



# Baldwin's Bulletin

February 2018



## Superintendent's Corner

*"There's just something beautiful about walking in snow that nobody else has walked on. It makes you believe you're special."* - Carol Rifka Brunt

While Ms. Brunt's words conjure images of the beauty of a new-fallen snow, they also remind us of the challenges of safely transporting over 1700 students and 350 staff members to and from the district's schools each day.

The superintendent has the responsibility to close schools, open them late or dismiss them early in hazardous weather or in other extraordinary circumstances which might endanger the health or safety of students or school employees.

A careful analysis of all relevant factors is completed in consultation with school, township, and regional resources when inclement weather is forecast. This process can begin days ahead of an anticipated storm but ultimately plays out in the very early morning hours with decisions made so that the communication plan can be put into action to ensure all families and staff receive word as early as possible.

Now is the time for families to review their plans for responding to these school closing events so that in the event that the phone call comes, they can be implemented quickly to ensure that children are supervised appropriately.

Messages about emergency school closings or delays will be communicated through all available channels - online media outlets, radio station 1450am, broadcast television stations 2, 7, and 12, the district's Facebook and Twitter accounts, [www.warrentboe.org](http://www.warrentboe.org), the district's telephone system, and through our school-to-home communication system, School Messenger.

Adjustments to the school calendar create challenges for everyone associated with the schools. Ultimately the decision to close or delay will be made based solely on whether it is in the best interest of students' and staff members' health and safety. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.

## Principal's Corner

Research is pretty clear when it comes to reading. It's also pretty simple: the more you read, the better reader you'll become. Even more important than a teacher standing up and sharing all of her wisdom, or the workbook pages and activities that accompany reading passages is the protected, uninterrupted time that students spend with their eyes on text, deeply engaged

in a book. Central School classrooms have taken this to heart. Teachers are shortening their mini-lessons and carving out lots of protected time for students to read just right books, or books that are on their level. As students are reading, teachers are meeting with small groups, partnerships, or conferencing with individual students to work on each child's individual goal. One student might be working on increasing their fluency, another their stamina, and yet another on identifying themes in a book. Students engage in conversations about their books with their peers and with their teachers, deepening understanding and exploring new ideas. In these ways, reading becomes more authentic and real world-esque. These best practices are making for stronger readings with greater stamina and comprehension.

The habits of good readers grow even faster when they continue at home, too. About twenty minutes of protected reading time each night will help to improve students' fluency and support more reflective reading. Having a conversation with your child about the book he or she is reading will also support understanding and conversation skills. We want students to read books they feel successful with and are interested in. As important as building reading skills, is instilling a love of reading itself. Enjoy diving into and sharing a good book for the fun of it!

## Flu Epidemic Prevention Strategy!

Be prepared against a flu epidemic this year!

It's easy, the power is in each and everyone's hands to stop the spread of all respiratory infections.

Place wipes at the entry to your home and sanitizer in different key locations and when anyone shows up at your home make sure they wash their hands upon entry!

### **Do not touch the T Zone**

The T zone is the areas on your face around the eyes nose and mouth. Remember it is the only portal of entry into the human body for all respiratory and G.I. infections

### **True Flu Prevention Triad:**

1. Do Not Touch the T Zone!
2. Handwash Regularly!
3. Don't hesitate to vaccinate!

Simple Solution to a Complex problem!

Follow and promote these 3 Simple steps to maintain personal and community health!

There are two critical components around habit: first, creating a good habit and second, is sustaining the habit. However, sustaining the habit is the more difficult component to achieve.

## Grade 4

4th Graders have been working hard these past two marking periods and are ready to soar into the third one. In reading, we have been studying the fiction genre. Students have been learning how to discuss and write about a text's character traits, plots and themes. They have been asking questions and making inferences, as well as learning how to have meaningful conversations with a buddy or a small book group. For the next marking period, we will be exploring the different features of nonfiction texts. Students will be learning strategies to identify the main idea and key details of a text, as well as continuing to learn how to ask meaningful questions that lead to a good discussion.

In writing, 4th grade authors celebrated their published realistic fiction stories. Students enjoyed sharing their stories with the entire grade. Our new focus in writing is opinion writing. Students are learning how to create a strong thesis statement with reasons and evidence. They will learn strategies to create a strong lead and closing and how to include figurative language and life connections to give even greater support to their thesis statement. Our last unit of study will be informational writing. Students will be learning how to research a topic and create a book about it.

Our fourth grade mathematicians are beginning to explore fraction equivalence and comparisons as we prepare to add and subtract fractions! After brushing up on our place value skills and addition and subtraction through one million, we tackled multiplication of 1 and 2 digit numbers and division of 1-digit numbers. Students can distinguish between factors and multiples and identify and apply rules in patterns. Fourth graders have already learned many new concepts and skills, and a variety of ways to problem solve. We are anxious to multiply fractions by whole numbers, relate fractions to decimals, and work with lines, angles, and shapes! We are building our confidence and looking forward to a challenging, but rewarding second half of the year.

In social studies, groups of students are presenting their unit project to their classmates. We researched the country's regions with a focus on Native American groups such as the Hopi, Cherokee, Iroquois, Lakota, Shoshone and Hawaiians. Collaboration and digital citizenship along with research skills such as summarizing and paraphrasing were emphasized. We are ready to start our next unit of science called "Soils, Rocks and Landforms". Students will explore the Earth and Space Sciences strand of our Next Generation Science Standards with a focus on soils and weathering, landforms, mapping Earth's surface and natural resources.

## ***Innovation & Design Begins at Central School***

We are happy to announce that the Innovation & Design program begins at Central School on January 30th. Innovation & Design is a hands-on program developed to teach engineering skills to students. All k-5 students in Warren Township Schools will receive one marking period of Innovation & Design delivered by Dr. Susan Kline.

Dr. Kline has been a Reach teacher at Angelo L. Tomaso Elementary School since 2002. Beginning in September 2017, Dr. Kline will focus exclusively on the Innovation & Design program.

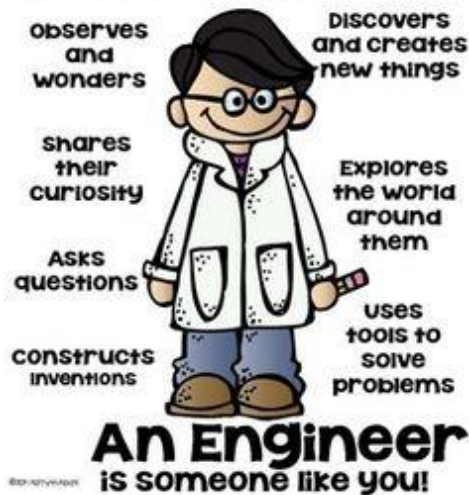
Each Innovation & Design unit of study was developed to be age-appropriate ensuring success for every student. The hands-on approach makes Innovation & Design highly engaging and fun.

Each grade level has a theme:

- K - Making Things Better
- Gr 1 - Solving Problems
- Gr 2 - Designing Solutions
- Gr 3 - Be an Engineer
- Gr 4 - Think Like an Engineer
- Gr 5 - The Engineering Design Process

Dr. Kline will be at Central School during the third marking period, January 30th through April 12th.

# **An Engineer is someone who...**



## **Calendar of Events for February:**

January 29-February 15<sup>th</sup> – Adopt a Troop Charity Drive

Feb. 2 Dentist visits grades 3-5

Feb. 8 Reports Cards emailed home for Grades 4 & 5

Feb. 9 Spirit Day

Feb. 9 Career Day for grade 5, 1:30-3 PM

Feb. 13 Fingerprinting

Feb. 15 Franklin Institute Traveling Science Show –grades 1 & 3

Feb. 16 School Closed – Winter Recess

Feb. 19 School Closed – President's Day

Feb. 23 Dance-a-Thon 7-8:30 PM

## **Future Events:**

March 9<sup>th</sup> – PTO Adult Social