



Thornell Road Star

Thornell Road Elementary, Pittsford, New York

Volume VIII, Issue 4

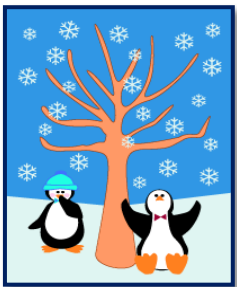
Roger DeBell, Principal

Dec. 2017



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PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE



Dear Parents and School Community,

At TRE, we are committed to engaging students in rigorous and authentic learning through the use of technology. Part of this learning includes opportunities for our students to learn computational thinking and apply it to writing computer code. On Wednesday, December 6th, students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 participated in the annual Hour of Code.



Using the format provided by <https://code.org/learn>, our students wrote code from a variety of tutorials. Again this year, we were privileged to have Mr. Matt Gostling and students from Mendon High School's Computer Science Principles as our partners for this event.

Originally started as a one-hour introduction to coding, the Hour of Code is now dedicated to expanding access to computer science and increasing participation by women and underrepresented minorities, with a vision that *every* student in *every* school have the opportunity to learn computer science. Each year, the Hour of Code takes place during Computer Science Education Week which is held in recognition of computing pioneer Admiral Grace Murray Hopper, who was born on December 9, 1906.

As a kick-off to this year's Hour of Code, we were very pleased to welcome Mr. Kevin Roland from L3 Global Communications Solutions (GCS) located in Victor, New York as our guest presenter. On Friday, December 1st, students in grades 3 through 5 learned about the technology behind satellite communications systems. This highly engaging presentation included a *how to make a peanut butter sandwich* demonstration highlighting the importance of using explicit instructions when writing code. This year's special guests included Monroe County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo, New York State Senator Joe Robach's Chief of Staff/Pittsford Town Board Member Kate Munzinger, New York Assembly Member Joe Errigo's Office Manager Carol McManus, as well as, members of the PCSD Board of Education and Central Office Team.

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Learn to Code

I encourage you to ask your child to show you how it is done. For more information and to try some of the coding activities, go to <https://code.org/student>. All curriculum resources and tutorials offered at this website are free to use and openly licensed. For your convenience, you can also access this information from the *Websites We Use* section of the TRE website.

Please remember to stay connected to TRE by following us on Twitter. There, you will find pictures of the Hour of Code as well as information regarding other events and activities at our school.

As a reminder, school will be closed from Monday, December 25th through Monday, January 1st. School reopens on Tuesday, January 2nd.

Thank you for all that you do to support our students, our staff and our school community. Best wishes to you and your family for a joyous, safe and restful Winter Recess.

Sincerely,

Roger DeBell
Principal

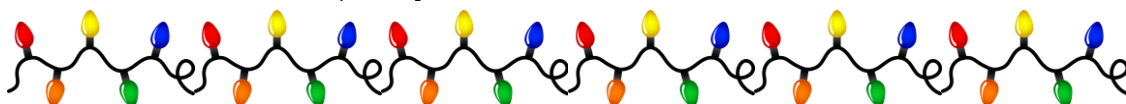


 Follow TRE on Twitter @PCSDThorn

Thornell Road Elementary School



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



Reading Corner

~Miss Samantha St. James, Reading Specialist~

Welcome to Miss St. James' Reading Website

<https://www.pittsfordschools.org/Domain/442>



Dear Thornell Families,

This month I wanted to take the opportunity to share with you the various resources you can find at my webpage. Enjoy!

From my homepage you can access:

- **Reading Websites:**
 - **Literacy Games** (Kindergarten - 5th Grade)
 - **Comprehension & Text Features Games** (3rd-5th Grade)
 - **Learning Songs** (You Tube videos kids love)
- **Sight Words Lists** (K-2nd sight word lists and games)
- **Where to Find Books** (School & public library links; book lists)
- **Tips for Parents** (Supporting your child's reading at home)
- **Spelling & Vocabulary Games**
- **Education Apps**
- **Summer Reading** (Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge results and summer reading lists)
- **Developing Your Child's Reading Comprehension** (Questions to guide conversations about texts read at home K-5th grade)
- **QAR** (Question Answer Relationships)
- **Decoding Tips** (Support your child with strategies to help them read unknown words)
- **Online Story Books & Read Alongs**
- **Read Live**
- **Mt. TRE Reaching Challenge** (Parent flyer, logs, and more)

My Home Page

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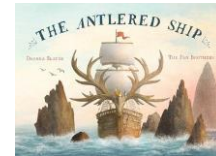
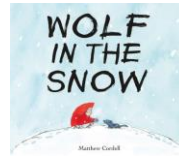
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Mt. TRE Reading Challenge

TRE Library News

~ Janah Autovino, Library Media Specialist



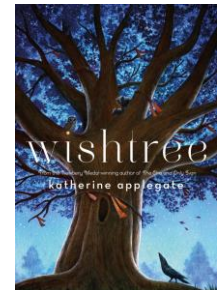
During the month of December, the students are participating in our annual "Mock Caldecott Contest." They are learning about the Caldecott Medal and Honor Medal, which are given to outstanding children's book illustrators every year in February. In anticipation of this event, our students are reading three great picture books published in 2017 and learning about the illustrators' backgrounds. After reading, they will vote to decide our school's pick for our Mock Caldecott contest. After that... we just have to wait to see if our pick wins the real award! The three books in our contest this year are: Wolf in the Snow by Matthew Cordell, After the Fall by Dan Santat and The Antlered Ship by Dashka Slater. (book cover images from www.titlewave.com)

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!*

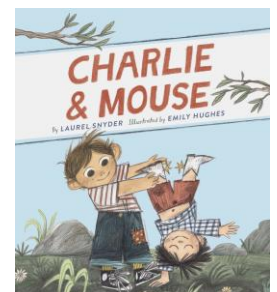
Wishtree by Katherine Applegate (gr. 4 and up)

For over two centuries, Red the "Wishtree" has served as a home to countless animal families and has watched as human families come and go from the houses she is near. Red lets the reader in on a little secret: Trees and Animals can talk... but never to people because that is against the rules. Every year on May 1st, the humans in Red's town tie pieces of paper to her branches with their deepest wishes. Red is not actually magic and isn't able to actually grant the wishes, but when a young girl named Samar wishes for a friend, Red decides to do everything she can to help make that happen for her, with the help of her animal residents. This book is moving, charming, a great conversation starter and everything you want in a wonderful family read aloud.



Charlie and Mouse by Laurel Snyder (gr. K and up)

This beginning chapter book is funny and sweet. In 4 chapters, it tells about the adventures of brothers Charlie and Mouse. In one story, the brothers try selling rocks to their neighbors, and in another, they manage to convince mom to bring them a bedtime snack (even after they brushed their teeth!) This is a book that will leave a smile on your face, and makes a perfect read aloud before bedtime, or an excellent first chapter book for our younger readers.



Feature Online Database: *World Book Kids*

Chances are, your child has watched BrainPop videos in their classrooms at some point this year. This database has thousands of short cartoon videos on many different topics in all subject areas. A few topics include: *Forces of Nature*, *Writing a Book Report*, *Handling Stress*, *Digital Citizenship*, *Numbers and Operations*, *The Great Depression*... the list goes on and on! Included in these video clips are quizzes, related activities and resources to learn more. Brain Pop Jr. features a little girl named Molly and Moby the Robot, and includes videos geared towards students in grades K-2. Brain Pop videos cover topics for our grade 3-5 students and star Moby and his friend Tim. The videos are very funny, and very educational as well. During the holiday break, your child may want to log onto Brain Pop and learn about a new topic. For the username and password, please contact the library.



Art Room Masterpieces

~ Mrs. Lubbers, Visual Art Education



Second grade artists have studied the sculptures of Henry Moore. We talked about positive and negative space. Each student created a clay sculpture inspired by Moore's work. The sculptures were painted with watercolors.

Third grade artists have studied the Easter Island sculptures. Each student built a clay sculptures with deep set eyes, a square jaw, long spaniel ears and a prominent nose. These mini Moai were painted with watercolors in either black and the cool colors or brown and the warm colors.

Fifth grade artists have studied endangered animals in library and art. Each student enlarged a reference with the help of a grid. The animals were colored with complimentary colors and analogues colors using oil pastels



Service Stars

~Mrs. Doran



Service Stars have started making paper pamphlets!

5th grade Thornell Road students have the opportunity to learn more about recycling by participating in our Greenhouse project during recess at school. By participating in an environmental service-learning project, students make difference in their future and the future of our planet. Service Stars will learn how to make handmade recycled paper out of material from the blue box, study worms and how they make natural compost and learn how to grow and care for herbs and flowers in our Greenhouse. They will be able to share these skills with the whole school by giving tours of the greenhouse and worm farm and at Open House with Mrs. Lubbers making paper for the whole school. Our Service Stars have been the proud winners twice in the Fast Forward Film Festival!

Watch <https://vimeo.com/117876503> and

<https://vimeopro.com/fastforwardroc/2017-official-selections-youth-program>

To learn more about our Thornell Road Service Stars and the Greenhouse go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8X8tafCFJPI>



Health Education

~ Mrs. Lattuca

K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders are learning about personal safety. Please remember to talk to your child about safety rules regarding staying safe while in public places, learning telephone numbers and knowing when to call 9-1-1. Role playing is a great way to practice safety rules!



Nurse's Office

Please put a change of clothes in your child's backpack in case of a "messy" recess accident. This is the time of year where there is extra mud and water outside. This will save you having to bring clean clothes in to school.



Upcoming Events

12.11.17 – Gr. 2 to Nazareth Arts Center

12.12.17 – PTSA Meeting, Star Lab, 9am

12.13.17 – 12.15.17 – Reindeer Lane Gift Shop in the Star Lab

12.18.17 – Best Buddies meeting in the Cafeteria

12.25.17 – 1.1.18 – Winter Recess, No School

