



Mustang Musings

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



"When we love, we always strive to become better than we are. When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too."

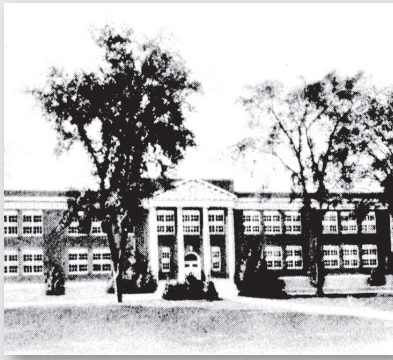
—Paulo Coelho, The Alchemist

March/April 2020

The Show Must Go On: Drama Club Continues After Snow Day



more inside!



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From the Superintendent's Desk

It is that time of year again when the Board of Education and I start working on the budget for the following school year. I cannot believe that we will be in the 2020-2021 school year before we know it. It is always important to us that we provide as many opportunities as possible to our students while keeping the tax increase as low as possible. As you are probably aware, we are considered a rural, low-wealth school in the eyes of the State and nearly 70 percent of our revenue comes from the State in the form of State Aid. Because of that, it is always interesting to hear what the governor has proposed in the form of school aid for Morris. Unfortunately, the governor's proposal is less than hoped for and he is also recommending some changes to how school aid is calculated that would have a negative impact on school districts such as Morris. I attended a legislative luncheon with our local politicians, and I know that they are working diligently to help the local school districts. The New York State budget usually is not approved until the end of March or beginning of April and that is when we will have a better idea of our State Aid.

With this newsletter's theme being Science, Math, and Technology, I want to remind people of the many different electives that we are lucky enough to offer in Morris. Some of the electives we offer are College Chemistry, Environmental Science, Consumer Math, Calculus, Manufacturing, World of Technology, and Transportation Systems; our students have the opportunity to learn about many different areas of study. Through BOCES our students also have the ability to take many other electives such as New Visions Engineering, New Visions Health Professions and the new Mechatronics/Robotics Program.

Over the next month or so, the Board of Education and I will continue working on next year's budget and, hopefully, we will hear good news from the State in the form of increased State Aid. It is so important that we are able to continue to offer our students a wide array of classes in the hope that each student can find a profession that they are interested in and want to pursue.

—*Mr. Matthew Sheldon, Superintendent*

From the Principal's Corner

As I sit down to write this, I sure hope the groundhog was correct and that spring will be here before we know it! This time of the year truly begins to feel like we are in the homestretch. As usual, the coming months will be filled with many exciting events and learning opportunities. As the days get longer and the weather becomes nicer, everyone seems to have more energy. But more than ever, we still need to stay focused; it is important to remember that there is much to do to successfully complete the year.

New York State testing for students in grades 3-8 is just around the corner. Students in grades 3-8 will be taking ELA tests on Wednesday, March 25 and Thursday, March 26. The math exams will be given on Tuesday, April 21 and Wednesday, April 22.

Your role as parents/guardians is crucial, and we appreciate all you do. Please reinforce habits of good attendance. Take this opportunity to discuss the importance of learning habits, active participation and completion of class work/homework. These discussions with your children absolutely make a difference. Ask your children every evening about their progress and communicate regularly with their teachers. If you do not already have access to PowerSchool, please call Elaine Parker in the Guidance Office (263-6116) to set up an account. PowerSchool allows you to check your child's progress on homework, quizzes, and tests.

This last phase of the year will be a success as we work together to make it happen! With our committed staff, wonderful students, and encouraging families, nothing can prevent us from reaching and surpassing our goals!

—*Ms. Katharine Smith, Principal*

Winter Play Continues After Snow Day

The MCS Drama Club, *Awkward Silence*, seemed to have had a successful presentation of their winter play *Murder May I?* Although the play's initial performance on Friday, February 7 was canceled due to a snow day, the cast and crew were able to present the show the following Saturday and Monday, both at 7.00 p.m. in the school auditorium. The play follows a man named Eric (played by **Jason Strain**) who has fallen in love with a woman named Lucy (played by **Miesha Neer**). Eric lives with his Mother, Geneva (played by **Kassie Boss**), who doesn't approve of their relationship. After Lucy goes missing, Geneva's best friend, Janet (played by **Victoria Ranc**), is convinced that Geneva had murdered Lucy. She decided to take action and murder Geneva for the crimes she had committed. Eventually, Lucy turns up at the house again. Janet, horrified with what she had done, takes an immediate course of action to cover up her tracks. The show ends on a twist, changing the view on what was to be expected.

The play was well-received among viewers and had the audience roaring with laughter. The stage manager, **Kate Morano**, said, "I enjoyed putting together the set and collecting props. It's rewarding after months of working hard to watch the play come to life." Mrs. Telfer, the head of the production, prepared a goodbye speech in honor of the seniors set to graduate at the end of the school year. **Kassie Boss, Abigail Maurelli, Katie Robinson, and Keegan Holt** take their leave as they prepare to move to the next chapter of their lives. **Katie Robinson** said, "I will miss everyone involved in the show dearly. Being a part of drama club is the first time I've hung out with people in a long time. I hope the friendships I've created with the cast members will last many years after our final show." A dinner theatre is set to be presented by the Drama Club near the end of the school year.



Great Job
Everyone!



Emergency Cards and Contact Information

If you have changed your address and/or your telephone number, please contact the Main Office to have your child's Emergency Card updated. It is important to keep all the contact information current.

From the Transportation Supervisor— Bus Change Letter

In order to ensure the safety of our students and get them where they need to go without delay or confusion after dismissal, Morris Central School is asking for your assistance.

If your child will not be riding on his/her regular bus, please send a written note into school. There is a copy of a sample note posted on the school website under the *Parents* tab. Please feel free to make copies or use this note as guidance for any transportation changes for students in grades Pre-K–6.

Written notes are preferred and help us in ensuring your child's safety. In an unexpected situation, if you need to call the school, please make every effort to call before 1:00 p.m. so we have adequate time to update the bus charts for our drivers.

As a reminder, please make sure all contact information is up to date as well as authorized individuals who may be available to pick up your child.

Thank you for your continued support here at MCS.

Sincerely,
Mallory Jorgensen
Transportation Supervisor

Senior Plans

As the seniors near the end of their final year in school, many of them have been planning for their futures.

- **Hannah Tilley's** top two college choices are SUNY Polytechnic Institution and Clarkson University. She plans on attending one of these schools for engineering.
- **Mollie Dugan's** top choice is Marist College for communications.
- **Liz Illaraza** plans on attending Broome Community College for radiology.
- **Katelyn Robinson** has two top choices of either Hartwick College or SUNY Purchase for art.
- Exchange Student **Jan Meyer**, will return back to Switzerland for his last two years in high school.
- **Keegan Holt** will enter The National Guard.
- **Abby Maurelli** will be attending Herkimer County Community College with a major fashion merchandising
- **Kyle Blake** will be attending Herkimer County Community College with a major in computer science

—Katie Tilley ('21)



Environmental Science

*Stephane and Kylie
build raised beds in
Environmental Science*



*Stephanie and Abby celebrate the
new greenhouse floors*

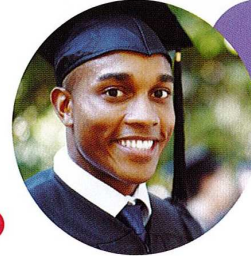


Environmental Science Harvests Pumpkins

They grow up so fast.

Now's your chance to shape their future.

Student
Take-Home
Flyer



A kindergartener counted in the 2020 Census this spring will be starting high school when the next census comes around in 2030: That's 10 years of school supplies, teachers, school lunches, and so much more. This is your opportunity to help ensure they have a bright future.

Right now, students across the country are getting an introduction to the 2020 Census through the Statistics in Schools program. This program offers free activities and resources to schools to help prepare their students for an increasingly data-driven world.

Students are learning that the 2020 Census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. Responding to the census helps your community get its fair share of funding. Census data guides how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year for schools, health care facilities, roads, transportation, recreation centers, social services, and more.

On Census Day, April 1, 2020, start shaping your future and the future of all children by counting everyone in your home.

Learn more about how you can shape your future at 2020CENSUS.GOV.

Get more information about the Statistics in Schools program at CENSUS.GOV/SCHOOLS.

Students are also learning these key things about the 2020 Census—and we want you to know them too:

- Starting in March 2020, everyone living in your home needs to be counted. That includes children and newborn babies, citizens and noncitizens, relatives and nonrelatives, and even those staying with you temporarily.
- It's easier than ever to respond to the census. You can respond in 13 different languages, and you can complete it online, by phone, or by mail.
- Your responses to the census are safe and secure. The law requires the U.S. Census Bureau to keep your information confidential, and your responses cannot be used against you in any way.



Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States[®]
Census
2020

NHS Fundraiser for House Fire Victims



National Honor Society has been busy in January raising money for the victims of the recent house fires. We held a hat day fundraiser followed by *Kidnap The Teacher* fundraiser. Between the two fundraisers, they were able to raise \$350 to split between the four families. The members were able to host an ice cream party for the first and second place team for the Kidnap the Teacher fundraiser.

The students were very excited to be able to raise such a large amount of money in such a small time frame to be able to give back to our community. Thank you to everyone who was able to help support the NHS fundraisers!

—Mrs. Teresa Kane, Math and NHS Advisor

Go Team!

Varsity Girls' Basketball

The Girls' Varsity Basketball team, coached by Rhoda Flint, went into their season confidently. As a relatively young team, they were made up of four Seniors, three Juniors, one Sophomore, one Freshman, and a seventh grader. They started the season off strong in their pre-season non-league contests. Moving forward into regular season games throughout December and most of January, the team was able to keep up their winning streak. Unfortunately, during mid- to late-January, the team matched up with a few of their toughest opponents, including Franklin, Cherry Valley-Springfield, and Edmeston. The girls were not able to pull out with any wins from these games, and ended their regular season with a 6-4 record. Fortunately, for them, the team was seeded 5th in the league overall and made their way to the first round of playoffs to compete for a spot in the Tri-Valley League Championship.

If the girls are able to pull away with three playoff wins, they will find themselves in the Tri-Valley Championship for the third year in a row. As a returning player who was on the team for the previous two championship games, Senior **Monica Dugan** said, "It has been a lot of fun and a really great experience to be able to go twice before. The team has high hopes of getting there again this year as well. It would almost feel weird not to go again."

We wish the best of luck to Coach Flint and the Varsity Girls' Basketball team throughout the rest of their season!

—Kylie Brigham, Senior

The Army National Guard Visits PE Classes



The PE Department had former student Robert Subner come in and had our students participate in basic training activities. Our students really seemed to enjoy the activities. The most challenging exercise was the four person push up.

—Mr. Mike Iannelli, PE



Free Mass Food Distribution Jan. - Dec. 2020

- *Open to all, no forms required*
- *Location: Northern Eagle Beverages, 41 Browne St., Oneonta*
- *Pickup from 10 a.m. until the food is gone*
- *Food provided by the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY*

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Wednesdays

- January 29th
- February 26th
- March 25th
- April 29th
- May 27th
- June 24th
- July 29th
- August 26th
- September 30th
- October 28th
- November 25th
- December 30th

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If you would like more information please contact

Valerie Adams at 607-267-2091

or

vadams@unitedwaydo.org



If you wish to learn more about our team and our services, please visit our official website at www.unitedwaydo.org

Ski Club

Ski Club is all about having fun with friends and being able to escape from any stresses put on you from school. The students travel by bus to Labrador Mountain every Saturday for a six-week period, leaving at 1:30 p.m. and arriving around 3:00 p.m. New riders can take lessons and the more experienced can go off on their own. They stay at the mountain until 8:30 p.m. where they will then meet in the lodge and get ready to leave, arriving back at the school around 10:00 p.m. Students are even given a pass that allows them to go to the mountain until the season ends. They can bring their own snowboards, skis, and gear as well. The lodge also has an arrangement of food and beverages that the students can buy as they please.

Unfortunately, the students have only been able to go the first and fifth week this year. This was due to some weekends having to be cancelled because of poor weather such as rising temperatures leading to the snow melting and rain. However, the season is still ongoing and the missed trips will be added on to the end of the season. A big thanks goes to the Morlocks who keep advising our club!

—*Scott Strain, Senior*

Consumer Math

In Consumer Math, I thrive to teach the students about concepts they may see in the future that may impact them. This past month, the students have been learning about taxes just in time for tax season. They have learned what information is involved to complete Form 1040 and what additional information they may need in the future to complete their taxes as their lives change. The students have been putting together different presentations to present to their classmates. They are presenting on different software that is available, what is considered an itemized deduction on a Schedule-A, what is new with IRS for each tax year, and what a pretend family needs in order to complete their 1040 based on their living situation.

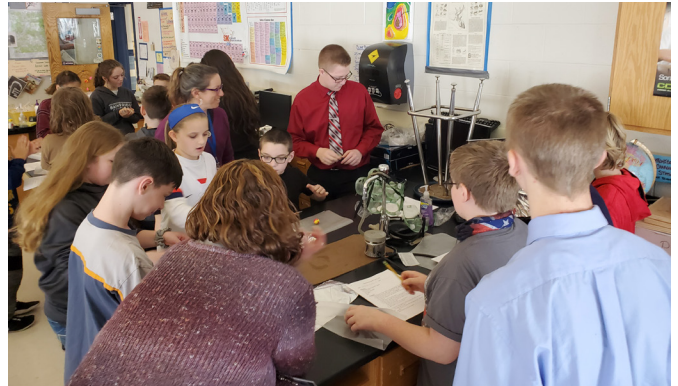
—*Mrs. Teresa Kane, Math*



Rockin' Out With Mrs. Wellman

Ms. Wellman's fifth grade students recently learned about the rock cycle in science class with the help of Mrs. Grant's 10th graders. Students were able to work together to explore and gain a deeper understanding of how rocks form in this hands-on lab. The 10th graders helped students complete the Starburst Rock Cycle lab using Starburst candy to learn more about the formation of sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous rocks.

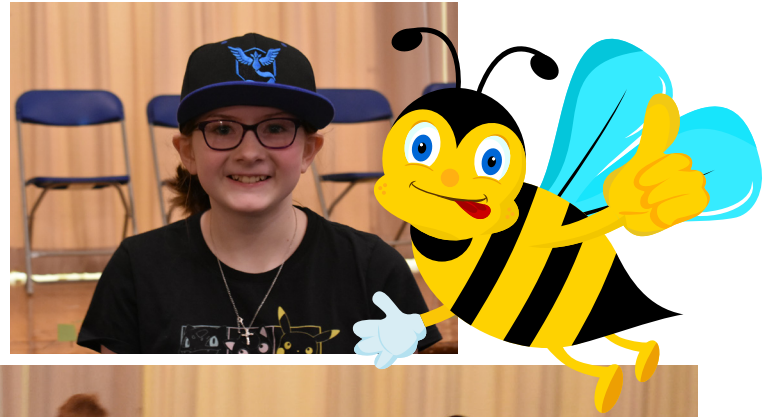
—*Ms. Wellman, Fifth Grade*



Bee Perfect

Congratulations to **Hailey Canfield**, the winner of our regional spelling bee. Hailey won on the champion word “withers” after competing for 15 rounds against **Haylee Cole**. Mr. Degan, who runs the spelling bee every year, thinks the bee is “a great opportunity for kids to challenge themselves.” Great job to all the competitors.

Hailey will move on to the Regional Spelling Bee held at SUNY Oneonta this March.

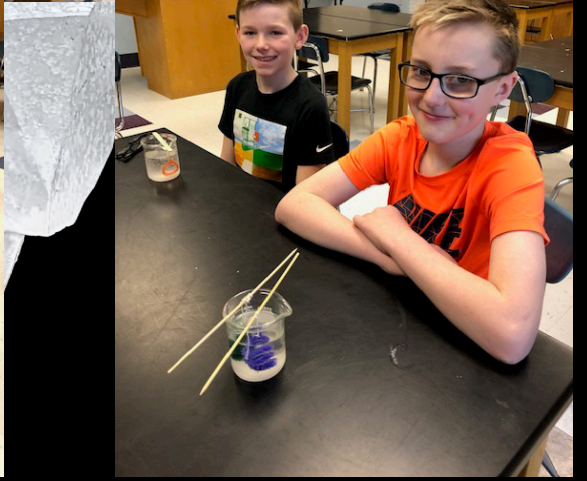
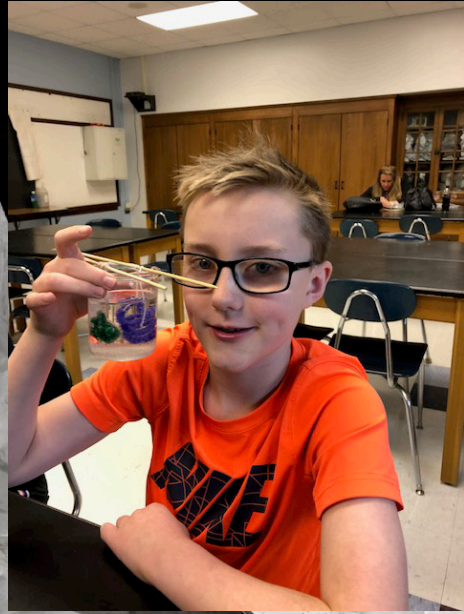


Three Cheers To . . .

- Cafeteria Staff for making delicious food all the time.
- Awkward Silence, The Dream Club—*Murder, May I?* was a great production!
- All the basketball coaches! You put in a lot of time—thank you.
- All our transportation staff and drivers—thank you for keeping us safe this winter.
- Max Yaeger for taking care of Mrs. Telfer’s calendar board in Spanish I.
- Taiden Meyers for watering Mrs. Telfer’s plants!
- Rachel Hill for taking care of Mrs. Telfer’s errands every morning.
- Anthony Morano and Noah Burlison for stepping up at the 11th hour and taking care of the Drama Club lights and sound. Much Appreciated!
- Matthew Wendler for always turning on Mrs. Waffle’s SmartBoard.
- Yearbook Staff for meeting their deadlines.

Sixth Graders Make Crystals

Sixth graders found four different ways to make crystals! They used salt, sugar, epsom salt, and Borax, along with hot water, to make crystals!



All-County Stars

This year's All-County Festival was held at Worcester Central School. Students participated in the Junior High Chorus, Senior High Band, and Senior High Jazz Vocal Choir. **Kassie Boss** sang *Don't Get Around Much Anymore*, *The Girl From Ipanema*, *Someone to Watch Over Me*, and *Frim Fram Sauce* in the Jazz Vocal Choir. The choir was conducted by Cheryl Ernst, who recently retired from conducting and teaching at Morris.

In the Junior Choir, **Maddie Coleman**, **Tatiana McAdams**, and **Hannah Wist** sang Soprano. Maddie ('24) said, "All-County is a great experience. Because of how

many people audition, it feels amazing when you find out that you got in. You get to sing songs that are more difficult than the ones you normally sing." **Hannah Swayer** sang Alto, and **Sawyer King**, **Everett Pondolino**, and **Lincoln Waffle** sang Baritone. The Junior Choir performed *Ashoken Farwell*, *Give My Regards to Broadway*, and *I Got Rhythm*. **Kate Morano** played flute in the Senior Band. They performed *His Honor*, *Novena*, *Of Days Gone*, and *The Phantom of the Opera*. **Hannah Swayer** ('24) said that "All-County seems like a lot of work in the beginning, but it is all worth it in the end."

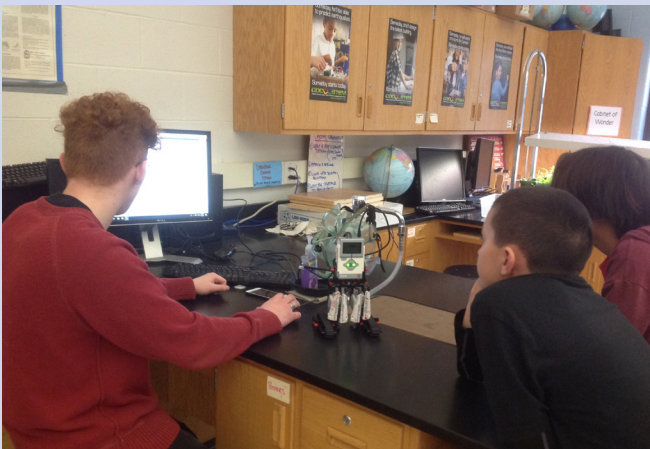
—Hannah Tilley, Senior

Robotics Club—The New Generation

The Robotics Club made an even bigger improvement to their club this year, as they added Lego Mindstorm Robots to their agenda. Led by **Kyle Blake**, Senior, and supervised by Ms. Grant, students in grades seven through twelve built and programmed Lego Mindstorm Robots. While learning how to create the structure of code in order for the robot to work, students created commands that would lead their robots through a custom maze, built by Kyle Blake. **Delaney Covney**, seventh grade, said "We used a Lego Robot and it was so much fun to build it."

Another seventh grade member of the club, **Sera Lentz**, said, "We used a program to code robots going through an obstacle course." **Levi Waffle**, also a seventh grader, said, "I really liked that we were able to build and program a robot. The programming was the hardest part." All members in the club learned the basics of coding, and how to create a simple program that would enable them to learn more difficult coding in the future.

—Elizabeth Ilarraza, Senior



Applied Life Essentials

Applied Life Essentials learned about cooking recently in class. They had a soup cookoff and invited students, faculty, and staff to try the different kinds of soups. They had a tie for the top soup: Broccoli cheddar (**Kate Morano, Bailey Boglioli, and Elese Southard, Alee Zorder, and Maddie Aikins**) and Loaded Baked Potato (made by **Stephanie Parker, Daphne Fraser, and Jan Meyer**). Both received 13 votes. Congrats!



SOUPER!