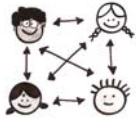


## W.L. MORSE November Newsletter



### Message from Mrs. Fitzgerald



We are very excited to report that our *Morse Code* program is off to an excellent start. During our first four weeks of the program, 220 of our 385 students earned Respect bracelets by going above and beyond to be respectful of others and others continue to strive to do so. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the fact that 100% of our students learned about respect in their classrooms and across the school. Several classes presented projects and reflections on what they learned, ranging from artwork to poetry to filmed skits.

We are most excited, though, that the adults at school notice a distinct improvement in the way students treat one another and interact with adults. Students are making a noticeable effort to be truly polite and to reach out to one another with positive words. Students are also using words to speak up when they feel another student is not being respectful or making good choices. Nurse Carey has also noted that playground incidents are far fewer this Fall than last and we are gathering data to substantiate that.

During Thursday's assembly we also launched our next value: Love of Learning. During the month of November, classes will study how to be an active, risk-taking, life-long learner. They will also study many different ways that people learn and get to know themselves better as learners. Students who work hard, collaborate well, and show genuine interest in learning will be able to earn Morse Code awards this month. If students earn two awards, they will earn a yellow, Love of Learning bracelet.



### Literacy Celebration

Second and third graders look forward to sharing their writing with parents and friends who can visit during our Literacy Celebration on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Students in both grades have spent time studying literature and considering the decisions that good writers make for their readers. They have made writer's notebooks in which they develop seed ideas, explore those ideas and begin to craft new stories. Students have also gone through a writing process to develop those initial ideas into published pieces. We will begin at 1pm in classrooms. Students will share their recently published stories and personal narratives. We are proud of their hard work and look forward to celebrating their efforts with you.

### Nurse's Corner

Although we will say farewell to Nurse Carey, she has left us with a great series of tips for families. We use this month to bid her farewell and wish her all the best. We also encourage families to continue reminding students to remember that they can protect themselves from germs. To view "Sneezing 101" and other helpful videos, visit [www.vdh.state.va.us](http://www.vdh.state.va.us).

### Volunteer Opportunity: Literature Circles

This year, we would like to start our Lunchtime Literature Circles when we return to school after our winter break. Literature Circles take place at lunch time and run for 6 weeks, meeting one day per week. Parents are welcome to work with either grade or with both grades. If you are interested, please email Mrs. Fitzgerald.

### Key Dates:

- Friday, Nov. 6: Literacy Celebration (1-2:30pm)
- P/T Conferences & Early Dismissal: Nov 12 & 13 (11:45)
- Monday, Nov. 23: Make Up Photo Day
- Tuesday, Nov 24: Thanksgiving Celebration (morning)