



# Thornell Road Star

Thornell Road Elementary, Pittsford, New York

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Roger DeBell, Principal

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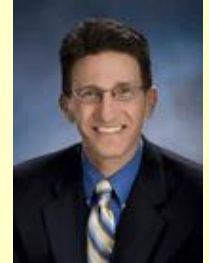
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## PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear Parents and School Community,



As a result of a recent change in emergency drill practice requirements recently issued by the New York State Education Department, elementary schools across our district are preparing for the implementation of lockdown drill procedures. These drills will allow us to practice placing our building in a protective posture as quickly as possible. More information will be shared in the upcoming weeks prior to our first lockdown drill.

It is with great pride that I share the news that Samantha St. James, Reading Specialist, has been recognized as an outstanding teacher from the 55<sup>th</sup> New York State Senate District by State Senator Rich Funke. This is part of his effort to recognize the very important work that *all* teachers do each day. Ms. St. James' leadership, expertise, collaboration and dedication to helping our students become successful readers are some of the hallmarks of her work at TRE.



As a reminder, our Pittsford Food Cupboard collection continues through October 14<sup>th</sup>. Due to an unprecedented number of families being served during the summer months, there is still a need for soap, shampoo, deodorant, tissues, toilet paper and paper towels. In addition, the "Coats for Kids" winter clothing drive is underway and will continue throughout the month of October. We welcome clean, gently used winter coats, snow pants, gloves, mittens, hats and boots. Donations for both causes can be left in the labeled boxes located in our Main Lobby.



Follow TRE on Twitter  
[@PCSDThornellRd](https://twitter.com/PCSDThornellRd)

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## Living the Thornell Road Way!

The centerpiece for our social/emotional learning is the Thornell Road Way which states:

*“At Thornell Road School, we pursue excellence in learning and character. We celebrate and honor each other by being respectful, responsible, fair, trustworthy and caring. We give our best inside and outside the classroom. This is who we are, even when no one is watching.”*

Again this year, I have extended the challenge to our students to live these words each day. Each week, we celebrate “Thornell Road Way Thursday”. As part of the morning announcements, we recite the Thornell Road Way as a school and reflect on the ways in which we have demonstrated respect, responsibility, fairness, trustworthiness and caring throughout the past week. We also consider any times that we might not have lived up to these principles and think about changes we could make for the future.

Each Friday at TRE is “School Pride Friday”. I invite all of our students and staff to wear school colors on these days. This is meant to be a fun way to come together as a school community and to show our Thornell Road pride.

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

Sincerely,

Roger DeBell  
Principal

### Thornell Road Elementary School



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



## Reading Corner

~ Miss Samantha St. James, Reading Specialist



*Hello Thornell Road Families,*

This month I want to share part of an article with you from the Best Books for Kids website on the benefits of reading with your child at home. For the full article you can go to <http://www.best-books-for-kids.com/benefits-of-reading.html>. Enjoy!

### Benefits of Reading

The benefits of reading start with the first book a baby hears and continue into childhood and throughout the child's life. Here are the 10 Benefits of Reading - the Top 10 reasons why reading is important and why children - and adults! - should read often and widely.

- 1. Kids who read often and widely get better at it*
- 2. Reading exercises our brains*
- 3. Reading improves concentration*
- 4. Reading teaches children about the world around them*
- 5. Reading improves a child's vocabulary and leads to more highly-developed language skills*
- 6. Reading develops a child's imagination*
- 7. Reading helps kids develop empathy*
- 8. Children who read do better at school*
- 9. Reading is a great form of entertainment*
- 10. Reading relaxes the body and calms the mind*







## Mt. TRE Reading Challenge

Get ready for a monumental new reading challenge! Thornell Students and their families will be reading together, tracking their minutes and working to reach the summit of Mt. TRE. Students will receive more information from their classroom teachers soon and the challenge will begin in November.

Be on the lookout for more information soon!

*~Miss St. James, Mrs. Autovino and Mrs. Day*



*Happy reading!*



TR School Picture Day is Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. All students will have their picture taken, even if they are not ordering pictures. Students will be bringing home order forms shortly. Students who would like to order pictures will need to bring their completed form and payment to school on picture day. Online ordering will also be offered by going to [www.clixrochesterprepay.com](http://www.clixrochesterprepay.com). Online pre-pay instructions can be found on the order form.

## Odyssey of the Mind

~ Susan Doran

**Teams will be forming in October!**

Thornell Road Students in 4th and 5th grade will have the opportunity to join an Odyssey of the Mind team. If your child is interested in joining a team you can contact the Building Advisor at [Susan.Doran@pittsford.monroe.edu](mailto:Susan.Doran@pittsford.monroe.edu) or have your child put their name on the sign up board. Don't wait...the deadline for forming teams is November 1<sup>st</sup>.

For more information about the program go to:

<https://youtu.be/cWHP64kUhWc>

To view a video made by a past Thornell Road Student or to go to Mrs. Doran's web page go to:

<http://www.pittsfordschools.org/webpages/sdoran/odyssey.cfm>



## Health Education

~ Mrs. Lattuca, School Nurse Teacher

- ➔ October is Fire Safety Awareness. Please discuss and practice safety rules, alternative meeting places and to NEVER return into a burning building.
- ➔ Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes will be learning how to stay healthy by decreasing the spread of germs.
- ➔ 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes will be learning about healthy bones, vitamin D, calcium and physical activities to keep our "skeleton" healthy for a lifetime.

## Health Office

- Please help to reinforce the importance of our school rule for staying safe around food. No sharing food or snacks.
- Please put a change of clothes in your child's backpack. This will make it easier for us to change clothes if necessary and avoid you having to make a trip into school.



# P T S A



# N E W S



The After School Enrichment Program is looking for a few parent volunteers. We would love to offer some additional classes. If you are interested in helping with a Lego Club, Coding Club, Math Club or Rubix Cube Club, please contact Amie McCarthy at [amie\\_mccarthy@yahoo.com](mailto:amie_mccarthy@yahoo.com).

It is not too late to join, the PTSA for the 2016-2017 school year. Membership fees support important programs (an example, school assemblies) and supplies (an example, take home folders) for your student. Attending meetings is not a requirement. To join, simply click <http://www.pittsfordptsanet/about.cfm?subpage=1304532> or return the form that was sent home with your child. Extra forms are available in the school lobby or in the District calendar.

**Thank you for your support!**



Keep clipping those Box Tops! Thornell Road School needs YOUR help to reach our \$2000 goal!





## Technology in Fifth Grade!

~Mrs. Chapman



Fifth grade is in full swing! Students are excitedly learning all about fifth grade. Technology is used extensively in fifth grade. Here are some highlights of programs/websites we use in fifth grade.

**Edmodo:** Edmodo ([www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com)) is a website that allows students and teacher to communicate in a social setting. Students can work together in small groups, ask questions to the class, view teacher posted videos and links, check homework. Teachers also post assignments here, and students can turn in assignment electronically. Teachers can then provide feedback right on the document. This really cuts down on paper! Many fifth grade teachers use Edmodo or a class blog to log nightly assignments.

**XtraMath:** ([www.xtramath.com](http://www.xtramath.com)) This website allows students to practice math facts independently. Students move through each operation (+, -, x, ÷) at their own pace. Students complete the program at the benchmark speed, and then teachers can reset the program to 3 seconds or less. Students enjoy moving at their own pace and receiving certificates after they complete each operation.

**Sumdog:** ([www.sumdog.com](http://www.sumdog.com)) Sumdog allows students to practice math facts in a fun arcade like setting. Students can pick from various games that they can then play against people from their class, school, and the world. This is a chat free environment. After finishing a game, students receive coins based on achievement and can use the coins to buy items for their avatar.

**OverDrive:** (<https://monroeboocesny.libraryreserve.com/10/45/en/SignIn.htm?url=Default.htm>) Students log in using their computer log in code. This BOCES supported site allows students to checkout thousands of e-books. Many have sound recordings of the book as well that can also be downloaded, allowing for students to access and enjoy texts that might be beyond their reading level. They also take suggestions of books to add to their collection.

**PBWorks:** (<https://my.pbworks.com/>) Teachers can use this site as a homepage to post homework, reminders, and discussion questions. Each student is given a blog page to use for writing. The page is password protected allowing students to communicate with teacher approved users.

**TypingPal:** (<https://pfcstrsn.typingpal.com/connexion/>) Students log in with their computer password to practice typing skills.

**Envisions:** (<https://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com/snpapp/login/PsnLandingPage.jsp?showLandingPage=true>) Envisions is an on-line textbook for Mathematics. Students can access the entire textbook, print of practice pages, and watch tutorials. In class, students use the program to take portions of Topic tests electronically.

**SpellingCity:** (<http://www.spellingcity.com/>) Spelling city allows students to practice word study lists using games, flashcards, and vocabulary exercises. It is often used to give word list tests, providing opportunities for students to work at their own pace with their own list of words.

In addition to the above resources, fifth graders use the OfficeSuite (Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Publisher, etc) to publish, analyze, and synthesize learning.

**When it comes to technology- ask a fifth grader!**





## Upcoming Events

- 10/26 – Wild Wings for Gr. 5 Science
- 10/27 – Student Success Mtg. 9:00-3pm
- 10/28 – Pittsford Pride Nominations due
- 10/31 – Halloween Parade
- 11/7 to 11/10 – Book Fair
- 11/7 – Pittsford Pride BOE Mtg.
- 11/11 – Veteran's Day, No School
- 11/15 – Building Technology Mtg.
- 11/23 – 11/25 – Thanksgiving Recess
- 12/1 – Conferences, Half Day
- 12/6 – Conferences, Half Day
- 12/15 – Grade 2 Nazareth Arts Center
- 12/20 – Building Tech Mtg., 7:30am



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](mailto:trestarnews@gmail.com)

