



# Thornell Road Star

Thornell Road Elementary, Pittsford, New York

Volume VI, Issue 8

Roger DeBell, Principal

May/June 2016



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## PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE



Dear Parents and School Community,

It is hard to believe that in a few weeks we will come the end of another school year. On behalf of everyone at TRE, I would like to thank you for your on-going support and partnership with our school. I would also like to acknowledge our amazing teachers and support staff for their dedication to teamwork, respect and excellence for our students.



This summer, our school will be under major construction. Some of the work that will take place includes the replacement of our roof, the installation of new boilers, the integration of new a HVAC system, bathroom renovations, asbestos abatement and new flooring. In addition, a number of classrooms will be getting new cabinetry, casework, countertops and plumbing fixtures. **Due to the nature and scope of the construction, our school will be closed to staff and the public this summer beginning 4:00pm on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> and is expected to re-open on Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>.** Please note that the Main Office telephone numbers and Health Office fax machine will remain active during construction. If needed, alternate locations within the district will be used for meetings and new entrant screening.

Remember that our Thornell Road PTSA makes it possible for our school community to enjoy a variety of after-school enrichment activities and special events for our students and families. These include our "Welcome Back to School" picnic, book fairs, school pictures, Cultural Arts assemblies, Art Ambassador projects, Science Action program, chess club, Drama Kids acting classes, visiting author workshops, and Family Fun Fair. **Please help us continue to provide these and other exciting opportunities for our students by becoming a PTSA volunteer.** Without the support of volunteers, we may need to significantly reduce these offerings in the 2016-2017 school year. For more information about volunteer opportunities at TRE, please visit our PTSA website at <http://www.pittsfordptsa.net/schools.cfm?subpage=1304526>.



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As many families begin to think about summer vacation, please continue to encourage your child to keep reading. **Here are a few strategies from a variety of sources that can help your child maintain and even improve reading over the summer months:**

**Four or More for Summer Success** - Research shows that children who read at least four books during the summer are more likely to maintain and even improve valuable reading and comprehension skills. Take advantage of our local library and feel free to ask for help selecting books that match your child's age, interests and abilities.

**Allow for Your Child to Choose** - Nine out of ten children are more likely to finish a book when they choose it for themselves. You can add some excitement to the trip to the library or bookstore by having your child show you the books he or she is interested in reading.

**Take Reading Beyond the Book** - Ask your child questions about the story that he or she is reading. You can often find supplemental activities to enhance your child's enjoyment and comprehension by visiting a relevant museum exhibit, learning more about the author on the internet or by visiting the book's website.

**Keep Reading Aloud** - Reading aloud benefits all children, especially those who struggle. One benefit is that you can read books your child can't, so he or she will build listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This will increase your child's knowledge and expand his or her experience with text, so that he or she will do better when reading independently. In addition to reading aloud with your child, you may also find that there are a number of books on CD. Having your child follow along in the book while listening to the story on CD, also provides a measurable benefit.



**Every Little Bit Helps** - Encourage your child to take advantage of every opportunity to read throughout the day. Even small opportunities like reading magazines, recipes or other printed material reinforce the importance of reading and can help improve a child's skills. *Remind your child to log the minutes for the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge!*

As a reminder, the last day of school for our students is Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for all that you do to support our students, our staff and our school community. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

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**



## Thornell Road Service Stars

~ Susan Doran, TRE Community Service Advisor

Pictured are a few of the Thornell Road Service Stars as they wind up the year with Papermaking at Open House. They made over 500 sheets of paper this year for the whole school to paint on for Open House. Mrs. Lubbers opened up the Art Room and shared papermaking with the whole school. Congratulations on a great year of Service!



## 2nd Annual Thornell Road Picnic

Monday June 13, 2016

Thornell Road Playground

Menu: Zweigle's Hot Dog, Carrots, Watermelon, Pretzels, Lemonade, Cookie Treat



Student Cost: \$2.75 **make sure you have money on your lunch card**

***The picnic lunch will be the only lunch served this day***





## Poetry Picnic

~ Janah Autovino, Library Media Specialist



Our library recently held our first annual "Poetry Picnic." Students in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade had an opportunity to explore over 15 different poetry themed stations, where they could read, write and listen to poetry. Some of the stations included: "Haiku Alley", "Smartboard Magnetic Poetry", "Read a Poem to a Pet", "Shel Silverstein Cove" and making a "Food Poetry Placemat". The students really enjoyed exploring poetry, and after reading some fantastic poems, many of them were inspired to write their own original poems! Following the event, the library catalog statistics showed that there was a 66% increase in poetry book checkouts from the previous month. The children also learned a trick to help them find poetry using the Dewey Decimal System in the library: "If you have an emergency, call 911. If you have a Poetry Emergency call 811!" ...because the call number for poetry books is 811. We're already looking forward to our Poetry Picnic next spring!

## Science Action Final Report

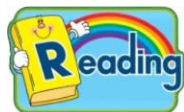
~Erin Ciccone and Kelly Person, Science Action Co-Chairs

We are wrapping up another successful year of Science Action at Thornell Road School. Thank you to the dozens of parent volunteers who made this program possible this year. **Kindergarten** science action topics this year included color, animal coverings, senses, shadows, ocean and trees. **First grade** science action focused on length, weight, and plants. **Second graders** explored interactions, water cycles, and temperature. **Third grade** students experimented with magnetism.

We are collecting feedback on science action as we plan for next year. Please click on this link to take a two minute survey that will help us make next year even better.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C3DBY3G>





## Reading Corner

~ Miss Samantha St. James, Reading Specialist



*Dear Thornell Road Families,*

Remember to remind your child to be logging his/her minutes all summer long. The competition doesn't end until school begins next Fall. Have fun reading!

Top readers at each grade level will be announced weekly until the end of the school year!



Our PTSA will reward the top two readers from each grade level with a Barnes and Noble gift card!

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New prizes through Scholastic!

.....

Last year Thornell Road was #2 in New York State!

.....

All daily reading activities count toward minutes spent reading!

.....

Are YOU up for the challenge?!

# MAY 9 – SEPT 9, 2016

## SCHOLASTIC SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

### Goal: Thornell Road to be #1 in NYS

The Challenge is a terrific opportunity to promote summer reading and this year we have some great incentives!



#### Any Questions?

Contact:  
Miss Samantha St. James  
Reading Specialist

Samantha\_St.James@pittsford.monroe.edu

# Art Room Masterpieces

~ Mrs. Lubbers, Visual Art Education

The first graders studied the part of a plant (root, leaf, stem, flower, seed). In library they read about plants. In art the students learned about botany, the study of the appearance and purpose of plants. Each student designed her/his own imaginary plant, its appearance and its purpose.



The second graders studied the jungles of French artist Henri Rousseau. The artist never travelled to the jungle but created his naïve paintings utilizing the zoo, the green house and books. Each student drew an animal. Then everybody created a leaf as a printing plate. A class mural was printed and at the end the animals were added to the "jungle".



Third graders studied the Easter Island sculptures. Each student created a small clay sculptures inspired by the Moai.



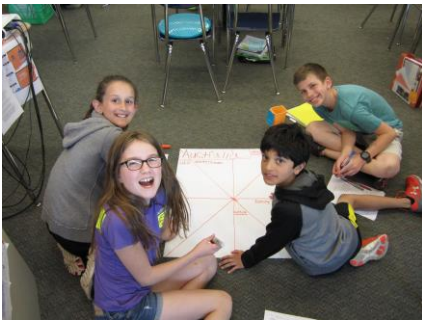
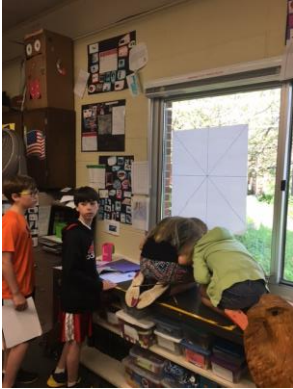
Fourth grade students are studied the Erie Canal in class. They wrote the story of an old man reflecting on his life as a hoagie walking the mules at the just opened Erie Canal. In art the students created illustrations for their written story. For each illustration several students collaborated. The students looked at the water colors by Winslow Homer as in inspiration for these illustrations.



Fifth grade students wrote a memoir in class and illustrated that memoir in art class. They were introduced to five Caldecott winners (in library and in art) of which they chose one to influence their illustration.







## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade News

~ Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Chapman



### International Day

Fifth grade is busy preparing to host TRE's International Day on June 10. Students have done extensive research using multiple sources to create an expository research essay on their self-selected country.

Currently students are working with peers across classrooms to collaborate and synthesize their findings. Groups created a brain dump of important facts and are now starting to design their bulletin boards for the big day. Country groups will present their findings in short presentations to students in grades K-4 on International Day. Parents are more than welcome to attend. Presentations will also be recorded for families to view and placed on the district website. We will conclude our cultural experience with two assemblies performed by Mounafanyi Pan-African Drum & Dance Ensemble and sponsored by the PTSA.

**We look forward to sharing our hard work  
with Thornell Road!**



**Mendon Youth Field Hockey**

**Summer Camp 2016**

**July 11-14 (9am-Noon)**

**Students entering 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades**

**This 4 day camp will focus on stick skills and team strategies with small game play. Rules of the game will be taught during officiated games. Camp will be held on the turf at Mendon High School. For more information visit:**

**<http://www.leaguelineup.com/information.asp?url=mendonfh&sid=391610363> or email: [KESsports@gmail.com](mailto:KESsports@gmail.com) . The camp is lead by MHS field hockey coaches.**

# Kindergarten Outdoor Learning Experience

~ Mrs. Roets, Kindergarten Teacher

Mrs. Roets' morning kindergarten class tried something new this year – an Outdoor Learning Experience. The class hiked to a nearby portion of the trail that leads to Thornell Farm Park. While on the hike, students used their senses to observe their surroundings. The first hike was in October, the second in January, and the third in April. The class will hike one final time near the end of June. On each Outdoor Learning Experience, students drew pictures and took notes about their observations while on the trail. On their most recent hike, students were able to observe a great deal of change over time. For example, they observed seasonal changes to the ground cover, stages of leaf growth on trees and shrubs, and changes to flowing water throughout the seasons. As a bonus, we peeked out to Thornell Farm Park each time and observed the changes due to the construction project! This has been a wonderful educational experience.

Many thanks to the parents who joined us, rain or shine, to support the students at their Observation Stations ☺







This year we launched our new and SUPER improved program. We completed 6 creative, unique, curriculum based projects per grade K-6. The kids did outstanding work! We could not have done it without the help of our fabulous volunteers and the teachers' support as well!

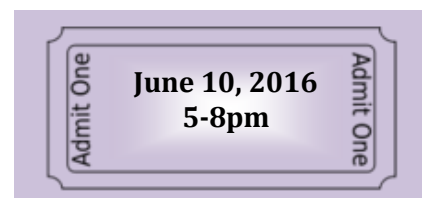
A **very special thank you** goes out to Teri Allart. She designed this amazing program and has gone above and beyond in meticulously formatting every aspect from training to prep. Each project was executed on point and on time! All of her efforts are to ensure we continue to offer it to the children! If anyone is interested in joining our team, we have prep jobs for over the summer, evenings and strictly email! But we are also looking for two people to shadow us next year. If you have any interest please email:

**[treartambassador@gmail.com](mailto:treartambassador@gmail.com)**

Have a wonderful summer!  
Krissy Caputo & Amy Hannie  
Art Ambassador Chairs



THORNELL ROAD  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



**FANTASTIC FAMILY**

**FUN FAIR**

**Fundraiser** - *Sponsored by the PTSA*

**DJ \* GAMES FOOD & DRINK**

**RAFFLE \* PRIZES**

**New This Year -**

Including a  
Teacher vs.  
Student  
Whack-a-mole

Ice Truck Pizza  
Cotton Candy  
Food Truck, etc....

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS**

Adults & Teens (counts as community service)  
Please email the time and # of hours you can  
volunteer  
at [mrachar@yahoo.com](mailto:mrachar@yahoo.com) or  
[euginom@rochester.rr.com](mailto:euginom@rochester.rr.com)

**WE NEED HELP WITH:**

Set Up	2-5pm
Managing Games/Tables	5-8pm
Clean Up	8-9pm

# P T S A N E W S

BUY ONE, GET ONE  
**FREE**  
BOOK FAIR

Stock up for summer reading!

SCHOLASTIC

Please stop by the Scholastic Book Fair during the Family Fun Fair on June 10th. This is a BOGO book fair - that's Buy One Get One FREE! It's suggested that children read 4 books over the summer to maintain their current reading level - and you only pay for 2 of them! Stop by and find something new to read. You can find us in the cafeteria (pending relocation due to weather).

Please consider volunteering for one of the following open PTSA positions:

**PTSA Chair**  
**PTSA Co-chair**  
**Yearbook Chair**

For more volunteering opportunities, look for the gold 2016-2017 PTSA Volunteer Form to come home or on the PTSA website in the upcoming weeks. Opportunities range from year long positions/committee spots to short term special projects.

*Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Connie Maust at [brianconniem@yahoo.com](mailto:brianconniem@yahoo.com).*





## Health Education

~ Teresa Lattuca

Please remember to send in a copy of the most recent physical/immunization update to the Health Office. You can have it faxed to 218-1741 over the summer or drop it in the mail.

Please remember that NO medications are stored over the summer and that ALL medications must be picked up on the last day of school.

Remember to wear sunscreen, play and drink plenty of water!



## Upcoming Events

- 6.6.16 - NYS Gr 4 Science Assessment
- 6.6.16 - Kindergarten Clifford Day
- 6.8.16 - District PTSA Mtg., CRMS, 9am
- 6.9.16 - Gr 4 Genesee Country Museum, 8:45-2:30
- 6.9.16 - Gr 1 Springdale Farms, 9:30-1:30
- 6.10.16 - International Day
- 6.10.16 - Fantastic Family Fun Fair
- 6.13.16 - Cafeteria Picnic Lunch
- 6.14.16 - Flag Day Celebration, 9:30am
- 6.15.16 - Kindergarten Cafeteria Visit Day
- 6.15.16 - Field Day
- 6.16.16 - Field Day Rain Date
- 6.16.16 - Kindergarten PJ Day
- 6.17.16 - Kindergarten Hike Day
- 6.17.16 - Gr 5 Seabreeze, 9:15-4:30
- 6.20.16 - Board of Ed Mtg, BRMS, 7pm
- 6.20.16 - Kindergarten Class Picnics
- 6.21.16 - Gr 4 Bubblemania, 11-12pm
- 6.21.16 - Gr 4 Year End Celebration
- 6.21.16 - Last Day for K-5 Students!
- 6.23.16 - Fourth Marking Period Ends, K-5 report cards sent home

## Cafeteria Update

~ Beverly DeCillis, Manager

As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Cafeteria will not allow charging. If all of you could help us with this it would be greatly appreciated. Also, our 2nd Annual Picnic coming up and we hope all of our children will be able to join in the fun that day. Fingers crossed for nice weather so we can have it outside like we did last year. If any of the children want to bring a blanket or towel to sit on that day they are welcome to bring something in. We also hope to be able to have the K9 Unit here again.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Summer Break... I know I am looking forward to some time off too. Thank you to all of the parents and staff who do what they do for all of us. A special thank you to Tim Murray for being such a good friend to me and a Happy Retirement. You will be missed!



Thank you for another successful year of the Thornell Road Star! Have a safe and happy summer!