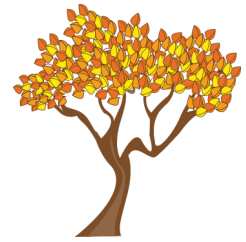


In the Center



**Thomaston
Center
School**

WIN: What Individuals Need

In an effort to provide students the time to participate in enrichment activities such as music programs or to learn valuable skills in physical education, art, mathematics, or literacy, a new block of time was created for students. This special time is called WIN. WIN is an acronym for "What I Need". The WIN time is specifically scheduled to suit a student's individual need. Therefore, each schedule is unique.

At the beginning of the year, students were placed into WIN block groups. Unlike Academies, students did not elect which classes they will take. However, band students will

choose which instrument they wish to play.

Additionally, unlike Academies, most WIN classes will only have students from one grade level. WIN is typically held for 40 minutes most days, except on Tuesdays where the block is an hour. On Fridays when Academy Days are held, there is no WIN block.

WIN block is scheduled within the regular day. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, grade 6 has WIN at 9:00, grade 5 students attend WIN at 10:15, and grade 4 students attend at 2:15. On Tuesdays and Fridays when Chorus and Advanced

Band meet, WIN is held at 9:00 for all students.

WIN also affords core, grade level teachers the opportunity to meet with teachers of other grade levels who teach the same subject areas. It also allows for greater flexibility in grade level planning and meeting. Teachers also engage in job-embedded professional learning during this time.

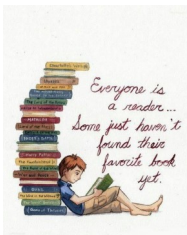
The WIN block of time allows for a personalized time of instruction, intervention, or enrichment. This is designed to help support each and every child at Thomaston Center School; truly this is a WINning endeavor!

Character Building Activities Began on First Day



During the first three days of school, students discussed what it means to be safe, responsible, and respectful at Center School. Each grade level participated in lessons and activities focused around the themes of respect, responsibility, and safety.

Meet Mrs. Larson, Our New Literacy Interventionist



I love reading and learning and want to help all of our children to love reading and learning, too! I am so happy

to be a part of the Thomaston Center School family. My name is Susie Larson and I have the pleasure of working as the new Literacy Interventionist at Center School.

This is my 12th year teaching in Connecticut and I am thrilled to

take on the task of elevating our kids to a greater understanding of how words work, how to read books fluently, and how to understand what we are reading. I will use all of the skills I acquired while earning my BS in Elementary Education and my MS in Reading, as well as apply the new learning I am gaining from my current enrollment in the MS in Special Education program at Quinnipiac College, to help all children achieve their highest potential in reading, writing, and thinking!

I believe that every child has

the potential for greatness and I strive to connect with each child to identify his or her learning style and meet each child's specific needs in a safe, nurturing, and structured environment. I believe that collaboration with parents is the key to understanding each child and working together toward common goals. Please feel free to contact me at slarson@thomastonschools.org. I am looking forward to a great future helping the students at Center School to become lifelong learners!

~Mrs. Larson, Reading Interventionist

**Volume 3, Issue 2
September 29, 2016**

Dates to Remember:

- 9/30~ Bagels with Mrs. Bernier (8:15-9:30)
- 10/6~ School Photos
- 10/7~ Professional Development Day (No School For Students)
- 10/10~ Columbus Day (No School)
- 10/17~ Board of Education meeting
- 10/19~ PAC/PTA meeting

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Sixth Grade News

Our math curriculum leads our sixth graders straight into ratios. We have been examining and exploring the use of them in many different kinds of scenarios and forms. The fact that this is the second year we have used Engage NY has really helped our students with common vocabulary and concepts. Little by little and in small steps we are dissecting the content of the first math standards.

Going to internet sites, such as xtramath.org and IXL are going to be a weekly requirement, so please monitor its use. This site reinforces knowledge of basic

math skills and beyond. It is very important for all sixth graders to have a solid base of the multiplication tables.

Language Arts Scholars have begun exploring our first unit of study, "The Making of a Really Good Story." Please ask your child about Belle Prater's Boy and the author's use of stereotypes to set the tone of the novel. The theme has been established as appearances can be deceiving, so the students are looking for supporting evidence as we read. Our ultimate goal is to use their new skills to write their own really good story.

In social studies we are studying the continents and oceans, latitude and longitude. Besides general knowledge, this study will help us to know where

ancient people started, and where they migrated. When we get to Rome and Greece the students will know where those areas are.

In science we designed and wrote up a lab report on pendulums. This is not as easy as it sounds for in one class we may have 6 different experiments. When you ask, "What can you change about pendulums?" The students really showed that they can work together on this (makes it so much more interesting!).

It was so nice to meet you at our Open House. We are so excited about this year and can't wait to share more wonderful learning experiences with your child!

Fourth Grade News

September has been a busy month in 4th grade, and students have quickly made the transition to their new building. Students are busy learning about writing realistic fiction and examining narrative texts more deeply in Language Arts. In math, students are switching teachers and are in

flexible groups, based on their module pre-test. These groupings will change with each new module.

Fourth graders went on their first field trip on September 22 to White Memorial in Litchfield. They took part in science activities related to the curriculum, such as learning

what impact humans have on our environment and collecting samples from the pond to look at aquatic organisms. Also, our first team-building day is Friday, September 30th from 2:00-2:55. If you are able to volunteer your time for this event or any in the future, please contact your child's teacher.

Physical Education News

In the Physical Education department I am getting ready for another exciting fun packed year. We have purchased a new Pedometer program that I will be implementing very soon. These new pedometers will be able to provide the data we need to support the Physical Education department and help me to individualize the program to meet the children's individual needs. You may be seeing some reports sent

home so keep an eye out for them.

This time of year is a great time to get out and enjoy the New England weather and scenery. Hikes, fairs and raking leaves are great ways to spend time with family and friends.

After school Programs: This year along with the Park and Recreation Department I will be offering programs after school for the children at

both schools. The first activity at BRS is Soccer in September. The first activity at TCS is going to be In October, Poison Ball. (Fun action packed game played with a giant balloon type balls) The programs will run for five days Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Tuesday again; 3:15-4:15 at BRS and 3:00-4:00 at TCS. The cost is \$40.00 per child. ~ **Renee Wojtczak, Physical Education Teacher**

News from the Media Center

Greetings from the TCS Library Media Center! There have been many exciting upgrades to our media center to share. Not only has our area expanded, but we now have a green screen! We are looking forward to creating some interesting projects from the research students will be conducting this year!

More great news! The Thomaston Public Library has agreed to host our monthly library visits! We are very lucky to have this very special opportunity each month. I will be walking each homeroom class over once a month during my time with each homeroom class. If you have completed the Parent Portal Registration these visits will begin the week of September 26, 2016. The day and

time will be when your child has Library Media with their homeroom class. As the visits are once a month, we will usually go rain or shine. TCS students have the unique opportunity to take out books from the public library during our school hours. If your child does not have a public library card in their own name, they will not be able to check out books. I am currently working on a list with the Thomaston Public Library to see which students do not have public library cards. I will be sending home public library card permission slips to students who do not have a card. I will continue to keep a public library return bin here at our library. As the bin fills, I will return the books to our public library for students. Stu-

dents are encouraged to return their public library books in the bin, or when we go for our visit.

TCS students participated in International Dot Day! International Dot Day (September 15th-ish) celebrates bravery, creativity, and self-expression! We read *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds and created their own self-expressive dots! As the author says, "Just make a mark...and see where it takes you!"

~**Melissa Saramanidis, Library Media Specialist**

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

September is National Head Lice Prevention month!

As a commitment to student and family health and wellness, information was sent home earlier this month to promote head lice prevention. We encourage routine screenings at home in order to detect head lice early, because ultimately, it will always be the parent involvement and effort that makes the difference.

Absenteeism:

If your child is going to be absent to school, please call the school @ 860-283-3036, press 9 when prompted, early in the morning to report him/her absent for that day. Please leave a message on the answering machine if no one is available to take your call. If you do not call to report your child absent, phone calls will be made to your home, work, and emergency contacts until we find the whereabouts of your child. This system is in place to ensure the safety and welfare of our students. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. When your child returns to school, please provide written documentation for that absence.



Backpacks:

Backpacks are popular and a practical way for students to carry their books and school supplies to/from school, but backpacks that are too heavy or worn incorrectly can harm children's backs. To prevent injury when using a backpack, encourage your child to:

Use both shoulder straps! This keeps the pack evenly distributed and can prevent muscle strain.

Tighten the straps! The backpack should be worn two inches above the waist, near the strongest mid-back muscles.

Organize! Use all of the backpack's compartments. Pack the heavier books closest to the center of the back.

Pack light! The filled backpack should never weigh more than 20% of the student's weight. This will help eliminate postural misalignment and over-worked muscles.

Handle with Care! When taking the backpack on and off, students should keep their torsos stable and avoid excessive twisting. Bend using both knees. Do not bend over at the waist when wearing or lifting a heavy backpack.

Medications:

Please be aware of the Board of Education's policy about medication in school. If your child is to take medication in school, a written doctor's order must be obtained. This applies to both prescription and non-prescription drugs. Authorization forms are available in the nurse's office. Medication must be transported to school by a parent or guardian and delivered to the nurse. Prescription medication must be in a separate, labeled container for school. Please notify your pharmacist at the time the prescription is filled that it is for school use. Non-prescription medication must be unopened and in its original container. If you bring in cough drops for your child, they will be kept in the nurse's office and dispensed from there. This policy is for the safety of all the students.

Thank you for your cooperation! Medical questions should be directed to:

Diane Aniki, R.N.

860-283-3038

daniki@thomastonschools.org

From the Desk of Mrs. Bernier



The 2016-17 school year is off to a terrific start! I'd like to welcome all of our returning students and as well as our new students, arriving from the area magnet schools, local towns, and as far as Massachusetts!

We are also happy to have Mrs. Zitnay, Ms. Saramanidis, and Mrs. Wojtezak full time along with the addition of Mrs. Larson, our new interventionist. Ms. Thornton and Mr. Warner have joined us in the lunchroom and Mrs. Jarvis is providing instructional support to students. Mrs. Dalka is provid-

ing instructional support to teachers and Ms. Clemment is our social work intern. Ms. Warren is our new speech teacher as well. We welcome all of our new staff members!

Thank you to all of the families who participated in the annual ice cream social on September 7. It was great to see so many familiar and new faces sharing some delicious ice cream and conversation! A special thank you to the PTA for helping to support this program.

September has been very busy with our new

schedules, including Academies and WIN as well as our character program assemblies and after school activities.

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. Conferences are scheduled for November 10.

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

1 Thomas Avenue
Thomaston, CT 06787

Phone: 860-283-3036

Fax: 860-283-3048

www.thomastonschooldesk.net



We're Collecting Box Tops!

TCS will continue to collect Box Tops for Education this year! Box Tops for Education is a wonderful way for our school to earn "free" money for supplies. Each homeroom will be competing in a friendly competition to see which homeroom can collect the most! Each month the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will get to keep the monthly trophy! We look forward to hearing the winning homerooms over the announcements! The class who collected the most box tops all year will earn a reward in June! These box tops are on many products; please cut them out and send them in with your child. We will collect the homeroom box tops at the end of each month. Good luck to all homerooms and let the friendly competition begin!

There is also an app you could use for earning additional bonus points and offers.

Visit: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/bonusapp>

Grade 5 Happenings

We are off to a great start in 5th grade! We are looking forward to our field trip on October 11, 2016 to Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum in Wethersfield, CT.

In Writer's Workshop, we are working on personal narrative stories and focusing on small moments that students have experienced throughout their lives. In Reader's Workshop, our focus is on reading fiction. Please continue to sign-off in your child's planner for completing 30 minutes of nightly reading.

In math classes, we are continuing our study of place value and decimal fractions. We are working with exponents and patterns in our base ten system. In science, students have learned about the Scientific Method and are beginning our unit on light. In social studies, we are learning about the regions in the U.S..

The Book Fair and Haunted Hallways Return to TCS!

The TCS Scholastic Book Fair will be here before you know it! Our book fair will run from Monday, 10/24/16 through Friday, 10/28/16 during school hours. All students will have the opportunity to preview the book fair on Monday, 10/24/16. Students will be able to make purchases Tuesday through Friday. Each homeroom class will have a day and time slot scheduled for them.

This year TCS will be having a raffle to win a new gaming chair! Each ticket is \$1.00 and all funds will go to the "ALL

FOR BOOKS" fund. This fund will be used to buy books for each classroom teacher and our own TCS Library Media Center! We are also accepting Pre-Sale Orders for Jeff Kinney's new Diary of a Wimpy Kid: DOUBLE DOWN. The paperback books are only available on November 1, 2016 to Scholastic participating schools. These special paperback editions (\$8.99) will be shipped directly to TCS. Please send in cash or check with the Pre-Sale Form. If you are interested in

making an online book fair purchase, the week before our book fair we will have an online option on our webpage.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the book fair. The TCS Scholastic Book Fair will be open during Haunted Hallways! Please join us on Saturday for the Haunted Hallways Book Fair from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 pm and be prepared to be scared!



WHAT'S IN MY BACKPACK?

By Donna Whyte

You ask, "What's in your backpack?"
When I come home each day,
I wonder what you hope is there
If it's empty, is that okay?

I tell you about my busy day,
How the teacher watches over me.
We sing, we laugh, we share, we learn-
That's the way it's supposed to be.

You ask, "What's in your backpack?"
I say, "Today it's empty."
Is that disappointment that I see
As you look down at me?

School is much more than "things"
That you can see and touch.
It's all of my life lessons,
That means so very much.

For if you really want to know
What I do each day
It won't be on a paper;
You'll know by what I say.
When you open the zipper wide,
What you are looking for today
Is all on my inside.

Ask me what we talked about,
And if I remember why.
Each day we do so many things,
So many books to read.
Sure is nice my teacher knows
Exactly what we need.

That backpack on my back today
Carries back and forth my stuff.
If you want to know what I learned
Listening to me will be enough.

My teacher wants to plant a seed,
Get my "love of learning" to sprout.
She wants it to last a lifetime-
That's what school is all about.

It's in my head and in my heart
That learning will take place.
"Childhood should be a journey...
Don't look at it as a race."