



Kindergarten created snowflakes made in Art Class with Mrs. Kerr. The above photo is a display of these wonderful unique snowflakes on the rolling display board near the library. As the saying goes, "no two snowflakes are alike." In the center of the display is a poem written while the students in one kindergarten class watched the snow fall that very snowy Friday a couple of weeks ago (Friday March 8th). You can read the poem on page 7.

Morse Messenger

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<http://morse.cpsd.us>

March 2013

School Breakfast Challenge

National School Breakfast Week was the week of March 4th - 8th. To recognize this, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education partnered with the Massachusetts Dairy Council and the National Football League's Fuel Up to Play 60 program. They are launching a Massachusetts School Breakfast Challenge and the press conference was held in the Morse School Cafeteria on Wednesday March 6 at 9:15am. Some of the guests at the press conference included Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education for the state of Massachusetts, Mitchell Chester; the Commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Greg Watson; USDA Food & Nutrition Regional Administrator, James C. Arena-DeRosa; City of Cambridge Mayor, Henrietta Davis; CPSD Director of Food/Nutrition Service, Melissa Honeywood; and Former New England Patriot, Jermaine Wiggins.

What is the School Breakfast Challenge? The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) is challenging Massachusetts School Districts to increase their school breakfast participation by 35%. Districts will compete for awards and prizes from January 2013 to December 2014. For more information and to join the challenge, please visit <http://www.maschoolbreakfast.org/>



March's Core Virtue is
Faithfulness

Faithfulness:
 Fidelity: the quality of
 being faithful.





Tufted Titmouse Birds Spotted in Morse Interior Garden

Many staff and students have witnessed at least three Tufted Titmouse Birds hanging around the interior Garden Courtyard. They have caused much excitement! If you haven't spotted them yourself and would like to try to see them, simply watch the bird feeder hanging near the hallway of the Art Room. Their heads look similar to a Blue Jay's, but they are not as colorful, and a bit plumper.

The Tufted Titmouse (Baeolophus bicolor) is a small songbird from North America, a species in the tit and chickadee family (Paridae).

The song is usually described as a whistled peter-peter-peter. They make a variety of different sounds, most having a similar tone quality.



Dr. Seuss' Birthday celebrated Friday, March 1, 2013

The classrooms and hallways of the Morse were a buzz celebrating Dr. Seuss's Birthday. A variety of activities happened in different grade levels. Miss Pennell, our librarian went into every class to read a Dr. Seuss Book. Many classes made Dr. Seuss hats and bow ties in many different ways; some were made from paper bags, some were made and attached to headbands. One class watched the video of Green Eggs and Ham, while another class designed their own Dr. Seuss inspired aprons and actually made and ate Green Eggs and Ham. Another class drew pictures of their favorite thing they have thunk. Every staff member had their photo taken as a Dr. Seuss character (pictured above) and some classes used this computer program with their students.

"You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose."

— Dr. Seuss, Oh, the Places You'll Go!



Book Buddies

Has your student come home and mentioned spending time with their Book Buddy?

Do you wonder exactly what a Book Buddy is?

Well here at the Morse, Book Buddies is a pairing of an older class of students with a younger class of students. They meet once a week or once every other week and read stories, do math activities, hallway scavenger hunts, share writing projects and do projects together related to a theme. There are benefits for both the younger and older students.

For the younger students it is someone to read with them and help them with special projects and activities. For the older student it is the sense of being a role model. It is also special for the older student, as they can remember being the younger Book Buddy. Book Buddies has been happening at the Morse for many years now. It started simply with one Kindergarten and Fifth grade Class and has grown since it's beginning!

Grade 2 -

MLK Jr. Performance

The second grade classes recently learned all about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his dream for equality. They began by reading many books about freedom, justice, and equality. Students also learned through songs and prepared a performance about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. All of the students have worked hard to learn about his life and everyone got to think of their own dream for the future. Each student drew a picture and recorded what their dream is. This "slideshow" was shown during the performance, and a bulletin board hangs in the Main Hallway.

The performance began with Dr. King's own voice giving his famous "I have a dream speech" given on August 28, 1963. The students then took the stage and told us through song and recited poems about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The performance ended with a great song, "This Little Light of Mine", where the lights were dimmed and glow-sticks shined brightly. The final words were "Let freedom ring from the Morse School to the Haggerty School... Let freedom ring all around the World".



Grade 5 Ballroom Dancing Showcase

Ballroom Dancing Unit: By Theresa O'Connor, Physical Education Teacher

Once again, the Cambridge Public Schools made it possible for the 5th graders to take Ballroom Dancing lessons during their physical education classes for seven weeks, from mid-January to March.

In conjunction with the Kids Ballroom Dancing Program of Massachusetts, a professional dance instructor joined the Morse Physical Education teachers, classroom teachers and aides, in the implementation of the ballroom dance curriculum. It is felt that it is important for all children to understand how to act in a socially acceptable way with each other. The students were offered guidance in learning to feel comfortable in social situations (ex. talking, making introductions and meeting others). During classes the students often change partners to enable the children to see how meeting others can be a fun and enjoyable experience.

The ballroom dance curriculum introduced students to an understanding of five popular dances: meringue, foxtrot, swing, waltz, and tango, and several popular line dances. The unit introduces a fundamental knowledge of the basic steps, a good frame and dance position, and dance etiquette. The unit culminated in a semi-formal dance performance at CRLS on March 5, 2013, together with other Cambridge elementary schools. The physical Education teachers recommend viewing the movie, "Mad Hot Ballroom", which is a wonderful documentary about the 5th grade program in New York City from which the CPSD program is modeled. **On Wednesday, March 20th the 5th grade showed off their dancing skills to the 4th grade, a few younger classes, and staff. Everyone was very impressed!**

After the Ballroom Dance Showcase the 5th grade students were asked to write a summary of how they felt about Ballroom Dancing, the Showcase and the experience. Below are a few quotes from their writings:

Ballroom Dancing was the best night of my life! I loved the way everyone dressed, how they danced, and how happy they looked. Everyone danced so gracefully and looked like they were having a blast. I loved it so much; I wish I could do it again! I owe all my dance skills to the dance teacher Paul! ~ Stephanie G.

When my older sister first told me about Ballroom Dancing I was scared to death, but when I tried the dances, I found out that it was really fun. My favorite was Swing. ~ Jana B.

Near the end there was a contest for the Meringue, my partner and I were so nervous about who was going to win. We decided that even if we didn't win, it wouldn't matter; all that mattered was that we had FUN! ~ Juliana F.

At First, I was like Ballroom Dancing is going to be boring. When I learned the meringue I knew it was going to be fun. ~ Zari L.

I liked all the dances, but my favorite dance is the Tango, because it is dramatic and I am dramatic. I really want to say THANK – YOU Paul for teaching us. ~ Selena B.Y.

There was a lot of practice, and we had bad days, but we turned out great in the end. ~ Olivia S.

(Ballroom Reviews Continued)

I thought ballroom dancing was partly fun, partly boring, and partly I guess awkward. It was fun because we got to learn new things, or dances. We got closer as a class, because we were all experiencing the same thing and going through the same thing... The first time, it felt so weird getting up close with a classmate, and physically touching them. Getting your hands all sweaty because of them, doing dramatic tango dips with them. I half liked ballroom dancing and half didn't, but I hope 4th, 3rd, and 2nd graders do!... At the exhibition there were a lot of people and kids in dresses and fancy clothes. There were six schools dancing, each school had a section in the bleachers. We started with the Electric Slide line dance. Everyone did it nicely and we cooperated. ~ Tess W.



My experience with Ballroom Dance was amazing. My favorite part was the exhibition. I had so much fun with my partners and I loved to watch the MIT dancers. ~ Alyssa S.

Ballroom Dancing wasn't my favorite thing...On the night of the showcase I wasn't scared or nervous. I had an ok time. I enjoyed watching the M.I.T. dancers. ~ Jasper K.

I kind of liked Ballroom Dancing in the gym...Before the Ballroom Dancing Exhibition I was confident. I was happy at the end. ~ Jaden Y.

On Tuesday, March 5th was the performance of the Ballroom Dancing Exhibition. I do not dance but I went there to support my friends and classmates. I think our school did a pretty good job. On that night everyone was dressed fancy and nice. I really liked what my friends choose to wear, it was fabulous. I really liked all the dances that they danced. ~ Muzn O.

What I thought about Ballroom Dancing is that it was a great experience! We didn't get to pick our partners, but we still had lots and lots of fun! ~ Daija M.

We learned five dances: The Meringue, Waltz, Swing, Tango and Fox Trot. We also learned so line dances....At the end of the performance, I was really proud of learning the steps to all those dances. I learned, it is fun and if I had to do it again, I would. ~ Arien A.

I had a good time. My favorite dance is the Electric Slide. ~ Chris K.

Ballroom Dancing is so amazing! When it was the big day of the Showcase I was excited about it. ~ Martha S.

Ms. Bishop and Mr. Maloney and lots of the other teachers were really encouraging for us. ~ Nameless

When we first stepped into the CRLS Gymnasium, I was feeling confident of the Showcase...The day of the showcase I was pumped up and ready to dance. ~ Kiswah H.

I loved ballroom dancing: I loved doing it in P.E and I enjoyed the Showcase very much. My favorite dance was the Meringue. I loved the swishy movements. I think Paul was an awesome teacher. Once he taught us something we knew it. The Showcase was very, very exciting. It was so much fun to be dancing in front of all those people. I have to admit, I was a bit nervous, but it all ended up great. Ballroom Dancing was awesome! ~ Franny O.



Friends of the Morse School



Save the Date:

Hello Friends of Morse!

A big community event is coming up in Cambridge and I hope you'll pen us in on your busy calendar:

What: Friends of the Morse School Silent Auction & Raffle, to benefit the Morse School
Date: Sunday, April 7
Time: 4 pm to 6:30 pm
Venue: Flat Top Johnny's in Kendall Square
Tickets: \$10 per person/\$15 per couple (plus children)

It would be great if you could join us and support our school! It would also be great if you could spread the word.

Local businesses and supporters have generously donated fantastic auction and raffle items--check out the growing list at <http://friendsofmorse.org/silent-auction>

We have a lot of great items (a week's stay at townhouse in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, anyone?) to auction off at a variety of price points, and many raffle items. There is something for everyone: restaurants, museums, books, laser tag, theater, and more!

Invitations will be coming out in the coming weeks so be on the lookout. And be sure to bring friends--the more the merrier!

Friends of Morse School Meeting Dates:

April 24 - *Next Meeting*
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/>



Introducing Morse Staff Member.... Marie Hercule, Head of Kitchen



As part of the morning's events for the School Breakfast Challenge on March

6th, our own Marie in the kitchen was awarded the "Helping Angel" Award for her service to the children in Cambridge and for her work on promoting healthy eating and nutrition. So congratulate Marie when you see her!

Name: Marie Jose' Hercule

Birthday: June 18, 1950



Education: *Secretarial Certificate* - Institution Colimon Boisson, Port-au-Prince, Haiti; Ecole de Commerce Port-au-Prince. *Certified Nurse's Assistant and Home Health Aid* - Community Learning Center & American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay.

Family: Married and blessed with 5 beautiful children (3 girls & 2 boys) and 2 grandchildren (1 boy & 1 girl). This June will be my 40th Wedding Anniversary.

Pets: A dog (back in Haiti)

Hobbies: Church and I LOVE to cook!

Best habit: Helping People

Worst habit: Shopping

Currently reading: My Bible

Favorite book as a child: la Jeune fille face a la vie (The Young Girl Face to Life)

Favorite book as an adult: The Bible & E.W.T.N Newsletter

Favorite restaurant: Texas Road House

Favorite Music: Gospel music

Favorite teacher: My English Teacher, Joanne Hartel from the Community Learning Center in Cambridge

Additional information: Fluent in French & Creole, Mary Kay Consultant, typist, can make a dress from a pattern, have Serv Safe Certification.

If you had one wish, what would it be? To travel all over the world with my family.

In Writer's Workshop, second graders have learned how to write persuasive reviews of restaurants, books and movies. Martina R.P. decided to review our very own school cafeteria! Let's see if you're convinced to try a meal there...

Awe, are you tired teachers, principals, people who work at a school? Who am I kidding, of course you are! Well, I have a cafeteria for you! I think the Morse School Cafeteria is a great way to get lunch or breakfast. First, it has so many seats. If you brought a party of 18, I assure you, they'll all sit at one table. Second, they have lots and lots of options. Sometimes I can't pick there's so many delicious plates. Every day they have something different. I have two favorites; cheesy pizza, dripping with cheese, or a yummy hamburger filled with ketchup, cheese, tomatoes and crisp lettuce. Third of all, the cafeteria workers are very nice. They ask, "What do you want?" before they serve you and give you the food. So if you go to the Morse School Cafeteria, you should remember me, the 8-year-old girl who told you about this great place to eat!



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



Mr. Klinman's Kindergarten class wrote a poem while watching the snowfall on Friday, March 8th: They made a list of many thoughts and experiences. Then Mr. Klinman put it all together in this poem:

Snow Senses

*Everything looks white today
Look close to see the crystal snowflakes.*

*Sometimes you can hear the wind.
The snow is falling fast then slow.
Sometimes you can hear it land,
And everything gets covered with the sticky
snow.*

*Taste the drops on your tongue;
The snow tastes like water.*

*Hold your hands to catch some flakes;
Touch it and it feels sticky.
The snow is watery and cold and it melts on
your skin.*

*Bundle up to go outside.
My body can be cold.
But then I am cozy in my hat.
And sloppy in my big boots.*

*I leave icy footprints.
I slip and slide.
I jump in a cold pile like a pool.
Sink in, and the white soft snow feels like rabbit
fur.
It feels like a cold bed when I make snow angels.
Now I am covered.
Now my clothes are wet.*

*At night, lights turn the snow different colors.
They show the snow all around,
Glistening like diamonds
On a pillow of white.*



Morse Afterschool Program – Grades 2-5 Build a City!

The Morse 2-5 Afterschool uses Project Based Learning for our curriculum. For this particular project we did a unit on our Cambridge community. Through writing and discussion, students identified key institutions such as schools, hospitals, police etc. as well as used maps to find their homes and favorite places in Cambridge.

The final result was a miniature community, which is on display in the Morse Library. Each student worked in a group or alone to build the community including the institutions our class found to be important to our community. Students also made pledges and had other students and teachers sign them to help make our Morse Community stronger.

Miss Pennell says "Please stop by the Library to view this incredible project for yourself!"



BoxTops for Education
Continue to clip BoxTops for Education.

Both First Grade classrooms combined their clipped BoxTops and are the winners of the contest.



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_Green_Tips:

CitySmart Program

Find all the resources you need to get around without getting behind the wheel at CitySmart. CitySmart helps you take advantage of all your options by offering maps, guides, tips, schedules and more. Find a new way to travel and help the environment! <http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Transportation/CitySmart.aspx>

School Sustainability Pledge

Check out the new Cambridge Green Schools Initiative [Sustainability Pledge](#), which covers multiple environmental categories including products, food, energy, waste and green space. Questions or feedback? Contact Sustainability Manager, Kristen von Hoffmann at kvonhoffmann@cpsd.us.

Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet

Did you know that the Cambridge Police Department has a collection drop box for [unused medications](#) at 125 Sixth St, first floor lobby? Place medications in a sealed bag and place in the box. Items accepted: prescription & over-the-counter, vitamins, medication samples, veterinary medications and narcotics. No open containers of liquid and no syringes. Why turn in unused drugs? Children and animals could be poisoned if they find and swallow drugs, drugs can be scavenged and illegally sold, unused drugs are environmental toxins; flushing them down the toilet or sink can release them into our drinking water and soil. Also, the Health Center at 119 Windsor St accepts [needles and syringes](#) in a puncture-proof container (detergent bottles, coffee cans), sealed with tape.

**Next School Council Meeting:
Wednesday, April 3, 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 3rd.

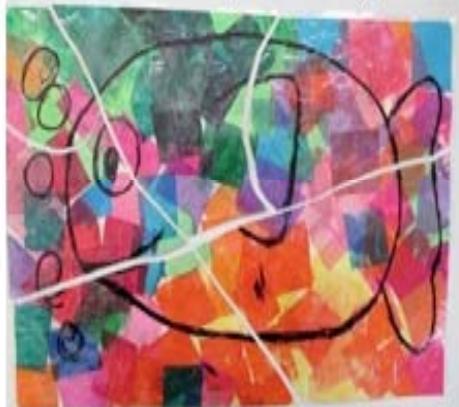
All parent/guardians always welcome!

Art Studio Updates

Congratulations to 5 Morse School students who were selected to display their artwork at the annual Cambridge Public Schools Annual Spring Art Exhibition. Evelyn R. and Kalinda M., and Iman I., Augie O., and Jayden S. were the Morse representatives. The show was held at Harvard University's Longfellow Hall for 3 weeks in March.

Keep checking the Morse Art blog for more updates about the happenings in the Art Studio!
www.morsearts.wordpress.com

SAVE THE DATE **Morse School Art Show** **@ Gallery 263**



April 8-13

Artists' Reception:
April 9th, 5-7pm

Gallery 263 is located at 263 Pearl Street, 3 blocks from school.

Save the Date! The Instrumental Teachers would like to **invite** all those that would like to attend the premiere performance of the Morse Fifth Grade Orchestra and Concert Band. **Friday April 5th at 9:00 AM in the Auditorium.**



Kindness Campaign Update:

Our Kindness Heart is growing in the Main Lobby it now has 272 Acts of Kindness represented.



For Your Information...

On Monday afternoons from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM, have you ever noticed a fish truck sitting in the Morse parking lot?

Well this fish truck is part of the Farmer's Market that is in the lot from May to October on Saturdays – with the exception that the truck is here every week throughout the entire year every Monday. If you like fish and wish to become a customer to get fresh caught fish weekly (mostly catch of the week) please visit: Cape Ann Fresh Catch Community Supported Fishery - <http://www.capecannfreshcatch.org/about.html> Or call 978-283-2504