

February
2020

Tobyhanna Elementary Center

Panther Press

Electronic copy via e-mail / pmsd.org will have clickable links for your convenience.

February Highlights

February 10: PTO Meeting 6:00pm

February 12: Barn Hill Preserve Visit

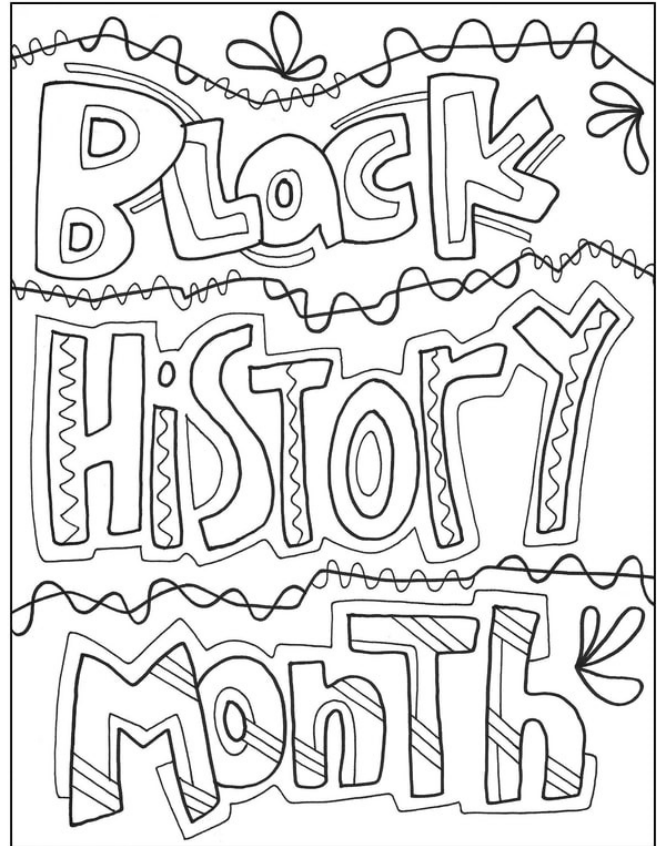
February 14: **NO SCHOOL**

February 17: **NO SCHOOL**

February 21: **NO SCHOOL** / Conferences



The Future Teachers of America Club at TEC presented at the PMSD Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 22nd to discuss ways in which they help their school and community. After some rough weather forcing cancellations it seems the 3rd time was a charm and the club was happy to finally have a chance to attend this meeting. Students enjoyed some pizza together beforehand and were even served by their Principal and Vice Principal as an added treat. Great job students and we appreciate all that you do!



Doodle Art Alley ©

Black History Month:

The annual celebration during the month of February to celebrate the achievements made by African Americans in U.S. history.

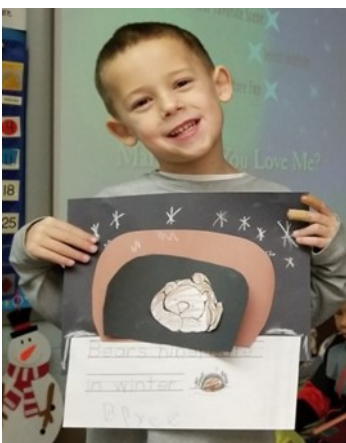


PUBLISHED MONTHLY
FOR STUDENTS,
PARENTS AND
TEACHERS

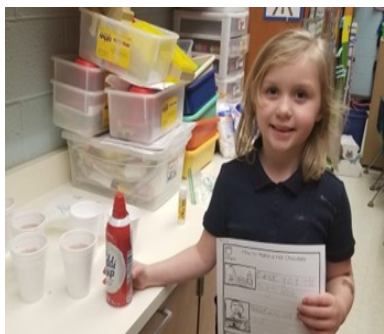
Kindergarten



The Kindergarten classes welcomed in 2020 by talking about what a resolution is and coming up with New Year promises of their own. They listened to the story "Squirrel's New Year's Resolution" and then talked about things that they can do to make the year better for themselves. Some ideas were to share more, help around the house, be kind, etc. We are looking forward to a very bright 2020!!



Kindergarten classes have been busy studying Winter. They have been learning how the environment changes during the winter season and the things they and our animal friends do to adapt to colder the weather. They also enjoyed talking about all the fun activities winter can bring to us. They listened to stories, sang songs, watched video clips, and completed many different reading, writing and math activities. They loved being involved in many hands on experiments and activities such as measuring mittens and making hot cocoa. They really enjoyed comparing how they stay warm with the way a polar bear stayed warm. They much preferred their snuggly coats, hats, scarves and mittens to feel the icky fat which keeps a polar bear warm. They did decide they might like to take a trip down south to a warm beach though with some migrating birds than sleep like a hibernating bear or brave the cold like we do, when given a chance to vote on the best way to stay warm in winter. Once our study is done the children will select their favorite animal and alone or with a partner design and create an outfit or home that would be appropriate for that animal to stay warm. We were very fortunate to have so many wonderful resources both on hand and online from both our TEC Library and our local Clymer Library at our disposal to aid in our study!





First Grade



First graders are learning HOW important it is to ask questions while reading. Reading, writing and re-reading to hunt down details is the secret to becoming a successful student!



First graders are becoming **awesome** story writers! We have begun writing narrative stories (fiction) about penguins who do not like the cold but live in Antarctica! The kids loved dressing penguins up in clothes and displaying them on our bulletin board as well as coming up with names and creative conclusions to problems that the penguins were encountering.

As we continued writing non-fiction stories after researching facts about penguins, we acted like penguins! Our first graders waddled, hopped and slid on ice!

Did you know that there are 17 different kinds of penguins?! They lay eggs, can not fly and have many layers of blubber to keep them warm.

Penguins are amazing and so are first graders learning to write!

2ND GRADE POD WINTER WRAP UP



The Second Grade pod participated in the Winter Holidays Around the World event. We focused on Mexico. We read the story The Legend of the Poinsettia by Tomie de Paola. Each student wrote a sentence describing a “gift from the heart” they would do or have done on a poinsettia ‘petal’ or bract (special red leaves). The bracts were combined to make beautiful, larger than life poinsettias. Students also decorated smaller ones in various colors. Did you know poinsettias can come in red, pink, yellow, white, purple, orange, and salmon? We learned about the parts of a poinsettia in Science and labeled a diagram. In Social Studies, we found Mexico on the map, watched a video about Las Posadas and did a color coding text evidence activity. In addition we learned about other Spanish speaking customs during the winter holidays. Our hallway was also adorned with the pictures and text about the customs of various Spanish speaking countries and a labeled map. Facts, pictures, posters about Mexico and how they celebrate holidays were also displayed. There was even an authentic mariachi hat, straw sombrero, Mexican girl’s dress, piñata, and headdress too! At the end, we enjoyed “traveling around the world” to various pods to see their cultural displays. We loved getting our passports stamped and comparing and contrasting our culture and others.



We will continue our multicultural studies by learning about various New Year’s traditions around the world and sharing our own traditions in class. We wrote about our favorite 2019 memory and a New Year’s resolution. *What is your resolution?* We will also explore Chinese New Year in Social Studies with our Scholastic News magazine and ELA: Wonders. We will write about our favorite Chinese New Year Tradition and how we are like our Chinese zodiac animal. Did you know that this is the year of the rat? Feliz Año Nuevo! Gung Hay Fat Choy! Happy New Year!

-By Mrs. M. Cooper 2nd gr teacher @ TEC



3rd Grade Snap Shot

PPL has awarded third grade teacher, Mrs. Aulizio, with their Empowering Educators Grant. Mrs. Aulizio purchased Fuji Instax Mini Self Printing cameras and film with the \$1,000 that was awarded to her. Students are very eager and excited to begin using the cameras for project based learning across the curriculum.



Third Grade Multicultural Week

We had a lot of fun doing a variety of activities during Multicultural week! The school was able to hear different countries' national anthems and facts during the morning announcements. Every grade level decorated their pod with different countries around the world. Third grade students decorated the pod with traditions and facts about France. It was so much FUN! In our Social Studies classes, the students learned about different customs and beliefs. They made gingerbread ornaments from Germany, learned about the poinsettia from Mexico, and much more!



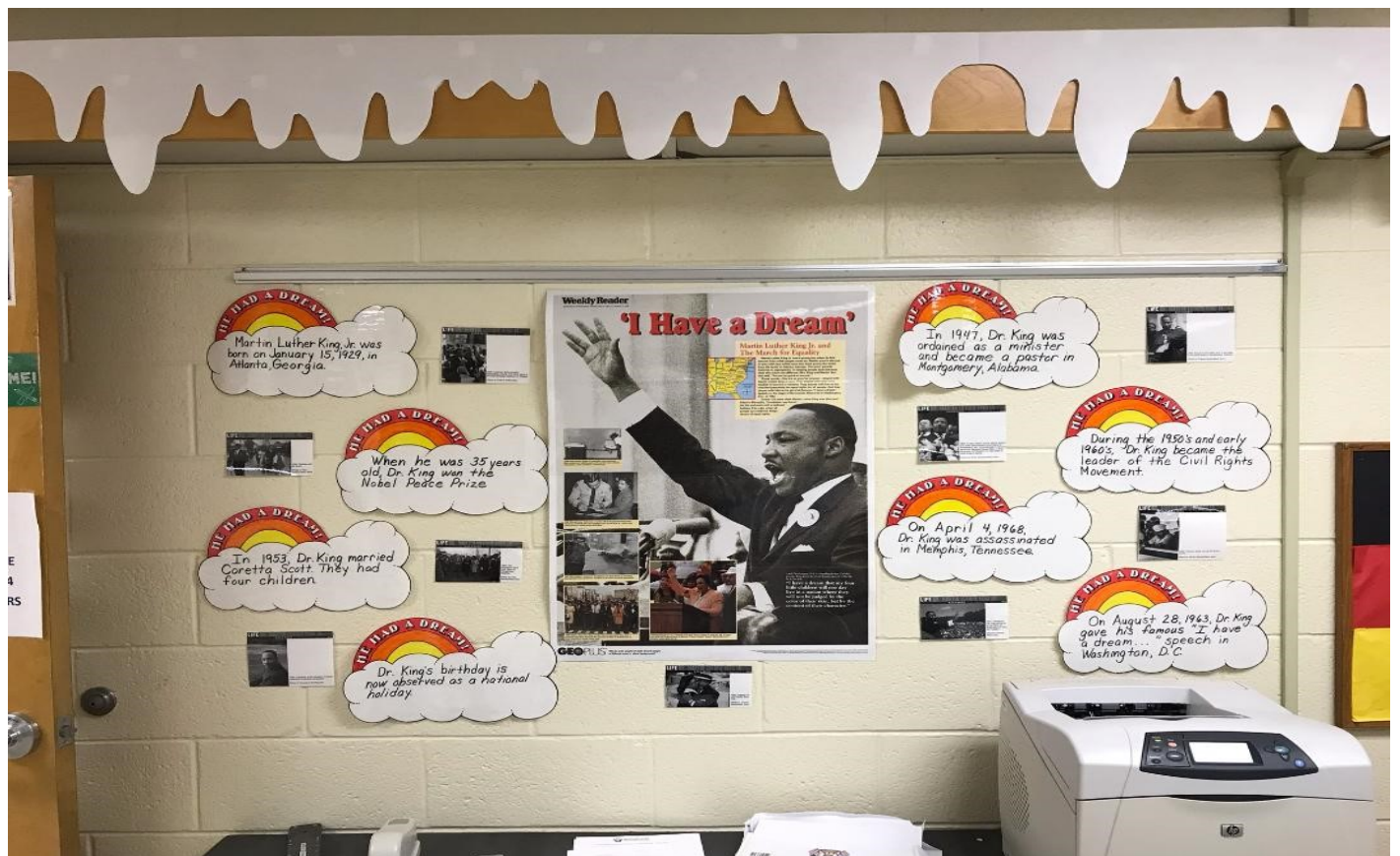
Fourth Grade African American Biographies

Students in fourth grade worked on researching famous African American people and creating biographies in preparation for Black History Month in February. Some of the biographies included Toni Morrison, Henry Louis Gates Jr., Condoleezza Rice, Maya Angelou and Cornel West.

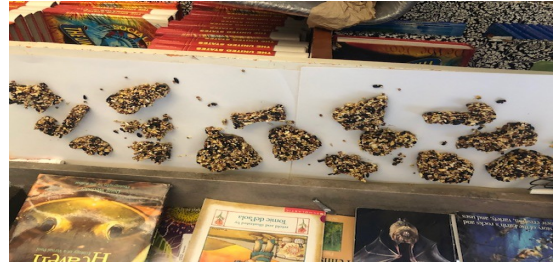
Students also learned about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Civil Rights. Homerooms read Dr. King's speech and it is hanging up with quotes to learn and remember in the 4th grade pod.

Feel free to stop down to read about the research that was done and to take a moment to reflect on Dr. King's speech!

"I Have a Dream"



5th Grade



5th Grade had a visit from Trout Unlimited. A member of Trout Unlimited stopped by to talk to our 5th graders about cold water streams and stream health. He also brought in some creepy crawlers to show the students. Examples of the macroinvertebrates he showed us were natural fish food found in our streams. Among the macroinvertebrates were stoneflies, mayfly nymphs, and hellgrammites.



Our 5th Grade Science classes did their part to help our feathered friends make it through the winter. Students used cookie cutters, gelatin, corn syrup, and birdseed to make yummy birdfeeders.

Students were able to take their feeders home and hang them up in their backyards!



6TH GRADE OBSTACLE COURSE

As a special treat before the winter break, the students had the opportunity to race each other through the inflatable obstacle course. This fun course pitted homeroom vs. homeroom in a race to the finish. All students enjoyed the having some down- time with friends. It was a great way to end the day before the winter holiday.



Frozen Kids



Sixth graders took the stage for the amazing production of Frozen KIDS. As their last drama performance in elementary school, all of the sixth graders involved did an outstanding job. From Elsa, Anna, and the royal family to the prop & sound crews, and all the cast...it was an extraordinary performance. All of their hard work and dedication truly paid off. **BRAVO!!!**

("Frozen" continued on next page with Drama Club)





TEC's Drama Club presented the musical Disney's Frozen KIDS to their school peers and their parents on January 10, 13, and 14, 2020. We are among the first schools in the area to put on this show since its release date in September 2019. Students from 4th, 5th, and 6th grades had auditioned for this after-school activity back in October 2019, and a total of 91 students participated in the musical. Jeralyn Aragona-Young directed the show, Dr. Jennifer Riordan prepared the costumes and props, Ms. Cortés assisted Ms. Aragona-Young and was also in charge of the music and sound, and Victoria Negrón from Reach for the Stars Dance Studio was the choreographer. Some of the musical selections that were included in this KIDS version of Disney's Frozen: The Broadway Musical were "Let the Sun Shine On," "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?," "Let It Go," and "In Summer". All of the students who were involved, from actors to prop crew to sound techs, put on an amazing show, and we are so proud of their achievements on our TEC stage!

Drama club



Congrats

PRINCIPAL'S PRIDE CLUB

Arissa Williams

Jace Apgar

Christian Rodriguez

Shane Fitzgerald

Scott Smith

Guin Cooper

Kura Shaller

Cooper Daggett

Ethan Rios-Gazard

Riley Heller

John Acosta

Damian Lobb

Payton Mackes

Ryan Thomas

Gianna Concepcion

Amaya Bonilla

Emma Covino

Lukas Killoran

Liam Gonzalez

Chloe Consentino

Cole Honeychurch

Lily Gillette

Paulina Mackowski

Cora Gillette

Ayani Torres

Eliza Straukas

Athan Young

Geonni Wiltshire

Wyatt Keiper



ESL Students SHINE



Third Grade EL students, Jakub Tomaska, Paulina Mackowski, Michael Rosales, and Adrian Martinez are doing a fantastic job in ESL. They continue to learn their vocabulary words and reading strategies. They are a great group of students who are respectful and kind towards each other. They completed their annual ACCESS tests this month. They have been working very hard this school year. We are very proud of them!

TEC's Mind & Movement Club

"Be mindful. Be grateful. Be positive. Be true. Be kind."

– Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*

Students at Tobyhanna Elementary Center have the unique opportunity to start their day in a positive way with this fun new club! Kindergarten through sixth grade students are invited to participate once a week in this program, which focuses on getting their minds and bodies ready to be successful learners. Through the use of self-selected activities such as classic board and card games, Legos, dominoes, jacks, Chinese jump ropes and marbles. The students form friendships while exploring numerous new activities. A group of sixth grade students has even taken the initiative to create their own club based on the Warrior book series! Each session also provides mindfulness activities which help students learn how manage their stress more effectively and work through it more quickly. This club stresses the importance and habit of focusing on the present moment and ignoring distractions. It teaches students to stay calm in the face of life's stressful times. It creates good habits for the future. When faced with life's challenges, the students from TEC know they can find peace by taking a few moments to pause and reflect.

Club Advisors~ Mrs. Amadio and Mrs. Dial

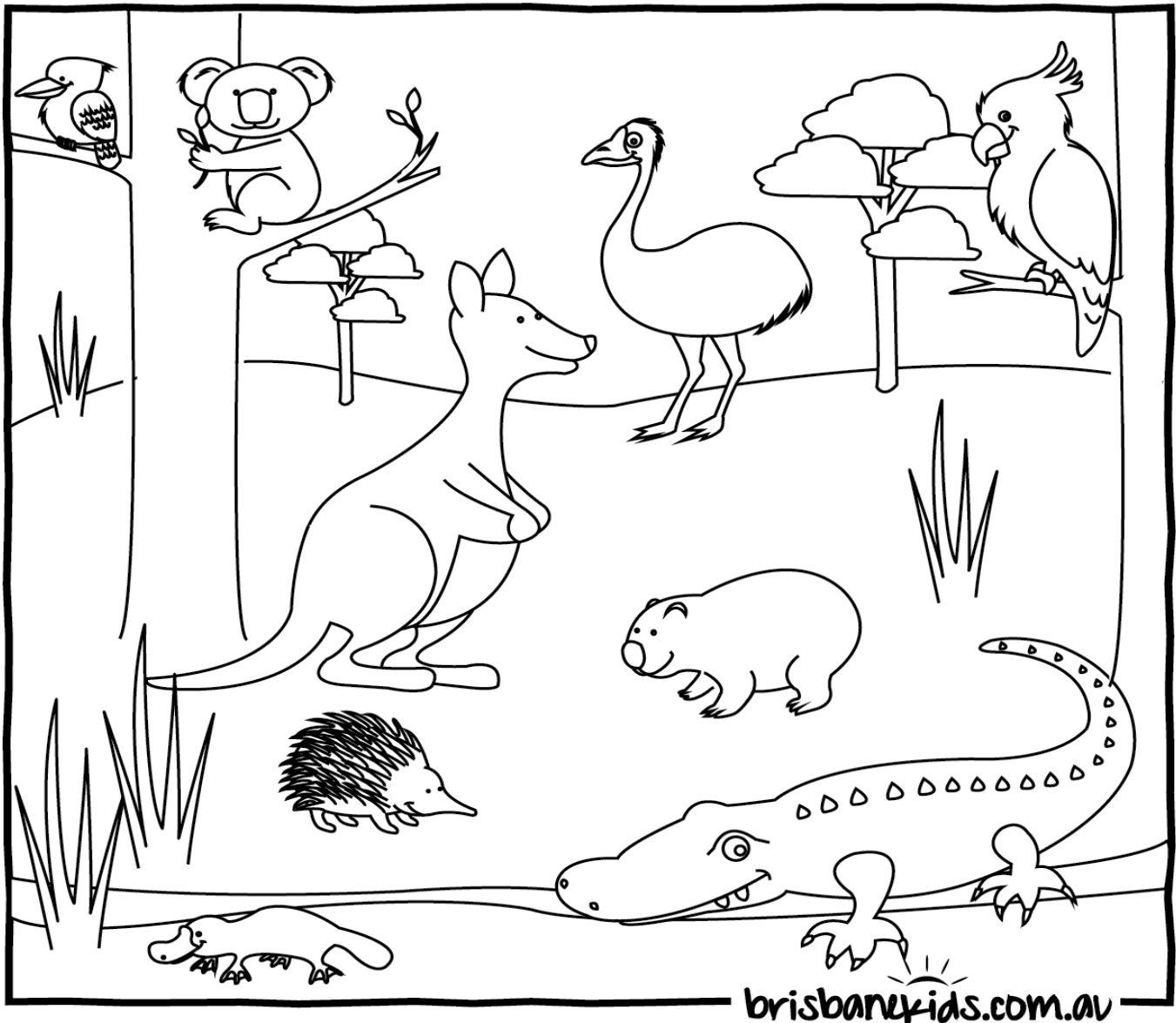


TEC Supports Wildlife in Australia

Barn Hill Preserve will visit TEC on February 12 and with them they will bring a KANGAROO (among 6 other animals)! Students will have the opportunity to learn about kangaroos and their habitat as well as how the recent wildfires affect them. Students can have their picture taken with one of the animals or purchase merchandise. 100% of the profits from the purchase of a Barn Hill Preserve wristband will be donated to the rescue and rehabilitation efforts of wildlife in Australia. Thanks to the Preserve for providing this opportunity at no cost to Tobyhanna Elementary Center!

Parent reminder: If you would like your child to see the assembly, they MUST have a permission slip. You do not need to make a purchase to attend. If you decide to make a purchase, please send cash or check made out to Barn Hill Preserve along with the permission slip/ order form. Purchases may be made on line and in this case please send the receipt to your child's teacher.

Visit them at: www.barnhillpreserve.com or on [Facebook at Barn Hill Preserve of Delaware](#)



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Building Blocks of Communication

Mrs. Ednie x24460 Mrs. Dial x24465
 Grades 1, 2, 3, 6 Grades k, 4, 5, 6

Parents often want to have good relationships with their children, but sometimes it can be difficult to know where to begin. Life is busy and it is difficult to even find the time to think about improving your relationship with your children. What does a parent do?

One of the biggest keys to a good relationship is spending time with your children. Sharing in fun brings people closer together. It is important, even in the busy world we live in, to set time aside for your children. Start today and make family night a regular occasion in your house. When kids are young there is nothing better than spending time with you, their parents. Here are a few ideas on how to fit quality time in with your kids.

- **Homemade Pizza Night:** This is fun for kids, parents can roll out the crust and each person in the family can put the toppings of his/her choice on a personal size pizza.
- **Game Night:** Take one night a week or one night a month and make it game night. Kids love to play games and they learn sportsmanship at the same time.
- **Movie Night:** Take one night a month and make it family movie night. Let a different person select the movie each night, pop some popcorn and hang out in the living room together. •
- **Family Fun Bag:** Sit down and make a list of all the fun things you want to do together. Write each one on a sheet of paper and place them in a bag. Draw one slip out each week or month and do what is on the slip on family fun night/day.

TOO OFTEN WE UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A TOUCH, A SMILE, A KIND WORD, A LISTENING EAR, AN HONEST COMPLIMENT, OR THE SMALLEST ACT OF CARING, ALL OF WHICH HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO TURN A LIFE AROUND. ☀️ LEO BUSCAGLIA



Kerby's Computer Corner

January 2020

Artificial Intelligence and Children



A couple things occurred to me over winter break that I wanted to pass on. My 6-year-old granddaughter called me on the phone. She has a habit of making calls on her father's phone, and even through his phone number on her iPad. She makes a lot of phone calls including calling her dad's co-workers and sharing things that perhaps should not be shared.

New technologies require that we develop new parenting skills and, perhaps, house rules. The phone call problem might be resolved by not leaving internet-enabled devices within reach of the children. Unfortunately, that may not be enough. Children today can make a phone call by asking Alexa or another smart home device to make the call. I saw this in a commercial where a young lady burns her duck and has Alexa call her father for help.



This led me to another concern. Will today's children rely on smart home devices to do simple tasks for them? Will they know how to make a phone call without assistance? What happens when the Internet is out? I was wondering how often people have packages arrive because their child ordered something online through Alexa.

There are also serious privacy concerns from these smart home devices which are always listening. I researched children's toys that use artificial intelligence and found some were banned for privacy concerns. Many of these toys upload what they record to cloud servers and do not guarantee the privacy of what is in those files.



Finally, I think young children should be taught that devices that use artificial intelligence are not real. Yes, some of our children think Alexa is a real person! I shared this with our kiddos at our annual safety assembly, but it is good to discuss it one-on-one outside of school, too.

Happy Computing!

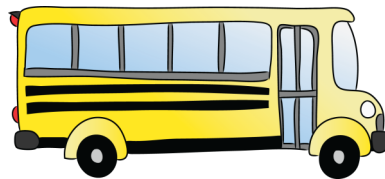
HAIKU WISDOM and REMINDERS

Mr. Kevra and Mrs. Amadio

Haiku is a traditional form of Japanese poetry that is limited to three short lines. The first line must have 5 syllables, the second has 7 and the third also has 5. The haiku below are creative ways to inform parents of recent events and remind students of ongoing concerns. We hope you enjoy them!

CLIMATE

School Wide Positive
Builds Self-Esteem In Students
Better Grades and Deeds

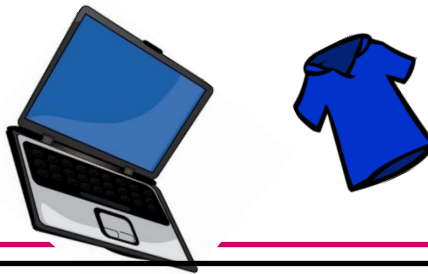


BUSES

Please Stay in Bus Seat
Wait for Your Bus Stop to Move
Prevents Injury

COMPUTERS

Chrome Books in Classrooms!
Prepares Students for Future
School is Cutting Edge



CLOTHING

Dress Code Important
No Pockets On Sides of Pants
Jackets With Hoods Not Allowed

8 Simple Organizing Tips to Make Parents' Lives Easier

Prepare for the day ahead. Have your child pack his/her backpack and lay out clothes for the next day before going to bed. Breakfast bowls, utensils, etc. should be set out as well. This will help everyone to get a positive start to their day.

Make a home for everything. Group related items together, find appropriate containers to hold them, and place the things you use most frequently in the most accessible spaces. Store items close to their place of use. Label where everything goes, so everyone in the family can return things to the places they belong. Teach your kids to do this also so that they know that all of their belongings have a home.

Establish the 10-Minute Pick-Up. Set a timer for 10 minutes every night, or choose 10 minutes' worth of songs to play, and make it part of your family's nightly routine to clean up together by putting objects back where they belong. When everyone works together it can be fast and fun! When everyone does a little, a lot gets done!

Employ the One In, One Out Rule. For every new object (e.g., a toy or piece of clothing) that is brought into the house, choose one to go out. We tend to use 20% of what we have 80% of the time, so find something that is no longer useful, loved, or enriching to your life, and give it to someone who can use it.

Designate a space for outgoing items. Have family members place items that need to be returned or dropped off in an accessible place that is designated specifically for that purpose. A bin in the mudroom or a basket by the front door both work well. Every time you go out, take as many items as you can to drop off.

Have kids help with household chores. Create a chart or list of each child's responsibilities along with when each task needs to be done. Remember, your child's idea of a clean room may be different from yours, so be specific with your expectations.

Use a family calendar. Keep a large, centrally located calendar that lists each family member's extracurricular activities as well as major events at school and home. This helps them see the bigger picture and manage their time better.

Contain the Legos and small toys! Place Lego set contents into gallon-size Ziploc bags and label with the Lego set's name and number.

Mr. Kevra

CLYMER LIBRARY EVENTS AND NEWS



love your library

February is Library Lovers Month so start them young!

February 1 is Take Your Child to the Library Day.

Share your love of libraries and books with the children in your life.

Stop in and fill in a heart to say what you love about the Clymer and take a chance on our **LIBRARY LOVE RAFFLE BASKET for Valentine Day.**

KINDERGARTEN PRACTICE:

Clymer Library seeks to foster Kindergarten readiness skills by offering a once-weekly Kindergarten Practice program for children ages 3- to 6-years starting Monday, February 3, at 1:00 PM. The hour-long program begins with an adult-free story session followed by interactive learning activities centered on a literacy skill. Your child must be able to separate from adult caregiver and to follow directions. Pre-registration at 570-646-0826 is required. Space is limited.

AFTER-SCHOOL STEM:

Clymer Library is starting a weekly afterschool STEM program for children ages 5-12 years on most Mondays at 3:45 PM. This 45-minute program offers children a simple hands-on exploration of topics in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Participants must be able to work with others, follow directions, and behave responsibly. Space is limited, so pre-registration at 570-646-0826 is a **MUST** to ensure adequate supplies for all.

LEGO® STEM:

Have fun exercising your imagination in this once-monthly LEGO® STEM session at Clymer Library. Build as a team or individually; stay for the hour or just drop-in for a few minutes of building fun. LEGO® bricks are provided. The LEGO® STEM is held the first Tuesday of each month at 4:30 PM. Adult caregiver attendance is required for children under 10-years.

CRAZY 8S MATH CLUB:

Crazy 8s Math Club restarts at Clymer Library, on Wednesday, February 12, 19, 26 at 3:45 to 4:30 PM for children ages 5-8 (K-2nd grade). Participants must be able to work with others, follow directions, and behave responsibly. Bedtime Math requires a minimum of 8 to 16 participants, so pre-registration at 570-646-0826 is required for program to continue. Deadline for registration is February 3, 2020.

TINY EXPLORER STEM:

Join Miss Love every Thursday at 11:15 AM for *Tiny Explorers*, an hour-long STEM-based program that encourages self-directed sensory play for toddlers and preschoolers. Play for a few minutes or the whole hour. Adult caregiver participation is required.

Two events for the price of one..★**FREE!!**

Thursday, February 13

6:30 PM

(Snow date: Feb. 14)

Friday, February 14

6:00 pm

Party

On Thursday...

Join us in celebrating **our 97th birthday!** We will reminisce about the past...and look forward to our future, as **the children of Tobyhanna Elementary Center** share their song, art, and ideas

★ about community!

Enjoy cake, hot cocoa, and snacks

...THEN...

On Valentine's Day...

Come back for a **free**
"WE LOVE YOU"
community meal!



★
**Blakeslee Community
 Center**

Valentine's Day

word scramble

DER _____ KNIP _____

ERTHA _____ SESISK _____

RROWA _____ UFBRYRAE _____

HOLCETAOC _____ OPEM _____

SRHUC _____ LTETRE _____

DYNCA _____ EESTW _____

VLOE _____

PELEVEON _____

NEOYH _____

CIDPU _____

February

						<p>1</p> <p>Love to read? Visit Clymer Library!</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Groundhog day!</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Did you know February's flower is a violet?!</p>	<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Check out Blakeslee Community Center's events!</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Rock climb indoor at Pocono Rocks</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>PTO Meeting 6:00pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Barn Hill Preserve visits TEC</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Joe Corbi order pick up at school. Watch our Facebook for details!</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day No school</p>	<p>15</p> 
<p>16</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>President's Day NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>School Board Meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>National LOVE your pet(s) day.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Conferences No school</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Give your brain a workout with school games</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Check out movies playing at the Casino Theatre</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>2020 is a leap year! Enjoy your extra day!</p>