

# THE MORLEY READER

## Character Builds Community

Mr. Ryan Cleary, Principal

February 8<sup>th</sup> 2017

Dear Morley Community,

I hope that things are as exciting at home as they are in school for all of you! I love this time of year (I'm in the minority, I know). The reason I love this time of year isn't just because of the weather (I prefer the snow and cold!), but also because after all of the craziness of December and the inevitable lull of January there is a positive energy in the building and the sole focus is on learning!

As is the case every year when we move through February and approach March, there is a lot going on! For example, we recently received some art work back from our sister school in Haiti. They had the ribbon cutting of their new school in January, and the students there were excited to trade art work with us. Our students sent down some partner portraits and the students in Haiti created some as well and sent them back to us. Along with their portraits they also sent back some art work modeled after the "Tap-tap" buses that some students learned about earlier this year. This exchange of artwork has positively supported multicultural learning here at Morley!



Additionally, we have many exciting events coming up in the near future such as PTO book swap (2/7), **Eat Drink Bid (2/10)**, our Effie's fundraiser (2/15), PTO STEM activities (2/17 and 2/24), **Read across America day (3/1)**, **PTO Meeting (3/2)**, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade pasta dinner (3/10). Also, we are looking to do Junior Achievement again this year, during conference week at most grade levels. I'd like to thank our curriculum specialist Jen Slifer and the parent volunteers for their work in continuing this financial literacy program here at Morley School. Lastly, I'd like to highlight a few of the events listed above. First, I would like to thank our PTO for the incredible effort put towards preparing for the "Eat. Drink. Bid!" event on **February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at The Pond House**. I would like to thank everyone for their work, and am looking forward to seeing everyone there and at our **next PTO meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>**. I'd also like to highlight our annual Dr. Seuss Day/Read Across America Day coming up on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Be sure to check out Mrs. Slifer's curriculum corner for more details. Please note that in response to feedback from last year, the **classroom visits in the morning that day will be for grades K, 1, and 2 only**. Also, we are incorporating a new event this year which is an evening celebration of reading for all families in the school (K-5). Again, take a peek at the curriculum corner for more details!

All of the work described above takes an army's worth of effort. Please know how thankful I am for every bit of energy that is expended by our teachers, our parents, and our community members. Your combined efforts result in these amazing learning opportunities for kids, allowing them to make connections beyond the written curriculum, and use authentic experiences to exercise all of their talents. Thank you for your tireless commitment to the success of our students.

As always, your continued support of **teaching, learning, and community** at Morley School is much appreciated.

Respectfully,

Ryan Cleary, Principal

**MORLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

77 BRETTON ROAD W HARTFORD, CT 06119 860.233.8535 / FAX: 860.233.7705

[HTTP://WWW.MORLEY.WHPS.ORG](http://www.morley.whps.org)

# MORLEY READER

calendar of upcoming Events to Jot Down . . . 2/8 - 2/28/17

DATE	TIME	EVENT/ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Wed Feb 8	6pm - 7pm	STEM PTO Meeting	LMC
Thu Feb 9	2:30pm - 5pm	Inter-El Choir	Auditorium
	3:20pm - 4:20pm	Homework Center	LMC
Fri Feb 10	7pm - 10pm	Eat, Drink, Bid PTO Auction	Pond House
Mon Feb 13	7:50am - 8:30am	Morley Muse	Room 12
	9am - 11am	Wallack Community Service Project Cafeteria	
Tue Feb 14	3:20pm - 4:20pm	Homework Center	LMC
	3:25pm - 4:25pm	French Club	Room 9
Wed Feb 15	5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	PTO Effie's Fundraiser	Effie's
Thu Feb 16	7:45am - 8:45am	Student Council Meeting	LMC
	2:30pm - 5pm	Inter-El Choir	Auditorium
	3:20pm - 4:20pm	Homework Center	LMC
	6:30pm - 7:30pm	Math Quest Informational Meeting	Duffy Elem.
Fri Feb 17	11:30am - 1:30pm	STEM Meal Worm Activity	
Mon Feb 20 & 21		Presidents' Day & Winter Recess	NO SCHOOL
Thu Feb 23	2:30pm - 5pm	Inter-El Choir	Auditorium
	3:20pm - 4:20pm	Homework Center	LMC
Fri Feb 24	3:30pm - 4:30pm	Grade 4 Parachute Event	
Tue Feb 28	3:20pm - 4:20pm	Homework Center	LMC
	3:25pm - 4:25pm	French Club	Room 9



## UPCOMING...

EAT ★ DRINK ★ BID

PTO Auction Fundraiser

Friday February 10<sup>th</sup>

@

The Pond House

## PTO Effie's Fundraiser

2/15/17 @ 5pm

## ONGOING...

### MUSIC

#### Rehearsals

Choir: Grades 4 & 5

Wednesday 7:45<sup>am</sup>

Band: Grade 5

Tues. 7:45 - 8:45<sup>am</sup>

Band: Grade 4

Thurs. 7:45 - 8:45<sup>am</sup>

Orchestra: Grade 4

Tues. 1 - 1:30<sup>pm</sup>

Orchestra: Grade 5

Fri. 7:45 - 8:45<sup>am</sup>

## HOMework CENTER

TUES & THURS

3:20 - 4:20<sup>PM</sup> LIBRARY

### Gym Rats

Grades 1-3 Thurs. 8<sup>am</sup> (1/19 - 2/16)

Grades 3-5 Fri. 7:50<sup>am</sup> (1/20 - 3/17)

Recognition of Upcoming Religious Holidays 2016 - 2017: 4/11 - 18 Passover\* (8 days);  
4/14 Good Friday (Christianity); 4/16 Easter (Christianity); 5/14 Buddha Day - Visakha Puja (Buddhism);  
6/6-7/5 Ramadan\* (Islam) \*All holy days begin at sunset the day before

Kindergarten

## CALLING FUTURE KINDERGARTNERS

Kindergarten

If you have (or know) a child (5 years old on or before 1/1/18), eligible for kindergarten in Fall 2017, please call the school office @ 233.8535. We want to add your child's name to our list of incoming students. Our incoming kin-

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[WWW.MORLEY.WHPS.ORG](http://WWW.MORLEY.WHPS.ORG)

## Read Across America Celebration At Morley School

Read Across America day celebrates reading across the nation and world. The event was born in the late '90s when the National Education Association pursued the idea to celebrate reading.

The first event was held in March in 1998 on Dr. Seuss's birthday. Since then, the event has gained national and worldwide notoriety with support from more than 50 national non-profit and association partners.

**At Morley School, all families are invited to "Cozy Up with Cocoa and Books" as we celebrate Read Across America day on Wednesday night, March 1st from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Families are invited to bring favorite books, wear comfy clothes, bring blankets and pillows, and celebrate literacy. Cocoa with marshmallows will be served!**

In addition to the celebration, families will have a chance to see Morley's little library that will be installed near the primary playground and there will be a book swap table. Donate a gently used (or new) book and leave with a book that is new to you. Hope to see you there!

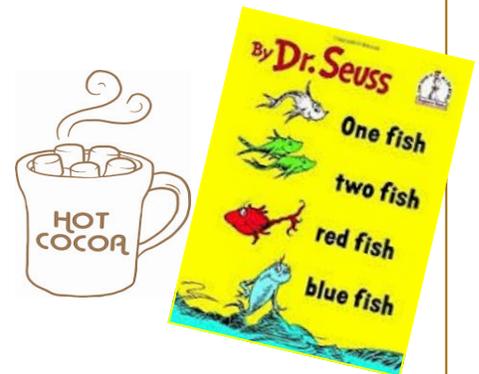
### Cozy Up with Cocoa and Books at Morley

**Who:** All K-5 students and their families

**Where:** Morley Auditorium

**When:** Wednesday night, March 1st from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

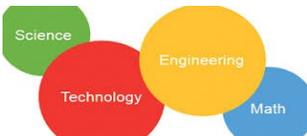
*Bring your favorite books to read!*



## Enrichment Projects Occurring in Morley!

### Straw Rocket Launcher Project with 3rd Grade

Recently all 3rd grade students conducted a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) enrichment project utilizing a Straw Rocket Launcher. Students worked in teams to plan, design and launch a straw rocket that would land as close to a target as possible. Materials for designing the rocket were limited to one straw per team, a small piece of clay, tape and paper. Students cut paper to add wings and tails to the straw and used the clay to stop air from passing through one end. Once the rockets were complete- it was time to Launch! Students practiced measuring (to the nearest centimeter) the distance their rocket landed away from target. After all students launched their rockets, the class analyzed the data to discover which rockets had the best design features. From here, all students drew conclusions about what worked from their design and what they would like to change. Finally, a revised plan was created where students were able to change their original designs incorporating new ideas from what they learned from analyzing the class data. With all teams ready with their new design, a final launch occurred. Students measured to see if their final design landed closer to the target than their first try.



### The Morley Kindergarten Butterfly Garden

**QUESTION:** How could Morley's Kindergartens be provided with a living Butterfly Garden?

**ANSWER:** Ask the Quest 5 team to research, design, and build one.

In the fall our art teacher, Mrs. Stinziani, asked for help exhibiting cave paintings. The Q5 team put together an interactive exhibit called 'The Cave By The River' to showcase the 4th and 5th graders art work. The Q5 team conducted tours of an enormous cave (made of boxes), shared stories of the Lascaux Cave Paintings, and created stamp art activities to help kindergartners and first graders enjoy the artwork more fully.

'The Cave By The River' was such a hit that the kindergarten teachers invited the Q5 team to create the Morley Kindergarten Butterfly Garden. Research is being conducted, soil is being tested, learning activities are being created, and plans for the MKBG opening are underway for the spring. Stay tuned!

*Elyse Post-Perez and Sherry Stidolph*  
Quest Team



# EAT★DRINK★BID

## Morley's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Silent Auction

Hello Morley Families,

It's time to start thinking about **EAT DRINK BID!** What's that you ask? Morley's Silent Auction is one of our biggest fundraiser and an evening you don't want to miss, so mark your calendars and save the date!

**!!! WHEN: Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 !!!**

**WHERE:** Pond House

**WHAT:** The auction is an opportunity for parents, teachers, staff, and friends of the Morley community to gather, have fun, and raise money for our beloved Morley School. Money raised from this event has contributed to many different attributes of the school that directly benefit your child.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

This year we will focus on primarily raising money through Raffle Baskets, Teacher Donations, Personal Donations (such as your own services or talents, or a beach house or tickets), Gift Cards (Shop and Dash, Dine and Dash), 50/50 and Wine Pull.

**Help Bring in Awesome Auction Items:** While this year the focus is not to approach individual businesses, however, if you have established relationships with businesses, and can easily solicit something from them, we do appreciate that support.

Please feel free to use and personalize the Donation Letter located here on Google Docs:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/14wnY\\_Gv5J2fBMNwab1PiwCAJYIW-7qa65tshgcg3fNA/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14wnY_Gv5J2fBMNwab1PiwCAJYIW-7qa65tshgcg3fNA/edit)

**Contribute A Personal Donation:** We will rely on families to consider donating items such as vacation homes or time share week, art, your own services or talents such as lessons, photography, painting, baking, etc. Please let Rachana Sampat know if you are able to help support.

**Raffle Baskets:** This year theme is different for each class for us to get a variety of items and increase the number of baskets.

Kindergarten: Monroe - Disney	Flores - Super Heroes	Abraham - Arts and Crafts
1 <sup>st</sup> Ashworth - Star Wars	LaForte - Board Games	
2 <sup>nd</sup> O'Connor - Harry Potter	Staffaroni - American Girl	Vannie - Outdoor fun
3 <sup>rd</sup> Barrieau - Science	Antoinetti - Lego	Wallack - Music
4 <sup>th</sup> Hall - Pamper Me	Perry - Books & More	
5 <sup>th</sup> Contribution for Best Buy Gift Card /Electronics		

**Join the Committee:** We would love your help! Please join us in making this a successful night! Contact Rachana Sampat [rosampat27@yahoo.com](mailto:rosampat27@yahoo.com) if you are interested.

Look for punchbowl invites in your email boxes soon.

Thank you for your support!

Morley PTO <http://www.morleypto.com/>

## **Cozy Up with Cocoa and Read!**



### **Let's celebrate Read Across America Day at Morley School!**

**Who:** Morley Families K-5

**Where:** Morley's Auditorium

**When:** March 1, 2017

**Time:** 6:00-7:00

Please dress in comfy clothes (PJs are welcome!). Bring your favorite book to read with your family\*\*. Bring a soft pillow and/or blanket. Enjoy a warm cup of cocoa with marshmallows!

A Book Swap table will be set up if you would like to trade a book!

**\*\* Please note: Children are expected to stay with their parents during this event.**



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Hartford  
Public  
Schools

Clear Paths. Bright Futures. No Limits.



M:5,9736x10<sup>24</sup>kg



# Math QUEST Informational Meeting

Math QUEST is an accelerated math program where students are learning mathematics two years beyond their current placement. The grades 3 and 4 Math QUEST Screening test will take place at all elementary schools from March 13th – 24th, 2017. Assessment results are used to assist in identifying students for Math QUEST. For those students whose results indicate a propensity to experience a more demanding curriculum at a more challenging pace, Math QUEST placement is recommended.

Math QUEST students interpret ideas through mathematical discourse, and inquiry into numbers, ideas, words, and theory to make and discover meaning through the process of analyzing information and evaluating predictive solutions. In addition to demonstrating mastery of standards, students engage in rich, authentic problem solving strategies that form the basis of an understanding of many real-world mathematical applications. Mathematics beyond the traditional sequence enables creativity.

Through progressively more complex problem solving, inquiry and interest, specific tasks are applied according to precise mathematical applications. Math QUEST responds to students' academic needs and ensures the appropriate pacing and level of challenge. A commitment to the depth and breadth of content, along with a commitment to the habits of mind in time management are critical to student's meeting with success.

Come join us for a parent information meeting about the Math QUEST Program and the screening process.

**Date:**  
**Thursday,**  
**February 16, 2017**

**Time:**  
**6:30 pm to 7:30 pm**

**Location:**  
**Duffy Elementary**  
**School**  
**Auditorium**  
**95 Westminister Drive**  
**West Hartford, CT**



# RAISING



# DIGITAL

# NATIVES



# WITH CHARACTER

## **Panel Discussion + Q&A**

### **PANELISTS:**

**Dr. Andrew Morrow**

Assistant Superintendent,  
West Hartford Public Schools

**Dr. Amy Alamar**

Educator and Author

**Una Barry**

Head of School,  
Montessori School of Greater Hartford

### **DATE/TIME:**

Wednesday, March 1st  
7:00 PM

### **LOCATION:**

Conard High School  
Cafeteria  
110 Beechwood Rd  
West Hartford

### **MODERATOR:**

**Sarah Cody**

Reporter, Fox 61 and  
Hartford Courant

**More Info:** [yellowbrick.me/digitalnatives](https://yellowbrick.me/digitalnatives)

# TALCOTT MOUNTAIN ACADEMY

An "exciting" school for "excited" minds...

CT's premier independent school  
for gifted & talented students K-8, uniquely integrating liberal &  
fine arts into an unparalleled STEM based curriculum.

# CAMPUS TOUR

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM

**WHERE:** 324 Montevideo Rd, Avon, CT



Your child can make  
a difference in the  
future of the world.



We can make a world  
of difference in the  
future of your child.

**RSVP** at [talcottacademy.org](http://talcottacademy.org) or call 860.677.0035

**CALLING FUTURE KINDERGARTNERS**

*If you have (or know) a child (5 years old on or before 1/1/18), eligible for kindergarten in Fall 2017, please call the school office @ 233.8535. We want to add your child's name to our list of incoming students.*

**West Hartford Special Education PTO February 2017 Events**

**Wednesday, February 15 at 7pm Monthly Meeting – Topic TBD**

Save the date for our regularly scheduled monthly meeting at Sedgwick Middle School at 7pm in the multi-purpose room.

**Ongoing Membership Drive**

It's always the right time to join West Hartford SEPTO! Please register online at [www.whsepto.org/membership.html](http://www.whsepto.org/membership.html)

**[www.WHSEPTO.org](http://www.WHSEPTO.org)**

Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/West-Hartford-SEPTO](http://www.facebook.com/West-Hartford-SEPTO)

**2016 Education Legislation: Public Act 16-189** We believe that it is vital for all students in West Hartford Public Schools to be able to efficiently and effectively use digital tools that empower them in all phases of the learning process, including research, problem solving, content creation, communication, and collaboration. We also believe that we must be committed at all times to protecting students' privacy and providing them with a powerful and safe educational experience. To that end, the West Hartford Public Schools follow the legal requirements of Public Act 16-189 to promote the safety and security of all students and staff.

In compliance with Connecticut State Law, we update online programs used within the district that house student data. The programs may be used district-wide, in a very small number of classrooms, or with individual students. The list will be updated each time the district enters into a new contract where student data is housed. For more information on the specifics of Public Act 16-189 and updates of vendor agreements, visit [www.whps.org/pa189](http://www.whps.org/pa189).

**Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) Class of 2017:** Are you interested in making a difference in the lives of West Hartford children by expanding your parental toolbox to include leadership and advocacy skills? Then, we have a great opportunity for you. The Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) trains, inspires and empowers all parents to become effective advocates for children. To learn more about this dynamic program which begins in January, please contact Sara Barczak at [sbarczak@bridgefamilycenter.org](mailto:sbarczak@bridgefamilycenter.org) or call Charter Oak's Family Resource Center at **860-929-5575**. There is no cost to participate in this leadership training program.

**TARDIES**

When a student arrives after 8:30 a.m. he or she will be walking into a classroom where the teaching and learning have begun. **Please ensure that your child is at school on time.** This enables all students to receive maximum benefit from instruction and develop positive work habits and organizational skills.

**Pamphlets, Brochures, Catalogs which can be found in the office . . .**

**A Guide to Transitioning into Kindergarten ~ Life Learn Catalog Winter/Spring**



RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S  
**INDERELLA**  
**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**  
*Wednesday, February 15*

**6:30- Conard Auditorium  
Sneak Preview of Cinderella**

**7:00- Conard Café  
Ice Cream Social**

**\$5.00 per person at the door**

*\*Sneak preview of selected musical numbers beginning at 6:30 in the Conard Auditorium\**

**Tickets for performances available for purchase beginning February 22, 2017  
[www.ConardHighSchoolMusical.com](http://www.ConardHighSchoolMusical.com)**

**Performance dates and times:**

**Friday, March 10 at 7pm  
Saturday, March 11 at 7pm  
Sunday, March 12 at 2pm  
Friday, March 17 at 7pm  
Saturday, March 18 at 7pm**

*There is a limited number of wheelchair accessible handicap seating  
in the Conard High School Auditorium.*

*Questions? Please contact Anne Coon at [conardmusical@whps.org](mailto:conardmusical@whps.org).*

**LIKE us on Facebook: Conard High School Musical Productions**



## IS YOUR CHILD GOING TO BE ABSENT OR TARDY?

Please remember to call the school office (233-8535) if your child will be tardy or absent. You may report an absence before 8:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. by using the voice mail system at the same number. Any absence reported by the teacher, but not the parent, will alert the office to a potential problem and will necessitate a call to your home.



## ATTENTION PARENTS OF BUS RIDERS

Attendance is taken **every** afternoon on the bus to insure the safe homecoming of all our students. It is assumed that all children who are eligible to ride the bus will do so unless they are sick or have been signed out early. If your child will not be riding the bus either routinely (s/he will attend MEDC for example) or occasionally (an after school visit with a walker), a note must be received in the office. When a child is not on line for the bus in the p.m. and no note is received, we look for that child and thus hold up the bus. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated!



## SAFETY ISSUE REMINDER

***Bicycles, scooters, skateboards, roller blades and skates are not to be used on school property due to safety concerns. Once your child arrives on school grounds they are asked to walk their bicycles, scooters and skateboards to the bike racks and to remove their roller blades and skates. None of the above are allowed to be used within the school building!***

As always, we recommend that only students in grades 3-5 ride their bicycles to school. To do so, a permission slip should be filed in the office. ***Remember, helmets must be worn by all children 12 and under.***



## DROPPING OFF OR PICKING UP STUDENTS

Please remember, for the safety of your children, no one should be driving into the parking lot to drop off or pick up students. No cars are allowed to enter the parking lot during arrival or dismissal times (except for handicap parking). ***Thank you for your cooperation!***



## SUPERVISION BEFORE SCHOOL

- Bus students are not to exit the bus in the morning until 8:20 AM at the elementary schools.
- **All students should not be on school grounds before 8:20 AM.**
- Parents will be called if their children are consistently dropped off before this time.

There is no supervision on the grounds until 8:20 a.m. **Please be sure that your child(ren) are not arriving or being dropped off before that time.** There is no access to the school before the first bell at 8:30 a.m.

Please be sure to stay tuned to the radio or television or call the source line at 233-2334 to be sure there is no "delay" due to the weather.

***Thank you for your cooperation in the safety of your children.***





### SHOPRITE FOR EDUCATION

Shop Rite will be giving away more than \$220,000 worth of free Educational Equipment this year.

Please go to [www.shopriteforeducation.com](http://www.shopriteforeducation.com) and  
click on the Shopper Login link.

Use School Code: 50162

Every time you shop and scan your Price Plus Card,  
Morley School will earn valuable credit toward  
FREE educational equipment. It's that easy!

**Remember . . .**

You must re-register each school year  
to participate in this program.

**Please sign up today!!**



**Earn cash for our school each time you clip  
*Box Tops* coupons. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!**

- 1. Clip Box Tops :** Find Box Tops coupons on hundreds of your favorite products. Each Box Top coupon is worth 10¢ for our school.
- 2. Send Box Tops to School:** Turn in your Box Tops coupons to the box in the office. Our school will collect the Box Tops and send them to Box Tops for Education.
- 3. Our School Earns Cash:** Twice each year, Box Tops will send a check to our school for each Box Tops coupon redeemed, up to \$20,000 each year.

**Morley PTO  
Minutes of the January 12, 2017  
General Business Meeting**

**Call to Order**

Kristin Cianflone welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced Sherry Feinglass from The Foundation for WHPS.

**Attendance:** Principal Ryan Cleary, Sherry Feinglass, Liz Hanawalt, Kristin Cianflone, Rachana Sempat, Sally Mancini, Doug Chritton, Melissa Mabe, Rosa Guzzo, Tracey Krupp, Liz Isaacs, Annabell Gwiazdoski

**Presentation from Sherry Feinglass, Board member of The Foundation for WHPS**

Sherry has been a board member of the Foundation since 2003. She gave an overview of The Foundation, which was started in 1997. Its mission is to fund educational programs and projects within West Hartford Public Schools. Over the past twenty years, it has awarded \$1.4 million. The Foundation provides yearly teacher mini-grants and professional-in-residence grants (authors, scientists, and musicians). Each school has received at least one in-residence grant, with awards given by merit. It also has provided grants for technology, including the "Apples for Artists" grant which gave middle schoolers iPads to use for visual arts. Morley was recently granted \$9,200 for its "Producing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Citizens & Artists" project. Funding for The Foundation is sourced by individual and corporate donors, the annual "West Hartford's Cookin'" event, and from the holiday and year end "Teacher Thank You Gift" program.

**Principal's Report**

- Ryan Cleary discussed the "Producing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Citizens & Artists" project. This will allow for students (mostly Morley's second graders) to communicate with students in Haiti via Skype. They will be learning about Haitian art and culture, and they will be trading art projects with them. We are hoping to be able to skype with them by the end of this school year. There had been some damage to their school from the hurricane at the beginning of the school year. There will be an art auction at the end of May. It will likely be a community event. The funds from the artwork created by the Haitian students will go back to their school, and the funds from our student's art will go back towards funding the program.
- Ryan talked about the wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade concert, which was held in December. He mentioned some of the sickness that has been going around at Morley and around town. He talked about 2<sup>nd</sup> grade cultural nights. Unfortunately, the state removed the international standard from the curriculum. Morley had continued to incorporate cultural areas (Japan, Mexico, Africa) within the curriculum by placing them under different content areas, such as reading, writing, and research. The state has been applying pressure to us to remove this content. Morley will now be holding a Haiti Day in the spring for K-2 kids in February instead of doing the cultural nights.

**Treasurer's Report** (Tracey Krupp)

- We received a \$200 check from Traveler's as a matching donation from a Morley parent. Box Tops brought in \$596. The net profit from the Turkey Dash was \$5800. The Teacher's Discretionary Fund involves a donation of \$50-100 for each teacher and support staff member. It was given last year at the end of February, and will total about \$3000.

**Updates**

**Volunteers** (Melissa Mabe)

- We have a few more volunteers for the Yearbook Committee. Our next upcoming PTO event is Bingo night. Flyers have gone out for the Wolfpack game, which will be on February 3.

**Kids Fund:** (Annabell Gwiazdoski)

- We were generous in the fall, and have only \$425 left. They received four recent applications from the following:
  - Mrs. Abraham and Mrs. Stidolph (Quest teacher) would like to start a butterfly garden at Morley. They would like \$200 for plants, and then \$75 for three butterfly kits. The Quest 5<sup>th</sup> graders want to research, design and create this space, which would include a learning area with picnic tables and possibly a tunnel. There was some discussion that this may not logistically work with the space at Morley. Sally Mancini suggested that the Garden committee could get kids involved in helping with our external garden, which is going to be revamped.

- Mrs. Wallack is requesting \$63 to purchase 21 quill pens and ink for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to share amongst the three classes. They would be used while learning about the US Constitution. She plans to purchase them from the Noah Webster House.
- Marybeth Hickson (reading specialist) received a grant from WHPS to purchase a little library for the Morley playground. She plans to place it near the benches, but she needs money for a pole to set the library on. She is requesting \$60 to purchase the pole, plus money to buy new books. There was some discussion that parents should be able to donate books for the library, and the library can be installed through plant services.
- The last request comes from Elyse Post-Perez (Quest teacher), who is requesting \$225 to purchase a rocket launcher. She currently has a rocket launcher project with 4<sup>th</sup> graders, using borrowed materials. She would like to do this with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. She does go to other schools, but this rocket launcher would be used just at Morley.
- After reviewing these requests, it was voted that the PTO will cover the last three requests (roughly \$350), and put a hold on the butterfly request for now.

#### Programming:

- The Wolf Pack game will be held on February 3. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade choir will be singing at half-time. Bingo Night will be held on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### Fundraising:

- Effie's Place will be postponed to a later day (originally scheduled for February 15. The money raised from this event will support a Morley family in need. The Science Center fundraiser will likely be held in March.

#### Eat, Drink, Bid: (Rachana Sampat)

- Eat, Drink, Bid will be held on February 10 at the Pond House. It's a bit scaled down from previous years. The invitations have gone out, and emails have been sent out regarding the deadline for the raffle basket donations. If you wish to make a monetary contribution for the baskets, please make checks out to Kim Parets.

#### Health and Wellness:

- The salad bar needs volunteers – it is Wednesdays from 11:15-12:30.
- They would like to make the garden work year round, and to have more students out there helping. Recently, there was a CDC publication ("Recess in Schools"), which included a mention of Morley for its research on indoor recess strategies.

#### PT Council: Ross Guzzo

- Sherry Feinglass had made a presentation about The Foundation for WHPS at the most recent PT Council meeting. She also talked about a transition program for 18-21 year olds. During the PT council meeting, there were updates regarding security in WHPS town-wide. They are working on standard procedures for lock down with the goal to achieve a more consistent response. They are using grant money to update school doors and locking mechanisms, so that the doors can lock from the inside using a universal key. There was also discussion about possibly using magnetic badges to program the hours of access within the schools. They are working on expanding the network of security cameras. Ryan mentioned that the recent lock down drill at Morley went very well.
- Doug mentioned that during the PT Council meeting, held on 11/21/16, there was discussion about the PLTI program and the Open Choice Program.

#### After School Clubs: Doug Chritton

- STEM: The Parachute event for 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-4:30. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, the Hall HS Chemistry Club will be coming to work with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders during school.
- We need more parents getting involved with STEM club.

#### Meeting Adjourned

The next PTO meeting is scheduled on May 11, 2017 at 6:30pm in the Media Center.

## PLEASE POST BY YOUR PHONE AT HOME & AT WORK !!

### SCHOOL CLOSINGS & DELAYS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

- \* The superintendent of schools determines the necessity for a delayed opening or emergency closing of school due to weather conditions or other emergencies.
- \* Parents will receive a phone call via the Connect-ED Rapid Notification Service informing them of a delayed opening or emergency closing. The phone call would be issued no later than 6:30<sup>am</sup>
- \* In the event of an early dismissal from school due to inclement weather or other circumstances, parents/guardians will be notified by the principal via the Connect-ED Rapid Notification System. This allows parents to be notified by phone within minutes.
- \* Announcements regarding school-opening delays or closings also are made over local radio and television stations.
- \* This information may also be accessed by visiting our website at [www.whps.org](http://www.whps.org) for closings, cancellations and additional information.
- \* When schools are closed early, all school-related afternoon and evening activities are cancelled as well.
- \* If the event of a delayed opening, ALL before school activities are cancelled.
- \* It is important to review dismissal plans with your child.

### SUPERVISION BEFORE SCHOOL

- \* Students should not be on school grounds before 8:20<sup>am</sup>
- \* Bus students are not to exit the bus until 8:20<sup>am</sup> at the elementary schools.
- \* Parents will be called if their children are consistently dropped off before this time.

There is no supervision on the grounds until 8:20<sup>am</sup>

Please be sure that your child (ren) are not arriving or being dropped off before that time. There is no access to the school before the first bell at 8:30<sup>am</sup>.

Thank you for your cooperation in the safety of your children.

### EMERGENCY EARLY CLOSING

In the event of an emergency early closing, these are the early closing times on ALL days:

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 1:00<sup>pm</sup>

Middle School	11:45 <sup>am</sup>
High School	11:00 <sup>am</sup>

- \* Give your children 3 to 5 homes to go to in the neighborhood, in a certain order.
- \* Show them where an extra house key is kept.
- \* Remind your child to go to the designated neighbor, but then be certain to leave a note for you (on the back door or in the mailbox) as to where they are staying.

We suggest that you walk through a simulation with your children to give them the experience in a non-threatening situation.

**REMEMBER:** In the event of an emergency early closing, **Morley Extended Day Care** will close when school closes.

### OUTDOOR RECESS POLICY

The recess policy dictates that all *students will go outside for recess if the temperature is 20° Fahrenheit or above.*



Youngsters should be appropriately dressed to spend time outdoors during recess. **Warm clothes, gloves, hats, and boots** are required during the winter months.

**Children well enough to come to school should be well enough to be outside during recess.**

*Exceptions for medical reasons may be granted on an individual basis.*

In the event of inclement or severely cold weather, outdoor recess will be canceled.