



Thornell Road Star

Thornell Road Elementary, Pittsford, New York

Volume VI, Issue 7

Roger DeBell, Principal

April 2016



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**Upcoming TRE
PTSA Meeting!**

**April 12th
9am**

PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE



Dear Parents and School Community,

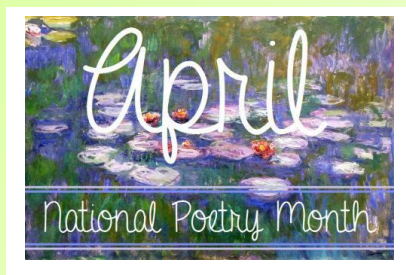
April is a special month in our part of the country. We begin to enjoy outdoor activities in the warmer weather and notice the changes in nature that herald the arrival of springtime. This month also marks the 20th anniversary of National Poetry Month, which was inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in 1996. Over the years, National Poetry Month has become the largest literary celebration in the world. Schools, publishers, libraries, booksellers, and poets have used this event to celebrate poetry's place in our literary culture.

For the third year in a row, TRE will participate in National Poetry Month. I would like to recognize and thank Ms. Samantha St. James, our Reading Specialist for coordinating this event for our school. Throughout the month of April, guest readers will share a poem during the morning announcements. Also, a special bulletin board has been decorated and reserved for staff members to share their favorite poems. On Thursday, April 21st, we will celebrate "Poem in Your Pocket Day." On this day, students and staff are encouraged to carry a poem in their pocket all day. These poems can be shared with others throughout the day.

I encourage you to use this opportunity to explore and share poetry as a family. If you would like more information about National Poetry Month and Poem in Your Pocket Day, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/home>

<http://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/poem-your-pocket-day>



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To get things started, I offer the following poem:

“Spring Bouquet”

By Raymond A. Foss



An earthen vase
held a bouquet
simple crocuses
at the street corner
in the downtown
of the city, around
the corner, down the block
on the way to school
a bit of color
shining through
the urban tableau
reminding us of beauty
amidst the clutter
of daily life.



As always, thank you for all that you do to support our students, our staff and our school community.
Sincerely,

Roger DeBell
Principal



Follow TRE on Twitter @PCSDThornellRd

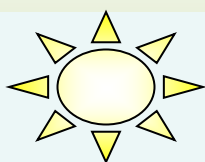
Thornell Road Elementary School



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

Reading Corner

~ Miss Samantha St. James, Reading Specialist



Local Opportunities to Keep your Child Reading this Summer!



Pittsford Central Summer Enrichment 2016:

The Pittsford School District is offering multiple enrichment opportunities this summer. Don't forget to **sign your child up by May 20th at 6pm**. Here are some programs that involve literacy:

- **Alphapalooza: Phonemic Awareness and Phonics Fun** (July 25-29, Entering K & 1st, Cost \$140)
- **Flying into First Grade** (August 1-5, Entering 1st, Cost \$125)
- **Sailing into Second Grade** (July 18-22, Entering 2nd, Cost \$165)
- **Totally Titanic!** (July 11-15, Entering 3rd & 4th, Cost \$162)
- **Camp Read** (July 11-15, Entering 3rd, Cost \$175)
- **Wordplay Workshop** (July 11-15, Entering 2nd-6th, Cost \$168)
- **My Life, My Words** (July 25-29, Entering 3rd-6th, Cost \$168)



For more details and other courses see the 2016 online Course Catalog at:

<http://www.pittsfordschools.org/programs.cfm?subpage=94>

Tutoring Opportunities around Rochester:

- **Private Tutoring:** A great option for individualized instruction. If interested you can ask your child's teacher for a list of Thornell staff members that tutor over the summer.
- **St. John Fisher College Literacy Center - Summer Literacy Program:** Any questions regarding the Literacy Center can be directed to Dr. Joellen Maples 585-899-3727 or at jmaples@sjfc.edu. Applications due May 30th.
- **Nazareth College's Marie Callahan Reading Clinic:** For information contact Director Naomi Erdmann at (585) 389-2615 or nedman0@naz.edu.

Pittsford Public Library:

Reading game for children preschool through entering 5th grade. In the spirit of the Summer Olympics, you can compete as part of the Red, White, or Blue Team in this summer's reading game. Pick up your registration packet starting June 13 and start your reading as soon as school ends.

The first turn-in day for prizes is June 27. The last turn-in day is August 12.



Health Education

~ Teresa Lattuca

Kindergarten students are reviewing who "community helpers" are. We discussed firefighters, doctors, nurses, teachers, parents and police officers. We also talked about what number to call in case of an emergency... 9-1-1



First and Second grade students are learning about what they can do to recycle and how they can help keep the environment clean.

Third grade students are learning about food contamination. How to care for a variety of foods, refrigerate, wash and check for expiration dates.



Odyssey of the Mind

~ Susan Doran

TWO THORNELL ROAD SCHOOL ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAMS TRAVEL TO BINGHAMTON!

Two of our Thornell Road School teams travelled to Binghamton over break to represent Region 14 in the State Tournament. Both teams had amazing scores and had a great time.



Congratulations to our teams!



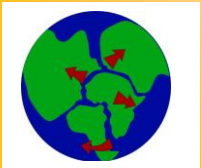


Fifth Grade Science

~ Mrs. Rebecca Nunn, 4th/5th Grade Science Teacher



The 5th grade students just finished up their unit on Earth Movements. In this unit, students learned about the internal processes of the Earth that effect how the surface of the Earth has changed over millions of years. Students were able to see how a convection current happens in the mantle of the Earth, what Pangaea looked like over 200 million years ago, learn the difference in the theories of Continental Drift and Plate Tectonics, and how earthquakes happen and volcanoes erupt. As a culmination of the unit, each group made plaster volcanoes and we able to "erupt" them with a chemical reaction using baking soda and vinegar. This is always a highlight of the unit!



Spring is Here

Spring is here! Spring is here!
 Winter is gone and two flowers appear.
 Three little robins begin to sing.
 Four bicycle bells begin to ring.
 Five children come out and jump the rope.
 Spring is here now! I hope, I hope!

~ Author Unknown ~



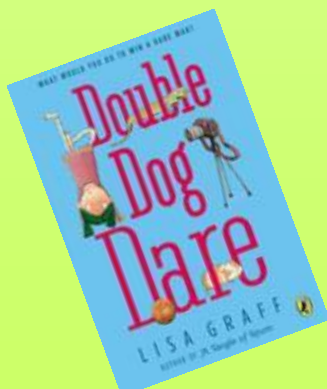
Author Visit

~ Janah Autovino, Library Media Specialist



On March 9th, Thornell Road warmly welcomed our visiting author Lisa Graff to our school. Ms. Graff is the author of several chapter books including Tangle of Knots, Absolutely Almost and Double Dog Dare along with several other titles. Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 attended presentations with our author in the auditorium. During her presentation, Lisa Graff shared her number #1 rule for writers: "Don't be boring!" She discussed with students one way not to be boring is to add similes, which help readers visualize what is happening in the story and create a picture in their minds. She shared with the audience that when she was growing up she wasn't the best writer, but that she loved doing it, and the more she practiced, the better she got! To be an author, she explained that you have to do three things: read, write and re-write.

At the end of the day, 20 students who had won a letter writing contest had the opportunity to attend a "Meet the Author" event in the library. The children really enjoyed spending time with Ms. Graff and asking her questions about her books and being an author. We wish to thank the PTSA for sponsoring our annual author visit. These events help encourage reading, writing and help children understand the creative process, plus they are a lot of fun!



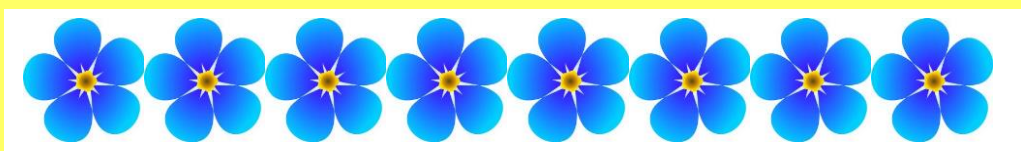
P T S A



N E W S



Fantastic Family Fun Fair is coming Friday, June 10th! Be sure to mark your calendars! Many hands make light work and there are many ways to volunteer to make this event a success for the kids. To help with games/booths, food, raffle, or set up/clean up, please contact Madhu Dixit (mrachar@yahoo.com) or Monique Spindelman (euqinom@rochester.rr.com)



**Come one, come all to
TRE Family Night at the Amerks!**

Important dates:

- | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|
| 4/5 | Deadline to order Amerks tickets |
| 4/12 | Amerks tickets go home in backpacks |
| 4/15 | TRE Family Night at the Amerks |





Upcoming Events

April 5th to April 7th
NYS Gr 3-8 ELA Exams

April 12th
PTSA Mtg. STaR Lab, 9am

April 13nd to April 15th
NYS Gr 3-8 Math Exams

April 18th
Superintendent's Day, NO SCHOOL

April 25th
2E to Strong Museum, 9:30 – 11am

April 26th
2S to Strong Museum, 9:30 – 11am

April 27th
2O'C to Strong Museum, 9:30 – 11am



The Thornell Road Star

We are a monthly publication and welcome any contributions you may have to our newsletter!

Written content and high resolution photos are appreciated. Deadline for submission is generally one week before the first of the month.