



Thornell Road Star

Thornell Road Elementary, Pittsford, New York

Volume VIII, Issue 3

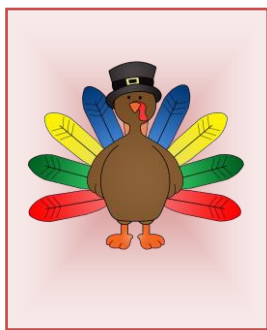
Roger DeBell, Principal

November 2017



Contents

Principal's Perspective 1,2
Halloween....3
Library Update....4
Reading Corner...5
Art Masterpieces...6
Wild Wings Visit...7
Health Ed....8
Upcoming Events...9



PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE



Dear Parents and School Community,

Pittsford is currently one of only five school districts in the entire state of New York that does not offer full day kindergarten. As part of our district's current advocacy efforts, we are asking for your help in ensuring our State Legislators and Governor Cuomo follow through on the promise they made in July to provide funding to support the implementation of Full Day Kindergarten for all students in New York State.

To sign the petition going to Governor Cuomo regarding Funding Full Day Kindergarten for PCSD, click the following link: https://www.change.org/p/governor-andrew-cuomo-full-day-kindergarten-for-all-new-york-state-kids?utm_source=embedded_petition_view



For more information about PCSD's advocacy efforts for full day kindergarten, please click this link:

<https://www.pittsfordschools.org/Page/533>

A solid partnership between school and home is critical for the success of our students. As you prepare for upcoming parent-teacher conferences, I offer the following article from the National PTA website entitled, **"Making Parent-Teacher Conferences Work for Your Child"**, which has been reprinted with permission from *Education.com*.

"A parent-teacher conference is a time when important people in a student's life can talk about how that student is doing in school. It's a chance for you to ask questions about the class or your child's progress. It is also a time for you and the teacher to work together as a team to discuss ways you both can help your son or daughter.

Whether your child is in elementary, middle, or secondary school, parent-teacher conferences are important. If your school does not schedule regular conferences, you can request them. Teachers need your help to do a first-class job. Together, you can help your child have a great school year.



Before the Conference

Schedule an appointment: A parent-teacher conference is not the only time when parents and teachers should make contact. Parents may want to schedule a special meeting with their child's teacher for a variety of reasons. If you need to set up an appointment with the teacher, make a phone call or write a quick note to the teacher, and let him or her know if you have particular issues you would like to discuss.

Talk to your child: Find out which subjects your child likes the best and the least. Ask why. Also, ask if there is anything your child would like you to talk about with the teacher. Help the child understand that you and the teacher are meeting to help him or her. If your child is in middle or high school, you may want to include him or her in the conference.

.....continued on page 2

.....continued from page 1

Gather input from others: If your spouse, another care-giving adult, or someone with pertinent information or insight (doctor, counselor, other guardian) can't attend the conference, ask for that person's concerns and questions before the conference.

Make a list: Before you go to the meeting, make a list of topics to discuss with the teacher. Along with questions about academics and behavior, you may want to talk to the teacher about the child's home life, personality, concerns, habits and hobbies, and other topics that may help the teacher in working with the child (e.g., religious holidays, music lessons, part-time jobs, a sick relative).

During the Conference

Establish rapport: As an icebreaker, take notice of something that reflects well upon the teacher. For example, thank the teacher for having made thoughtful notes on your child's homework or for the special attention in helping your child learn to multiply.

Ask questions: Questions you ask during the conference can help you express your hopes for the student's success in class and for the teacher. It's a good idea to ask the important questions first, in case time runs out. The teacher's answers should help you both work together to help your child. If your child receives special services (e.g., gifted and talented programs, speech or occupational therapy), be sure to ask about the frequency of services and your child's progress.

Addressing problems: Parent-teacher conferences are a good time to discuss any difficulties (either academic or behavioral) a child might be having at school. When problems arise, parents will want to:

- Avoid angry or apologetic reactions. Instead, ask for examples.
- Ask what is being done about the problem and what strategies seem to help at school.
- Develop an action plan that may include steps that parents can take at home and steps the teacher will take when the problem comes up at school.
- Schedule a follow-up conference and decide on the best way to stay in touch (phone, e-mail, or letters sent to the home).

Develop an action plan: If the student needs help with a behavioral or an academic issue, you and the teacher should agree on specific plans—that you both will work on—to help your child do better. Be sure you understand what the teacher suggests. If it's not clear, ask him or her to explain. Set up a way to check on your child's progress. You and the teacher can decide how best to stay in touch, such as through phone calls, notes, or additional meetings.

Ending the conference: End the conference by reviewing what you discussed and restating your action plan. This is also a good time to set up your next meeting.

After the Conference: When discussing the conference with the child afterward, stress the good things that were covered and be direct about problems that were identified. If an action plan is in place, explain to the child what was arranged. When an action plan is in place, consider the following: Watch your child's behavior and check on classwork and homework. Ask how the student feels about schoolwork. Stay in touch with the teacher to discuss your child's progress. Express appreciation as progress is made.

A good way to promote a continuing relationship with the teacher is to say "thank-you" with a note or a telephone call.

Continuing to keep in touch with the teacher, even if things are going well, can play an important role in helping the child do better in school. When a child knows parents and teachers are regularly working together, the child will see that education is a high priority requiring commitment and effort."

As a reminder, school will be closed from Wednesday, November 22nd through Friday, November 24th for Thanksgiving Recess.

Thank you for all that you do to support our students, staff and school community.

Sincerely,

*Roger DeBell
Principal*

Thornell Road Elementary School



**A Learning Community Dedicated to
Teamwork, Respect and Excellence for our Students**

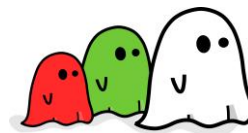


2017 Halloween Parade

With a cold and windy Halloween day, TRE held its annual Halloween Parade inside this year.

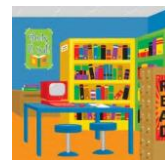
The costumes were varied and the smiles were big as students and staff walked through the halls, with many parents on hand to watch and take pictures.

Students finished their day enjoying treats and fun time with their fellow classmates.



TRE Library News

~ Janah Autovino, Library Media Specialist



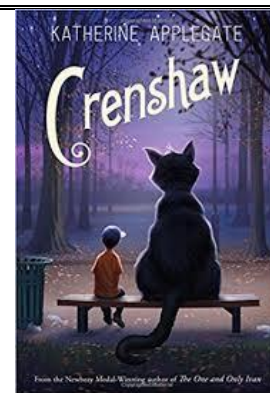
During the month of October, the third grade students spent some time thinking about their reading interests and habits. Independently, they completed a Reader's Interest Inventory, where they answered questions like "What is your favorite genre?," "What is your favorite place to read?" and "What is your favorite topic to learn about?". Next the students worked in groups to sort the "data" that was collected. Next they turned the data into pie charts and bar graphs so we could take a look at class trends. As a final product, we produced a classroom infographic to show the classes' reading preferences. The project was a lot of fun and very informative!

Check It Out!

Each month, we will feature a few books and an electronic database that you and your children may enjoy. You can visit the TRE Library website to browse our catalog and access our databases. If you have any questions, or need passwords for database access, please call the library at 267-1725 or email janah_autovino@pittsford.monroe.edu. All book cover images are from <http://www.titlewave.com>. *Happy reading!*

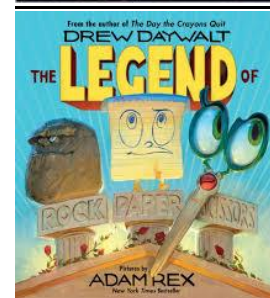
Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate. Gr. 3 and Up.

Jackson is 10 years old, but acts much older. He was forced to grow up three years before when his family was hit with a financial hardship and were forced to live in their van for a while. That's also the time when his imaginary friend, Crenshaw arrived: a six foot tall cat. Although his family has been doing better and have a nice apartment now, Jackson has noticed the bills starting to pile up, and his parents seeming more worried than usual. Crenshaw is back too, and Jackson feels he is too old to have an imaginary friend, but he's not sure who to talk to about it. The book is very moving and a great story of compassion.



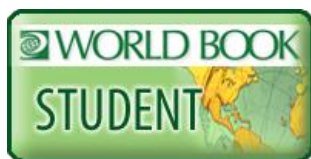
The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors by Adam Rex

Rock, Paper and Scissors were living in separate kingdoms, and all three were sad and bored. After countless battles, the three heroes could never find an opponent who could beat each of them. They were all craving a challenge! After leaving their kingdoms, Rock, Paper and Scissors find one another and have an epic battle. They are excited to finally meet their matches!



Feature Online Database: *World Book Kids*

World Book is an online encyclopedia that is available to use at home by TRE students. This is a useful resource for students to look up information for homework, research projects or just for fun. The articles include photos, images and videos, and cover a wide range of topics. The database has three portals, each geared toward students at different ages/reading abilities. *Early World of Learning* is for our youngest students, *World Book Kids* is slightly more challenging and *World Book Student* is geared towards our oldest readers. To use these databases, visit the TRE Library Webpage and click "Research Tools". Contact the library for the username and password.



Reading Corner

Miss Samantha St. James - Reading Specialist

Scholastic Book Wizard

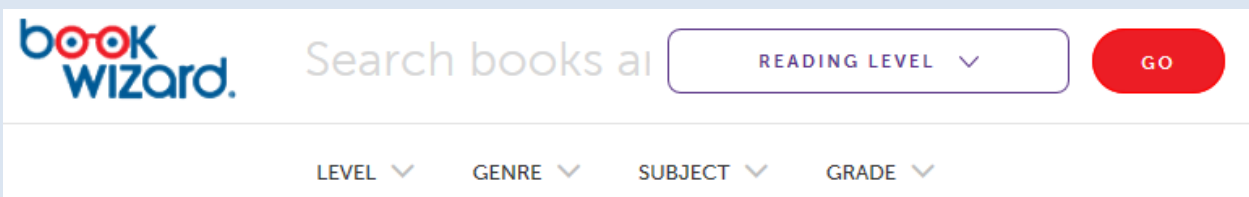
Hello Thornell Road Families,

Have you ever wondered if there was an easy way to search for books that match your child's interests and/or reading level? Scholastic Book Wizard is a terrific resource that can help you do just that! This website allows you to browse for books; narrowing your search by:

- Interest Level (grade based search)
- Reading Level (we use Guided Reading Level at school)
- Theme/Subject
- Genre
- Series
- Language

Try navigating through this website with your child to include him/her in the decision of which books they will read at home. The power of choice is very important. You may even use this website to get book ideas before visiting the library, book fair, etc. Enjoy!

<http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/>

The image shows the top section of the Scholastic Book Wizard website. On the left is the logo, which says "book wizard" with a pair of glasses over the word "book". To the right of the logo is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search books at". To the right of the search bar is a dropdown menu labeled "READING LEVEL" with a downward arrow. To the right of the dropdown menu is a red button with the word "GO" in white. Below these elements is a horizontal bar with four dropdown menus labeled "LEVEL", "GENRE", "SUBJECT", and "GRADE", each with a downward arrow.

You can type in a title if you wish, right where it says Search books, to find out a book's reading level. Or if you want to search for books by subject, for example football, type the topic into the search bar.



Art Room Masterpieces

~ Mrs. Lubbers, Visual Art Education



First grade artists studied the abstract artwork of Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky. Each student printed Lines and Shapes using cardboard. Color and Value were added using colored pencils.

Second grade artists studied Marc Chagall's dreamlike paintings. We looked at and discussed depictions of his Russian hometown and the city of Paris, France. Using oil pastels the students drew images of their neighborhoods in which objects seem to fly through the air. A large face drawn either in warm or in cool colors observes what is happening (quoting Chagall's "I and the Village").

Third grade artists studied the landscape paintings of American artist Wayne Thiebaud. The students looked at his impasto paintings and learned about color mixing using the primary colors and white and black. The crop was added painting different types and weights of lines.

Fourth grade artists studied the sculptures of Pop artist Claes Oldenburg. Students created clay models of popular objects. After firing the sculptures were painted with watercolors.





Wild Wings Visit

~ Rebecca Nunn, 4/5 Science Teacher

On Tuesday, October 24th, the 5th grade classes had the opportunity to be participate in a presentation from Wild Wings from Mendon Ponds Park. Two volunteers from the organization came to Thornell Road with 4 birds to share with the students as an extension of their Owls and their Environment unit for Science. They were able to learn about and see Blaze (a saw whet owl), Gerhart (a great horned owl), Rosalie (a hybrid falcon), and Ameila (a red tailed hawk). The students learned about special adaptations of each bird of prey, as well as some of the other birds that are residents at Wild Wings. They also impressed the volunteers with their knowledge of many of the adaptations of owls!



Health Education

~Mrs. Lattuca

- Kindergarten and 1st grade students are learning about medicine and poison safety. These students were surprised to see that some medicines can look like candy! Please ask them the safety rule about taking medicine (only take medicine from a trusted adult).



- 2nd grade students are learning about the dangers of tobacco and secondhand smoke. Ask them what they can do to avoid being around secondhand smoke.
- 3rd grade students are learning about medicine safety, poison safety and the dangers of tobacco use. These students "acted out" ways to show their understanding of how to say "no" to avoid unhealthy choices.



TRE as a school clipped and collect 5,583 Box Tops during our Fall Competition!!! \$583 was earned for our school.

The winning classes were **Scinta, Ryan** and **Adams**. Keep clipping and turning in your Box Tops. The next competition will be in the winter.

Great job Thornell Road!!!

FUN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

ATTENTION PARENTS: EASY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY! MS. LUBBERS IS LOOKING FOR PARENTS TO HELP OUT IN YOUR CHILD'S ART CLASS. THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO BE A PART OF THE CLASSROOM! THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE. YOU WOULD HELP BY BEING AN ADDITIONAL SET OF EYES, EARS AND HANDS! NO ART EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION!

PLEASE CONTACT CARRIE ARCHER FOR MORE INFORMATION!

carriearch@gmail.com

Rainbow Classic is right around the corner and we are looking for business owners who may want to advertise in our programs with all proceeds supporting Golisano Children Hospital and Pittsford Cheer. Rainbow Classic is a 17 year tradition that honors the memory of Katelyn Pasley and Ryan McCluski two young Pittsford residents who were felled by tragic illness.

To date your advertisements as well as ticket sales to sold out crowds from the Rainbow Classic games have raised over \$427,000. What a better way to advertise your company to our community as well as give to our local childrens hospital.

For more information please contact jenniferschreib@yahoo.com all ads must be submitted by Nov. 21,2017

Sign up today for Boys Youth Lacrosse Winter sessions!

Session 1 is November 7th- December 19th

Visit the Pittsford Lacrosse website to register!

<https://leagueathletics.com/Registration/Default.asp?n=44116&org=PITTSFORDLACROSSE.ORG>

Sessions will be led by Pittsford Varsity Coach Andrew Whipple and MUDD Academy creator, Shaun Church. Instruction will be based on the development of individual stick skills and increased speed and agility. Players will also be instructed on footwork specific to offensive and defensive lacrosse situations.



Upcoming Events

- Grade 3 Strong Museum Visit – 11/14
- TRE Picture Make-up Day – 11/15
- IDP/DPP – Wegman's Food Market – 11/17
- Thanksgiving Recess – 11/22-11/24



The TRE STAR is a monthly publication.
We welcome any contributions you may have to
our newsletter! Written content and high
resolution photos would be
greatly appreciated.

Deadline for submission is generally one week
before the first of the month.

Please send submissions to trestarnews@gmail.com



