

Thunder Mt. Elementary

December

Newsletter

2018

# THUNDER MOUNTAIN THUNDERBIRDS

# SOAR

S SAFETY

O OWNERSHIP

A AWESOME LEARNERS

R RESPECT



## Office Personnel:

Phone: 254-5870

- Diane Carver, Principal
- Britni Westbrook, Assistant Principal
- Tanya Daniel, Secretary
- Jackie DiThomas, Secretary

# Important Dates

December 22- January 7 No school

January 8, 2019 - return to school

# Thunder Mountain Elementary



We strive to be a positive  
community who thinks  
creatively, problem solves, and  
loves learning.

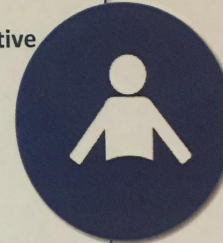
### SELF-AWARENESS



I am aware of the supports I have around me.  
I am aware of my traits, know what I do well,  
and know what areas I can work on.  
I am aware of what I am feeling.  
I am aware of and accept my responsibilities.

### SELF-MANAGEMENT

I can make good decisions.  
I can manage my emotions in a way that is constructive  
and appropriate.  
I can act in an honest manner.  
I can set and achieve goals that will help me to be  
successful.



### SOCIAL-AWARENESS



I care about and respect the individual differences  
of others.  
I care about the feelings and viewpoints of others.  
I care about others and do my part to make my  
community better.  
I care about how I perceive others and how they  
perceive me.

### SOCIAL-MANAGEMENT

I will interact well with others.  
I will work on having constructive relationships.  
I will deal with interpersonal conflicts  
constructively.



# Growth Mindset

Dear Families,

As a school, we are focusing again on our Mindsets as learners! Day in and day out, we are reminding all of our learners to have a **Growth Mindset**.

## What is a Growth Mindset?

We used to think that our intelligence was fixed – meaning we were either smart or we weren't. Scientists have proven again and again that simply is not true. Our brain acts like a muscle – the more we use it, the stronger (and smarter) our brain becomes.

## Is Your Mindset Fixed?

A person with a *Fixed Mindset* may do these things:

- avoid challenges
- give up easily
- ignore feedback
- become threatened by other people's success
- try hard to appear as smart or capable as possible

## What does a Growth Mindset look like?

A person with a *growth mindset* may do these things:

- embrace challenges
- give their best effort
- learn from feedback
- become inspired by other people's successes
- believe their intelligence can change if they work hard

## Ways to help your child with Growth Mindset

### TALK ABOUT IT

Talk with your child about his or her day, but guide the discussion by asking questions like:

- Did you make a mistake today? What did you learn?
- What did you do that was difficult today?

Instead of saying, "You're so smart!" praise effort, goal setting, persisting through challenges, or being creative.

You can say something like:

- "Wow! You must have worked really hard on this!"

### PRAISE THE PROCESS - THE BRAIN CAN GROW!

Remind your child that his or her intelligence is not fixed.

Remind them that when things are difficult, their brain grows if they will persist through the challenge. Each time they learn something new, their brain is making new connections. Your child needs to know this is possible!



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### **ENCOURAGE FAILURE (say what?!) - HELP THEM CHANGE THEIR DIALOGUE**

The way your child talks to himself makes a huge impact on his mindset. If he says, “This is too hard!” help him change that to “I can’t do this yet, but I will keep trying.” Give him the words to say when he is feeling defeated by modeling it yourself!

Your child needs to know that failure can (and often does) happen and it is okay! Remind her that each time she fails and tries again, her brain is growing stronger! Don’t step in to prevent your child’s failure – this is how she learns to persevere in the face of challenges.

For more information on **Growth Mindset** in School District 51, check out the link below!

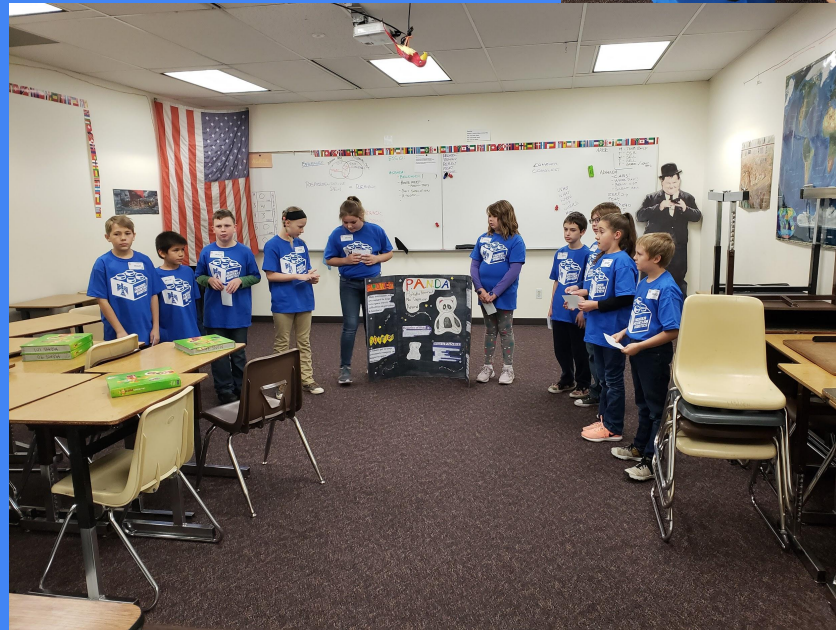
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# Awesome Learners

## Robotics Club



# Robotics Club



# Robotics Club



# Robotics Club

The First Lego League Regional Competition was this last Saturday and I wanted to share a few highlights from our team. There are a few different parts to the competition. One is that the team had to research a physical or mental problem that astronauts face when they have long term space travel and come up with a solution to the problem. They had to present their problem and their solution to the judges. Then, they are judged on how well they work together as a team by giving them a problem and watching to see how students present their ideas and work together as a team to solve the problem.

Another aspect is the Robot Game with a Lego Mindstorm robot. They had to program and design a robot to accomplish different challenges on a game. They also presented their design and programming to judges and then competed against other teams to accumulate the most points by completing the challenges in a short amount of time. Our ranking in the Robot Game was 13<sup>th</sup> out of 19 teams. We achieved our goal this year which was to complete 3 challenges.

I am very proud of the students for their work as a team throughout the season and for attending the competition this year! If you see them in the hall or have them in class, please congratulate them. We were one of 4 other elementary teams to participate, and the rest were all middle school teams.

Sponsors-Rinnah Davis, Sharon Tenace, Rian Carey

# 5th grade Awesome Learners



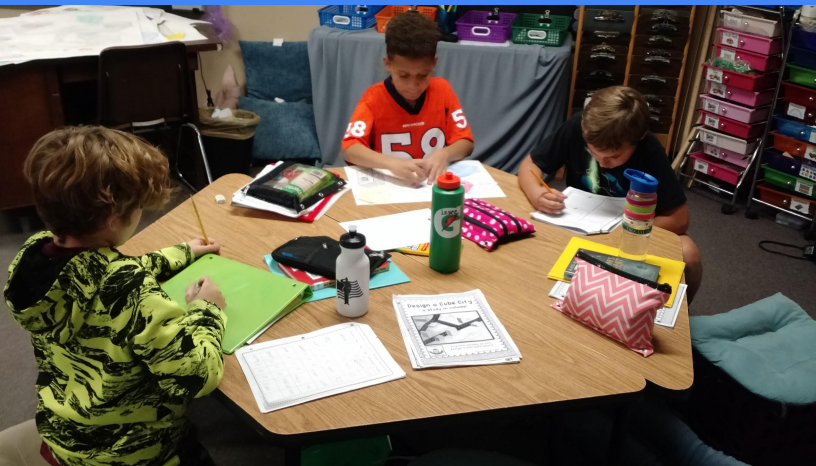
# Awesome Learners

5th grade modeled how point source and non-point source pollution affects everyone downstream in our watershed!



# Awesome Learners

## 5th grade Math- Volume City



# Awesome Learners



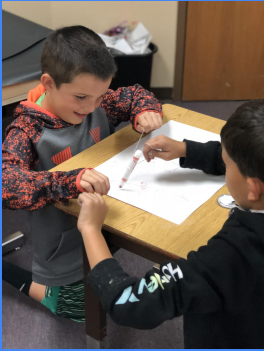
Teamwork Fun!

Math Dreambox





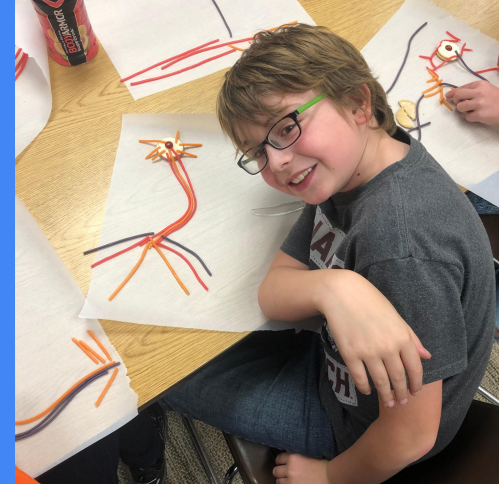
# Awesome Learners



Teamwork



Engineering with newspapers



Models of neurons



Hot Dog Day!



# Awesome Learners



4th grade learns about Colorado with the “Big Map”

# SOAR Assembly

## SEL Presentation



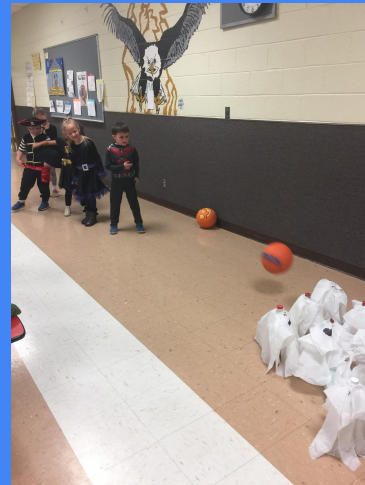
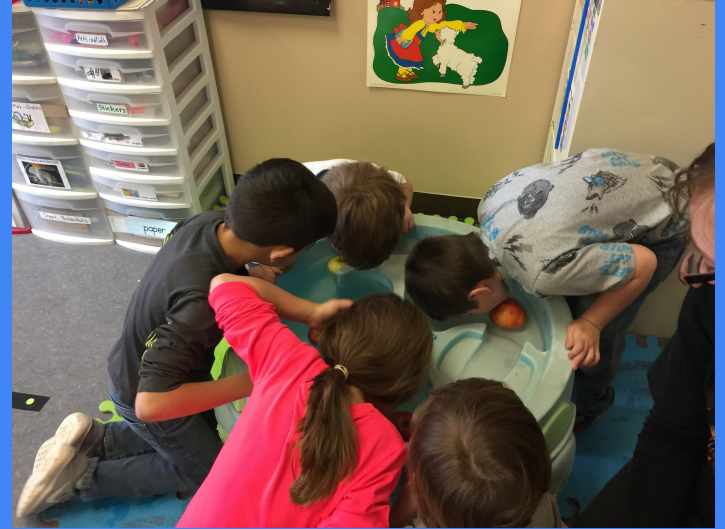
# Thunderbirds Help Our Community with the Toy Drive



# Giving to Others -Toy Run



# Fall Fun!



# Fall Fun!



Thunder Mt staff members!

# Music Notes





# 4th grade Concert



# 3rd Grade Plays



# Concert Dates 2018-2019

**(I will send your student home with an informational note containing further details as we get closer to their concert date)**

**All concerts will start at 6pm in the cafeteria unless noted otherwise**

**Story/Smith- Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Kissner/Kelley- Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**

**All 4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> \*in the gym\***

**Manuppella/McKissen- Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Carey/Chandler- Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Nees/Perez- Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Utemei/Schaneman- Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

**All 1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> \*in the gym\***

**All Kindergarten- Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> \*in the gym\***



I am so excited to be back at Thunder Mountain for the fifth year. The first few weeks of school have been a blast already! If there is ever a time you have questions or concerns about anything we are learning or doing in music, please contact me at [angela.johnson@d51schools.org](mailto:angela.johnson@d51schools.org). Have a wonderful year! -Mrs. Johnson

# Notes from P.E.



Bike Safety



Holiday Bowling

# Self assessment in PE



# Notes from P.E.

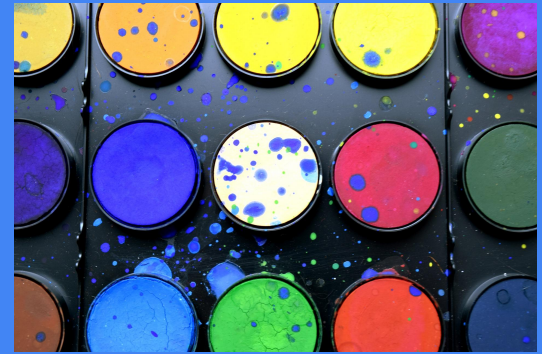
## Drums Alive!



# Walk to School Day



# Notes from Art





# Reach for the Stars Goal Posters

Each class here at Thunder Mountain Elementary School has created a “Hands Poster” in Art class.

Every student is asked to set a goal for themselves and post it on their hand. When they reach their goal they celebrate their accomplishment and then they set a new goal.

This year the artwork on our posters reflects our focus on Social Emotional Learning. **Peace signs** represent peaceful class rooms settings, **emojis** express our emotions and **hearts** show that here at our school we care about each other, and we put our *“Heart into our Art.”*

# Goal Setting Poster



# News from the Library



# Chess in the Library



# Chess in the Library

The month of Dec. was “Learn to Play Chess” in the library. 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students had three 15 min. lessons. They learned a little history of the game, how to set up a board, and how each piece moves. They had practice time during library, before school, and sometimes during interventions. If they chose to come to Chess Club during lunch they received more instruction and more play time. As our Chess Club Instructor, Mark Liddiard says, “the best way to learn is to play.” Hopefully many of our students will get an opportunity to play at home to improve their skills. One option for this is: <https://www.chesskid.com>. This site is excellent for students to practice, develop more skills, and just enjoy playing the game. It is great for parents too! An excellent book to learn and grow as a player is “How to Beat Your Dad at Chess,” by Murray Chandler.

# Reading Matters!

## THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A child who reads

20:00  
MINUTES

per day

is exposed to  
**1.8 MILLION**  
words per year  
and scores in  
**90th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

A child who reads

5:00  
MINUTES

per day

is exposed to  
**282,000**  
words per year  
and scores in  
**50th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

A child who reads

1:00  
MINUTE

per day

is exposed to  
**8,000**  
words per year  
and scores in  
**10th PERCENTILE**  
on standardized tests

Source: Nagy, Anderson and Harniss, 1987

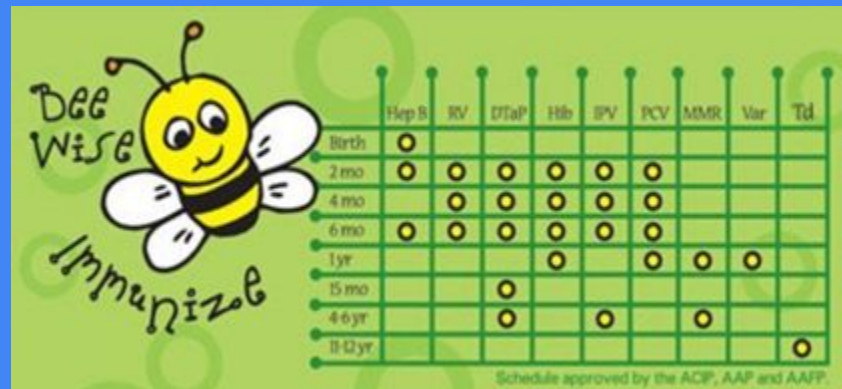
# News from the Health Office



Dear Parents,  
 Sometimes children do not make it to the restroom on time, get wet or muddy at recess, or spill something on their clothes. Please send a complete change of clothing in their backpacks to either keep in the health office or in their bag. The health office also accepts clothing donations. Socks, underwear, athletic shorts, and leggings are the most common items needed.



Please remember to turn in a copy of your child's most recent vaccine report or signed exemption form to the health office before **Friday October 12<sup>th</sup>**. Remember exemption forms need to be filled out each school year.





# Notes from Student Council



Thunder Mtn Student Council elections were held the first week of Oct. and the following members were elected.

President - **Alyssa Johnston**

Vice President - **Tallen Scott**

Secretary- **Cash Hudson**

Treasurer- **Lexee Martin**

5th Grade Ambassador - **Jordyn Faller**

4th Grade Ambassador- **Dalyn Burd**

3rd Grade Ambassador- **Javi Cornejo**

#### **Homeroom Representatives**

Carey **Audrie Cole**

Chandler-**Brooklyn Reed**

Manuppella- **Alyze Gallegos**

McKissen **Korbin Henson**

Davis **Broly Watts**

Nelson-**Alyssa Eden**

Saims-**Waylon Panter**

Kelley-**Andrew Buddecke**

Kissner- **Ryleigh Regan**

Smith- **Reagan Saunders**

Story- **Bryle West**

The first activity that they supported is Walk to School Day on Wed. Oct. 17. They worked on suggestion boxes so they can collect ideas from other students, and picked Pajama Day for our first Spirit Day on Fri. Oct 26. Student Council will work the school store every Tues. during lunch.



# Notes from the Office

Please label your students personal items: coats, hats gloves, lunch boxes, etc... Our lost and found is continually growing. Please feel free to stop by and look for lost items.

Please always update your child's records as changes are made, it is especially important for emergency contact information.

We are asking when picking up your student during the school day; give yourself enough time so your student can be called out of class when you arrive.