

# Lettie Brown Newsletter

Lettie Brown Elementary  
2550 N. Morton Ave.  
Morton, Illinois  
309-266-5309

24 hr. Absence Line  
309-284-1000



## SEPTEMBER 2018

- 3 - **Labor Day - NO SCHOOL**
- 4 - Paw Pride Day
- 5 - Early dismissal - Brown 1:00 pm
- 5 - 6th grade Instrument Rental, @ Bertha Frank, 2:30-6 pm
- 6 - Walk-a-thon turn-in, Running club 2:35 pm
- 6 - First Grade Reading Night, 6 pm
- 7 - Popcorn Friday
- 10 - Running club 2:35 pm
- 10 - Student Council permission slips due
- 11 - Brown Patriot's Day Assembly, 9 am
- 12 - Running club 2:35 pm
- 12-14 Student Council campaigning
- 12-15 Pumpkin Festival
- 14 - Student Council elections
- 17 - Band and Orchestra lessons begin
- 17 - Running club 2:35pm
- 18 - Challenge 2:35 pm
- 24 - Brown PTO Meeting, 7 pm
- 25 - Fall picture day, Challenge 2:35
- 28 - Lettie Brown walk-a-thon

## OCTOBER 2017

- 1 - 1st Grade field trip to Tanner's Orchard
- 2 - Paw Pride Day, Challenge 2:35
- 3 - Early dismissal - Brown 1:00 pm
- 4 - Homecoming parade & pep rally
- 5 - Popcorn Friday
- 8 - **Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL**
- 9 - **In-service Day - NO SCHOOL**
- 11 - 4th/6th Music program @ Bertha Frank 6:30 pm
- 12 - End of 1st Quarter
- 16 - Challenge 2:35
- 18/19 - **Parent-Teacher conferences, NO SCHOOL**
- 22 - Fall Choir Concert (5th - 12th) @ Grace Church, 6:30 pm
- 23 - Challenge 2:35
- 29 - Brown PTO meeting, 7 pm
- 30 - Challenge 2:35
- 31 - Halloween Parties

Word of the Month - **RESPONSIBILITY** - the state or fact of being accountable for something



On September 11th, Lettie Brown school will hold a Patriot Day Assembly beginning at 9:00 am in the gym. Parents are welcome.



## PICTURE DAY is September 25th

All students will be photographed. This is the photo used for our yearbook. PLEASE remember to send the order form back to school with your student. Retake day is November 5th

Make checks payable to Lifetouch or you may order and pay on-line BEFORE picture day @ [mylifetouch.com](http://mylifetouch.com). Event ID is JP048033Y0



The P.T.O Walk-a-thon will be held during school on Friday, September 28th. This is a great way to exercise and raise money for our school! **THANK YOU** for all your donations so far!

Please email Jessica Moeller at [jessicakapustka@live.com](mailto:jessicakapustka@live.com) to volunteer to help. We need your support!

**new this year...** an **early dismissal** is scheduled for the **first Wednesday of every month** so that staff members can participate in a time of professional development. Students will be dismissed at 1:00 p.m. on the following dates:

- \* September 5<sup>th</sup>
- \* October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- \* November 7<sup>th</sup>
- \* December 5<sup>th</sup>
- \* January 9<sup>th</sup>

- \* February 6<sup>th</sup>
- \* March 6<sup>th</sup>
- \* April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- \* May 1st

# WHAT IS HAPPENING IN READING WORKSHOP IN SEPTEMBER?

**Mrs. Bradford & Mrs. Bushman (K)** – Kindergarten will be introducing the components of reading workshop as we establish routines and build reading stamina. We will continue to read our fantastic interactive read alouds as we continue to build our excitement to become "Wild About Reading"!!

**Ms. Beer & Mrs. Stork (1st)** – First Grade is continuing to learn and practice Reading Workshop procedures and build independent reading stamina. We are also starting our first unit of study: Learning and Playing Together at School.

**Mrs. Boecker & Mrs. Kellerstrass (2nd)** – We have been hard at work on our reading routines and procedures. It's amazing how much we have learned in such a short time, from choosing "Just Right" books to managing the whole classroom library, and from books talks to response journals. It's an exciting time to be on this new reading adventure together in 2nd grade!

**Mrs. Davison & Mrs. Knox (3rd)** – Third grade has been working on expectations and procedures for reading workshop. We are also building our reading stamina.

**Mrs. Bishop & Mrs. Zehr (4th)** – We have been sharing ideas and using those ideas to create classroom charts. Some of the topics we have covered have been "Fake Reading vs. Real Reading", "Choosing a Good Fit Book" and "Thinking about Reading". We have been working hard to build our reading stamina too. In addition, we have been learning how to play word knowledge games that will be a part of our small group activities.

**Mr. Finck & Mrs. Gingerich (5th)** – In 5th Grade Reader's Workshop we are setting up routines. We are going "slow" to go "faster" later. We are making sure we all know what is expected during our independent READ READ READ time. The students are doing great with this. We have set up individual "book bins" full of good book choices for each student. Several students are volunteering to help organize our classroom library by genre. Benchmark testing begins tomorrow for individual students to read with Mr. Finck. Thank you in advance for your encouragement of your child to READ, READ, READ at home. Don't forget to encourage "Lunch Bunch" story reading at home to earn signatures for a lunch trip to Culver's!

**Mrs. Scholl & Mr. Weyland (6th)** – Sixth grade is using the Reading Workshop model to break down the novel, The Giver. We are doing mini lessons, small group talks, journal writing, and ending with sharing our writing.

## Wild About Reading

Lettie Brown's theme this year is "Wild About Reading", and we are looking for opportunities to provide even more books for our students to read and enjoy! When teachers have books that they no longer need in their classroom libraries, we are going to put them in our "free" cart that Mr. McDowell made for us! Students are welcome to read and return the books or keep them forever. We also welcome family book donations! If you donate books to the school, they will be offered to the library and classroom teachers first. Then, whatever is left will be placed in our "free" book cart for the students to enjoy! Please make sure that you send a note with any donations. We don't want to give away books without your permission!

"The more that you read, the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Dr. Seuss, I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!



Hello, Lettie Brown Families!

I'm *Casie McDowell* and I'm excited for my new role as *Literacy Coach* at Brown! I will be working with your child's teacher on all things reading and writing! I will work closely with your child's teacher in many different capacities such as planning small and whole group lessons, setting student goals, reflecting on assessments, and facilitating meaningful conversations and writing opportunities about reading. I've loved being in all the kindergarten through sixth grade classrooms these past few weeks and watching children engaged in reading and having powerful conversations about books! Each month I'll be giving you tips and tricks to help make your child's experiences with reading and writing a positive one! If you ever have any questions please email me at [casie.mcdowell@mcusd709.org](mailto:casie.mcdowell@mcusd709.org).



PAW PRIDE

**1S**  
Daniel F.  
Isaac G.  
Elijah W.

**2B**  
Abbott B.  
Alayna J. (3)  
Jaret J.  
Simone L.  
Hadley L.  
Emerson M.  
Caden S.

**2K**  
Lee B.  
Brody B.  
Amelia D.  
Abby G. (3)  
Ava G.  
Luke H.  
Hunter J.  
Adam L.  
Emmy M. (2)  
Ellie R. (2)  
Brody M.  
Tinley S.  
Lily S.  
Emmy S.

**3D**  
Josie P.

**3K**  
Megan C.  
Brayden H.  
Addison I.  
Bella J.  
Sam O.  
Cameron S.

**4Z**  
Taytum B. (2)  
Chandler C.  
Brett H.  
Adrian H.  
Kaylee J.  
Wrigley K.  
Logan M.  
Reed M.  
Kaelyn N.  
Elizabeth N.  
Max P.  
Cole W.

**5F**  
Caitlin M.  
Julie P.

**5G**  
Ella A.  
Ruby B. (2)  
Grady B.  
Ethan E.  
Olivia H.  
Brielle H.  
Tillie K.  
Lily K.  
Alex M.  
Lauren M.  
Colt S.  
Tate S. (2)  
North T.  
Zach W.

PAW PRIDE

Follow me  
on Twitter  
**@WaterfieldFaith**

My focus is entirely  
on learning & Lettie  
Brown/Morton 709!

## 2018 MORTON PUMPKIN FESTIVAL



September 12-15  
Be safe and have fun!

## LOST & FOUND

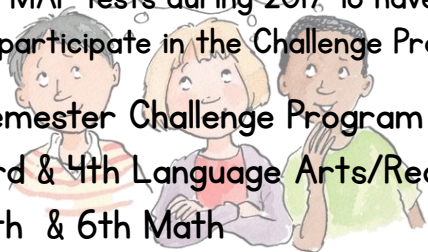
Please make sure to have  
all belongings clearly  
marked with your  
student's name. We  
already have some items  
in the lost & found!

## CHALLENGE

The top 15 students who scored 90% and above on  
2 out of 3 MAP tests during 2017-18 have been  
invited to participate in the Challenge Program.

The fall semester Challenge Program is for:

- \* 3rd & 4th Language Arts/Reading
- \* 5th & 6th Math



The 2018-2019 school year is off to a great start!  
This month, we will begin our monthly character  
education lessons. I look forward to getting to  
know your students and work with them in the  
classroom.

Mrs. Steiner, School Social Worker

## MAP Testing

During the weeks of August 27th to September 14th  
all students will be assessed using MAP Testing, (Measures  
of Academic Progress).

MAP tests are used to determine your child's instructional  
level and to measure academic growth throughout the  
school year and from year to year in the areas of Reading and  
Mathematics. MAP tests inform instruction using valid, reliable  
and real-time data.

MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to your  
child's current level of learning. As a result, each student has  
the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude  
toward testing.

There will be two more testing windows, (January and  
April/May). We will track student growth between each testing  
window. During parent-teacher conferences, teachers will be  
sharing the results of the first testing window.

We are committed to student growth and achievement.  
Parents and teachers can have a profound positive  
effect on the lives of our children as we partner together. For  
more information on resources for parents, go to  
[www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org) & click on Assessments/Parent Toolkit.

# Lettie Brown PTO News

Let's make this year a great one! We appreciate all of our volunteers and the time they give so our events can be a success!

- Spirit Wear orders are due by September 6th . Color order forms can be viewed on the PTO Facebook Page or in the Lettie Brown virtual backpack.
- School Picture Day is September 25th .
- Walk-a-Thon Day is September 28th . Please contact Jessica Moeller if you would like to volunteer for a half-day or all day during the Walk-a-Thon.
- Keep clipping your Box Tops! The first turn-in day of this year will be on October 12th . Be sure to tell your relatives and friends to save them too! You wouldn't throw away a dime, so don't toss the Box Tops. Send them in!
- Please continue to spread the word and sign up for the Kroger Rewards program. This greatly benefits our school and helps fund our One School One Book Program. Please tell neighbors and family members. Every little bit makes a big difference!
- We are looking to fill two PTO chairperson positions for this school year. They include: Carnival Game & Volunteer Organizer (can be co-chairs), and Fast Food Night Coordinator. Please contact Angel Fisher for more information or if you are interested in giving back and serving.

Thank you to the

## Morton Community Foundation

for approving a grant for Mrs. Boecker, Mrs. McDowell, and Mrs. Kellerstrass to purchase **flexible seating options** for second graders.

These wobble stools, stacking stools, and seat cushions will provide a variety of seating options for students to utilize while learning throughout their school day. The teachers and students at Lettie Brown greatly appreciate the support and generosity of the Morton Community Foundation.



# FROM THE OFFICE...

## Lunches

Hot lunches are **\$2.55**. Payments can be made using EFunds or by sending money in an envelope with your child's name & teacher. If your child is out of money, he/she will receive a charge slip which needs to be paid the following day.



### Brown LUNCH Periods:

Kindergarten lunch: 10:50-11:35  
5th-6th grade lunch: 11:15 - 12:00  
3rd-4th grade lunch: 11:37-12:22  
1st-2nd grade lunch: 12:00 - 12:45

## STUDENT DROP-OFF / PICK-UP

\* Please do **NOT** park in the drop off/pick up lane \*

Drop off - Enter north lot (by pool) and use drop off lane. Students enter front doors.

Pick up - Park in the north lot and come to the front of the school to meet your child at 2:30 p.m.

Thanks for your cooperation for the safety of our students.

## Appointments...



It is recommended that appointments be scheduled before or after school if possible, especially during MAP and PARCC testing. If it isn't possible, please inform the office in advance with a note, email or by phone.

Thank you!



## - Dental Reminder -

If your student is CURRENTLY in Kindergarten, 2nd or 6th grade, please bring a copy of their current dental exam to the office if you haven't already. This is a State of Illinois requirement.

## Attention: Parents of New Students, Kindergarteners, & 6th graders!

Physicals & current immunizations are required for all new students, kindergarteners, & 6th Graders. If you have not already done so, please turn these papers into the office.

\* Papers must be submitted by October 15th or students will be excluded from school. Appointment cards are no longer accepted.

## PLEASE SEND A NOTE...

- \* IF YOUR STUDENT IS GOING HOME WITH ANOTHER STUDENT ON THE BUS AND THIS IS NOT YOUR NORMAL ARRANGEMENT, WE **MUST** HAVE A NOTE FROM **BOTH** PARENTS.
- \* IF STUDENTS ARE WALKING, OR BEING PICKED UP, WE STILL **MUST** HAVE A NOTE FROM **BOTH** SETS OF PARENTS.
- \* PLEASE SEND A NOTE TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR STUDENT FOR **ANY CHANGES IN THEIR NORMAL ROUTINE**. THIS MAKES OUR AFTER SCHOOL ROUTINE OPERATE MORE EFFICIENTLY.

## Brown Notepads are only \$2 in the office



If you are going to send a note to school about your student, this is the notepad you need! They are easily recognizable by your student's teacher to help ensure your important notes get to the office.

*Pick one up today!*

## Brown School Directory

Your Lettie Brown directory which includes a lot of important information will be sent home with the youngest Lettie Brown family member in September.



NOTE—Anytime your child is absent, you need to call the school to report the absence on our 24-hour line.

**\* Call 284-1000 \***

Please give the following information: the student's name, teacher and reason for the absence, along with any homework requested.



## Popcorn Fridays

~ September 7th & October 5th ~

Send a quarter with your student to buy a bag of popcorn.



## Mom's in Prayer

will be meeting Thursday, September 6th from 9-10 a.m. at Julie Roth's home, 147 Maple Ridge Drive. Children are welcome.

Contact Julie with questions at [julieroth45@gmail.com](mailto:julieroth45@gmail.com)



## Tips From Transportation

Topic for Today: *Bus Stops & Safety Steps you can take*

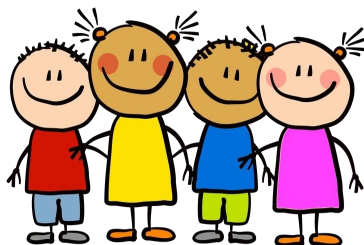
- ♦ Supervise children to make sure they get to the stop on time, wait far away from the road and avoid rough play.
- ♦ Stay off the road at all times while waiting for the bus.
- ♦ Teach your child to ask the driver for help if he/she drops something near the bus. If a child stoops to pick something up, the driver may not be able to see them.
- ♦ Make sure clothing has no loose drawstrings and backpack straps are short so that they don't get caught in the handrail or school bus door.
- ♦ Encourage safe school bus loading and unloading.
- ♦ Do not leave your seat while the bus is in motion.
- ♦ Remember that loud talking & laughing or unnecessary confusion divert the driver's attention and could result in a serious accident.
- ♦ Assist in keeping the bus safe and sanitary at all times. No eating is allowed on the bus.
- ♦ If you have concerns about a bus stop, contact the school district transportation department @ 309-284-5091, or the Lettie Brown principal @ 309-266-5309.

For more School Bus Safety Tips visit this useful site:

[https://www.isbe.net/Documents/bus\\_safety\\_parents.pdf#search=bus%20safety](https://www.isbe.net/Documents/bus_safety_parents.pdf#search=bus%20safety)

## FREE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

FOR CHILDREN AGES BIRTH THROUGH 5 YEARS WHO ARE RESIDENTS OF MORTON SCHOOL DISTRICT #709



*Screening date: Wednesday, September 19, 2018*

*screening will address:* Early Academic Concepts  
Motor Development  
Communication and Language  
Hearing and Vision

*If you are concerned about your child's development and believe that there is a potential or significant delay in the areas listed above, please make an appointment by calling 309-263-0522. Sponsored by Morton School District #709*

## You can help Lettie Brown School by participating in the KROGER Community Rewards Program

- Register online at [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)
- Click on **Create Account** or **Register** (you will need your Kroger Card number) & create profile
- Select your Community Rewards to go to Lettie Brown PTO (organization #70347)

Kroger sends us a check (up to 5% of our purchases)  
quarterly for every time you use your card at the Morton Kroger!

**\* PLEASE NOTE** - Your enrollment in Community Rewards needs to be renewed each year. If you have not done so recently, go the link above & click on **Re-Enroll Now**.

Another way you can help Lettie Brown School is by ordering from **Amazon SmiLe**

- Register at [smile.amazon.com/ch/37-1270878](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-1270878)
- Check your profile to make sure *Lettie Brown Parent Teacher Org* is your charitable organization
- Shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) instead of [amazon.com](https://amazon.com)



Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible Amazon Smile purchases