



Grade 2 is learning about Westward Expansion (Grade 2 Core Knowledge, Social Studies). On this bulletin board covered wagon, the second graders listed what items they would bring with them on a long covered wagon journey. There are also slips available for the greater school community to contribute what they would bring. So the question to all of you...What would you bring west in a covered wagon?

# Morse Messenger

Issue #7

Created by: Denise Sullivan, Family Liaison  
<http://morse.cpsd.us>

April 2013



*National Poetry Month*

## April is Poetry Month!!!

*By Denise Sullivan*

Poetry month here at the Morse is a very special thing.  
The school just buzzes with poems, every spring!

The students from Kindergarten to Grade 5,  
All seem to make their poetry come alive!

Grade 4 had a fantastic poetry show, on April 10<sup>th</sup>  
Just about an hour in total length.

During the show, students and staff shared,  
The audience snapped instead of cheered.

Through out this newsletter you will find;  
Poems galore, created from people's minds!

So sit back, relax and take the time to read,  
Maybe we will inspire your poetry seed!



## Kindness Campaign

Update: Our Kindness Heart is growing in the Main Lobby it now has close to 400 Acts of Kindness

## April's Core Virtue is Graciousness

Graciousness is acting courteous and kind.  
Graciousness is being thoughtful and aware of others.



## What's up in our CitySprouts Garden?

*By Brad Pillen*

There is sure to be a lot of excitement this spring in the Morse CitySprouts Garden. There is much to be tended to. Uncovering, raking, and planting have begun. Brad Pillen our CitySprouts Garden Coordinator has started excitedly back to work as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. He is busily working with the staff to figure out when classes will be out to plant and explore the garden.

Brad is here at the Morse on:

**Tuesdays:** 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Wednesdays:** 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Also, on Wednesday afternoons from 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM all families are invited to come by the Afterschool Garden Drop In. Starting Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and every Wednesday after till the end of school in June. If you need or want to get in touch with Brad, please email him at [bpillen@citysprouts.org](mailto:bpillen@citysprouts.org)



## Morse School Junior Kindergarten & Kindergarten go to the Zoo!

On April 4th, the Morse School all of the kindergarteners and junior kindergarteners went on a field trip! They traveled together on the school bus to the Franklin Park Zoo. At the zoo, they used maps to make our way around and looked at signs to learn more about the animals.

They got to see some peacocks right up close, and noticed lots of baby animals, including a baby zebra, a baby bongo, and a kangaroo riding in his mother's pouch, two newborn lemurs and many other animals as well!

To learn more about what the students saw and experienced, please stop and view the bulletin board located on the ramp near classrooms B6, B7, and B8. Also, please see the song (on page 8) that Mr. Klinman's class created after visiting the zoo.

## Morse Art Show

*By Amiee Kerr*

The 5th annual Morse School Art Show was a huge success, once again! Held at the lovely Gallery 263, a local non-profit art gallery on Pearl Street, over 200 students were represented with artwork. Drawings, paintings, sculptures, and prints; landscapes, self portraits, still lifes, abstract art, ceramic tiles, paper mache, quilts, and more covered the walls of the gallery. The reception on April 9th brought about 80 artists and their families together for a celebration, and dozens of other families visited the gallery over the week.

In attendance at the reception was also Superintendent Dr. Young, a big art aficionado! The show's success is well documented in the guest book; a couple quotes were "Wow! The Morse school has so many amazing artists! Congratulations!" and "I am a neighbor who was out on a walk and stopped in. I am very impressed with both the quality of the art and the quality of the projects/assignments. Clearly a strong art program- so nice to see!" Throughout the week, 8 classes walked up to the gallery during Art class for viewing and gallery games.

A special thank you to the many parents and teachers who volunteered their time and energy to make the show a success, especially the Friends of the Morse! If you didn't have a chance to visit the art show, visit the Morse Arts blog to view photos of the show: [www.morsearts.wordpress.com](http://www.morsearts.wordpress.com). Looking forward to next year already!

# Morse First Grade Help Celebrate Poetry Month!

Grade 1 students helped celebrate Poetry month. They learned about “Poet’s Eyes” where poets take ordinary things in the world and look at things in fresh new ways. “Poet’s Ingredients”, A poet’s eyes, Special music (line breaks), and Big, strong feelings. They learned “Voices of Poetry”, Speaking to the object, Storytelling, conversation. Then each student used all they learned and wrote their own poetry. Some students used symbols, while some wrote words in a very specific way, which we have tried to re-create here.

## The New Baby

By Isaiah W.

Touching my mom’s belly  
Talking to the baby  
Waiting for the baby  
And when the baby is born  
The first thing I am going to do  
is...  
HOLD IT!

## River Crossing

By Ruth Z.

Baby alligators and snakes  
That don’t bite  
I am NOT happy  
Muddy and sticky  
I had to take off my shoes  
Scared  
Weird  
Relieved  
I made it!!!!

## Jack

By Rammel J.

Jack climbs the beanstalk  
F  
A  
L  
L  
S  
Whoosh  
B  
O  
O  
M  
OUCH!

## The Sounds of Fire

By Jennifer L.

Ice crackling in the Arctic  
Crumpling tinfoil  
An elephant eating goldfish



A (Clock) ticking in the  
fire,  
Someone shaking a box of  
water.  
Someone riding a bike on  
gravel.

## Leaves

By Nora S.

Snowing from trees,  
Colors of Leaves  
Green, Red, Yellow, Orange.  
The sun comes out,  
The season of leaves is going  
away.  
My eyes are drooping.  
I am very sad :-(  
The season I LOVE  
Is going away!

## Ocean vs. Fire

By Dallas Y.

The ocean is loud like  
thunder!  
Fire is bright like the sun.  
Ocean is blue like the sky,  
Fire is hot like in the  
summer.  
Ocean is like a pool.  
Fire is like a candle lit up.  
Ocean as big as the world.



*National Poetry Month*

## Morse First Grade Help Celebrate Poetry Month! (Continued)

### Into School

By Aizza G.

I walk in like a mouse.  
I tiptoe to the morning message.

The pointer reads to me.  
The marker writes for me.

I bounce to the teacher; she sings the word of  
the day.  
The sort words, sort magic!

A book jumps in my hand!!!  
The words talk to me:

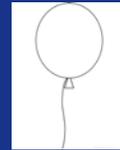
Bounce  
Out  
Of  
Seats  
On  
The  
Rug.

### My Love

By Jaelyn B

To: My Family

My Love for you,



Is like a (balloon)  
That never pops!

My Love for you,



Is like a (spoon)

That always has a



(heart)

I need YOU!  
YOU need me,  
We are a FAMILY!



*National Poetry Month*

*(April is Poetry Month Continued)*



Kindergarten students in rooms A1 and B6 collaborated on a **Spring Senses Project**. They observed, explored, and discovered signs of spring using their senses. Through discussions, the use of their fine motor skills, and literacy knowledge, they created the display on the rolling bulletin board located in the Library lobby area. On the board is the following poem:

*March winds and April showers.  
Popping up are pretty flowers.  
A kite flying in the sun.  
Aren't you glad the spring has begun?*

**The All City music ensembles wrapped up at great year with a Spring Concert Tour! The All-City Chorus, Band and Orchestra visited the Morse School and the Fletcher Maynard Academy on Monday, April 8th and performed their spring concert at CRLS on Tuesday night, April 9th. We are so proud of the Morse 4th and 5th grade students who participated in these ensembles this year! Rehearsals will begin again next September for all interested 4th and 5th grade musicians! ~submitted by: Kelly Graber**



# Friends of the Morse School



## Silent Auction Update:

We would like to give a giant THANK YOU to all who supported and/or came out for the Silent Auction and Raffle on Sunday, April 7, 2013 We had a lot of fun and hope you did too, raising more than \$4,000 for the school while we were at it--woohoo!!!

In addition to all of you, we'd like to thank the many, many businesses and individuals who donated products and services to the event, to Flat Top Johnny's for hosting our merry crowd, to One Kendall Square Garage for providing parking, to Blick Art Materials for matting the artwork, and especially to Wing Ngan of Ink Design for designing the delightful posters and invitations.

These events are only successful if the community participates, and participate you did--THANKS AGAIN!

Sincerely,  
The Planning Team:  
Rebecca Altepeter  
Michelle Bean  
Loni Butera  
Kimberly Mancino  
Samantha Moore  
Andrew Yakoobian

Please visit [friendsofmorse.org](http://friendsofmorse.org) to see the LONG list of donors!

## Friends of Morse School

### Meeting Dates:

May 15 - *Next Meeting*  
June 12

Free CHILDCARE! All families are considered part of Friends of Morse. Please come to events sponsored by FoM. We always welcome all that want to help! To learn how, please visit

<http://www.friendsofmorse.org/>



## Boxtops for Education Continue to clip BoxTops for Education.

*Boxtops can be found on most General Mill's products. So if you already purchase these products look for the BoxTop for Education and clip and save for the Morse!*



## Introducing Morse Staff Member.... Kathy Kelleher, RN – School Nurse

**Name:** Kathy Kelleher

**Birthday:** October 6

**Education:** BSN Boston College

**Family:** Married to Hugh for 35 years. We have two grown children: Courtney and Brendan.

**Pets:** Black cat named Beast. (he came to us with that name) Courtney rescued him from the streets of Brooklyn, NY. He was the neglected mascot of a local band.

**Hobbies:** Reading on New Silver Beach in North Falmouth and watching the sun set on the ocean.  
Playing trivia with my family as a team. We are a pretty good foursome.  
Watching the Patriots and Bruins with family and friends.

**Best habit:** Early to bed and early to rise (most of the time)

**Worst habit:** Procrastination

**Most harrowing day:** Any one of the shifts I worked on the severely understaffed surgical unit at Cambridge City Hospital so many years ago.

**Most memorable day:** The birth of our children.

**Favorite book as a child:** Hate to admit this but Cinderella was my favorite in kindergarten. That was long before Gloria Steinem came along.

**Favorite book as an adult:** Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

**Favorite restaurant:** Bricco in the North End

**Favorite Music:** Country and Rock and Roll, especially the Rolling Stones

**Favorite teacher:** My math teacher in high school for four years, Sr. Mary Louise. (Nickname Stacy) She was the whole math department as well as the principal and the guidance counselor of our tiny all girls high school. Stacy made math my favorite subject for the first time. She made a big difference in my life in so many ways.

Circa

**Next School Council Meeting:**  
Wednesday, May 1, 2013  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM in the school library

If you have an interest or something to share, please plan on attending the meeting. Agenda to be determined and will be posted to the Morse Google Group prior to April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

All parent/guardians always welcome!



## Scholastic Book Fair

Tuesday, June 4th  
&

Wednesday, June 5th

8:10AM - 4:00PM

Morse School Library

Contact Miss Pennell,  
[spennell@cpsd.us](mailto:spennell@cpsd.us), if you are  
interested in helping out at our  
annual Book Fair.



### Save the Dates!

May 10<sup>th</sup> - Grade 1 American  
Revolution Performance at 9:00  
AM in the Auditorium

May 22<sup>nd</sup> - Variety Show at 9:00  
AM & 7:00 PM

May 29<sup>th</sup> - Grade 2 Peter Pan  
Performance at 9:00 AM

May 30<sup>th</sup> - Whole School Science  
Fair happening ALL DAY!

*Please know that you are welcome to  
any of the above events!*



## Morning Drop Off/Afternoon Pick Up Safety...

Just a few things about drop off safety. In the mornings, drop off safety is a big issue. During rush hour everyone in the city is trying to get somewhere else. Please follow these simple rules to help your child get in and out of the building safely.

- For everyone's safety, please cross Granite Street via the crossing guard at the intersection of Pearl & Granite Streets. It is very unsafe to cross from between parked cars!
- As many of you know there is "solar glare" at this time of year in the mornings, so please make sure you drive slowly and cautiously in case it seems that someone "jumps" out in front of you, you will have time to stop before a terrible accident happens.
- **DO NOT** Park in the Handicapped spots in front of the building. We have students with special needs being dropped off and these spots are needed.
- Do not stop in the middle of the street and let your child out. This causes traffic tie-ups.
- **Always have your child exit and enter your vehicle safely on the sidewalk side of the car** (Whether you are parked on the right or left side of Granite Street)
- **NO PARKING** in marked bus zones:
  - 1) Located near main entrance
  - 2) Located near door # 9





### Art From Junk!

**Above:** The bottle cap flowers were collected and created by the students in Ms. Nadege, Ms. Marissa and Ms. Mackenzie's classes.

**Below:** Junior Kindergarten Students in Mrs. Connelly's class created self-portraits from found objects. They followed up these collages with observational drawings.



### Zoo Senses

*By room B7 working with David Haines of Cambridge Lyric Opera*

We went to the zoo  
 We smelt stin-ky zebra poo  
 Heard a back-wards li-on roar, felt  
 Bo-ny-Fos-sils on the floor  
 Saw a Hip-po eat plants, not fish-es  
 Tas-ted a-nimal crackers De-li-cious!

*Mr. Klinman has a video, for anyone that would like to hear the song sung by his classroom.*



### ***Math Matters at Morse***

*By Regina Byrnes*

Welcome to the ***Math Matters at Morse*** corner! This will be a regular feature of the Morse School Newsletter. We will focus on what is happening mathematically at the Morse School.

Recently we completed a series of parent workshops at the Morse School. Morse teachers that comprise the Morse Math Advisory Group (MMAG) presented the four workshops that focused on Developing Number Sense, Addition & Subtraction, Multiplication & Division, and Fractions. The response from parents who attended was very positive, and we look forward to having many more parents join us for future workshops.

Currently MMAG is planning our next parent workshop set for Thursday, June 6, 2013 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM. This workshop will be held offsite in the Community Center at 808 Memorial Drive. The focus will be on helping children maintain math understanding during the summer. We'll be sharing specific suggestions for mathematical activities that parents can do with their children during the summer.

We are excited to be able to offer this workshop in the evening, and at a site that is home to many of our Morse students. ALL of the Morse community is welcome to attend. We will provide babysitting. Look for additional information to be sent home soon.

We are excited to be launching the first ***Math Matters at Morse*** column. We welcome any and all suggestions for future articles. Please forward comments and/or suggestions to Regina Byrnes, Morse School Math Instructional Coach ([rbyrnes@cpsd.us](mailto:rbyrnes@cpsd.us) or 617 349 6575 ext. 156).

### **Earliest Garden Observations**

*By Kindergarten B-7*

Winter is turning into spring.  
It is just spring.  
The spring is unlocking the garden.

Flowers are starting to grow.  
We see the purple flowers,  
These very first flowers!  
They smell so beautiful in the cold air.

Old flowers are there too.  
They hang after the winter.  
The raspberries are brown.  
The leaves are smushed.  
Some blow around.

We look under rocks and logs.  
Excited searches show:  
Spiders that scurry,  
Rollie-pollies that roll up,  
Worms that wiggle,  
A centipede that runs runs runs runs runs...

We see the first bees.  
A bumblebee sucks pollen from a purple flower.  
He sips three times.  
We try not to be scared.

The wind wisps.  
We feel the sun and the cold  
And feel the soft soil under our shoes.

We will return to find more in the garden.



*National Poetry Month*