

CONSTELLATIONS

MORNING STAR PRINCIPAL NEWSLETTER

Parent Advisory Council Spotlight!

It is the second month of instruction and the students of Morning Star are already learning and growing at a remarkable rate. We owe a whole lot of that momentum to the work and support of our Morning Star families. The next several pages are dedicated to parent volunteer opportunities and Parent Advisory Council contributions to our school.

Please take some time to consider joining us as a volunteer, participant, or just as a cheerleader on the sidelines as we head into the fall. We are working hard to make Morning Star a welcoming place for your entire family and a place where parents come together to support the growth and learning of all students.

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Principal
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Special Thanks to Jaylin Knutson for
Helping With Our New School-Wide
Expectation Graphic

LOOKING FORWARD

- 10/6 FUN RUN!
- 10/10 Practice School Evacuation to SMS
- 10/19-20 No School (MEA Days)
- 10/24 Science Fair Planning Meeting
- 10/31 Students may bring costumes to wear after lunch.
- 11/3 PAC Sponsored Bingo 5:30-6:30
- 11/7 MSU Basketball Game Followed by Fun Run Grand Prize Assembly!!!
- 11/8-9th Parent Teacher Conferences (Students have school on the 8th, Conferences in the P.M.)
- 11/9th and 10th No School for Students
- 11/15 PAC Meeting 6:00-7:30 P.M.

FUN RUN!!

The Fun Run is our Number One way to raise money for the school!

[Click Here To Get Started!](#)

- Click “Not Registered For This Year’s Event”
- Enter your name and email address, then click “Submit” Follow the instructions on-screen to register students
- If you’ve participated with Pledgestar in the past, all your imported contacts will pop up once you register for THIS YEAR’S event as long as you use the same email address
- Please note, you must register for this year’s event even if you participated in previous years

HOW PAC
PUTS FUN
RUN FUNDS
TO WORK





Field Trips: If you have any clear memories from when you were in grade school, chances are at least a couple of them are from field trips. Getting out of the confines of our building and into the world around us helps teachers extend learning and ignite interests. Just a few of our destinations: Amalthea Farms, Museum of the Rockies, Lewis and Clark Caverns, and Helena. **PAC funds almost every single field trip including transportation.**

Visual Art: When parents are new to Montana they are often surprised that art is not a required curriculum supported by certified teachers at the K-5 level. In the increasingly challenging world of school funding we are not able to run classes that are not supported at the state level. As a result, our classroom teachers would need to find space in their day to teach art. At morning Star we are fortunate to have Melissa Summerfield as a guest artist supporting our teachers year-round. **PAC is the only reason we can offer this enrichment to our students.**

Ice Rink: Every winter a crack team of parent volunteers turns the upper field into a huge ice rink. For many of our students it is their first time on skates. **PAC provides both the funds and the manpower to keep our students active during the coldest times of the year.**

Learning Materials: We are incredibly fortunate to be part of a district that provides high quality, research based materials to teach our students. In order to supplement those materials and support all students as they learn and grow, we are always looking for the best intervention and extension materials. Last year we supercharged reading with a new library of decodable texts and novels with engaging subjects, high-interest topics, and high quality texts from K-5. **The cost of these materials is above and beyond our budget. Fun Run donations made it possible for us to invest in sets that will last us for years.**

Performing Arts/ Music: We are lucky to have a dedicated music teaching team in Mrs. Q, Mrs. Murphy, and Mrs. Pafford. Mrs. Q runs a choir for 3-5 that includes performances outside of the standard school-day and week. We have marimbas, a sound system, and everything we need to help our students shine. In addition, Bozeman Children's Theater will return with a production that is open to all students in March. Finally, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks brings a child friendly performance to the whole school in April. **Every one of these opportunities is fully PAC funded.**

2nd Grade Computers: The district funds computers for every child from 3rd-12th grade. We now have the ability to start students typing, researching, and coding early with a classroom set of laptops in every one of our 2nd grade classes. **This technology is made possible by last year's Fun Run money.**

Professional Development for Teachers: Research shows that the most powerful tool for student learning is collective teacher efficacy. Last year a group of teachers attended a national math conference to explore cutting edge instructional practices. This year our behavior specialist will be joining others across the district to increase her Trust Based Relational Intervention Skills **PAC has committed to supporting ongoing Teacher and Staff training to make sure that Morning Star continues to be at the forefront of powerful practices.**

Looking to the future: We currently have a growing list of future projects including:

- **New Playground Equipment**
- **Storage for Outdoor Items**
- **Indian Education for All Materials**
- **Teacher Requests Collected on an Ongoing Basis**



Support Us By Volunteering!



Volunteer For The Fun Run! if you are interested in volunteering in this year's FUN RUN, thank you in advance! HOORAY! If you aren't already signed up just show up on Friday and ask how you can help.



Volunteer To Coach Sports! We can run Volleyball and Basketball in our gyms after school but **only if we have coaches.** Please email [Susan Atkinson](#) if you are interested in coaching.



Science Fair is Back and we need you! Do you work in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math? Do you want to share that knowledge with the potentially-brilliant-as-long-as-they-develop-a-growth-mindset young minds of Morning Star students? [Click here to fill out a quick survey and we will include you in our next steps!](#) **There will be a meeting for all interested volunteers on 10/24 5:30-6:30.** Don't worry if you can't make it we will follow up with you after.

WHO IS PAC?

The short answer is: **you are!** If you are a parent or guardian of a Morning Star student, you are a member of PAC. Join us at any of the meetings at 6:00 p.m. at the school, on the following dates:

11/15

1/10

3/20

Email msparentsac@gmail.com with any questions

Elected Officers:

President

Melissa Flentie

President Elect

Sarah Lutiger

Treasurer

Kara Barton

Communications Coordinator

Megan Radoslovich

Fundraising Coordinator

Staci Thacker

Volunteer Coordinator

Ruth Guest

Enrichment Coordinator

Lindsay Smith

PAC Chairs:

Yearbook

Kara Barton

Spirit Wear

Jaylin Knutson

Square 1 Art

Kelly D'Urso

Ice Rink

Ruth Guest

Events

Kristin Kennedy