



# Mustang Musings

MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



*Gratitude is riches. Complaint is poverty. —Doris Day*

*November/December 2018*

## From the Superintendent's Desk

It has been great having students and staff back in the building with the start of another school year. The start of our school year has been a little more hectic than usual with the building project still in full swing, but it has been exciting to see all the learning taking place in the classrooms.

As I write this article, I think about having to close school for a day due to vandalism and am thankful it wasn't any more serious than it was. I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that when an investigation is taking place, it takes time for the school administration to investigate a situation and make informed decisions about the safety of our students. In our society today, we have become used to having access to information about situations as they are unfolding. However, releasing information too early often leads to incorrect information being disseminated which can then impede an investigation. This is especially true when law enforcement is involved. Having parents call school and demand that they be filled in on a situation only takes time away from the investigation, ties up phone lines, and could possibly be putting lives in danger.

Additionally, it is also very important that the school respects the rights of the students. Not only are there FERPA regulations that mandate student confidentiality, but we are not allowed to release information about a criminal investigation if the student is a minor. There was a demand made on social media for the names of the individuals suspected of causing the vandalism to be released to the public. We are not allowed to do that, nor do I think it is appropriate. If it were your child being accused of something, would you want his or her name to be shared on public media?

I am pleased to share that the recent vandalism case was solved. The sheriff's office did an excellent job and was extremely helpful in solving the case. I want to thank the students, staff, and community members who provided various tips which were investigated and helped solve the case. I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone what a great group of students we have at Morris. I feel very fortunate to be the superintendent in Morris. Yes, students sometimes make mistakes, but the important thing is that everyone is safe and hopefully those who caused the vandalism will learn a valuable lesson from their mistakes.

—Mr. Matthew Sheldon, Superintendent

## From the Principal's Desk

Our goal this year is to ensure that every student attends school regularly. In grades PK-6, we are starting an initiative called Attendance HERO (Here, Every Day, Ready, On time). Information has already been sent home to parents of students in those grades regarding this program.

The Response to Intervention team identified attendance as a factor that can significantly impact student achievement. Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school—regardless of the reason—it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent—which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year. Research shows:

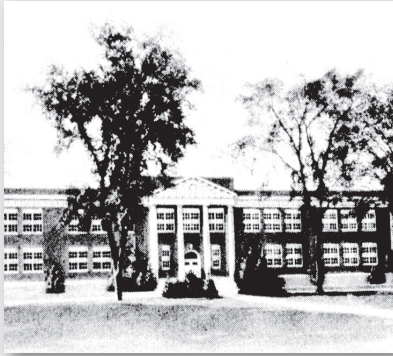
- Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st Grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd Grade.
- By 6th Grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out of school.
- By 9th Grade good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th Grade test scores.
- Absences can add up quickly. A child is chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month!!

Clearly going to school regularly matters!

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your children go to school every day unless they are truly sick.

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- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your children feel anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.

Regular school attendance helps children to feel better about school and helps build academic confidence. Good attendance habits help children to do well in high school, college, and at work.

Our Attendance Policy can be found on our school website under the District tab. If you would like a copy, you can request that by calling Renee Knapp, Attendance Officer at 263-6100.

Working together we can help all children to develop habits that will allow them to succeed in their future endeavors. We appreciate your ongoing support.

—Ms. Katharine Smith, Principal

## Snow Days

Winter is now upon us and with that we have snow and ice. Some of you may wonder who decides to close school. Well, it is not just one person who makes this decision. Mr. Sheldon and Mr. Walls are up at the crack of dawn talking to each other, the village, town and state workers about the road conditions and the decision to delay or close school.

Everyone is aware that sometimes the weather is hard to predict. There are certain factors that come into play when deciding whether or not to close school, but always the final decision comes down to the safety of our children.

What if it does not start snowing until after your child arrives at school? This is also a difficult decision to make. In most cases, it is safer for children to stay at school. This gives the village, town and state time to clear the roads and make transportation safer. But there have been cases where students were sent home in the middle of the day because the forecast stated a major storm was approaching or would get worse before it got better.

The school has an emergency plan in case students need to be sent home early due to the weather.

- It has been decided to dismiss students early.
- A time is set when students will be dismissed.
- Radio stations are notified of the emergency closing.
- Faculty and staff are notified.
- An instant message via phone, text, and email is sent to all parents and guardians.

In addition to the Automated School Notification System we employed last year, the radio stations that announce our school closings are WSRK, WDOS, WCDO, WSKG, WGY, WZOZ, WKXZ, WCXN, WAAL and WHWK. Also, you may tune your television to Binghamton WBNG Channel 12, Utica WKTV Channel 2, News 10 Now on YNN, WUTR and WFXV Utica channel 33. You can also look at [TheDailyStar.com](http://TheDailyStar.com) for closing information, too.

## Senior Citizen Luncheon Information

The Senior Citizen Luncheon is on December 21, at 10:30 a.m. Please join the MCS school community and let us show you our appreciation! RSVP to Monica Kilts at 263-6100.



## Yearbook Announcements

### Photo Dates

- Retake and Pre-K individual photos and Club Photos: November 14
- Winter Sports Photos: December 6 (after school)
- Spring Sports Photos (after school), Class and Buddy Photos (during school): April 25

### Senior Specific Dates:

- Public Displays of Affection Ads: End of October  
Download an order form under the Yearbook tab, under the “Departments” tab on our school webpage ([www.morriscs.org](http://www.morriscs.org)), or click here to download the PDA ad form: <http://tinyurl.com/mcspdad>
- Photos (formal, informal, baby, and possibly other TBA photos): End of October

### Yearbook Sales Deadlines:

- Yearbook pre-order late rate: January
- Elementary yearbook rate of \$13: June
- Personalization and extras packages: January
- While supplies last, you may order your yearbook until delivery date at a more expensive price
- Two years ago, we sold out of yearbooks and people lost the opportunity to own one

### Other Important Yearbook Dates:

- Business Ads: Due End of January  
Download an order form under the Yearbook tab, under the “Departments” tab on our school webpage ([www.morriscs.org](http://www.morriscs.org)), or click here to download the business ad form: <http://tinyurl.com/mcsbusad>
- Yearbook Delivery Day: Late June  
For questions, please contact Julene Waffle at 263-6100 or [jwaffle@morriscsd.org](mailto:jwaffle@morriscsd.org).

## New Faculty and Staff

### Mr. Brian Roser



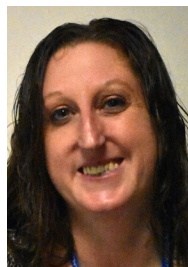
I am the new 7th Grade Social Studies teacher! I am originally from Rochester. I graduated from SUNY Oneonta in May of 2018, where I received a degree in Adolescent Education with a concentration in Social Studies. While at SUNY Oneonta, I played D-III tennis and was a member of the club hockey team. I completed my student teaching at Morris Central School with Mr. Harmer, and am so excited to be back! On top of teaching Social Studies, I also help Coach Gregg out with coaching the boys modified soccer team. I am continuing my education at SUNY Oneonta, where I am getting my Master’s in Literacy Education. I am looking forward to a great school year!

### Mr. Dylan Jaklitsch



I am very excited to begin my career teaching elementary physical education and secondary health. I grew up in Oneonta, where I currently live. I am a graduate of SUNY Brockport with a Bachelor’s Degree in Physical Education and a Master’s Degree in Physical Education Pedagogy. When I am not teaching, I enjoy all things basketball--coaching an AAU team, organizing a local recreational league, playing and watching my favorite teams (local, college and NBA). I also enjoy traveling and watching movies. I am looking forward to introducing my elementary PE students to Scooterville, and watching the Morris Mustangs basketball teams remain on top of the Tri-Valley! I look forward to helping the students at Morris grow into fit and healthy adults!

### Ms. Jessica Allen



This is my first year working as a Teacher’s Aid here at Morris Central. I have three children: Hunter, who is 14, Makaylie, who is 13, and Lillie, who is six. They definitely keep me busy, and I love every minute of it. I went to school at Lowville Academy Central School and went to BOCES for two years for Early Childhood Education. I received 900 hours of internship working with children throughout high school. I currently live in New Berlin with my family. I enjoy working with the staff and children here. When I first started, the staff really made me feel welcome. I am busy with my older daughter’s sports. She is currently playing her third year in volleyball. She also plays basketball and softball, always busy with games and practices. We enjoy camping in the summer time and being outside.



## Now Available in the Village Library of Morris

This year's TUCCR theme will be *One Earth: Our Home*. The topics of study will be split into three segments over the course of the year: "Love It" which will focus on nature appreciation in the Fall. During the winter, we will learn about ways to "Defend it" or, in other words, we will learn how to take care of our world and why. And finally, in the Spring, we will "Share It" or show the community how and why we need to care for our environment at our annual academic fair on May 21. We are hoping for something new and unusual at the academic fair this year, so keep your eyes out for a special invite.

### The books we will be studying this year are as follows; please feel free to borrow them:

- Pk-2: *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss
- 3rd: *Face to Face with Wolves* by Jim Brandenburg
- 4th: *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen
- 5th: *Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park
- 6-8th: *Fuzzy Mud* by Louis Sachar
- 9-12th: *Ship Breaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi
- College English: *Thoreau's Walden* and *Kolbert's Field Notes from a Catastrophe*
- 9-12th will read also read selections from John Burroughs, John Muir, and many other authors

### In addition, the following PK-2 books will also be available in the village library:

- *The Great Kapok Tree* by Mark Melaney
- *Bee & Me* by Alison Jay
- *The Earth Book* by Todd Parr
- *Miss Fox's Class Goes Green* by Eileen Spinelli
- *Kate Who Tamed the Wind* by Liz Gorton Scanlon and Lee White
- *What it Means to Be Green* by Rana Diorio
- *Seeds of Change* by Jen Cullerton
- *Sea Turtle Scientist* by Steve Swinburne
- *One Plastic Bag* by Isatou Ceesay

—Mrs. Waffle, TUCCR Program Coordinator



## Pre-K Loves Nature

The Pre-K planned their nature appreciation day at home from the start because everyone new needs a good welcoming before going into the wild. The Pre-K students got to explore many new things and places that they may have never seen before in our own school. Along with that, they got to see what the opportunities for fun the old and new places had to offer. For the majority of the Pre-K, they felt school was now an exciting and fun part of their days.

There was many activities that the Pre-K kids were able to enjoy such as watching *The Lorax*, apple stamping, leaf rubbing, and at the end, they drew about their day! *The Lorax* was a great movie to show them; it has an important life lesson of why nature should be taken care of. During the movie, Serenity said it was "sad that all the animals had to go away because they had no more homes." Once they finished the movie, her friend Sadie said, "that [Onceler] can plant the seed and make more trees." After the movie, they stamped apples and did leaf rubbings. Carter said that he "really enjoyed the thing we did the with the apples." Stamping the apples and rubbing the leaves involved leaving an impression of an apple or the insides of leaves on a piece of paper. This leaves not only an impression on the paper but an impression of how interesting nature can be.

Whether it be something ranging from watching *The Lorax* to stamping apples, the Pre-K students got to experience how fun school can be when you really give it a good look. These experiences and information they learned during nature appreciation day are the building blocks which their lives in and outside of school will be built upon.

—Keegan Holt, Junior





Dear Families,

We are excited to introduce the Attendance H.E.R.O. program, which stands for Here Everyday Ready and On time!

Attendance is so important for students. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to do better in school and graduate on time.

If your child is an Attendance H.E.R.O. your child will be recognized each month with a brag tag which they will add to a necklace here at school. Quarterly, any student who has had 2 or less absences will be recognized at a ceremony and earn a prize.

We are also asking that students and their families show their commitment to attendance and school involvement by reading and signing the community compact attached. Please return the compact as soon as possible to your child's classroom teacher.

We look forward to seeing all our students be H.E.R.O.'s!



## Nature Appreciation for K-6

On September 28, the elementary classes from K-6 were going to take a day trip to Gilbert Lake for a Nature Appreciation Day. Due to the rainy weather, the plan fell through, but they hosted a Nature Appreciation Day in school. According to Kameron Walker in 5th grade, it was a good idea to host it in the school. "I thought it was wonderful because we didn't have to stand outside in the rain and get wet. The one event I liked was learning how to build a tent because I never knew how to put up a tent but it was a good experience." Each grade, from K-6, each had their own individual stations to attend to for a period of time. Each station had its theme such as Yoga, Rock Painting, Playground, Games, Poetry, Music, and classroom activities. "It was super fun! I loved it when we made poems, we made printed leaves, and we painted rocks. I loved painting rocks the most because I put my thumb print on it," said Jada Rivera from the 5th Grade. Zandra Aliya said, "It was amazing! My favorite part was the poem part. I like that part because I like writing stories." Grace Wing said, "I think

Nature Appreciation Day was fun. My favorite part was when we painted the rocks because I like to paint." Hailey Canfield said, "My favorite part of Nature Appreciation Day was when we made bookmarks with leaves because it's fun and entertaining." Evelyn Burke added, "It was one of my favorite things that month! My favorite part was writing our poems. It was super fun to learn and write a poem with a poet." Hunter Francis recalled that "Nature Appreciation Day was awesome! My favorite part was setting up tents because I love camping and the outdoors." Some things that the sixth graders learned was that "We make an impact on the Earth!" said Samantha Coyle. Hannah Wist, Grace Sperry, and Samantha Coyle all said, "Our favorite was YOGA!" Robert Hill, a fifth grader added, "I really liked Nature Appreciation Day because I got to learn new things, also my favorite part was the poem because now I might have a future job as a poet." Natalie Barley summed it up when she said, "I loved everything about it."

—Austin Ward, Senior









## Nature Appreciation at Gilbert Lake

It was a cool and blustery day at Gilbert Lake on Friday, September 21, but students ventured to Gilbert Lake for a nature appreciation day to kick off our annual Uncommon Community Reading Program this year.

Students enjoyed a full day of scheduled events: hiking, a science station where they practiced identifying trees, a poetry workshop with local poet Bertha Rogers, a photography class, a landscape painting session, and a yoga station.

A big thanks goes to Mrs. Nagaru, Mrs. Grant, Ms. van Ingen, Ms. Haluska, Ms. Bertha Rogers (visiting local poet), Mrs. Waffle, and all the faculty, staff, and administration for their efforts to help teach the courses, provide transportation and food for the students, and supervise the students. In addition, Bassett's 5-2-1-0, NYS Parks Program, Gilbert Lake, Golding Paints, Community Bank, and The Glenn Waffle Memorial Fund from Colonial Ridge Golf deserve thanks for their generous donations as well.

Through a grant Mrs. Waffle wrote, the TUCCR program was able to purchase yoga mats and other supplies that will

be able to be reused by PE classes and CROP programs. In addition, we were able to purchase a TUCCR program journal for each student and art supplies that will be able to be used again as well. Finally, the NYS Parks Grant allowed us travel expenses as well. The whole day cost the district nothing except time and fun and learning!

Kayla Francis, a junior said, "My favorite part was the photography. It made me notice things there I didn't see before." Matt Burtis, a sophomore, agreed his "favorite part was definitely photography." Another student, Senior Renate Carrabba, said, "Gilbert Lake day was a lot of fun. It was good to learn about nature. My favorite activity was yoga because I have never done it before." Sophomore Meisha Neer said, "I had a good time. Being outside and experiencing nature as a class was fun." Mason Valentine, a sophomore, enjoyed the hike because "the scenery was pretty."

—Mrs. Julene Waffle, ELA



## Yoga

Students at Morris Central School enjoyed classes for two full days of yoga as part of TUCCR's Gilbert Lake Day and MCS Natura Appreciation events. Despite rain on day two, students were eager to participate and show off their balancing skills. Together, students were led by Morris' Speech and Language Therapist, Ms. Haluska. Each class acquired new vocabulary words all while practicing stretching and breathing skills. Two picture books were introduced throughout the course of events, including Taeun Yoo's *You Are A Lion* and Susan Verde's *I Am Yoga*, thanks to a grant prepared by Mrs. Waffle. Syllable counting and language comprehension were targeted on the yoga mats for the younger students. Chaperones and teachers witnessed many smiles and lot of laughter from students. This event is surely one to look forward to in the future at MCS!

## English 12

This year's English 12 class consists of some work and a lot of fun. Ms. Crane's 8th period English class focuses a lot on reading, which is a nice break from all of the tests and homework throughout the rest of the day. She also started the year by focusing on this year's TUCCR theme. "The students seem to be enjoying the TUCCR novel *Ship Breaker*. Throughout the year, we will continue to talk about the TUCCR theme: One Earth: Our Home," said Ms. Crane.

The students enjoy Ms. Crane's class because although she makes us do our work, the class is very laid-back and she is lenient when it comes to due dates and assignments. Student Alyssia Maerz said, "I like English because I like what we're reading so far and the work isn't too hard," and Marissa Romer, when asked about English 12, said "Ms. Crane is the best English teacher ever!"

—Gabrielle Eklund, Senior

## English 11 Newsletter

All of Mrs. Waffle's English classes started the year off differently this year. They spent the first day of class outside in the grass and under the trees. They wrote about nature and what they could learn from it as a starter to their first unit about nature appreciation and what happens to it when we don't care for our planet. It kicked off this year's Uncommon Community Reading Program theme of One Earth: Our Home.

Mrs. Waffle's 11th Grade English class is all about "having freedom and expressing our opinions," said Liz Illaraza. This year the 11th grade has started reading *Ship Breaker* by Paolo Bacigalupi (which sounds kind of like "batch'a'galloopy"). After reading every chapter, they discuss their thoughts about the book and they learned new and reviewed old literary terms to set the tone of the year. Kurt Rheinheimer said, "I really enjoyed reading this book. It was really exciting!" Mrs. Waffle and the students are excited to see what the future holds for them this year: "we can't wait to learn new and interesting things!" said Kyle Blake.

—Abby Maurelli, Junior

## The Adventures of 6th Grade ELA

### From the Desks of Hannah Wist, Grace Sperry and Samantha Coyle

In sixth grade the students learn more than just reading! The students learn about teamwork, how to speak aloud to people, grammar, writing traits, and more. The sixth graders are building useful skills for their futures. During 2018-2019 school year students will be reading many interesting books. While reading these books, students will read aloud and discuss chapters, characters, and their actions, as well as making inferences and finding evidence with their groups. This develops teamwork skills and helps the students get deeper into the books. Students also work at ELA stations daily. At these stations cover many skills necessary to become stronger readers and writers. As you can see, this year 6th grade with Mrs. Mackey will be adventurous!

The **MORE** that you **READ**, the more things you will **KNOW**. The **MORE** that you **LEARN**, the more places you'll **GO**. —Dr. Seuss

### From the Desk of Mrs. Mackey

The goal of 6th grade ELA is to instill the love of reading into each and every student. Reading plays a role in every aspect of education. By instilling the importance of reading and building the passion for learning, we are building our futures. We read a variety of books in Sixth Grade that cover a number of genres. From *Lightning Thief*, *Bud Not Buddy*, and *Dragonwings* to our exciting TUCCR themed book, *Fuzzy Mud*, students will become excited about literature. Close reading will make students better spellers, vocabulary wizards, faster readers, and literary detectives. I look forward to watching this year's class of 6th graders develop their love of reading!

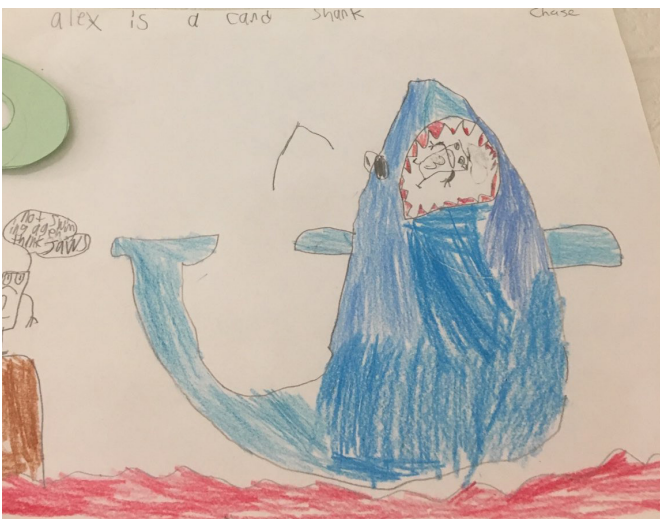
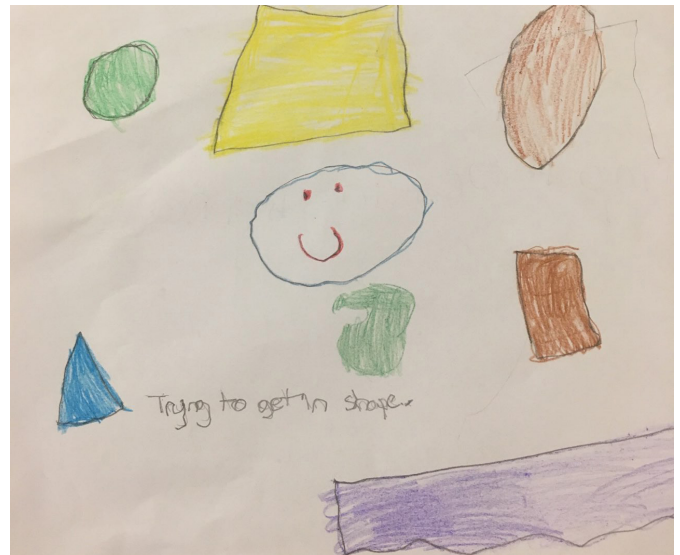
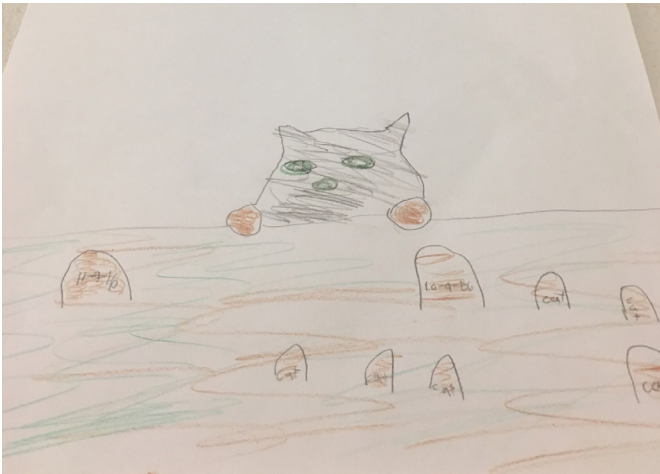
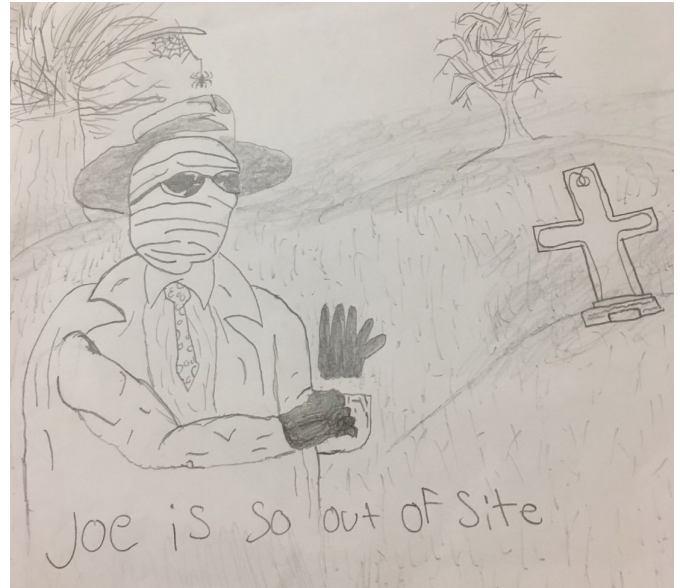
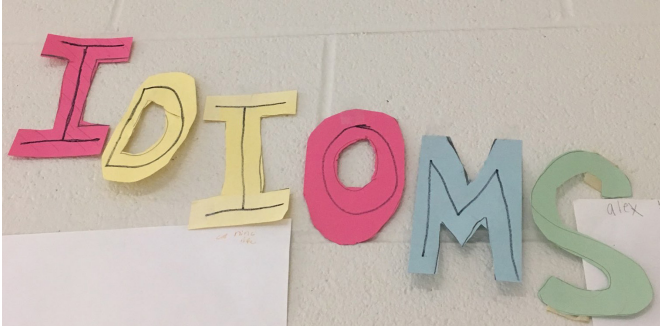


*Please keep collecting your Box Tops from your groceries. The Sixth Grade Safety Patrol uses the funds raised to help them go to Washington, DC.*



## From the Desk of Ms. Coloney

Ms. Coloney's second period ELA class spent some time learning about language and the use of Idioms. We had a fun time reading books written and illustrated by Fred Gwynne (yes, Herman Munster!) and the children drew idioms of their own.





## Environmental Field School

Twelve students from Morris Central School participated in an Environmental Education Field School from July 16-20 2018. It was a free program for ages 12-18 years, funded through grants awarded to the Otsego Land Trust. Staffed by professionals from Schoharie River Center and Otsego Land Trust, the field school gave students a chance to work with scientists in the field of watershed ecology. Students practiced the scientific method, used biological instruments, and collected and analyzed data from four different OLT sites and the Butternut Creek in Morris.

—Mrs. Norman, Fifth Grade Teacher



*Students learn to estimate the height of trees in Hillington Cemetery*



*Using D-nets, students collect macroinvertebrates in the Butternut Creek*



*Testing the health of the creek includes conducting chemical tests of the water*



## Fresh Veggies in the Cafeteria

On Tuesday, September 25, we had some very odd looking items in the cafeteria. There was a contest to see who knew what they were. The winners got to pick an item from the snack cart. The winners were **Jacob Knapp**, **Lucas Waffle**, **Delaney Coveny**, and **Hunter Francis** with the closest guess of “winter squash”. Do you know what these are? (See answer below). They are grown locally. These



came from South New Berlin and will be incorporated in our lunches. In the cafeteria, we are working on having more local fruits and vegetables in our meals along with great produce from our very own greenhouses. So far tomatoes for salsa and spaghetti sauce and cabbage for coleslaw and fried cabbage have been harvested this year. We have also received great donations of zucchini from Kathy Kodrich, the Korths, and Dawn Helstrom. Thank you! (*Answer: They are Blue Hubbard Squash*)

—Jill Forester, Cafeteria Manager

## The Life of an Exchange Student



What is it like to become an exchange student? It is difficult to make the decision to spend 11 months away from my home, family, and friends to experience a new home, family, and friends. I decided to be an exchange student because it is a huge opportunity that will change my life forever. My name is Anna Pavelkova and I am from the Czech Republic. I live with the Parkers, and I am still trying to get used to living the same life as Americans. I really miss our Czech food and the ability to walk somewhere by myself without asking anyone to take me somewhere. Also, I come from a big city, so it's really different for me to live in Morris. It's a nice area to live in though. It's not easy to be in a room with people who don't know your native language at all, but that's the challenge I have accepted. I started to believe in one quotation I read: “Kolik jazyku umis, tolikrat jsi clovekem” which means “The more languages you know, the more of a person you are.” It's true, I feel very different when I speak English than when I speak Czech.

—Anna Pavelkova, Senior Exchange Student

## Senior Stresses

As the start of the new school year began, there were a lot of worries for this year's senior class. The beginning of the year for a senior is very stressful. Filling out all kinds of applications, applying to colleges, applying for Financial Aid, filling out the common app, asking teachers for recommendation letters, and deciding what are they going to do with the rest of lives lives are just a few of the big stressors. For some students they do not know where to start or what to do. Also, filling out all of these applications is a pain. There is so much time and energy that goes into applying for colleges and then on top of all that worry, they still have to focus on schoolwork and this school year. Senior **Nate Edwards** explained, "One of my worries from my whole college decision process is figuring out which colleges to apply to."

There are many deadlines that have to be met in order for students to go to college, where they want to go, and for some, who to afford it as well. Colleges have deadlines that have to be met for turning in your applications. These deadlines are usually in November. Also, applying for financial aid and receiving money to help pay for students' college experiences have a deadline that have to be met as well. Senior **Anthony Schoentube** said, "My advice for students in years to come is to make sure that they know when their deadlines are, such as financial aid and applications for schools." Knowing when your deadlines are is a huge part of the college process. Senior **Nate Edwards** gave great advice for students in years to come, "Look at schools early all during the summer and apply as soon as you can so that you don't miss anything. It won't stress you out as much."

The college decision process is a very stressful and long process, and depending on when a student starts, it goes by fast. My advice for students is do not be afraid to ask for help through this process, your parents, your guidance counselor, and your teachers will be there to help you through this stressful period.

—*Elizabeth Thompson, Senior*

## Honor Bound

The National Junior Honor Society and the National Honor Society has been a important club for Morris Central School. Mrs. Sheldon, the advisor, believes that, purpose of Honor Society "is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the remaining students of Morris Central School."

In September, eight new members were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society and the National Honor Society. The National Junior Honor Society inductees were **Triana Hawkins, Aiden Moore, Alex Page,** and **Landen Tyler.** The National Honor Society inductees were **Monica Dugan, Anastasia Edwards, Keegan Holt,** and **Morgan Valentine.**

During inductions, the President of Honor Society, **Jacob Walling,** gave a speech about scholarship. Vice-President Nathaniel Edwards spoke about the idea of character and inducted the nominees into Honor Society. Secretary, **Renate Carrabba,** talked about the nobility of leadership. The treasurer **Will Ranc** spoke about the importance of service. Seniors, **Anthony Schoentube** and **Ashley Harrington,** who are both members of the National Honor Society were the wardens of light and talked about the meaning of the emblem of Honor Society.

—*Renate Carrabba, Senior*



*This year's National Honor Society and Junior National Honor Society Members after inductions*

## NYC Senior Chorus Trip

The Senior Chorus has taken many trips to New York City to see Broadway plays. This September, the Senior Chorus watched their new all-time favorite, Anastasia: the Musical. In addition they were able to roam NYC and explore the other nearby sights. It was an experience that they all loved. As Victoria Ranc, Sophomore, said, "Going to see Anastasia was truly a beautiful experience. The music was beautiful and so were the sights of the city." This trip wasn't all just about the sights, as the trip also had a special meaning to some who went, as Abigail Maurelli, Junior, said, "I really enjoyed the songs and the story of the show. Going to New York City every year makes me happy because I feel like I'm at home again."

—*Elizabeth Ibarra, Junior*





## Spirit Week and Pep Rally

This year's Spirit Week started on Monday, September 10. On the Monday Spirit Week started with Pajama Day, then Twin Day was on Tuesday, on Wednesday it was Hawaiian Day, then on Thursday it was Mismatch Day, and finally on Friday it was Blue and White Day with the pep rally at the end of the day.

The pep rally started with the announcement of all the soccer teams. Then the annual tug of war between 7 through 12 was shortly thereafter. The 8th graders beat the 7th graders. The 9th graders went up against the 10th graders and were beat. This year's senior class had never lost a tug-o-war battle since seventh grade. They easily beat the juniors as they usually do every year of the pep rally. After that the teachers and the seniors went against each other and broke the rope for the second year in a row, Mrs. Smith, the principle ended up almost breaking her toe when the rope broke. After the rope broke, Mr. Iannelli found another rope to go against the teachers again which ended up with the senior class finally losing.

After the tug war ended, the seniors chose students and teachers from the bleachers to wrap in toilet paper to see how much toilet paper they could wrap around the teacher in a certain amount of time. Ms. Nagurer won this race. Then after that there was a frozen t-shirt contest to see who unfold and put on the t-shirt the fastest. Morgan Valentine with the help of her friends Anastasia Edwards and Molly Dugan won this race. Morgan said her arms "felt hot and scraped after trying to put it on, but it was worth it because I got to keep the t-shirt." The Rally ended with the announcement of the Homecoming King, Queen, and court.

—Devin Alger, Senior



## Homecoming Dance and Bonfire

The homecoming bonfire was a good time again this year, but, as usual, it rained during it. It has rained for every homecoming bonfire since Ms. Smith can remember. A former MCS student, Joe Card, was one of the volunteer firefighters to supervise the fire.

Shortly after was the Homecoming Dance. The Student Council set up for the dance earlier in the day. It had great music, good snacks and drinks, good times to hang out with old friends and provided somewhere to make new friends. Some people wore dressy clothes or blue and white. The decorations were festive blue and white. The refreshments went pretty fast given it was a hot room. At a few points, we had a dance circle where everyone would circle one person who would "free for all" dance and just shake it. We were able to request songs and the DJ would play them too.

—Ian Rehrmann, Junior





## Booster Club Soccer Clinic

Before the Homecoming bonfire this year, the Booster Club hosted introductions to the teams as they ran through painted banners and the crowds cheered them on. After that, the junior and senior high school soccer players helped coaches and Booster Club members run a soccer clinic for

all our Morris Recreation Soccer players, PK-6. It was perfect soccer weather to start, but then in true Homecoming fashion, it rained, and rained hard, during the clinic. It was still fun and had kids wanting to play more after the clinic ended. Thanks to all the volunteers.

—Mrs. Julene Waffle, ELA





## Varsity Boys Soccer

Varsity Soccer of 2018 was really fun. There was never a dull moment; there was nothing but laughs and brotherhood. We didn't win a lot of games, but we competed hard every game and made a lot of them really close, down to the end. Ben Child, Senior, said, "I liked learning to work together as a team." Brandon Richards, another senior, said, "I liked making memories with my friends in our last year of varsity soccer."

The team always had so much fun at practice; we'd have fun, but we always focused when we needed to. We were a family, win or lose. "My favorite part was scoring my first goal," said Nate Edwards, senior. "My favorite part was scoring my first goal before, Nate," said Anthony Shoentube, also a senior.

—Matthew Murphy, Senior

## Fire Prevention Month: October



*Students were treated to a presentation by our local volunteer firefighters. One of our own students, Mason Valentine, helped in presenting how to put on equipment.*

## Varsity Girls Soccer

The 2018 Varsity Girls Soccer Team has improved greatly throughout their season this year. Their overall league record was 6-2-2, despite losing a lot of seniors last year who were key players for them, they still worked hard to compete for a spot in the top four. As Coach, Rhoda Flint stated, "This team has worked really hard to accomplish a top four finish in the Tri-Valley. They are a very dedicated team with many talents and personalities. I am very proud of how much growth this team has made since the beginning of the season." Working together as a team and having fun are they keys to being successful, according to goalie, Elizabeth Thompson, who said, "I am glad that our team accomplished our goal of getting into the top four. It has been a great season; everyone has worked hard and had fun." The girls continued their season by competing for a spot in Sectionals.

—Kylie Brigham, Senior

## Three Cheers To . . .

- The custodial staff for keeping our building running smoothly in spite of all the construction.
- Ethan Wagner for helping Mrs. Telfer in the hall!!!
- The Class of 2019 working so hard on the Senior Play.
- Jacob Spoor and the custodial staff for helping Mrs. Waffle on the Pk-6 Nature Appreciation Day.
- Mr. Sheldon and the BOE for the great new lights in the auditorium.
- All the faculty and staff for making our Nature Appreciation Days at Gilbert Lake and at home great successes. An especial three cheers goes to the leaders and the facilitators!
- To Golding Paints, 5-2-1-0, Lovett's, and the many friends who donated items to help make our Nature Appreciation Days a success.

**Many Thanks  
to All of You!**

