

SKYTALKING



with



ARISTOTLE & BURGEOO

A Newspaper for 2nd and 3rd Graders

Volume FOUR - Mid-Winter 2014

THE WICHITA SNOW FORECASTING CONTEST

THE WINNER(S) for the MONTH of DECEMBER, 2013

THE OFFICIAL TOTAL SNOWFALL in WICHITA - 3.4 inches

FIRST PLACE: Pat Lollar's 3rd Graders @ St. Mary's (Derby) - 3.6 inches

SECOND PLACE: (TIE) Forecast of 3.1 inches

Dana Lieber's 1st Graders @ Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
Cary Elsbernd's 2nd Graders @ Prairie Creek (Andover)

FOURTH PLACE: (TIE) Forecast of 3.0 inches

Kelly Joe's 2nd Graders @ Maize Central
Teresa Buchanan's 2nd Graders @ Maize Central
Alex Bateman's 2nd Graders @ Benton Elementary

Vladimir Villiam Vulture I
(Grandpa)



Vladimir Villiam Vulture III



Gramps, it
looks like we have
some really good
COMPETITION
this season!

KANSAS PLANTS

THE COTTONWOOD TREE

I ALWAYS FEEL VERY LUCKY,
AND I HOPE THAT YOU'LL AGREE;
WHEN I SEE SOMETHING SPECIAL,
LIKE A BIG OL' COTTONWOOD TREE.

THEY LOOK ABSOLUTELY MARVELOUS,
AS THEY SPARKLE IN THE SUN;
EACH LEAF SORT OF TWINKLES
AS THE BREEZE MOVES ONE BY ONE!



COTTONWOOD TREES GROW VERY TALL,
SOMETIMES OVER A HUNDRED FEET HIGH;
THEY SPREAD THEIR SEEDS WITH "COTTON",
THOSE SEEDS CAN ALMOST FLY!



AND THEN, WHEN THE AUTUMN CALLS,
WHEN THOSE LEAVES TURN YELLOW GOLD;
I JUST CAN'T KEEP FROM STARING,
AT THAT TREE, SO BRIGHT AND BOLD!

THE OLD SETTLERS FELT THE SAME,
AS THEY TRAVELED EAST TO WEST;
A LONE COTTONWOOD IN THE PRAIRIE,
WAS A VERY WELCOME GUEST.

THE SETTLERS LOVED THEIR SHADE,
AND EVEN USED THEIR WOOD,
THEY BUILT SOME STURDY HOMESITES,
AND BAD WEATHER THEY WITHSTOOD!

NEXT TIME YOU SEE A COTTONWOOD,
GET UP CLOSE TO SEE THE TRUNK;
THE BARK HAS SO MUCH CHARACTER,
IT HAS, WHAT I CALL, "SPUNK!"



Yes, YOU WILL FEEL REALLY LUCKY,
AND YOU'LL SMILE WHEN YOU SEE ;
A TREE THAT'S REALLY SPECIAL,
LIKE A BIG OL' COTTONWOOD TREE.

NEW WORDS:

BARK - The tough exterior that covers the trunk and limbs of a tree.
(noun)

STURDY - Stout. Firmly or strongly built;
(Adjective) for example, a sturdy building.

TRUNK - The main stem of a tree above the ground. Limbs of the tree grow upward and outward from the trunk.
(noun)

The ADVENTURES of MORGAN P. MOUSINGTON

THE CONTINUING STORY of an ADVENTURESOME MOUSE and HIS FAMILY



In our last episode, Morgan had just yelled up to his Dad that he had found something ELSE that was very unusual, as he continued to try to find a way out of this hole. This time he shouted that his Dad should "come down HERE and see this!"

When his father heard that comment, he was flabbergasted.

"Morgan, we are trying to get you out of that hole and you tell me to come down and see something interesting? You need to concentrate on what we are trying to do."

"Well, Dad," replied Morgan, "in this case it might be a help for you to see this."

"Okay, okay," said his father. "Tell me what you have found that might help us get you out of that hole."

"Well, Dad," started Morgan, "you remember how I told you that it wasn't what I originally thought it was? Well, here's why. At first I thought it was one of those ships in a bottle that you see in hobby shops and places like that. Well it turns out it is NOT a SHIP in a bottle...it is a KEY in a bottle. The sign says it is a key to a door. I think if I can open that door, it will get me outside and out of this hole."

"That sounds GREAT!" said his father. "So... why don't you take the key and open the door?"

"Well, that's the kicker, Dad," replied Morgan. "I can't get the key out of the bottle. The bottle is glued to a board and the sign says do not break the glass. I just cannot get my fingers inside the bottle because my fingers are too big!"

"So...you cannot get to the key?" asked his father.

"Nope," said Morgan. "I guess my fingers are too chubby. I can't get them inside the bottle once I take the cork out."



"Maybe you will have to break the glass," said his father.

"Well, Dad, replied Morgan, "the writing on the board says if I break the glass, bad luck will follow."

"Oh," said his father. "Well, maybe we need to figure out another way to get the key."

Morgan reached down to get a better grip on the bottle and it was glued very tightly to the board.

"Dad, I tried to lift the bottle to see if I could shake the key out, but the bottle is glued very tightly to the board, which is glued to the table. So, I cannot shake the key out of the bottle either."

"That was good idea, son," replied the father. "Too bad it didn't work."

Mr. Mousington sat down to think. Mrs. Mousington and Morgan's sister, Melanie, sat down next to him. They were all thinking and thinking and thinking.

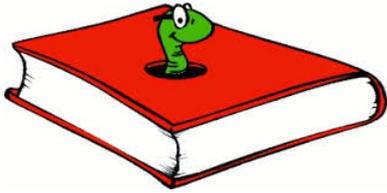
After about ten minutes of thinking, they heard a yell from down in the hole.

"I've got a great idea," exclaimed Morgan. "I think this will work."

"What is your idea?" asked his father.

"Well.....," said Morgan, "I don't think you are going to like my idea, but, I'm sure it will work!"

TO BE CONTINUED !



YOUNG WRITER'S DIGEST

As we wait for stories from our students, we thought everyone might be interested in a review of the names of all of our students. We visit 43 classrooms and have over 900 students involved in this program.

Here are some figures from our lists of students:

Names starting with the letter A are the most common: There are 114 names that start with an A.

The next most common "starting" letter is the J...it has 84 names.

The 3rd most common "starting" letter is the C...it has 76 names.

Tied for 4th and 5th is the K and the M...each have 70 names.

Our most common name is Avery...there are 10 Averys in our classrooms.

Our longest name in the number of letters used is tied at 10 letters:
Alexandria and Kristoffer

Our shortest name in the number of letters used is:

T

(yep, that's right!...just T)

There is no one in our classes named Aristotle and also no one named Burgoo.

And the biggest surprise...there is no student named Scat!