



W.L. Morse School Newsletter *End of Year, 2009*

The Home Stretch

Although we are working harder than ever, we can't deny that these long, warm days and many Spring celebrations mean Summer is on its way! These last six weeks are full of excitement, so we dedicate this newsletter to informing you about all of the upcoming events. We hope to see you at some of them and thank you all again for the support you've given Morse this year!

Principal's Chat

On May 26th, Mrs. Fitzgerald will conduct her Principal's Chat from 6-7pm at John Paulding, to allow family members to attend the EPTA meeting immediately to follow. Mrs. Fitzgerald will talk with parents and family members about what they can expect next year at Morse. She will also ask parents to offer their feedback about how the year has gone as well as ideas about Morse in the future. Translation will be available.

Green Week!

During the week of March 20th, students across the district celebrated Earth Week. At Morse, students created a mural, visited a local park, read books and sang songs to honor Earth Day. We also held our third gently used clothing sale, raising over \$900 for our garden projects. Thank you to all parents and staff who donated clothing and time to this event!

Planting Day

As part of the grade 2 science curriculum as well as our building and district-wide commitment to Go Green, all Morse students and staff will participate in Planting Day on Tuesday, May 26th. We are very grateful to the many parents and staff who have donated materials for this day.



Terranovas and N.Y. State Tests

Grade 2 students completed a series of standardized tests called the Terranovas. These tests are designed to give us a "snapshot" of

student and school progress towards New York and national standards. Scoring for these tests will take longer than expected, so parents in grade 2 will likely receive a parent report with the results over the summer. Parents in grade 3 will receive a parent report with the results of the NY State Math and ELA exams by the end of the year. In late June, Mrs. Fitzgerald will offer a meeting for parents of third grade on how to read and learn from the results.



WLM Book Fair

The Morse Book Fair was a great success; both in terms of money raised and turn out. We were blessed to have author and illustrator, join us to read one of his recent books in both Spanish and English. Many families came and enjoyed the reading, browsing and sundaes! The very successful night raised over \$2,000 for the EPTA and the W.L.Morse library. The Book Fair coordinators also made sure that all students received quality books. We are ever grateful to all of the parents who made the event so warm, enjoyable and successful!

Challenge Fair

On May 12th, WL Morse had its annual Challenge Fair. This was an event in which Third Grade Social Studies Enrichment students presented the results of their Independent Study Projects. These three month research and problem solving projects were in response to the question "What price do we pay for progress?" We celebrated their hard work, curiosity and determination as well as the excellent final projects they produced. We are also grateful for Mrs. Hickey's fine work with her students and the incredible help and cooperation given by parents and teachers.

Grade 3 Theater Residency

The third graders have been working with Peter Royston to create original musical skits that tie directly into their social studies and ELA units on Brazil, China and the United States. We are very excited to celebrate their work. Third graders will

perform these skits on Wednesday, June 3rd at 9:30am. Family and friends are welcome to attend.

Grade 2 Concert

Mrs. Giuseffi is recovering from illness, but will not likely return to school this spring. We are very grateful that she is on the mend and that Stephen Tubin, who has done wonderful work at Morse and Washington Irving in the past, has stepped in to guide grade 2 students through their spring concert. So, for the first time, our second graders will be performing an evening concert in addition to the daytime performance. Please join us. **Concerts are on Monday, June 15th at 9:30am and Thursday, June 18th at 6:30pm.**



Grade 2 & 3 Field Trips

Second & third graders will enjoy several culminating field trips in the coming weeks. We are grateful to teachers for collaborating & to families for donations that make trips possible.

Grade 2 students have been visiting Phillipsburg Manor and making connections to their Social Studies work on the way people lived at different points in our history. Grade 2 will also complete its unit on the life cycle of plants by participating in Planting Day and by making special trips to Stone Barns to enjoy their special “Inch by Inch” program.

Grade 3 students will be enjoying two important trips that tie into multiple areas of the curriculum. They will complete their study of Henri Matisse with Mrs. Barrett by touring the Union Church. They will also complete their golfing unit by visiting the driving range in Elmsford. Mr. Farrell and Mrs. Brennen hope that this gives students another way to keep building healthy bodies this summer!

Summer Homework

Building on the success of last year’s summer work program, we will be offering all students activities to do throughout the summer to continue their learning and help prepare them for a successful transition to the next grade. This will include a Warner Library component and a

celebration of all students who participate when we return in the fall. Please look out for materials in the final two weeks of school.

Summer Volunteering

This summer, we will welcome the support of family volunteers. On Wednesday afternoons, we would like to welcome families to come and help support Morse through a variety of projects. For example, we hope to reorganize portions of our guided reading library, build bookshelves for two new classrooms and begin the work on a mural. A schedule of volunteer opportunities will be coming in mid-June. If you are interested, please look out for the schedule and feel free to email Mrs. Fitzgerald.

Events in Late May/ June:

Please remember these dates and look out for more details to follow:

- **May 18-June 1:** Grade 3 trips to Union Church
- **May 26:** W.L. Morse Planting Day
- **May 26 & 27:** Grade 3 Golf Trip
- **May 29:** Final Phillipsburg Manor trip, grade 2
- **June 3:** Grade 3 Theatre Performance, 9:30am
- **June 4:** Grade 2 Field Day, Patriot’s Park, 9am
- **June 5:** Grade 3 Field Day, Patriot’s Park, 9am
- **June 8:** Rain Date for Field Day, either grade
- **June 9:** First graders visit W. L. Morse
- **June 10:** Third graders visit Washington Irving
- **June 15:** Grade 2 day concert performance, 9:30am
- **June 15:** Grade 1 Incoming Parent Orientation, 7pm
- **June 16 & 18:** Grade 2 trip to Stone Barns
- **June 18:** Grade 2 eve concert performance, 6:30pm
- **June 23:** Grade 3 Moving Up Ceremony, 9:30am
- **June 24 & 25:** Early dismissal, 11:30am
- **June 25:** Last Day of School for students