

# Mustang Musings

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



*"Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard." – Tim Notke*

March-April 2022

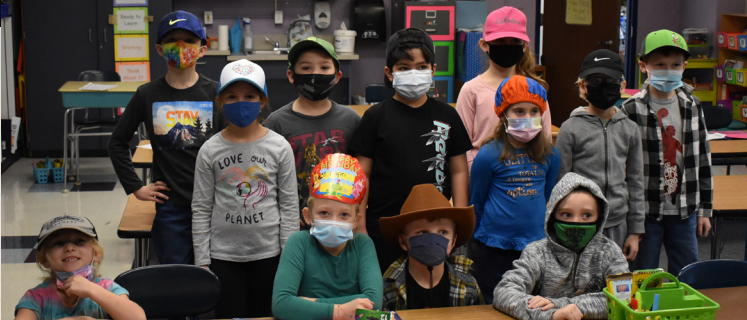
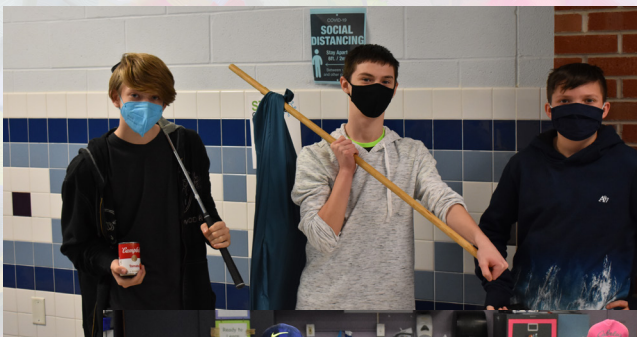


On Friday, January 28, 2022, students celebrated a Hat Day in school. Everyone who brought in a donation was able to wear a hat. Altogether National Honor Society was able to raise \$234. They will use the money to purchase hats and mittens for those who may need them. A few winter hats were donated as well.

Well done to **Kenzie Graves** for organizing the event and thanks to her NHS helpers! Kenzie Graves ('22) said, "I loved being involved in this project and leading it, the outcome was completely unexpected and I'm so happy with the results. Thank you everyone."



## SPIRIT WEEK



*Many more photos inside!*





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Wendy Moore  
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Amy Gerhart, Director of  
Pupil Personnel

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## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

I'm pleased to say I will be acting as Interim Superintendent for the Morris School District for the foreseeable future. The Board of Education is diligently working on our path forward to hire a new superintendent, but, I know with such outstanding students, faculty/staff, and community, the district and students will continue to thrive during this process.

This past November, after serving the district for 12 years, Kathy Smith decided to retire as our PK-12 principal. Being a PK-12 principal is probably one of the most difficult jobs in public education, but Mrs. Smith has done an outstanding job helping guide the district and working tirelessly on behalf of the MCS students. She will be greatly missed, but the district must move forward.

To prepare for her retirement, we are in the process of hiring a new principal. To help with that task, we are looking for parent/community volunteers who are interested in serving on a committee to help with interviews. We are still determining the timing of the interviews, but if you are interested, please contact Judy Matson at 607-263-6102. We will select a diverse representation from people who are interested to be part of the interview committees.

I am hoping that we are finally rounding the corner with the COVID-19 pandemic and hopefully will be able to return to a more "normal" life soon. As I hear about changes that impact school districts in New York State, I will be sure to notify you of the changes. I want to remind you; however, that the safety of our students, faculty and staff is our district's number one priority, and we will do what we feel is in the best interest for everyone. This is the third school year that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted schools around the state, country, and world. I can't be any prouder of the way that our students have adapted and have continued to grow during difficult times.

I want to thank everyone for your patience and understanding as I continue to act as Interim Superintendent. I am thoroughly enjoying being around the students, faculty, and staff again on a daily basis and only hope that I can continue to assist the district in moving forward.

—Mr. Matthew Sheldon, Interim Superintendent

## BUS VOTE THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022 NOON TO 8:00 PM DISTRICT LOBBY

To continue with the bus rotation schedule that the district has in place, the Morris Central School Board of Education is looking for authorization to purchase one (1) 65-passenger school bus at an estimated maximum cost of \$121,959 and one (1) 35-passenger school bus at an estimated maximum

cost of \$73,888. Eligible voters may vote in person on the date and time listed above or apply for an absentee ballot. Applications for absentee ballots to vote may be applied for at the office of the School District Clerk. The application for absentee ballots must be received no later than seven days before the date of the special district meeting if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the special district meeting if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. All absentee ballots must arrive no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the special meeting. The date of the special district meeting is March 10, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact the district office at 607-263-6102.



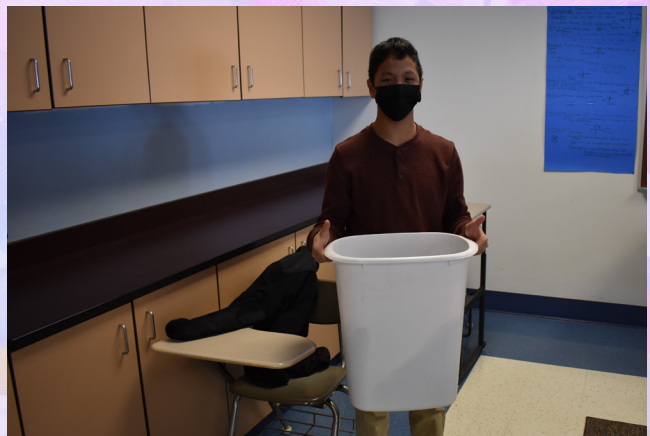


## SPIRIT WEEK

Morris Central School staff and students participated in Spirit Week February 7th until February 11th to support the school and our basketball teams. Each of these days were assigned different themes. Monday, the 7th, was Mustang Spirit where students wore as much blue and white as they could. Tuesday, the 8th, was Wear Your Favorite Team Jersey Day. Wednesday, the 9th, was to Dress Like a Twin or Dress the Opposite as a Friend Day. Thursday, the 10th, was my personal favorite day: Bring Anything Except a Backpack Day. Students brought boxes, crates, wheelbarrows, shopping carts, and suitcases to carry their things for the day. Many student and staff participated Mrs. Waffle packed her things in a golf bag.

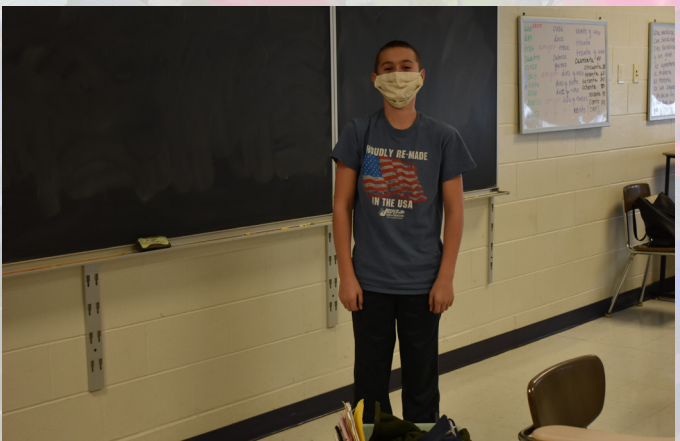
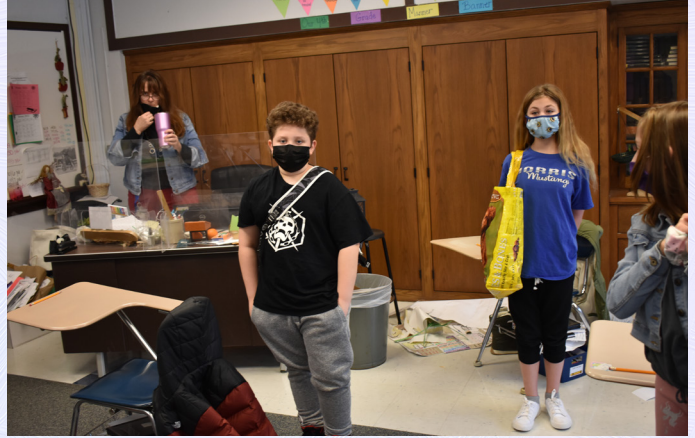
Friday, the 11th, was Wear Your Favorite Flannel Day. I asked **Noah Burlison**, a senior, what he liked most about Spirit Week, and he responded, "I liked Jersey Day because it is the only day I get to wear my Celtics jersey. I also liked Anything but a Backpack Day because it was funny and super interesting to see all the creative ideas everyone had." It is great to see how much our community supports each other and our school.

—Kelsey Chase, Senior





# SPIRIT WEEK









## GOLF RETURNS TO MCS

Morris used to have a golf team, but several years ago, all the schools in the Tri-Valley League dropped their golf programs. Morris was the last hold out for several years, but then our program was cut as well. However, golf is back at Morris Central. In addition to the summer golf program that provided six free golf lessons for over 20 students (and some parents) who were interested, now Morris has a golf club. The golf club will have at least one outing per month per school year. Their first event was a mini golf challenge where students built their own mini-golf hole out of everyday objects and then challenged each other to play them all. Some of the objects students used were packing peanuts, cardboard boxes, paper towel rolls, string, cups, old manilla folders, popsicle sticks, and bubble wrap.

Their next outing will be at Colonial Ridge Golf where the students will play a captain and crew format match of indoor golf on the golf simulators. Club members have great ideas for the next activities after that.

Congratulations to the new Golf Club Officers: **JJ Benjamin** was voted president; **Thomas Pondolfino** was voted Vice President, **Lincoln Waffle** was voted Treasurer, and **Ethan Franklin** was voted Secretary.

If any students would like to join, please contact Mrs. Waffle, the advisor.



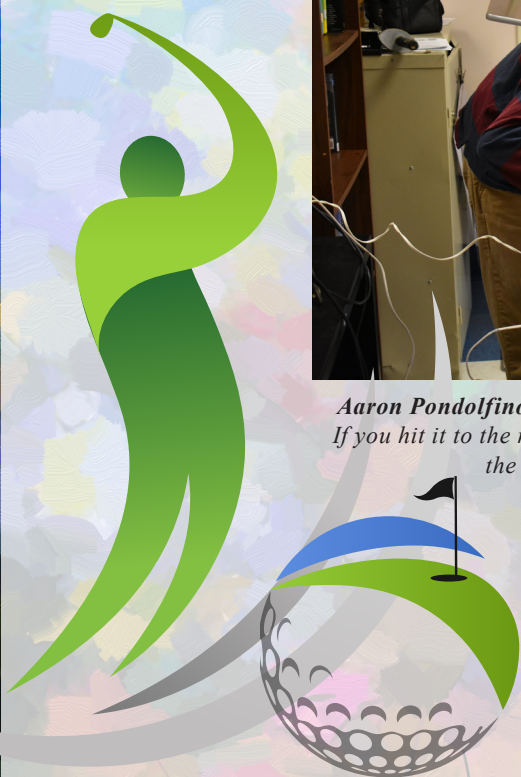
*Lincoln Waffle, Ethan Franklin, and Everett Pondolfino built a mini golf station with moving parts. Players had to tap their ball up a ramp on the second floor, into a cup that lowered itself to the first floor, and then they had to hit the ball into the cup at the bottom.*



*Aaron Pondolfino built a little house with a divided wall. If you hit it to the right, you missed the hole; if you hit it to the left, you went in the hole.*



*Ethan Franklin drained it for a hole-in-one when playing Aaron's challenge.*







*JJ Benjamin played Jed Dugan's hole like a champ. Jed built a ramp on this golf mat. It was the only hole to feature "grass."*



*Jeffrey Bourgois, built a large ramp with a bubble wrap tunnel at the bottom and a hole at the top. He was happy it worked well.*



*Levi Waffle built a challenge with a ramp that led to three different tunnels.*



*Everett planned his next hit very carefully when playing the hole Mrs. Waffle made. Her station had shipping peanuts along the edges to imitate a sand bunker. Lincoln Waffle was one of several who made a hole in one on this one.*



# TRI-VALLEY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



The fans were supportive with signs they made, and “big heads” made by the booster club. They lined the streets to send the boys off to the game, beeping their horns and waving flags. The fire department met the bus at the top of Patrick Hill and announced the new Tri-Valley League Champs arrival into town as well. The radio broadcaster even noticed Mr. Iannelli’s reactions to the game and put that right into his broadcast.





*Jon Child had an excellent inside game with many rebounds that he was able to convert into points. He was the leading scorer for the game with 22. He also had 17 rebounds.*



*Alex entered late in the game as well and had a few clutch rebounds. He was the captain who claimed the banner.*

*JJ Benjamin hustled to defend against the last Richfield Springs shot of the game without fouling; his pressure forced a missed jump shot from just outside the paint. He also had the honor of scoring a clutch deep three to tie the game and send us into our third overtime.*



*Ethan Franklin came in late in the game after three starters fouled out. His only points were, as Nate Lull, local sports broadcaster announced on Twitter, "the biggest three points of his life." That shot came with less than 20 seconds left in the game.*



*The non-starters had the pleasure of being announced before the game.*



*By the time we started the third overtime, like the rest of the spectators, Ms. Smith and Mr. Sheldon could barely stand the suspense.*



*Garrett Alkins had a solid game with 17 points. He had 15 rebounds, including the last rebound of the game where he grabbed the ball in the last seconds of the game and protected it until the last buzzer.*



*One highlight from the game was that Scott Murphy had a triple double with 21 points, 15 rebounds, and 10 assists.*





CONGRATULATIONS!



## Morris Wins Tri-Valley Championship

On Saturday, February 12, 2022, the Boys' Varsity Basketball Team defeated Richfield Springs in a triple-overtime game. **Jon Child** said "It was really epic. It was awesome that others stepped up when three starters fouled out. It was overall just a great team effort." The Mustangs brought a loud and proud crowd that helped to support them through the battle. At half, the Indians took a lead of 28-25, but the Mustangs quickly answer back to take the lead. The Mustangs and Indians end up tied at the end of the 4th, as well as at the end of the first and second overtimes.

In the end junior, **Ethan Franklin** hit a fabulous 3-pointer with 10 seconds left to win the game for Morris and then **JJ Benjamin** defended a fast break causing a missed shot and **Garrett Aikins** snagged one of the most important rebounds of the game to run the clock out and secure the win. Ethan said, "It felt amazing to hit that shot. That is a spot that I have really been practicing a lot." Another one of Ethan's teammates, **Asa Duga** said, "It was a crazy game, maybe even one of the craziest I've competed in. But overall, it was an amazing experience."

**Tiger Stancil** received the Defensive Award from Nate Lull, the sportscaster. **Scott Murphy** and Ethan Franklin all received the All-purpose Awards from Mr. Lull as well. This game sealed the first league title for the Boys' Varsity since 2013.

—*Hannah Wist, Freshman*

### Score Box:

*Jon Child: 22 points, (double double)*  
*Scott Murphy: 21 points, (triple double)*  
*Garrett Aikins: 17 points (double double)*  
*JJ Benjamin: 12 points*  
*Asa Duga: 9 points*  
*Tiger Stancil: 4 points*  
*Ethan Franklin: 3 points*





# OUR EARTH IS DROWNING IN PLASTIC

In America there was around 3 million tons of plastic that was recycled in 2021, but that's only a small percentage of the amount of plastic overall. Most of the plastic still just ends up in landfills. Only about thirteen percent of plastic is recycled globally.

Because of this the Otsego County Conservation Association, Otsego County Solid Waste Department, and Casella Waste Management created a challenge that is meant to collect clean dry plastic film for recycling. This school year we have accumulated 153.5 pounds of plastic for the highschool and 144 pounds for the elementary. We have kept up with this since 2018 and are continuing to collect and contribute to the challenge. For the challenge we keep bins in the lobby of our school where anybody in the community can come and drop off plastic film. The challenge started on November 15, 2021 and will end April 15, 2022. The winners will be announced April 22, 2022. When it comes to what is being recycled there is a long list of what you can and can not drop off.

## WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED

- Grocery Bags
- Bread bags
- Bubble wrap
- Dry cleaning bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Ice bags
- Plastic shipping envelopes
- Ziploc and other reclosable food storage bags
- Cereal bags
- Case overwrap
- Salt bags
- Pallet wrap and stretch film
- Wood pellet bags/ Produce bag

Above is a list of what can be recycled at Morris Central School for our competition. Hard plastic and more rigid plastics can still be recycled but not for the Otsego County plastic film challenge. Plastic film cannot be collected curbside because it is difficult for the machines to separate the plastic film from the normal plastics. It jams machines when sorting and ends up shutting them down and needs to be cleaned. Plastic has to be clean in order to be recycled so when there are little film bits that are getting dirty at the bottom of the bins they tend to not get recycled.

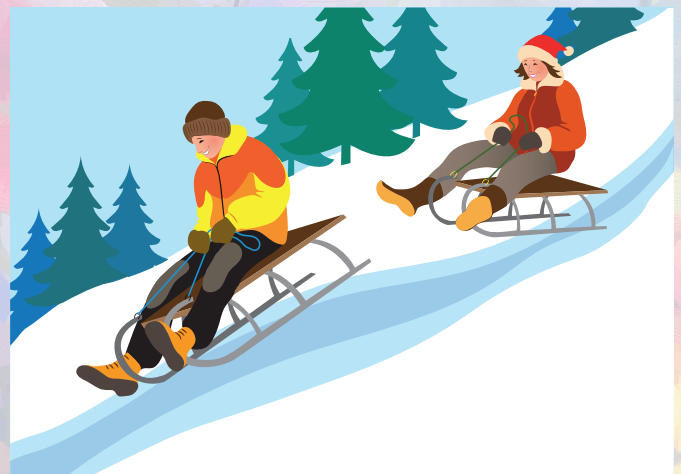
If your school or business does not have a recycling competition like we do, you can always bring your plastic films to a local Hannaford, Topps, and Price Chopper in your area, and they will take your plastic film.

—Scott Murphy, 11th grade



## FLASHLIGHT SLEDDING, PIZZA, AND CAMPFIRE

On Sunday, February 6, the Mrs. Deysenroth took the Outdoor Club to Colonial Ridge Golf Course to eat pizza and sled on several hills in the dark. Students employed headlamps and flashlights while zooming down the hills in the dark. From afar, it looked like a crazy light show, but up close it was fun and exciting. After sledding, students drank hot chocolate and sat around a campfire. Over 50 people participated, mostly students, several parents and faculty members and their kids enjoyed sledding too.





## SCHOLAR-ATHLETE TEAMS

Last fall, both our boys' and girls' varsity soccer teams earned Scholar-Athlete Teams status. This winter, both teams earned that status again.

Girls' varsity basketball had 6 out of 7 girls with a 90 GPA or above and boys' varsity had all 11 players receive a 90 or above.

This is a great achievement and please congratulate the players if you see them.



## SATs WILL GO DIGITAL IN 2024

The College Board has announced that beginning in 2024, the SAT will be given digitally in the US. Students will be able to use their own device or a school-issued device. If students do not have access to a device, the College Board will provide one on test day.

Other changes to the SAT include a shorter test (two hours instead of three), shorter reading passages with one question tied to each passage (passages will reflect a wider range of topics), calculators can be used for the entire math section, and scores will be received in days, not weeks.

The SAT will still be given at a testing center and if a student loses connectivity or power, the digital SAT has been designed to ensure that students will not lose their work or time when they reconnect.

Currently, most colleges and universities are test optional for students applying to enter college in Fall 2022-Spring 2023. Last week, SUNY extended the temporary suspension of SAT/ACT testing requirements at all of their colleges through the summer of 2024. SUNY colleges and universities will continue to make their admissions decisions based on a holistic review of a student's application based on grades, program of study, exam scores, academic achievements, and other activities.

—Mrs. Kelly Catella, Guidance

## MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL 2ND QUARTER 2021-2022 HIGH HONOR ROLL

| 7TH GRADE               | 8TH GRADE                  | 9TH GRADE             |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Lainey Fraser</i>    | <i>Robert Hill</i>         | <i>Sera Lentz</i>     |
| <i>Kara Hand</i>        | <i>Gabriella Ilarrazza</i> | <i>Mason Linton</i>   |
| <i>Jacob Johnson</i>    | <i>Ryan Murphy</i>         | <i>Grace Schiller</i> |
| <i>Johnathan LaTour</i> |                            | <i>Levi Waffle</i>    |
| <i>Kiarra Walker</i>    |                            |                       |
| 10TH GRADE              | 11TH GRADE                 | 12TH GRADE            |
| <i>Haylee Cole</i>      | <i>Garrett Aikins</i>      | <i>Laurel Brigham</i> |
| <i>Ethan Herring</i>    | <i>Kiernan Burke</i>       | <i>Kelsey Chase</i>   |
| <i>Maiya King</i>       | <i>Jonathan Child</i>      | <i>Jackson Harp</i>   |
| <i>Noah Moore</i>       | <i>Kayla Hoffman</i>       | <i>Aidain Hoyt</i>    |
| <i>Aislinn Ray</i>      | <i>Scott Murphy</i>        | <i>Ruby Jones</i>     |
| <i>Tiger Stancil</i>    | <i>Carissa Richards</i>    | <i>Hannah Pope</i>    |
| <i>Reed Wolfe</i>       | <i>Hannah Swayer</i>       | <i>Landen Tyler</i>   |
| <i>Max Yaeger</i>       | <i>Lincoln Waffle</i>      | <i>Ethan Wagner</i>   |

## HONOR ROLL

| 7TH GRADE               | 8TH GRADE              | 9TH GRADE             |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Josiah Dugan</i>     | <i>Natalie Barley</i>  | <i>Zeithan Dunham</i> |
| <i>Jason Valentine</i>  | <i>Evelyn Burke</i>    |                       |
| <i>Lucas Waffle</i>     | <i>Hailey Canfield</i> |                       |
|                         | <i>Luis Cruz</i>       |                       |
|                         | <i>David Holt</i>      |                       |
| 10TH GRADE              | 11TH GRADE             | 12TH GRADE            |
| <i>Sean Dill</i>        | <i>Joshua Benjamin</i> | <i>Madison Aikins</i> |
| <i>Asa Dugan</i>        | <i>Ethan Franklin</i>  | <i>Aiden Moore</i>    |
| <i>Tatiana Ives</i>     | <i>Jillian Maerz</i>   | <i>Aidan Ryther</i>   |
| <i>Lorissa Johnston</i> | <i>Amber Reilly</i>    |                       |
| <i>Kaylee Kolka</i>     | <i>Jason Strain</i>    |                       |
| <i>Jacob Morlock</i>    |                        |                       |
| <i>Efren Rivera</i>     |                        |                       |

## PRINCIPAL'S LIST

| 7TH GRADE                 | 8TH GRADE                | 9TH GRADE               |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Savannah Coyle</i>     | <i>Jonah Baldo</i>       | <i>Samantha Coyle</i>   |
| <i>Jacob Knapp</i>        | <i>Zackary Chase</i>     | <i>Makenzie Hoyt</i>    |
| <i>Hunter McAdams</i>     | <i>Brodie Coleman</i>    | <i>Madison Moore</i>    |
| <i>Brandon Mitcham</i>    | <i>Alisandra Farmer</i>  | <i>Ethan Nisius</i>     |
| <i>Ella Moore</i>         | <i>Amira Ross</i>        | <i>Hannah Wist</i>      |
| <i>Matthew Schiller</i>   | <i>Michael Saggese</i>   |                         |
|                           | <i>Carter Swayer</i>     |                         |
| 10TH GRADE                | 11TH GRADE               | 12TH GRADE              |
| <i>Maddie Coleman</i>     | <i>Sebastian Babbie</i>  | <i>Mackenzie Graves</i> |
| <i>William King</i>       | <i>Thomas Pondolfino</i> | <i>Triana Hawkins</i>   |
| <i>Yana King</i>          |                          | <i>Etain LaLonde</i>    |
| <i>Tatiana McAdams</i>    |                          | <i>Alexander Page</i>   |
| <i>Everett Pondolfino</i> |                          | <i>Leah Rehrmann</i>    |
| <i>Madeline Schiller</i>  |                          |                         |
| <i>Jessica Walling</i>    |                          |                         |



## TOTEM POLES



*Miss Laing's 5th graders are studying different Native American cultures from the Western Hemisphere. We learned that totem poles are carved to represent important animals or figures from the tribe. Students were able to make their own miniature version of Totem Poles to represent the incredible carvings from the people of the Northwest Coast region!*

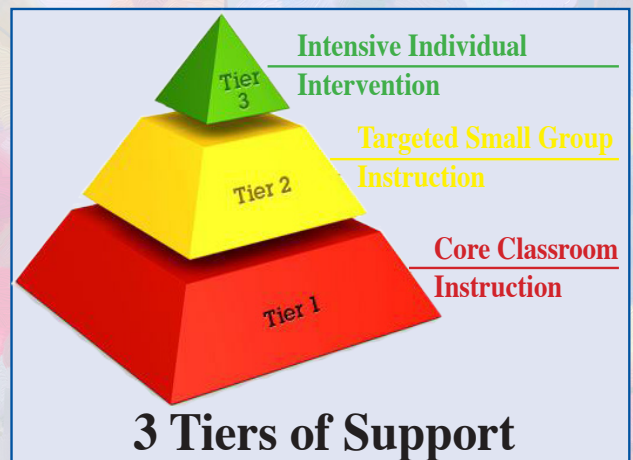
# RTI

## Response to Intervention

### What is in Place to Help My Elementary Child with Academics?

Multiple measures of data, including teacher recommendation, are used to determine whether your child needs an intervention. If your child is struggling, they are provided with strategies in the classroom. Data is collected for five weeks to determine if the strategies are working. If results show your child needs more intensive support, a stakeholder team, called the Instructional Support Team (IST), meets to discuss your child's strengths and challenges as well as needs and possible supports for your child.

The IST may determine that a referral to RTI Tier 2/3 Intervention is necessary. In Intervention, your child is provided with more intensive interventions and are taught purposeful strategies in order to close the skill gap and help your child be successful in school.



### Questions or Concerns?

Contact Amy Gerhartz  
Director of Pupil Personnel  
607-263-6109  
[agerhartz@morriscsd.org](mailto:agerhartz@morriscsd.org)



# THREE CHEERS TO



- Varsity Boys' Basketball players and their coaches—Tri-Valley League Champions!
- All our bus drivers for keeping us safe on winter roads
- Ski Club Volunteers
- All the basketball players, coaches, scorekeepers, and clock keepers, as their seasons wind down—well done!
- To all the Junior and Senior Band, and Senior Chorus All-County participants—what an awesome concert!
- Yearbook staffers for working hard to meet their deadlines.
- Drama Club and their production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Bravo!
- To the National Honor Society for organizing Hat Day and collecting money to donate hats and mittens to people who may need them.
- Mr. Sheldon for coming back to help us out!
- To the Student Council for organizing our Winter Spirit Week.
- Mrs. Knapp for helping Mrs. Parker with just about everything since her shoulder surgery!
- All the terrific people who stepped up to help with proctoring midterms!
- Elementary teachers for providing interventions in their classroom and progress monitoring—it's greatly helping students at ALL levels!
- April Vunk, who has become a certified Train-the-Trainer for Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI), and is willing to train select staff in this important behavioral intervention!
- Julene Waffle, Mike Packard, and Jen Roberts for their willingness to try clear masks in an effort to help and support students in need!
- Greg Thom for putting in the time and effort needed to provide technology supports for students in need . . . AND for heading off the Technology Committee and the development of a new Technology Plan!
- Sarah Saggese for doing her job well!
- Shannon Harrington, Matt Sheldon, and Kathy Smith for their unending work at preparing a fiscally sound budget for the upcoming Budget Vote!
- Elaine Parker, Laura Hazen, Kelly Catella, Lorraine Miller, Kathy Smith, and Matt Sheldon for their support with data collection and reporting among a thousand other great things they all do on a daily basis!
- All the new teachers at MCS this year—you are doing a great job! Keep up the good work!
- To all the CROP staff for the great activities you provide, the support you give to our students, and for keeping the program running even in the most difficult of times.
- All the behind the scenes helper, making costumes, finding props, running lights, etc for the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.
- To the National Honor Society for accumulating over 600 community service hours during the first half of the school year. They have dedicated themselves to making Morris and its surrounding communities a better place.

# GREAT JOB!