



Second grade students read many picture books that won the Caldecott Medal or Caldecott honor. They recorded these books in their Caldecott Journals. Students voted on their favorite Caldecott title. Ms. Riley's class selected *The Stinky Cheeseman* and Mr. Rick's class selected *The Spider and the Fly*. Stop by the bulletin board near the library to see the journals for yourself.

Morse School News

Issue #5

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

February 2013



“Be Kind Campaign”

By Mary Gallant – Grade 4 Teacher

Be kind to one another. Treat others the way you want to be treated. I think all students know what that means. However, the staff at the Morse School wants to highlight even the smallest act of kindness. One portion of the Morse School Code is “Be Kind” and starting in the month of February and continuing for the rest of the year we will be raising awareness of what it means to Be Kind.

When a student are “caught being kind” they will be awarded a button which they will be able to wear for the rest of the day so that other staff members can recognize them for their act of kindness. They will also get a certificate to go home which will let you know what they did to earn the certificate. Finally, the student will be able to add a heart to the board in the front hallway with their name on it and we will be able to watch our heart of kindness grow!

So, when you are in the building and you see a student wearing a button for kindness please give them big congratulations!

Morse School News can be found online!

Please share with any family member or friend interested:
<http://morse.cpsd.us/news/newsletter>

February's Core Virtue is
PERSEVERANCE

PERSEVERANCE:
It's pushing on despite difficulty and hardship. It's sticking to it- even when you'd rather give up.



A Celebration Of Us

On Friday, December 21, 2012, something pretty amazing happened at the Morse School! Third graders in Mrs. Roderick's class were involved in "A Celebration of Us" all the students presented to their families what makes them special. Families worked together, in true collaborative ways to bring a taste of cultural foods and traditions to our classroom. We had a representation from many cultural backgrounds and every student had a voice.

Parents were moved to tears after listening to their children present a fellow classmate to the group and spoke of what made that student special. We had coins from various countries and flags that represent the children in our room, Kwanzaa traditional candle - holders, Menorahs and dreidel lessons, an advent candle, a Christmas tree, traditional Muslim clothing and beading, Chinese art, books, literature, photos, and delicious food.

We tasted Portuguese food, Peruvian pasta, Chinese dumplings, homemade Samosas, Italian food, fresh baked goods, and so much more! It couldn't be done without the help of families, the enthusiasm of the children, and the dedication of the staff that contributed time and materials to make this a success!

Clothes from Around the World

In Mrs. Connelly and Ms. Photopoulos's class, Junior Kindergarteners are learning about the different kinds of clothes that people wear all around the world! Families and teachers have brought in dolls dressed in traditional clothes, outfits they wear on special occasions, and pictures of pieces of clothing to share with our students. We've seen a *hanbok* from Korea, learned about special shoes from Greece, read about how to wear a *sari* and more! Having families visit our classroom and teach us about other cultures has been a wonderful experience—our students feel happy and proud to share an aspect of their lives with their friends. This unit also reflects one of our Core Virtues, "Appreciation for different cultures and the diversity in our world." We've shared our new knowledge with other students at the Morse School by creating a display in the main lobby--stop by and take a look!

Grade 4 Visits MIT to Make Flashlights & Quizboards

By Stella J. & Caroline R. (Room E6)

Have you ever gone to MIT? Well, if you haven't then you should! Let us tell you about all of the great times that we had with our classmates there!

The first time that we went to MIT we made flashlights. We learned about the different parts of a flashlight, we got to spend the whole day there and we even got to pick what color the light would be! We didn't just go once we went another time about a month later.

We went the second time to make Quizboards. The teacher that showed us how to make the quizboards was AWESOME. We made up our own questions for our quizboards, and we had a quizboard breakfast to show our families.

Like we said before, we had so much fun! If you've been in fourth grade at the Morse already then you probably remember this field trip and know exactly what we are talking about! For all you younger kids who haven't been in fourth grade yet then you have something GREAT to look forward too!



Coady Award Semester 1

On Monday, January 28th winners of the Coady Award, their parents and a few staff members gathered at the Royal East Restaurant on Main St. for a celebration.

The Coady Award is a special award dinner celebration that the Morse School has a couple of times throughout the school year. To win the Coady award students must try their hardest at all times or have made considerable progress in academics, be considerate and kind to others, be a good role model for fellow students, contribute a positive attitude to the school community, listen to directions, not be argumentative, and be respectful of peers and adults.

Congratulations to: Imran H., Andy L. Carrie R., Justin S., Kalkidan A., Kamil S., and Arien A.! We are so proud of you! Keep being you!



CRLS Stars Program Visits Grade 5 Students at Morse!

By Olivia S.

In January, the Stars Program came to visit the 5th grade to talk about bullying. First everyone introduced themselves, and then the “CRLS Stars” started the talk on Bullying. They told us about some kinds of bullying, like physical bullying, verbal bullying, cyber bullying, indirect bullying and intimidation bullying. My 5th grade class gave examples for each, after one of the “Stars” gave a description.

Everyone talked about bullying, and then we split up into groups. In my group, the two CRLS “Star” students read a situation out loud, then asked us what we should do if we were in the situation. There were three problems, and we had a discussion about each one.

Then everyone came out of the groups, and The CRLS “Stars” talked to us a bit more. I think that everyone learned something about bullying and had a good time.

By Arien A.

The Stars Program is a program for bullying. The CRLS “Stars” Students came to our school in January to talk about bullying in our school, different kinds of bullying and some important things about up-standers and bystanders. A couple of weeks before the Stars Program came, we had a survey. About half of the students in our grade have been bullied.

The CRLS “Stars” students and my class talked about different kinds of bullying. There is physical bullying, verbal bullying, cyber bullying, indirect bullying and a couple more. The 5th grade gave some examples of these kinds of bullying. We then got into groups. We named the kinds of bullying and gave examples of them.

STARs is a school run program at CRLS high school. The goal of the STARs program is to teach and advocate respect both in the high school and in elementary schools. STARs consists of a group of students committed to serving the community and being strong role models. The program gives students an opportunity to take what they know and teach it to others in order to make our school a better place. After training sessions, each STAR is responsible for teaching curricula to younger students; sometimes a STAR might even create a curriculum of their own. Some of the curricula include No Bullying, Sexual Harassment, Teen Dating Violence Prevention, Substance Abuse Awareness, and Race and Personal Identity. For more information please visit: <http://crls.cpsd.us/Wiki/982> or simply search for “CRLS Stars Program”.



Morse School Celebrates Digital Learning Day

By Rosie Delacruz - Instructional Technology Specialist & Sarah Pennell – Library Media Specialist

The Morse School was one of many schools in the district that celebrated Digital Learning Day (DLD) for the first time on February 6th. Organized by the Alliance for Excellent Education and promoted by Gina Roughton, Assistant Director of Educational Technology, and Marjorie Berger, Assistant Director of Library Media Services, both Miss Pennell, Library Media Specialist, and Ms. Delacruz, Instructional Technology Specialist, found many ways to celebrate the day.

Miss Pennell hosted a teacher breakfast in the library before school to provide an overview of four online databases: Britannica Online, Worldbook Encyclopedia, Culturegrams, and TeachingBooks.net. She also put up a bulletin board in the library featuring the ways that digital learning happens in the library. Third grade students reviewed how to access online databases to help them with a class project. Fourth grade students viewed student poetry performances from last year via VoiceThread in preparation for this year’s annual poetry show. Fifth grade students, currently reading Shooting Kabul by N.H. Senzai, will explore Kabul, Afghanistan using CultureGrams and Worldbook Encyclopedia.

In the computer lab, Ms. Delacruz put up an ABCs of Technology created by fourth grade students in Mrs. Gallant’s and Mrs. Zink’s classrooms. Students used Google search to find images, then placed them on a MS Word document, using proper source citation. In the second grade, Mr. Weir and Mrs. Riley, used an iPhone and iPad to create a slide show for the MLK “I Have A Dream” presentation to happen on February 13th. Mrs. Roderick’s students completed a state symbols project using The Print Shop publishing software. She printed up the posters in color and surprised Ms. Delacruz by posting them on a bulletin board in the lab that had been prepared by Junior Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Connelly and her assistant, Ms. Photopoulos!

As an extension of DLD, Ms. Delacruz and Mrs. Connelly will be co-hosting a computer lab open house on the 13th for teachers and staff. Computers will be set up so that people can try out software applications like, Graph Club, Kidspiration, Inspiration, and ComicLife. Mrs. Connelly will also demonstrate some of the extended math and reading activities on MoreStarfall, a newly acquired school-based subscription.

A few IMPORTANT reminders... These help us with the safety of your child/children:

- ✦ If your child will be absent from school you must call either the classroom teacher or the main office 617-349-6575 then press “0” to report the absence.
- ✦ If your child needs to be dismissed during the school day you must send a note to the classroom teacher indicating the time your child needs to be dismissed and whether or not they will be returning. All students must be SIGNED OUT at the Main Office.

- ✦ If your child does return after an appointment they must ALWAYS stop and sign back in at the main office.
- ✦ Parents/Guardians are welcome to pick up their child from their classroom at dismissal but only after the 2:25 PM tone has sounded.



Boxtops for Education
Continue to clip BoxTops for Education. Contest winner to be announced in next newsletter.

Save the Date!
Morse Parent Math Workshops
The workshops are intended for ALL JK – 5 parents and interested community members. Come find out what mathematics your students are learning.
Last workshop for this school year:

- March 14, 2013 ~ 8:30-9:30 a.m.
Fractions

Look for detailed invitation to follow.



Introducing Morse Staff Member.... Miss Pennell - Librarian



Name: Sarah Marie Pennell

Birthday: November 13, 1979

Started working at the Morse: August 2007

Education: I went to a small college located in the north shore of Massachusetts called Gordon College. There I studied Early Childhood Education and English. I graduated in 2002 from Gordon College with a B.S. in English Language and Literature. A year after I graduated college I decided I wanted to be a children's librarian so I went to Library School. In 2004 I graduated from Simmons College with an M.S. in Library and Information Science and Education. A few years ago I decided to go back to school to understand more about how people learn to read. In 2012 I graduated from Salem State University with an M.Ed in Reading.

Family: I grew up in Southern Maine. My mom is a 5th grade teacher and my father drives cross-country for FedEx. I am the oldest of 4. I have two sisters, one brother, one sister-in-law, two brothers-in-law, and two nephews, Brady is 6 years old and Noah is 16 months old.

Pets: Growing up I had lots of pets: 1 bunny, 2 birds, 2 fish, 4 cats, and 33 dogs (we raised dogs). Now I enjoy not having pets of my own but I still like playing with dogs that I meet.

Hobbies: I love to read, hike, camp, and visit National Parks.

Best habit: I am a hard worker.

Worst habit: I hit my snooze button too many times in the morning.

Currently reading: *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern, *The Candymakers* by Wendy Mass, *Shooting Kabul* by S.E. Senzai, and *Small and Tall Tales of Extinct Animals* by Damien Laverdunt.

Favorite book as a child: *Put me in the Zoo* by Robert Lopshire, *Go Dog, Go!* By P.D. Eastman

Favorite book as an adult: Tricky question! I love so many books, so I'll list some of my favorite chapter books for children: *Okay for Now* by Gary D. Schmidt, *Holes* by Louis Sachar, *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Koingsburg, *Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling, *Rules* by Cynthia Lord, *Frog and Toad Are Friends* by Arnold Lobel, and *Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker.

Favorite restaurant: I love Mexican and Thai food. I love Border Café in Harvard Sq., Ole in Inman Sq., and Similans near Lechmere.

Favorite teacher: I was home schooled for two years, so I should say my mom ☺. I had an English teacher in high school, Mrs. Larson, who showed me how personal teaching could be. She was invested in the students she taught, both academically and personally. I strive to be like her (and my mom).

If you had one wish, what would it be?: For you to check out my new library website and follow what I am doing with your children in the library. <https://sites.google.com/a/cpsd.us/morse-library/home>

Next School Council Meeting:
Wednesday, March 6, 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 March 6th.

All parent/guardians always welcome!



Cambridge Girls Softball League:

Registration and tryouts. Sunday, March 3rd at the Frisoli Youth Center, 61 Willow Street (behind the King Open School): 11 am - 12:30 pm Minor League ages 8-11; 12:30 - 4 pm Major League ages 12 - 15. Bring a glove and birth certificate. Registration fees are \$55 first child, \$45 second child and \$35 for the third. For more information contact Paul DeVecchio 617-492-2013 or email at cambridgegirlssoftball@gmail.com

Friends of Morse School

Meeting Dates:

March 20 - *Next Meeting*
April 24
May 15
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/>



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





Cambridge Green Schools Initiative

<http://www3.cpsd.us/sustainability/Sustainability>

The Morse School doing a great job participating in the Cambridge Green Schools Initiative (CGSI)!

We are working with Sustainability Manager, Kristen von Hoffmann, at the school district's Office for Sustainability to track and lower our school's energy use.

Additionally, we are recycling as much as we can, and we have posted green tips around the school cafeteria, and our school's custodians and staff are also a large part of the effort. All schools use green cleaning products now. We continue to enjoy our partnership with CitySprouts and we also have students and staff participating in Walk-Ride Days, encouraging eco-friendly transportation to school!

Check out the CPSD sustainability website! <http://www3.cpsd.us/sustainability/Sustainability>

Check out the year-in-review report!

http://www3.cpsd.us/media/network/10516/media/CPS%20Redesign/documents/Sustainability/FY12_Sustainability_Year_in_Review.pdf?rev=1

For more information on the Cambridge Green Schools Initiative (CGSI), go to <http://www3.cpsd.us/sustainability/Sustainability> or e-mail Kristen at kvonhoffmann@cpsd.us.

Green Tips:

1. Reduce the font size of documents before printing.
(Saves paper and ink).

2. Recycle Phonebooks...or Opt-Out!

It's the new year and phonebooks are coming... please make sure to recycle extra phonebooks in the curbside program. Remove plastic bags or plastic wrap. If you haven't already done so, register for FREE at www.catalogchoice.org to create an account and choose to opt out of mail from over 4000 companies.

Cambridge is a Green Community - Did you know that Cambridge is a designated "Green Community"? Find out more about what we are doing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimize energy use, and serve as a leader among municipalities in achieving sustainability.

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/climateandenergy/municipalsustainability.aspx>

Cambridge Winter Farmer's Market:

- Every Saturday 10am-2pm January-April
- Cambridge Community Center Gymnasium
- 5 Callender Street - Cambridge (Just off of Putnam Ave & off of Howard St near Western Ave.)
 - SNAP/EBT benefits are accepted and doubled – make a \$10 EBT debit and receive another \$10 to spend at the market.
- More info at...
www.cambridgewinterfarmersmarket.com

MCAS Date Reminder:

Grade 4 & 7 ELA (Long Comp.) – March 19th (Make up date March 28th)

Grades 3 -5 ELA – March 18th – April 5th

Please check the back of the Morse March Calendar for exact grade and testing dates.

Children taking the MCAS should be well rested (not just the night before) and have a healthy breakfast the day of testing.

Twentieth Annual Summer Resource/Camp Information Night

Thursday, March 7, 2013

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Cambridge Rindge & Latin High School
459 Broadway, Main Cafeteria

SNOW DATE: Thursday, March 14, 2013

Come meet the representatives for Cambridge Community School
inclusive camps and other private and public camps, including
Programs for children with special needs

- Camp programs for youth (Grades K - 8)
- Day and Residential Camps
- Programs for Middle School students
- Job opportunities for teens

Entertainment and art activities for children
& light supper provided

Parking is available in the school garage

For additional information, call Roslyn Shoy at 617-349-6227

The City of Cambridge, Community Schools do not discriminate in providing services on the basis of race, religion, national origin, cultural heritage, political beliefs, sexual preference, marital status or disability. The Department of Human Services will provide auxiliary aids, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon request.

TTY/TDD: 617-492-0235

Sponsored by Cambridge Community Schools
Department of Human Service Programs

