

MORRISTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

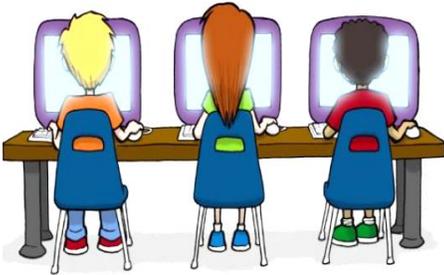


Volume 2, Issue 9 March 2020

AzM2 and AIMS Science

AIMS Science (Grades 4 and 8)

AzM2 (Grades 3 thru 8)



SPRING ASSESSMENTS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

As we move into March, we will be getting closer to the students taking their state assessments. These tests include AIMS Science for grades 4 and grade 8, along with the AzM2 assessments for grades 3 thru 8. Each teacher has respectfully scheduled their classes assessments. Each student will be assessed in the areas of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. These assessments will depict student performance with state standards. These assessments depict the performance of our school with other school districts throughout Arizona. Our goal is to demonstrate the hard work the school staff, the students, and our parents have put forth during this academic year. We encourage all our stakeholders to support the efforts of the students with these upcoming assessments. Establishing homework times at home and to encourage students to do their best at all times and set a great foundation for positive performance. Each of these tests will be administered via a computer. It is essential our students are comfortable with this platform and are able to access all the different tools through the computer. Practice tests can be found at this link: <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/resources/>

Parents can support the efforts by encouraging their child to take their time and to do the best they can on the test. Parents can attain more information from the Arizona Department of Education assessment website: <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/>



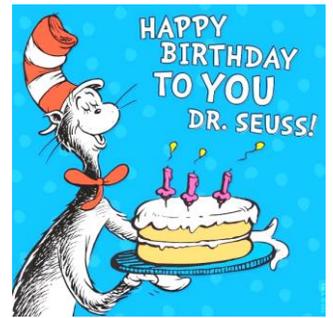
STUDENTS PREPARE FOR SCIENCE SHOWCASE

The school's annual Science Showcase will take place Wednesday, March 11th at 5:00 pm. This annual event allows for the students to use an aspect of a science project of their choice. In most cases, students are working collectively in a team with their peers on the project design. Use of these skills allows for projects to be thoroughly explored and designed. This event also allows for our area support groups to come in and be part of the event. GFWC-Morristown will be on site and will be providing a limited number of science kits to younger students.. We encourage all our parents and their entire family to come to this event. There will be many opportunities for small group interactions in a variety of events. PTSA will also be at the event and raising funds through a bake sale.

Special Note: March 5th will be an Afternoon Only Single Bus Run

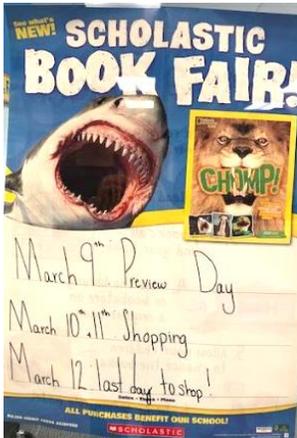
DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY

On March 2nd, Morristown Elementary, as well as, other schools across the United States observed the birthday of one of the most beloved children's authors of our time, Dr. Seuss. Children celebrated and honored his birthday by participating in fun activities, playing games, and reading his much-adored books. Mrs. Amy Potter provide our students with a breakfast of Green Eggs and Ham!



Interesting Facts on Dr. Seuss

1. He really wasn't a doctor
2. He wrote Green Eggs and Ham as a dare to write a book with only using 50 different words
3. The Grinch movie was a flop at first
4. He was the first person to use the word "Nerd"



BOOK FAIR AT SCHOOL

The school will be sponsoring a book fair the week of March 9th.

- March 9th Preview Day
- March 10th 7:30 am to 4:00 pm
- March 11th 7:30 am to 5:30 pm
- March 12th 7:30 am to noon

The school will accept cash, credit card or checks (made payable to Morristown Elementary School). On March 4th there will also be a link to purchase online from the school's website. Call Ms. Maben at the school with specific questions.

MORRISTOWN ELEMENTARY WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS



The school would like to formally acknowledge four new members to the school staff. Richard Florez, who is taking on the role of a paraprofessional working with Ms. Hefner's 5th and 6th multi grade classroom students. Richard has a very interesting background much of which has been working in the area of education with students of other countries. In addition, the school has filled its custodial position with Mr. Joe Wagner. Mr. Wagner has been very active in ensuring the school is cleaned and disinfected. This is particularly important during this time of year being flu season.



Going to the governing board for final approval will be Michelle Torres, paraprofessional, and we are working on our school counselor position as well. As with all the positions of the school, each and every one has a positive impact on the development of your child both academically and behaviorally.

STUDENTS ATTEND RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

Recently Ms. Hefner took her 5th and 6th grade students to attend the Renaissance Festival out in the Apache Junction area. This field trip allows for students to make a connection to an historical time period that they study during their class. We appreciate those parents that took their time to attend the function as well. It was a very enjoyable and rewarding day.



100 DAY CELEBRATION

February 26 was the 100th day of school for this academic year. This 100th day is a critical day for the funding of schools through the Arizona Department of Education. Student enrollment and attendance leading up to the 100th day is calculated and appropriate funding comes back to

the school from the state. A variety of our teachers and students celebrated this day by dressing up and immersed classroom activities into their curriculum. Thanks to those parents who came in and helped with the classroom activities. More importantly thank you to all the parents and students who have attended our school this year. Each of them is what truly impacts our school.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



The school would like to acknowledge both Aubrianna Hintz (Grade 1) and Lauren Weber (Grade 8) as the school's February Students of the Month. Aubrianna is very committed to her academic responsibilities and is very focused in working with all the other students in 1st grade. She is respectful and kind to all her classmates. Lauren is also very committed towards her academic work. She is a Student Government President, involved in all the sports program and supports her classmates and other students of the school to the fullest. Lauren is typically front and center with all school activities.

AZ TAX CREDIT OPPORTUNITY ENDING SOON

We are quickly approaching tax season and there is still time to contribute to the school through the Arizona Tax Credit program. This opportunity allows for taxpayers to earmark funds to local schools and receive a tax credit for the same dollar amount from the state. The Arizona Tax Credit contribution form can be downloaded from the school's website or at the school. Tax credit donations support a variety of activities that include tutoring, field trips, enrichment and athletic programs.

VALENTINES DANCE WELL ATTENDED

The PTSA Valentine's Dance recently took place at the school. The turnout for the dance was absolutely great and those that attended had a great time. Proceeds from PTSA dances are utilized to support the 8th



grade students end of year trip. This year Mr. Trad and the 8th graders will be headed to California. Events like the dance go to offset the costs related to the end of year trip. This year's royalty competition was extremely competitive. The selection of Prince and Princess were Victor Mendiola and Maddy Wiley. This years King and Queen were Luis Carrasco and Lauren Weber. These are great representatives for the royalty. Thanks to all those students who attended the event and thanks to Mr. Trad and the 8th graders for putting the event on.



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

The Coronavirus, now known as COVID-19, is causing much anxiety with the county, the country, and the world. Schools across the nation are proceeding to become more familiar to the status of the virus. Regardless of being a very small district we will do our best to inform and educate our parents and students to potential implications if such action is needed. Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) is working to provide you the most up to date information on this rapidly evolving situation. At the end of the newsletter is a brief overview of the current situation. For more information and FAQ's, we recommend you visit www.maricopa.gov/coronavirus. We will also place a section on our website that will link to the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

SPRING BREAK MARCH 16-19

March brings us to Spring Break. Spring Break begins March 16th and ends March 19th with students returning to school on the 23rd. During this time the admin office will have modified hours so please call in advance if you need to visit the office. This is a great time of year to spend time with family and friends. When school resumes, we will have a week of Parent Teachers conferences as well as an awards ceremony on March 26th.

ANNUAL PARENT SURVEY

Each year the school conducts a Parent Survey. This year the survey will initially be administered electronically. There will be two separate electronic surveys. The survey allows parents to provide feedback to the school as it conducts its Comprehensive Needs Assessment and Integrated Action Plan. The surveys are brief, and we truly encourage our parents to take a moment and provide us with their feedback. Results will be used to support the Integrated Action Plan which supports ongoing school improvement.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent teacher conferences will be conducted the week after Spring Break. Spring Break takes us into the 4th Quarter which is the home stretch to the end of the school year. It is essential that parents have a firm understanding of how their students(s) are progressing. With recent benchmark assessments and performance with daily schoolwork will reflect a current status of the students. We encourage all our parents to calendar a meeting time with their student's respective teacher. Meeting in person is so valuable and allows for parents to be able to ask specific questions and to allow our teachers to review recent formative assessment results and current academic markings.

Upcoming Events

March 2	Dr. Seuss, Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast
March 5	Field Trip Wildlife Zoo (Grades K-4) (SINGLE BUS RUN IN PM)
March 9	Regular Governing Board Meeting (6:00 pm)
March 11	White Tank Park Grand Hikers Sun City Hike (Grades 5 & 6)
March 11	Science Showcase Grades K through 8
March 12	3 rd Quarter Ends
March 9-12	Book Fair (See schedule above)
March 13	Track Meet at Wickenburg High School
March 16-19	Spring Break (No School)
March 23-26	Parent Teachers Conference
March 24	Grade 4 AIMS Science Testing
March 25	Grade 8 AIMS Science Testing
March 26	Lifetouch Spring Individual and Classroom Group Pictures
March 26	8 th Grade Fundraiser Pig Drawing Takes Place (noon)
March 26	3 rd Quarter Awards Ceremony
March 30	AzM2 Grade 3 (Writing)
March 31	AzM2 Grade 3 (Reading 1 & Math 1), Grade 4 (Writing), Grade 7 & 8 (Writing)
April 1	AzM2 Grade 3 (Reading 2 & Math 2), Grade 4 Reading 1 & Math 1, Grades 3-7 (Writing Ms. Spear)
April 2	AzM2 Grade 4 (Reading 2 & Math 2)
April 7	AzM2 Grade 5/6 (Writing), Grade 7/8 (Reading 1 & Math1)
April 8	AzM2 Grade 7/8 (Reading 2 & Math 2)
April 14	AzM2 Grade 5/6 (Reading 2 & Math 2)
April 15	AzM2 Grade 5/6 (Reading 2 & Math 2)

AzM2 Special Note: Make-up sessions will be provided for any students who miss a testing session.



February 28, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We understand that the Novel Coronavirus, now known as COVID-19, is causing much anxiety in our community, country and the world. Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) is working to provide you with the most up to date information on this rapidly evolving situation. Following is a brief overview of the current situation. For more information and FAQ's, we recommend you visit www.maricopa.gov/coronavirus.

WHAT IS KNOWN

- The virus causing COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified and causes a respiratory illness ranging from a mild cold-like illness to severe pneumonia.
- Most (81%) of people diagnosed with COVID-19 in China had mild disease, including most children.
- Similar to influenza, the people who are most likely to have severe disease and complications from COVID-19 are older individuals (>60 years old) and those with other medical conditions like heart and lung disease or diabetes.
- There is no vaccine or treatment currently available for COVID-19 but the National Institutes of Health is evaluating treatments and developing a vaccine already.
- Currently, there is NO confirmed community spread of COVID-19 in Maricopa County, meaning the virus is not being spread from person-to-person. However, experts predict there will eventually be community spread. MCDPH is preparing for when/if this happens.

HOW THE VIRUS SPREADS

- COVID-19 is believed to spread primarily the same way the common cold or flu spreads—through respiratory droplets that are produced when someone coughs or sneezes.
- People who are most at risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 are those who have been in close contact (within about 6 feet) with someone who has the disease.
- People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).
- Some spread of the virus might be possible before a person has symptoms; there have been reports of this with COVID-19, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

- Keep children home when they are sick.
 - Students (and parents/guardians) who are ill, especially with acute respiratory symptoms (not allergies or chronic conditions), should stay home.
- Teach your children to always cover their cough and sneezes with a tissue or elbow.
- Remind them to wash their hands with soap and water (or use hand sanitizer) after they touch their face, use the restroom and before they eat.



- Tell children to avoid touching their mouth and nose since that is how germs get into the body.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects (everyday household disinfectants are fine)
 - Enhance cleaning of high touch surfaces like door knobs, toilet handles, and sink handles.
- Plan for when community spread occurs.
 - Ensure you have a plan to designate a caregiver, such as a family member or neighbor, for a sick child(ren) if you can't stay home.
 - Know your child's school plan to communicate with you when needed, such as robocalls, email or checking their website.

Because most people with COVID-19 have mild disease, the likelihood that MCDPH will recommend closing schools is very low, but not zero. In the highly unlikely chance that MCDPH has to shut down your child's school due to a COVID-19 outbreak, it is important for parents/guardians to have a plan for who could take care of your child.

MCDPH staff are working day and night to monitor this evolving situation and will continue to provide new information to the community as things change. Please contact your school leadership or healthcare provider should you have additional questions.

More information can be found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus, www.maricopa.gov/coronavirus or at www.twitter.com/MaricopaHealth.

Sincerely,



Marcy Flanagan, DBA, MPH, MA
Director



Rebecca Sunenshine, MD, FIDSA
Medical Director, Disease Control Division

28 de febrero del 2020

Apreciable padre de familia:

Entendemos que el Nuevo Coronavirus, mejor conocido como COVID-19, está causando mucha ansiedad en nuestra comunidad, país, y el mundo. El Departamento de Salud Pública del Condado Maricopa (MCDPH) por sus siglas en inglés, está trabajando arduamente para traerle la información actual en esta situación que está cambiando constantemente. Para más información y para ver las preguntas más frecuentes le recomendamos que visite nuestra página www.Maricopa.gov/coronavirus.

LO QUE SE SABE

- El virus que está causando la enfermedad COVID-19 es un nuevo coronavirus que no había sido identificado antes y causa desde una enfermedad respiratoria leve como un resfriado hasta severa como una neumonía.
- La mayoría (81%) de las personas diagnosticadas con COVID-19 en China han presentado una enfermedad leve, incluyendo en los niños.
- Similar a la influenza, la gente que ha presentado una enfermedad severa y complicaciones por la enfermedad COVID-19 son personas mayores, (>60 años) y aquellos con condiciones médicas crónicas como con problemas del corazón y enfermedad de pulmón o diabetes.
- No existe una vacuna o tratamiento disponible para la enfermedad COVID-19 pero los Institutos Nacionales de Salud está evaluando tratamiento y desarrollando una vacuna.
- Al momento, NO existe ningún caso confirmado de propagación en la comunidad de la enfermedad COVID-19 en el condado Maricopa. Lo que significa que el virus no se está propagando de persona a persona. Sin embargo, los expertos predicen que eventualmente podría haber propagación en la comunidad. MCDPH se está preparando para cuando eso pase, si es que eso llegará a pasar.

COMO SE PROPAGA EL VIRUS

- COVID-19 se cree se propaga principalmente de la misma manera que un resfriado común o una gripe- por medio de la gotas de las vías respiratorias que se producen cuando alguien estornuda o tose.
- Las personas que están en mayor riesgo de infectarse con COVID-19 son aquellos que están en contacto cercano (dentro de 6 pies de distancia) con alguien que tiene la enfermedad.
- Las personas se cree son más contagiosas cuando presentan los síntomas. (cuando ya están enfermos)



In 2016, the Maricopa County Department of Public Health received accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board. For more information on this achievement, please visit phaboard.org.

- Algún contagio pudiera suceder antes de que las personas presenten síntomas; se han reportado casos de contagio de COVID-19 de esta manera, sin embargo no se cree que sea la manera principal de propagación del virus.

LO QUE USTED PUEDE HACER

- Mantenga a sus hijos en casa cuando estén enfermos.
 - Los estudiantes (y padres de familia) que estén enfermos, especialmente con síntomas respiratorios severos (que no sean alergias o condiciones crónicas) deben quedarse en casa.
- Enseñe a sus hijos a que siempre se cubran el estornudo con una toallita desechable o con el codo.
- Recuérdeles que se laven las manos con jabón y agua (o desinfectante a base de alcohol) después de tocarse la cara, usar el baño o antes de comer.
- Dígale a sus hijos que eviten tocarse la boca y nariz ya que así es como entran los gérmenes al cuerpo.
- Limpie frecuentemente las superficies y objetos (los desinfectantes que usa comúnmente son adecuados para limpiar)
 - Incremente la limpieza de áreas que toca constantemente como manijas de puertas, baños o lavamanos.
- Planee para cuando exista una propagación en la comunidad.
 - Asegúrese que tengan un plan para que alguien cuide a sus hijos como un familiar o vecino si es que se enferma su hijo y usted no puede quedarse en casa con ellos.
 - Revise el plan de la escuela de su hijo de cómo se comunicaran con usted de ser necesario, ya sea con llamadas telefónicas, correo electrónico o por su página de internet.

Porque la mayoría de la gente con la enfermedad COVID-19 ha presentado una enfermedad leve, las posibilidades que MCDPH recomiende que se cierren las escuelas son bajas pero no necesariamente imposible. En caso de que eso sucediera y se tuvieran que cerrar escuelas por el brote de COVID-19, es importante que los padres y familiares tengan un plan para cuidar a sus hijos.

Personal de MCDPH está trabajando de día y noche para monitorear esta situación que está cambiando constantemente y se le dará nueva información a la comunidad a como exista algún cambio. Por favor contacte a su escuela o proveedor médico para cualquier pregunta adicional.

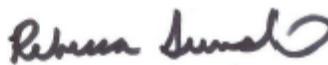
Para más información visite la página www.cdc.gov/coronavirus, www.maricopa.gov/coronavirus o síganos en www.facebook.com/SaludPublicaMaricopa o en www.twitter.com/SaludMaricopa

Sinceramente,



Marcy Flanagan, DBA, MPH, MA

Directora



Rebecca Sunenshine, MD, FIDSA

Directora Médica, División Control de Enfermedades