



In The Center



Students and Staff Live our BEAR Pledge

Save the Date!

- 10/3/19~ Picture Day! Wear a smile! :)
- 10/11/19~ Professional Development Day for Teachers (no school for students)
- 10/14/19~ Columbus Day~ No School
- 10/16/19~ PAC meeting at 6:30 pm at THS
- 10/16/19-10/19/19~ Book Fair
- 10/19/19~ Haunted Hallways and Creepy Chorus Concert

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Every morning at Thomaston Center School, we start our day with the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence, words of wisdom, and our Bear Pledge. One may wonder what the Bear Pledge is and why is it so important that we recite it every day.

Our Bear Pledge states: **“As a citizen of Thomaston Center School, I pledge to: Be kind with my actions and my words, Earn the respect I'd like to get, Always strive to do my best, Rise to challenges with a growth mindset.”** During the first three days of

school, each classroom participated in special lessons designed to illustrate these tenets. Students learned what respect looks and feels like at school and students created a Kindness Code for their classrooms. Additionally, students worked collaboratively to better understand what a growth mindset is and how important mindset is for personal success. In addition to the classroom lessons, the Thomaston Center School community also participated in an assembly that demonstrated the importance of these ideas.

We state the Bear Pledge to serve as a reminder of the expectations at Center School. Our Bear Pledge is not merely the recitation of words, but ideals we strive to maintain every day.



Mrs. Larson and Mrs. Zitnay perform a skit about the Bear Pledge at the Welcome Assembly during the first week of school.

Mr. Newsome is Honored for 50 Years of Service in Thomaston

Mr. George Newsome, our head custodian at Thomaston Center School, has served Thomaston Public Schools for fifty years! Imagine all the things Mr. Newsome has seen and all of the changes he has encountered in Thomaston since beginning his job in the 1960's!

In August, Mr. Newsome was honored by the Educational Enrichment Fund of Thomas-

ton for his many years of service. He was also recognized at the September 2019 Thomaston Board of Education meeting.

All of us at Center School are grateful for the half-century of work and dedication from Mr. Newsome.



Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Francine Coss, Mr. George Newsome, and Ms. Rebecca Guay, Chairperson of the Thomaston Public Schools Board of Education pose for a photo at the September Board of Education meeting.

WIN Changes at TCS

At Center School, all students have a WIN block in their schedule. WIN is an acronym for "What Individuals Need." Of course, since this varies for every student, schedules will be different for each child. For some, the WIN block is a time for math or reading intervention, and for others the time may be used for band or choral rehearsal. Still others may be enrolled in an additional physical education or art class while others may spend some time in the media center researching a topic or exploring technology.

This year, there are some changes to WIN. One change is

that all students have WIN every day at the same time, from 9-9:45. This allows students from all grade levels to work together to master the same skills and concepts. Another change is that all teachers facilitate a WIN throughout the week. Every 6-8 weeks, some students may move into new WINs, depending on need.

Here are some of the WIN blocks currently being offered: author's purpose, band, study skills, making predictions when reading, word meanings, math problem solving, fitness, comparing and contrasting. English

language services, reading, art skills, STEM, writing enrichment, digital literacy, and maker space.

The WIN block of time allows for a personalized time of instruction, intervention, or enrichment. This is designed to help support each and every child at Thomaston Center School; truly this is a WINning endeavor!



Music Notes



Our Music classes welcome student teacher Carla Stoddard, who will be teaching with us until October 18th! Miss Stoddard is a violinist from the University of Bridgeport and will be helping with our general music, band, and choral classes as she completes her journey to becoming a music educator!



Teamwork! On the first week of school, students worked together to plan and strategize a way to flip over a sheet while standing on it! Students showed great problem solving skills, as well as perseverance!

Our stellar 6th grade students have been collaborating on math tasks! As Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."

Sixth Grade News

We have enjoyed getting to know your child/children! Everyone arrives ready to learn and accepts new challenges daily! Wonderful classroom learning communities have been established. Our students practice collaboration and provided each other with constructive feedback.



Physical Education News

Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had an active, healthy summer. The students at TCS have jumped into learning this year. We have already started our year off with some fun team-building activities and a new soccer unit. I encourage all of you to get out and move at least three times a week for about 30 minutes. We are lucky to have a beautiful state park right in

our back yard, which is awesome for hikes and nature walks. Activity will actually give you more energy to get through our already busy lives. Keep your eyes open for many after school activities for the students at TCS that I will be running with the Park and Recreation Department this year. As always I am lucky to be at TCS every day so if

you have any concerns with your child please do not hesitate to reach out to me at rwojtczak@thomastonschools.org.

~Mrs. Wojtczak, PE Teacher

Grade Five Happenings

Fifth graders are settling in their new routines. Transitions and hallway behavior have been improving daily. We have been tracking behavior with our Pride Sheet system. Ask your child how the sheets work. A celebration of exceptional behavior was held Friday September 20th.

Soon we will be starting our 2019-2020 CT Kid Governor program. This is an experience that is open to all Connecticut 5th graders. There will be a primary election in each social studies section and a final election with our top 6 candidates. From there, we will send the winner on to the

statewide election.

We are using Bloomz to communicate with parents this year. Please text @AMG474 to 1-858-256-6691 to join.

Grade 4 News

During the first weeks of school, fourth grade reading students have been discussing expectations and routines such as choosing a "just right" book and how to think critically about our reading. We have discussed the many elements that go into "Reading Is Thinking" such as questioning, predicting, inference, and summarizing. We approach classroom reading alertly, with our brain turned on, asking "thick" questions about our reading.

In writing, we are starting with producing narratives. We discussed the elements of Narrative Writing. We will begin by brainstorming topics and consider the task, purpose, and audience of our writing. Next, we will produce a draft based on a class prompt.

Our first unit in math has focused on multi-digit whole numbers. Students are working for the first time with numbers up to one hundred thousand and learning different

ways to represent these numbers. Through our daily word problems, fourth graders are actively participating in math dialogue as they work together to share their strategies with one another.

In Science, students learned about various habitats and the food chains within them. As a culminating project, students dissected owl pellets and made observations about what they discovered. They were given a bone chart to match what they found in order to create a food chain based on the bones found in their pellets.

In Social Studies, students are beginning to explore the eleven states in the Northeast region. They began by working in groups and rotating around the room to read a nonfiction informational text packet that covers the region's history, climate, land, economy, natural resources and landmarks. Students will soon delve into each state within the Northeast region.



Fourth graders enthusiastically dissect owl pellets!

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences In November

Our annual parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for November 6 and 7, 2019 at Thomaston Center School. The purpose of these conferences is to provide parents an opportunity to meet with teachers in an effort to better understand their child's academic strengths and areas of need.

To accommodate family schedules, we are offering afternoon and evening times for conferences. Appointments

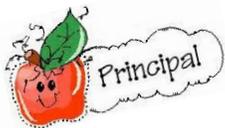
will be scheduled on a first come-first serve basis. Conferences with the fourth grade teachers will be held with the child's individual grade level teacher. Each of these teachers will coordinate their conference time schedule. Conferences for grades five and six students will be held by a team teacher. Please note that each conference will be approximately 10 minutes in length. The team leader from each grade will coordinate the conference time schedule.

When scheduling appointments for conferences, please remember that in addition to

your child's classroom teachers, students also spend an important part of their day with our specialists. We encourage you to make an appointment with each of the specialists that are involved in your child's academic life. Please consult with your child as to the specialists they see on a regular basis.

We look forward to seeing you at conferences!

Principal's Corner



The beginning of the year has been a busy and productive one as students and staff return to the business of learning! September has been very busy with our new schedules.

Thank you to all of the families who participated in the annual ice cream social on September 10th. It was great to see so

many familiar and new faces sharing some delicious ice cream and conversation and we were so happy the weather cooperated for an outdoor program! A special thank you to the PTA for helping to support this event.

Believe it or not, we are approaching the end of the first marking period at the end of October. Information regarding parent teacher conferences will be sent home soon. Please see the article above for

more information about these important meetings.

We are in need of volunteers for our JA program that will be held in November. Please contact me if you are interested in helping out with this program.

I appreciate your interest and support in your child's education. As always, please do not hesitate to contact Center School with any questions or concerns.

Thomaston Center School

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TCS is growing!!!!

Thus far this year, more than twenty new students have joined our Thomaston Center School Family. We are so happy they are here!



Pictured above, our new students and Mrs. Gowell, our new social worker! Missing from photo is Felicity V., Gabriel F., Ni'Yahah R. and Jesse H.

Principal Advisory Council ~ Elementary Level Meetings

One Wednesday per Month

Black Rock School Library - 6:15 pm - 7:00 pm*

Open to the Public; Parents and Families Encouraged to Attend

*Thomaston PTA Meetings to follow at BRS

2019-2020 Meeting Schedule and Topics

September 18~ Introduction to the 2019-2020 Year

October 16~ Supporting Your Child in Becoming a Life-long Reader

November 20~ Pupil Services at Thomaston Public Schools

December 18~ No PAC meeting scheduled

January 18~ Thomaston Public Schools Budget Overview

February 19~ Learning Mathematics in the Era of Common Core

March 18~ Social-Emotional Learning at the Elementary Level

April 22~ Smarter Balance and NGSS Assessments

May 20~ 2019-20 A Year in Review, Planning ahead for 2020-21

Haunted Hallways and Book Fair Return to TCS

The TCS Scholastic Book Fair will be here before you know it! Our book fair will run from Wednesday, October 18, 2018 through Friday, October 19, 2018. All students will have the opportunity to shop at the fair. Each grade will visit the fair during their language arts classes.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the book fair.

The TCS Scholastic Book Fair will also be open during Haunted

Hallways! Haunted Hallways will take place on October 19 from 4 pm to 8 pm. This event is open to the public and all are invited to kick off the Halloween season at the spookiest school in town!

Volunteers are needed for the Haunted Hallways as well. Please contact Mr. Stack at bstack@thomastonschools.org for more information.

The Creepy Chorus will also be

performing on Saturday, October 19 during the Haunted Hallways. Information about the concert will be shared with the choral students as the event draws closer.

