

Morrow Elementary

Patriot Press

December 2018/January 2019



Principal's Message

Dear Morrow Families,

I hope you achieved your goals for 2018. As the new year approaches, it is important to take time to reflect and show appreciation for our families and friends. The Faculty and Staff at Morrow are very thankful and appreciative for all that you do at home to support our school and Patriot Scholars. Over the past four months we have been exposing our students to a variety of experiences aimed at enriching their academic, social and emotional development. We recently held an assembly with one of our partners, The Humanity Project, which focused on anti-bullying and emphasized the importance of treating others with respect. Some of our own students led this assembly and did an outstanding job!

As we continue "Racing on the Paths to Success", we are closely monitoring our student achievement data. We are seeing many areas of growth, which we are very proud of. During the month of January, your children will be taking mid-year assessments for Reading, Math and Science. As always, please ensure they are getting enough sleep and arriving at school on time. Please have discussions with your children about the importance of giving their best effort in the classroom. During our many Family and Community Engagements (FACE) Events, we were able to provide families with some very useful academic and social resources. We also gave out some fun prizes and treated our families to delicious dinners. Please stay connected with what is happening at school by visiting our website at www.browardschools.com/morrow and following us on Twitter @MorrowElem. The upcoming "Calendar of Activities" is also attached. Please add the dates to your calendar and plan to participate.

At Morrow Elementary School, we recognize the importance of families and the diversity of cultures represented by the Morrow Community. We will take time to celebrate the many traditions of our Morrow Community and staff. Please work together with your child to dress the gingerbread provided to represent a holiday tradition you celebrate. Be creative, you can use materials for clothing and yarn for hair. You may also use crayons or markers. Use the writing paper to write about a Holiday Tradition. Please send the completed project back to school by Thursday, December 20th, 2018. We will display the projects around the school for all to enjoy.

Attached to this newsletter, you will find information about The Broward Standards Assessments (BSA), the 21st Century Grant Afterschool Program, Morrow Awards Criteria, and the Morrow Positive Behavior and Achievement Reward Program. Please review the documents and send feedback. Your input in our school activities and programs is necessary as we strive to improve instruction and student achievement.

As we approach the holiday season, I would like to extend my best wishes to you and your family. I hope you enjoy time with family and friends. I also want to wish you a very successful and prosperous 2019. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have suggestions, questions, or concerns.

Educationally yours,

Dr. Crowle, Principal



Notes from Guidance – Ms. Nguyen



Hello Parents, Students, and Staff:

Please “check out” our Kids of Character (KOC) Wall of Fame in the main hallway when you visit. We recently recognized our October and November Students of the Month (SOTM) for Responsibility and Citizenship. Students will be recognized for Kindness in December. Please encourage your children to be respectful as teachers will be nominating students who show Respect for the month of January. **Respect is showing consideration, understanding, and regard for people, places, and things**

Congratulations to our students and parents! Each student was nominated by their teacher and received their certificate and prizes, along with a group picture posted on our KOC Wall of Fame in the main hallway.

Thank you for your participation in Red Ribbon Week activities. The goal of Red Ribbon Week is to help our students make appropriate choices and “Say No to Drugs”

Small group counseling began in November. Groups run for 4-6 weeks and our second round of groups will begin in January 2019. If you are interested in placing your child in small groups to focus on Student Success Skills, Study Skills, or other specified topics, please contact Mrs. Nguyen and complete the permission form to allow your child to participate.

Morrow Elementary is committed to providing high-quality instruction and support to promote the highest achievement of all students. Some students require additional support beyond what is provided for the majority of students.

A Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) organizes instruction and intervention into tiers, or levels of support:

- ◆ Tier 1 – All students receive high-quality instruction in academics.
- ◆ Tier 2 – In addition to Tier 1, students needing more support also receive small-group intervention and supports. The difference is increased time, smaller groups of students or narrowed focus of instruction.
- ◆ Tier 3 – In addition to Tiers 1 and 2, students receiving Tier 3 intervention receive the most intensive supports based on individual need. The difference is individual team-based problem-solving, increased time, smaller groups of students and narrowed focus of instruction. intensity of the intervention.

If you would like more information about RTI, please contact Mrs. Nguyen.



A Wide Variety of Books

Sharing lots of different kinds, or genres, of books with your child exposes them to different words, different kinds of images, and whole new worlds. In this month's newsletter let's explore some genres to try with your young reader that complement 'traditional' fiction. Some are suggestions for read alouds, while others may be ones your child can read on their own.

Fantasy/Science Fiction

From talking dogs to imaginary underground worlds, fantasy books contain elements that are not possible in real life. Cornelia Funke, J. K. Rowling and Lemony Snicket are all authors to consider within the fantasy genre.

Historical Fiction

Well written historical fiction helps past events come alive for children. With topics as wide ranging as pioneer life and ancient civilizations, books within this genre awaken the historian in any child.

Biography

Biographies have a way of inspiring kids. The best ones introduce famous presidents, inventors, educators and scientists in a way that helps kids identify with the person. David Adler has a series of biographies that are well loved by early elementary students.

Informational Books

What makes a volcano erupt? How tall is the tallest man? Where does the word pumpkin come from? Kids ask many questions, and reference books help them find the answers. When choosing reference books for your child, make sure they were recently written and seem to contain accurate information.

Poetry

Poetry just isn't as widely read as it should be. Several children's poets have collections that will make your child howl with laughter. Poetry is often shorter too, which makes the task of reading less overwhelming for new or reluctant readers. Jack Prelutsky and Shel Silverstein are great authors to start with in this genre.

Whatever you choose to read with your child, make it an enjoyable experience. Have fun visiting that magical place, getting to know that famous person, finding the answers to questions, and reading with the rhythm of poetry.

Please continue to encourage students to read daily.

Happy Ready,
Mrs. Mason
Literacy Coach



The Magic of Math



Hello Parents,

Welcome to another exciting month of Math as we continue to develop Math Fact Fluency. Math Fact Fluency refers to the ability to recall the basic facts in all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) accurately, quickly and effortlessly. When students achieve *automaticity* with these facts, they have attained a level of mastery that enables them to retrieve them from long-term memory without conscious effort or attention. Brain imaging studies have revealed how the progression from effortful processes such as finger counting and explicit strategy use to automatized retrieval is associated with actual changes in the regions of the brain involved in mathematical computation (e.g., Rivera, Reiss, Eckert, & Menon, 2005). Through automaticity, students free up their working memory and can devote it to problem solving and learning new concepts and skills (Geary, 1994).

Some great news to start the school year! In grade levels Kindergarten through 5th grade, each student has access on their computer to a math fluency program called, "Reflex Math." This math fluency program helps students of all ability levels to develop fluency with their basic facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. The best part about the program is that there are proven results. Each child has made significant gains in math while using this program at least three times a week for 20 minutes a day. Another great part to Reflex Math is that the program is highly motivational to your child because it is game-based. They will be able to purchase items by advancing to different levels. Reflex Math can also be accessed at home. Next month, incentives will be given for those students who are consistently working through Reflex Math and progressing through the levels. To access Reflex Math please go to:

<https://www.reflexmath.com>.



Encourage your children to see the connection between mathematics and the real world by thinking out loud when making calculations. Let your children work out some real-life problems themselves. For example, allow children to measure when you bake, figure out how many miles you will be driving on your next trip by using the information on a map. Don't forget to make Math fun

Ms. Tucker
Math Coach



On December 5th, 2018, Cadre 8 Schools hosted a science symposium at Colbert Museum Magnet School. During this time, students presented various scientific investigations exploring concepts related to the Sun's heat and light energy. I am happy to announce that a select group of our wonderful Morrow scholars participated in the event. Students worked diligently to prepare a project relating to the Symposium's theme: "HERE COMES THE SUN!" Additionally, there were field experts in attendance to help motivate and encourage our students to pursue STEM careers.

Mrs. Small-Williams
Science Special 😊



Grade Level Happenings

Headstart and Pre-K

Raising children is arguably the most important job, and often the most challenging job, in the world. Unfortunately, there is no handbook or instructional manual for raising healthy and responsible children. We learn as we go. And we make mistakes! But, we have compiled some suggestions that may work with your precious little ones.

Routines:

1. collaborate with all adults in the household who interact with the child
2. establish routines in the household that all adults agree to follow
3. consistently follow routines every day

Eating:

- * meal times (3 meals, same time daily, offer new foods at home)
- * prepare and cook meals with your child (wash vegetables, choose items for salad)
- * diet: limit 'junk' foods to a pre-set day (one weekend day)

Sleep:

- * maintain consistent sleep times (naps and night time)
- * maintain consistent sleep location (own bed)
- * create a routine for sleep: read a book, listen to music, night light
- * remove all technology from sleep area

Exercise:

- * lots of outdoor activity
- * take walks together as a family
- * consider getting a well-trained pet (can assist during meltdowns and reduce stress in the household)

Behavioral Expectations and Consequences:

- * establish limits for child that protect the safety of self, others, pets and property
- * establish expectations that the child can achieve
- * apply consequences to behavior immediately: reward for desired behavior, time out or loss of privilege for undesired behavior
- * simplify consequences (one edible treat as reward, 3-4 minutes of time out, short and temporary loss of privilege)

General Health:

- * establish relationships with pediatrician, pediatric dentist
- * maintain consistent check-ups for developmental milestones and preventative care
- * request referrals to professionals and organizations with pediatric expertise
- * seek information and assistance from community resources, especially parent/caregiver support groups and respite care

Grade Level Happenings

Kindergarten

Hello Parents,
Thank you for all your continued support for our fabulous kindergarten students! Currently students are continuing to master their Fry Sight Words. A total of 100 should be learned by the end of the school year. Students are going strong on their i-Ready Reading and Math lessons, which serve to have them practice their skills learned in class. We are learning about changes in our Science Curriculum and as such we went on a field trip to Butterfly World to see the changes of caterpillars into butterflies. The trip is on November 28, 2018. The students learned a lot about butterflies and they enjoyed the experience. Have a wonderful Winter Break and enjoy the Holiday season with your children. Please remember to study those Fry sight words. If you need additional copies, please contact your child's teacher.

First Grade

Greetings Parents!
We enjoyed our writing celebration to share our finished How-To books. We are now beginning the writing process for opinions and will celebrate by sharing our Book Reviews!
Please read with your child daily and continue to work with your child to help them blend sounds into words and review sight words.
Our math focus is on Addition Strategies. We are finding our sums by counting on, using a number line, or drawing a picture. We can now also find the sum and change the order of the addends.



Second Grade

Happy Holidays from the 2nd grade Team!
We hope you enjoy spending time with family and friends this holiday season!

The 2nd grade students have been working hard to improve their reading! It's important to remember when students are reading that they stop and ask questions about what they've read. Students have been learning to ask: Who is in the story/text? Why did the character do that? When did the events happen? What are details from the text to understand Main Idea? Where do the events take place? All these "W" questions should be practiced at home when students are reading. These questions help us understand the morals/lessons and how characters respond to events in a text. Students should be reading daily for at least 20 minutes and they can write/discuss about their book.

In Math, 2nd graders are working on strategies to find sums of 2-digit numbers. They learned to break apart numbers and use mental math to add faster. Homework is taken home so that students can practice skills learned in school. It's of high importance that students are able to add and subtract quickly. If possible, invest in addition and subtraction flash cards to get them ready. Students can make flash cards using index cards. We will be working on strategies to find differences of 2-digit numbers.

In Science, students are learning about Severe Storms. Discuss a safety plan in case we have a severe storm in our area. In Social Studies, we learned about different landforms, i.e. Mountains, Deserts, and Islands. We are learning about maps and we can identify landforms using a map. When driving, ask your child about landforms and how to navigate in your neighborhood using maps.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher. We look forward to a successful year with your child

Grade Level Happenings

Third Grade

Hello Morrow Family!

Please continue to encourage your child to be the best they can be. This includes staying focused and participating in all classroom activities. It is expected that your child completes their homework and returns it by the due date. Nightly reading for at least 30 minutes is encouraged and recommended. Please continue to check your child's planner and sign it nightly.

Happy Holidays!

Fourth Grade

Greetings Parents!

We are approaching the holiday season, but our 4th grade learners are continuing to work hard. Learners practiced describing characters by their thoughts, feelings and actions. They made inferences based on evidence and determined the theme of stories and poems. Learners continued to work on multiplication strategies and have used those skills in working with division. Extra help at home with multiplication facts will help learners with their fact fluency. Programs such as IReady, Reflex Math, Acaletics, Myon and NewsELA are helpful every day and especially during long breaks. Please discuss with your child what they have been learning throughout the week. This will reinforce the skills done in class and remind them of skills they need more clarification and practice on. We look forward to seeing all our 4th grade learners on the right track to success!



Fifth Grade

Dear Parents,

As we begin the second quarter of the of the school year, the students are adjusting well to 5th grade, evolving and getting ready for middle school. The students are working on improving their social and emotional skills. The school has been working on new incentive systems that reward the students for growth in areas of academic and behavior. We are also working on the same areas in the classroom, where we are monitoring and rewarding these skills. By doing so, we are promoting independence and confidence in our students.

In math, we are close to finishing up multiplying and dividing decimals, then we will move on to working with fractions. Throughout the quarter we will work on different strategies through Acaletics math program to eliminate many misconceptions while learning math concepts. The students will work on engaging hands-on activities and connecting real word scenarios while solving multi- step problems. In Language arts, the students are attentively engaged in learning more about different strategies to analyze an informational text. We are also promoting more independent reading skills, which will help increase the students reading stamina. In Science, we are currently working on rocks and other minerals. To enhance their writing, the students participates in a weekly Digital Document Based Questioning program where they learn about Christopher Columbus, whether he was a hero or a villain. Then, they are able to produce different types of writing and create projects.

As you can see, 5th grade is super busy and engaged in learning. During the coming weeks, have conversations with your child about what they are learning. Show interest by asking specific questions about the topic they are talking about.

Wishing you and your family a Wonderful Holiday!

The 5th Grade Team,
Mrs. Imbert
Ms. Kerr
Ms. Reuter

PTA



The PTA is currently working with the teachers to increase student achievement and positive behaviors with the creation of Morrow Bucks and the new Patriot School Store. With the new Positive Behavior, Academic Achievement, and Academic Reward Program students will have the ability to earn “Morrow Bucks.” All students will have the opportunity to earn Morrow Bucks that may be used to purchase items from the Patriot School Store. This initiative is a great way for students to be accountable and a great way for parents and teachers to recognize the students’ hard work and efforts. The PTA is always looking for more parent and teacher members so please contact Mrs. Simmons (President) for a membership form, as well as complete and return a form to the front office.

IMPORTANT DATES



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|---|---------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 12/21 | Noon Dismissal for Students | 2/1/19 | Take Your Daughters & Sons to Work Day |
| 21/24/18 - 1/7/19 | Winter Break School Closed | 2/5/19 | Family Math Night |
| 1/8/119 | School Resumes for Students | 2/8/19 | PTA Valentine’s Dance |
| Broward Standards Assessment (BSA) | | 2/12/19 | Interim Reports Issued |
| • January 9 th to 10 th Science: Grade 5 | | 2/18/19 | No School |
| • January 15 th to 24 th ELA and Math: Grade 3 | | 2/21/19 | Noon Dismissal for Students |
| • January 15 th to 24 th ELA and Math: Grade 4 | | 3/8/19 | Spring Individual Pictures |
| • January 15 th to 24 th ELA and Math: Grade 5: | | 3/21/19 | Noon Dismissal for Students |
| 1/21/19 | No School – Holiday | 3/22/19 | Teacher Planning: No School |
| 1/21-1/25/19 | Celebrate Literacy Week | 3/25 -3/29/19 | Spring Break: No School |
| 1/30/19 | Report Cards Issued to parents | | |
| 1/31/19 | 100 th Day of School | | |

