



**MANISTEE ELEMENTARY**

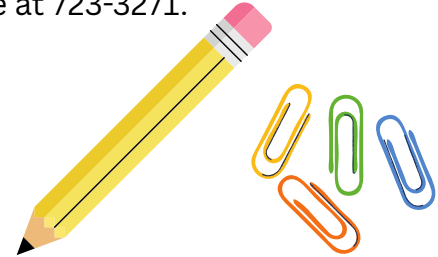
# MARINERS MONTHLY



## IMPORTANT REMINDER!

School dismissal is at 2:50 pm. PikMyKid must be updated no later than 2:00pm. If you have any changes after 2 pm, please call the office at 723-3271.

## MONTHLY WORD from Principal VanVoorst



Dear Families,

Happy New Year! As we return from winter break and settle back into our routines, January offers us a wonderful opportunity to set intentions for the months ahead. The start of a new year is a natural time to reflect on what we hope to accomplish together.

One of the most important ways you can support your child's learning is by ensuring they're here each day. This semester, we're challenging families to aim for no more than one absence per month. Every day of instruction builds on the previous one, and consistent attendance helps students stay connected to their learning and their classmates. When students are present, they don't just learn academics—they build friendships, develop confidence, and become part of our school community.

Arriving on time sets a positive tone for the entire day. When students arrive at school as it begins or after, they miss important morning routines, feel rushed, and can struggle to catch up with their peers. Let's work together to establish morning routines that get everyone out the door with enough time to start the day calmly and ready to learn.

We encourage every family member to read for at least ten minutes each day. This means parents, too! Whether you're reading together, side by side, or taking turns reading aloud, these ten minutes build connection and demonstrate that reading is valuable for everyone. It doesn't have to be a chapter book—magazines, recipes, comics, and articles all count.

Another meaningful practice to try this month: each evening, share at least one positive thing that happened during the day. Some days will feel easier than others, and that's okay. The point isn't that every day will be perfect—because they won't be! But even on challenging days, there's usually something good we can find if we look for it. Maybe it was a kind word from a friend, a problem finally solved, or simply making it through a tough moment. This simple practice helps build resilience and optimism in both children and adults.

These goals aren't about perfection. They're about progress and showing up for ourselves and each other, one day at a time. We're grateful to partner with you in supporting your child's growth this year.

Here's to a wonderful 2026!



## Welcome Newton!

Mrs. Antal's dog, Newton, is in training to become a school therapy dog. He came to the school to practice with his trainer. The students really enjoyed having him in the classroom. Newt received many hugs and snuggles. He did a great job and made a lot of new friends. He even met Mrs. Abel's dog, Lucy, and was so sweet with her. Good boy, Newt!



## Talent Show!

Watch for information about auditions on Seesaw !

## Making Use of Community Spaces

MES students had great fun engaging in activities in the new community rooms. These rooms provide flexible space outside of the classrooms for group work, classroom collaborations, and fun activities like these.







# STUDENT HEALTH RESOURCES +++++

My name is Miss Morgan, and I am the new Behavioral Health Specialist. I am so excited to be part of MES and to work with such amazing students. It has truly been a joy each and every day. I am passionate about helping students build on their strengths and become the best versions of themselves—happy, healthy, and successful.

A little about me: in my free time, I enjoy baking and cooking, crafting, golfing, fishing and spending time with my family and friends. I am also a Ferris State Social Work graduate and current master's student. I look forward to getting to know your magnificent Mariner!



**MAPS NUTRITION SERVICES**  
MONTHLY LOCALLY SOURCED/ MICHIGAN GROWN HIGHLIGHT

**JANUARY - CUCUMBERS**

MAPS NUTRITION SERVICES GETS ALL THEIR CUCUMBERS FROM MICHIGAN FARMS.

All our Michigan-grown Cucumbers come in bulk, and the MAPS Nutrition Service Staff slices or dices them for each lunch service

Our Sponsors:



## MARINERS ARE ON **TRACK** EXPLORE. INSPIRE. ACHIEVE. STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES



MES Student Council welcomed 4th graders to our team for the first time. We are excited to have 16 members for the remainder of the school year.

We organized a holiday drive to support MES families in need. Student Council also sold Candy Cane Grams, with proceeds used to purchase items for Holiday Drive recipients. We were able to distribute 8 holiday food baskets that included a complete meal, plus a bit extra in each box!