

“Actions speak louder than words” ~ Unknown

Morse Messenger



Issue #3

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Edited by: Bess Gutter, Learning Disability Specialist

November 2013

Morse School Experiences International Culture

Friends of Morse International Festival

By Liz Johnson, Parent & FoMS Event Planner

On October 25th, the Friends of Morse was proud to sponsor the International Festival. We hope all of you who were able to attend had a wonderful time -- it was one of the best yet! The festival was a great opportunity to get to know some of our new Morse families, and of course, see a lot of familiar faces.

The Morse is so lucky to have such a large, international population that brought potluck dishes that were abundant and delicious. Dishes from Korea, India, Canada, Italy, Poland, Serbia, Barbados and Ethiopia were tried, to name a few. Even some of the students were convinced to try some new foods!

There were activities for everyone. Once again, Strega Nona and Big Anthony visited, all the way from Italy. Their dramatic interpretation of the classic folktale showed what could go wrong when you don't listen, and mess with a magic spaghetti pot.

As families entered the school, they were given a passport to collect stamps in for participating in many activities. Chinese Lanterns were made, decorated paper hand cutouts in a Mehndi style were decorated, students tried to guess which country the mystery food came from and there were races with chopsticks. New this year, the gym was set up to showcase some of the popular sports from around the world, and students even had a chance to shoot some hoops and kick some goals. Guitarist Gian Carlo serenaded as people made their way through the halls.

Deepest appreciation is extended to the fabulous volunteers who helped bring the night together and make it a success! Also, thanks to all of the families who participated and made it a true celebration of the Morse community. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the next Friends of Morse event!



Please turn to page 6 to read about Room E6 - Grade 4 Cultural Potluck Luncheon

Did you Know???

Books to Share!

The bookshelf near the B-Wing doors (door #9) on Granite Street you can find the Morse School Community Bookshelf. You can bring any of these books home with you to read outside of school.

THE SHELVES ARE GETTING BARE! So we are also seeking book donations to keep shelves full of books. If you have books at home you are finished with, please add them to the shelves for other families to enjoy. We are not asking for bag and bags, just when you see it empty to add a few. Take a book, give a book, share a book, and READ a book!

Google Group

By joining the Morse Google Group, you will receive information about school events (such as meetings, performances, etc.), district happenings, as well as community events.

If you would like to be added to the group please fill in the information below or email desullivan@cpsd.us with the information. Please put "Add to Google Group" as the subject.

Additional Books to Share Space:

Located near the library there is a cart for books to be shared. These books are typically for the older students grades 3, 4 & 5 so we are asking if your child in those grades has an a few books they have finished reading and would like to share, please place them on the shelves. They are also welcomed to take a book they would like to read!

Take a book!
Give a book!
Share a book!
Read a book!

Family Information Station

Located in the Main Lobby near the Auditorium doors is the Family Information Station. On this organized Station you can find many helpful pieces of information.

Featuring: copies of the CPSD school year calendar, the monthly Morse calendar & Newsletter, Title one monthly calendar, important notices, afterschool programs, out of school time activities and much more. Please stop by and help yourself to any material that you need.

Still Seeking Siblings:

Do you have a younger child who is ready to start school in Cambridge?

If you have a child who will be **4-years old by March 31, 2014**, your child is eligible for Kindergarten in September 2013. S/he is considered a Junior Kindergartener and will spend two years in Kindergarten.

If you have a child who will be **5-years old by August 31, 2014** s/he is eligible for Kindergarten and will spend one year in Kindergarten.

Please get in touch with Denise Sullivan 617-349-6679 or desullivan@cpsd.us before December break!

Morse Library

The Morse Library has extended hours, which gives families the opportunity to come and borrow books to read at home. Please visit the library website, <http://morse.cpsd.us/library/library> for extended hours and to also find out what your child is doing during their library time.

Please note: Sometimes, due to small blips (ie: sickness, an unplanned crazy morning or afternoon) there maybe no one to cover and you may find the library closed. You will find this is a very rare circumstance.

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

Epi Pens & Allergies for Bus Students

By: Tina Fisher, Transportation Supervisor

The bus drivers and monitors completed an epi-pen training with the Cambridge Alliance nursing staff at the Tobin building on November 13th. They have been directed to become familiar with the students carrying EPI-pens. This is very important for the welfare of the child while on board the school bus and could save valuable time during an emergency.

One of the drivers had a great idea and suggested that information regarding this be given to all families:

MEDICAL ALERT

It is very important that you inform your bus driver and monitor of any medical conditions your child has that may need to be addressed while riding the school bus. All students requiring an EPI-pen must carry the pen in the front pouch of their back pack and the driver and monitor must be informed that the students has an allergy that may require them to administrate the use of the pen.

If you have any questions or concerns with sharing this information you can contact the Transportation Office at 617-349-6862.

Thank you for allowing us to transport your child in the safest way possible



Big Brother's of Boston

MISSION

BBBSMB has over 60 years of experience fostering professionally supported one-on-one friendships between young people and adult mentors. With research and proven outcomes at its core, the organization is working to ensure every child has the support from caring adults that they need for healthy development and success in life.

THE PROGRAM

Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers hang out with their mentee one-to-one for a few hours every other week and enjoy and activity in the community. Whether it be riding a bike, taking a walk, playing catch, cooking a meal or just hanging out – the time spent together will surely be memorable! This is a free program and our professionally trained staff provides ongoing support to Big/Little matches through regular contact with all participants. Matches are designed to last at least a year though most continue for much longer.

We enroll **boys* ages 7 to 12**. They must want to be a part of the program and be able to benefit from an additional positive adult influence in their lives. **START SOMETHING:** 617-956-0282 www.bbbsmb.org *Girls in the Boston Area are most often served by the Big Sister Association 617-236-8060 www.bigsister.org



A Helping Hand
Can Change the World

Morse School December Food-Drive

Monday, December 2nd - Thursday, December 19th

Seeking donations of canned and non-perishable food items!

Please no expired foods, no glass jars or plastic bags, cans & boxes only.

In particular we could use donations of:

- ✚ Individual Packaged Oatmeal
- ✚ Individual Applesauce
- ✚ Canned pasta (ravioli/rings etc)
- ✚ Individual Mac & Cheese/ Boxed pasta (Mac & Cheese or plain pasta)
- ✚ Granola bars (please no chocolate)
- ✚ Cereal Bars
- ✚ Pouches or cans of Tuna
- ✚ Fruit Cups
- ✚ Individual packets of dried fruit (raisins, dried cranberries, etc.)
- ✚ Boxed Whole Grain Cereal (Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Chex, Etc.)
- ✚ Peanut butter
- ✚ Soup
- ✚ Boxed rice
- ✚ Canned vegetables & canned beans
- ✚ Organic Valley 1% Low-fat milk (pictured below) or Shelf Stable Milk



Please place all donations on the table in the Main Lobby

Morse Garden News...

By Jane Mulcahy, Food Corps Service Member

It has been a spectacularly colorful fall around the Morse school and in the garden this year. It's been a busy fall too! Kindergarten classes have been testing out their five senses and hunting for all sorts of colors in the garden. 2nd and 5th graders have been studying soil and compost. 4th graders are drawing maps of the garden. And kindergarten, 2nd grade, and 5th grade classes got to wash, cut, mash, and press apples into fresh apple cider in October!

As the growing season has come to an end, Brad and Jane have started pulling the annual plants out with students and preparing the garden beds for winter. With the help of students we will be planting winter wheat and garlic, both of which act as a cover crop to protect the soil from erosion during the cold and windy winter months. While we will likely pull the winter wheat out come spring, the garlic will actually stay in until we harvest it in June and July. A crop that actually grows throughout the winter and underneath all of that snow - now that's a hardy food! Jane is already looking forward to moving the garden activities indoors for the winter!

November's Core Virtue...

Self Control is stopping to think about my actions before I enact them.

Self Discipline is giving the best of ourselves and saying "no" to our weakness.

Grade 4 Room E6's Cultural Luncheon

The International Potluck Lunch on October 30th was spectacular! There were meatballs, pasta, chicken, pie, wings, cookies and rice! Parents, Teachers and the kids in room E6, brought in all food that was shared. It was awesome!

~Tim S.



Grade 4 Room E6's Cultural Luncheon

Cultural food is extremely special. Yes, I know that we had Chicken Biryani on 11/19, but eighteen cultures? That's what I call special!

On Wednesday, October 30th, Room E6 and some of their families gathered in Room E11 – the Science Lab for a Cultural Potluck Lunch! Chinese dumplings, Italian gnocchi, Pasty Pie from Michigan, and so many more scrumptious dishes were served!

Although the food was superior, that wasn't the entire reason. We had a marvelous time, shared cultures and learned. We learned about different cultures, and appreciated every single one. That's what it's all about. Learning and appreciating different cultures and customs, that's what counts.

~ Iman I.



Grade 5 Orienteering Experiences

5th Grade Orienteering 101

On October 17th of this year the Morse School 5th graders went orienteering! We ran a total of two courses, one around the city called “The Street O”. The other at Fresh Pond. The “Street O” was to get to the train station so we could go to Alewife. The “Street O” didn’t have controls or flags; we were looking for objects around that fit the clue (like fire hydrants, and plaques).

At Fresh Pond the 5th graders had 1 hour to find six number controls and three flags per group. Lots of work! Ms. Jeram’s class had double letter flags. Ms. Bishop’s class had the singular letter flags, so double letters were the decoys for Ms. Bishop’s class 9and vise versa).

Fresh Pond had orange marking tape up too, like our flags they acted as decoys too. All flags had envelopes on them and inside those envelopes were puzzle pieces, in the end those pieces made a clue that said, “Look in the Black and Yellow Backpack”. What was in the bag? COOKIES! The controls were spread out more and had a punch that you punch into your punch card, once you have all of those six you are done with the controls.
~ Ari Y.C.

Today (10/17/13) the Morse fifth graders went on an orienteering field trip to Fresh Pond. But first it was our exciting neighborhood “O”. On this trip there were no flags or controls it was simpler. The neighborhood “O” was also simpler because there was no time limit. In the Fresh Pond “O” there was not supposed to have any decoys even though some acted like them. I was worried that we were going to punch something wrong. We had to put all the puzzles together that were in the envelope.
~ Ahmed H.

On Thursday the fifth graders went on a field trip to Fresh Pond. They went to Fresh Pond because they were orienteering with their teams put into groups. Don’t worry they were with teachers and parents. They were orienteering in the forest. The rules were everyone has a map of the forest, and then each person has to find the routes to get to the control. In some are little decoys. A decoy is a kind like a trick, where you fall for it easily. When the fifth graders went to Central Sq. they had to orienteer through the neighborhood. “It was fun but we don’t get extra points we just save our energy for the real course” I said. When we were orienteering at Fresh Pond we were trying to get the extras and envelope and flags we got stuck.

~ Lamiya

The Morse School’s fifth grade recently went orienteering on October 17th, 2013 at the Fresh Pond Reservoir. We had a blast (and a huge workout) looking at our map, finding the six “controls” that we had to find, using the punchers to punch a piece of paper we were given. And finding the three letters we were supposed to find (there were three extras, too).

Every letter was an envelope with the letter, or letters on it attached to something with orange tape. Ms. Jeram’s class had double letters, (example: LL, MM, NN), while Ms. Bishop’s class had single letters (example: L, M, N). My team was Ahmed, Lamiya, Mauricio and Ms. Jeram (every team had a teacher/chaperone). Also, on the way to the train, which was our transportation, we had to orient too, writing down the clues as controls, it was called the “street o”.

Every control has a number, so you can see if it’s a decoy. For example, 1, 101, 101 is the number the control would say. Once we were all back, we opened the envelopes from the letters. Each had a puzzle piece. The puzzle said “eebelmub a ekit kealb dna wolley si that keapkeab eht ni kool.” If you haven’t figured that out, it means, “look in the backpack that is yellow and black like a bumblebee” backwards. Gerald had it (it was Ms. Bishop’s and we chased him until Mr. Maloney got it. And lucky me, I got to open it. There were gingersnaps, chocolate chip and raspberry and apricot cookies. I like the raspberry best. Then we just played after orienteering for a while, even though we were aching.

Who: The Morse School 5th grade & adults

What: AN orienteering trip at the Fresh Pond Reservoir

When: October 17, 2013

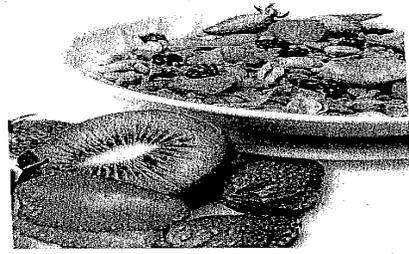
How: By orienteering the map

Why: To learn how to navigate a map and about orienteering, and to have fun!

~ Nawal

PARENTS:

- Have you applied for free or reduced price school meals for your child?
- Were you turned away because you make too much money?



Don't give up! You may be eligible to receive SNAP/Food Stamps.

If you receive SNAP benefits, your child is automatically eligible to receive **FREE** school meals!

Call Project Bread's free FoodSource Hotline

1-800-645-8333

Monday-Friday: 8am-7pm
Saturday: 10am-2pm

The Hotline can screen you for SNAP benefits and tell you how to apply!

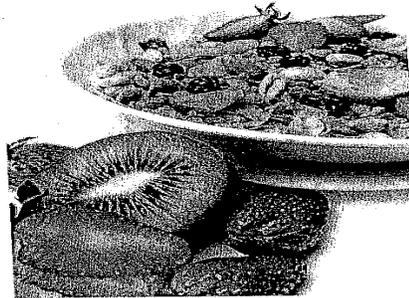
Child Nutrition Outreach Program
145 Border Street | East Boston, MA 02128
617-723-5000 | cnop@projectbread.org
www.meals4kids.org



The Child Nutrition Outreach Program (CNOP) is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with the support and collaboration of Project Bread. Project Bread is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PADRES:

- ¿Han solicitado comidas escolares gratuitas o a un precio reducido para sus niños?
- ¿Le dijeron que no porque sus ingresos son muy altos?



¡No se den por vencidos! Es posible que sean elegibles para recibir SNAP/ cupones para alimentos.

Si reciben beneficios SNAP, ¡sus niños calificarán automáticamente para recibir comidas escolares gratis!

Llame a la línea gratuita de Project Bread FoodSource Hotline

1-800-645-8333

Lunes a viernes de 8 A.M. a 7 P.M.
Sábados de 10 A.M. a 2 P.M.

Durante esta llamada podrán determinar si reúne los criterios para recibir beneficios SNAP y le dirán cómo solicitarlos!

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