



# Morse Newsletter



March 4, 2024

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

As we get ready to kick off our annual Bikes for Books incentive, provided by our local Masons, I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight the crucial role that reading plays in your child's development, and the importance of incorporating reading into your daily routine at home.

Reading is not just a fundamental skill; it's a gateway to a world of imagination, knowledge, and endless possibilities. Research consistently shows that children who are read to at home develop stronger language skills, improved concentration, and a deeper love for learning.

Here are a few reasons why reading to your child at home is so beneficial:

**Language Development:** Reading aloud exposes children to a rich vocabulary and helps them understand language patterns and structures. This lays a strong foundation for effective communication skills in the future.

**Cognitive Skills:** Engaging with books stimulates critical thinking skills, imagination, and problem-solving abilities. It encourages children to ask questions, make predictions, and draw connections between the text and their own experiences.

**Bonding Time:** Sharing a story with your child creates precious moments of connection and intimacy. It fosters a sense of security and emotional well-being, strengthening the parent-child relationship.

**Academic Success:** Numerous studies have shown a direct correlation between early exposure to reading and academic achievement later in life. By instilling a love for reading from an early age, you're setting your child up for success in school and beyond.

As we navigate through the busy schedules and demands of daily life, I encourage you to carve out time each day to read with your child. Whether it's a bedtime story, a trip to the library, or simply curling up with a book on the couch, these shared moments have a lasting impact on your child's development.

A few important Reminders this week include:

- It's mud season and sometimes our students' clothes get wet and soak through while playing outside. 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 clean and 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:

Check out our Hannaford Helps Flyer below to help our school raise money!!

Lost and Found is overflowing... Please see the photos below to see if any of your child's belongings have been turned in.

## Important Upcoming Dates.....

3/4 - School Board Workshop MVHS 6:00

3/8 - End of Second Trimester

3/11 - School Board Meeting at MVHS 6:30

3/15 - Teacher Inservice Day - No School for  
Students



Check out what's happening at Morse School ... Week Of: 2/26

K

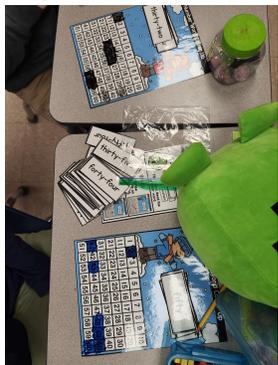


Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to parent-teacher conferences last week! I really enjoyed getting to chat and share your child's learning with you. This was a busy week of learning for Kindergarten. We have been working on using letter sounds to write new words, practicing reading heart words fluently, and learning some basic addition strategies. We also began learning about motion during science time, and we started our unit by watching some huge domino projects and trying out our own.



1/2 B

Morning centers continue to be a great addition to our learning time!



Students engage in hands-on activities that show their learning in different ways. Centers are math and reading-based and cover skills students need to keep fresh

in their minds. I love it when they ask me, "When are we doing our morning centers?"

1/2 P

I would like to thank all the families that have helped to make sure that there are no toys being brought to school. After vacation, we have had to work at getting back on track with classroom rules and schedules and no distractions have helped immensely. Last Friday was exciting for two reasons. One is that we had show and tell, which is maybe our favorite thing of all and two, we beat our weekly record for Preferred Activity Time earning 15 minutes! This is a great testament to how well we are working at our Morse ROARS everyday in our class!



All kinds of special items!



Lots of Pokemon collectors!

3/4 M	Greetings family members! Another week is complete in our classroom community! In math we started math groups again and I truly believe this will be a successful source of learning for all my students. This upcoming week we will delve further into personal narrative writing and fully restart our literacy groups. This past week we had to talk a lot about behavior expectations not only in the classroom but also in the gym and the hallway. We had to discuss how to be respectful and responsible learners in the classroom as well as being respectful to our guests that come into the classroom. We still need to work on positive behaviors with peers, modeling these behaviors and minding their own individual choices.
3/4 R	It was great to see students getting back in to our routines this week! Students were introduced to their book club books and are excited to start reading next week. In math, third graders started their unit on multiplication. Fourth graders started their unit on multiplication by two digit numbers.
5	Last week we finally got to unveil the crystals that we have been growing in our classroom. Some of them are absolutely stunning. This week we will investigate the science behind them and experiment with other compounds that might also create crystals. We are also beginning to explore the thirteen original colonies. Ask your student about the colony activity we've been working on.
Music	This week students continued learning their songs for the spring concert. In addition we continue to work on singing in solfege (do,re,mi...) and practice our rhythm reading. K-2 students also learned about the pipe organ. We discussed what the instrument is, how it makes sound, how its different keyboards work together, and watched a video of someone playing Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor. <a href="#">YouTube: J.S. Bach : Toccata and Fugue in D minor BWV 565 / Liene Andreta K...</a> 3-5 students have started learning about aesthetics. Specifically, the difference between objective and subjective, and feeling and expression.
Agriculture 	A lot of growth occurred over February vacation! We planted lettuce in our Flex Farm, a hydroponic grow tower, before vacation and the growth is phenomenal! We should be eating fresh greens in another two weeks. The older students helped with weekly maintenance, including adding water, checking the pH level, and testing the nutrient level. How exciting!
SEL	This week, we did a mini lesson on what it means to be responsible. Classes talked about and brainstormed ways they are and can be more responsible in school, at home and in public. We also talked about how being responsible sometimes means taking ownership of mistakes that are made. Kindergarten learned how they can be more responsible by listening carefully and following directions. We practiced this with a game of Simon Says.



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RECYCLE ON JUNE 1, 2024

# STUDENT ATTENDANCE MATTERS

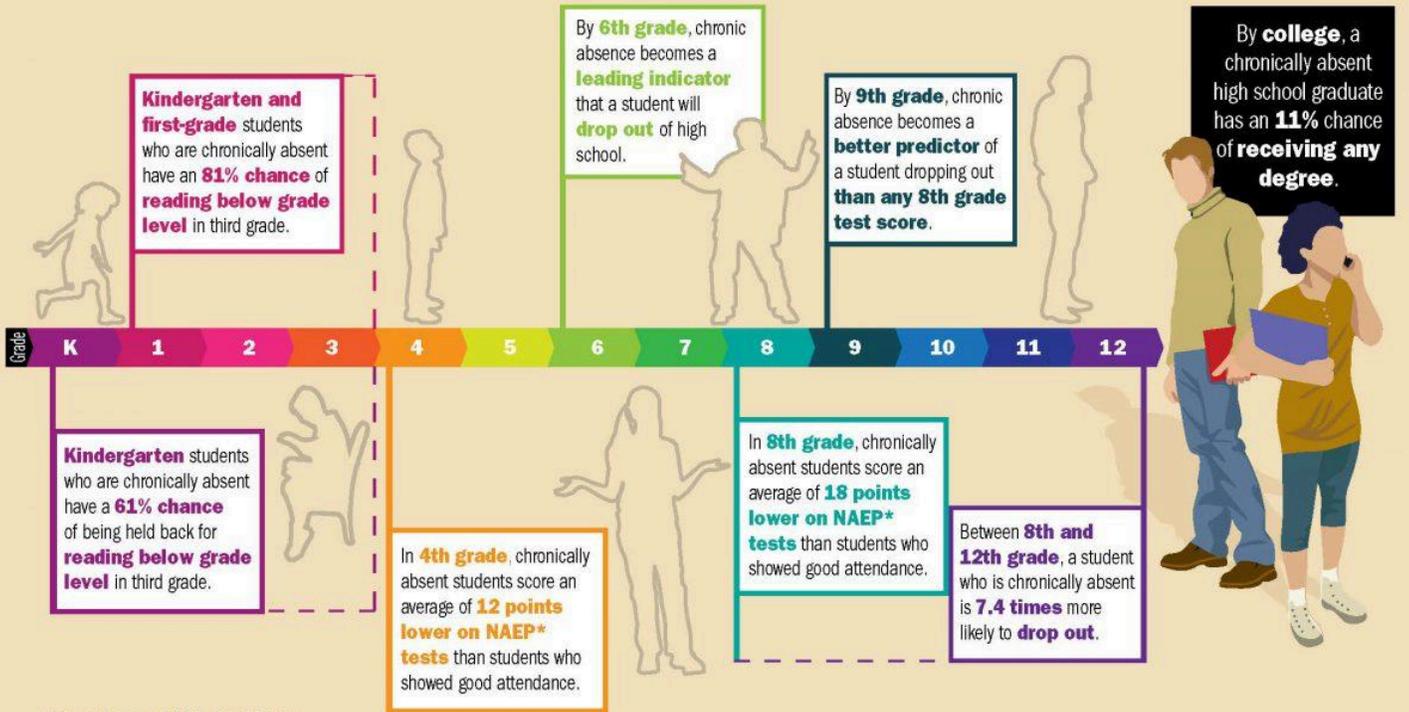
There are an estimated 5-7.5 million students in the United States who are chronically absent from school.

Chronic absenteeism hurts students in a variety of ways as they progress through their school career, starting with kindergarten.

## DEFINITIONS:

**Chronic Absence** - Missing 2 days each month, totaling 18 days, equals 10% of the school year

**Good Attendance** - Missing 9 days or less in a school year (5%)



# 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**

**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**

- 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

**February**

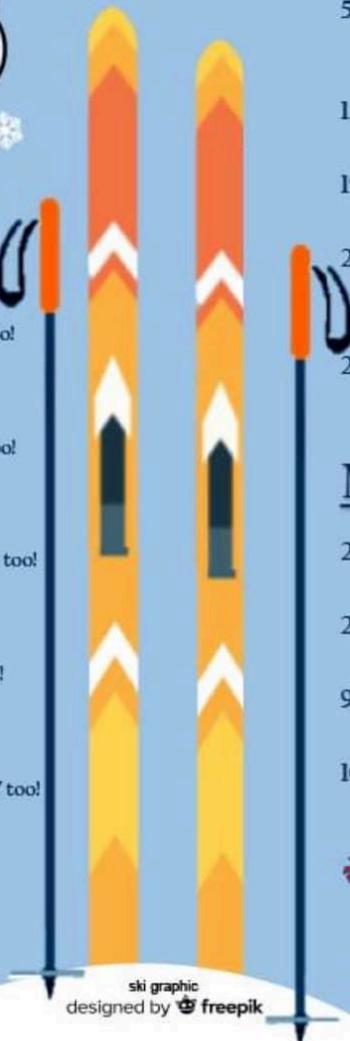
- 1-13\* Holbrook Island Sanctuary,  
Brooksville, (207) 326-4012  
Winter Family Fun Day on February 10 too!
- 3 & 4 Mount Blue State Park,  
Weld, (207) 585-2261  
Winter Family Fun Day on February 3 too!
- 10 & 11 Bradbury Mt. State Park,  
Pownal, (207) 688-4712  
Winter Family Fun Day on February 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!

**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.**

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2024





## 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.