



Thornell Road Star

Thornell Road Elementary, Pittsford, New York

Volume VIII, Issue 6

Roger DeBell, Principal

April 2018



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PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE



Dear Parents and School Community,

As part of our district's participation in the Partnership2Gether Program, Shawn Beldue, my wife Jody and I had the privilege of traveling to Israel during February Break. We joined a delegation of educators and students from the Brighton School District and the Greater-Rochester area to learn more about the Israeli education system, experience life in the municipality of Modi'in, strengthen existing school partnerships, establish a foundation for new partnerships and do some sightseeing.

In an effort to share some pictures and information with you, I have created a PowerPoint slideshow and Mr. Beldue has created a Sway presentation which are now posted on our school website. To view these presentations, please click on the following links:

- Highlights of Israel PowerPoint Slideshow -
<https://www.pittsfordschools.org/Page/20373>
 - Click to OPEN the file
 - Click SLIDESHOW in the tab at the top of the page
 - Click FROM BEGINNING
 - The slideshow will advance automatically
 - You can also control the slideshow with the arrow keys on your keyboard
- Israel-February 2018 Sway Presentation -
<https://sway.com/VgBhKTIWMPtDWINK?ref=Link>
 - After clicking on the link, you can scroll through the presentation
 - You can expand stacks of pictures to look at each one
 - There are videos and other links embedded in the presentation



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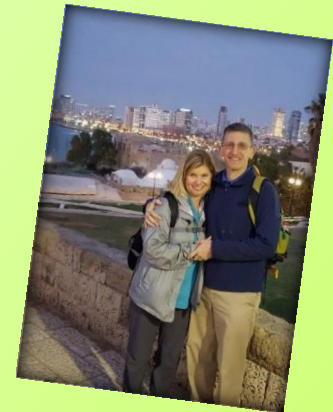
Modi'in-Maccabim-Re'ut is a planned community established in 1993. It is located mid-way between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. While staying with a host family in Re'ut, I was able to experience the day-to-day rhythm of Israeli life.



In order to learn about the educational system in Israel, I was able to visit a number of schools, including Kramim School, Psifas Special School for Education, Asif School and Amit School. During these visits, I was able to talk with and learn from students, teachers, principals, and parents. While there are obvious differences between the Israeli and American educational systems, there are also many similarities. First and foremost, children are children. The students I encountered had the same natural curiosity, sense of wonder and endless energy as the students in Pittsford. They were very excited to “show-off” their school and practice speaking English. Likewise, the teachers, principals and parents valued a strong partnership and shared the common goal of helping each child be successful as a learner and an individual. In addition, I was able to travel throughout Israel and spent time in Jerusalem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Bethlehem, the Golan Heights, Tel Aviv, Jaffa and the Dead Sea. It was a very surreal experience to stand in places I have only read about or seen in pictures.

Often, I am asked what my favorite part of the trip was. Apart from the natural beauty and rich history of Israel, it was the amazing people that made this trip so memorable. I met people from different cultures and faith traditions. Each with his or her own personal story and unique perspective. No matter where I went, the sense of welcome and genuine hospitality were unlike anything I could have imagined.

The well-known travel writer, Arthur Frommer once said, “At its best, travel should challenge our preconceptions and most cherished views, cause us to rethink our assumptions, shake us a bit, make us broader minded and more understanding.” This trip did exactly that. As a result of my time in Israel, I have been enriched professionally and personally and sharing this experience with my wife and Shawn Beldue made it exponentially more special



I would like to thank the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester and the Jewish Agency of Israel for sponsoring this trip to Israel. In addition, I would like to thank our Board of Education, Superintendent Pero and the TRE school community for supporting this trip and our participation in the Partnership2Gether Program. *Toda!*

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

Sincerely,

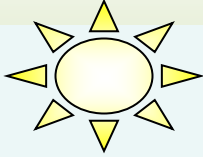
Roger DeBell
Principal



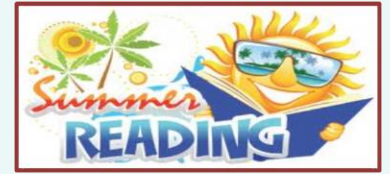
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Reading Corner

~ Mrs. Samantha (St. James) Gulisano,
Reading Specialist



Local Opportunities to Keep your Child Reading this Summer!



Pittsford Central Summer Enrichment 2018:

The Pittsford School District is offering multiple enrichment opportunities this summer. Don't forget to **sign your child up by May 1st at 6pm**. Here are some programs that involve literacy:

- **Alphapalooza: Phonemic Awareness and Phonics Fun** (July 23-27, Entering K & 1st, Cost \$135)
- **Figuring Out First Grade** (July 30th-August 3rd, Entering 1st, Cost \$120)
- **Kamp Kindergarten** (July 30th - August 3rd, Entering Kindergarten, Cost \$120)
- **Letter and Sounds and FUN-Oh My!** (July 9th-13th, Entering Kindergarten & 1st, Cost \$135)
- **You're an Author! - Nonfiction** (July 9th-13th, Entering 3rd-5th, Cost \$125)
- **You're an Author! - Fiction** (July 9th-13th, Entering 3rd-5th, Cost \$125)

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.
- **Nazareth College's Marie Callahan Reading Clinic:** For information contact Interim Director Maria Hopkins at (585) 389-2614 or mhopkin8@naz.edu

Pittsford Public Library:

Reading game for children preschool through entering 5th grade. Get ready for a swingin' summer as we celebrate the fact that libraries rock! Pick up your registration packet starting June 11 and start reading as soon as school ends. The first turn-in day for prizes is June 25. The last turn-in day is August 10.

**Libraries[™]
Rock!**

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.



Health Office

Please pack an extra pair of pants, underwear, and socks in your child's backpack. This time of year we have many “weather related” accidents with mud and standing water. By doing this, we won't have to call you to bring in clean clothes.



Pittsford Boys Youth Lacrosse

Spring registration is now open for boys grades 1-6. Please visit the Pittsford Lacrosse website for more information and to register.

All registrations are due by March 9th so don't wait! The first day of spring practice is March 18th at Brighton Sports Zone. Practices and games will move outside to Calkins Road Middle School in May.

<https://leagueathletics.com/Registration/Default.asp?n=44116&org=PITTSFORDLACROSSE.ORG>





Hello Thornell Road Families!

April is National Poetry Month and April 26th is Poem in Your Pocket Day!

Here are some ways your child will be engaging in poetry at school:

- Every morning throughout April, a student representative(s) from different classes will share a poem selected by his/her classroom on the announcements
- On Poem in Your Pocket Day, all students and staff are encouraged to carry a poem in their pockets to share with others throughout the day
- On Poem in Your Pocket Day, your child's class may pair with another class to share their poems

To celebrate at home your family can read poetry together!



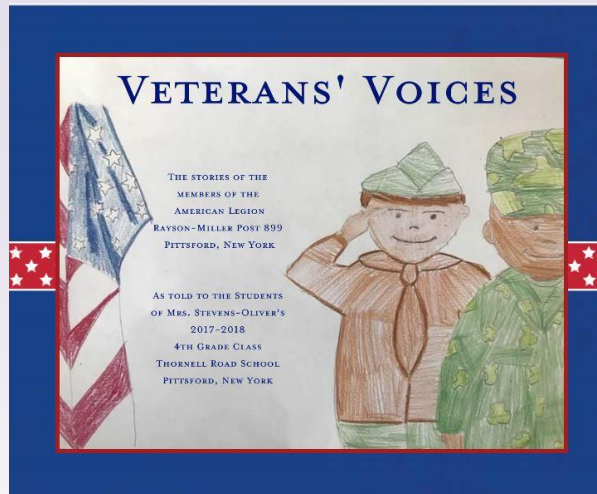
~Mrs. Samantha (St. James) Gulisano, Reading Specialist~

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 ~





Mrs. Stevens-Oliver's class celebrated the completion of their augmented reality book, *Veterans' Voices: the stories of the American Legion Rayson-Miller Post 899*, with a book dedication and presentation ceremony. The students interviewed 23 Veterans from the Post, and used these interviews to write and illustrate a book about the Veterans as a way to honor them for their service to our country and community. At the ceremony students formally presented a copy of the book to the Legion, the Pittsford and TRE libraries, and the Pittsford Town Historian. We want to let everyone know how important our Veterans are to our community; check our book out of the TRE library and find out!

