



# Morse Newsletter



February 12, 2024

## Notes from the Principal, Ms. Dupuy ...

Today marks our 100th day of school, and it's incredible to reflect on how fast time has passed. We've worked through countless lessons, experiences, and achievements together since the beginning of the school year.

As we approach the February break, I wanted to take a moment to emphasize the importance of this time for our students. It is a wonderful opportunity for them to rest, relax, and recharge their batteries. Encouraging them to take this time to unwind will undoubtedly contribute to their overall well-being and readiness to tackle the rest of the school year with renewed focus and energy.

I hope you are able to spend some quality time together as a family. There are many opportunities in our local communities to spend time outside as a family. There are ice fishing derbies, snowshoeing and cross country ski opportunities and lots of places to discover. If you are looking for indoor ideas how about a board game night, a craft afternoon or even a build your own buffet night.

A few important Reminders this week include:

- Sometimes our students' winter gear gets wet and soaks through while playing in the snow. You may want to consider sending a dry set of clothes for students to keep at school or in their backpacks so they can change into something dry.
- Daily dismissal time will begin with parent pick ups at 3:00, followed by bus dismissals beginning at approximately 3:15. Parents are asked to pull up to the entrance and your child will be brought out to meet your car. During drop off and pick up, if you plan to walk your child to the door, please park in the parking lot across the street so as not to interrupt the flow of traffic. Thank you!

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions, concerns, or need support for your child or your family. Have a great week!

(email: [jdupuy@rsu3.org](mailto:jdupuy@rsu3.org) school phone: 722-3636 cell: 249-1061)

## Notes from the Office:

The nurse has just informed us that students who are suffering from dry and chapped lips may bring their own chapstick to school and keep it with them. The office does not have a supply on hand for students to use.



## Important Upcoming Dates.....

2/12 - 100th Day of School

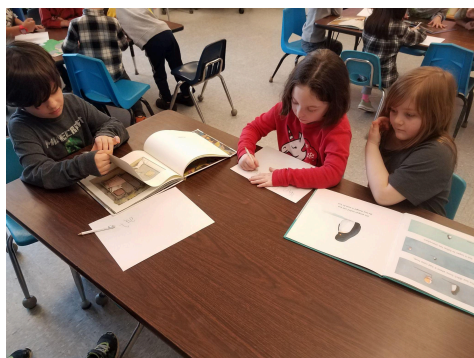
2/12 - School Board Meeting at MVHS 6:30

2/19 - 2/23 February Vacation

## Check out what's happening at Morse School ... Week Of: 2/5

K

It's hard to believe that it is our last week before break! This year is flying by, and it is exciting to see students using more of their skills in reading and math contexts. This week, we had so many students finding words all over the school. We even went for a word hunt (finding all the words we knew in picture books) to see which team could find the most words. We are also having fun doing addition and learning different strategies for adding. We have been counting by tens to get ready for the 100th day of school, and we are ready to celebrate this milestone!



1/2 P

We had a great week getting back to our regular schedule after all the time taken for winter assessments. I will be sending home an update on your child's progress soon, and as always, let me know if you have any questions. I have a favor to ask of parents and families to help students get the most out of their school day and be able to better focus on school work. Although we started the year with allowing one toy or stuffed animal for students to play with at snack and recess, in our classroom this privilege has gotten out of hand. Several students are bringing so many toys and stuffed animals that they don't even have room for their school materials in their backpacks! I understand that some students are able to keep their toys put away when needed and pay attention, but for the majority this is very difficult. If you could please help your child to not bring "extras" from home to play with at school for the time being this would be a great help to getting our classroom back on track and concentrating on their learning. I thank you for your help with this!

With the extra PAT time (preferred activity time) we earned this week we had a fun color mixing lesson then took our colors outside to decorate the snow!

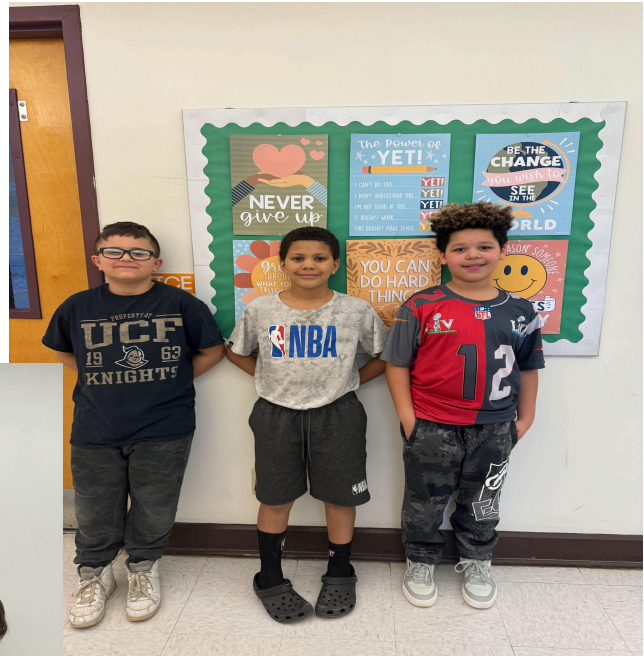


3/4 M

Another week has been completed in our classroom community! After this week's NAEP testing with the 4th graders we will be able to get back into our full weekly routine and more new learning! My young learners that presented on Friday did very well with their historical figure presentation! I am very proud of them and I cannot wait to see more presentations this Tuesday! Can you believe it?! On Monday it is officially the 100th day of school. This year is going by fast and we still have so much new learning to do! I hope everyone has a fantabulous week!

3/4 R

We are getting back into our routine after a few weeks of assessments. We are looking forward to starting up Book Clubs soon. We had some students who were excited to support their favorite teams on Friday!



5

5th grade was introduced to their chemistry unit in science last week and will continue investigating atoms and molecules this week. We are in need of some any color poster (acrylic) paint and poster board for a science project if you happen to have either tucked away in a closet somewhere! We are also continuing our study of Folktales. Your student should have already chosen a myth, legend, tall tale, fable or fairytale for our February Bookshare project.

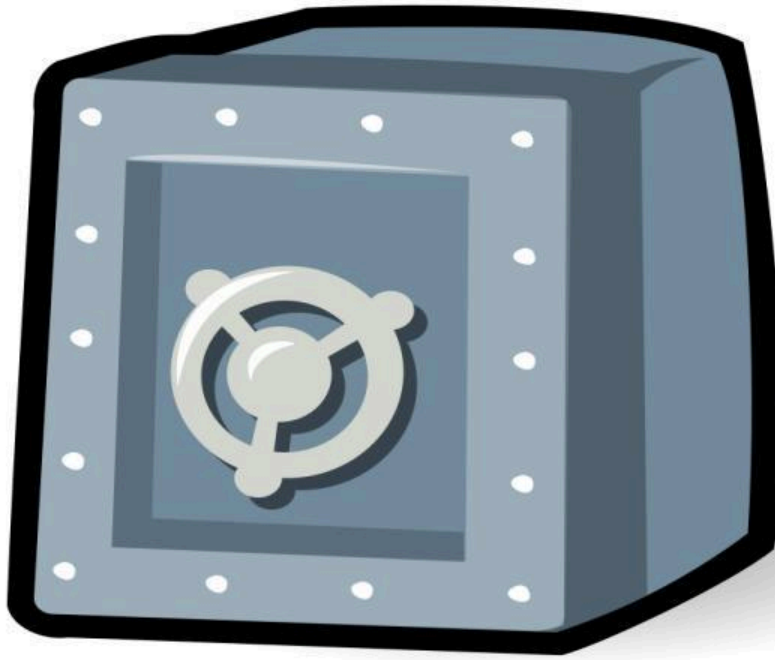
Agriculture

It's been an exciting week! Our school was given a Flex Farm, a hydroponic (no soil) growing tower to raise lettuce greens and other vegetables inside, throughout the school year. We'll be learning how to grow in it and maintain it in the weeks to come. How cool is that?!

SEL

This week at Morse we practiced our respect skills with a fun game of respect bingo.





**"School keeps  
you safe, it  
educates you, it  
prepares you for  
your future.  
Don't miss out!"**

**FREE**

**COVID TEST KITS**

Expiration date has been extended to  
9/30/24

Parents may pick them up  
in the school office

# Morse School is recruiting volunteers!

*Music on Wednesday  
Come instill a lifelong love  
of music, share your  
understanding of the art,  
and have fun.*

*20 Minutes, an hour, all day!  
Whatever fits your schedule!*

*Please contact the RSU#3  
volunteer coordinator,  
Jenny Tibbetts,  
for more information:  
[jtibbetts@rsu3.org](mailto:jtibbetts@rsu3.org)  
(207)568-4640 ext. 1413*

**Thank you!**

*Math with 1st and 2nd  
Grades*

*1:00-2:00 Monday*

*1:30-2:30 Tuesday*

*10:30-11:20 Thursday*

*Come for any of these  
times and help  
teach kids numbers.*

*Reading with Grades  
3-5*

*Read with kids  
any afternoon for  
an hour.*



**Willing Hearts Army  
RSU#3 Volunteers**



2024

# Youth Ice Fishing Derby Lake St. George State Park

Saturday, February 17, 2024

8AM–2PM

278 Belfast-Augusta Road, Liberty

## Learn How to Ice Fish

Fish tip-ups on loan from the park

❄ Prizes will be awarded

Maine State Parks Ski & Snowshoe Trailer  
with free snowshoe and cross-country  
ski rentals.

❄ Ice skating on the lake

Warming Area in the Barn

Hot cocoa and Wicked Joe coffee

### Sponsors:

2024 Youth  
Ice Fishing Derby  
Sponsored by  
Maine State Parks  
& Recreation  
Department  
with support from  
the Liberty  
Community and  
Lake St. George



TAKE IT  
OUTSIDE!



Special Event Park Admission  
Ages 12 & older \$1.50 Under 12 & over 65 free

For more information on this event, visit [www.maine.gov/parks](http://www.maine.gov/parks) or call 1-800-851-2265

Questions? Call the park at 1-207-820-4265 or visit us online

[www.Pa|sa](http://www.Pa|sa)

**NOT AN RSU3 SPONSORED EVENT / ACTIVITY**



# Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry have a suggestion or two!

@Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

## Find the Ski & Snowshoe Trailers at Maine State Parks!

10 AM—3PM on all dates listed

January

FREE equipment  
use with Park  
Admission

### February

- 1-13\* Holbrook Island Sanctuary,  
Brooksville, (207) 326-4012  
Winter Family Fun Day on February 10 too!
- 3 & 4 Mount Blue State Park,  
Weld, (207) 585-2261  
Winter Family Fun Day on February 3 too!
- 10 & 11 Bradbury Mt. State Park,  
Pownal, (207) 688-4712  
Winter Family Fun Day on February 10 too!
- 17 Reid State Park,  
Georgetown, (207) 371-2303  
Winter Family Fun Day on February 17 too!
- 17-24\* Lake St. George State Park,  
Liberty, (207) 589-4255  
Winter Fun & Ice Fishing Derby on Feb. 17 too!
- 18 Bradbury Mountain State Park,  
Pownal, (207) 688-4712
- 24 & 25 Range Pond State Park,  
Poland, (207) 998-4104  
Winter Family Fun Day on  
Feb. 24 too!

- 5-14\* Camden Hills State Park,  
Camden, (207) 236-0849  
Winter Family Fun Day on Jan. 13
- 13 & 14 Mount Blue State Park,  
Weld, (207) 585-2261
- 19, 20, 21\* Aroostook State Park,  
Presque Isle, (207) 768-8341
- 20 & 21 Wolfe's Neck Woods  
State Park, Freeport,  
(207) 865-4465
- 27 & 28 Sebago Lake State Park,  
Casco, (207) 693-6231

### March

- 2 & 3 Mount Blue State Park,  
Weld, (207) 585-2261
- 2-10\* Cobscook Bay State Park,  
Edmunds Twp., (207) 726-4412
- 9 & 10 Sebago Lake State Park  
Casco, (207) 693-6231
- 16-31\* Lily Bay State Park,  
Greenville, (207) 695-2700

\* Please call ahead to confirm.

ski graphic  
designed by freepik

TAKE IT  
OUTSIDE!

[www.ParksAndLands.com](http://www.ParksAndLands.com)

2024





TRI-TOWN PTG SPONSORED

# ICE FISHING DERBY

*Saturday February 17*  
Fish anytime between  
7-3:30pm

**\$5/person**

**\$15/family**

**Door  
Prizes!**



**Cross Pond  
Morrill**

1st, 2nd, 3rd place prizes  
*longest fish &  
heaviest fish*

*\*Prizes for kids only, but all  
are welcome to fish!\**

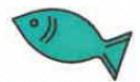
**Contact Kevin Winslow for more information**



*\*Lunch available for  
purchase!  
Hot dogs, chips, hot  
chocolate/water, sweets &  
treats*

**207-322-5934**

*\*Bring your own  
skates, sleds,  
snowshoes, etc.  
Please no open fire pits*



*\*Traps & Bait  
provided for  
those who need it*

This is not an RSU#3 sponsored event



## Is my child too sick for school?

Each day many parents are faced with a decision: should they keep their sick children at home or send them to school? Often the way a child looks and acts can make the decision an obvious one. In accordance with Maine Department of Health and Human Services guidelines, a child should not attend school if he/she exhibits one or more of the following symptoms or infections:

**Keep your child home if he/she has any of the following symptoms:**

- **Fever** (Greater than 100° F)- the student may return when fever-free for **24 hours WITHOUT the use of fever reducing medication.**
- **Cough:** A child with an uncontrolled cough should stay home until they are coughing with less frequency.
- **Diarrhea/Vomiting:** A child with diarrhea and/or vomiting should stay at home and return to school only after being symptom free for 24 hours.
- **Rash-** Any new onset of rash if accompanied by fever; may return after rash resolves or diagnosis is made and clearance given
- **Skin Lesions (sores)** – A student should not be at school with any sores with drainage that cannot be contained within a bandage
- **Strep Throat/Impetigo and other bacterial infections requiring antibiotics-** A student with strep throat must remain home until they have been on their antibiotics for a full 24 hours.
- **Colds-** A child with thick yellow-greenish mucous accompanied by fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or constant nasal discharge should remain home. Very few younger children can effectively blow their noses and wash their hands afterward. A child with the above symptoms will quickly spread the illness to other children.
- **Other-** Any symptoms or complaints that prevent the student from active participation in usual school activities

If your student tests positive for COVID-19, they must isolate at home for 5 days. After 5 days they may return with symptom improvement, masking days 6 through 10. More information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation>.

Home is the best place for a child who is ill. Students with these symptoms cannot comfortably participate in school activities and unnecessarily expose others to their illnesses.