Torringford Newsletter

February 2018

Winter Concerts

Torringford held our Winter Concert and 4th grade "Informances" last month. Miss Tuttle, Mr. Valerio and all of the 4th & 5th grade chorus, band, and orchestra students practiced diligently to prepare for the events. Families came out to show their support and enjoy beautiful music selections. The 4th grade informances gave the parents a chance to try out the instruments and understand how challenging it is to learn an instrument.

Recess Reminder

All students will go outside for recess unless the weather does not permit. Students are expected to wear boots, coats, hats, gloves and appropriate winter clothing. Please make sure students are prepared for the weather. Students will not be allowed to play with the snow. The following will serve as our guidelines for canceling outdoor recess:

- **The outside temperature is below 25 degrees (with wind-chill)**
- **Icy or sloppy conditions**

Valentine's Day

Get creative this Valentine's Day! In place of sugary treats send: stickers, erasers, or cards to celebrate the holiday.

- **Raining and/or lightning**

Attendance Requirements

Daily attendance is essential to student success. Please note that the State Board of Education requires a written note to excuse absences. Students may miss up to 9 school days with written parent notes. After nine absences, documentation needs to meet the following criteria: student illness documented by a licensed medical professional, observation of a religious holiday, death in student's family, or mandated court appearances. Research shows that missing 10 percent of school, or about 18 days negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence. Please share the importance of attending school with your children.

Ways to Support Torringford School

You can support Torringford Schools by using your Big Y or Stop and Shop card when you shop! Tell them what school you would like your points to benefit. We are always accepting box tops as well. These reward programs allow us to meet the needs of our students. Thank you for supporting Torringford School!

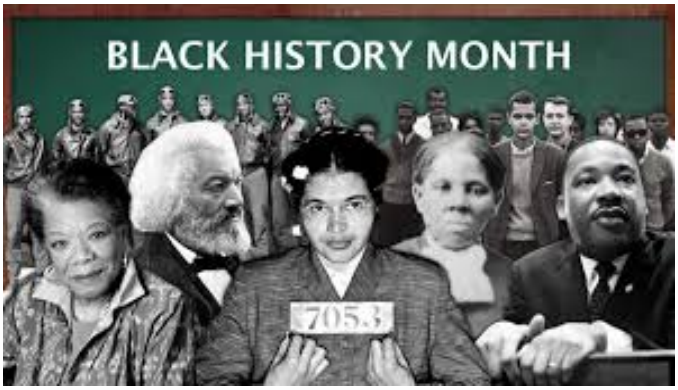
Congratulations to Torringford's January Artists of the Month

Congratulations to our **January Artists of the Month**!

Fifth grade student - **Elsie Nilsen** (snowman) and Second grade student- **Bella Stevens** (cardinal) They created exemplary painted works in art class! (Notice how the snowman shows form on a flat surface by shading? Look carefully at the cardinal to see the splatter painted snow coming down.) Great job! The art will be on display in the main office for the month of February.

February is Black History Month

Classes are reading biographies and learning about iconic historical figures like Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Ruby Bridges, and Barack Obama. Some are developing skits while others are creating poster projects or writing essays. Please ask your children what they learned this month.



Creative and Engaging Curriculum

Mrs. Morgan's class created hibernation models to demonstrate their learning.

Mrs. Campbell's class started learning about shadows in Science. They were determining what causes a shadow and what causes a shadow to change position and size.

The class went outside at 10:00, 1:00, and 3:00 to notice and note changes.

Students in Mrs. Giampaolo's 5th grade class wrapped up their Science unit on Sound by creating homemade instruments. Students demonstrated their knowledge of pitch, volume, vibration, and how sound can be amplified, absorbed, or reflected. Students created a variety of pan flutes, violins, ukuleles, guitars, harps, and drums. During recess, several students even took to creating a Jam Band, aptly named "The Jammin' Paolos." Their top hits include "Hot Cross Buns," "Mary Had a Little Lamb," and the theme from the movie "Jaws."

Positive Bus Reports

Last month, Mrs. Werkhoven's class and Mrs. Ferrucci's class tied for the most positive bus referrals so far this year. Students are recognized for being role models, helping one another, and demonstrating exceptional bus behavior. The classes earned extra physical education time. Winning classes will be recognized each trimester.

Valentine's for Senior Citizens

Students at Torringford School created over 400 Valentine's cards for Senior Citizens. The Litchfield Hills Northwest Elderly Nutrition Program, Meals on Wheels collected the cards our students created. The cards will be given to seniors who receive meals all throughout the Northwest corner. The program was featured in the Republican American newspaper this week.

MEALS, CARDS ON WHEELS

Above: Joel Sekorski, director of Elderly Services for the city of Torrington, right, thanks Torringford School students for the Valentine cards they made that will be distributed to seniors and Meals on Wheels home-bound clients during a visit to the school on Monday. For over 10 years, students at the school have made cards for the program.

Left: Edwin Rivera, a fifth-grade student at Torringford School, hands a box of Valentine cards to Meals on Wheels volunteer Charlie MacDonald to load in his truck during a visit to the school on Monday. This year, Torringford School students made more than 400 cards that will be distributed to seniors and Meals on Wheels home-bound clients.

PHOTOS BY JIM SHANNON REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Town poised to assume former bank | Judge seals

February Important Dates

- **Third Grade Math Night- Thursday, February 8th at 5:15 pm** Parents of 3rd grade students are invited to learn how to support their children in math.
- **PTO Meeting – Monday, February 12th 6:00 pm –Café** Third Grade presentations on Native Americans will be featured at this meeting. All are welcome to attend PTO meetings. It is a great way to meet teachers, parents, and other members of the Torringford family. See you then!
- **Read Aloud Day- Wednesday, February 14th** Readers from the community will read selected books to each class.
- **Early Dismissal- Thursday, February 15th – Students are dismissed at 1:30 pm.** Please be sure to pick up on time.
- **February Break- February 16th –February 20th No School**

PTO Fundraiser- Yankee Candles

Please consider supporting the enrichment opportunities PTO offers our school community. It is through these fundraisers we can offer field trips, classroom mini-grants, and assemblies. This month PTO distributed materials for our Yankee Candle fundraiser. Visit the Torringford PTO Facebook page for updates.