



Morning Star School Newsletter October 16, 2013

**No School
Thursday/Friday
October 17 & 18**

MEA Professional Development Days for Teachers

Progress Reports

Coming home today are the NEW mid-trimester progress reports that include a I-IV scale for reporting progress toward END OF YEAR standards. Previously our report cards and progress reports reported where we expected students to be at that point in time and did not include “Characteristics of a Successful Learner.” The typical growth indicator for the first and second trimesters is a II, indicating the student is on target to reach grade level benchmarks. If your child received a I or a (-) in any area, please be aware that at this point in time a great deal of support is being provided and it does NOT indicate your child is failing to thrive. Please take a few minutes to review the “Bozeman School District Elementary Report Card Informational Guide” attached to your child’s progress report. The progress report is not part of your child’s permanent record, it is a report of progress for your information only. If any questions remain after you have reviewed the guide, please feel free to contact Robin Arnold.

Fun Run Update

Our students ran/walked a grand total of 9776 laps during the Fun Run. This represents 8 more laps than last year with 30 fewer students – quite an accomplishment and a tribute to the healthy lifestyles our students lead!

Help us improve air quality around our school!

Did you know?

- Idling for 10 seconds uses the same amount of gas as restarting your car. Most people waste one to two entire tanks of gas every year by idling.
- Manufacturers assure that frequent restarting won’t harm an engine.
- The City of Bozeman and First Student (Bozeman school buses) have no-idling policies for their fleet.
- It is illegal to leave an idling car unattended in Montana (MCA 61-8-357).

What can you do?

- As a rule of thumb, if you are going to be stopped for more than 30 seconds at drop-off or pick-up times, turn your vehicle off.
- Pledge to not idle unnecessarily – any time, any place.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Wednesday evening November 20, Thursday evening November 21, and all day Friday, November 22 (no school for students Fri.) are three days that are set aside for parents to

visit with their child’s teacher one on one. **Conference information is coming home today with your oldest child.** Please return the Parent-Teacher Conference Sheet on Monday, October 21. Conference confirmations will go home Friday, November 1st.

For Your Information

For **Halloween**, Thursday October 31st, we are asking everyone to wear **orange** and **black** clothing, no face painting and **please, no costumes**. Students are welcome to have crazy hair for the day! Individual classes will be having parties in the afternoon starting at 2:30. We have asked Room Parents to ensure all activities taking place during the parties are aligned to our curriculum standards. If you would like an alternative activity instead of the Halloween Party, please contact the office at 522-6500 as we will be showing a National Geographic movie.

November 13 - New Parent Information Night

Are you a parent new to the Morning Star community? Join Libby Michaud (parent liaison) and Robin Arnold for an informational hour from 6:00-7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 13. Topics include an introduction to our district anti-bullying program, Olweus; an overview of our MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) process; Morning STAR (Solve Problem, Take Responsibility, Act Safely and Show Respect) Expectations; and MT Common Core Instructional Practices. Please RSVP by calling 522-6500 or email robin.arnold@bsd7.org.

KidsPack

Last Friday you should have received a sheet describing the KidsPack partnership with the Gallatin Valley Food Bank along with a permission form. This program provides three healthy ready to prepare meals for children and their families each weekend and is discretely placed in backpacks while children are at recess. **If you are interested in participating, please send the form back to school ASAP** so we can launch the program on Friday, October 23. Alicia DeJarlais will make a personal contact with each participating family early next week.

Dress for the Weather

As we begin to experience some variations in our weather, please send your child to school in weather appropriate clothing and shoes. Children not dressed appropriately (see guidelines in Student Handbook) will be unable to participate in all activities.

Walk & Wheel to School

October is Walk to School Month! We will continue to celebrate the benefits of movement with Walk/Wheel to School Days on October 23 and 31. Each day features a spirit focus (see list of important dates for the focus). Each time your child participates they will receive a toe token and a raffle ticket to win one of several fitness or spirit related prizes. Last week we had a whopping 350 students participate and this week 252 students with crazy hats and/or hair walked and wheeled to school – way to go!!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Miles Fastnow and Fischer Harris whose artwork was included in the 2014 Montana Energy Calendar. Both students and their spring 2013 teachers were recognized by Governor Bullock at the Capitol Rotunda today.

Free basketball clinics

Brian Priebe, a Morning Star parent, is offering basketball clinics for girls in 4th grade and Kindergarten children (maximum of 10 children each). The clinics begin October 16 & continue for six weeks with Kindergarten 6:00-6:30 and 4th grade 6:30-7:30. Please contact Brian if you have questions, 351-2523.

Lost and Found

Please check the lost and found when you are here. We have many clothing items and lunch boxes. On a monthly basis, any items without identification will be bagged and donated to one of our local nonprofit agencies.

Morning Star Student Directory

Student directories coming TODAY. The directory, like our newsletter, will be provided via email with a limited number of hard copies available in the office. The purpose of the directory is to facilitate communication among Morning Star families (ie: birthdays, play dates, etc.). School related issues or concerns should be referred to the school office. If you do not wish your child's information to be included make sure you have indicated on the parent permission form sent home the first week of school.

Montana Crunch Time

Morning Star will join schools and individuals across Montana in celebrating Food Day and National Farm to School Month by crunching into locally and regionally grown apples on October 24th at 2:00pm MST. More info is available at opi.mt.gov/Farm2School. Make sure to collect a "crunch byte" (video, photos, or audio) to share!

Healthy Habits Challenge

Just a reminder that our Healthy Habits Challenge runs Monday – Sunday each week. If your child is participating please have them return their challenge sheet (just for that week) no later than Tuesday. Students are asked to place the sheet in the yellow and green box at the top of stage steps. We draw one lucky participant on Wednesday morning each week.

Thanks-4-Giving Clothing Giveaway

The 6th annual Thanks-4-Giving Clothing Giveaway is coming! This free clothing giveaway is open to everyone and will be held at the Willson School gym on Nov. 23rd from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm and Nov. 24th from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. The set up for Thanks-4-Giving will be Nov. 19th -22nd from 9 am - 8 pm. **Start going through your closets and drawers now and set aside the clean, gently-used clothing, shoes, hats, etc. of all sizes, infant through adult.** Watch for more details soon.

Veteran's Day Info from Mrs. Dover

Morning Star will be honoring our military veterans again this year on Veteran's day with an all school assembly. Our assembly we be on Monday November 11 at 2:30 p.m. We invite all Veterans to be our guest and allow our students to honor you.

☆ For those new to Morning Star we present a slide show honoring all veterans near and dear to us. Mothers, Fathers, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Sons, Daughters or anyone really who is a special veteran in your life. If you have a veteran whose information you would like to share with us please e-mail a photo, name, rank, and branch of the military and their relationship to a specific student(s) to chris.dover@bsd7.org. If you have had someone in the show from past years they will continue to be included but please notify us of any changes in rank that may have occurred since last year. This is an important part of giving our students a true understanding of how many veterans are in our community and how they impact our lives.

☆ Please don't delay getting photos turned in. Editing the slide show takes time and every year we have someone who would like to include a relative but wait until the day before the assembly.

☆ **Deadline for photos is Friday November 1, 2013.**

Electronic School Newsletters!

This is our third issue using our email listserve. If you have not provided your email address(es) to either PAC or the classroom teacher and wish to receive our newsletter, please let us know. If you have provided your email address and are not receiving the newsletter, please check your email filter and add robin.arnold@bsd7.org to the approved contacts. Newsletters will also be posted on our school website and a few hard copies are available in the office.

Mark Your Calendars

- ☆ **Thurs-Fri, October 17-18** MEA-MFT @ Belgrade Event Center ~ No school for students
- ☆ **Wednesday, October 23** Walk/Wheel to School Day, **MSU Spirit Day**
- ☆ **Thursday, October 31** Walk/Wheel to School Day, **Black and Orange Day**
- ☆ **Book Fair November 12-14**
- ☆ **Wednesday, 11/20** – Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:30 pm
- ☆ **Thursday, 11/21** - Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:30 pm
- ☆ **Friday, 11/22** – Parent/Teacher Conferences – **No school for students**