

*Quote for the Month:* "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go.."

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



# Morse Messenger

Issue #7

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Edited by: Bess Gutter, Learning Disability Specialist

March 2014

## Morse School DHSP Preschool Welcomes Spring

*Written By Linda Dahl, Director*

The Morse Preschool children celebrated the first day of spring by having a bright, colorful "Wake Up Spring" parade. Each child created their own costume at home, which included butterflies, flowers, a duck and a mouse, baseball players, and a chef to cook Fenway Franks.

As the children paraded throughout the school, it brought bright smiles from the teachers and children on a very gloomy first day of spring.

HAPPY SPRING!



## Upcoming In April:

- 4/2 - Class Picture Day  
6:30 PM – School Council
- 4/10 – 8:15 AM - Principal's Coffee  
9:00 AM – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Poetry Show
- 4/14 – 6:30 PM Friends of Morse School Meeting
- 4/16 – Report Card Pick Up / Parent Conferences (*more information to follow from classroom teacher*)
- 4/20 – 4/25 – April Vacation Week – NO SCHOOL
- 4/30 – 5:45 PM - Morse Annual Math/Literacy Carnival

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## Did you Know???

### March Core Virtue:

#### **Faithfulness:**

*Faithfulness is standing by those we love, those we serve, and what we believe.*



#### **Time to start thinking about Summer Camp!**

*If you are looking for information about Summer Camps offered to the children of Cambridge, please visit:*

*<http://www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP/programsforfamilies/summercamps.aspx>*

*This site will really help you! It breaks down camps by neighborhood and age groups!*

*If you want information including overnight camps please contact Cambridge Camping Association 617-864-0960 or visit: <http://www.cambridgecamping.org/camps>*

*Do you have a question? Do not be afraid to ask it; maybe someone else is wondering the same thing. You could see the answer in a future issue. Email questions to [desullivan@cpsd.us](mailto:desullivan@cpsd.us)*

## SAVE THE DATE!

# Morse School Art Show

May 19-24<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
@Gallery 263

more info to follow soon  
[www.morsearts.wordpress.com](http://www.morsearts.wordpress.com)

## **“Dance in Schools” Happens in Mr. Macomber’s 3rd Grade Class** *Written by: Scott Macomber, Teacher*



This year, the students in Mr. Macomber’s Third Grade class participated in the Dance in the Schools 2014 program. Mr. Macomber’s class had two lessons, led by instructor Kate Bresee. The focus of the lessons was mathematics and patterns as well as learning about movement, dance, and balance.

Each lesson started with a warm-up activity. Students learned about “first position” as well as controlled, structured warm-up activities. Students each took turns choosing parts of their bodies (even eyebrows!) for everybody to move fast and slow to a rhythm and with counting.

For the second half of each lesson, students practiced dancing and movement both individually, with partners, and in groups. At our first lesson, we practiced moving while skip counting (a great way to learn multiplication facts). At our second lesson, we practiced using our bodies to make geometric shapes and measure perimeters.

The lessons were great fun with tons of smiles and laughter. Everybody came away with newfound knowledge (I learned how to plié!). Dance in the Schools is a great way to learn and have fun. Many thanks to Kate, our teacher, and we all look forward to participating in this wonderful program again next year!





## **Mad Hot Ballroom – Cambridge Style**

Ted Reinstein from WCVB Channel 5's local show *Chronicle* wrote a story "Dancing with the Students"

Check it out: <http://www.wcvb.com/chronicle/dancing-with-the-students/24976816#JBk4UD>

On Monday, March 10, 2014 at 7:00 PM, five schools in Cambridge participated in a program called "Mad Hot Ballroom", which teaches children how to ballroom dance. On the evening of the big night, a lot was going on. First off, there was a reporter for the television show *Chronicle*. Most of the Morse students were interviewed, and if you got there by 5:45 PM, you got to be interviewed separately. The music for the dances (meringue, waltz, swing, tango and foxtrot) was really loud, but it made it fun. When we actually went into the gym at the War Memorial to dance, there were so many people, I couldn't believe my eyes! There was not one empty seat! Everybody was cheering for all the schools, and I think most of us had a lot of fun. The only thing was, in the beginning, everybody was uncomfortable, because it was like, "ugh, I don't want to touch a girl," or "Ew! I don't want to touch a boy!" But we got over it.

For me, the most fun part was when the people from MIT came to dance for us. They were amazing! My classmates, and me were very impressed. After they had danced for us, we had what we call, "The Meringue Showdown". Basically what happens is all the schools dance to the meringue again, and the judges pick random pairs to win a trophy. In the end, though, every pair that got picked won a trophy. The pair from the Morse was Kate and Francisco.

My favorite dance was the swing dance, because it was so fun, you were kind of jumping and, well, swinging around! Good luck fourth graders!  
~ Nawal I.

When we first started ballroom dancing, the class did not want to do it. A couple of weeks later we were like, ok I'll do this. Then everybody wanted to Ballroom Dancing!!! Before we went to the high school (War Memorial), we watched the documentary movie "Mad Hot Ballroom". Those people taught us how to dance even better. They moved their hips, and they had nice moves. My favorite dance would have to be Swing because it was entertaining, and fun. So we were at the high school and I got a bit nervous because, I was concentrating on my partner. So after the dances I was relieved. Lastly when I got home, I was happy dancing.

~ Sebastian I.

Ballroom dancing is about dances that are showing feeling. It's not about the dancing to people to marry them or because you like them. Ballroom dancing is a sport. It requires lots of teamwork and having good posture. It is like dancing to any song you like.

One of my favorite kinds of dances is swing. I love the tune and the beat "triple step. Triple step, rock step" like I am actually singing it. My least favorite of the dances is the Foxtrot; because it is really confusing and I never got it right. Ugh.

I also like the Meringue because the dance is really catchy. Once you do it, you can't stop doing it again. The Tango was good but the only thing I like about it is the part when we go to the center. That was pretty fun.  
~Lamiya M.

At the Ballroom dancing exhibition I had fun. The idea I had in my mind about Ballroom dancing was very different from what ended up being. Everybody looked handsome and pretty all dressed up. Some girls me included learned both the male and female parts.

I was nervous at first before I saw most of my friends, but once I saw them the nerves just melted away. I got much happier once we started. I thought I did a pretty good job in the dance off, I was happy when my friend Kate got chosen to be part of the "Morse Team". Everybody was very happy for Kate and Francisco. I think one of our classmates was excited, he ran around the gym with the trophy Kate and Francisco won.  
~ Hiwot S.

On Monday, March 10, 2014, the Morse School, grade 5 Ballroom danced at Cambridge Rindge & Latin High School. At first I was nervous, but then I was a little bit excited. The dancing wasn't a competition it was just an exhibition. Everybody dressed up nicely.

During our practice, we went over our posture, our facial expressions and our partners. The dances we did were the Meringue, Waltz, Swing, Tango and the Foxtrot. I didn't like the Foxtrot cause it was too slow.  
~Jonathan L.



*There we were in the hallway outside of the high school gym, some of us playing soccer with a skittle candy. Teachers, parents, aunts, uncles, siblings, and everyone else were somewhere on the designated bleachers, cheering for us to come on. We were with four other Cambridge Public Schools, doing five dances. It was only fifth graders. The dances were: the Meringue, Waltz, Swing, Tango and the Foxtrot. They called our school, and we walked on, some of us nervous, some excited, no one being negative. Everyone inspired by a documentary we watched called “Mad Hot Ballroom”. We were doing “Mad Hot Cambridge”. If the people doing Mad Hot Ballroom could do it, then so could we. It was weird seeing the boys all dressed up, with a thing that seemed to choke them around their necks (a tie). The Girls dressed up in dresses, not in jeans or leggings. I was partnered with Mauricio for the first dance, the Meringue. He was excellent. Each dance went on, and everyone was great. Go Kate and Francisco Meringue Champs of the Morse! M.I.T. Dancers were there and they were phenomenal, so was Dance Fever (another dance group)! In the beginning it was very awkward and weird to touch a boy like we had to (joined hands). And I am sure it was the same for the boys. I have to admit in the first few weeks I did not want to do it at all, but I stuck with it. In the end it all paid off. We had a great time. My mom and dad said that they now know I can do a mean Tango. Who knows maybe one of us will do this as a living, and maybe be on Dancing with the Stars. I wish I could do it again; it was a great learning experience!*

~Aristaia Y. C.



*Looking to the Future: What happens when my child leaves this school?*

Time flies quickly! Before you know it, your child will move to an Upper School and then to Cambridge Rindge & Latin (CRLS). Are you curious as to what happens in these schools? Do you want to know more?

*It is NEVER to early to find out what lies ahead!*

To quench your thirst for knowledge, please visit the following links to read or subscribe to the Upper School(s) and CRLS Newsletters:

Cambridge Street Upper: [http://cambridgestreet.CPSD.US/news/csus\\_newspaper](http://cambridgestreet.CPSD.US/news/csus_newspaper)

Putnam Avenue Upper: <http://putnamavenue.cpsd.us/news/newsletter>

Rindge Avenue Upper: <http://rindgeavenue.cpsd.us/news/newsletter>

Vassal Lane Upper: [http://vassallane.cpsd.us/news/school\\_newspaper](http://vassallane.cpsd.us/news/school_newspaper)

CRLS: [http://crls.cpsd.us/news/crls\\_parent\\_newsletter](http://crls.cpsd.us/news/crls_parent_newsletter)

**Door #9 Arrival & Dismissal Reminder**

**Only students in Special Start should be entering through door #9 from 8:00 AM – 8:10 AM.**

**Students in grades JK – 3 may enter from 8:10 AM – 8:25 AM**

*Cold Days & Rainy days: families can wait in the Main Lobby until the 8:10 “Bell”.*

**At dismissal – Door #9 opens at 2:25 PM**

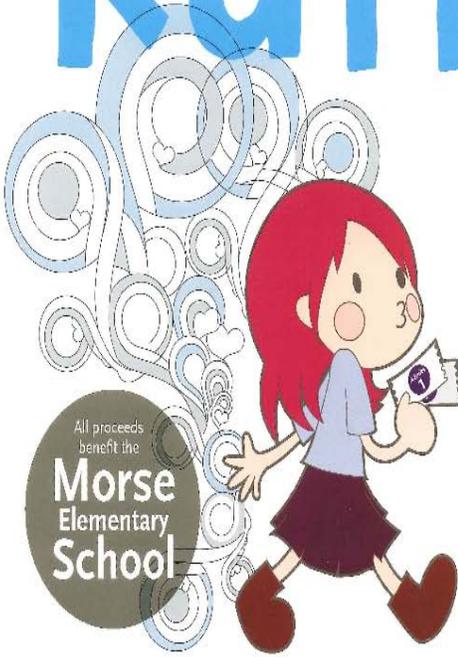
*Once again, on Cold or Rainy days, adults can wait in the Main Lobby and come down to the classrooms to pick up their child when the 2:25 “Bell” Sounds*

**Safety for all students here at Morse is our number one concern. Keeping the arrival/dismissal areas free of extra bodies helps everyone get to where they need to be safely.**

Friends of the Morse School



# Friends of the Morse School **Silent** **Auction & Raffle**



March  
**30** Sunday  
2014

at Flat Top Johnny's  
in Kendall Square  
4:30-6:30 pm

~~~~~  
Raffle starts at 5:45,  
Auction bidding  
closes at 6  
~~~~~

Admission \$10 per person/  
\$15 per couple (+kids)  
Come enjoy an afternoon  
with friends and play pool  
for a good cause.

Exciting auction prizes  
includes Red Sox  
tickets, two Sonos  
Play: wireless hi-fi  
speakers, and a week's  
stay in a condo in Italy!

Other great auction and raffle  
prizes generously donated by  
local business and supporters  
include restaurant gift  
certificates, books, museum  
and movie passes, laser tag  
and theater tickets, personal  
training, spa services, sporting  
goods, car care and more!

Visit [friendsofmorse.org](http://friendsofmorse.org)  
for more information!

Many thanks to Flat Top Johnny's for  
hosting and to One Kendall Square Garage  
for providing parking for this event!



## Friends of Morse Friday Night Movies



Enjoy a family-friendly film at the Morse School on those  
dark, cold winter nights! *There's no charge to attend*, though  
donations are appreciated. Pizza, snacks, and drinks will be  
available for purchase before the movie.

**Doors open at 6 pm, movies begin at 6:30 pm.**

**April 4**

### Friends of Morse School Meeting Dates:

The Friends of the Morse School is dedicated to  
supporting the educational experience of  
students, fostering community, and celebrating  
the diversity of the school.

**Purpose:** The purpose of The Friends of the  
Morse School is to focus our energies on positive  
ways to strengthen the Morse community and  
support the activities at the school. We expect to  
accomplish this by: Supporting the teachers;  
Supplementing classroom activities; Planning  
community events; Complementing the School  
Improvement Council and its activities;  
Facilitating family communications; Fostering  
relationships with neighbors and businesses.

You are invited to come to a meeting and find  
out more! **Meeting dates, All on MONDAYS:**  
*April 14, May 12, and June 2.*

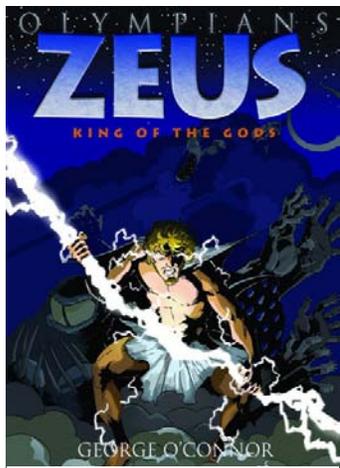
To learn more please  
visit: <http://www.friendsofmorse.org/>

Morse School  
**LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER**

spennell@cpsd.us | (617) 349-3240



# Library Updates



Miss Pennell read *Zeus: King of the Gods* (the first in the Olympians series) to E6 and E8 prior to meeting George O'Connor.

### Meeting George O'Connor

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, the fourth grade went to the Cambridge Public Library to meet George O'Connor, author of the Olympians graphic novels. He told us all about himself and his books. Did you know that when he was in the fourth grade, drawing muscle men, monsters, and pretty ladies was his hobby? George O'Connor showed us the process of making a book and drawing. We learned a lot! I hope you check out some of the Olympians books!

**-Calla W., 4<sup>th</sup> grade**



Fourth grade Greek mythology lover, Etelson A., drew his own version of Athena (above).

Have you checked out Miss Pennell's Website yet? Here is the link.

<https://sites.google.com/a/cpsd.us/morse-library/>



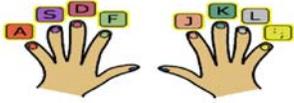
### Attention 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Graders!

Our M.C.B.A. Pizza Party will be on 3/17. Remember, to be invited you need to read 5 books from the list. **Happy Reading!**



### Read any good books lately? Need a recommendation?

Do you want to share a book you enjoyed? Write a little book review and give it to Miss Pennell! She will gladly put it up on the book review bulletin board outside the library.



## **Keyboarding Update**

*By Rosie Delacruz, Instructional Technology Specialist*

Students in Grades 3-5 have been working on their keyboard skills by doing lessons at the **CPSD Typing Club portal**. Once a month, I give a timed typing test to students during their session at the computer lab to see how they are doing on their speed and accuracy. In March, the following students have reached or surpassed the suggested typing goals for their grade level:

### **Grade 3 Typing Goal: 10 WPM - 80% Accuracy**

Ayatt E.  
Nicolas F.  
Brian L.

### **Grade 4 Typing Goal: 15 WPM - 80% Accuracy**

Helina A.  
Etelson A.  
Jeffrey F.  
Imran H.  
Timothy S.  
Suraiya S.  
Calla W.

### **Grade 5 Typing Goal: 20 WPM - 85% Accuracy**

Ahmed B.  
Stella J.  
Jordan L.  
Jonathan L.  
Takeiyah M.  
Amena N.  
Nick O.  
Gregory T.

I have also introduced the keyboard to students in Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2. They are learning to use their left and right pointer fingers to type letters that are either on the left or right side of the keyboard.

*If you are looking for more keyboarding activities, you can check out the activities listed below. Please note that some of them are specifically for younger students while others are for older children. Enjoy!*

### **Keyboard Zoo**

[http://www.abcya.com/keyboarding\\_practice.htm](http://www.abcya.com/keyboarding_practice.htm)

### **ABCYa - Keyboard Puzzle**

<http://www.abcya.com/keyboard.htm>

### **Dance Mat Typing**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/>

### **Keyseeker**

<http://www.annrymer.com/keyseekerhttp://www.annrymer.com/keyseeker/>

### **Typing Test**

<http://www.typingtest.com/index.htmlhttp://www.typingtest.com/index.html>  
<http://www.typingtest.com/index.html>

### **Typing Games Treasure (Key Man, Key Tower)**

<http://www.typingtest.com/gamesv2.htmlhttp://www.typingtest.com/gamesv2.html>  
<http://www.typingtest.com/gamesv2.html>

### **Type Racer**

<http://play.typeracer.com/http://play.typeracer.com/>  
<http://play.typeracer.com/>

### **Free Typing Game**

<http://www.freetypinggame.net/play.aspxhttp://www.freetypinggame.net/play.aspx>  
<http://www.freetypinggame.net/play.aspx>