

# MORRISTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Volume 2, Issue 5 November 2019

Morristown PTSA Fall Festival

## FALL FESTIVAL Celebration

PETTING ZOO\* CARNIVAL GAMES\* CAKE WALK  
SACK RACE\* COOKIE DECORATING CONTEST  
DUNK TANK\* BOUNCE HOUSE\* YUMMY FOOD  
& MORE

Where: Morristown Elementary

When: November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Time: 3pm-6pm

WE ESPECIALLY NEED PARENTS TO HELP START SOME OF  
THE ACTIVITIES. WE ALSO NEED YOUR DONATIONS TO HELP  
US SAVE OPERATING DOLLARS. PLEASE DELIVER THEM TO  
THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup>.

CALL TORI WIMBERLY @ 505-414-1288 OR J.C.  
CAMPBELL AT 757-813-5257 IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.

- 12 OZ. SODA IN CANS (ANY FLAVOR) AND INDIVIDUAL SIZE WATER BOTTLES
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- BAKED GOODS (PACKAGED FOR CONCESSION SALES)
- HOT DOGS
- NACHO CHEESE

Fall Festival Saturday  
Flyer at end of newsletter



## SCHOOL LETTER GRADE

In the upcoming days the Letter Grades for Arizona schools will be posted. Last year Morristown Elementary School attained a “B” label. Early indications show that our letter grade will drop as a result of the performance on the state mandated tests (AzMERIT & AIMS Science) that were administered in the spring of 2019. These mandated tests depict academic performance and the growth of students eligible for calculation within the Letter Grade Business Requirements. Our resulting letter grade has been an eye opener. The school has been active to review our formative test usage to ensure benchmark assessments and progress monitoring of our students. We have implemented a Reading Interventionist to implement 95 Percent to support development in reading. Our teachers have looked at specific targeted Tier II and Tier III interventions to their students. Curriculum will be upgraded. This year the AzMERIT assessment will have a new name but the questions addressing the grade level standards will be virtually the same. It is so important that we work collectively together so that our performance of our “all” students can rise to the level that we all expect and strive for.

## 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER AWARD CEREMONY

On Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> the school conducted its 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Awards Ceremony. These awards ceremonies are put on at the conclusion of each quarter to recognize the accomplishments and milestones that our students have attained during that time period. It is essential that we build capacity with promoting positive accomplishments with our youth of today. Aspects to perfect attendance, behaviors of working hard in the classroom, and meeting reading goals will have a great impact in the future of our youth. The schools focus of improving academic achievement with respect to performance on state tests will be a focus which will have a positive impact on school letter grade.



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*“Thanksgiving provides us an opportunity to stop and reflect for all the things we are truly thankful for”*

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## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK FIELD TRIP HUGE SUCCESS

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, our students took part in the annual Fire Prevention Week Field Trip to the Morristown Circle City Fire Station. A special thank you must go out to Fire Chief Dame and all of his staff for putting this spectacular event together. This event brings together the local agencies that support in individuals and the community in time of a crisis. The agencies participating this day were the Morristown Fire Department, Lifeline Ambulance service, and Native Air which brought a helicopter and crew to the firehouse. All our students had an opportunity to visit a variety of stations to hear firsthand what the individuals do daily and especially when called to a major incident.



*“Thank you, Morristown Fire Department...”*

## SCHOOL RECEIVES ITS NEW SCHOOL BUS

Over Fall Break the school received its brand new school bus. This new bus was part of the VW Settlement that provided money through the State of Arizona. The intent was to take out of commission older school busses that produce a much larger impact on emissions. The newer busses are more efficient and burn cleaner air. A significant number of school districts were provided a new bus if they had in possession a older bus which qualified for consideration of the grant. School busses cost about \$120,000 and when required are a significant impact to school budgets. The new bus is replacing an older school bus that was purchased by the District in 2004. This bus served the school well and had a significant number of miles. The other positive impact it that the newer bus is able to transport about twice as many students as the older bus.



## FLU SHOTS ADMINISTERED AT THE SCHOOL

A special shout out goes to the Maricopa County Health Department for donating flu vaccines to the school. Kuddos also go out to Mrs. Lea Way and Mr. Matt Jones for taking their time to safely administer the vaccines to those participating students. This is the second year that the school has participated in administering flu vaccines to students. Our numbers of participating students this year increased significantly over last years participants. We had approximately twenty-eight brave students step forward to get the flu shots. Last year the school had its best attendance rate for many years. The administration of flu shots to a larger number of students could be a factor attributing to the improved attendance we experience. Improved daily attendance has a direct relationship to learning. Thanks again to all those involved and a special thank you to our parents for taking the time to fill out consent forms and returning them to the school so that shots could be administered.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT TAKES THE LEAD IN PROMOTING RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon week is a national initiative that brings awareness for a “Drug Free” society. Facilitated by our student government, the school was proactive in bringing drug free awareness to all our students. With a week long list of daily



themes the school conducted its Red Ribbon Week Assembly with a drug awareness skit followed by its annual Red Ribbon Week paper airplane contest. By reinforcing drug free efforts at school will help support our students to make great decisions in their life. A special thank you has to go out to Student Government advisor Mrs. Ross and her student council



members for a job well done.

## OUR TITLE I PROGRAM HAS A FOCUS TO IMPROVE READING PERFORMANCE

Spearheaded by Mrs. Spear, Title I Coordinator, the school is focused on improving its Reading performance. Significant work is taking place with the school's Multi Tiered System of Support designed to support student development in the area of reading. Ultimately this will help improve performance on the state mandated tests. Reading is a critical component of literacy skills and having our students grow in this area will trickle into other content areas. One new intervention this year is called 95 Percent. 95 Percent is an evidence-based instructional program to improve reading achievement. Targeted students will be supported by Mrs. Messner who has been contracted to come back to the school to implement this program. Utilize this link to review more information on 95 Percent and specific case studies.

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER



The school would like to acknowledge both Maddy Wiley (1<sup>st</sup> Grader) and Alexis Hoover (4<sup>th</sup> Grader) as students of the month for October. Both students bring a positive work ethic and a huge smile to their class every day. Ms. Perry notes that Maddy is so supportive of her classmates and is very respectful in class. Ms. Sedano notes that Alexis is such a model classmate to the rest of the 4<sup>th</sup> Graders. We want to truly reflect on the hard working students that make up the entire school. It is so important that students come to school with a positive mindset and are supportive to the classmates.

## PTSA FALL SCHOOL DANCE

On Thursday evening the school hosted the PTSA Fall Dance. A great turnout of students attended this event. Students were provided the opportunity to dress out. Costume contests were held for students in Pod A and Pod B. .



### Pod A Costume Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Cheyenne Thornton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Andrea Rodriguez
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Aubree Johnson

### Pod B Costume Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Carter Mason
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Valerie Thornton
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Hailey Graham



## VOLLEYBALL PREPARING FOR UPCOMING TOURNAMENT

The Morristown Elementary volleyball season is quickly winding down. Both the boys' and girls' teams have vastly improved throughout the season. The upcoming Central Mountain League Volleyball tournament is scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup> at Wickenburg High School. The brackets and times will be forwarded once we know.

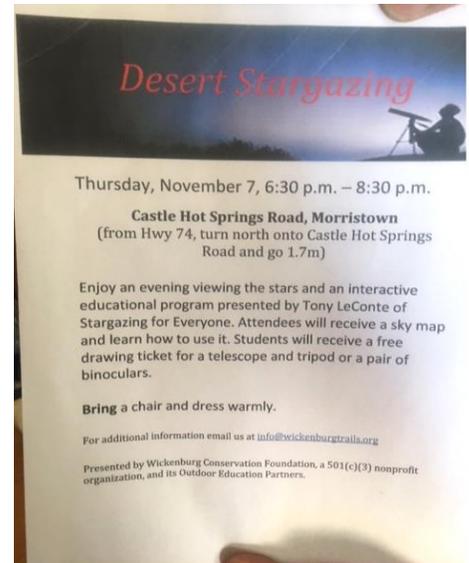
## WILLOW CANYON HIGH SCHOOL VISITS WITH 7<sup>TH</sup> & 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Willow Canyon High School Counselor, Alicia De Falco, came to the school to visit with the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This marks the second year that a Willow Canyon counselor has made the trip out to Morristown. As we prepare our students academically, we want to ensure they, especially our 8<sup>th</sup> graders, what is necessary for a successful transition to high school and eventually to college and/or the work force. Having the opportunity to hear from a high school academic counselor is very beneficial so that students can ensure they are taking the necessary classes and exams that will successfully prepare them for transition. We want to acknowledge the efforts from Willow Canyon. It is really appreciated when large urban school leadership takes the time to make a trip to Morristown. We look forward to the ongoing development of this partnership to ensure our students have ample knowledge on next steps after Morristown Elementary.



## STUDENTS AND PARENTS INVITED TO ATTEND THE UPCOMING STARGAZING EVENT

The Wickenburg Conservation Foundation will be sponsoring a Desert Stargazing opportunity on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Parents and students are encouraged to come out to come out and enjoy an evening viewing the stars with an interactive educational program presented by Tony LeConte of Stargazing for Everyone. Attendees will receive a sky map and learn how to use it. Students will receive a free drawing ticket for a telescope and a tripod or a pair of binoculars. Participants are encouraged to bring a chair and dress warmly. For additional information email the Wickenburg Conservation Foundation at [infor@wickenburgtrails.org](mailto:infor@wickenburgtrails.org). The location of the stargazing interactive program is on 1.7 miles Castle Hot Springs Road from the Highway 74 intersection.



## NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK

In celebration of National School Lunch Week our Food Service Manager, Mrs. Amy Potter, promoted several things to support the endeavor. The school invited parents to come to the school and take lunch with their children at school. We had many parents and family members take full advantage of this. It was truly amazing to see our parents take time to support their child by having lunch at school with them. The menu for the day was meatball subs and Mrs. Amy provided several sides with the main course.



## SCHOOL FILLS PARAPROFESSIONAL POSITION

The school welcomes Diana Fritz to its staff. Ms. Fritz is the new paraprofessional who is serving students in Pod A (Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade). Ms. Fritz comes to the school with a strong professional background. In addition to her professional resume Ms. Fritz has brought an extreme amount of enthusiasm. We look forward to the impact she will have with the students while supporting the efforts of the Pod A teachers.



## HONORING OUR VETERANS

On Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> the school will be acknowledging and honoring family Veterans of our students. We will offer the extended Veteran family member a free lunch between 11:10 am and 11:45 am. Other family members are welcome to join us for lunch but will be charged \$3.50 for adults and \$2.75 for children. We are hoping to schedule Veterans to come in and speak to your students. If you know of a Veteran who might be interested please contact Dr. Sackos at 623-546-5102.

## THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON AT SCHOOL

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, the school will be hosting its annual Thanksgiving Luncheon at the school. We are extending a welcome to family members who want to come in and enjoy a Thanksgiving lunch with their children. The cost will be \$3.50 for adults and \$2.75 for children. On the menu that day is turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans and of course pumpkin pie.

### Upcoming Events

|  |  |
|--|--|
| October 24 <sup>th</sup>                     | PTSA Fall School Dance (5:00 pm – 8:00 pm)                     |
| October 31 <sup>st</sup>                     | Halloween (Be Careful and Trick or Treat with Others)          |
| November 1 <sup>st</sup>                     | Central Mountain League Volleyball Tournament (9:30 am to ???) |
| November 2 <sup>nd</sup>                     | PTSA Fall Festival 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm                           |
| November 4                                   | Regular School Board Meeting                                   |
| November 7 <sup>th</sup>                     | Veterans Day Celebration at School                             |
| November 11 <sup>th</sup>                    | Veterans Day (School Closed)                                   |
| November 21 <sup>st</sup>                    | Thanksgiving Lunch at School (please read info above)          |
| November 27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> | Thanksgiving Holiday Break (School Closed)                     |

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