



# Thornell Road Star

Thornell Road Elementary, Pittsford, New York

Volume IX, Issue 2

Roger DeBell, Principal

October 2018



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## PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear Parents and School Community,



It is with great pride that I share the news that our School Nurse Teacher, **Mrs. Teresa Lattuca**, has **been recognized as an outstanding educator from the 55th New York State Senate District by State Senator Rich Funke**. As a Registered Nurse, Mrs. Lattuca has dedicated her career to helping those in need. For the past fifteen years, she has cared for our students, staff and families. Her health and safety lessons are an essential part of student learning in Kindergarten through Grade 5. No matter what the issue, Mrs. Lattuca will greet you with a calm presence, a warm smile, a gentle demeanor and a wealth of knowledge. When asked, "What is the best part of being a school nurse teacher?", Mrs. Lattuca said, "I get to go into every classroom and work with every student in our school. Helping them develop healthy habits that can last a lifetime is something very special." *Congratulations, Mrs. Lattuca!*



Since the last issue of our newsletter, new staff have been assigned to our school. **Please join me in welcoming the newest members of the TRES family:**

- Alison Cuchiarale, Part-Time Music Teacher
- Karen Maslyn, Part-Time Art Teacher
- Julie Murphy, Paraprofessional
- Anthony Jurus, Instructional Technology Support Specialist
- Veronica Chung, Food Service Team Member



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At **TRES**, the cornerstone of our Social Emotional Learning is the **Thornell Road Way**. My on-going challenge to our students is to always be their best and do their best by putting the following words into action every day:

*“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.”*



On the first day of school, I met with each grade level in the auditorium to talk about examples of living the **Thornell Road Way**, specifically what would it look like and sound like at recess, in the cafeteria and on the way back to class. Some of the recess examples shared by our grade 5 students include - treat others with kindness, include others in our games and work together to solve problems.

A new addition near our playground is a **Buddy Bench**. The concept is simple, if a student is looking for a buddy to play with at recess and is not sure how or is uncomfortable initiating that interaction, the student simply has a seat on the bench. All students are playground buddies and if someone is seen on the bench an invitation is extended for that person to join a game. It seems to be working very well as a way for all students to find a buddy at recess. *I'd like to thank our wonderful PTSA for the financial support for this project.*



As a reminder, every **Friday**, at **TRES** is “**School Pride Friday**”. I invite all of our students and staff to wear **school colors** on these days as 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

~ Mrs. Samantha Gulisano, 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. the)

→ 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, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade sight words can be found at my webpage <https://www.pittsfordschools.org/Page/4356>

#### 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.





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The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to  
Thornell Road!

### SAVE THE DATES!

Please join us in the library November 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>.

The book fair will be open all day, as well as during  
the roller skating parties.

Look for the Scholastic flyer coming home with  
your child at the end of October.

*Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Meltdown* pre-order  
forms will be coming home soon.

If you are interested in volunteering at the book  
fair, please contact either Nikole Downing  
([ncmeenan@yahoo.com](mailto:ncmeenan@yahoo.com)) or Becca McCormick  
([beccabookfair@gmail.com](mailto:beccabookfair@gmail.com))

## 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.





## Art Room Masterpieces

~ Mrs. Lubbers, Visual Art Education

Welcome to Mrs. Karen Maslyn who teaches art at Jefferson Road. She travels to Thornell Road on day 6 to teach one of our Kindergarten classes. Thornell Road Elementary celebrated DOT DAY in September. All students created artwork using dots.

Kindergarteners read "Where are you, Blue? (Dot Town)" written by S. Fry and illustrated by H. Clifford-Brown. The students cut out dots from construction paper. The dots then were glued down. Markers were used to create people and their surroundings.

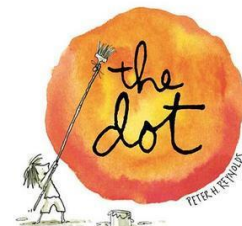
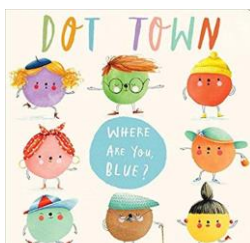
First grade read "The Dot" by P.H. Reynolds. Students painted murals in groups. The first layer of dots was painted with warm colors; the second layer was painted with cool colors.

Second graders looked closely at prints and learned that newspaper prints are actually made out of many tiny dots. Students created murals with printed dots. The first layer dots was printed with warm colors, the second layer with cool colors.

Third graders read "Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille" written by J. Bryant and illustrated by B. Kulikov. Together the students created murals using dots made from textured materials.

Fourth graders studied Pointillism and the artwork of George Seurat. Each student picked an art supply, made a drawing of it and finished it with colored dots using markers.

Fifth graders studied "600 Black Spots: A Pop-up Book" by D. A. Carter. Each student created a pop-up card using dots as the overall theme.



## Wild Wings Visit

~ Rebecca Nunn, 4/5 Science Teacher

On Monday, October 1st, the 5th grade classes had the opportunity to be participate in a presentation from Wild Wings from Mendon Ponds Park. Two volunteers from the organization came to Thornell Road with 4 birds to share with the students as an extension of their Owls and their Environment unit for Science. They were able to learn about and see Sierra (a Harris' Hawk), Gerhart (a great horned owl), Rosalie (a hybrid falcon), and Luna (a screech owl). The students learned about special adaptations of each bird of prey, as well as some of the other birds that are residents at Wild Wings. They also impressed the volunteers with their knowledge of many of the adaptations of owls they have already learned in our Science unit!





## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade News ~Mrs. Stevens-Oliver

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Students in Mrs. Stevens-Oliver's 2017-2018 Fourth Grade Class had their augmented reality book project, *Eight Brave Civil War Soldiers in Pittsford Cemetery*, selected as the winner of the New York State Archives Student Research Award Contest! They will travel to Albany on October 17, to be honored at a luncheon.

Their book was the culmination of a year-long research project done in partnership with author and historian Vicki Masters Profitt. They toured the Pittsford Cemetery, had a presentation by BRMS Vice Principal and Civil War reenactor, Mike Falzoi, and spent hours pouring over historical documents. They also wrote the scripts and filmed videos that were used as augmented content that can be viewed using the app BlippAR on a phone or tablet. In addition to telling the stories of these eight men, the book was also used to try and persuade the Pittsford Cemetery Association to erect an historical marker to honor these men and their service. We recently found out that our information, along with documentation from Mrs. Profitt is being submitted for a grant to be used to purchase the historical marker! The class will also be donating their award money to help defray the costs. If you'd like to read our book, you will find it in the TRE library, as well as the Pittsford Library.

