

COMMUNICATOR

MORGANTON DAY SCHOOL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Earth Day in Action Everyday at MDS

It is exciting to read about all the activities taking place across the country for Earth Day this year. Companies, schools, students and even politicians are going "green". Commercials encouraging people to change wasteful habits and enter into action have been playing for the past several weeks.

Action is what education is all about. As I walk through the halls, I see our students fully engaged. Morganton Day School students don't have to wait for a special day or week to put their learning into action. Student inquiries lead to action which makes it an integral part of the IB curriculum. Today, I found second grade students working in pairs creating "green teams" they will present to the student body to encourage others to take action. The students brainstormed ideas that children their age could do to make a difference in their school and community. The *air* team, for example, thought that each class could have potted plants in their rooms to help with CO2 output. Students also plan to encourage parents to turn off car engines when waiting in the car line at pick up time. These and other ideas come from our confident learners who are thinkers and risk takers and who take their knowledge and put it into action.

Learning and action take place not only in school but in the community as well. While I continued my walk through the school, it seemed strangely quiet as I moved away from the second grade toward the 4th and 5th grade classrooms. The quiet classrooms were a result of students being out in the community taking action. During a unit on natural resources, students inquired about what they could do to help protect our environment. Armed with a desire to help and coupled with their knowledge of Native American tribes of the southeast, the classes arranged a service project on the reservation of the Cherokee. Today, parents, teachers, and students are working side by side with residents on the reservation to clean up an area that has become polluted due to over use.

Our students understand that it is not enough to just learn about our environment and talk about what needs to be done. They realize they are the change agents of the future and their future is now. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "You must be the change you want to see in the world." I am proud to say our students embrace this philosophy daily at Morganton Day School.

Happy Earth Day,

Melanie Mikusa, Head of School



Did You Know...

.....dolphins can hear sounds underwater that are 15 miles away?

.....the world's largest pizza was 122 feet in diameter and weighed 26, 883 pounds (as much as two male African elephants)?

.....messages from your brain travel along your nerves up to 200 miles per hour?

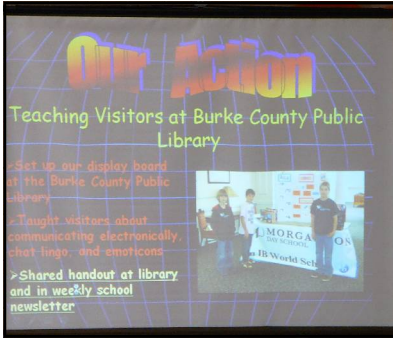
and that

.....the first bubble gum, made in 1906, was called "Blibber-Blubber"?

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Exhibition 2009 is a Success!



Students demonstrated the best way to express our thoughts during the fifth grade PYP Exhibition. They were a success. This year's theme focused on expressing ourselves through electronic communication. The students presented their own PowerPoint presentations to the parents and whole-school community.

Albert Cecchini, Eli Fisher, and William Kirk began the event by being risk-takers and sharing information about the different types of electronic communication as well as their knowledge of chat lingo and emoticons. During the Exhibition, students took action by providing information to visitors at the Morganton Public Library. They distributed handouts to the library guests.

Molly Fitzgerald, Lee Collett, and Zach Ayotte communicated their knowledge about Internet safety. Through their inquiry, they made a discovery that students need to be mindful before placing personal information on the Internet. During the Exhibition, they took action by teaching a lesson on Internet Safety to the middle school students. The middle school students created their own skits to demonstrate what they had learned.



Mrs. Carpenter telling the audience what a tremendous job the 5th grade students did during the entire process of Exhibition.

It was impressive to witness how the fifth grade students were

able to exhibit their skills and knowledge gained throughout their tenure at Morganton Day School. The support of parents, teachers, and other faculty has made a positive impact on these young global citizens.



Albert, Will, and Eli, present the chat lingo they learned. Molly, Lee, and Zach share information about internet safety with the audience. Students celebrate after the hard work of Exhibition.

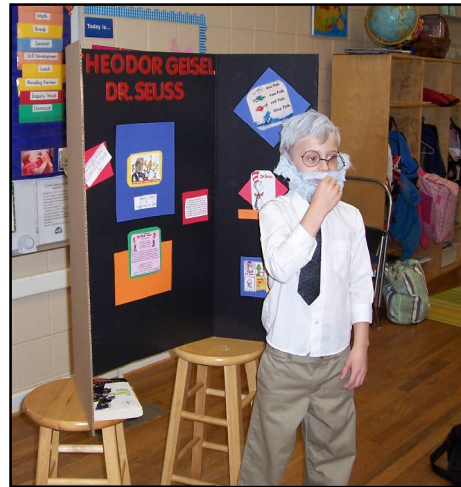
Chat Lingo

- BRB - be right back
- FYI - for your information
- OMG - oh my gosh
- BTW - by the way
- ROTFL - roll on the floor laughing
- LOL - laugh out loud
- OIC - oh I see
- TTYL - talk to you later
- L8R - later

Poetry Alive at MDS

We Need a Hero!

Heroes were found in the third grade,
 As students shared contributions that were made.
 They each read a biography of someone they admire,
 Then presented the ways that their heroes inspire.
 The adults who were watching each felt joy in their heart,
 When the students would get to the reflection part.
 See, during this unit, we studied heroes, that's true,
 But it was most important to hear how that hero was like you!
 We learned that each of us has what it takes,
 To step up and see the difference it makes.



Seth Potocki as his hero, Theodor Geisel.

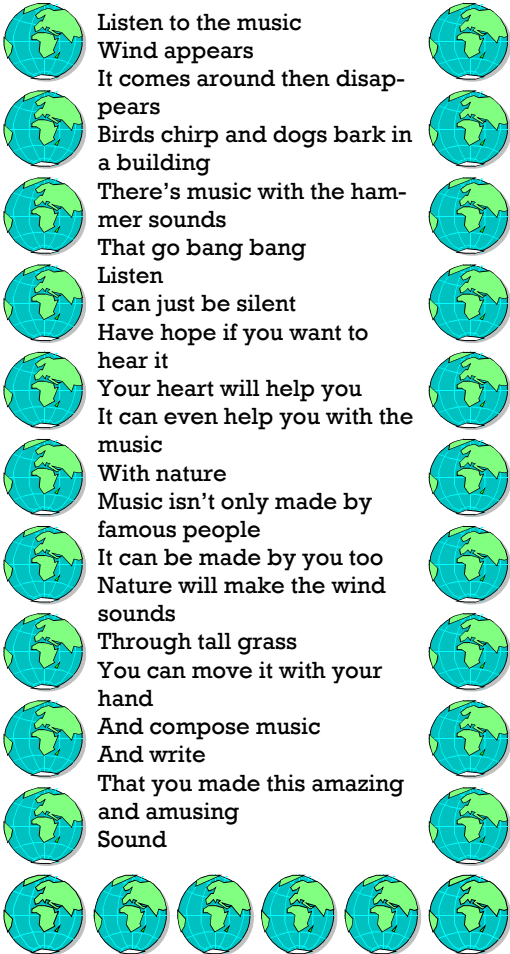


Laura Ingles, aka Lilli McNally spent time in the 3rd grade.



MAKE IT SOUND

by Carlos Batz



Listen to the music
 Wind appears
 It comes around then disappears
 Birds chirp and dogs bark in a building
 There's music with the hammer sounds
 That go bang bang
 Listen
 I can just be silent
 Have hope if you want to hear it
 Your heart will help you
 It can even help you with the music
 With nature
 Music isn't only made by famous people
 It can be made by you too
 Nature will make the wind sounds
 Through tall grass
 You can move it with your hand
 And compose music
 And write
 That you made this amazing and amusing
 Sound

A Little Poem for Poetry Month

by Jack Prelutsky

*I'm glad we have a Poetry Month,
 But still, I wonder why
 They chose a month with thirty days
 Were months in short supply?
 I wish that they'd selected
 A longer month, like May.
 I'm certain I'd appreciate
 That extra poetry day.*

*Of course, if they'd picked February,
 I would be aghast,
 For February's very short
 And passes far too fast.
 But April's not as short as that,
 So I don't hesitate
 To say I'm glad it's Poetry Month.
 Hooray! Let's celebrate!*

Poem in Your Pocket Day

MDS will participate in the second annual Poem in Your Pocket Day on Thursday, April 30. The idea is simple....select a poem you enjoy and carry it with you to share with co-workers, students, and friends. Don't have a pocket? See Mrs. Searcy for a "pocket" to clip onto your shirt or belt! Be sure to ask others to read their favorite poem to you!

PANDA

by Meredith Antley

Between bamboo
 Across Japan
 Black and white, there out of sight
 Like Oreos dipped in milk



As the **Capital Campaign** came to a close last month, those of us here at the school all expressed a collective thank you to parents, Board members, and colleagues for contributing to this important effort, thereby allowing the school to move forward! We are grateful to report that we received 100% support by parents, Board members, and faculty. Truly, this is a testament to the integrity of our community and our strong belief that the superior education delivered right here at MDS is important to all of us. The final statistics for the campaign are reported on the next page for your review and will be shared with all constituents

in the next week.

While we are pleased with the response to the campaign, we were not able to reach our goal and one of the unfortunate outcomes is that my position will not be funded for the next year. It is my hope as the school's first Development Director and as a parent, that this position will be funded in the near future. It has been a pleasure to form the first Development Office at MDS because of the great parents, dedicated faculty, past parents, grandparents, responsive alumni, and engaging students. I believe a framework for a Development Office has been established and will be easily continued as new funding becomes available. While I will not be in this professional position next year, I remain committed to MDS as an involved volunteer parent.

Other **notes** from this office: **Grandfriend's Day & Art Fair** will be held May 13. Be sure to mark your calendar and make plans to attend. Grandparents and special friends are invited to visit MDS, tour the campus, visit the classrooms, participate in a "Living History Timeline", and visit the Art Fair. Grandparents are invited to stay for lunch and are asked to kindly RSVP so that we may plan accordingly. The Art Fair for our families and students will be held during the evening of May 13 in the Armory. Light refreshments will be provided by the PAC during this drop-in event from 5:45—7:00 PM.

An **Alumni event** honoring the High School Graduates of 2009 (MDS Class of 2005) will be held May 24 at 6:30 at the River Blues Café! If you would like to join us, please RSVP to lantley@morgantondayschool.com. I know many of you remember the class and may like to wish this group a fond farewell as they prepare for their next educational journey at the college level. The MDS Class of 2005: Sarah Griffin, Dorothy Smith, McKenzie Mull, Elle Fulenwider, Molly Bumgarner, Shawn Fitzgerald, Miller Stephanides, Meredith Swain, and Frank Thomas.

Spirit Day is this Friday and the theme is "Sports Mania". We will be honoring the 2009 indoor soccer players and are asking that all players wear their soccer shirts. A photo opportunity will occur during the event. If you did not play soccer, please consider wearing any type of "sports" wear. Maybe you have a T-shirt of your favorite sports team, or you play on another type of sports team such as baseball, basketball, or gymnastics! See you Friday for sports day and a special surprise at lunch!

Thank you, Lisa Antley!

For the past three years, Lisa Antley has worked tirelessly to support MDS through her work as the first Development Director. The fund and friend development program has prospered due to her efforts. She possesses a drive and determination that comes from her deep love of the school and our philosophy. She has been an invaluable support to me during my first year as Head of School. I will miss her tremendously.

Lisa has been a full-time volunteer and as the school is not in a financial situation to fund this position, we can no longer expect that she will give all these hours to the school. Lisa will continue to be involved and to volunteer as a parent. She has promised to be available to me for the myriad of questions I am sure I will have as we continue all the wonderful programs Lisa has initiated. It will be difficult to fill the void left by her extremely large shoes.

