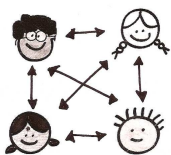


## W.L. MORSE October Newsletter



### Message from Mrs. Fitzgerald

The school year has gotten off to quite a smooth start. This year, we are working hard throughout the building to teach our students our Morse Code values. We have already seen a real increase in the number of times children say, "Good Morning," "Please," and "Thank you" as well as improvement in the care that children take when traveling between classrooms. We look forward to focusing on respect with children this month, guiding



children to develop an understanding of the many ways we can use positive words and actions to make our community a great place to learn, play and grow.

Students are just starting to earn Morse Code awards when they go above and beyond to show respect. Once a student wins an award, he or she will be celebrated at his or her next classroom meeting. Every Friday, students who have earned their second Morse Code award will earn a Respect bracelet to keep and wear, reminding all of us about the importance of respect. Students who earn their bracelet will have their photo taken and put up on a bulletin board outside of the office.

### Birthdays

This year, we are taking extra time and care to celebrate student birthdays school-wide. Student birthdays will be announced as part of our morning announcements. Once per month, students who have a birthday in that month will have lunch and recess with Mrs. Fitzgerald. Our September birthday celebration was quite a success and we look forward to celebrating all birthday boys and girls this year. Note: Summer birthdays will be celebrated in their half-birthday month!



### Literacy

Both second and third graders completed the first unit of study in Literacy, what is often called the "First 20 Days." During these first weeks, teachers established routines, set new expectations, became acquainted with readers, and taught our readers tools and techniques for getting to know

their own strengths and interests as readers. An important part of reading throughout the year is the reading log that goes home every night. Parental support for reading, even if just to show that reading is important by signing the log regularly, really contributes to student success in reading.

Grade 2 has moved into a unit dedicated to building students' reading and writing stamina. Students will be reading a variety of books and working on strategies to help them attack new texts and sustain their focus so that they can read longer and stronger. Grade 3 has begun to study personal narratives, stories written by authors about events in their lives. Once they have immersed themselves in reading personal narratives, third graders will start to prepare to write their own.

### Nurse Carey's Corner

This month, we want to encourage families to send healthy snacks in with their children. Drinks that are high in sugar (Gatorade, many fruit juices, soda etc.) or snacks that are high in refined sugar (cookies, chips, snack cakes) can impede students' ability to concentrate and manage their energy levels. If you would like to know more about healthy nutrition for kids, visit [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org) and click on Nutrition and Fitness.

### Fitness Challenges

In Physical Education class, all students have been working on age-appropriate fitness challenges. This gives both teachers and students a baseline from which to set goals and work towards improvements. This year, we will be asking families to support students as they learn to develop stamina and strength both in and out of school.

### Key Dates:

- Various Dates: Grade 2 Visits Warner Library
- Friday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>: Dismissal 11:45
- Tues., Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>: Photo Day
- Friday, Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>: Pumpkin Picking, Grade 2
- Tues., Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>: Halloween Safety Assembly
- Thursday, Oct 29<sup>th</sup>: Respect Celebration (1pm)
- Friday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>: Halloween Parade (2pm)

**Note:** Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday and Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.