

COMMUNICATOR

MORGANTON DAY SCHOOL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Partnerships and Promises in Education

Morganton Day School, like other independent schools, is blessed with parents who are invested in the success of their children. Quite literally, independent schools could not offer the quality of education, service, and sense of community they do if not for parental involvement as volunteers, committee members, and supporters. Parents are essential resources in a school, providing the home that integrates with the school in order to educate the whole child. It is this partnership that strengthens our educational philosophy and the promises MDS puts forward in the classroom and school community. As we move into re-enrollment season, I encourage everyone to revisit our school mission and the "8 Promises" that make MDS the wonderful educational community that it is.

MDS is dedicated to a philosophy of experiential education, parental involvement, and a concern for the uniqueness of the individual as a member of a global community. Exceptional academic goals are met without compromising the child's spirit, human dignity, or self esteem.

MDS - 8 PROMISES

- 1 Development of Strong Communication Skills**—all students will acquire well-developed reading, writing, and oral communication skills.
- 2 Best Teaching**—Through best teaching practices students become independent learners, work collaboratively and cooperatively to excel in all academics, use critical thinking skills to problem solve, and value and appreciate the greater world as an important and valuable learning resource.
- 3 Best Learning Environment**—Students are encouraged to take risks in a safe learning environment, reaching beyond basic expectations and learning the value of hard work and perseverance.
- 4 Parents as Partners**—MDS values and appreciates the importance of parents in the education process. Parents are encouraged and welcomed into the classroom as teaching partners. Effective communication to and from parents allows all learners in the community to excel.
- 5 Students Who Love School**—Students are valued for where they are in the learning process. Respectful teaching instills confidence in students. Project-based learning brings the curriculum alive, creating a fun learning atmosphere as well as students who are eager to come to school. Multi-age peer groups make the atmosphere at MDS a welcoming and exciting place to engage in learning.
- 6 Service Learning**—All students at MDS learn the value of sharing their time and talents within the local, regional, and international communities. Students in K—7 participate in group service projects. In 8th grade, each student takes on a personal project demonstrating how a personal desire to make a difference can be carried out in the community.
- 7 Responsible Learners**—Through student-led conferences, students demonstrate personal responsibility for learning in their educational journey
- 8 Commitment to Healthy Living**—We value exercise, outdoor play, and our traditional "all school break" at 9:30 AM!

Stay a part of the community, re-enrollment is in process.

Melanie Mikusa, Head of School



Did You Know...

...there may be a billion bacteria in your mouth right now?

...men get the hiccups more often than women?

...smooth peanut butter is more popular on the east coast of the United States and chunky rules on the west coast?

and

.....between 1912 and 1918, you could take your money to Washington to be washed and ironed?

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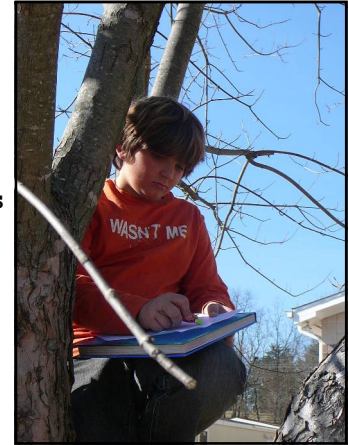
The Power of Poetry



People use poetry to express their thoughts and feelings was the central idea being explored through the fourth grade unit of inquiry as the students gathered at The Grind for a coffee house style reading and sharing of poetry. The original works of the children were displayed throughout the room along with art work representing the visual images being portrayed in the poems.

Each child created a pop-up book full of fun poetry highlighting various poetry forms. They also painted pictures depicting their interpretation of the inaugural poem. The students even chose a famous painting and wrote intriguing poems based on the images and feelings elicited from that particular piece of art. The students had an opportunity to show their work with pride as they shared with parents and with each other. Yami Batz, mother of Carlos, reminisced about sharing a Mother's Day poem with her own mom, "It reminds me of my school days," she exclaimed.

In addition to writing poetry, each child memorized a poem to recite. The class worked on presentation skills and enthusiastically shared their self-chosen poems. Each poem selected seemed to really reflect the students' individual personalities. From Robert Frost to Shel Silverstein, the children shared poems with which they could re-



Cray Collett gets inspiration for his poetry by working in the natural setting of a tree outside of his classroom.



















late. "One of my strengths is that I love to connect with the audience. I will also always remember listening to everyone else's poems," recalls Hannah Seagle. Meredith Antley commented, "It was an experience I will cherish forever."



Poetry came alive for the 4th grade as they presented their work in the "coffee house" format at the Grind Café, a local shop in uptown Morganton.











The Playground
 The playground is so active
 At midday when all of
 the children are having fun.
 With all the joy and laughter
 From the little girls and
 boys
 And the rough sound from
 the
 Older boys.
 Oh how I'd love to be them.
 Sam Gramer
 4th grade









Measuring-Up with the 5th Grade at MDS

Math Night 2009 found students and parents estimating, working with math hieroglyphics, learning to operate a function machine, and participating with the fifth grade students' measurement activities. Participants measured, collected data, and compared their measurements with others. After collecting all the data, students organized and used landmarks to identify data sets.

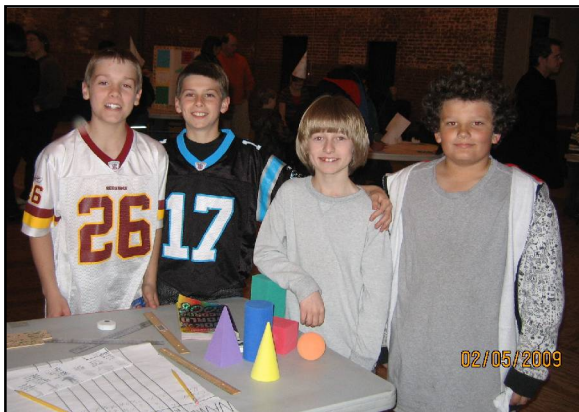
The fifth graders also created posters and shared interesting measurements of items such as the Statue of Liberty (305ft.) and Shaquille O'Neil's shoe size (Size 23). Various measuring tools were available for visitors to measure items on display. New math vocabulary was learned while participating in the measurement activities as students measured visitors to determine their fathoms, natural yards, cubits, and finger-widths. Who knew measurement could be so expansive!

The charts below show the results, in inches, that students collected:

Adults

	Joint	Finger-Width	Palm	Finger Stretch	Fathom	Natural Yard	Cubit
Minimum	1.25	0.5	3	5	58	22	15
Maximum	2	1	7	6	70	33	18
Mode(s)	2	0.5	3	5	None	None	18
Median	2	0.5	3.5	5	64	32	18

	Joint	Finger-Width	Palm	Finger Stretch	Fathom	Natural Yard	Cubit
Minimum	1	0.25	2	4	43	17	12
Maximum	2	0.5	5	5	56	54	17.5
Mode(s)	1	0.5	3	3	None	26	13 & 14
Median	1	0.5	3	3	44.75	26	13



William, Zach, Eli, and Lee relax a little as they man the 5th grade display at the recent all school Math Night.

Parents and students work side by side at the measurement table.



Jonathan models his shapes hat.

Starry, Starry Day at the Catawba Science Center

Our third graders are out of this world! On February 10, students and parents traveled to Hickory to further explore outer space. They went to the Catawba Science Center's Milholland Planetarium to participate in two programs about our solar system. During the *Sun, Moon, Stars* program, the students saw demonstrations of the revolution and rotation of the Earth and the phases of the moon, participated in an interactive program about the phases of the moon, and wowed the planetarium instructor with their vast knowledge of our solar system. Later, they took a closer look at the Catawba Sky, learning about the different constellations that are visible to us here in the Catawba Valley. Each student brought home a guide to the night sky in our area for the month of February. It wouldn't be surprising to find these junior astronomers out in their backyards well into the night locating and identifying various constellations.

The third graders are back at MDS and available to answer any stellar questions that you might have!



3rd grade students, Luke Brazinski, Matthew Cecchini, Lilli Mc Nally, Olivia Kirk, Delanee Wilson, Carly Carpenter, Madison Barrier, Seth Potocki, and Douglas Coley take time to tour the Hall of Astronomy at the Catawba Science Center.

From the Development Desk

By Lisa Antley

PAC Sponsors a "Kids Fun Night Out": February 27

* Armory * 6 – 9:30 PM *

Games, Food, Movies* See Ya There!

Thank You PAC for all your support this year! Our next event is the annual Scholastic Book Fair & Bake Sale set for March 4 – 6. The fair will be open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and Friday morning. In addition, the fair will be open Wednesday and Thursday mornings during break time. The event will also include an opportunity for you to purchase "Art Stamps" made by your child under the direction of Mrs. Wisniewski. The children are proud of their work and I know from personal experience that family members love getting envelopes with the art stamps. Personalized note cards will also be available. Look for the Art Stamp display at the fair. The book fair will also include a resource area for teacher and student wish lists. Students & teachers will be able preview the fair Tuesday after 4 PM to prepare a wish list. A signup sheet for volunteer cashiers is available on the front desk and attached to this email. You may email your availability to me lantley@morgantondayschool.com. Thanks for your help. This year, the dollar profits will go to the Destiny Campaign.

Destiny Campaign Update

Thanks to our great parent group and friends of the school, our Destiny Campaign is on track. To date, we have secured just over \$180,000 in gifts and pledges and over \$120,000 in receipts. We hope to reach the \$200,000 mark by March 31, 2009. With just 34 days left of the campaign, we continue to issue a challenge to reach 100% participation from our parent group! Your participation will allow us to continue discussions with donors for lead gifts. Any level is welcome and needed! Our promise to you is to work within a balanced budget and continue financial transparency to all MDS constituents. We value your support and vote of confidence and for joining with us as we go forward.



Middle School students show off their winning medals from the Regional Science Olympiad Competition.

