



W.L. Morse School Newsletter *March, 2009*

Family Math Night and PE Days

We want to thank the more than 70 families who came to enjoy a variety of math games and activities at **Family Math Night** in February. We all look forward to even more fun (and space!) next year. Parents who came should receive a follow-up packet in March. If you were unable to attend, you can download a packet www.tufsd.org/morse or give us a call to request one.

We are also thrilled that parents came to share in a special PE class during **Healthy Heart Week** at Morse. Parents who came participated in the bobsled portion of our Olympics unit in which students learn about cardiovascular health, teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Community Service

We are thrilled to report that we collected 374 pounds of food for our **Food Drive**. Thank you to all who made this such a success!

Our **Book Drive** continues to be successful. We have received gently used books in a variety of levels and on a wide range of topics. Thanks to generous donations, we have added over 500 books to our classroom lending libraries. Thank you to everyone who has donated and please know we continue to gratefully receive gently used books!

We are also looking for any parents or community members who might be interested in helping us **design and paint a mural at Morse** this spring. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Fitzgerald!

Fun at Lunch

Starting on Monday, March 16th, students will have the chance to join a literature circle at lunch time. We are very fortunate to have parent volunteers who will come to school during lunch and recess to lead the groups. Students sign up for literature circle in their classroom. If you did not receive a flyer describing the opportunity, please visit www.tufsd.org/morse.



We are also very grateful to the group of dedicated parents who ran **FLIP: Fun Lunch Inside Program**. The children enjoyed three high quality activities, Quilt Making, Math Games, Bingo and Origami. We look forward to building on their great success next year and to the unveiling of a beautiful quilt constructed under the guidance of Kimberly Marcus and volunteers.

Literacy Celebrations

Students in both grades 2 and 3 have been hard at work learning to be better readers and writers of Non Fiction. Soon, our writers will publish their final projects in these units of study and we look forward to welcoming parents to join us for those celebrations. Grade 2 classrooms welcome parents to celebrate students' "All About" posters at a breakfast on Wednesday, March 18th. Grade 3 classrooms welcome families to celebrate biography books written by our students in the afternoon on Friday, April 3rd.

Music in our Schools Month (MISOM)

March is National *Music in our Schools Month*! Mrs. Giuseffi has planned a variety of activities, ranging from music facts shared over announcements to a visit by the Westchester Philharmonic. Plus, students from Washington Irving will come to play and share what it's like to learn an instrument at W.I.

Ask Your Child About...

Grade 2 classes are beginning a Science 21 unit on Energy. Students will use inquiry-based activities to investigate and learn that energy: has different forms; can change from one form to another; can produce change in matter; and that we can observe and measure energy. The use of energy our bodies is also explored. We will be asking parents to send in materials to help us make "recycled" musical instruments. Stay tuned...

Grade 3 classes are wrapping up a unit on **the United States** and will soon start a Science 21 unit on **Electricity**. They will be discuss, experiment and explore opened and closed circuits. They'll also create their own circuits using batteries and light bulbs. Please also look out for activities from the TUFSD Green Committee that can help students and the whole family learn about conserving electricity.

Events in March:

Please remember these dates (details to follow):

- **Wed, Mar. 18th:** Gr.2 Nonfiction Breakfast (8:30 am)
- **Fri, Mar. 20th:** School Closed for Staff Meetings
- **Fri, March 20th:** Report Cards Mailed Home
- **Thurs. and Fri, March 26th & 27th:** Parent/Teacher Conferences and 11:30 Dismissal.
- **Mon, March 30th** Principal's Chat at 6:30-8:00PM including an open discussion and panel with Regla Cayon, Social Worker and Yvonne Feliciano, Psychologist on *How to Manage Homework*. Translation and childcare provided.
- **April 1st:** Ishanghi Dancers perform for students
- **Fri. April 3rd:** Grade 3 Non fiction Celebration (1pm)