



Thornell Road Star

Thornell Road Elementary, Pittsford, New York

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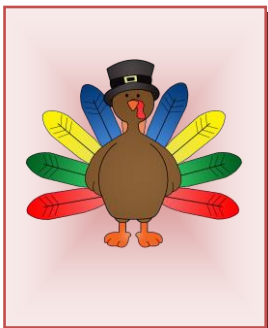
Roger DeBell, Principal

November 2016



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PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear Parents and School Community,

A solid partnership between school and home is critical for the success of our students. As you prepare for upcoming parent-teacher conferences, I offer the following article from the National PTA website entitled, **"Making Parent-Teacher Conferences Work for Your Child"**, which has been reprinted with permission from *Education.com*.



"A parent-teacher conference is a time when important people in a student's life can talk about how that student is doing in school. It's a chance for you to ask questions about the class or your child's progress. It is also a time for you and the teacher to work together as a team to discuss ways you both can help your son or daughter.

Whether your child is in elementary, middle, or secondary school, parent-teacher conferences are important. If your school does not schedule regular conferences, you can request them. Teachers need your help to do a first-class job. Together, you can help your child have a great school year.

Before the Conference

Schedule an appointment: A parent-teacher conference is not the only time when parents and teachers should make contact. Parents may want to schedule a special meeting with their child's teacher for a variety of reasons. If you need to set up an appointment with the teacher, make a phone call or write a quick note to the teacher, and let him or her know if you have particular issues you would like to discuss.

Talk to your child: Find out which subjects your child likes the best and the least. Ask why. Also, ask if there is anything your child would like you to talk about with the teacher. Help the child understand that you and the teacher are meeting to help him or her. If your child is in middle or high school, you may want to include him or her in the conference.

Gather input from others: If your spouse, another care-giving adult, or someone with pertinent information or insight (doctor, counselor, other guardian) can't attend the conference, ask for that person's concerns and questions before the conference.

Make a list: Before you go to the meeting, make a list of topics to discuss with the teacher. Along with questions about academics and behavior, you may want to talk to the teacher about the child's home life, personality, concerns, habits and hobbies, and other topics that may help the teacher in working with the child (e.g., religious holidays, music lessons, part-time jobs, a sick relative).

During the Conference

Establish rapport: As an icebreaker, take notice of something that reflects well upon the teacher. For example, thank the teacher for having made thoughtful notes on your child's homework or for the special attention in helping your child learn to multiply.

.....continued from page 1

Ask questions: Questions you ask during the conference can help you express your hopes for the student's success in class and for the teacher. It's a good idea to ask the important questions first, in case time runs out. The teacher's answers should help you both work together to help your child. If your child receives special services (e.g., gifted and talented programs, speech or occupational therapy), be sure to ask about the frequency of services and your child's progress.

Addressing problems: Parent-teacher conferences are a good time to discuss any difficulties (either academic or behavioral) a child might be having at school. When problems arise, parents will want to:

- Avoid angry or apologetic reactions. Instead, ask for examples.
- Ask what is being done about the problem and what strategies seem to help at school.
- Develop an action plan that may include steps that parents can take at home and steps the teacher will take when the problem comes up at school.
- Schedule a follow-up conference and decide on the best way to stay in touch (phone, e-mail, or letters sent to the home).

Develop an action plan: If the student needs help with a behavioral or an academic issue, you and the teacher should agree on specific plans—that you both will work on—to help your child do better. Be sure you understand what the teacher suggests. If it's not clear, ask him or her to explain. Set up a way to check on your child's progress. You and the teacher can decide how best to stay in touch, such as through phone calls, notes, or additional meetings.

Ending the conference: End the conference by reviewing what you discussed and restating your action plan. This is also a good time to set up your next meeting.

After the Conference: When discussing the conference with the child afterward, stress the good things that were covered and be direct about problems that were identified. If an action plan is in place, explain to the child what was arranged. When an action plan is in place, consider the following: Watch your child's behavior and check on classwork and homework. Ask how the student feels about schoolwork. Stay in touch with the teacher to discuss your child's progress. Express appreciation as progress is made. A good way to promote a continuing relationship with the teacher is to say "thank-you" with a note or a telephone call.

Continuing to keep in touch with the teacher, even if things are going well, can play an important role in helping the child do better in school. When a child knows parents and teachers are regularly working together, the child will see that education is a high priority requiring commitment and effort."

As always, thank you for all that you do to support our students, staff and 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**

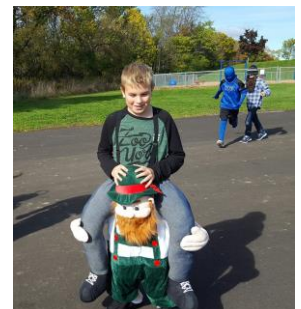
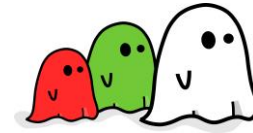


2016 Halloween Parade

An early Halloween treat of pleasant weather from Mother Nature meant we were able to enjoy a fun and festive outdoor parade!

The costumes were creative and the smiles were big as students and staff circled around the bus loop. Many parents and family members were on hand to watch and take pictures.

Students finished their day enjoying treats and fun time with their fellow classmates!

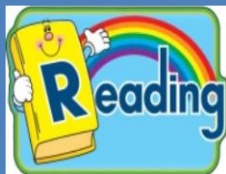


eBooks and Audio Books at the TRE Library

~ Jandh Autovino, Library Media Specialist ~

Did you know that our students have access to thousands of ebooks and audio books through our library? Through our partnership with the Monroe 1 BOCES School Library System, we are able to borrow great up-to-date titles specifically geared towards school aged library patrons. There are a few ways to access these resources. You can visit the Thornell Road Library page and click the "ebooks" link and navigate to the Overdrive site from there. Or you can download the Overdrive app to your device, and add "Monroe #1 BOCES" to your library list. To log in, students should use the same username and password they use to log in to their school computer account. Most titles can be read or listened to through your web browser, or they can be downloaded and transferred to the device of your choice. There is no need to return titles; they will automatically be checked back in after the loan period ends. If you need help, ask your child to visit the library and we can show them how to access the books, or feel free to call the library and we can walk you through the steps.

Happy "digital" reading!



Hello Thornell Road Families,

We are excited to announce that our Climb Mt. TRE and Reach for the Stars reading challenge has officially begun! We can't wait to see how many hikers make it to base camp in December. Don't forget to have your child turn in his/her completed and signed November minutes log by Friday December 2nd. For more information, replacement minutes logs, or to see our kickoff video please visit

http://www.pittsfordschools.org/webpages/sstjames/mttre_reading_chall.cfm.

Happy Reading!

Miss St. James, Mrs. Autovino, Mrs. Day, Mrs. Kreienberg, Mrs. Ramesh

Reading Corner

Miss Samantha St. James - Reading Specialist

High Frequency Words



Learning and Mastering High Frequency Words (Sight Words)

High frequency words are words that appear most frequently in texts.

- A child should recognize the whole word - children should be encouraged **not** to sound out sight words (as most sight words cannot be sounded out, i.e. was)
- A child has mastered a sight word when they can read it automatically

Recognizing sight words quickly and effortlessly allows students to pay more attention to the more mentally demanding task of understanding what they are reading.

According to Patricia Cunningham in *Phonics They Use*, "In order to read and write fluently with comprehension and meaning, children must be able to automatically read and spell the most frequent words. As the store of words they can automatically read and spell increases, so will their speed and comprehension." (Cunningham, 2000)

- Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade sight words can be found at my webpage <http://www.pittsfordschools.org/webpages/sstjames/news.cfm>

Ways to Practice Sight Words at Home (Beyond flash cards...)

- Paper Plate Toss: Write sight words on paper plates and toss back and forth like a Frisbee after reading.
- Concentration or Go Fish: Make a duplicate set of word cards and play either game.
- Tic -Tac-Toe: Write words in the tic-tac-toe spaces. Take turns selecting a space to read. If read correctly, an X or O is placed on the space until someone wins.
- Word-O: This is played just like BINGO. Fill in a card with the words that you are working on. Call out the words and mark the spaces. The first one with a card covered calls out "WORDO"!
- Word Hunt: Look for high frequency words in books or in the newspaper. If using the newspaper your child can highlight or circle the sight words that he/she finds.
- Coin Toss: Put words on the floor - children toss a coin onto a word and say that word.
- Chalk: Children go outside and practice writing their words with chalk on the concrete.
- Flashlight Words: Turn off lights and practice sky writing sight words on the wall. You may want to hang a poster up of each word for your child to trace.
- Making Words: Using play dough, alphabet stamps, or magnetic letters
- Delicious Words: Write your words in whipped cream, peanut butter, or anything you can eat
- Good Clean Words: Write your words in shaving cream on a counter or some other surface that can be cleaned safely.

Art Room Masterpieces

~ Mrs. Lubbers, Visual Art Education



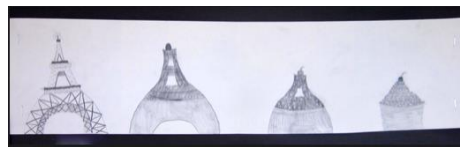
First graders just finished their artwork inspired by French artist Paul Cézanne. Each student created a still life with apples and flowers using oil pastels. The apples show value, lightness and darkness. The artwork was finished with a wash in either warm or cool colors.

Second graders have learned about the artwork of Marc Chagall. We looked at his dreamlike images that show his Russian and French heritage. Each student created an oil pastel image showing his/her own neighborhood. The artwork was finished with a wash in either warm or cool colors.

Third graders looked at the story quilts of American artist Faith Ringgold. They created a pencil drawing of a special event and put a "quilted" frame around it using fabric squares and glue. To make it a story quilt the students wrote about their special events in the classrooms and added the words to their "quilts".

Fourth graders have been working on their metamorphoses inspired by M.C. Escher's work. The students worked with different pencils (H through B) to create tints and shades as part of the Element of Art, value. They started with two references of objects and then created the metamorphoses themselves.

Fifth graders have finished pet portraits influenced by the artwork of Alicia VanNoy Call. Each student enlarged a reference using a grid. The color choices were a pair of complementary colors and their analogues colors.





5th GRADE



~ Mrs. Adams, Mr. Beldue, Mr. Scinta, & Mrs. Higgins (in for Mrs. Chapman during her maternity leave)

In Social Studies, the 5th graders have finished geography flipbooks that identify and illustrate different landforms. Some classes are comparing Rochester's weather to different Canadian provinces' by entering their data into tables using Microsoft Word. We are always embedding technology skills into our learning.

We continue to enjoy *Pax* by Sarah Pennypacker as a part of the Global Read Aloud. Some classes have made Edmodo connections with students in different states! We are practicing responding to literature by annotating text with a focus question in mind, and then using text evidence to support our answer.

Math students are hard at work problem solving, critiquing solutions, and explaining their thinking with sentences, diagrams and models. Basic math fact Fluency is a Foundational necessity for our students. We are studying our "base ten" place value system and learning to add & subtract decimals, estimate for reasonableness, and use the operation properties (commutative, associative, distributive, zero, and identify) to help us with our mental math computations.

5th graders always have tons of fun with measuring and carving pumpkins, the costume parade, and classroom Halloween celebrations. We also had a ton of fun at our "Wild Wings" Assembly on October 26th.

Here's to a great November!

Wild Wings Visit

~ Rebecca Nunn, 4/5 Science Teacher

As part of their Owls in the Environment unit, on Wednesday, October 26th, the 5th grade classes had the opportunity to take part in a presentation by Wild Wings from Mendon Ponds Park. Wild Wings volunteers came with 4 different birds of prey (raptors) to share with the students. The students had a great time learning about a Screech Owl named Luna, a Peregrine Falcon named Tori, a Swainson Hawk named Mack, and a Great Horned Owl named Gerhardt. Each of the birds were brought to Wild Wings from all around the country because they, for one reason or another, cannot survive out in the wild. The volunteers at Wild Wings take care of them and feed them, as well as help to teach visitors all about their different adaptations and special features. At their facility in Mendon Ponds Park they have 29 birds and a bobcat. This is a wonderful place to go visit that is right in our community!





Health Education

~Mrs. Lattuca



- **Kindergarten and 1st grade** students are learning about medicine and poison safety. These students were surprised to see that some medicines can look like candy! Please ask them the safety rule about taking medicine (only take medicine from a trusted adult).
- **2nd grade** students are learning about the dangers of tobacco and secondhand smoke. Ask them what they can do to avoid being around secondhand smoke.
- **3rd grade** students are learning about medicine safety, poison safety and the dangers of tobacco use. These students "acted out" ways to show their understanding of how to say "no" to avoid unhealthy choices.



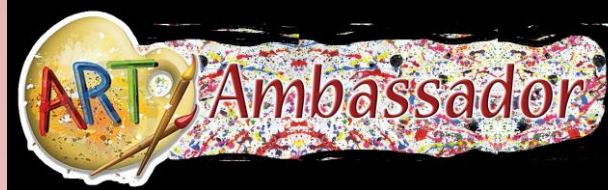
TRE Spelling Bee

The **TRE Junior Spelling Bee** will be held on Friday, November 4th, for all 3rd graders that qualified after taking a pretest on October 26th.

The **TRE Spelling Bee** will be held on Friday, November 18th, for all 4th and 5th graders that qualified by taking a pretest on November 4th.

Both the Junior Spelling Bee and the Spelling Bee will be held at 3:20pm in the Auditorium. Please contact Jill Garringer (jillgarringer@gmail.com) or Jaspal Bains (jaspalbains@yahoo.com) with questions.

SPELLING



COME JOIN OUR FUN TEAM!

Last year the PTSA launched the new Art Ambassador Program. It was a huge success and we look forward to sharing these wonderful projects with the students again this year.

We are looking for volunteers to help more behind the scenes. While all the projects are planned and ready to go, there are additional tasks of prep and scheduling. These are jobs that can be done **AT HOME** on **YOUR TIME**. Some are strictly to email! We would ask that you only be responsible for your grade and one project.

We are also looking for people to shadow us this year in hopes of a group taking over next year. If you have any interest in joining our team please email:

treartambassador@gmail.com

Krissy Caputo
Art Ambassador Chair

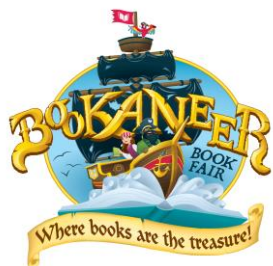


Every Friday is...

**School Pride
Friday**



**Wear your Thornell Road colors!
MAROON & GOLD**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**The Fall Book Fair is coming to Thornell Road beginning on
Monday, November 7!**

The Fall Book Fair theme is, **Bookaneer - Where Books are the Treasure!!** We are looking forward to another successful book fair, and will have a wonderful selection of fun, engaging, and affordable books that kids want to read. Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books will motivate them to read even more.

This year, the kids are welcome to invite someone special to come have lunch with them and visit the book fair. This may provide a better opportunity for family to visit the book fair that are not able to make it during their "someone special"s scheduled classroom visit.

**Book Fair Dates will be: Monday, November 7 through
Thursday, November 10.**

We have several volunteer spots to fill to make our fair a success. If you can lend a hand setting up on Friday, November 4th after school, tearing down on Thursday, November 10th after school, or would like to be there during your child's classroom visit, please contact Nikole Downing ncmeen@ yahoo.com or Jennifer Hearne jennifer.hearne@icloud.com.



Upcoming Events

- TRE Book Fair 11/7 – 11/10
- Election Day 11/8 – Get out to Vote!
- Pittsford Pride BOE Mtg. – 11/7
- Veteran's Day, No School – 11/11
- Building Technology Mtg. – 11/15
- Grade 3 Strong Museum Visit – 11/17
- Thanksgiving Recess – 11/23-11/25
- Grade 4 RMSC Visit – 11/30
- Conferences, Half Day – 12/1
- Conferences, Half Day – 12/6
- Grade 2 Nazareth Arts Center – 12/15

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

Great job Thornell Road Families on our first Box Tops competition of the year! You clipped your way to over \$650 coming back to our school and directly to your kids' programs. Keep clipping and saving for our next competition coming soon!! Top 3 classrooms were:

1. Scinta
2. O'Connor
3. Crumb



