Tioga Hills Elementary School "Tidbits"

Vestal Central School District **DECEMBER 2018**

First Day of Winter December 20

Dear Tioga Hills Families,

November was filled with many fun events and always seems to go by so quickly. We hope that you and your families had a relaxing Thanksgiving holiday. I want to thank our very generous PTA for the beautiful and delicious Fall Harvest Luncheon that they put on for us in November. It was enjoyed by all!

Our Building Planning Team and Actions Count committees organized our Day of Cooperation, which was held on Tuesday, November 20th. After a focus on Cooperation for the months of September, October, and November, we had a lot of fun on this day. We look forward to starting our next focus area: *Responsibility*

The days in December are full of many exciting activities:

* Our fifth-grade students participated in their annual Community Box Project on November 30. Thank you to our fifth-grade students, families and teachers for organizing this. We continue to make our Actions Count in our community!
* All students have been collecting both toys and food items for the Lion's Club to distribute to local families in need. The boxes are in the lobby and each classroom.
* Our Actions Count committee, with support from the Tioga Hills PTA, is organizing a Jared Campbell character education assembly. (One for grs. K-2 and one for grs. 3-5.) Jared is a Vestal CSD graduate and a singer and composer. He's been a popular presenter at Tioga Hills for the last few years.
* Parent Conferences are held all day on Friday, December 7, and in the afternoon of Friday, December 14. There will be no school for students on Friday, December 7. Friday, December 14, will be a 10:45 a.m. Early Dismissal.
* Our fourth-grade students will attend the annual *Chemistry Magic Show* on December 11 at Vestal High School and supported by the Vestal School Foundation.
* A Kindergarten favorite - *Gingerbread Day* will be held on Wednesday, December 19.

With everyone going on this month, it is sure to fly by! Our students are working hard every day and continue to make us proud! Happy Holidays!

Hayley Crimmins, Principal

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DECEMBER SCHOOL CLOSING/HOLIDAYS

No school on **Friday, December 7**, due to Parent-Teacher Conferences

Early Dismissal at 10:45 a.m. on **Friday, December 14,** due to Parent-Teacher Conferences

No school on Monday, **December 24** through **Tuesday, January 1, 2019**

COUNSELORS CORNER

Character Education……..Making our ACTIONS COUNT

Thank you for having conversations and following through on the worthiness of donating food items to our annual food drive this year! This act of kindness has many implications in building character in our young people. Helping our children to understand the importance of recognizing that everyone has needs is a great way to build empathy and capture the spirit of this time of year. Our food drive is a great way to show how our ACTIONS COUNT in our community and help us focus on COOPERATION!

Our building hopes to collect 500+ non-perishable food items for the Lions Club who will distribute to families in our school and surrounding community. Stay tuned for the final tally! Please send in your items by December 12.

Banana Splits Update….

Groups are meeting and are enjoying getting to know each other! In December our focus will be on family traditions!

In the classroom…..

DUSO & Kelso had a wonderful time in second-grade watching the students become expert problem solvers and work to have healthy friendships. This dolphin/ frog team will be working in first-grade in the next six weeks! To the right is the strategy wheel to review with your youngsters!

Helping meet needs……

If your family is need of help this holiday season and we have not already communicated please give me a call by December 3, 2018.

Wishing you and your family a Happy Holiday Season!

As always, please call if I can help in any way!

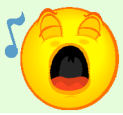
Rhonda Ruhm, M.S.Ed, C.A.S.
School Counselor

THE WRITING WAGON

The writing wagon will be continuing, allowing the students to write for enjoyment during indoor recess!

If you have greeting cards, envelopes, and/or stickers to donate, please send them in with your child. We would really appreciate them!

MUSIC NOTES



Music Education Advocacy Quote of the Month

"Music is the universal language of mankind."

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Upcoming Music Events

Please join us for our upcoming performance in January!

Fourth– and Fifth-Grade Chorus
and Fifth-Grade Band Concert
7 p.m., January 28
Tioga Hills Cafetorium

Highlights from the Music Room

Congratulations to the following fifth-grade chorus members for their excellent performance in the district rehearsal and concert in November:

Kenzy Benjamin
Kaitlyn Bennett
Zoe Bolynn
Emma Correll
Sydney Edwards
Trevor Fundis
Milly Jemmott
Kaelynn Jones
Tess Labosky
Aleeyah Lippman
Tilly MacNamee
Kayleigh Marsh
Alison Meissner
Ava Meza
Gracie Mones
Lauren Myers
Gemma Nelli
Joaquin Paler-Large
Jonathan Quillen
Elie Ramia
Katana Rivenburg
Kaden Savelli
Jessica Secord
Olivia Slocum
Lindsey Steele
Elena Struble
Ty Sullivan
Keira Teed
Shane Vanderhorst
Ben Varano

NYSSMA Sign-up Deadline: 12/17

The annual NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival is being held at Johnson City CSD on March 29 and 30. If your child takes private music lessons outside of school and their teacher would like them to sign-up for NYSSMA Solo Festival, the registration forms and payment are due to Mrs. Burcznyski no later than Monday, December 17. Please have your child stop to pick up a registration form as soon as possible. If you have an older child (middle school or high school), please submit the form to a music teacher at that level.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP JOBS

HALLWAY HELPERS

As part of our Actions Count program, we are having "hallway helpers" at the end of day. They are students who will smile and are friendly, remind students to walk, keep hands and backpacks to themselves and report any dangerous behavior. In November our helpers were:

Emma Correll
Trevor Fundis
JT Gannon
Jace Gannon
Johnny Gorman
Kaelynn Jones
Tess Labosky
Avery Logan

STUDENT ANNOUNCERS

A *GREAT* job was done by the following students who helped us out in November with morning announcements:

Katelyn Blachowiak
Madison Cramer
Mia Fey
Annabel Groves
Joey Lamphere
Morgan Lown
Larry Morgan
Joaquin Paler-Large
Grace Peretore
Alison Policare
Jonathan Quillen
Katana Rivenburg
Jessica Secord
Leo Stockwin
Ty Sullivan
Eva Weseman

STUDENT FLAG RAISERS

The following students helped Mr. Doolittle raise the flag during the month of November:

Brodie Frederick, Quinn Fundis, Ember Garstang, Aiden Gorey, Melani Howell, Kaelynn Jones, Tess Labosky, Ethan Lilley, Tilly MacNamee, Kayleigh Marsh, Anthony Mazzeo, Gracie Mones, Joaquin Paler-Large, Max Policare, Jonathan Quillen, Elissar Ramia, Lucas Reed, Katana Rivenburg, Kaden Savelli, Jessica Secord, Jacob Sibrava, Lindsey Steele, Elena Struble

COLD WEATHER IS HERE!

Children look forward to participating in outdoor activities.

Please dress your children according to the weather forecast. See that boots are worn when the ground is wet or covered with snow. Children will be allowed to play on the snow covered portions of the playground area if dressed properly.

Our students will go outside for playground as long as the temperature is above 20 degrees. Thank you!

NO BAGGED LUNCHES ON EARLY RELEASE DAYS

As you know, December 14 is an early release day and students will be dismissed at 10:45 a.m.

Bagged lunches are no longer served on early release days. We encourage you to send in a snack with your child unless they already have a snack schedule in place those days.

PARENT PICK-UP PROCEDURE

- Adults should enter by the side door for parent pick-up and go directly to the cafeteria. This door will be open from 3:15 - 3:35 p.m.
- Adults picking up children should sign the Student Sign-Out/ Parent Pick-Up List that is on the cafeteria table by the staff assigned to this duty.
- Only those adults listed in eSchool as parents or emergency contacts will be allowed to pick up the child(ren). In case of an unusual circumstance where the person picking up your child is not listed in eSchool, parents should send in a signed note with your child or call the main office (757-2366) prior to 2 p.m. that day to make arrangements.
- Efforts will be made to contact the parent if a non-parent listed in eschool arrives to pick up the child without a note from the parent. We strongly encourage that a note be sent or a call made. Please keep contacts in eschool updated, knowing this.
- Adults should then take a seat at the tables designated by grade level signage to wait for their child(ren). Younger children as well as school-aged children should stay with the adult and not be running around the room, on the stage or the stage steps.
- Adults should **not** be in the hallway, outdoors, or outside the designated table area to pick up their child(ren) while children are being dismissed.
- Adults will exit by the side door with their child(ren), the one through which they entered. Adults should not exit by any other exterior doors. They should walk on the sidewalk with their child(ren) to the parking lot. Children should not be running ahead on the grass or into the parking lot, climbing trees, etc. If children are going to the playground after school, they should still be with the adult as they walk on the sidewalk to the playground.
- Adults will send in notes with their child (ren) in the morning or call the main office (757-2366) prior to 2 p.m. to state they will be picking up their child(ren) that day unless their child(ren) are on the routine parent pick-up list that is created at the beginning of the year. If a child is to be added or taken off the routine parent pick up list after the beginning of the year, send in a note to the main office to indicate this and the change will be made.
- Adults with other children not attending TH at parent pick up should use the community bathroom off the main lobby, if needed.
- No adult should park in either lot to pick up a student with out going through the above procedure.

Thank you for keeping dismissal time a super-safe time!

Morning Schedule

*If dropping off your child, please arrive after **8:30 a.m.**
*Student supervision in the lobby **8:20 - 8:40 a.m.**
*Homeroom begins at **8:40 a.m.**
*Attendance, announcements and morning meeting at **8:55 a.m.,** classes begin**.**

Students are expected to be in Homeroom in order to get ready for the day (use cubby, give lunch info. to teacher, get to breakfast, if needed, etc.) **They should be seated and ready for instruction which begins promptly at 8:55 a.m.** Please encourage students to be in their classrooms between 8:40 - 8:55 a.m. **If a parent drops off students at 8:55 a.m. or later, they need to bring their child into the main office, as the child is tardy.**

Children feel a part of the group when they all start the day together at the same time. Promptness is very much appreciated!

APALACHIN LIONS CLUB ANNUAL HOLIDAY TOY COLLECTION

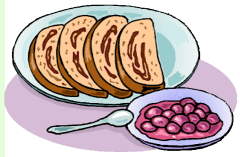
Your help is needed with our annual collection of *new* or *like new* toys for distribution to between 60 and 70 families in the Apalachin and Little Meadows area. With the help of many organizations in the area we have been helping needy families for over 50 years with food and gifts for the children.
Collection barrels will be in the lobby of the Tioga Hills School until December 12.
Thank you for your past and future support!

A message from your P-E Teachers and the American Heart Association:

EATING AT HOLIDAY PARTIES

Appetizers and hors d'oeuvres

* ***Get involved.*** There's usually a list to volunteer to bring dishes for the party, so sign up! You can make a heart-healthy item, giving yourself at least one good option to enjoy.
* ***Come prepared.*** If the party is during lunch, eat a healthy breakfast followed in mid-morning by a high-fiber snack (like an apple or a small handful of almonds). If the party is in the evening, enjoy a protein-packed lunch like grilled fish or chicken with a salad and then later in the afternoon have another high-fiber snack. If you're not too hungry when you go to the party, it will be easier to avoid overeating.



* ***Map it out.*** Avoid loading up on foods that are fried, buttered or have a lot of cheese and cream. Even though the portions may be small, these fat-laden bites can really pack a punch. Look for fruit, veggies and dip, whole-grain crackers, and baked or grilled items.

Desserts

* ***Use the Buddy System.*** By splitting a dessert with someone, you can cut the calories and fat in half and avoid being wasteful. It's a win-win!

Beverages

* ***Watch seasonal drinks.*** Many holiday beverages have so much added sugar, they may as well be a dessert. Keep in mind what else you've eaten; it may be best to enjoy these drinks on another day.

December Heath Office News

When should I send my child to school? Please see the attached sheet, as the recommendations will help with your decision.

It's getting cold outside, so dress your child appropriately. Do not share hats, brushes or combs this winter or any season.

If your child comes home with clothes from the school's supply, please wash them and send back as soon as possible. **Thank you.**

Have a Merry Holiday and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Math Moments Newsletter

Promoting Math Talk, Dec. 2018

***Take advantage of all this information by viewing this newsletter on the web!*
Just enter this URL in your search engine and enjoy... https://www.smore.com/adrs3

Coding and the Language of Math!

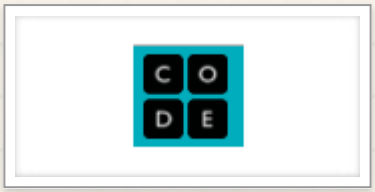
In honor of December 3-9 being the week of Computer Science and the Hour of Code, this newsletter will be dedicated to highlighting what is coding and how the language of math plays a crucial role in understanding coding.*"The Hour of Code is designed to demystify code and show that computer science is not rocket science- anybody can learn the basics,"* said Hadi Partovi, founder and CEO of Code.org.

How Coding and Math Talk Strengthen Understanding

When students code they are using many of the skills that we use in math, such as critical thinking and problem solving. Both of these skills when paired with math talk are much more effective. Coding also teaches logical communication, strengthening both verbal and written skills.
What we know and what should we do about it...

- Problem solving is at the heart of both coding and mathematics; therefore, support students whenever possible in becoming problem solvers.
- Trial and error is critical in the learning process so provide students with opportunities where they can practice this in a safe environment.
- Students must talk to learn and by supporting conversations about their thinking will only enhance the learning process.

Think about it, learning code means learning a new language!



Logo Programming: Turtle Academy

Logo is a programming language designed to support constructive learning. Logo infuses both math and language where the key components are geometry and the natural language.
https://turtleacademy.com/

Courses by Code.org

This is a great opportunity to learn the fundamentals of computer science. Varying levels are available.
https://code.org/student/elementary

Hour of Code Activities

The hour of code is a global movement by Computer Science Education Week and Code.org that has millions of students having fun with coding. Try the link below to see what the craze is about and have a go at it!
https://hourofcode.com/us/learn

A "student-programmed" robot performs in FIRST Lego League competition (2014)

https://youtu.be/dJSeMeAGmXE

🌎 How Coding Can Improve Math ... www.tynker.com

PTA NEWS

Dates to Remember:

Family Portrait Night - 6 p.m., Tuesday, December 4

PTA Meeting - 7 p.m., December 5 (Library)

PTA Membership

Thanks to everyone that has already submitted membership forms for this year's PTA. If you are still interested in joining, it's not too late! Your support, in any way that you can manage, is very much appreciated.
Please contact Stacie Paler-Large at **stacie3kids@yahoo.com** for new forms or to answer any questions.

Thank you to all who have submitted Box Tops so far this year!
We successfully submitted $517.80 worth of Box Tops for the Fall Submission. ***Great Job!*** The November collection due date was postponed to November 30 due to the Snow Day, and individual prizes will be handed out the following week. Hopefully, many of you were able to clip some Box Tops from the Thanksgiving meal and maybe even scored some from family members and/or friends! The December collection date will be December 21. Please help your child(ren) to cut and submit as many unexpired Box Tops as they can for this next collection.
Keep up the great work!

FIFTH-GRADE NEWS

On November 30, the fifth-grade class gathered together to pack up necessities for those in need at our annual Community Box project luncheon. This was started by our amazing fifth-grade teachers, who ask for items to be donated in lieu of holiday gifts. Thank you to our teachers and all who donated for kindness and generosity!
Our Save Around and Square 1 Art fundraisers are now complete and were a huge success for our class. Thank you everyone for your support!

This is the last month to earn points for Tioga Hills through the Price Chopper Tools-for-School Program. You can still register your AdvantEDGE Card at **www.pricechopper.com/tools-schools** (School Code 17001).
All purchases through December 31, 2018, count toward earning points, which our school uses to purchase equipment for the classrooms. We currently have 8,894 points! You can maximize our earnings by signing up relatives, friends and neighbors too! If you have enrolled in the past, no need to re-enroll!

CUB SCOUTS

During the month of November, Pack 43 passed out door hangers for the annual food drive, so that the Boy Scout Troop was able to collect food donations the following week.
A few of the older Cub Scouts (those in Webelos 1 and 2) were able to go on a crossover camping trip with the Boy Scouts so that they could get a glimpse as to the fun they will have when they hit middle school. We also spent some very important time decorating boxes that were used in the school lobby to collect Halloween candy donations to be sent to our troops. Thank you so much to anyone who sent in candy to support Operation Gratitude! One of our pack meetings was spent touring the new fire station in Apalachin, and fun was had by all. In December, the Scouts are looking forward to the Holiday pack meeting, where many fun events are planned.

FALL FEST

The Fall Festival this year was another huge success! Over 400 people attended and enjoyed the amazing cars at trunk or treat, food, fun and dancing. Thank you to all who came out to join us and an extra special thank you to all that volunteered to make this event another great one!

Student Council 2018-2019

Thank you to Mrs. Ruhm, Mrs. Baldwin and Mrs. Kunzman for their many years of service volunteering to advise our fifth-grade Student Council. They have decided to step down from this role, and Mrs. Crimmins and Mrs. Hardy will be advising and organizing all Student Council activities for the year.

The Student Council process looks a bit different this year. All fifth-graders were given the opportunity to complete a written application during playground one day in October. Students were given the choice to be considered for a Student Council Representative interview, or could specify if they just wanted to help with various Student Council committees around the building.

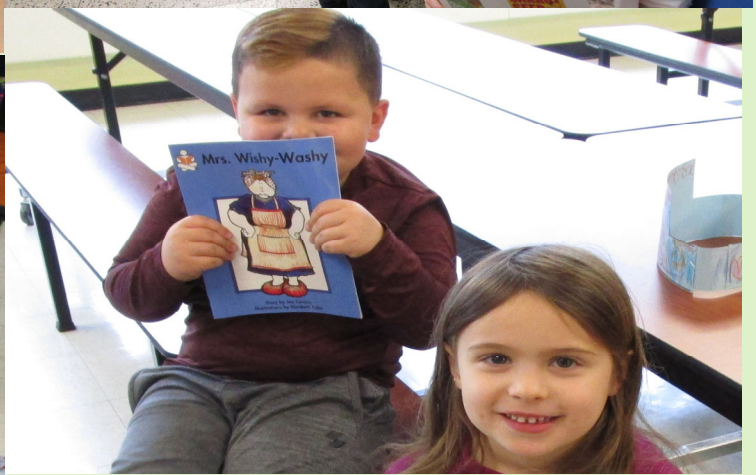
A total of 39 students applied, resulting in 21 students being interviewed by Mrs. Crimmins and Mrs. Hardy. After the interview round, 12 students were selected to be Student Council Representatives for the 2018-19 school year. All students, whether they are representatives or just committee members are able to help with the committees throughout the year. Our first committee started during the Veteran's Day assembly, where students were "Assembly Ushers", helping the classes find their seats. We also have started our annual Food Drive and some of our "Food Drive Committee" members were able to help during a kick-off assembly on *Day of Cooperation*. They did a great job!

Other committees include Food Drive committee, Spirit Week committee, Reading Buddies, and even Helping Hands. We are very excited to have so many fifth-graders interested in helping out and coming up with new ideas for Tioga Hills!

TH Picture Corner

TH Picture Corner

Day of Cooperation at Tioga Hills

TH Picture Corner

Kindergarten Reading and Writing Day of Celebration