



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



**December 2017 and January 2018**

**A NOTE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:**

Dear Families:  
 Over the Thanksgiving holiday, I hope you and your families had a chance to relax and re-energize. We have 15 jam packed instructional days this month.

November was a very busy month. We had parent/teacher conferences in conjunction with report cards. We also welcomed over 850 visitors to Moorefield Station for our First Epic Build and our 4th Annual STEM Night. It is always amazing to me how active our parents are in regards to your child's education. Seeing such incredible turnouts for events makes it easy to see why our students continue to excel.

This month we also will have many activities going on here at school. Our Guidance Counselor's will be hosting a Counselors' Coffee on December 6th at 8:30am. We will have our Winter Chorus Performance on December 14th at 6:30pm and the PTO is hosting a Winter Bazaar on December 8th at 5pm.

When students return in January, hang on because there are many academic challenges ahead. Students in grades 2-5 will start preparing for the mid-year benchmark testing. Please remember that the benchmarks are not graded, but used to guide teacher instruction. Grades K-2 will begin mid-year PALS and DRA testing. Students in grades 3-5 that did not meet the fall benchmark in the DRA will also be tested.

We will host our 4th and 5th grade Geography Bee on January 4th at 8:15am and our 5th grade Spelling Bee will take place on January 18th at 8:15am. We are excited to announce our 2nd Epic Build which will take place on January 26th. The students have been learning how to code using Legos, and we look forward to showcasing the amazing skills they have learned. As we never know what

Mother Nature has in store, please remember that these dates are subject to change if we have any inclement weather. Please check our website for any weather related make-ups.

As we embark on this busy month, and prepare to enjoy the Winter Break, I strongly encourage your continued efforts at home, especially in those areas that present challenges for your child. YOU are your child's #1 teacher, and we value what you bring to our instructional efforts.

I wish you and your family a safe, happy and relaxing Winter Break. See you in 2018!



Karen D. Roche  
 Principal

**Important Events for December/January:**

- Dec 5-11 – 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Gr FLE
- Dec 5 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Gr Field Trip (Buss, Aksamitowski, McNeme, Farren)
- Dec 6 – Counselor's Parent Coffee, 8:30am
- Dec 7 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Gr Field Trip (Griffis, Grzech, Ater)
- Dec 8 – "One School, One Book" Reading Program Ends
- Dec 8 – 1<sup>st</sup> Gr Winter Party, 1pm
- Dec 8 – PTO Winter Bazaar, 5pm
- Dec 12 – 5<sup>th</sup> Gr to ERMS Concert
- Dec 13 – Interims Sent Home
- Dec 13 - Kdg "Thank You Reception" (Urbaniak, Pedersen, and Amazeen AM), 9am
- Dec 13 - Kdg "Thank You Reception" (Grof-Tisza and Amazeen PM), 12:30pm
- Dec 14 - Amazeen AM Kdg Winter Party, 9am
- Dec 14 - Furtek/Kleffman Winter Party, 11am
- Dec 14 - Full Day Kindergarten and PM Kindergarten Winter Parties, 12:30pm
- Dec 14 – Gorli Winter Party, 12:00pm
- Dec 14 – Sarman Winter Party, 12:30pm
- Dec 14 – Winter Chorus Performance, 6:30pm
- Dec 15 – "Pajama Day" Spirit Day
- Dec 15 – Dennison Winter Party, 11:30am
- Dec 15 - Aubin and DeLuca Winter Parties, 1:00pm
- Dec 15 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Gr Winter Parties, 1:15pm



- Dec 18 – Winter Break Begins
- January 1, 2018 – Winter Break Ends
- Jan 2 – Classes Resume
- Jan 4 – 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Gr Geography Bee, 8:15am
- Jan 5 – Moveable Monday
- Jan 9 – Talent Show Live Auditions
- Jan 11 – PTO Meeting, 2:45pm
- Jan 15 – MLK Jr Holiday, No School
- Jan 16 – Moveable Monday
- Jan 16 – Talent Show Live Auditions, 3pm
- Jan 18 – 5<sup>th</sup> Gr Spelling Bee, 8:15pm
- Jan 18 – PTO “Teacher Experience Auction”, 6pm-9pm
- Jan 25 – Spirit Day – College Day
- Jan 26 – Code to the Future Epic Build Cycle 2
- Jan 26 – End of Grading Period
- Jan 26 - PTO “Teacher Experience Auction” Make-up Day, 6pm-9pm
- Jan 29 – Moveable Student Holiday (Teacher Planning Day)
- Jan 31 – Moveable Monday



### **A MEMO FROM MUSIC:**

This month, Moorefield Station’s fourth and fifth grade chorus will perform their winter concert! They will perform on Thursday, December 14th at 6:30pm in the multipurpose room at the school. The building will be open at 6:15pm for both students and audience. There will also be a daytime dress rehearsal that same day for the school. This is sure to be an outstanding performance!

All students will begin working on music for the whole school holiday sing along on December 15th. We will also be studying Tchaikovsky’s ballet, “The Nutcracker.” Please ask your child to share something from the story with you.

If you have a 4th or 5th grade student, be on the lookout for information on the MSE Spring Chorus registration. Also, we will be announcing the dates and times for our All-County Chorus auditions. Any fifth grader, who is actively participating in the Spring Chorus will be eligible to try out for this incredible opportunity.

Fifth grade has been working on Recorder Karate. Please ask your child to play one of the songs for you at home.

Congratulations to our third grade students on an outstanding Veterans Day performance! It was an honor to pay tribute to the sacrifices made by those Veterans in our MSE family and for our students, it was truly a shining moment! Thank you again to our wonderful third grade teachers for all of their support and assistance! Also, thank you to Mrs. Blinn and Mrs. Drewiske for creating such beautiful artwork with our students.

Lyrics and information for all musical performances have been posted on the music page of the school website, which is updated regularly to keep you informed throughout the school year.

### **SNIPPETS FROM SEARCH:**



It’s hard to believe December is here! We’ll wrap up 2017 with some fun reasoning and connecting thinking activities.

Kindergarten and first grade students will use clues and deductive reasoning to solve logic matrix problems. Second graders will use spatial reasoning to solve pentomino puzzles. In third and fourth grades, students will play the wonderfully-addictive game of “SET”.

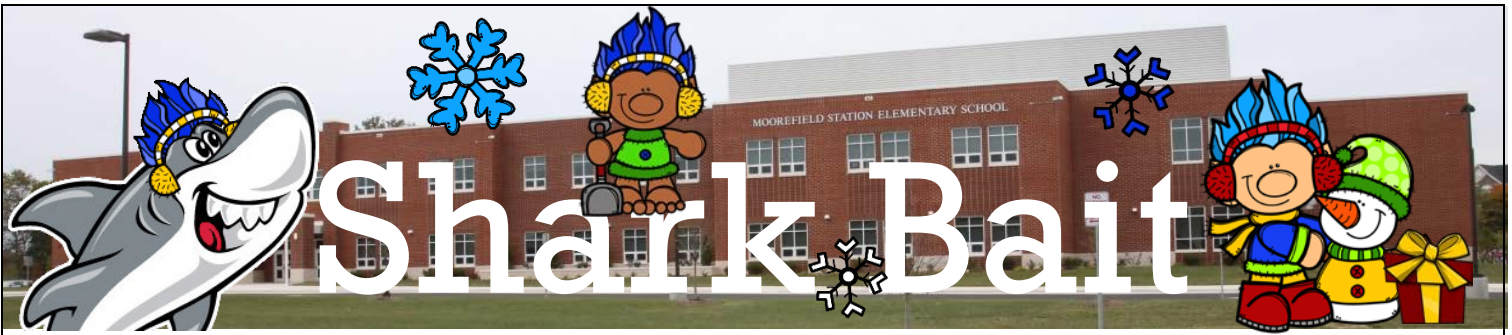
As we head into the new year, kindergarten students will think creatively about different types of houses in our “A House is a House for Me” lesson. Students will also be introduced to figural analogies and will work cooperatively to solve and explain them.

First graders will read a fun book by Ann Jonas; they will be encouraged to look at objects from different perspectives as they create their own unique pictures. We will practice spatial reasoning as students complete a unique matching activity called “Four Corners”.

Students in second grade will use their reasoning and connecting thinking to solve verbal and figural analogies. Second graders will then get the chance to use their Creating and Evaluating Thinking Keys in our lesson, “Rex”. We will discuss our four creative thinking strategies and talk about the importance of evaluating our work.

Third and fourth graders will work cooperatively to create a story (with a twist, of course) and orally share their stories in our Roll a Story lesson. Then, students will put their creative juices and story-telling skills to work in another creative writing activity to end the month.

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.



The Gifted Department will host several Gifted Information Sessions during February. If you are interested in learning more about the elementary gifted education services available and the eligibility process for these programs, please use the following link to learn the dates of these informational sessions. Dates for the Gifted Information Sessions should be confirmed by early to mid-January.

MSE homepage -> Specialists -> SEARCH -> Gifted Information Sessions

**ART E-FACTS:**



We have been busy artists! The kindergarten classes were introduced to “line” while creating spider webs and fingerprint spiders. They also used line while creating dancing skeletons after learning how the body moves. The other grades levels worked hard to create heartfelt Veteran’s Day artwork to decorate our school in appreciation for our service men and service women! The first graders created an Op Art piece using stars and stripes and coloring in an alternating color pattern. The second graders also used stars and stripes for their lesson. This demonstrated their understanding of overlapping and pattern. The third grade classes showed their gratitude with amazing 3D stars with beautiful messages of appreciation to our Veterans. The fourth graders created illuminating star lights with chalk pastels and metallic Sharpie. Lastly, the fifth grade classes looked at the artwork of Pop Artist, Burton Morris. They mimicked his strong black outlines, bold colors and simple design to create stunning patriotic collages! We are very grateful to work with such wonderful students and artists here at Moorefield Station! We continue to create seasonal artwork using the Elements of Art during the month of December.

**BITS AND BYTES FROM THE LAB:**



We started this month with our first Epic Build. After nine weeks, students were able to show off what they learned about coding through various projects. In Kindergarten, students created projects such as “Animate My Name”, “Columbus”, and “Five Little Pumpkins”. In first grade they made an “All About Me” coding project and second graders created games. In third grade, Mrs. Sarman’s class used their coding skills to retell “Wayside School”. Each student

was assigned a chapter in the book in which they animated, using code, a scene from the chapter. Fourth graders also integrated coding into their curriculum with a Virginia Trekkers project and recycling coding projects. Finally, in fifth grade, students created coding projects that incorporated a game and story. Some students even included sensory motion.

This month we also debuted our new MakerSpace in the computer lab. We showcased some of our new activities at this year’s Stem Night. Some of the new activities include moving and programming Sphero robots, Cublets and Ozobots. In addition, students will still be learning about 3D printing, Ozmos and engaging in activities using our ActivTable. We are very excited to have students visit the new MakerSpace this month.



**LINK TO THE LIBRARY:**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Thanks to our current parent volunteers who have been helping students find books during check-out time and helping shelve books. We are so grateful to have you! We can always use helping hands! Please see the link below to sign up for a time – whether on a regular basis or just once in a while – we are happy to have you any time. We will continue to add more dates, but for now, we have dates added through the second quarter.

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

**BOOK SWAP – DONATIONS NEEDED**

We are accepting donations of gently used books for grades PreK–5 all year in preparation for our annual book swap. In June, we have students pick a gently used book to take home for the summer. We are grateful to those families who can donate several books to help those who many not be able to donate any. We always have a large need for chapter books for grades 4-5. There is a big box in the office for these books. We will empty the box as it gets full, so keep bringing them in!



## COUNSELOR'S CORNER:

The Counseling Office has been busy this fall with many exciting events going on. First, our 5th grade Service Partners just hosted a Penny Drive in November to benefit the American Red Cross. Grade levels competed to see which grade could collect the most coins. The contest was very close, and the winner is Kindergarten/Pre-K. Thank you to all the families that contributed to this service project. We collected \$500.00. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Have you noticed a ladder all decorated and set up in the main office? That would be our Kindness Ladder. The Counseling Office and the school's parent liaison set up the ladder display for a way to help local families during the holiday season. You'll find tags hanging from the ladder with gift ideas requested by local families. Please consider helping a local family in need by purchasing these gifts. Gifts need to be wrapped and returned with the tag attached to it to the main office by Monday, December 11th. Thank you in advance for your consideration!

The Counseling Office is also excited to announce they will be hosting their first Coffee Talk with the Counselors on Wednesday, December 6th from 8:30 to 9:30am. The topic will be "Helping Children Deal with Stress." This is an opportunity for parents to meet up with the counselors in an informal manner as they share resources on helping students develop coping strategies. Techniques discussed will include bibliotherapy, mindfulness, and positive thinking. Please visit the MSE's website for the link to register to attend by Monday, December 4th. We look forward to seeing you there!

For the month of December, the Counseling Office will share lessons on cooperation. Also, small groups involving social skills, impulse control, and resiliency will begin this month.

Lastly, Mrs. Riedel will be celebrating a birthday on December 13th. If you see her, please wish her a Happy Birthday.

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

## GYM SHORTS:



We are rolling into December in PE! This month we will focus on the skill of rolling which will lead into our bowling unit before winter break. We are also still learning about nutrition with the focus being on the macronutrients (carbohydrates, protein, and fat) this month.

In January we will talk about goal setting. Students in grades 4 and 5 will perform their mid-year Fitnessgram assessments and create goals for the spring. We will continue with rolling games in January and begin our gymnastics unit at the end of the month. Students will learn ways to roll, balance and transfer weight. They will also create a basic routine using these skills. As always, please remember to wear appropriate footwear for PE!



## READING MATTERS:

Our One School, One Book program is underway. You may recall that every day, classes will hear the same chapter of the book. This year, we have chosen My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett. We are excited to incorporate some technology by using the eBook version of the text. Be sure to ask your child about the story each day. What exciting adventure did Elmer have as he works to save the dragon?

We have a wonderful long winter break this year. Please be sure to have your child read each day. The library is a wonderful place to visit during the holidays! Or, if you have company visiting, encourage your child to read to a guest. Great conversations can take place over great books!

As we head into January, be sure to have your child continue reading each evening. Hopefully, a few snow days will allow your child to thoroughly enjoy reading good books!

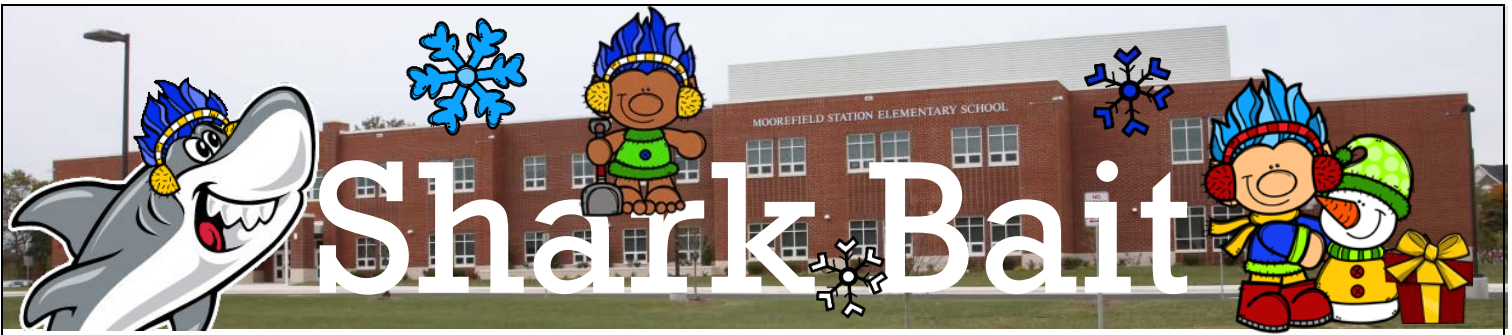


## SAFETY FIRST:

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**

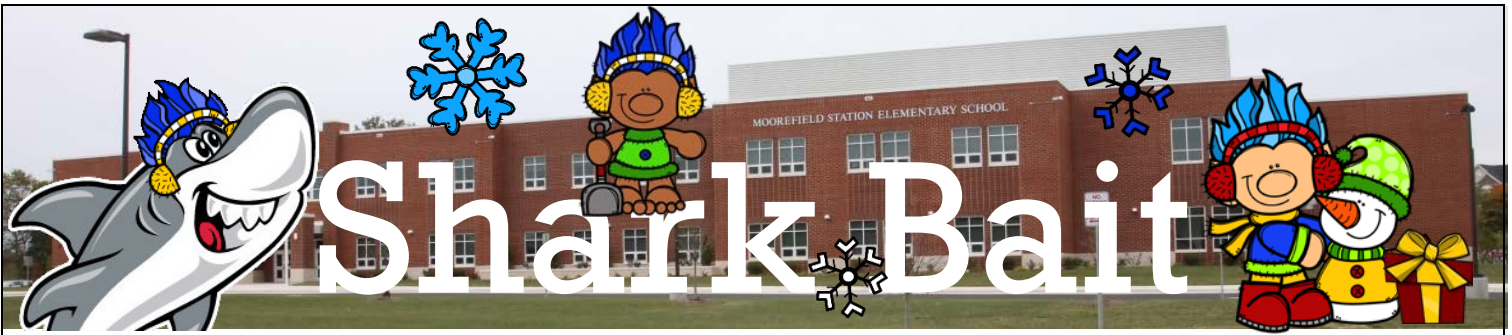
Spills, bathroom accidents and mud happen to students of all ages, from PK to 5th grade. Please put a change of clothes in your child's backpack- just in case it is needed!

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**

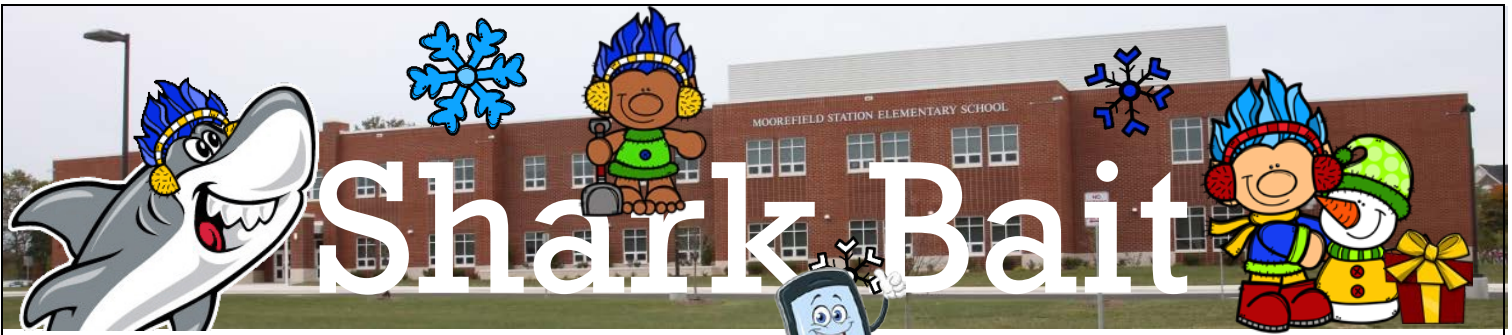
Shoulders and/or hips appear uneven



**Symptoms**

- Backache or low back pain
- Fatigue
- Maybe none

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



# Shark Bait

- 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.



## 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

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!

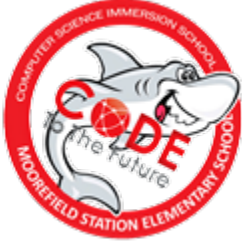


**JOIN OUR SHARKS AT OUR PTO  
SPONSORED BAZAAR ON FRIDAY,  
DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> FROM 5PM-8PM**

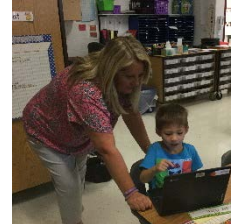
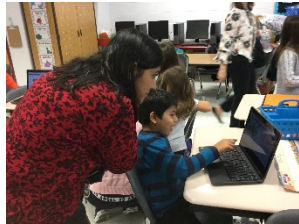
**Stay Posted on Happening at  
Moorefield Station!**

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





**Our First Epic Build!**



**Winter Chorus:**

This fun festive event will be December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.



**Winter Break:**

Mark your calendars for our break which begins on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. School resumes on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018!



Help our school...

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

The January meeting will be held on

Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:45pm.

Your participation can make a difference!!!