



# In The Center

## STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE HOUR OF CODE

### Save the Date!

- 12/24/19-1/1/20~ Winter Recess (No School)
- 1/8/20~ CT Association of Schools Elementary Leadership Conference
- 1/20/20~ Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday (no school)
- 1/24/20~ End of Marking Period 2 (pending snow days)
- 1/31/20~ Annual EEF Sponsored Spelling Bee



On Wednesday, December 11, 2019, Thomaston Center School students participated in The Hour of Code global event! This is our fifth year participating in the Hour of Code by



The purpose of this event is to pro-

vide students an opportunity to learn and practice valuable computer science skills that will help them navigate through the future demands of the twenty-first century. As technology continues to dominate every aspect of society, the demand for computer science jobs grows.

Code.org published Connecticut's latest computer science statistics. Our state currently has 5, 629 computing jobs open, but only had 533 computer science graduates. There is a high demand for computer science, and



Steve Jobs said, "Computer Science is a liberal art: it's something that everybody should be exposed to and everyone should have a mastery of to some extent."

The Hour of Code is a fun way to get students excited about computer science, and Thomaston Center School is proud to be a part of this global community!

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## Math and Reading Clubs



**Math and Reading clubs meet on select Tuesdays and Thursdays**

throughout the year. These are drop in programs that are open to any student.

These clubs do not meet when we have a Monday holiday, such as Martin Luther King Day. Here are the dates for our next session:

### Math Club

Grades 4 and 5 (Tuesdays): 1/7, 1/14, 1/28, 2/4, and 2/11.\*Note math club will not meet on Tuesday 1/21.

Grade 6 Math (Thursdays): 1/9,1/16,1/22,1/30, and 2/6.

### Reading Club

Grades 6 (Tuesdays): 1/7, 1/14, 1/28, 2/4, and 2/11.\*Note reading club will not meet on Tuesday

1/21.

Grade 4 and 5 Language Arts (Thursdays): 1/9,1/16,1/22,1/30, and 2/6.

We hope to see you there!



## Music Notes

On Thursday, November 21st our sixth grade students performed their annual "World Drumming Concert". Each year, sixth graders participate in a ten week world drumming unit in their weekly general music classes. This unit features music and instruments from all over the world; from Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and the U.S.A. In their world drumming lessons, students listen to drumming examples from around the world, and learn to play and compose rhythmic patterns from various musical cultures. The culminating event of this unit is the World Drumming Concert, at which each homeroom class presents a drumming piece that they have composed and arranged as a group. Each class also auditions and chooses a student to be their conductor for the evening. This year's compositions included "Keep the Beat", which was composed by Mrs. Protzmann's homeroom and conducted by Abigail Sedgwick, "Desert Fire", which was created by Mrs. Knowlton's homeroom and conducted by Izzy McCulloch, and "Drum Up the Sun", which was arranged by Miss Miller's homeroom and conducted by Nathan Williams.



## From The Garden



**Our Gardening Academy has been learning how to press and dry flowers and herbs! We used a flower press to press and dry flowers and leaves we found on our nature walk... and then we used them to decorate placemats for Thanksgiving!**

## *It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Winter*



With the winter weather upon us, it is important to remember that outdoor recess will take place if the temperature is 25 degrees or greater, taking wind chill into account. In the event that weather prohibits outdoor recess, students will have recess indoors. Please be sure to remind your children to come to school with the appropriate winter gear including coats, gloves, and hats!

In the event of a delay, emergency early dismissal, or school cancellation, families are notified via Power School. For this reason, it is important to keep contact information current, including email addresses and cell phone numbers. Local television stations

will also be notified. As mentioned in previous updates, families will need to "opt in" to text messages in order to receive reminders from Center School and Thomaston Public Schools, including delay and cancellation messages. In order to do this, simply text "y" to 67587. If you have done this correctly, you will immediately receive a text notice indicating you have successfully opted in. In order to maintain privacy of these messages, the cell phone number needs to be the one associated with a student whose number is in our Power School system. If you would like to receive text messages, please be sure to text y to 67587 from your mobile phone.

Finally, please also be reminded that if there is a delay, it will be a 2 or 3 hour delay and please check the announcement carefully. If we have a delay, there will be no before school activities. If we have an early dismissal or school cancellation, there will be no after school activities, including Thomaston Center School's band rehearsal and the late bus.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in this area.

## Grade 5 and 6 Information

Fifth graders have been continuing to earn Bear Bucks throughout their school day. Bear Bucks can be traded in at the school store for prizes. Students in Ms. Fuller's academy created a commercial advertising the products that are available in the school store. The video will be shown in homerooms.

Mr. McMahon's reading classes and Ms. Fuller's writing classes are working on a collaborative project. Students are reading biographies and will write research projects on how to take inspiration from others to better

themselves.

Math classes are continuing to study place value and operations with decimals. We are working on expanding our problem solving skills and persevering through difficult practice. The 5th Grade Team wishes you and your family a wonderful winter break!

**From the 6th Grade:**

Wow! We cannot believe that we are half-way through the second marking period!

So many exciting things are happening in sixth grade. We have begun our Kindness Program!

Please ask your child about the kind words they sent and received.

Almost two-thirds of our students have turned in their intent to invent form for the Invention Convention. Students have submitted a host of exciting ideas! On December 16, an archaeologist from the visiting scholar program at Southern Connecticut State University will make digging into the past come alive for the students!

## Grade 4 News

Since returning from Thanksgiving break, LA students have been exploring non-fiction texts, specifically Text Features and Text Structures. Text features such as captions, subtitles, bold print, and diagrams help readers discern information to make sense of what they are reading.

Text Structures are important to readers, so they can anticipate what kind of information will be presented. Text Structures such as compare/contrast, cause and effect, and sequence will be incorporated into the students' Informational Writing Unit, coming up soon. In our Language lessons, stu-

dents have been learning to use quotation marks and commas when writing dialogue.

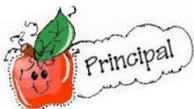
Students began this month in math looking at patterns. Through our daily classwork, they've been learning how to describe, analyze, and extend both number and shape patterns. By the end of the month, students will be working more exclusively with multi-step word problems and using a letter to represent the unknown. Please continue to reference the math family letter that is put out each week through Bloomz to get a better understanding of

each weekly focus.



Students in Miss Murphy's science class investigating with a model of the human eye.

## Principal's Corner



Students and staff alike are making great strides in learning and applying new instructional strategies. Students are hard at work, discovering new insights and learning new concepts. Every moment is truly a learning opportunity; it is an exciting time to be at Center School!

We greatly appreciate your support of our work at Thomaston Center School. We certainly could not be successful with our fantastic fourth graders, fabulous fifth graders, and sensational sixth graders without your assistance!

On behalf of all of the faculty and staff at Thomaston Center

School, I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a 2020 filled with peace, joy and good health!



## Thomaston Center School

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### From the Nurse's Desk...

Winter and flu season is upon us! Moderation and common sense will help you stay healthy during these cold winter months. Wash your hands with soap and water frequently, drink plenty of fluids, eat healthy foods- don't forget fruits and vegetables, moderate exercise, try to reduce stress, and get plenty of rest. Along with all of this, try to relax and have fun with your family and friends!

If your child is sick, please keep them home until they are better. If your child has a fever, they are to remain out of school for 24 hours, after they have stopped taking an analgesic to keep the fever down. Good and frequent hand washing is one of the best defenses against germs. And, don't forget to cover your cough, and catch your sneeze with a tissue!

To the parent/guardian of a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student: Thanks to all of you who have submitted your child's 6<sup>th</sup> grade, state-mandated, blue physical form. To those of you who have not, please make that doctor appointment and submit your child's completed physical form before the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will not be allowed to enter 7<sup>th</sup> grade without the state physical form on file in the Health Office.

## Amazing Academies Abound

At Center School, we have many interesting Academy Groups this year!

Some students take yoga, others make fun snacks, while others learn about gardening. For students who enjoy other types of challenges, we offer Stock Market gaming, puzzles, and building creations. There is something for everyone's interest!



## News and Notes

- ◆ Missing a sweatshirt? Lunchbox?? Gloves??? Check the lost and found! Any lost and found items that are unclaimed will be donated over the break.
- ◆ We are still collecting Box Tops for Education! Please turn in any box tops to your child's homeroom teacher.
- ◆ In order to help increase safety for our students, we kindly request that dismissal changes are put in writing and sent to school via fax or written note. We cannot take dismissal changes over the phone. Please plan ahead

for end of day routines. Thank you for your cooperation!

- ◆ Did you know the late bus runs every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 4 pm from Center School? Riding the bus is easy! Students simply need to sign up on the day they need to use it. No more worries about transportation if a student needs to stay for extra help or music lessons!
- ◆ Spelling Bee club will be meeting on Wednesday and Thurs-

days the whole month of January. The Spelling Bee will be on January 31, 2020. All students are encouraged to participate in the Bee even if they can not attend the club practices. More information to follow!

Happy  
Holidays!