

THE MORNING STAR

<http://ms.bsd7.org/>

Principal's Place

In response to requests from our Parent community we are hosting a Parent Night on April 29, 2014 @ 6:00. We will have a Q&A session on topics of your choice, outline some of the important shifts taking place in our classrooms, share our growing understanding of how to make learning rigorous, relevant & high interest & how to help your child @ home.

On April 24, 2014 @ 8:00 a.m. a new Safety Committee will meet to discuss traffic flow around Morning Star. Join me, Brian Morrissey & Colleen O'Quinn as we brainstorm ways to make our parking lot, Arnold Street and the surrounding area safer for our students.

Our new STAR board is in place and students are excited to have their pictures posted on the board. STAR slips are earned when students demonstrate STAR behavior without prompting. We draw several slips to post on the board each Monday morning. If your child's slip is not drawn we send the slip home with a note recognizing their positive behavior. If your child's slip is drawn, the slip & a photo is posted for six weeks until the board is filled; once filled, the students are invited to an Otter Pop party during their lunch. During last week's party I learned that students' favorite parts of school are math groups, reading, health enhancement, science, social studies, computers/iPads & recess. Among the improvements students suggested are more games during lunch recess & different equipment to play with. As a result, we have purchased new equipment & will soon begin sign-ups for four square and basketball tournaments.

We need lunch volunteers to help with the tournaments – please contact the Morning Star office @ 522-6500 if you can help any time, any day between 11:15-12:45.

Thanks for providing such great support!

We are Morning STARS



We **S**olve problems in a respectful manner by attempting to work it out, getting adult help & reporting concerns.



We **T**ake responsibility for our behavior by following directions, being prepared & caring for equipment & materials.



We **A**ct safely to ensure all students may move through the hallways & participate in activities appropriately.



We show **R**espect for ourselves and others by actively listening, using appropriate language, waiting patiently & using good manners.

Handbook Highlights Take Responsibility

Guidelines for Chaperones

- ☆ Do not bring along siblings or other children.
 - ☆ Do not leave students alone or unescorted.
 - ☆ Do not release students to anyone other than the teacher.
 - ☆ Parents/guardians who want to take their child home during a field trip must secure permission from the teacher.
 - ☆ Chaperones who are transporting students must have completed District insurance paperwork.
- (See Student Handbook p 7)

Spotlight on First Grade

This week 1st grade & their study of writing is featured. Our teachers use mentor texts to study a variety of authors, text types and how an author uses "zoom ins" to depict ideas through artwork. "If I were the Easter bunny..." & designing flags to represent themselves are examples of how our students are learning to use art to represent their thinking. This lesson was a follow up to the Lions Club presentation on the American flag & flag etiquette.

In math students are participating in number talks to develop understanding of numbers. Guided inquiry activities using tens frames, rekenreks & patterns provide hands on experience. These manipulatives, along with questions such as "How did you get your answer," "Explain your thinking," & "What strategy did you use?" help students apply their learning to new situations.

Technology tools such as Pebble Go, Bookflix and Kidspiration provide opportunities for students to practice digital citizenship & develop skills for productivity & organization of their thinking.

FEATURED EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

SPRING MUSICALS ARE ALMOST HERE!

All events will be held April 21-29 in the music room. A reminder: NO BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED IN THE MUSIC ROOM DURING PERFORMANCES - thank you! Questions about your child's performance, see your classroom newsletters or contact Mrs. Reynolds at 522-6522.

Morning Star Bike Safety Week

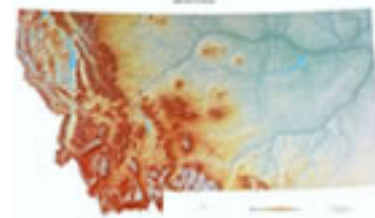
During the week of May 5-7 students will learn how to maintain their own bikes & interact with people from local bike shops. Students & families will learn to check tire pressure, change a flat, oil the chain, seat adjustment, parts of the bike, bike signals & riding techniques for dirt trails. This week is being planned as part of Screen Free week & National Bike to School Day on May 7. Events will take place from 3:45-4:45 each day & families are encouraged to attend.

→We need volunteers to help guide students through different learning stations each day as well as help lead our Fun Ride on Friday, May 9. Please sign up for one or more 45 minute time slots. Thank you for your time – if you have questions contact Robin Arnold, Jamie Gowdy, Barbie Huber or Lorrie Maffey. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DA4A72EA0FC1-bike>

PARENT LIAISON TIP

Summer Activity Binder - Spring is finally here and **it is not too soon to be thinking about summer programs for the kids!** One way to keep both parents and kids sane and happy over the summer is to find a balance between satisfying children's need for play and finding interesting activities they can participate in. So, you may be asking yourself... How can I find creative ways to keep my child entertained? Thrive has created a Summer Activities Binder full of summer program brochures and information. Check it out near the front office.

→Sponsored by The Parent Liaison Program, a signature program of Thrive and the partnership with Bozeman Schools. Contact your Parent Liaison for more information. Libby Michaud, 922-4237 or



CALLING ALL CAPS, TOPS & LIDS

~Kim Dickerson, parent

Earth Day is Monday, April 21st. In celebration of Mother Earth the wonderful students of Morning Star will be creating a mosaic of Montana using plastic caps, tops and lids. Please have your family start collecting these items in all shapes, colors and sizes. We are going to need a lot, so please leave no cap alone! There will be a green recycling bin in the main hallway at school to drop your lids off. We will be creating this masterpiece during lunchtime on Monday, April 21 during Art at Lunch. If you would like to help volunteer, please contact Kim Dickerson at kqdickerson@icloud.com

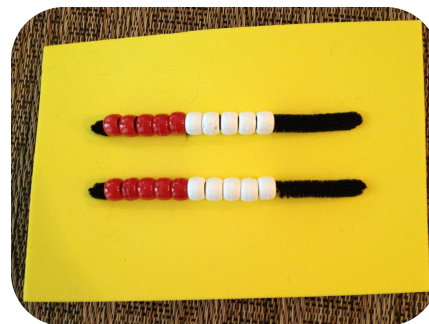
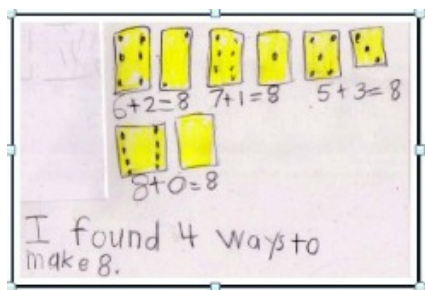
Calendar of Events



Lt. Governor Angela McLean

<http://www.kbzk.com/news/lt-gov-mclean-promotes-literacy-program-among-bozeman-elementary-students/>

- April 14-18** 5th grade Smarter Balanced assessment
- April 16** Early Release, 1:45 dismissal
- April 17** PAC Meeting @ 11:45
- April 21** Walk/Wheel to School, Earth day/flowers; Art @ Lunch
- April 24** 5th Grade Band/Orchestra District Concert
- April 21-25** 4th grade Smarter Balanced assessment
- April 25** End of 3rd Mid-Trimester
- April 29** Parent Information Night – Q/A, How to Help @ Home
- April 28-May 2** 3rd grade Smarter Balanced assessment
- May 2** Mid-Trimester Reports go home
- May 5-9** Bike Safety Week Clinics @ 3:45, families welcome
- May 6** Room Parent Coordinated Staff Appreciation in Classrooms
- May 15** Early morning PAC meeting @ 8:00 a.m.
- May 21** Early Release, 1:45 dismissal
- May 26** No School – Memorial Day



How to Help @ Home

This issue focuses on some resources to support math at home through the use of manipulatives and games. The National Library of Virtual Manipulatives has many interactive activities that will help reinforce skills being learned at school. Try some of the activities at <http://nlvm.usu.edu>

For students learning to reason mathematically, the rekenrek (pictured above) is a helpful tool being used in many of our classrooms. If you are interested, they may be purchased commercially or made easily. Instructions on how to make and use the rekenrek may be found at <http://mathcoachcorner.blogspot.com/2013/06/diy-rekenreks-take-2.html>

Tens frames and dot cards are another resource to build math fact fluency without using traditional flash cards. These resources are described at <http://mathcoachcorner.blogspot.com/2013/06/diy-rekenreks-take-2.html>

The National PTA (Parent Teacher Association) publishes guides for every grade level that are a nice compliment to the "Standards At A Glance" document sent home by Bozeman Schools earlier in the school year. These documents are available at <http://www.pta.org/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2796>

There are a wide variety of games and activities that may help reinforce skills & strategies learned in school while encouraging students' understanding of fair play, taking turns and good sportsmanship. Among them are Monopoly, Chutes & Ladders, Candyland, Apples to Apples, Dominoes, Mancala, Math Noodlers, & Parchesi.

For a list of online games and activities to support math and ELA at home see the google document "Web-Based Resources for Parents and Teachers." This document is an annotated bibliography and is located at https://docs.google.com/a/bsd7.org/document/d/1F9izJ7wU68WeAXmBXsrzKSd139ZLLBQj_reumRW4cBI/edit

CELEBRATIONS

Google Docs

~by Karlina Popwell, parent

Our 4th graders are learning how to use Google Docs this year. This online format allows a student to write papers & assemble presentations, then actually “share” them with peers, teachers, & parents. There are multiple ways students can create, write, review, & improve every project through collaboration. Students can even decide with whom they want to share their work by granting them “read-only” or “editing” access. They are the “owners” of their work.

Google Docs enables students to work on projects at school and at home in a more seamless fashion. The teachers can confirm that a student’s progress is in the desired direction and at the desired pace (no more procrastination!). Parents can be more aware of what their student is working on and what specific support he/she may need to complete projects. The skills these 4th graders are learning now will be invaluable in the years to come! Here is one example:

- Fourth grade students have researched & prepared a slide presentation on the solar system. They are currently working on a research paper on the Civil War. Students are excited they won’t be printing their papers, but instead, submitting them in Google Docs. In the process of these & other projects, their typing skills, graphic design, & understanding of shortcuts, color schemes & links have greatly improved! They’ve inserted maps of the U.S. during the Civil War, pictures of President Lincoln & other historical figures, as well as actual pictures of Jupiter, the moon & other aspects of the universe. The use of Google Docs has allowed these students to explore, research, and create in new & exciting ways.

Special Guest!

This week we hosted Lt. Governor Angela McLean to celebrate Ag in our Schools. The kinders had great fun reading with her!

4th grade Space and Time Projects a Big Hit

Our 4th graders showed their finesse in research and public speaking last week during their Space and Time project presentations. A big thank you to all of the parents who supported their child’s efforts and joined us for the presentations!

Morning Star Book Fair was a HUGE success!

A big shout out goes to Lori Faure for organizing the spring Book Fair and all of the volunteers necessary to make this event possible. Thank you all for your time and energy!

PAC SNACK

By Kristen O’Brien



Go Go Energy Bites

Wash your hands!

In a large bowl add:

1 cup oatmeal
1 cup peanut butter or any nut butter
1/3 cup unsweetened coconut
1/2 cup chocolate chips
1/2 cup ground flax or crispie rice cereal
1/3 cup honey

Mix all together well with a wooden spoon. Scoop and roll into small ping pong size balls and refrigerate to set.

Go Go Go!

Give Us a Call!

Office phone:

522-6500

Reporting an absence or tardy? Please call the attendance line:

522-6510



Special Needs Expo

April 26th, 2014 from 8:30am-3:30pm at

Hyalite Elementary School- 3600 West Babcock Street

Join us for a free, all-day extravaganza featuring speakers on a variety of topics pertaining to the special needs community. We will have 3 breakout sessions with choices of classes to attend.

Speakers and topics this year include:

Shawna Heiser, MS,BCBA: Behavioral Challenges, Jamie Miller, MT-BC: Music Therapy, Mary Caferro, Montana Senator: ARC of Montana organization , Dr. Donna Kelsch: Mental Illness Challenges, Julie Doerner, M.S. CCC-SLP: MonTECH state programs, and June Hermanson: Montana Youth Transitions.

The ***Charles Campbell Children's Camp***, will be coming from Billings to give a short talk and video during lunch about their free summer camps for children with disabilities. Our keynote event will be a presentation from the **SproutFlix film festival**. We will also have a resource fair with agencies from the community.

We are providing free breakfast, lunch, and child care. Don't miss this opportunity to expand your knowledge and resources.

For Questions Contact: Alyson Ball at 582-8566 or Marilyn Davis 750-2176