



Baldwin's Bulletin March 2018



Superintendent's Corner

Although Punxsutawney Phil predicts that winter will hang around a little longer, preparations are underway for Summer Fun 2018. This year's five-week program will be held at Mt. Horeb School beginning on June 26, 2018.

Summer Fun is a unique program offering students the opportunity to attend enrichment courses. Unlike other summer camp experiences, certified teachers instruct students in Summer Fun in a variety of areas such as music, arts, literature, science, technology, and physical education.

Early-bird registration is available through May 4, 2018, along with several discount options and extended-, early-, and after-care services are available for families as well.

This fully customizable experience allows families to choose one to four courses per day for any number of weeks. More information and a link to the registration form can be found at <https://www.warrentboe.org/schools/summerfun/>.

I hope you'll consider Summer Fun for an enriching experience this year!

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.

Principal's Corner

Supporting Stamina and Grit

As you well know, educating the Whole Child is a priority at Central School and by definition is multi-faceted. In addition to building academic competence, you've seen the focus on developing character and building social and emotional competencies as well. Underlying all of this are foundational skills, behaviors and traits that will be critical for students to draw on throughout their lives. Arguably some of the most important traits to develop is the building of grit and resilience in students. Perseverance, determination, and response to challenging situations are crucial in school, in social settings, and eventually in the workforce and community. The following are tips for promoting strength, resilience, and perseverance in our students that can be supported at home and in school as presented by Jennifer L.W. Fink in her article, *True Grit*.

- **Tap into intrinsic motivations**- when children work on things they are truly interested in, they have more stamina to work long and hard. I'm sure you've seen this at home when your child can get lost in something for hours- whether it's painting, building Legos or mastering a game.

- **Build on strengths-** Help students identify things they do well as opposed to things they need to work on. Then, build on their strengths.
- **Challenge to create excellence-** “Real growth happens when people work at the edge of their competence. Students who are not challenged lose out on the sense of confidence that comes from mastering a challenge, and they may come to believe that accomplishment should be effortless.”
- **Teach a growth mindset-** There is always room for improvement. Hard work and pushing out of your comfort zone develops ability. This is in stark contrast to the idea that intelligence and talent are fixed entities.
- **Teach that learning involves struggle-** This one is important! Many children believe that when something is hard, it means they aren’t capable or smart enough. Instead, it’s important to teach that real learning and growth should be hard. There will sometimes be frustration- and that’s okay.
- **Promote practice-** Self explanatory. The more a skill is practiced (whether academic, athletic, artistic), the more permanent it becomes.
- **Praise actions, not traits-** Focus on praising things like perseverance, stamina, effort and focus as opposed to achievements.
- **Model positive reactions to setbacks and mistakes-** “What really matters is what you do after a failure, rather than the failure itself.” Explicitly pointing out positive reactions helps children see that mistakes are learning experiences.

Source: Fink, J.L.W. *True Grit*. Retrieved from <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/true-grit-0/>

Grade Five

Our fabulous fifth graders are looking forward to finishing their final year at Central! Spring brings middle school orientation, our JA Biztown field trip, the yearbook signing party, and the fantastic fifth grade event! Until then, we will remain focused on our schoolwork.

Writing

Fifth grade writers recently completed the Lens of History Information Unit. Our expert historians shared their knowledge of Westward Expansion with 3rd and 4th grade students in intimate focus groups, including a Q&A session to answer any lingering questions.

Our current unit of study is the Research-Based Argument Essay. Students will investigate and write argument essays that include a claim and are supported by reasons that are backed by evidence. In the first bend, students will explore the issue of whether there should be homework in elementary school, developing a solid argument for or against. The second bend begins with a response from the principal in which she invites students to further research the topic to craft position papers to be presented to panels of administrators and teachers. In the final bend, writers will draw on all they know to take a stand in the world. They will write another argument essay, this time a topic they choose, to contribute to a public conversation.

Science and Social Studies

The NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) are now fully entrenched in Fifth Grade. Rather than learning from a textbook, students have been actively engaged by doing science experiments in three scientific disciplines: physics and chemistry in our “Mixtures and Solutions” unit; earth science in the “Earth and Sun” unit; and biology in the “Living Systems” unit.

This year, students will be participating in the “Invention Convention” which will take place on Friday, April 20 (information is forthcoming in early March). The goal of this project is for each pupil to come up with a creative invention or solution to make their immediate world a better place.

The focus for social studies is early American history from the pre-colonial time period, life in the Colonies and the Revolutionary War, and finally to the Constitution. The focus has been on learning note-taking skills and working together on cooperative learning projects. New this year will be a “Capstone Project” where students will take their skills to learn about and find a solution for a global problem, as outlined by the United Nations.

Reading

Fifth graders have recently finished the nonfiction reading unit. We have been reading and studying endangered animals and the winter. Students have gathered information they have learned to make a presentation and teach their classmates. We are so eager to learn from one another about real life topics! We are excited to explore historical fiction through book clubs. Students will be applying all the reading strategies they have learned thus far to complete engaging reading. We will also be focusing on holding accountable conversations about our reading to share our thoughts, questions, and reactions. In addition to the book clubs, students are becoming more and more accountable for their independent assignments to enhance their reading, spelling, and vocabulary skills.

Math

Do you remember the TV show *Are You as Smart as a Fifth Grader?* Well, if you spend any time in our math classroom, you will quickly understand how the material can be quite challenging, at times.

The way math is taught now is far different from how it was done years ago. The focus is not just “what” the answer is but “*why*” is the answer *what it is*. Students must develop a keen number sense and grapple with this “why” question if the learning is to be genuine. Pupils need to understand the fundamentals of math; without it, learning merely becomes rote.

Our current curriculum is fractions: adding, subtracting, multiplying, and (soon) dividing them. In the remaining part of the year, we will then be doing algebra with concepts including operations and algebraic thinking as well as measurement and data. Finally, we will close our year with a study of geometry and volume.

Physical Education/Health

This year with the added physical education/health time to the schedule and adding another teacher; we have been able to concentrate more on skills that go with specific sports, cooperative games, and even have added some new units like boardwalk game and Winter Olympic Games. The classes are finishing up our Olympic Games unit, but it started with each class having an opening ceremony which consisted off marching in the gym to the Olympic theme song and waving flags. The students participated in events such as speed skating, luge, ice hockey, bobsled, and curling to name a few.

In health class, our 4th graders have learned basic first aid skills with the help of our school nurse, Mrs. Carroll. They completed a lesson on community service, which lead us to do a service project making first aid kits.

Ms. Lamson & Mr. Tshilas



March 18-24 is Poison Prevention Week

Call the Poison Control Center IMMEDIATELY if a child eats, touches, or drinks something harmful.

1-800-222-1222



Do: Lock up ALL medications (Prescription and Over the Counter).

Do: Teach children to ask before trying something new.

Do: Keep young children in sight at all times.

Do: Remain calm and call Poison Control if you suspect a poisoning

Don't: Call Medicine “candy”

Don't: Leave cosmetics and medicines open

Don't: Keep household supplies under the sink

Don't: Drink milk or water if you think you've consumed a poison (Call poison control instead)

And keep washing those hands and covering sneezes and coughs, let's all get



healthy!!!

Reminder to 5th grade parents: Please send in documentation of the (2) vaccines *required* for 6th grade.

If you have any gently used girls or boys pants/sweatpants please consider donating them to the health office.

Happy spring!

Sharon Carroll, RN, MSN, CSN

Upcoming Dates:

- March 1 Eyes of the Wild Kindergarten Program
- March 2 Read Across America Day
- March 2 Spirit Day – Crazy Sock Day
- March 5 Board of Education Meeting at Central School 7 PM
- March 9 Adult Social – Mardi Gras – 7:30 PM
- March 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 14 PTO Meeting 1:45 PM
- March 15 Grs. 4 & 5 Concert 7 PM
- March 23 Spirit Day – Wear your Central School T-shirt or blue & white