



# Thornell Road Star

Thornell Road Elementary, Pittsford, New York

Volume VI, Issue 6

Roger DeBell, Principal

March 2016



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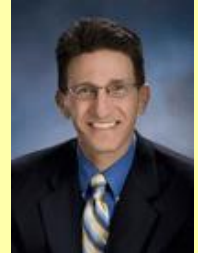


### Upcoming PTSA Meeting

Tuesday  
March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016

9:00am

## PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE



Dear Parents and School Community,

On Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, our District PTSA hosted the PCSD Advocacy Team for an "Advocating for Education" presentation in the Mendon Center Elementary School auditorium. This presentation included an overview of the changes in the NYS Public Education Reform Agenda and the ways in which our school district advocates for students. Topics included the evolution of APPR, Common Core Learning Standards, State Assessments, the role of the PCSD Advocacy Team, as well as updates from the Federal and State levels. The presentation concluded with a question and answer period. Despite the weather that evening, this event was well attended. For more information about the PCSD Advocacy Team's work, membership and charter, please visit the website by clicking on the following link - <http://www.pittsfordschools.org/departments.cfm?subpage=62179>.

Additional district advocacy efforts include "A Community Together (ACT) for Education" which was developed as a partnership between the Monroe County Superintendents Public Education Committee (MCSPEAC) and the Ad Council of Rochester. It is a way to engage Monroe County residents in their local school district and to raise public awareness and support for our schools. Visit the ACT for Education website at [www.actforeducation.org](http://www.actforeducation.org). Participating districts will highlight their successes in education, athletics, arts, music, and community service.

With the timing of Spring Break at the end of this month, I thought it would be helpful to share the dates and some information regarding the upcoming New York State Exams. The dates for each exam are listed below:

Grade(s):	Exam:	Date(s):
3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	English Language Arts (ELA)	Tuesday, April 5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday, April 6 <sup>th</sup> Thursday, April 7 <sup>th</sup>
3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Mathematics	Wednesday, April 13 <sup>th</sup> Thursday, April 14 <sup>th</sup> Friday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup>	Science (Performance Tasks)	Wednesday, June 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday, June 2 <sup>nd</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup>	Science (Written Format)	Monday, June 6 <sup>th</sup>

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You can assist with your child's preparation by ensuring that, prior to an exam, he/she has a good night's sleep, eats a healthy breakfast, arrives to school on time and feels supported. Encourage your child to do his/her best. Please remember that judging a child's performance on a single test score is a flawed practice.

If you would like to learn more about the Common Core Curriculum and the New York State Testing Program, please visit the *EngageNY* website at <http://engageny.org/>.

Please note that school will be closed from Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> for Spring Break. Have a safe and enjoyable time during this break.

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

Sincerely,

Roger DeBell  
Principal

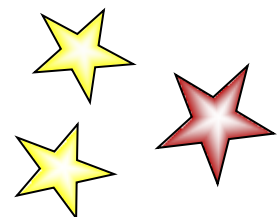


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## Thornell Road Elementary School



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



## 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE

~ Mr. Shawn Beldue, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

On February 12<sup>th</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Park Road, Mendon Center and Thornell Road took a trip to Barker Road Middle School to learn more about their music program. Students listened to a “We Love Music” Assembly and were entertained and energized on the possible options they have when they enter the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. All of the students and staff were very inviting and informative and we learned a lot during our trip. The students even received a special Valentine’s gift at the end of the assembly!

5<sup>th</sup> graders continue to prepare and do research for their school-wide country presentation for International Day which will be held in late May/early June.

They have been using on-line resources to find the following information about their country, including: geographical features, weather and climate, history, culture, government, economy, and at least one global issue the country is dealing with. Students will soon begin collaborating with their group members as they collect and share the knowledge they’ve accumulated.

Thornell Road's Ski Club had their last trip to Bristol Mountain on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Fifth grade students along with several teacher chaperones from Thornell Road go 4 times a year (usually during the month of February).

Currently, students are finishing up their memoirs for writing. This involved them doing research in Library and illustrating an art piece in Art. The memoirs had to be:

- ✍ A memory, description of an event from the past
- ✍ Written in first person
- ✍ Based on truth
- ✍ Reveal the feelings of the writer
- ✍ Show what the author learned from the experience
- ✍ About one point in an author’s life

Here are some of the other academic areas students are learning about in the month of March:

- ✍ ELA – Persuasive writing
- ✍ Math – Fractions



Save the date

**5th Grade Parents - SAVE THE DATE!** Be sure to mark your calendars for your student's first Barker Road experience! The **5th Grade Fun Night** will be on **Friday May 6th**. The gyms will be open for sports & activities, a DJ will be spinning tunes, pizza and a drink are included in the admission price, and additional goodies will be on hand for purchase. Parent volunteers are absolutely necessary for this event to run safely and smoothly - the kids always have a super time! Watch for more information to follow in your child's backpack end of March/early April including permission slips and pricing/volunteer/event time details.

*This is just an early heads up communication!*

Save the date







# Odyssey of the Mind

~Mrs. Doran



On March 12, over 900 Monroe county area students in grades K-12 will converge on Spencerport for the Odyssey of the Mind tournament. Thornell Road School has four teams that have been working about five months to prepare. The tournament tests the students' creativity, teamwork and innovation.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international competition that involves teams of up to seven students working on one of five "long-term" problems. The competition is unique in that all of the ideas and execution of those ideas must be done by the students with no adult help. Teams are coached by one or more adults who help to facilitate meetings but who cannot directly influence the work being done by the students.

The specific requirements for the long-term problems change each year, but the categories for each problem remain the same. All problems meet many of the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) criteria that are a prime focus for many educational avenues. The students create and build all aspects of their problem solution, including creating a skit, costumes, props and scenery to go along with any of the required construction components of their team's chosen problem.

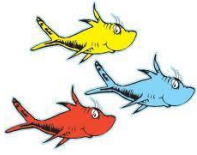
The teams present their solution to a panel of judges at the tournament and are scored based on the parameters of the problem. More details may be found online: [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com)

**Congratulations to our Thornell Teams for taking a leap into creativity. Good Luck on March 12<sup>th</sup>!**



## Reading Corner

~ Miss Samantha St. James, Reading Specialist



**Hello Thornell Road Families!**

Here are some fun ways your family can celebrate  
**Dr. Seuss' birthday** throughout the month of March. Enjoy!



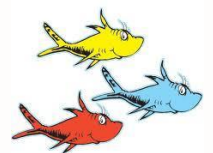
**Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!**  
(Born March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1904)

- Read as many Dr. Seuss books as you can
- Create your own story by writing like Dr. Seuss (be creative with the rhymes!)
- Visit the official Dr. Seuss website (<http://www.seussville.com/>) to see a complete book list, learn about Dr. Seuss, games & activities, meet the characters, and more

### Dr. Seuss Trivia

1. How many stripes are on the hat of The Cat in the Hat?  
a) 4   b) 5   c) 6   d) 7
2. How many different words did Dr. Seuss use to write Green Eggs and Ham?  
a) 201   b) 51   c) 121   d) 61
3. In One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish what book is the Nook reading?  
a) The Book Nook   b) How to Look   c) The Crook Book   d) How to Cook
4. What color is the Lorax?  
a) Orange   b) Green   c) Brown   d) Yellow
5. What is Dr. Seuss' real name?  
a) Teddy Yertle   b) Theodor S. Geisel   c) Donald Seuss   d) Theo D. R. Seuss

Answer Key: 1-b, 2-b, 3-d, 4-c, 5-b





# Art Room Masterpieces

~ Mrs. Lubbers, Visual Art Education



The first graders studied Russian artist Wassily Kandinsky's abstract artwork. We read B. Rosenstock's "The Noisy Paint Box", illustrated by M. Gandpré. Each student then printed black lines and shapes using cardboard. The artwork was finished with color and value applying colored pencils.



The third graders learned about Brazilian artist Romero Britto. He is a self-taught Pop-artist who wants to spread happiness through his artwork. We looked at the artist's book "Happy". The student designed a collagraph using tag-board. Different pattern were added with markers.



The fourth graders studied the sculptures of Pop artist Claes Oldenburg. We looked at images of his installations that show enlarged everyday objects. Each student picked an everyday object, did some sketches of that object and then replicated that object in clay. The clay sculptures were finished with watercolor and Mod Podge.





## Health Education

~ Teresa Lattuca

This month we are “Marching into Nutrition”. All grade levels are learning about food groups, food choices and the importance of “balance”. Encourage your children to shop, prepare, combine and cook some delicious recipes. Please also continue to remind ALL children that the safety rule for food in school is “no sharing food or snacks”. This helps to ensure safety for all students.



## Upcoming Events

3.1.16 – TRE Book Fair Grades K & 1

3.2.16 – TRE Book Fair Grades 2 & 3

3.3.16 – TRE Book Fair Grades 4 & 5

3.3.16 – Grade 2 Nazareth College: Cat in the Hat

3.3.16 – Grade 1 Nazareth College: Cat in the Hat

3.8.15 – PTSA Mgt. 9:00am

3.9.16 – Lisa Graff Visiting Author (9-10 Gr. 3; 10:15-11:15 Gr 5; 1-2 Gr. 4)

3.9.16 – Board of Education Mgt. BRMS Board Room, 7pm

3.11.16 – K-5 Report Cards Sent Home

3.16.16 – Gr. 1-5 Early Dismissal for Parent Conferences

3.25.16 – 4.1.16 – Spring Break

4.5.16 – 4.7.16 – Grades 3 – 5 ELA Exam

4.13.16 – 4.15.16 – Grades 3- 5 Math Exam

5.6.16 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fun Night

6.1.16 – 6.2.16 – Grade 4 Science Exam (Performance)

6.6.16 – Grade 4 Science Exam (Written Format)

The TRE STAR NEWS is a monthly publication. We welcome any contributions you may have to our newsletter!

Written content and high resolution photos are greatly appreciated.

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

Please send submissions to [trestarnews@gmail.com](mailto:trestarnews@gmail.com)