



# Principal's Newsletter

September 2016

## School News

Welcome back Morris Families! We are excited about the upcoming school year and look forward to sharing many educational experiences with your children. Our school-wide theme this year is **The Journey Begins Here....** Teachers read *Teach Like a Pirate* over the summer and are incorporating ideas and suggestions from the book.

School attendance is extremely important to student success. Attending and arriving to school on time significantly teaches responsibility and increases your child's success in academic achievement. Remember, checking your child out early is considered missing classroom instruction and is counted as a tardy.

Thank you for your patience with the traffic flow the first week of school. It takes a few days to get back into the routine of receiving and dismissing students smoothly. If your child is a walker and walk home each day, he/she will be dismissed out the front doors at 3:30 p.m. Walkers should leave the premises immediately and head home. There will be no adult supervision for walkers after school.

Communication with your child's teacher is KEY! Check your child's grades on Skyward and check your email for information that is sent home regularly. Please let us know how we can help make your child's educational experiences GREAT!

## Save the Date!

Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> – Holiday  
Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> – Title I Compacts due  
Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> - School-wide Writing Prompt  
Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> – Celebrate Grandparents Day!  
Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – Fall Pictures  
Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – PTA Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Bone – PAC 7:00 p.m.  
Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> – International Talk Like a Pirate Day!  
Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – Opera “Three Billy Goats Gruff”  
Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> – PTA Family Picnic

## Reading is our “#1 Thing” this year!

DP Morris teachers and staff are striving to ensure that every child is reading on or above grade level by the end of second grade. To help reach this goal, teachers are implementing guided reading in grades K-4<sup>th</sup>. During this time, teachers pull four-five students into small groups each day. Reading skills that are essential to increasing comprehension are reinforced during this time. Context clues, vocabulary, phonics, and making predictions are a few of the skills learned during guided reading. Another strategy that teachers are implementing daily is direct instruction for academic vocabulary. Each child has a vocabulary notebook where they log two academic words each week. Ask your child to tell you more!

## Read to Your Child!

Did you know that reading to your child is one of the most effective strategies to help improve your child's comprehension? Reading increases a child's vocabulary and instills a love for reading.

Dr. Bone is an author of 34 books on parenting. She will present a workshop for our parents on September 15, 2016 at the Mansfield Performing Arts Center. Join us for an evening full of information and suggestions to use at home with our own children!

## School Lunches!

Please check your child's lunch account balance frequently. You can access this information at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com). When a child's account reaches \$25.00 in the negative, he/she will not be able to receive breakfast or a hot lunch. He/she will receive a sandwich, fruit, and milk.

## Join PTA - \$7.00!

Grade Level Performances:  
4<sup>th</sup> - September 15, 2016  
3<sup>rd</sup> November 17, 2016  
2<sup>nd</sup> January 19, 2017  
1<sup>st</sup> - March 23, 2017  
Kinder - May 18, 2017

