



Thornell Road Star

Thornell Road Elementary, Pittsford, New York

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Roger DeBell, Principal

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PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE



Dear Parents and School Community,

The **Partnership2Gether** program is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester and the Jewish Agency for Israel. This year, as part of our school's participation in this program, we have established new partnerships between our Developmental Primary Program (DPP), Intermediate Developmental Program (IDP) and Psifas Special School for Education in Modi'in, Israel. This is the first time in the history of the *Partnership2Gether* program that specific partnerships have been established to include students with special needs.



During February Recess, Ms. Laura Dellavilla, Learning Specialist for our DPP, represented our school during a trip to Modi'in. She was part of a delegation of educators from the Rochester area that also included Mr. Mike Falzoi, Assistant Principal at CRMS and Mrs. Stephanie Warchol, Art Teacher at CRMS. The purpose of this trip was to further strengthen our classroom partnerships and connections to the Modi'in community.

In a few weeks, we will begin the administration of the **New York State Exams**. To assist in your planning, the dates for each exam for are listed below:

Grade(s):	Exam:	Date(s):
Grades 3-5	English Language Arts (ELA)	Tuesday, April 2 nd Wednesday, April 3 rd
Grades 3-5	Mathematics	Wednesday, May 1 st Thursday, May 2 nd
Grade 4	Science (Performance Tasks)	Wednesday, May 22 nd
Grade 4	Science (Written Format)	Monday, June 3 rd

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You can assist with your child's preparation by ensuring that, prior to an exam, he/she has a good night's sleep, eats a healthy breakfast, arrives to school on time and feels supported. Encourage your child to do his/her best. Please remember that judging a child's performance on a single test score is a flawed practice.

If you would like to learn more about the New York State Testing Program, please visit the *EngageNY* website at <https://www.engageny.org/>.

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

Sincerely,

Roger DeBell, Principal



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Thornell Road Elementary School



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





Art Room Masterpieces

~ Mrs. Lubbers, Visual Art Education



The Kindergarten artists in library have read “88 Instruments” by visiting author Chris Barton. The students had the choice of either creating a guitar, a piano or a trumpet. The artists used tracing and cutting skills to create their instruments. The instruments were decorated with pattern using markers. A 3D effect was achieved by stuffing the instruments with tissue paper. In music the students listened to pieces played by the different instruments.



First grade artists studied abstract paintings by Kandinsky. We read “The Noisy Paint Box” (Rosenstock; Grandpré). The students learned about the Elements of art: shape, line, color and value. They created lines and shapes using a printing process. Color and value were added through colored pencils.



Second grade artists read “What to do with a Voice like that?” by visiting author Chris Barton. In library they wrote a biography of a person that they chose. In art we looked at the illustrations of Euka Holmes. Each student created a collage of their person.



Third grade artists studied the artwork of Wayne Thiebaud. Each student created a landscape painting using tempera paint. Colors were achieved through creative color mixing.



Fifth grade studied Vasarely's op art paintings. Each student created a printing plate inspired by op art. The final project includes each student's best three prints: achromatic, monochromatic, rainbow.

TRE Library News

~ Janah Autovino, Library Media Specialist



Thornell Road was so happy to welcome this year's visiting author on March 7. Chris Barton visited with our K-3rd grade students in the auditorium. Mr. Barton has written several fiction and nonfiction books. He has written books on a wide range of topics! Students have enjoyed reading his books during library class and in their classrooms over the past several weeks in anticipation of his visit.

Here's just a few book descriptions:

Whoosh, a biography of rocket scientist Lonnie Johnson who invented the Super Soaker water gun... by accident!

Dazzle Ships: World War I and the Art of Confusion, a nonfiction book about how British and US Naval ships were painted in wild and crazy designs to confuse German U-Boats

Mighty Truck, a fun and exciting story about a dirty truck that transforms into a super hero after going through the car wash.



During his visit, Mr. Barton shared how he got his start as an author. While students are usually told to "write what you know about," Mr. Barton confessed that is not the way he works. He explained that he thinks of something that he wants to learn more about and then sets out to ask questions and research answers. He shared that the process of writing books can take a very long time and require a lot of patience. *The Day-Glo Brothers*, for instance, took over 8 years to write and become published! Our visitor emphasized the importance of revision and rewriting. We really enjoyed hearing specific examples of how parts of *Mighty Truck* changed after several revisions.

Our third grade students had the pleasure of learning more about the book *What Do You Do With a Voice Like That?* Mr. Barton shared with the group that it made him proud to share the story of Barbara Jordan, the first African American woman elected to the Texas Senate and one of the first African American women elected to the US House of Representatives. Just as Ms. Jordan used her remarkable gift of public speaking to make the country a better place, our students, Mr. Barton explained, each have their own natural talent that can be used to make our school, community and world a better place too.

In the library, we held a special luncheon with a few 3rd grade students who helped create a display based on the book *Attack, Boss, Cheat Code*. During the luncheon, the children took turns asking Mr. Barton questions about his books and working as a children's author.

We wish to thank PTSA for their very generous support of our annual visiting author program. Author visits are such meaningful, memorable experience for our students that encourages their love for reading, writing and learning.



POLAR WALK

~ Amy Adams and Rosemary Pike
Student Council Advisors



Student council hosted this year's Polar Walk, collecting pajamas, underwear and socks for children that are a part of the RAIHN program. RAIHN is Rochester area interfaith hospitality Network where families are supported to find permanent housing. Students enjoyed hot cocoa and donuts, partially donated by Wegmans, and hung out with the polar bear!



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.



Volunteer Opening!

~ Debbie Lomenzo, Thornell Road Star News

The Thornell Road STAR is searching for a Coordinator for the 2019-2020 school year!

- A great way to stay connected to TRE's current events.
- Not a writing-focused position but rather aggregating written submissions from teachers, staff, and parents into a newsletter format.
- Flexibility of doing layout from home at times that fit with your schedule.
- No prior experience is needed, just good communication and attitude!

If you are interested or have any questions about the position, please contact me!

Debbie Lomenzo, trestarnews@gmail.com



Upcoming PTSA Events

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| 5.14.19 | PTSA Meeting – 9am |
| 6.7.19 | Basket Bonanza/End of Year Picnic – 5pm (more information to follow) |
| 6.11.19 | PTSA Meeting – 9am |

