

SKYTALKING



with



ARISTOTLE & BURGEOO

A Newspaper for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Graders

Volume ONE - Early Fall 2014

HELLO, TEACHERS & STUDENTS!

THIS IS OUR FIRST 2014-15 ISSUE of **SKYTALKING**.

SKYTALKING is YOUR NEWSPAPER. It is for young students just like YOU! Inside, you will discover a number of features that you will find both interesting and informational. For example, on the inside pages of this newspaper you will find a serial story about Morgan P. Mousington, his friends and family. Morgan is an adventuresome young mouse that seems to get into some kind of trouble just about every day. We believe each episode will entertain you with both action and suspense.



Morgan P. Mousington

Also on the inside pages you will find a segment on animals and plants that are native to (commonly live within) our home state of Kansas. We believe you will find this part of our newspaper chock-full of interesting information. We also intend to make this newspaper available to a number of schools in other cities/states of our big, wonderful U. S. A. We hope to find out from those schools and students whether they have the same animals and plants, or would they like to see some of their animals and plants featured in our SKYTALKING newspaper.

KANSAS ANIMALS

THE KANGAROO RAT

HELLO THERE, READER,
MY FRIENDS CALL ME MATT;
I'M A SMALL RODENT,
CALLED A KANGAROO RAT.

I LOOK LIKE A KANGAROO,
BUT I AM QUITE A BIT SMALLER.
I AM ABOUT FOUR INCHES TALL...
AND I WISH I WAS TALLER!

I HAVE BACK (HIND) LEGS,
THAT ARE REALLY QUITE STRONG;
AND I USE THESE HIND LEGS,
TO MOVE ME ALONG!

I LOVE LIVING IN KANSAS,
AND I LIVE MOSTLY OUT WEST;
THE SANDY FIELDS IN WESTERN KANSAS,
ARE WHAT I LIKE THE BEST!

DO YOU KNOW WHY I LIKE IT,
...OUT WHERE THE SOIL IS REAL SANDY?
BECAUSE MY HOME IS IN A BURROW,
and SAND FLOORS ARE QUITE HANDY.

SANDY FLOORS ARE NEVER MUDDY,
BECAUSE OF THAT SAND.
SO MY FEET DON'T GET DIRTY,
AND I THINK THAT IS GRAND!

I EAT MOSTLY GRASS SEEDS,
AND OTHER HEALTHY-TYPE THINGS
AND FOR A WONDERFUL TREAT
I'LL EAT SOME GRASSHOPPER WINGS!

YOU WON'T SEE ME IN THE DAYTIME;
I JUST DON'T LIKE THE LIGHT.
I AM KNOWN AS NOCTURNAL;
BECAUSE I'M MOST ACTIVE AT NIGHT!



THE BEST PLACE TO SEE ME,
IS ON COUNTRY ROADS, WHEN IT'S DARK.
I'M OVER NEAR THE ROAD EDGES,
SO DON'T TRY TO PARK !

NEW WORDS:

RODENT - a group of small-sized mammals that eat by gnawing and nibbling, such as squirrels, mice, and beavers.
(noun)

BURROW - a tunnel or hole made in the ground by an animal for its' shelter or its' home.
(noun)

NOCTURNAL - relating to night...for example, an animal that is active at night.
(adjective)



The ADVENTURES of MORGAN P. MOUSINGTON

THE FIRST EPISODE of a NEW ADVENTURE for MORGAN and his FAMILY



Morgan P. Mousington is a mouse that loves excitement. He often tells his family that someday he will travel to all corners of the world and he will see things and do things that no other mouse has ever done. He also tells anyone that will listen that when he has completed all of these adventures, he will sit down and write a book about all that he has done and seen.

"Ooooh, I didn't say that correctly," Morgan said. "I will write several hundred books. It will take that many books to contain all of my adventures."

Some of you might think that Morgan was doing a lot of bragging. But, Morgan didn't say these things to show how important he was, or to show that he was better than other mice. Nope. Not at all. It was just Morgan's way of telling folk that he wanted to live life to the fullest and he wanted to make every minute of every day the best it could possibly be.

Melanie, Morgan's older sister, sometimes would tease Morgan about his plans for his life. She would most often do it when they were having a disagreement.

One of those disagreements happened one morning about two weeks ago. Melanie came into the kitchen for some breakfast. Morgan had already started his breakfast. He was eating a bowl of cereal.

"Well," she said, "I can always tell what Morgan is having for breakfast. The box of cereal is on its side, with cereal spilling out of the top. The milk, which should have been put back into the refrigerator, is still on the counter top, getting warm. And the sugar bowl has nothing left in it, because our wonderful Morgan has emptied or spilled all of the sugar. Morgan, do you ever clean up after yourself?"

"I plan to, as soon as I get through eating. Then I can do everything at once," replied Morgan. "My, oh my, Melanie... did you get up on the wrong side of the bed? You're a little cranky this morning."

"I'm cranky because I have you for a brother," she replied. "I have to do things that I shouldn't have to do, because you leave messes."

"Just leave it alone, Mel. I'll clean it up when I'm through eating," said Morgan.

"But, then I have to wait until you're through. And I don't want to wait. I'd like to eat NOW because I have some important things to do. Say, Morgan, don't you have some important things to do, too? Like packing your stuff for the world adventures you're planning? Let me help you pack. I would really like to help you pack. Then, when you're gone, we can live without Morgan's Messes."

"I'm not going on one of my worldly adventures YET," replied Morgan. "I have some places to explore around here before I take off to see the rest of the world."

Melanie sighed and then began to fix her breakfast. Just then, their father came into the kitchen.

"Your mother is out in the garden and I think she is going to need some help from you two," he said. "I am going to meet Marley McPherson in just a few minutes so I'm not going to be able to help."

"Why are you meeting Mr. McPherson?" asked Morgan.

"He said he has something really important to tell me. And, he said to bring something so I can carry something back to the house," replied Morgan's father.

Mr. Mousington then picked up a small backpack and started down the trail for the McPherson house.

"Were you listening, Melanie?" asked Morgan. "Did you hear that Mr. McPherson is going to tell Dad a secret?"

"I didn't hear the word SECRET," said Melanie. "That's your word. I just heard that he had something important to tell Dad."

"Well, I think it's a SECRET. So, I'm going to go SPY on them," said Morgan.

"You BETTER NOT," whispered Melanie. "Dad told you and me to help Mom in the garden."

Morgan didn't listen. He was sneaking out the back door.

TO BE CONTINUED !

BURGOO'S BLOG

Hi there, Students! How's school this year? Are you liking it so far? I REALLY liked school when I lived in Louisiana. I went to Pelican School for four years and just loved every minute of it. I will tell you all about Pelican School sometime.



August,
2014

Today, I have something else to talk to you about. I am in Wichita, Kansas this week. Yes, that's right! Wichita, Kansas. I am visiting Mr. Robbins!

I am really enjoying my visit. I get to go to his office every day and I even help him with his work. I ride to work with him every day and I go home with him at night, after the work day is over.

Something interesting happened on the Monday that I visited his office. A fly was flying around inside of his office. We didn't know how it got inside the building, but it was inside, for sure. At first the fly was buzzing around the windows. Then the fly started buzzing around Mr. Robbins' head. It was a very annoying fly. It would buzz by his head and sometimes it would try to fly into his ear. He would wave his arms in the air to make the fly go away but it would only leave for a minute or two. Then it would buzz by his head again.

Mr. Robbins did not have a fly swatter in his office. On Tuesday, when he discovered the fly was still there, he tried to swat the fly with a rolled-up magazine. He didn't hit the fly but the magazine sure made a lot of noise when it crashed into the desk and into the wall. Mr. Robbins finally gave up trying to swat that fly.

On Wednesday the fly was still there. Mr. Robbins sighed and he wondered if the fly was going to bother him for the rest of his life. That's when we decided to find out how long a fly might live. Here are the facts we found:

Average life span of a human - - - - 65-75 YEARS
Average life span of a pelican - - - - 15-25 YEARS
Average life span of a fly - - - - - 14-21 DAYS

After Mr. Robbins read those facts, he started smiling and said:

"We may not ever SWAT that fly, Burgoo, but I do think we will out live him!"