



PANTHER PRESS

DEC/JAN 2022 ISSUE

News & Updates from Tobyhanna Elementary Center

HAPPY NEW YEAR TEC FAMILIES!



TEC CARES

Under the supervision and encouragement of TEC's SGA students and the Future Teachers of America students, TEC raised the most money of any school in the district for United Way.

Pictured below are the student representatives, TEC's administrators, Dr. D'Angelo and Dr. Kevra, PMSD Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Robison and the United Way representative, Melanie Milo.

TEC donated \$1,000. The total amount from the entire district was \$8,239.08!!



TEC Moves Forward Through Appreciation and Generosity

Dr. Anastasia D'Angelo

Dr. John Kevra

Tobyhanna Elementary Center welcomed our students back to the 2021/2022 school year knowing we were still confronting unusual circumstances and unique challenges. Although the worldwide pandemic had become part of our everyday lives and daily conversations, the undesirable impacts continued to affect our students and faculty in ways that would still require creative thinking to address. Since TEC has a long-standing tradition of educating our students in the safest, most positive environment possible, we decided to find security and optimism by focusing our energies on the many things we appreciate, and, how we can enrich the lives of others through our generosity.

Early in the school year, the students at TEC were privileged to be part of local efforts to honor area veterans. Amateur historians, Rick Bodenschatz and Eugene Hough, approached the administrators at TEC and asked if our teachers and students could find time in their busy schedules to learn about cleaning historical markers and the sacrifices the veterans made. Furthermore, they wanted to erect a new marker in front of our actual school building that would outline its' unique history and contributions to the immediate area. Of course, everyone jumped at the opportunity. The entire student body and several school district officials were present for the dedication of the plaque! They learned to appreciate the efforts of their forefathers that turned a small, two-room schoolhouse into the beautiful building we call TEC today.

Tobyhanna Elementary Center continued its tradition of promoting an appreciation for various countries and the cultural backgrounds of our students. The countries included: Russia, Cambodia, Australia, Germany, Italy, and Poland. Each grade level picked a country and decorated their pod with facts about the selected country and their holidays. TEC students from these countries read fun facts in the morning and shared their native languages with their classmates. Furthermore, every student received a passport that they used when traveling from pod to pod. During this week TEC also celebrated the return of an in-person concert while singing to a limited audience for the first time in two years! The students performed songs in Spanish and Italian and also used American Sign Language. In addition to some wintertime songs, they also sang about Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. Overall, the week proved to be a wonderful celebration. Most importantly, our students learned to appreciate the wonderful things that tie us together.

Our School Wide Positive Committee seemed like the logical place to start accentuating our optimistic school environment. In an effort to "give back" to the local community, each grade level selected a charity that they supported up to the start of the new calendar year. The "Season of Giving" was a bigger success than anyone could have imagined. Each Kindergartener donated \$1 to the local Ronald McDonald House. Our first graders selected the Veterans at Paul's House of Valor as their charity. They made holiday cards and donated gloves, socks, toothbrushes, and numerous travel-size items to the veterans. TEC's second graders donated to the AWSOM Animal Shelter by collecting food, blankets, beds, towels, toys, bowls, cleansers, and treats along with \$46 dollars in donations. Currently, our third grade is still in the process of collecting items and donations for the Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center. Based on what they have accomplished already, we are sure the result will be impressive. Our fourth graders raised \$100 for the charity, *Along the Way*. This organization assists single-parent homes to obtain daycare services while they go to work. Fifth Grade collected and donated items to Family Promise that helps homeless families move forward in life. Our sixth grade collected and donated items for the Stockings for Soldiers program. Both grades learned that giving is more satisfying than receiving.

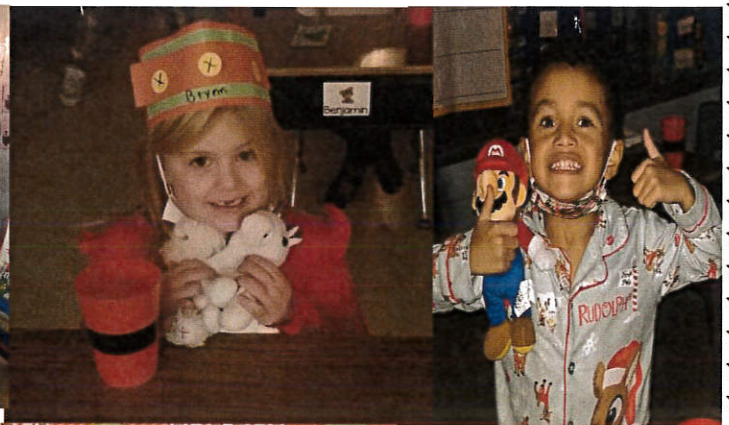
In conclusion, TEC's efforts to give back has strengthened our school community in many ways. We all experienced an increased appreciation for everything we have been given and felt the satisfaction of working together to help those in need.

The Holiday Season in Kindergarten



December was a very busy time in Kindergarten.

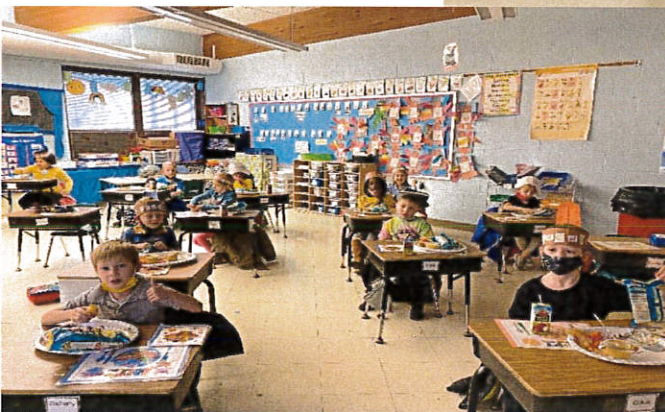
The children have been learning about the different Winter Holidays celebrated. They explored many holidays from various parts of the worlds and different cultural backgrounds such as Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, St. Los Posadas, etc. They read books, sang songs and completed many writing and craft activities to go with the holidays. The classes enjoyed a Polar Express Day in which they dressed in their favorite pajamas and not only read the popular book the Polar Express but also sang songs from the movie. Their classrooms were set up like the inside of the Polar Express train cars and white lights decorated the classrooms to give the feeling as though they were travelling to the North Pole. They completed an art activity to go with the story. They even received their very own first gift of Christmas, a silver bell just like in the story. They also enjoyed their yearly traditional visit from the Jolly Old Elf himself—Santa. The children took the opportunity to wear their special "Holiday" outfits in honor of the visit and had their picture taken with the guest of honor as a special remembrance. A very special thank you to Mr. Steinruck, our photography teacher at West High School, and the members of the SADD club who made this visit possible. It was a wonderful opportunity for the older children to interact with the younger ones. It was a very positive and rewarding experience for all involved!! What a wonderful yearly tradition!!



Kindergarten Feast

By: Ms. Augenstein

The Kindergarten classes celebrated the Harvest time and all they are thankful for with socially distanced mini-feasts in their own classrooms. In preparation for the event they read stories about the first Thanksgiving and made special placemats. They also demonstrated their patterning skills by making Native American headbands and made Pilgrim hats and bonnets. They created turkeys in which each they wrote and drew a picture of something they were thankful for. The children decided they had a lot to be thankful for and a good time was had by all at their celebration of fun and friendship. All healthy snacks and supplies for our feast were donated by our very generous Kindergarten families. We wish to offer a heartfelt thanks to all the parents who contributed to our feast, making our activity such a success. We are extremely thankful for you all!!



First Grade Fun

By: Ms. Wagner

First grade students wrapped up the year learning about graphing and counting to 120 in Math. We are all so proud of how hard they continue to work in First Grade!!

WOW!!!!

First Graders had a wonderful time during their Dance and Sweater Contest event! Even Rudolph joined in the fun!! We have some amazing dancers in first grade!



First graders are learning about Measuring Time in our latest Reading Unit. Some were surprised to find out what a Grandfather clock is!!!

First Grade Happenings

By: Ms. Wagner

First Graders have been busy this fall. They are all learning about maps and reading stories that tell how to find things.



First Graders are reading the stories "Fun with Maps", "How Maps Help" and "Which Way on the Map".

Learning about maps have helped them as we learn about different countries around the world and what they celebrate this time of year. First graders made pictures and decorated the pod with items from Russia!



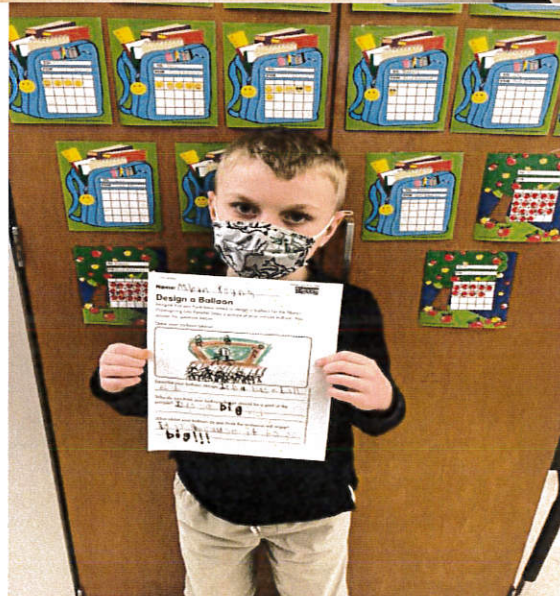
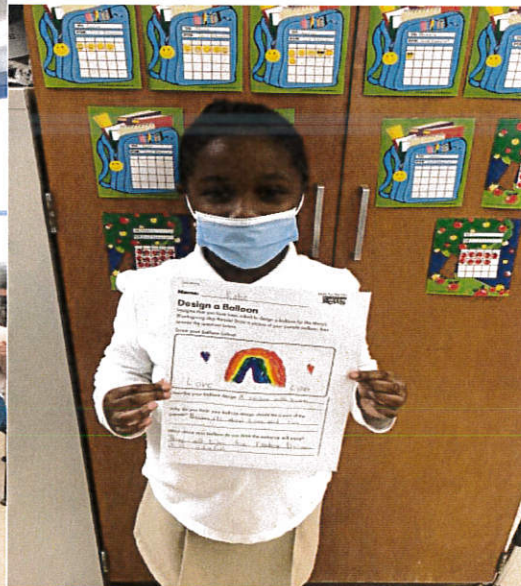
Congratulations First Graders!! All First Grade students were treated to a PIZZA PARTY for having no write-ups for the month on November as we all celebrated Kindness.



Second Graders Design Balloons

By: Ms. Planer

After learning all the steps how Snoopy went from a simple sketch to an actual helium balloon in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, our second graders got creative! They created their very own parade balloon. Everyone had fun drawing and coloring their creation. They even wrote about why their balloon should be part of the parade and what the parade watchers would enjoy about their balloon. The second-grade teachers were thrilled to have so many enthusiastic students!!



The Holidays in Third Grade

By: Ms. Krisch

Third grade focused on Holidays around the world in social studies for the month of December. Students learned how other cultures celebrate the holidays. Germany, Mexico, France, England, Africa, and Israel were the main focus. Students learned about Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and even learned how to play Dreidel. We had discussions about diversity and compared and contrasted different holidays. The final holiday discussed was Australia and Boxing Day. The pod area was decorated with surfboards, poinsettias, and of course, a surfing Santa! As we enter 2022, students will be learning about famous people and reading many biographies.



Boxing Day is a national holiday in **Great Britain**. It is celebrated on **December 26**. It is also known as **Saint Stephen's Day**.

Boxing Day began long ago in England.

On the day after Christmas, noblemen would gather their servants together and give them gifts, usually money, wrapped in small boxes. These gifts were given in appreciation for loyalty and service throughout the year.

Also on this day, the boxes placed in churches for donations to the poor throughout the year were opened and the money was given to those in need.



Third Grade Geologists ROCK ON!

By: Ms. Krisch

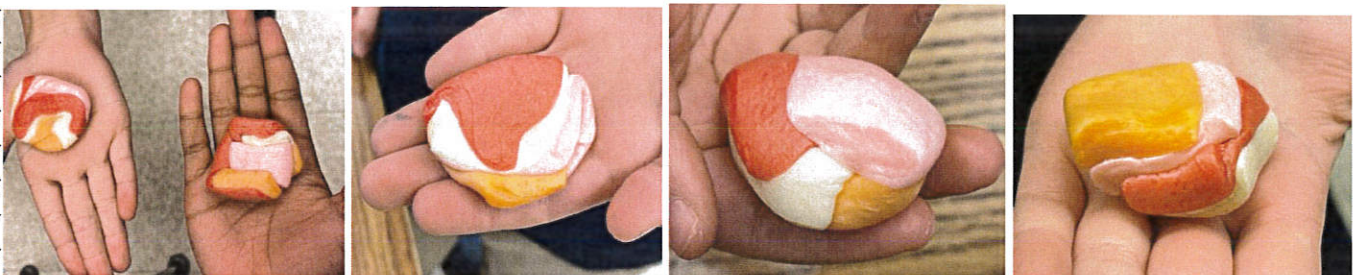
Third-grade students are working on a rock and mineral unit in Science. Many students said they had their own collections at home, so Miss Krisch set up a Rock\Mineral\Crystal\Gem Museum. Each desk was set up and all students walked through a rotation identifying and learning about rocks. During the rotation, students were also given fact cards. Students went on a scavenger hunt to locate the rock and mineral items identified on his/her task cards. The students loved the activity.



How Rocks are Formed: Modeling the Rock Cycle

Third-grade students in Miss Krisch's class learned about sediments and the three major types of rocks. (Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic) Did you know that rocks need temperature and pressure to form? After learning about Mount Rushmore at the beginning of the year, students were super excited to learn about rocks and minerals. When is the last time you took the time to really look at a rock? It could be a million or even a billion years old! Rocks are amazing!

The attached photos show our Starburst science lab. Students enjoyed modeling the rock cycle. Different color starbursts were used to show how rocks form and have different layers and minerals. Did you know that rocks can go back and forth changing form over time? Ask a third grader to explain the rock cycle to you!



Multicultural Celebration

We had a multicultural celebration starting on December 13th. The whole school celebrated holidays in different countries, starting in the USA, then traveling to Russia, Cambodia, Australia, Germany, Italy, and Poland. Each grade level picked a country and decorated their pod with facts about each country and how they celebrated the holidays. Students from some of these countries read speeches in the morning and shared their native languages with our whole school. Each student received a passport that they used when traveling around to each pod. There was a puzzle on the back of the passport that could only be solved after visiting each pod. Students also had the opportunity to share about their cultures by creating posts on a FlipGrid. Check it out and submit your own posts at <https://flipgrid.com/442967f5>. It was a wonderful celebration, and we hope everyone learned a lot about some of the countries and cultures around the world.



The Holiday Season in Fourth Grade

By: Ms. Perez

On December 23rd, the fourth grade pod participated in a variety of holiday themed activities. Each homeroom teacher hosted a different activity. The students were able to rotate from homeroom to homeroom so that they could participate in each activity. In Mrs. Fitzsimmons' room, the students played an assortment of holiday themed Blookey games. In Miss Perez's room, they explored the true meaning of the holidays as they read the story *Bad Kitty Christmas* by Nick Bruel. In Mrs. Campbell's room, the students each got to make their own snowflake. If you visit the fourth grade pod, you can see the students' work decorating the hallway! In Miss Bowers' room, the students were able to work on their writing skills as they wrote and decorated holiday cards to share with their loved ones. It was a wonderful way to transition into our winter break!



5th Grade Happenings!

Fifth grade has been busy across the board, learning new concepts and practicing different skills. Some things on the agenda included: Native American Pottery, Science Invertebrate Art Projects, Reading the Black Stallion, Reptile reports, and A Fish Discovery



Students were eager, creative, enthusiastic, imaginative, and cooperative with all projects and activities. Keep up the great work, fifth graders! Stay tuned for turtle races, more novels, and STEM tasks.

Fifth Grade Gives!

Fifth grade students are focusing on giving rather than getting. Students collected various items for Family Promise of Monroe County. They had an assembly where they learned how the organization helps families experiencing homelessness and assists them with achieving sustainable independence. Students collected items such as toilet paper, baby wipes, and other cleaning agents. Thank you to all who donated to help make the holidays a bit more merry and bright for others.



6th Grade - 'Tis the Season for Giving Contest

The 6th grade participated in the school-wide Season for Giving and donated items to fill the Stockings for Soldiers. The 6th grade classes were very generous with their donations: snacks, puzzles, instant coffee, socks, drink mixes, gloves, decks of cards, protein bars, beef jerky, lip balm, books, small games, DVDS, chocolate, baby wipes and personal hygiene products. We are so proud of how generous our students were. Thank you to all the families who helped to make this season a merry one for our soldiers.



6th Grade Novel Study

By: Mrs. Bailor

The sixth grade students recently finished reading the novel, "Bridge to Terabithia." Students read the novel, explored the concepts and took a deeper dive into understanding the theme of the novel. Students watched the movie, "Bridge to Terabithia." to complete a comparison between the book and the movie. The 6th graders seemed to really enjoy reading the novel and expressed their interest in reading another novel. As a culminating project students designed their own book jacket of the book.



ESL Spotlight

The EL students have been helping and preparing for our Multicultural Week at Tobyhanna Elementary Center. We are learning about many different countries this week. The students are learning about Russia, Cambodia, Australia, Poland, Germany, Italy and America. They are celebrating and learning facts about these countries. Many of our students are sharing their languages and customs with our school. Gabriela Walsh, Sofia Velez Rosa, Sofia Tsikhinia, Sophia Sukhacheva and Julia Makuh are all EL students who helped decorate for this event. Kalnetra Tes and Kalchenglee Tes read facts about Cambodia. Many of our EL students also taught the school how to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in their native language.

The ESL department is preparing for the WIDA ACCESS testing that will begin in January of 2022. All English language learners will take the test to assess their language proficiency growth in reading, writing, speaking and listening. We at TEC know that our ELs will do great!!!



From Special Area: Art

Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 are finishing up the annual Elks Club Drug Awareness Poster Contest. This contest has been a tradition at TEC for many years. Students have been working hard on their poster entries during their Art classes and are almost ready to enter! This year's theme is "Best Me is Drug Free".

In years past, TEC has been proud to have winners in each grade, and some years, in all 3 grades! We are hoping to repeat that success again this year.

Crazy Sweater Contest!

And the winners of the Crazy Sweater contest are:

Kindergarten - Michael Foushee-Johnson and Naomi Guzman

1 - Jayden Johnson and Romya Arce

2 - Charlee Rios and Kyle Velkov

3 - Marley Johnson and James Dirkschneider

4 - RYANNE BEECH and ANGELO COPPINGER

5 - Iliana Vincente-Nieves and Chase Clark

6 - Chloe Koppenhafer and Kinnisen Key

Congratulations!

From all of the Special Area Teachers

Mrs. Craig, Ms. Cortez, Mr. Eschbach, Mr. Stivala, Ms. Anewalt, & Ms. Stein



Nurses' Corner

By: Nurse Kathleen (Katie) Heil, BSN, RN, CSN, LMT

February is American Heart Month!

Heart disease is a leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States. Most middle-aged and young adults have one or more risk factors for heart disease, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or being a smoker or overweight. Having multiple risk factors increases your risk for heart disease.

Why Connecting is Good for Your Heart

Did you know that people who have close relationships at home, work, or in their community tend to be healthier and live longer? One reason, according to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), is that we're more successful at meeting our health goals when we work on them with others.

Feeling connected with others and having positive, close relationships benefit our overall health, including our blood pressure and weight. Having people in our lives who motivate and care for us helps, as do feelings of closeness and companionship.

Follow these heart-healthy lifestyle tips to protect your heart. It will be easier and more successful if you work on them with others, including by texting or phone calls if needed.

- Be more physically active.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Eat a nutritious diet.
- Quit smoking.
- Reduce stress.
- Get 7-8 hours of quality sleep.
- Track your heart health stats.

You don't have to make big changes all at once. Small steps will get you where you want to go.

#OurHearts are healthier with self-care

Devoting a little time every day to care for yourself can go a long way toward protecting the health of your heart.

Try these simple self-care ideas, such as:

- Taking a moment to de-stress.
- Giving yourself time to move more.
- Preparing healthier meals.
- Getting quality sleep.

These acts can all benefit your heart.
Connect with others to make these efforts more successful.

#OurHearts are healthier together



National Heart, Lung,
and Blood Institute



TEC Chorus Concerts are Back!

TEC celebrated the return of in-person concerts this December! The 4th, 5th, and 6th grade choruses presented their winter concerts on December 8-10, singing to a limited audience for the first time in two years! Each chorus sang five holiday and winter songs. They performed songs in Spanish and Italian and also used American Sign Language. They incorporated many instruments in their songs, including Boomwhackers, ukuleles, egg shakers, and sleigh bells. In addition to some wintertime songs, they also sang songs about Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. We are very proud of all our chorus members for their hard work and awesome performances! The concert can be viewed on Youtube at this address: tinyurl.com/TECmusic



4th Grade Chorus



5th Grade Chorus



6th Grade Chorus

Sign-up for PMSD Create a Reader!



Register online by scanning the QR code below with your phone. Please register by March 18, 2022.



PMSD Create a Reader Series

Families of PMSD students in **Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade** are invited to be part of the PMSD Create a Reader Spring Event. Each family who registers will receive free materials, books, and activities to help students become confident readers. Families will also be invited to a Create a Reader Google Classroom which will contain resources, videos, and activities to promote reading at home.

The next session of Create a Reader will be held virtually on **Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 6:30pm.**

Hosted by Stacy Kulics, PMSD Director of Reading & ELA, along with PMSD reading specialists and teachers.

TEC Virtual Reading Rally 2021



★ Racers Start Your Reading!!!

★ They did and kept on reading! This year's Reading Week had everyone revved up for reading!

★ Every day was full of engaging activities to celebrate reading.

★ Tricky from our generous sponsor, Pocono Raceway, helped start the week off with a visit to our school. Every morning began with a special mystery reader. Our wonderful guests disguised their voices to make guessing their identity extra challenging. A special thanks to Mr. Stivala, Ms. Aulisio, Dr. D'Angelo, Ms. MacDavitt, Ms. Anewalt, Ms. Wagner, and Ms. Garzio!

★ You rocked! We were so excited to try and figure out who you were!

★ Miss Trudi popped in for a visit and to read to us. She visited a class from each grade level and read a special book about kindness. She was an amazing guest reader and taught us all about kindheartedness.

★ Miss Trudi is also a board member of our very own Clymer Library. Clymer Library is a fantastic place to visit and borrow books. They are generous supporters of our Reading Rally and donated tons of books!





For the first time ever, we held a Dress as a Character from your Favorite Book Day! It was amazing! Our classrooms were filled with Junie B. Jones, The Grinch, Harry Potter, Dogman and many more beloved characters. There was such an overwhelmingly positive response that we held our first Book Character Parade!





We stopped, dropped and were reading all week because... we are never too busy to read! Many of our classrooms decided to take on the challenge of book versus movie! Classrooms picked a fantastic book to read this week and then watched the movie adaptation of the book. We enjoyed the popcorn that the PTO cooked up! That was super kind of them. So... what did your class decide was better – the book or the movie?

Last, we raced to our computer for our Virtual Reading Rally. It was a fun filled time with lots of games and prizes. Mr. Ken brought the music and really revved up the excitement. The West basketball players and cheerleaders took part, too. Mrs. Garzio even came back to join in the celebration.

The Reading Rally was a blast! Remember to keep on reading!



Make someone smile today!



- No School: 2/11, 2/18, 2/21, 3/2, 3/29
- Parent Teacher Conferences 2/18
- Build-A-Panther February 2nd and February 9th
- Next PTO meeting will be held on February 15th at 9:30 am



DR. SEUSS BINGO

- PTO will be having a MEMBERS ONLY Dr. Seuss Bingo party for grades K-2 on March 1st, 2022. Students will stay right after school. Students will need to be picked up promptly at 5:30pm; please plan accordingly. Further information will be sent home with students. For additional questions please contact Bridget Gollin (570) 497-9812.



- PTO will be having a MEMBERS ONLY Foil Art party for grades 3-5 on March 8th, 2022. Students will stay right after school. Students will need to be picked up promptly at 5:30pm; please plan accordingly. Further information will be sent home with students. For additional questions please contact Bridget Gollin (570) 497-9812.

It's not too late to join the PTO!