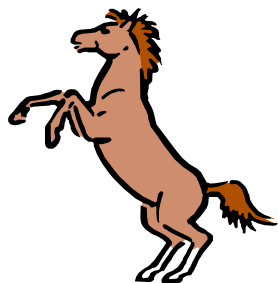


Morton Matters

November, 2008
Volume 1, Issue 2

Karlene K. Ross, Principal
George Ackley, Vice Principal



Principal's News

The first semester has been a very exciting and busy time. I have been enjoying walking from class to class and seeing the learning that has been taking place. Many students have been doing a wonderful job.

I know many of you have been following the budget concerns and the School Committee meeting. A letter has been mailed to your homes outlining how the budget cuts will affect your children. I know the cuts appear drastic, but all the staff is committed to making this transition as easy as possible. If you have any questions about how this may impact your child please call the school.

I know many of you have been asking about our after school programs. We

have been trying to problem solve how we can continue to run these outstanding programs.

On Thursday, October 30th we held our first school dance. All the proceeds (\$434) will go to after school programming. Unfortunately this does not cover the expenses of these programs. We will continue to have dances and other events to raise the necessary funds. As soon as we secure the funding we will send out an announcement about the various programs being offered.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming Parent Conferences. If you have a chance stop by the office.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Report Cards, November 7th
- ◆ Report cards returned by November 10th
- ◆ NO SCHOOL, November 11th
- ◆ Parent Conferences, November 13th from 6-8 pm
- ◆ Pictures Retakes, November 21st
- ◆ ½ Day, November 26th dismissal at 12:00
- ◆ NO SCHOOL, November 27th-28th (Thanksgiving break)

End of Term

The school year is off to a great start and first term is almost over. The term officially ends on November 7th. Report cards will go out on the 7th. Report cards should be returned by Tuesday, November 10th.

Electronics Policy

Students cannot have electronic devices out during the school day. Cell phones, MP3 players and other devices are disruptive to the learning environment. Students are aware that if the policy is violated their electronic device is taken, logged in and placed in the office until the end of the school day.

If there is a second offense a parent will need to pick up the electronic device. The student is responsible for letting their parents know that their electronic product has been taken.

If your child is missing a cell phone or similar item it may be possible that it

Parent Conferences

Parent Conferences will be held on Thursday, November 13th from 6 to 8 pm.

is in the office due to the violation of the policy. Feel free to call the office and check on any missing items. The school will not contact parents to notify them of items that are in the office.



Technology Donation from Bank of Fall River



**½ Day,
Wednesday,
November 26th,
Dismissal at
12:00**

**NO SCHOOL
Thursday,
November 27th**

**Friday,
November 28th
Thanksgiving
Recess**



Basketball Tournament

6th Grade- November 17th-21st
7th Grade- December 1st-5th
8th Grade- December 8th-13th

***Come play and support
your school***



Back row, left to right-Math Coach, Fred Souza; Principal- Karlene Ross; President and CEO of Bank of Fall River, John Clifford; 6th Grade Math Teachers- Ann Muller and Jackie Vincelle; Vice Principal- George Ackley; Front row, left to right- 6th Grade students- Jacob McAlister, Patrick Graves, Katie Judge and Kelsey Rodrigues.

A Note from the Nurse

Please send in your child's yearly physical and immunization record if you have not already done so.

Flu season will soon be here remember to get your flu shot. The flu vaccines are available throughout the city. Check the paper for dates and locations, or call the Board of Health at 508-324-2421.

Basketball Tournament

To raise needed funds for our after school programs the Student Council is hosting a basketball tournament. All proceeds from this event will go directly to these programs.

The tournament is a 2 on 2 competition. Students will play against other teams from their own grade. If a child partners with a student from another grade they will play at the highest grade level.

On October 21st, John Clifford, president and CEO of the Bank of Fall River, took time from his busy schedule to visit Morton. John, who values education and who is also an active member on the board of directors of the United Way, donated \$1,290 to fund the purchase of a multimedia projector and document camera for the mathematics department. With the help of document cameras teachers can capture teachable moments. The hands-on application of such a technology will allow learners immediate feedback on their work.

This donation will have a huge impact on our math classes. Thank you John Clifford and Bank of Fall River!

Guidance Department

Diman Vocational High School will be at Morton on December 3rd. All 8th grade students will attend a presentation to learn about their programs.



The dates for the tournament are:
6th Grade- November 17th-21st
7th Grade- December 1st-5th
8th Grade- December 8th-13th

IF you are interested in playing in the tournament, please sign up with Mr Billings (Room 205) or at the office. There is a \$5 team registration fee that is paid on the first day of the tournament.

All proceeds will go to support Morton After School Programs.



Website

The staff has noticed an increase of bullying issues. To help students understand the Fall River Bullying Policy I have been reading the story Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes. The story sets the stage for a great discussion about exactly what is a bully.

I have been able to explain the Bullying Policy to the students. They have been told that the first time they have been bullying they will receive a verbal warning.

The second offense the child meets with the principal to discuss the issue. Parents will also be called.

PTO News

The PTO would like to thank you for your continued support, your efforts made the success of both fundraisers possible. The students enjoyed buying gifts at the Holiday Shop, it was an exciting experience for them.

In the upcoming weeks we will be having a chocolate rose lollipop fundraiser for Valentine's Day. Also, we will be sending home order forms to

On the third report of a problem, the parents will be called and asked to come to school for a conference. Depending on how severe the issue is the student may also be suspended.

If there is a fourth time, the student will be suspended. Parents will also need to come to school for a conference to discuss the issue.

Since discussing the expectations of the school with all the students I have noticed less bullying problems. I hope the students can keep up the good work!!

purchase school spirit T-shirts, in the past the children have really enjoyed showing off their school pride.

We are currently trying to coordinate a Fowler-Osborn Family Night at a Providence Bruins home game. When you receive the survey please fill it out and send it in as soon as possible.

Hope everyone has a great New Year!!



*Patriots Pride Day
Friday,
January 11th
Wear your Red,
White and Blue
and support the
New England
Patriots as they
compete to be in
the SuperBowl*



No School
January 21st and 28th

Morton Middle School
376 President Avenue
Fall River, MA 02720

