



Thornell Road Star

Thornell Road Elementary, Pittsford, New York

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Roger DeBell, Principal

January/February 2019

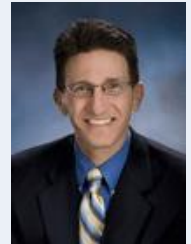


Contents

Principal's Perspective 1-2
Library News...3
Reading Corner....4
Drama Club...5
Box Tops for Education...5
Scholastic Book Fair...6
PTSA News...7



Principal's Perspective



Dear Parents and School Community,

With the success of our annual Hour of Code events, we are in the process of building a *Makerspace* in our library to further cultivate student interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM). For the past two and a half years, our library media specialist, Janah Autovino, has attended conferences, researched the idea and has been instrumental in bringing a vision to reality.

What is a Makerspace? The basis for this idea is rooted in the joy of discovery associated with tinkering and creating using a variety of materials, supplies and tools that are high-tech, low-tech and no-tech. It is a collaborative work space that provides for a hands-on experience for students to employ critical thinking skills, creativity and problem-solving strategies. While every Makerspace is unique, typical projects include computer coding, electronics, robotics, puzzles and crafts.



Using funding sources from a BOCES grant, our PTSA and the building budget, we have already purchased materials, supplies and technology and are currently putting the finishing touches on design features for the TRE Makers Space which will be located within our library. *Stay tuned for more information...*



We have accumulated a number of items in Lost & Found. Please remind your child to check this area near the entrance to our gymnasium to reclaim any lost clothing, lunch boxes, etc. For younger students, you may wish to send a note to your child's classroom teacher describing the item. *If you believe that something has been lost on the school bus, please call the Transportation Department at 267-1480*

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On Friday, February 15th, our 5th grade students will join their grade level counterparts from Park Road and Mendon Center Elementary Schools for an "I Love Music" assembly at Barker Road Middle School. This assembly is part of our elementary to middle school transition experience and will feature information about the 6th grade music program. In addition, a number of middle school ensembles will be performing a concert for our students.



As a reminder, school will be closed from Monday, February 18th through Friday, February 22nd for February Recess.

Thank you for all that you do to support our students, our staff and our 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**

TRE Library News

~ Janah Autovino, Library Media Specialist



TRE Library Diversity Audit

The Thornell Road Library has been undergoing some exciting changes this year! We are participating in a "Diversity Audit". What does this mean? We are looking at each book in our chapter book collection to audit (rate) the diversity of the main characters, on the basis of race, culture, nationality, gender, disability as well as other categories. The end result will provide data for the librarians to review and use to help increase the levels of diversity in future book purchases. We have been also making an effort to promote more diverse books through booktalks, during readalouds, bookclubs, and when suggesting books to students and teachers. Our hope is that our students see themselves reflected in the books we provide, as well as learn about people who are different from them.

There are a few key terms to know when thinking about diversity in children's literature:

Mirrors and Windows: Some books provide a *mirror*; they reflect a student's life experiences. Other books provide a *window* into the life experiences of people whose identities differ from their own.

Own Voices: This term began as a hashtag on Twitter (#ownvoices) and was used to denote books with diverse characters that are written by people who share those identities.

In the past few years, there has been a major shift in the children's book industry. Publishers are beginning to recognize the need to provide books by #ownvoices authors which feature characters who are diverse. An organization called We Need Diverse Books is "a non-profit and grassroots organization of children's book lovers that advocates essential changes in the publishing industry to produce and promote literature that reflects and honors the lives of all young people." (<https://diversebooks.org/>) Visit their website to learn more about what they are doing and read book recommendations.

Here are just a few new books our library has purchased this year. They make wonderful family read alouds. Encourage your child to check one out at the library! (Images and book descriptions from www.titlewave.com)

Front Desk by Kelly Yang

When Mia Tang's parents find a new job managing the Calivista motel, it seems like the answer to their prayers: free housing and a stable, secure job, neither of which have come easy to the recent Chinese immigrants. Fifth-grader Mia takes pride in working the front desk and becomes fast friends with the weeklies, for whom the motel is a semi-permanent residence. But the motel's owner, Mr. Yao, is beyond mean—he's flat out racist—so Mia enters a writing contest to win their very own motel. (Gr 4 and up)



Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson

When six students are chosen to participate in a weekly talk with no adults allowed, they discover that when they're together, it's safe to share the hopes and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. (Gr. 5 and up)



Drawn Together by Minh Le

When a young boy visits his grandfather, their lack of a common language leads to confusion, frustration, and silence. But as they sit down to draw together, something magical happens - with a shared love of art and storytelling, the two form a bond that goes beyond words. (Grade K-5)



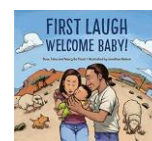
Islandborn by Junot Diaz

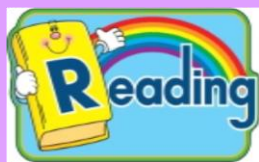
Lola was just a baby when her family left the Island (Dominican Republic), so when she has to draw it for a school assignment, she asks her family, friends, and neighbors about their memories of her homeland . . . and in the process, comes up with a new way of understanding her own heritage" (Gr. K-5)



First Laugh: Welcome Baby! by Rose Ann Tahe

A Navajo family welcomes a new baby into the family with love and ceremony, eagerly waiting for that first special laugh. Includes brief description of birth customs in different cultures. (Gr. K-5)





Reading Corner

~Mrs. Gulisano, Reading Specialist~

Welcome to Mrs. Gulisano's Reading Website

<https://www.pittsfordschools.org/Domain/442>

My Home Page

Reading Websites

Literacy Games

Comprehension & Text
Features Games

Learning Songs

Sight Word Lists (K-2)

Where to Find Books

Tips for Parents

Spelling & Vocabulary Games

Education Apps

Summer Reading

Developing Your Child's Reading Comprehension

QAR

Decoding Tips

Online Story Books & Read Alongs

Read Live

Mt. TRE Reading Challenge

Dear Thornell Families,

This month I want to take the opportunity to share with you the various resources you can find at my webpage. Enjoy!

From my homepage you can access:

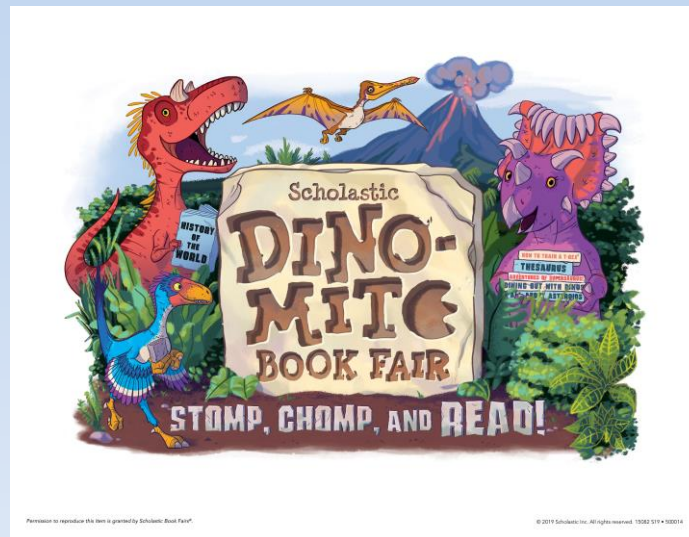
- **Reading Websites:**
 - **Literacy Games** (Kindergarten - 5th Grade)
 - **Comprehension & Text Features Games** (3rd-5th Grade)
 - **Learning Songs** (You Tube videos kids love)
- **Sight Words Lists** (K-2nd sight word lists and games)
- **Where to Find Books** (School & public library links; book lists)
- **Tips for Parents** (Supporting your child's reading at home)
- **Spelling & Vocabulary Games**
- **Education Apps**
- **Summer Reading** (Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge results and summer reading lists)
- **Developing Your Child's Reading Comprehension** (Questions to guide conversations about texts read at home K-5th grade)
- **QAR** (Question Answer Relationships)
- **Decoding Tips** (Support your child with strategies to help them read unknown words)
- **Online Story Books & Read Alongs**
- **Read Live**
- **Mt. TRE Reading Challenge** (2016-2017 school reading challenge)

Is your child enjoying the Drama Kids after school program? Then we are going to need you! Drama Kids is in need of a new parent coordinator for next year. Please contact Jackie Hughes for information on duties: jackiehughes@gmail.com or call at 585-615-0187.



It's time to start collecting and clipping those box tops for our bi-annual Thornell Road Box Tops Fundraiser! Our goal is to raise \$1500 in box top funds for PTSA led school programs, but we are going to need your help! Look over your groceries and other retail products to start clipping. Ask a relative or neighbor to help save tops too. Our last classroom competition begins NOW. Keep an eye out for the flyer in your child's take home folders.

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Thornell Road!



SAVE THE DATES!

Please join us in the library March 11th - 14th.

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 February.

If you are interested in volunteering at the book fair, please contact either →

Nikole Downing (ncmeenana@yahoo.com) or
Becca McCormick (beccabookfair@gmail.com)

P T S A N E W S

Upcoming PTSA Events

- 2/12 - PTSA meeting at 9:00 am in Star Lab (anyone is welcome including pre-school age or younger children)
- 2/15 - Spirit Wear Orders due
- 3/6 - District PTSA Meeting at Thornell at 9:00 am
- 3/12 - PTSA meeting at 9:00 am in the Star Lab



Yearbook

Last Chance to order!

Yearbook Orders for the 2018-2019 are due now. If you have not ordered, online ordering or order forms are available on the PTSA website → www.tre.pittsfordptsanet



Have you taken any great school pictures this year? We would for you to share them with us to use in the yearbook! If you are going to school parties, field trips or other school related activities please consider snapping a few pictures and sharing them for the yearbook.

Please email high resolution pictures to Virginia Brown at gina275@mac.com.



Spirit Wear is Back!

- Order now through February 15th
- Find the color catalog on the PTSA website www.tre.pittsfordptsanet



Did you know our current Spirit Wear logo was designed by our Thornell Road School custodian, Mr. Tom Pulizzi? We are so lucky to have Mr. Pulizzi make these awesome designs for us. You can see his Thornell Road star designs in many places throughout the school. Please support our PTSA and school spirit by order your Thornell Road spirit wear clothing today. Rounding up your order for the PTSA will help support field trips and other great PTSA sponsored school events and activities!!

Students are encouraged to wear their Spirit Wear every Friday!!

