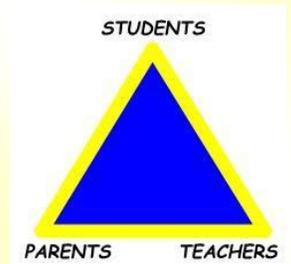


MORAN TRIAD

James H. Moran Middle School
141 Hope Hill Road
Wallingford, CT 06492

Phone: 203-741-2900 Office
203-741-2907 Guidance
Fax: 203-741-2939



Second Trimester Newsletter December - March

A Note from our new Assistant Principal Mr. Bologna:

Welcome to the newest edition of the James H. Moran Sr. Middle School Triad. It is hard to believe that the school year is more than half completed and that spring will be here soon. Although I have only been here for two months I have been able to see in person so many opportunities for our students to excel here, whether it be in the classroom, on the basketball court, or on stage. It has been a pleasure to see the support from our staff, students, and parents in making all of our events such a success.

Both our boys and girls basketball teams recently completed winning seasons, with the boys posting a record of 7-6 and the girls posting an impressive, undefeated record of 13-0. Our band, chorus, and string groups showed off their talents at Sheehan in December, our KidsLit team competed in a nationwide tournament at CCSU, and our STEP students competed in their mock trials at Dag Hammarskjold Middle School. As you can see there are so many ways that our students are showcasing their incredible abilities.

Lastly, I would like to encourage all parents/guardians to get involved at the middle school. Chaperone a field trip, volunteer to come in and assist a teacher, work with our PTO, attend PTAC/PTO meetings, enjoy our athletics, drama, music or any other after school activities, or just stop in to say hello to our office or support staff. You are always welcome at Moran Middle School. To keep up with all of the happenings at Moran, here are some additional resources; @JAPiacentini (Twitter Hashtag = #MoranMS) @Dan_Bologna, <http://jameshormanmiddleschool.edublogs.org/>, or visit the Moran website - <http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/our-schools/james-h-moran-middle-school>.

Continue to make it a great year!

Important Dates:

2/6/17 - 8th Grade Mock Trial at Dag

2/8/17 - Early Release Day

2/13/17 - Faculty vs Boys BBall Team game after school at 3:20 pm.

2/17/17 - Early Release Day

2/20/17 - No School Presidents Day

2/21/17 - Faculty vs Girls BBall Team game after school at 3:20 pm.

2/22/17 - 7th Grade Mock Trial Moran Café

3/3/17 - Report Card Trimester 2 closes

3/8/17 - Spring Conferences 5-8pm

Attention Parents and Guardians: Take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Wallingford Public Schools utilize the School Messenger system to deliver text messages straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

To participate in this service, you have to 'opt in' and your cell phone number must be on file with your child's school. To opt in, simply send a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our district's short code number, **68453**. If you haven't already opted in, you can do so at any time.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with **"Stop"**

School Messenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

Please remember that you can view recently sent messages by logging into your Parent Portal account and clicking the Contact Manager icon on the left.

What's Happening in the Library



Kids' Lit Quiz Competition: Results

Kids' Lit Quiz

The Kids' Lit Quiz is an annual international literature competition for students ages 10-13. Moran Middle School had four teams compete this year. These students spent four months preparing for the competition by reading at home every day, attending weekly practices, and creating and answering trivia questions. Moran's teams even met on Saturdays at the Wallingford Public Library to check out books to read.

The United States had about 90 teams compete this year. There were about 45 teams competing each night of the two heats. Moran's teams competed on February 1st. The top six teams from our heat were selected to move on to the U.S. Finals. The winner of the U.S. Finals would compete in the World Finals in Toronto, Canada. Our team one finished just 2.5 points behind the qualifying teams! So close!

It was an exciting night for our teams, coaches and parents! The format of the evening is 10 rounds of 10 questions. The team with the highest points for each round wins a book for each team member. Paradox and Readers of the Lost Ark both correctly answered tie-breaking questions to win a round so each person on these teams went home with a new book. In between rounds, the quizmaster asked questions of the audience. Matt Mowerson's dad and Ryan and Ali Villano's mom each won a book by correctly answering a question. Elena Bielesz and Ryan Villano both correctly answered questions used in the world finals. They each won \$5.

Congratulations to Moran's Kids' Lit Quiz teams and thank you for your dedication.

Moran's Kids' Lit Quiz teams were:

Team One: Readers of the Lost Ark Aaron Kaiser Brennan Lagasse Elias Rodriguez Ryan Lagasse 9th Place (2.5 points behind the teams qualifying for the U.S. Finals.	Team Two: Three R's and a J Julie Rochniak Riley Kearns Ryan Crilly Ryan Villano 18th Place*	Team Three: Paradox Elena Bielesz Heather Gaydowen Keena Gibbs Shannon McKenna 16th Place*	Team Four: The Team Who Must Not Be Named Alex DeZerga Charlotte Francy Kylie Sorvillo Matthew Mowerson 10th Place
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Moran's Alternate: Kendra Rodriguez

Moran's Mentors: Ali Villano, Michelle Rochniak (Sheehan)

Coaches: Mrs. Bielesz, Mrs. Musket





Promote Reading Club

The Promote Reading club visited Highland Elementary School twice to assist the kindergarten classes with reading and other activities. Great job by all students for braving the rain on both days while walking over to Highland. See photos below!



Moran's Library/Media Night

Moran's Family Library Media Night was held on December 1, 2016. Members of Moran's Promote Reading Club assisted with the planning, set up and running of the activities. Activities included Scratch coding, exploring our online databases, creating bracelets, crafts with paper, coloring a banner for the library, maze and puzzle challenges and more.

Jennifer Nash, teen librarian, and Kayleigh Sprague, Creative Technologies Librarian, from the Wallingford Public Library were both here to tell students and their families about programs offered at WPL. They also signed up families for library cards and allowed families to use some of the creative devices found in WPL's Collaboratory.

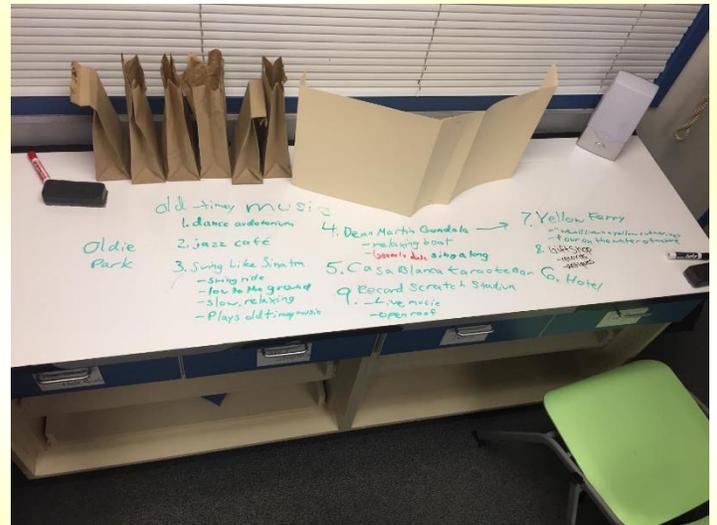
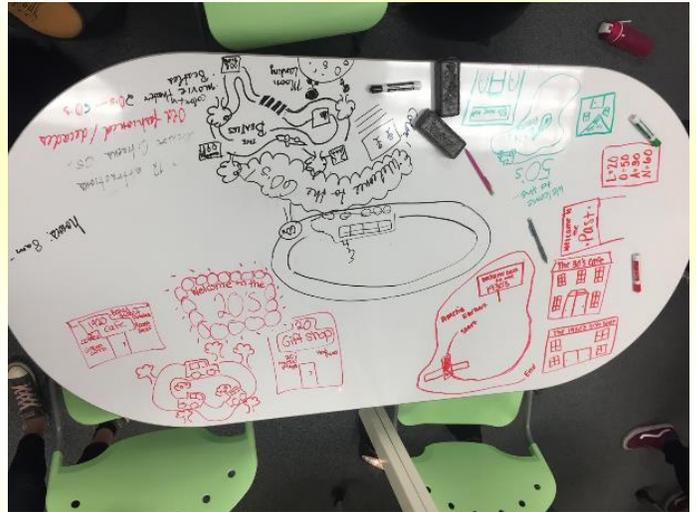
Students and their families viewed books recommended by Moran's staff members and they were able to check out books that evening. There were some amazing prizes won by guests, including gift certificates donated by Outback Steakhouse of North Haven. Some feedback from parents included "I loved seeing the neat resources available at Moran and at the town library." and "We liked the activities, the book ideas and the Public Library being there."



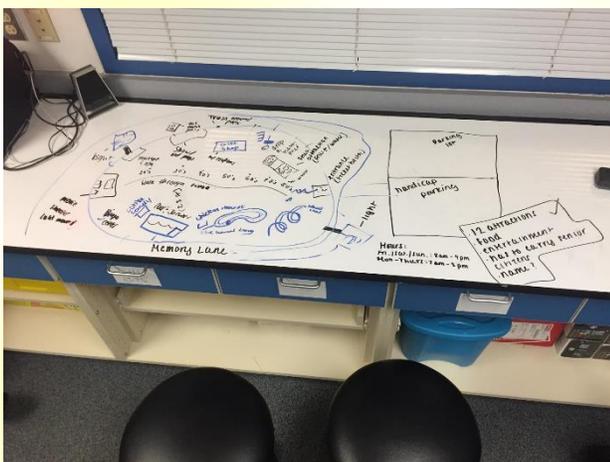
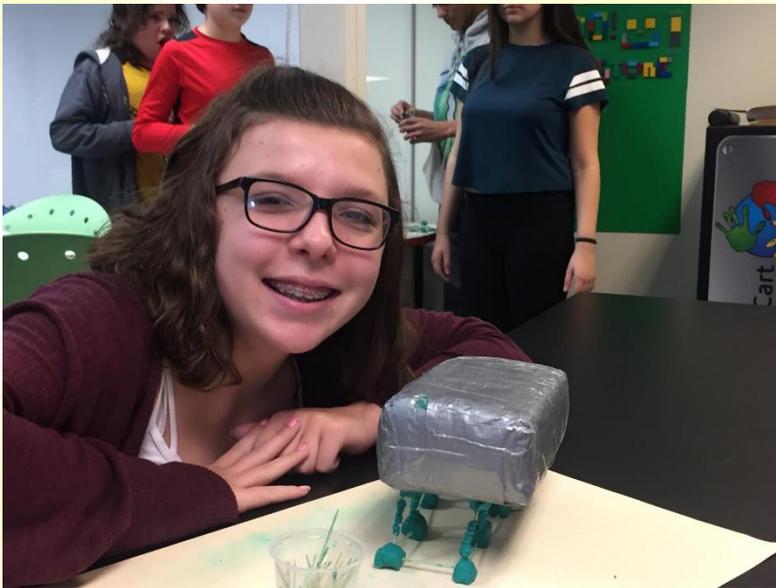
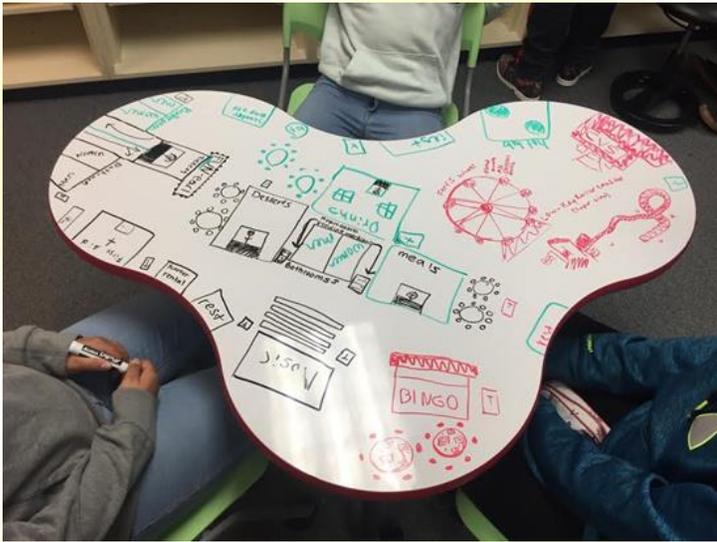
A Word about Capstone from Mrs. Pacelli-Kukta

Capstone Update for Trimester 2:

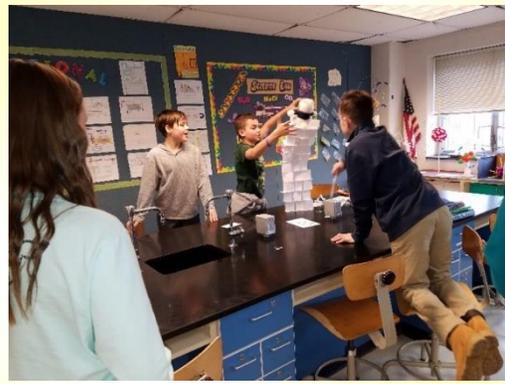
Capstone students have been busy observing, empathizing, brainstorming, identifying, designing, building, and presenting. This trimester, students have had to create a personal logo, work through various clay and toothpick challenges, design and build a catapult for precision and accuracy, complete a READY, SET, DESIGN activity, work collaboratively in the I SEE, WE BUILD challenge and build an amusement park for a target audience of 65 years and older. All of these activities are building the skills necessary to complete a mini Capstone project that will be introduced the week of 1/23/17. For the project, students will be asked to take all of the skills that we have focused on in isolation and apply them as a whole in order to successfully complete the final activity of the trimester...in this final project, students will be asked to identify a problem, brainstorm a solution, design and build a prototype, and present their project. Each grade level will have a specific "community" to focus on. I can't wait to see the great work that they do.



Capstone Continued - Trimester 2 student work!



Team 6-1 Huskies!



Huskies - Mrs. Purtill's Science Class

Team 6-1 working on a STEM activity in my science class. They were given 100 index cards, 1 foot of Scotch tape and 1 pair of scissors to complete a task. Their goal was to build a tower at least 2 feet tall and strong enough to hold our Husky dog mascot. It was quite a challenge for them...but a lot of fun!



Student Recognition for the Huskies!

Science: Ryan Crilly – Ryan is a pleasure to have in my science class this year. He earned an A for his first Trimester here at Moran. Ryan has a wealth of background knowledge in science, he enjoys sharing interesting stories with his class and is excited to participate in our hands on experiments. He comes to school each day with a smile, a positive attitude and a can always be trusted to work cooperatively with any student(s) when in small groups.

Language Arts: Emily Conte – Emily is a conscientious student who always does her best in everything she does. Emily always comes prepared to class and is willing to continue learning at home. She is an active and enthusiastic participant in class and always contributes positively to class discussions. Other students often look to Emily for help. It is a pleasure to have Emily in class.

Social Studies: Dennis Brunelle – Dennis has continuously show a high level of effort and participation in SS class. He comes to class with a positive attitude and an inquisitive nature. He is willing to ask questions and attempt to explore topics that go beyond what is being taught in the classroom. He has become a leader in the class and a positive influence on the team

Team 6-2 Eagles Battle for the Cup!!!!

Team Eagles' students are in a fierce but friendly battle! Students have been divided into five teams and are competing against each other in various categories. Students are awarded points or lose points depending on their efforts; similar to how points are awarded in the *Harry Potter* book series. The categories are created to help students become better students and overall better people. Good luck to all competitors!!



Update from Team Eagles

Students on Team Eagles have been very busy again this Trimester. The newest winner of the Team Eagles Cup are the Bohlmanators, Mrs. Bohlman's homeroom. The Eagles are again on to the next round for the Battle of the Cup. Best of luck teams. We had a number of students write award winning essays about Dr. Martin Luther King. Other students have written fictional stories and opinion pieces and all of the writing can be read in *The Moran Stang*, Moran's online magazine. Students have been excited to meet and get to know Mr. Bologna and thoroughly enjoyed a recent assembly with him. The team always welcomes donations of facial tissue and box tops.

Team Eagles Recognition for January 2017

Science - Natalie Swierczynski

Social Studies - Luke Esparo

ELA/Math - Isabella Gravel

Language Arts - Jenna Kent

Spanish - Stephen Lee



Grade Team 7-1 Rising Stars

Welcome Newsletter: <https://www.smores.com/v1n1p>



7th Grade enjoys a trip to the Movies:



Students view a mini visual Holocaust museum in Language Arts to better understand this historical time period.



Students hard at work in Language Arts

Student Recognition January 2016

Daniela Juarez is an extremely polite student that brightens up each classroom she walks into. She consistently says hello to her teachers, and she always offers to help her peers. Daniela has continued to show improvement in self-advocacy and work ethic throughout the year so far! Keep it up, Daniela!

Chris Barkasy is an extremely focused student that has grown into an academically confident student. He participates in class and works well with his peers. He is kind to his teachers, and he self-advocates when he needs clarification, an awesome skill to have on Team 7-1! Way to go, Chris!

Bella Limosani has worked hard to achieve this year. As 7th grade continues to become more challenging, she has risen to the occasion. She self-advocates, focuses on her learning, and stays on task during class. Nice job, Bella!

Kevin Gilhuly is an active and energetic student that always brings a positive and fun atmosphere to class. He works hard

in very class, and he self-advocates constantly to always make sure that he is doing what he needs to. Kevin knows how to have fun, but also stay on task! You got this, Kevin!

February 2016 continued 7-1

Julie Rochniak is a happy student that is dedicated to her success in 7th grade. She is always willing to help classmates. She is patient and motivated. Julie pays attention to the details in all of her classes, showing that she is motivated to do well this year. Yah, Julie!

Luke Rutkowski is a responsible student that is extremely school spirited. He is very congenial, helpful and kind to classmates. Luke is a great example of a positive attitude contributing to success in 7th grade. Way to go, Luke!

Nabil Ahsan is a hard worker that takes opportunities for redos. He is working to succeed in all of his classes by following along with discussions and assignments. He is responsible and thoughtful. His dedication to success in a great model for his peers. Keep it up, Nabil!

7th Grade Team 7-2 Super Novas

Student Recognition

Anna Duman - Anna has gone above and beyond in her help of another student on the team. She has excelled thus far in Science and other subjects and it's been great seeing her come into her own this year!

Nikita Zuez - Nikita is an excellent student who is focused on learning and is curious about the world. He arrives to class with a smile and a positive attitude, always ready and willing to learn! We wish we could clone him!

Ryan Lagasse - Ryan is totally focused on learning. He always arrives to class and gives 100%. His excitement for learning is contagious and inspires those around him to try harder and to make connections between their experiences and new learning just like Ryan. Keep up the great work!

Amy Casorla - Amy is a conscientious math student who not only works hard to complete her work, but is willing to help others. She has a quiet smile and is always polite. Amy is a great role mode as a mathematician.

Evan DeMaio - Evan is kind and helpful. He arrives to class with a positive attitude and is always ready to learn. Additionally, Evan is extremely helpful to other students.



Social Studies 7-2

Exploring 2500 years of European history, students in Social Studies have been examining the lasting impacts of people and events on our lives today.

Beginning in January, students learned about the geography and history of this culturally rich continent. For the past several weeks, they have been teaming up with students from 7-1, researching a specific period of history spanning from Ancient Greece all the way to World War II. They have focused their research on the people, events, and places that have had a lasting impact on European culture. This research has resulted in the creation of timelines covering 12



eras in European history. Our next unit of study is Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean where we will investigate the history, geography and culture that has shaped this region into the places they are today.



[Team 8-1](https://sites.google.com/a/wallingfordschools.org/moran-team-8-1/)

<https://sites.google.com/a/wallingfordschools.org/moran-team-8-1/>

[Team 8-2](https://sites.google.com/a/wallingfordschools.org/mrs-carbone-website/homework)

<https://sites.google.com/a/wallingfordschools.org/mrs-carbone-website/homework>

Moran Student News from Mr. Schweighoffer- Student Government

I am so proud of so many of our students who took the time to write a letter of thanks to a veteran or a current member of our military. Students turned in over 200 letters which are now on their way to these military heroes. Good job by all!

Students have been bringing in money to continue sponsoring Yeabtsega, the girl living in Africa. The team only needs \$129 more to make sure that she continues to get food, clothing, shelter, health care and continuing education. Great job to all the students who are trying to change the world one person at a time.

Finally, there was one more community service opportunity. The Moran Student Government was collecting holiday cards for children who will be spending their December holidays in the hospital. Moran students were encouraged to make as many handmade cards as possible for distribution. The cards were not be religious based or for a particular age or gender as they are randomly distributed at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Over 300 holiday cards were made by students and sent to kids who were going to spend the holiday in the Connecticut Children's Hospital

12 students were chosen to participate in The Connecticut Association of Schools Leadership conference at Trinity College on January 11th

Student Government

Ryan Villano is the Student Government President and Ben Busillo is the Vice President

Geography Bee and Results

Moran's Geography Bee champion is **Ana Candelli**. We congratulate this outstanding scholar and await notice from the National Geographic Society to determine if Ana has qualified for the state level competition to be held on March 31. The Geography Club has been meeting twice a week through the month of January to prepare for the National Geographic Society's GeoBee which was held on February 2 after school. Key members of this group are Sanjana Gade, Joelle Stellato, Lauren Stellato, Matthew Carboni, Karena Kulakowski, Thomas Straub, Ana Candelli, Roosh Sindi, and Peter Borzillo have been sharpening their knowledge of world geography leading up to the Geography Bee. Mrs. Giangrave would like to thank the students who participated and especially Raj Doering who returned from Sheehan to help facilitate the group.



Veteran's Day Celebration

On November 10, Moran celebrated Veterans Day with an assembly led by students! Teaching students and staff alike about the origin of Veteran's Day, Peter Borzillo, Autumn Murray, Steven Begley, Frankie Carbone, and Filip Gorczyca presented at an assembly to all students. These five students explained the meaning of Veteran's Day and described the wars since World War II. The band, conducted by eighth grader, John Womelsdorf, played the Star Spangled Banner and America the Beautiful. Students did a terrific job! We were fortunate this year to have Jack Rodin, a 92 year old World War II Veteran as a keynote speaker. Mr. Rodin served in the U.S. Army Air Forces from 1942-1945. He completed 23 missions over Japan and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal. We also were lucky to have two local Veterans, Ron Smith and Stan Venoit, both of whom served in Vietnam. We were honored by their presence and grateful for their service. It was impressive to see students lined up after the assembly to shake hands with these Veterans and thank them for their service.

A big thank you to the student leaders who taught us all about the importance of Veteran's Day and Mr. Anderson and Mr. Chlebowski whose students were instrumental in making this a meaningful day for students.



Moran Sports

A look at some of the Sports for this Trimester!

Girls Basketball 2016-2017

James H. Moran Lady Mustangs Basketball

2016-2017 Season Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Thurs.	Dec 15	Edison MS	Moran MS	3:30
Fri.	Dec 16	Kennedy MS	Moran MS	3:30
Mon.	Dec 19	DePaolo MS	DePaolo MS	3:30
Wed.	Dec 21	Dodd MS	Dodd MS	3:30
Fri.	Jan 6	Lincoln MS	Lincoln MS	3:30
Wed.	Jan 11	Washington MS	Moran MS	3:30
Fri.	Jan 13	Dag MS	Dag MS	3:30
Thurs	Jan 19	Edison MS	Edison MS	3:30
Fri.	Jan 20	Kennedy MS	Kennedy MS	3:30
Wed.	Jan 25	DePaolo MS	Moran MS	3:30
Fri.	Jan 27	Dodd MS	Moran MS	3:30
Mon.	Jan 30	Lincoln MS	Moran MS	3:30
Tues.	Jan 31	Washington MS	Washington MS	3:30
Fri./Sat.	Feb 3 & 4	Woodrow Wilson Invitational	W Wilson MS	3:30
Tues.	Feb 7	Dag MS	Moran MS	3:30

Team Members Coach Scursso

8th Grade:

Julianna Fazzino
Maddyson Horobin
Caitlyn Hunt
Hayleigh Lagasse
Dempsey Lajoie
Amelia Mansfield
Mia Mills
Jocelyn Petrillo
Ashley Douglass

7th Grade:

Darla Jagrosse
Jamie Koons
Lauren Lindberg
Jayna MacKenzie
Sydney Rossacci
Molly Smolenski
Katheryn Webb
Ryen Wolcheski

Boys Basketball 2016-2017

Team Members Coach Sofiane

6th Grade

Vinnie Carbon
Anthony Mark-Anthony
Griffen Neiglander
Avery Robinson

7th Grade

Jadin Kapoor
Tim Body
Carter Dahl
Zack Zubeckis
Isaiah Hernandez

8th Grade

Joe Amarone
Andrew Carey
Luis DeJesus
Garret Harrison
Nick Iannone
Jack McDonnell
Christopher Murzak
Jack Swierczynski



Moran Basketball 2016-17 Boys

Day	Date	Opponent	Time	Site
Thur.	Dec 15	Edison	3:30	Away
Fri.	Dec 16	Kennedy	3:30	Away
Mon.	Dec 19	DePaolo	3:30	Moran
Wed.	Dec 21	Dodd	3:30	Moran
Fri.	Jan 6	Lincoln	3:30	Moran
Wed.	Jan 11	Washington	3:30	Away
Fri.	Jan 13	DAG	3:30	Moran
Thur.	Jan 19	Edison	3:30	Moran
Fri.	Jan 20	Kennedy	3:30	Moran
Wed.	Jan 25	DePaolo	3:30	Away
Fri.	Jan 27	Dodd	3:30	Away
Mon.	Jan 30	Lincoln	3:30	Away
Tue.	Jan 31	Washington	3:30	Moran
Thur.	Feb 2	DAG	3:30	Away

Moran Sports

Let's hear it for both Girls and Boys Basketball Teams!

The Lady Mustangs finished their regular season as the **Central Connecticut Middle School League Champions** with a record of 13 wins and 0 losses. The 8th graders on the team have an overall record of 34 wins and 1 loss over their last 3 years and have never lost at home. JV finished with an overall record of 7-6. They came in 2nd place in the 16/17 Woodrow Wilson Tournament.

Way to go Lady Mustangs!

A quote from Coach Scursso:

"These are a very special and an incredible bunch of young ladies! I am glad to have had the privilege to coach them and I am very proud of all they have accomplished. It will be sad to see them go! They will be missed."



The Boys team finished with an overall record of 7-6. What a great first season for Coach Sofiane and his team. They boys played hard all year and won both of their games against cross town rivals Dag. Beating them in their last game in dominating fashion by a score of 61-27.

Great job Mustangs!



A shout out to Mrs. Durr, who was at Dag for the day before the last big game between both girls and boys teams! I think she was our good luck charm.

Family and Consumer Sciences



Mrs. Kania's 6th and 7th grade, 1st trimester Family and Consumer Science classes sewed a community project. They made pillowcases for the Wallingford Homeless Shelter. 42 very colorful pillowcases were produced. Many were completed with French seams (a technique used for high-end, quality sewing).

Cereal Boxes+

The Art Department is looking for donations of empty cartons and boxes with bright colors and lots of big letters. Cereal boxes are the perfect example but any thin cardboard that is easily cut with scissors will work. Soda cartons, boxes from ice cream bars - basically anything related to selling to children will have what we need - large letters and screaming colors!

Computer Controlled Robotics

This is Andrew Carey and he is the first student to complete a fully working VEX IQ Clawbot. He did a great job!



**YEARBOOK ORDER DEADLINE IS
FEBRUARY 24th**

Only 24 days left to order your yearbook. Yearbook sales will be limited to preordered books only. You must order by February 24th to guarantee a copy of the yearbook. Don't miss out on your 2016-2017 Moran memories. Order online at Jostens.com or pick up an order form in the cafe during all lunch waves.

ART NEWS The Art Department is in full swing with sixth graders studying form, color and value using clay, paint and oil pastels. The seventh graders are learning to organize their ideas and visual art projects using unity, rhythm, balance, and pattern as they create Op art, 3-D letters and ceramic bone fish. Two and Three dimensional 8th grade classes are getting the opportunity to put their past art knowledge together and problem solve ways to create unique architectural buildings, Keith Haring papier-mâché' sculptures, ceramic projects and Digital collages using Photoshop.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Essays

Grade 7 students, Elena Bielesz and Molly Smolenski, and grade 6 students, Dylan Smith, Jenna Kent, Olivia Platt, Nele Koepfer, and Grace Furtado all contributed their talented writing skills to compose Martin Luther King Jr. essays for this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration on January 16th at the town hall. These students also entered their essays in Senator Chris Murphy's Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest. Students have worked hard on these essays for the last couple of weeks, and I am very proud of them! ~ Mrs. Bohlman

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/OB_U4zArI3-6aaEJsTnVWMFFzNTQ