on the school improvement plan.

Many families are familiar with school based parent teacher organizations or parent councils. The work that parent teacher organizations do is important to a school community and often works within the school to plan social events, offer parent education programs, and form subcommittees such as fundraising or arts councils. Currently the Morse School does not have an active parent organization of this type but there is a group of parents who are working towards reviving this group to increase parent and guardian participation. Please keep looking for information on this in the future.

The Morse School Council meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month in the library beginning at 6:30 PM and are open to anyone who wants to attend. At the meetings, information about programs and initiatives within the school are shared on a deeper level. Test scores and school wide test results are reviewed, budget information for both the school and the district is shared and school climate data, hiring information and school programs such as City Sprouts are discussed. Our community school director, Stan Rogers, and representatives from our community school are part of the council as well. While our goal is to have consistent representatives from various levels of the school, it is always good to have new people participate!

Regards,

Pat Beggy

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February's Core Virtue is Hope*Quotes selected by Zaheyyah A., Natalie R., and Emma H.*

"Hope is always available to us. When we feel defeated, we need only take a deep breath and say, "Yes, " and hope will reappear."

-Monroe Forester

"To love means loving the unlovable. To forgive means pardoning the unpardonable. Faith means believing the unbelievable. Hope means hoping when everything seems hopeless."

-Gilbert Keith Chesterton

March's Core Virtue is Empathy*Quotes selected by Miss Pennell*

"Smile at each other, smile at your wife, smile at your husband, smile at your children, smile at each other- it doesn't matter who it is- and that will help you to grow up in greater love for each other."

-Mother Theresa

"One who knows how to show and accept kindness will be a friend."

-Mother Theresa

Teacher Poll*By Rory C., Amy D. & Grace M.***Who is your favorite fictional character?**

1. Harry Potter (2)
2. Anne of Green Gables (9)
3. Edward Cullen (4)
4. Stuart Little (1)

Others include: Ender Wiggin (*Ender's Game*), Superman, Pippi Longstocking, Calvin (*Calvin and Hobbes*), Zorro, Pollyanna, Charlotte (*Charlotte's Web*), Sam I Am (*Green Eggs and Ham*), Emmitt Otter (*Emmitt Otter's Jug Band Christmas*), John Henry, Eloise, and Despereaux Tilling.

What was your favorite subject in Middle School?

- | | |
|-------------------|------|
| A. Math | (5) |
| B. Social Studies | (4) |
| C. ELA | (10) |
| D. Science | (4) |
| E. Other | (7) |

Others include: Band, Drama, Art, French, Gym, Music and Chorus.

Literacy Night

Do you have a favorite recipe for Stone Soup? Green Eggs and Ham? Fried Worms? As a culmination to our month long Read Across America program, we will be celebrating Literacy Night on Wednesday, March 25th from 5:30-7:30 PM. There will be a pot luck dinner from 5:30-6:30 PM followed by literacy games and activities. Please encourage your child to complete their reading log. All logs should be turned in to the Library by Tuesday, March 24th in order for prizes to awarded on Literacy Night. For more information contact our Parent Liaison, **Denise Sullivan**.

Literacy Night**Wednesday, March 25th****5:30-7:30 PM****Potluck dinner. All are invited!****The Inauguration***By Aicha B.*

This Presidential Inauguration has many meanings for Americans and for people around the world. It signifies that America has left the hatred and mistreatment of African-Americans. It will never do that horrible injustice again. It marks significant meanings for everyone. This is very special event, especially for the people who saw and felt those things. And not just African-Americans were hurt by these injustices.

I recently interviewed my grandparents who are Caucasian. They fought for the rights of African-Americans. When my grandfather was 15, he attended Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. He still has the button he was given that day. My grandfather worked for the *Poor People's Campaign*, the last work of MLK.

Barack Obama is stepping into the Presidency during an unusual time. A recession, our messed-up government and a Middle Eastern crisis that has left multitudes of people dead. My future is at stake. My generation's future is at stake.

We are at a turning point in our nation's history. It is time for everyone to fix it. Barack Obama will help us. His wife Michelle is someone I think is like Eleanor Roosevelt (who is my hero). That's saying something! I think with Obama leading our country the world will look up to America again.

Field Trips to the Museum of Science

By Natalie R., Zaheyah A., Brianna F.,
and Miss Getchell

4th Grade Trip- In January both fourth grade classes and **Ms. Walsh's** class went on a field trip to the Museum of Science. The bus ride was only a few minutes, but when we got into the museum it was like a jungle. When we arrived we were split into groups. Ms. Mulchay's group and Mrs. Jen's group went to see the bird exhibit first. When you walk in there are two glass cases with birds flying around. Grant's group went to the basement first, and saw bugs. They saw black widow spiders, houseflies, and many other insects. Mrs. Fulkerson's group went to see mammals. The mammals they saw were bears, deer, and moose. **Mrs. Gallant** and **Ms. Carmichael's** group went to see a new exhibit called Mythical Creatures. The exhibit is only here until March. We saw statues of mermaids, unicorns, Bigfoot, dragons, and Griffins. After that the classes had snack. We all went to an Omni Presentation. We learned cool things about the solar system. The things we saw were the difference between the country and the city at night. It was so fun!

5th Grade Trip- In January the fifth grade classes went on a field trip to the Museum of Science. The bus ride was only a few minutes, but when we arrived it was chaos. The teachers split us into groups and we were on our way. **Mrs. Meredith** took her group to the simple machines exhibit first. My group went with **Ms. Jeram** to the simple machines, too. I loved the trip and I learned a ton. Here's a secret, *behavior* is the key to getting you on a field trip. So behave. It's that easy.

7th Grade Trip- In January the seventh grade classes visited the Museum of Science. While there students saw the *Forces of Nature* IMAX show and some of the Earth Science Exhibits. Many students had to fight motion sickness in the IMAX due to the tornado and the volcano.

8th Grade Trip- In January the eighth grade classes visited the Museum of Science and saw the *Fantastic Forces* show and the *What Happened to Pluto* Planetarium show. In the *Fantastic Forces* show the demonstrator threw a pencil through a piece of wood to demonstrate fundamental physics concepts.

Book Reviews

By Miss Pennell

If you have read a book you have enjoyed and want others to enjoy it as well, write a book review for the Telegraph. Picture books, chapter books or non-fiction- all are welcome! Submissions can be given to **Miss Pennell**.

2nd Quarter Honor Roll

Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Ariana A.	Zahyyeh A-R.*	Josefina B.
Yishak A.	Bouchra B.	Emma B.
Elizabeth B.	Lara B.	Joann C.
Imani D.	Dylan C.	Elise D.
Daviana E.	Finn C.	Ophir D.
Paley F.	Amaniya C.	Brianna D.
Brendan G.	Kavya C.	Asia E.
Nusrat J.	Emma H.	Brianna F.
Olivia L.	Alexandra H.	Safiyah J.
Yerin L.	Sugandha K.	Donald L.
Albert L.	Marlon L.	Andrew L.
Bhavya P.	Jaehun L.	Fraser M.
Jared S.	Samantha L.*	Colin M.
Joshua V.	Milo L.	Meklit M.
Veronika V.	Ibrahim N.	Venus M.
	Natalie R.	Fahmida P.
	Hugo S.	Jalisa P.
	Franklin S.	Taylor W-R.
	Zarifa S.	Brandon S.
	Ryan T.*	Tatiana S.
	William T. *	Aryaman S.
	Zane V.	Jordan T.
	Charlotte W.	
Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Julie C.	Atsede A.	Mahmood A.-R.*
Nermeen H.	Mehrose A.*	Donald C.
Banalatta J.	Catherine C.	Connor D.
Margot R.	Rory C.*	Konstantinos F.*
Bettina V.	Amy D.*	Amrow H.
	Nadwa I.	Tinisha L.*
	Grace M.	Nahum M.
	Elena M.*	Minahil N.*
	Cameron M.	Eliot N.
	Abina N.*	Shawn P.
	Jordan P.	Malique P.
	David R.	Ashraful R.*
	Paul S.	
	Christopher T.	

*Indicates High Honor Roll (all A's)

Hope: A Poem*By Bouchra B.*

Hope is the silence in the dark.
 Hope is the thing you want when you're fighting a shark.
 Hope is the thing that you're looking for.
 Hope is the thing you really want when you're poor.
 When you have hope, you are in a dream,
 But when you get out you really want to scream.

Read: An Acrostic Poem*By Lucy V.*

Read all books at the Library
Energy books
About everything
Deadly and good

Flowers: An Acrostic Poem*By Lucy V.*

For many gardens in the world
Lilies and daisies
Oh, so many you can count
Wow so pretty
Elegant colors
Read about them in the Library
Sell them at stores all the time

Holes: A Book Review*By Will T.*

Can you imagine being framed for a crime when you were really innocent? That is what happens to Stanley Yelnats in *Holes*. Somehow when Stanley is walking home from school the police come up to him and find a pair of a celebrity's sneakers in his backpack. His choice: go to jail or go to an all boy's camp where they dig holes from dawn until dusk. He chose to dig holes. Stanley gets stuck in a camp where they dig holes all day in the desert where it never rains.

There is a kid who everybody picks on. His name is Zero. Zero is really good at digging holes. One day Zero comes up to him and asks Stanley to teach him how to read and write. In return Zero will help him dig. Suddenly someone finds out about their lessons and Zero unexpectedly runs away. All of a sudden Stanley is on a crazy journey to find Zero, unraveling clues, and finding out more about himself than he ever did before.

If you want a good book to read chose *Holes* by Louis Sachar. It is one of the best books I ever read. Once you start reading it you will never want to stop.

The Tales of Beetle the Bard: A Book Review*By Fraser M.*

J.K. Rowling's latest book is about a book Hermione found and translated in the library while she was at Hogwarts. This book is interesting to me because it's about wizards and witches. Another reason is because I enjoy the topic of fantasy. Another reason is because it is a book you can actually read and finish in a short amount of time, yet it is still challenging to read.

My favorite story in this book is "The Wizard and the Hoping Pot". It is really funny and the pot was acting like the wizard's conscience. It is also funny because the pot has a foot and the wizard slips a slipper on the pot's foot.

The best part is that this book is not a book in the Harry Potter series. So far I have only read the first book in the Harry Potter series, but I think this book is just as good.

The Sea of Trolls: An Illustration*By Rory C.***The Sea of Trolls: A Book Review***By Zane V.*

Imagine that your name is Jack and you are a farmer boy. One day you meet a wizard named Bard. Bard teaches you to be a wizard and cool things like being able to call down eagles. Next thing you know you are captured by a giant whose leader is named OFLA- ONE-BROW. This is just one adventure that you have in the great fantasy book *The Sea of Trolls* by Nancy Farmer. Although the main character is a boy, this is a great book for both boys and girls. Even if this book is nearly 500 pages long, you will devour it. You can find this book in the Morse School Library, or at your local bookstore. Enjoy!

Park Passports

By Samantha and Melissa L.

Do you want to go to different parks in Massachusetts? Well if you do you should have a park passport. Once you get your Park Passport can go to a state parks like Breakheart in Saugus, Great Brook Farms in Carlisle, and many more. For each park there is a stamp box with a code lock and to unlock it the combination is right in your park passport. The stamp for each park is in the stamp box. The parks in the Passport are separated into different regions- Boston, Northeast, Southeast, Central and West. In your Park Passport there are maps and lists of the state parks. If you collect all the stamps in one region, you get a tee-shirt with all of the stamps in that region in color! Get your Park Passport and start exploring your state parks! (For more information visit www.mass.gov/dcr/passport)

SIC Meeting Schedule

By Miss Pat, Principal

The Morse School Improvement Council (SIC) meets the first Wednesday of each month in the Morse School Library/media center. The SIC is a school-based management group consisting of staff, parents/guardians and community members. Every public school in the State of Massachusetts is required by law to have a school council that meets on a regular basis. The meetings are from 6:30pm until 8pm and are open to the public. We welcome any family or community member to attend. Check the Morse School website for specific dates and agenda topics. The remaining meeting dates for the 2008-2009 school year are:

March 4, 2009	April TBD 2009
May 6, 2009	June 3, 2009

BALLROOM DANCING SHOWCASE

Featuring our 5th Grade Students

Tentatively rescheduled for

Monday, March 16th

7:00 PM at the CRLS Gymnasium

1st Semester Coady Award Winners

Twice each year, once in January and once in June, the Morse School gives out the Coady Award for Extraordinary Effort. This award is given to a student in each classroom who, as determined by teachers, has been a good role model for fellow students, contributes a positive attitude to the school community and is respectful of peers and adults. The award is named after retired, long-time Principal, Mr. James Coady. Congratulations to the Morse students who received this award:

Grade 3

Bhavya P.
Mikayla D.

Grade 6

Julie C.

Grade 4

Emma H.
Sugandha K.

Grade 7

Elijah C.

Grade 5

Kobe P.
Devlin M.

Grade 8

Khadijah E.

Ungraded

Marley C.

Second Grade Art

By Anas B.

The second grade just finished small good-luck dragons for the Chinese New Year. We used lots of things to make our dragons. We used paper, sharpies, and watercolor. Now we are making big, group dragons using chalk and paint. They are being painted in complementary color pairs. Yellow and purple or blue and orange or red and green. Working together is fun!

(These dragons will be on display in and around the library during the Book Festival.)

Winter: An Acrostic Poem

By Emma H.

Winter wonderland.
Incredible snow
Nice weather for hot chocolate
Terrific snow for making snowmen
Exciting and beautiful
Radiant and never hot

"Hope is like a road in the country; there was never a road, but when many people walk on it, the road comes into existence."

-Lin Yutang

Spotlight on Señor Cozzi

By David R.

Señor Paolo Cozzi has been the Spanish teacher at the Morse for six years. Before coming here, he taught at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin school. To him, the best part of teaching is watching his students succeed in the real world, but his favorite part of every class is using puppets. Señor Cozzi enjoys teaching with his large collection of puppets because every class enjoys them from the kindergarteners to the eighth graders.

Señor Cozzi lived in Mexico City until he was 13 when he moved to New York City. After 7 years of living in New York, **Señor Cozzi** and his family moved to Peru, then to Madrid, Spain where they live now. Spanish was his first language, but he learned English while living in New York and now he also speaks some French.

Taco Stand Sale

By Miss Pennell

On Thursday, February 12th **Señor Cozzi** and the Spanish Club created a taco stand for all teachers and staff. Students sold tacos, chips and salsa and guacamole to the sounds of Spanish music with huge smiles on their faces. They raised \$340. All proceeds were donated to the Detroit Zoo's Adopt-a-School Program. This program delivers necessary supplies to children in the Iquitos Jungle in Peru so they may attend school and achieve a basic education.

Spring Bulb Fundraiser

Bulb catalogs will be coming home the week of March 23rd. Payment is due at time of order. All orders are due April 6th. The Morse School earns 45% of total sales for this fundraiser. All money raised goes into a fund that provides additional field trips for all classes and other school enrichments. All orders will be delivered on or around the week of May 4th. Contact **Denise Sullivan** with any questions.

Morse School Spirit Wear

Do you want to show off your school pride? Did you miss your chance to purchase Morse spirit wear items this fall? Within the next several weeks order forms will be coming home for Morse spirit wear (t-shirts, sweat-shirts, etc.). There are several new items in the spring catalog that were not offered this fall including 2 different t-shirt styles. Contact **Denise Sullivan** to see samples or with any questions.

Remember Me! Books

By Miss Pennell

Do you want a new way to remember a birthday, first day of school, or a special teacher? Donate a book to the Morse School Library in someone's honor! Check out our Amazon Wishlist.

1. Log on to www.amazon.com
2. Click on "Gifts & Wish Lists" at the top of the page
3. Type in "Morse School Library" in the "Find someone's wish list" search bar on the right hand side
4. View our list and choose a book from the wish list with your child
5. Click on "Ordering a Gift" and type your "gift note" (this will be the dedication included on the book plate inside the book)
6. Check out and ship to "Sarah Pennell"— our school librarian (40 Granite St., Cambridge, MA 02139)

If you are buying more books for yourself, ship to your home and your child can bring your donated book to school in his or her backpack. Any questions, contact **Miss Pennell**.

Massachusetts Children's Book Award

By Miss Pennell

The Massachusetts Children's Book Award (MCBA) program is a reading program that was created in 1975. Dr. Helen Constant, the award's founder, was inspired to create this program after observing that once having learned to read, many children lose interest in books when they reach the intermediate grades. Each year 25 titles are selected for the MCBA program. Criteria for the Master List include literary quality, variety of genres, representation of diverse cultural groups, and reader appeal. Every year, 4th through 6th graders from all over the state read books on the "Master List" and vote for their favorite. If you read 5 books or more from the Master List you can vote for your favorite book.

This is the first year I have taken part in this program and chose to have only the sixth grade participate. We began this project by having both sixth grade classes watch a PowerPoint presentation that introduced students to each of the 25 titles on the Master List for this year. Titles include a lovely variety of literature. Some favorites include *Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini* by Sid Fleischman, *The Homework Machine* by Dan Gutman, *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trent Lee Stewart, *Gossamer* by Lois Lowry, *Double Identity* by Margaret Peterson Haddix, *Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker, *Each Little Bird that Sings* by Deborah Wiles and *Whales on Stilts* by M.T. Anderson. Students who participated and read at least 5 titles will be able to vote for their favorite book on Thursday, March 5th during their lunch time.

Art Studio
By Miss Laplante

Art Show! For the month of March, please visit the Artist & Craftsman Supply store in Central Square to view still life paintings from the third grade. Future art shows will be at Four Burgers for the month of April and Central Square Library for the month of May.

Mark your calendars! Wednesday, April 29th will be the evening of the reception for the Morse School Art Show at Gallery263, showcasing over 100 works of art from Morse students.

Local artist, Bren Bataclan, responsible for the Smile Project, visited the 5th graders on February 27th. He shared his method of developing smiling cartoon characters, and explained his public art projects of leaving paintings for anyone to find, as long as they promise to smile more.

Don't forget about the Morse Arts website, www.morsearts.wordpress.com, to see galleries of finished artwork, students at work, and updates about the happenings in the Art Studio.



2nd graders working on their good luck dragons for Chinese New Year.



Masks the 7th graders created.

Author/Illustrator Visit: Timothy Basil Ering

By Miss Pennell and Miss Laplante

Author/illustrator Timothy Basil Ering came to visit the Morse School on January 23rd. He spoke to the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. He is the illustrator for the book, *The Tale of Despereaux*, and is the author and illustrator for *The Story of Frog Belly Rat Bone* and *Necks Out for Adventure*.

The students had a wonderful time learning about Timothy's artistic style and humor, and what it takes to be a children's book writer and artist.

Mr. Ering also visited the Cambridge Public Library at Central Square that evening. Together with Gregory Maguire they promoted their work in the new anthology of White House history *Our White House: Looking In Looking Out*. To look at any of these stories, come visit the Morse School Library!



Author/Illustrator Timothy Basil Ering reading from *Necks Out for Adventure*.

Morse School Book Festival!!!

Saturday, March 21st

10AM-2PM

Meet authors Susan Goodman and Erica Perl

Donations needed:
Used books, Toys, Sport stuff, Food

Spring Library Hours

Monday 8-4

Tuesday 8-2:30

Wednesday 8-3

Thursday 8-4

Friday 8-2:30

Take Charge of Education

The *Target* Corporation, owners of *Target* department stores, has a program entitled "Take Charge of Education". When parents, teachers and other school supporters use their Target REDcards, Target Visa, Target Credit Card or Target Check Card, Target donates up to 1% of their purchases to their designated eligible K-12 School. Since 1995, the Morse School has received just under \$2,000.00 in total from this program. These funds come with no strings attached.

It is important to be clear- the Morse is not promoting Target or the use of credit cards. However, like the program Box Tops for Education, many of our families already use these products or patronize this store. Signing up is as simple as speaking to a customer service representative. Friends and relatives from anywhere in the country can list the Morse as their designated school too!

Classroom Wants

Art- The 6th graders are about to begin a sculpture project, but they could use help. The project will be using entirely recycled materials, ranging from plastic forks to toilet paper tubes to twist ties.

If you have any items from the list below, please drop them off in the Art Studio: paper towel and toilet paper tubes, plastic cups, bottle caps, plastic wrap, rubber bands aluminum foil, twist ties, paper clips, ziplock bags, plastic forks, knives, spoons, dried out markers, too-small-to-use pencils, or anything else that might be reflective, transparent, or translucent.

Playoff Football Teams Word Find

By Ryan T.

FIND:	R S G X S B U Q F S V Z L U V
CARDINALS	J U E G B J O G B A T W A F I
CHARGERS	M A M C X L G B T G L N Y W K
COLTS	Y B X H V X V F N Z S C A L I
DOLPHINS	P A N T H E R S Z F N Y O I N
EAGLES	S L A N I D R A C S E V N N G
FALCONS	S Y Y L B S O S V R V X M W S
GIANTS	K R W X T E N E E E A V I W E
PANTHERS	U V E L A I N D P L R Q X X V
RAVENS	S Q O G H Z X P T E O M H U N
STEELERS	V C L P R Q S Y X E T U R E W
TITANS	X E L F E A H S X T Y Q V H X
VIKINGS	S O M F U Z H Z W S M U Y Z L
	D K C W X Z Q C O B A Z M Z Q
	Q K N Z S T Z S N A T I T K H

Newspaper Club

Thank you to the students who participated in Newspaper Club for this edition: **Melissa L., Lucy V., Anas B., Samantha L., Ryan T., Will T., Natalie R., Zaheyah A., Bouchra B., Chorobi S., Robel M., Emma H., Zane V., Brianna F., Fraser M., Aicha B., David R., Grace M., Rory C., and Amy D.** If you are interested in joining please speak with **Miss Pennell**.

Editor's Note

We welcome contributions to the Telegraph from teachers, parents, and especially students. We encourage children to submit poetry, artwork, photographs, essays or opinions on any subject matter that appeals to them. If you have an idea for a story please contact **Miss Pennell** (Library). Text files may be e-mailed to spennell@cpsd.us and artwork, photographs, and written pieces may be submitted to **Miss Pennell** during the school day. All original work will be returned.