

Moorefield Station Elementary School  
 22325 Mooreview Parkway  
 Ashburn, VA 20148  
 Principal: Karen D. Roche  
 Assistant Principal: Colleen Flaherty  
 Administrative Dean: Joe Dolansky



### March 2018

### A NOTE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

Dear Families:

March has finally arrived. We have been fortunate with the weather, I feel like spring is just around the corner. Since we have had only a few snow/ice days, our teachers are on track to get our curriculum covered so students are prepared for their future, as well as, any end of year assessments. I think we are all ready for the spring outside activities.

During the first week of March, students are celebrating Read Across America Week recognizing Dr. Seuss' birthday, by dressing in pajamas or as a favorite Dr. Seuss character on Friday, March 2nd. Our PBIS tank is full!!! We will be working with our PBIS team to plan a whole school celebration.

Be on the lookout for the yearbook order forms. Pictures will be taken March 7. More information will be sent home soon.

On a more serious note, please remember that it is unlawful to enter the bus loop before 7:50 am. I know that many parents drive their children to school when it is cold or rainy and due to our unusual configuration, this makes the car line very hectic in the mornings. Please remember that Loudoun County offers bus transportation for the majority of Moorefield students, so please consider this option. As always, we are looking at ways to keep our children safe as they enter the building. Please do not ask your child to walk across the busy traffic to enter the building.

We are gearing up for the busy spring season with SOL testing, benchmark assessments, and after school activities. We are gearing up for our first Talent Show on March 16th, we hope everyone will turn out to support our playground fundraising efforts and the amazing talent of our students. Spring activities and much more will soon be upon us, and by working together, we will ensure success for all of our students.

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Karen D. Roche - Principal

### Important Events for March:

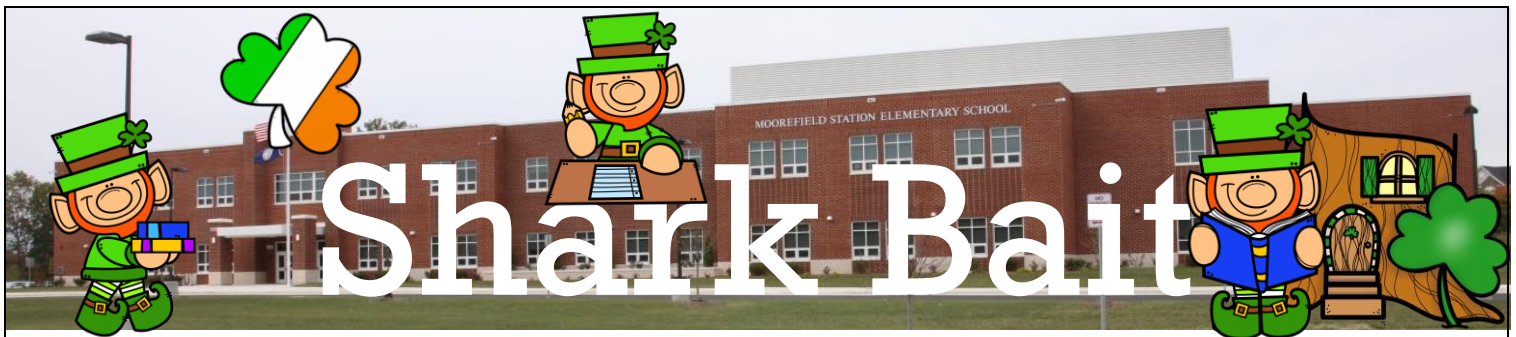
- Mar 1 – 36<sup>th</sup> Annual LCPS Spelling Bee, 6:30pm at SBHS
- Mar 1 – Yearbooks Go on Sale
- Mar 2 – Read Across America, Dr. Seuss's Birthday
- Mar 3 – MSE vs Discovery ES Faculty Volleyball at BRHS, 5:30pm
- Mar 5 – Girls on The Run Begins
- Mar 7 – Interims Sent Home
- Mar 8 – PTO Meeting, 7:00pm
- Mar 9 – Kdg Field Trip
- Mar 11 – Daylight Savings Time Change
- Mar 13 – Fourth Gr to Mt. Vernon
- Mar 16 – 23 – Spring Book Fair
- Mar 16 – First Annual Talent Show
- Mar 21 – In Person Kdg Registration
- Mar 21 – Book Fair Family Night, 4:00pm-7:00pm
- Mar 23 – "Twin Day" Spirit Day
- Mar 23 – PTO Spirit Night at Chuck-E-Cheese, 3:00pm-9:00pm
- Mar 26-30 – Spring Break, No School
- Apr 2 – Student Holiday, Staff Development Day
- Apr 9 – Student Holiday, Teacher Workday



### A MEMO FROM MUSIC:

During the month of March, the students will continue to learn about Jazz music and our Composer/Musician of the Quarter Duke Ellington. Encourage them to share their favorite piece with you!

Spring chorus rehearsals have begun! Our Spring concert will be held on June 7th @6:30pm, here at Moorefield Station. Fourth grade will continue to rehearse on Thursday afternoons from 1:45pm-2:15pm and the fifth grade will rehearse on Monday mornings from 8:00am-8:25am. Lyrics and practice tracks will be posted this month. Check the website if you have questions, or to find more information. We encourage you to visit our website regularly at <http://www.lcps.org/mses>. If you are unsure about a date or time, we post that information as well.



First grade continues to work on reading rhythms using quarter and eighth note patterns. Second grade is learning the half note, as well as the unpitched percussion instruments. Third grade has been introduced to sixteenth notes, and we are also singing in cannon and round. Fourth grade continues to sharpen their recorder skills, as well as, learn how to play a major scale, and improvisation. Fifth grade is also busy working on Recorder Karate and earning their "belts."

We thoroughly enjoyed dancing with all of our students and their families at Cultural Heritage Night. What fun it was to see families and friends enjoying themselves together!

Visit our website to find a general and tentative listing of concepts for each grade level, which will be covered in music class this month. If you'd like to find out more about what we are doing in class, ask your child! We encourage you to visit our website regularly. If you are also unsure about a date or time, we post that information as well.

### SNIPPETS FROM SEARCH:



During the month of March, students will continue to enjoy a variety of challenging lessons.

Students in kindergarten will use their Creating Thinking Key to "write a picture". Kindergarteners will practice spatial reasoning as they work on a unique matching activity.

First graders will be partnering up for both our lessons this month. First, students will work cooperatively to figure out interesting, often funny, alphabet drawings in our "An Alphabet You Never Met" lesson. Students will then rely on reasoning, mathematical skills, and perseverance to problem-solve using dominoes.

In second grade, students will work in teams as they use clues and their reasoning thinking to solve for the "Secret Number". Second graders will continue to rely on their logical and mathematical reasoning as they try a new lesson called "Balance Beans".

Students in third and fourth grades will also be introduced to a new lesson – "Keva Planks". For this challenge, students will rely on their spatial reasoning to build structures using information from a clue card. Students will then use their

Evaluating Thinking Key as they answer the question "Would You Rather . . . ?"

Please check my website for the most updated information on LCPS Gifted services, eligibility criteria, and important dates and deadlines. The site is located on our school page under Specialists.

### ART E-FACTS:



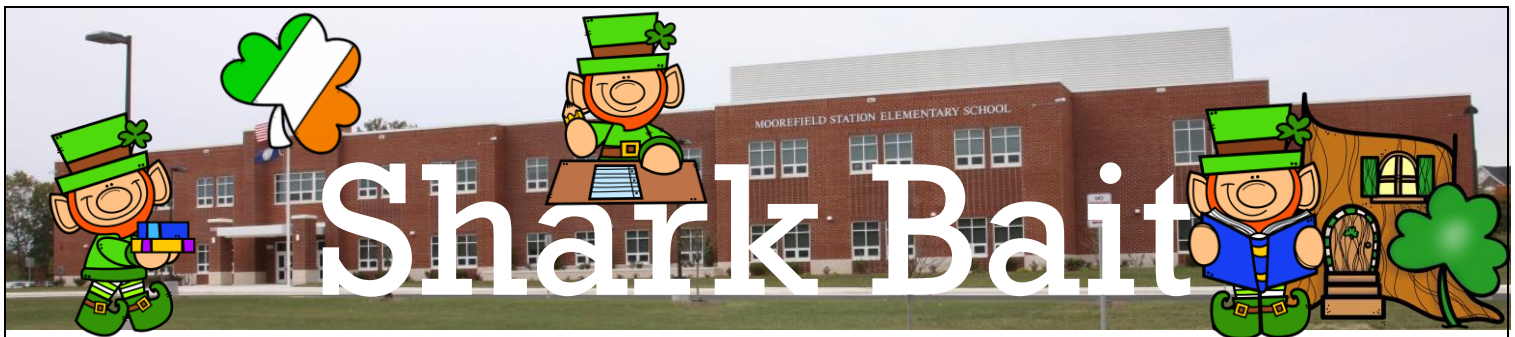
Students in grades first through fifth have been busy learning about art and traditions from other cultures. Each grade level worked hard to create beautiful multi-cultural pieces in conjunction with preparation for Heritage Night. The full-day kindergarten classes recently finished crayon resist patterns based on the weavings of the Inca Empire. The first grade classes have finished an Aboriginal artwork. The students learned about the significance and process of creating the handprint dot paintings before starting the project. Second grade made themselves dressed in a kimono. The students learned facts about the history of the kimono before creating the tie-dyed coffee filters used to create them. The third grade classes created amazing three-dimensional Greek theatre masks. The students learned many paper manipulation techniques to form their masks and add emotion to them as well. The fourth graders created Native American spirit animal paintings. Following the history of totems, they reviewed the color wheel to create a plan for their paintings. Finally, the fifth graders as worked on metal while creating beautiful African animal reliefs. The students first drew their animal, then transferred them to the metal. They used techniques such as repousse and embossing to give dimension to their compositions.

Please be sure to view some of these amazing artworks displayed in our front lobby! We will celebrate youth art month with new lessons and interesting facts about famous artists.

### BITS AND BYTES FROM THE LAB:



This month students in grade 2 completed the CogAT test. The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) is a multiple-choice test designed to measure a child's academic aptitude. We also had our 2nd school-wide Epic Build. We were excited by the number of parents and visitors who came out to see



all the hard work the students did to prepare for this day. Students displayed their robots and shared the programs they wrote to bring them to life. In addition to our Epic Build, we had Cultural Heritage Night. The computer lab was transformed into Antarctica. Families participated in hands on activities about penguins. They read a story called "There was a Cold Lady who Swallowed some Snow" and used ozobots to code a story. Other activities included, QR codes to learn about penguin facts, solving puzzles using "Breakout.edu" and watching penguins on a live webcam. Everyone had a great time participating in fun activities as they learned a little more about Antarctica.

Next month we look forward to our third coding cycle which involves Minecraft. We will also revisit Internet safety and digital citizenship lessons. For more information about digital citizenship and articles related to online safety, please visit Common Sense Media at <https://www.common Sense Media.org/parent-concerns>.

## LINK TO THE LIBRARY:

### BOOK FAIR



Our second BOOK FAIR is March 19 - 23. This will be a SIGNATURE fair, like the one in October. We earn a percentage of sales in the form of cash profit and free books/materials. Our library collection is still growing, so we are excited to be able to add more books! The book fair is most successful with the help of many, many volunteers. Please consider volunteering – even if it's just one day for an hour. Volunteers receive 10% off their purchases at the fair (not valid online). Please sign up here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4babaf23a13-book4>. We need help with the following:

\* Set-Up: Wednesday, March 14, 12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

\* Helping Students Browse: Thursday, March 15 – Friday, March 16, 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

\* Helping students shop: Monday, March 19 – Thursday, March 22, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Friday, March 23, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

\* Help with Family Night: Wednesday, March 21, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

\* Help with Packing Up: Friday, March 23, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Each class will have a chance to browse the fair for a short time. Students can make a wish list to share with their parents. This helps parents know the books (and their cost) that their children are interested in adding to their home library. All classes will also have a 20 minute block of time during the school day for those students who would like to purchase books from the fair. Please be sure to discuss types of books and appropriate content with your child before shopping the fair. All sales are final. There are no returns or exchanges, so we encourage students to make appropriate choices when shopping and making their purchase. If students bring in money to shop during the school day on a day that is not their assigned time, it is up to the classroom teacher to let them do so. Students should not be missing instructional time to shop at the book fair. We encourage students to purchase books – not so much of the "frilly froly" stuff (i.e. pointers, frilly pens/pencils, etc.). However, if you send in money with your child and will allow them to spend money on non-book items, please send a note in as well so we know what is allowed. We also ask that you send a note stating how much your child is able to spend at the book fair. This is especially helpful for those that send in checks. If you send a check in with your child, please do not make it out for a set amount as we cannot give change from checks. Let us know their spending limit and we will fill in the exact amount for you and send home a receipt. Checks should be made payable to Moorefield Station Elementary.

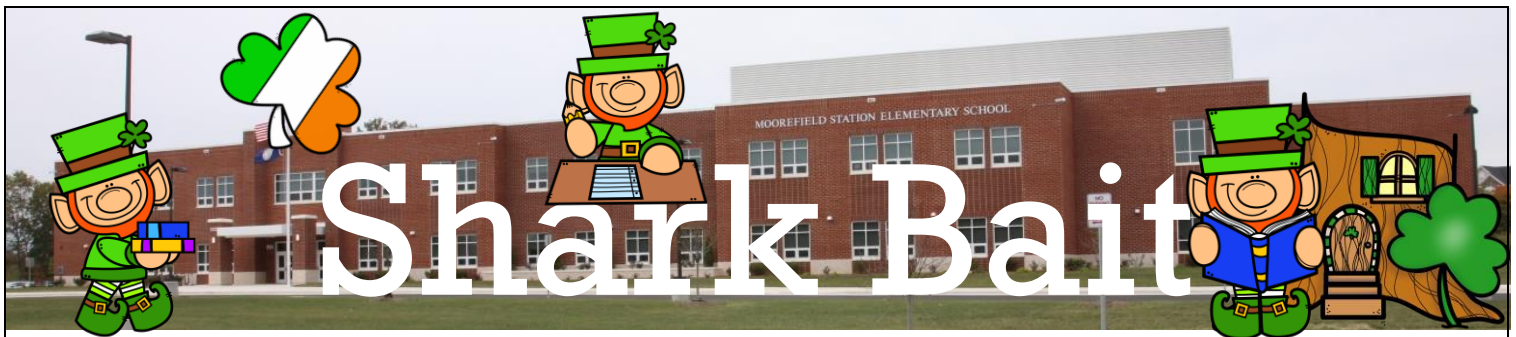
Parents and community members are welcome to shop during the school day as well!

\*Please note although our book fair is through Scholastic, it is not associated with Scholastic Book Clubs. They are two separate fundraising / reading promotion programs. Scholastic Book Clubs is done through your child's classroom teacher, not the school library, and supports their classroom library. Scholastic Book Fairs is a fundraiser that supports our school library and school reading programs.

### BOOK SWAP

We need donations of gently used (or new) books for all grade levels (PreK – 5) for our Book Swap at the end of the year. We will continue to collect books throughout the year to be ready! The goal is for every student to choose a book





(or more if we have enough), regardless of whether or not they were able to donate books. We are always in desperate need of chapter books for grades 2 – 5. There is a big box in the library to collect books. This was intended to be an annual event, but unfortunately, one year we did not have enough books for every student to choose one. We hope that we can make it happen this year! Thanks for your support!

### **VOLUNTEERING IN THE LIBRARY**

Besides the book fairs, we still need volunteers in the library throughout the school year to help with general tasks. We need help with shelving books daily, processing new books, and repairing books. Processing new books involves stamping, putting labels on, and covering them with plastic. We also already have books in need of repair and could use help fixing them. We will train you to do all the above tasks. Whether you have an hour or two once in a while or even weekly, we'd be glad to have your help. Please sign up here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4babaf23a13-library>

Thank you in advance for your support!

### **COUNSELOR'S CORNER:**



Spring is right around the corner! It's hard to believe that we are already into our third quarter of school and are anticipating Spring Break in a few weeks. The Counseling Department has been finishing up guidance lessons on diversity to accompany our Cultural Heritage Night. Many good discussions have evolved out of this topic, and it has been exciting to hear the students share their cultural heritage with their classmates.

The Fifth Grade Service Club recently made heart notes to pair up with little treat bags for school staff members and hand delivered them for Valentine's Day. Service club members took much time and effort to create these notes, and staff members were appreciative of their efforts. For their next project, service club members will be brainstorming ideas for contributing to the community. If you have any ideas to share, please contact us here in the Counseling office.

For the month of March, the Counseling office will be doing classroom lessons focusing on positive thinking/perseverance and conflict resolution. Also, small groups involving social skills, friendship, and worry/stress will be ongoing this month.

We look forward to working with your students. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (571) 252-2380.

### **GYM SHORTS:**



In March, we will be learning about the skeletal system. Students will learn 14 basic bones, learn how bones help our body, and learn ways to keep our skeletal system strong. We will also begin our basketball unit in March. Students will learn how to dribble, pass, shoot the ball, and play small-scale lead-up games. At the end of the month we will do a short fitness unit to review the five components of fitness. We hope that everyone enjoys their spring break!

### **SAFETY FIRST:**



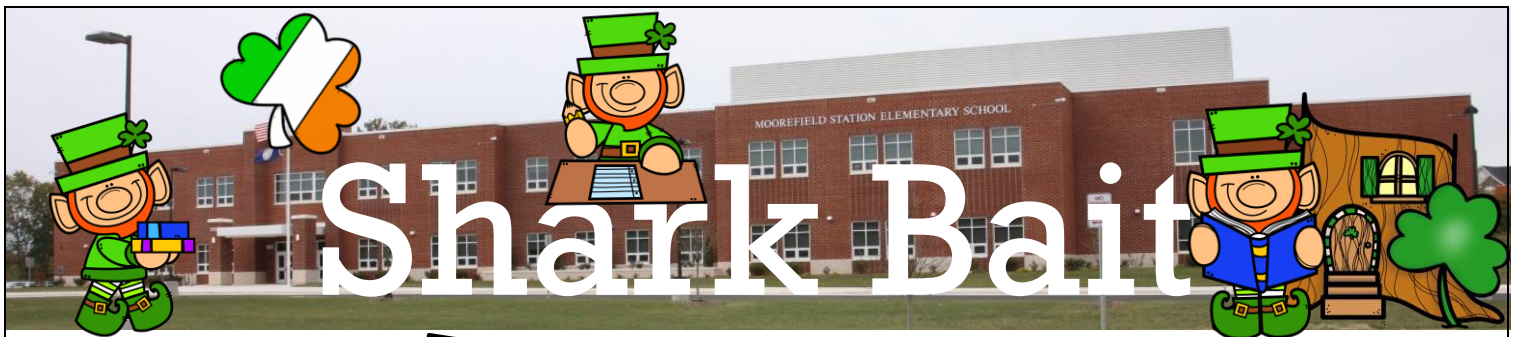
All visitors to schools will be required to verify their identification with school personnel prior to entry; regardless of the frequency they may visit an individual school.

To Request Entry:

- Have Photo Identification Ready
- Stand on the yellow footprints
- Push and release button
- Present photo id when asked
- Please go directly to the office to sign in and obtain a visitor's pass

All exterior doors will be closed and locked at the beginning of school and remain so until students are released for the day. Using the AIPHONE will be the only way visitors will be admitted to the school.

These security practices are intended to assure parents, students and staff of the school's commitment to safety and security, balancing both the needs of the public with reasonable security provisions.



## **VOLUNTEER NOTICE:**



Don't forget that Loudoun County has a policy that all volunteers must submit a "volunteer form" to the elementary. If you are planning on volunteering at Moorefield Station, please submit this form to our office staff. A copy of the form can be found on our school's website on the right-side bar.



## **HEALTH ROOM NEWS:**

This year at MSE, there are children who have weakened immune systems. In an effort to provide a healthy environment for these students (and all students) we will need your help. Students who have fevers should be kept home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication. Students who do not feel well should stay home.

If your child is ill because of a contagious disease such as flu, strep, chicken pox, measles, etc. Note the reason for the absence when you call the absentee call-line or absentee email. This will allow the students' parents to take measures to protect their child and follow up with their child's physician.

### **Return to School after Surgery or Emergency Room Visit**

Students who have had surgery or who have been treated in the emergency room are expected to bring a physician's clearance for school attendance. This clearance should include when the student is released to return to school, what restrictions the student may have, and the duration of any restrictions. - Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook

### **Medications at School**

Please remember that a parent or guardian must bring medication to the nurse, health office specialist, or designee. Students are not permitted to transport any medicine (prescription or non-prescription) to or from school. Medication must be brought to school in the original container with appropriate label intact. Medication will be kept in a locked medicine area of the clinic.

Whenever there is a change in your child's medication or dosage amount, you must submit a new Loudoun County Medication Form. You may obtain this form from the school Health Office or on the Loudoun County Public School website.

### **Change of Clothes**

Spills, bathroom accidents and mud happen to students of all ages, from PK to 5th grade. Please put a change of clothes in your child's backpack- just in case it is needed!

The school has a very limited supply of "oops" clothing. If your child comes home wearing clothes from the health office, please launder it and return it the next day.

'Tis the Cold and Flu Season! Good hand washing, using plenty of soap and water for 20 seconds, is key to preventing illness. Consider keeping your child home if he/she has:

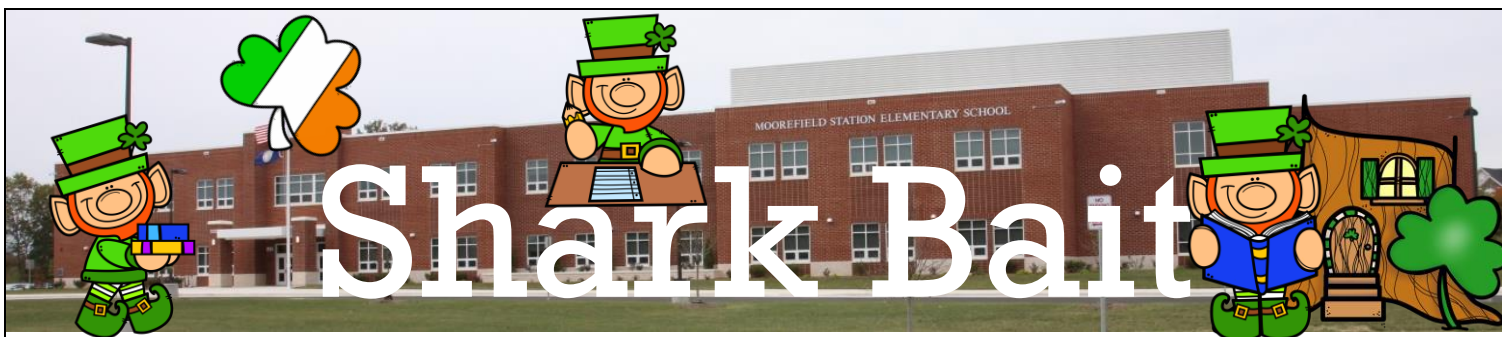
- A fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Has been vomiting
- Has symptoms that prevent him/her from participating in school, such as:
  - Excessive tiredness or lack of appetite
  - Productive cough or sneezing
  - Sore throat
  - Headache, earache, body aches

A minor sore throat is not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be strep even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep in children are headache and stomach upset. Contact your pediatrician as your child needs a special test.

The flu is serious! Call your pediatrician at the first sign of flu symptoms, which come on suddenly, including:

- High fever
- Chills
- Headache, body aches, ear ache
- Nausea, vomiting

Chapped lips are common in cold, windy weather. Please have your child apply lip balm on chapped lips before leaving for school in the morning. He/she may bring lip balm to school to reapply during the day.



Baby, it's cold outside .... Students should wear warm coats to school, hats and/or gloves to wear during outdoor recess.

### **Update Emergency Cards**

Please keep your phone numbers and emergency contact information up to date by contacting the school by phone or email.

Medical Form Copies- Please email, [jeni.stuart@lcps.org](mailto:jeni.stuart@lcps.org) with your request for a copy of your child's medical forms. Please allow 24 hours turn around time. It will be sent home with your child or you may pick up the copy in the Main Office.

### **Scoliosis Curvature of the Spine**

Scoliosis is an abnormal curving of the spine from side to side often described as an "S" curve. It affects 2% of Americans, mostly adolescents.

#### **Cause**

- The cause is unknown in most cases.
- Girls are affected more often than boys.
- Untreated, severe scoliosis can lead to lung and heart damage, back problems, and distressing cosmetic changes.

#### **Normal Spine**

Has a slight outward curve in the upper back and an inward curve at the waist.

If scoliosis is detected early, then treatment can be started before it becomes a physical or emotional disability.

#### **Signs**

- One shoulder higher than the other
- Scapula (shoulder blade) on one side of the body is higher or more prominent
- One-sided fullness at the waist
- One hip higher than the other
- Unequal rib prominence

#### **Normal View from Back**

Shoulder blades and spine appear straight



#### **Abnormal View from Back**

The spine curves abnormally to the side



#### **Abnormal View Bending Forward**



Shoulders and/or hips appear uneven

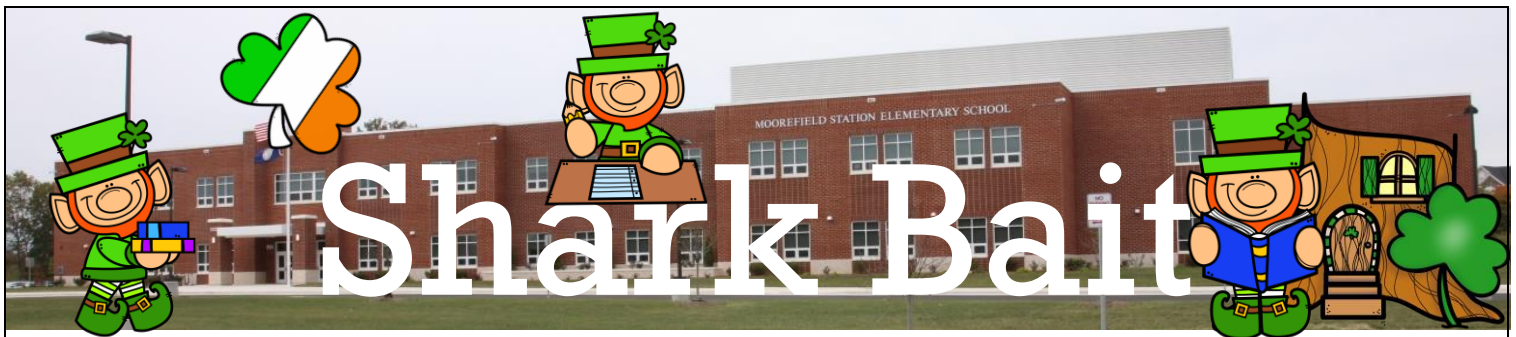
#### **Symptoms**

- Backache or low back pain
- Fatigue
- Maybe none

#### **How to Check Your Child's Spine**

- Stand behind the child.
- Ask child to stand with feet together and bend forward to touch the toes.
- Check that the shoulders and the top of the hips are at the same height, the head is centered, and the rib cage is symmetrical. Note that the waist is even and that the body does not lean to one side.
- It may be helpful to run your hands along the spine to detect any abnormalities.
- Ask the child to stand up, turn around to face you, and to bend down again.
- Repeat the assessment.





- If any lateral curvature is noted, your child needs further evaluation.

What should be done if any of the signs and symptoms are present?

Contact your primary care physician for an appointment to have your child's back evaluated.



### **DAY CARE RIDERS:**

If you are a parent with children attending daycare facilities at the end of each day, it is important that you communicate with them if your child is absent on a particular day or that you have picked your child up early from school.

### **SPEED LIMIT ON SCHOOL GROUNDS:**

We are concerned for the safety of your child at school. If you are on our grounds, please pay attention to your speed while driving on our campus. We have noticed adults going over the state required speed of 25 MPH. Please help us keep your children safe!



### **Transportation Changes:**

If your child's dismissal plans have changed during the school day, please provide us with the following-

- Note to teacher preferred OR phone call to the front office BEFORE 2:00pm
- Do NOT email as teacher or secretaries may be absent



## **Book Fair:**

**Books will be BLOOMING at our Spring Book Fair.**

**March 16-23**

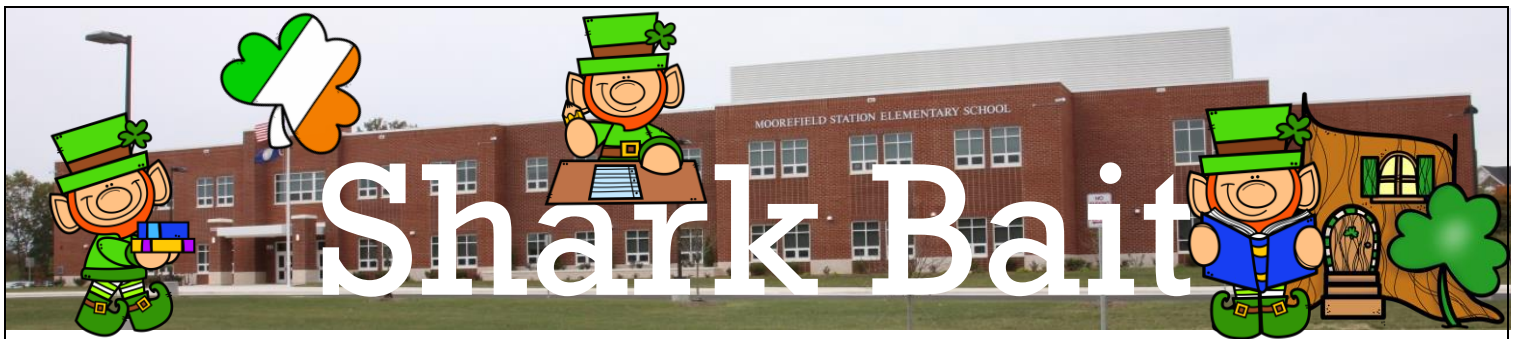
**"Family Night" Shopping**

**March 21: 4pm-7pm**

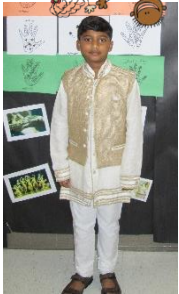
**Stay Posted on Happening @  
Moorefield Station!**

**Continue to check our Moorefield Station website for updates, events, and photo gallery!**





## Cultural/Heritage Night of Fun!



**Help our school...**

**Support our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Meetings are held monthly in our library.**

**The next meeting will be held on**

**Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.**

**Your participation can make a difference!!!**