

January 2020

Southwest School

340 Litchfield Street, Torrington, CT 06790

<http://torringtonsouthwest.s16.sharpschool.com/>

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Upcoming Events

**January 14 –
PTO Sister
Schools Meeting
at Southwest;
5:30 PM**

**January 16 –
Early Dismissal
Day for Staff PLC
Day**

**January 20 – No
School for Martin
Luther King
Observance**

**January 29 –
Board of
Education
Meeting at THS
@ 6:00 PM**



Care for Self, Care for Others

DECEMBER Dragons of the Month

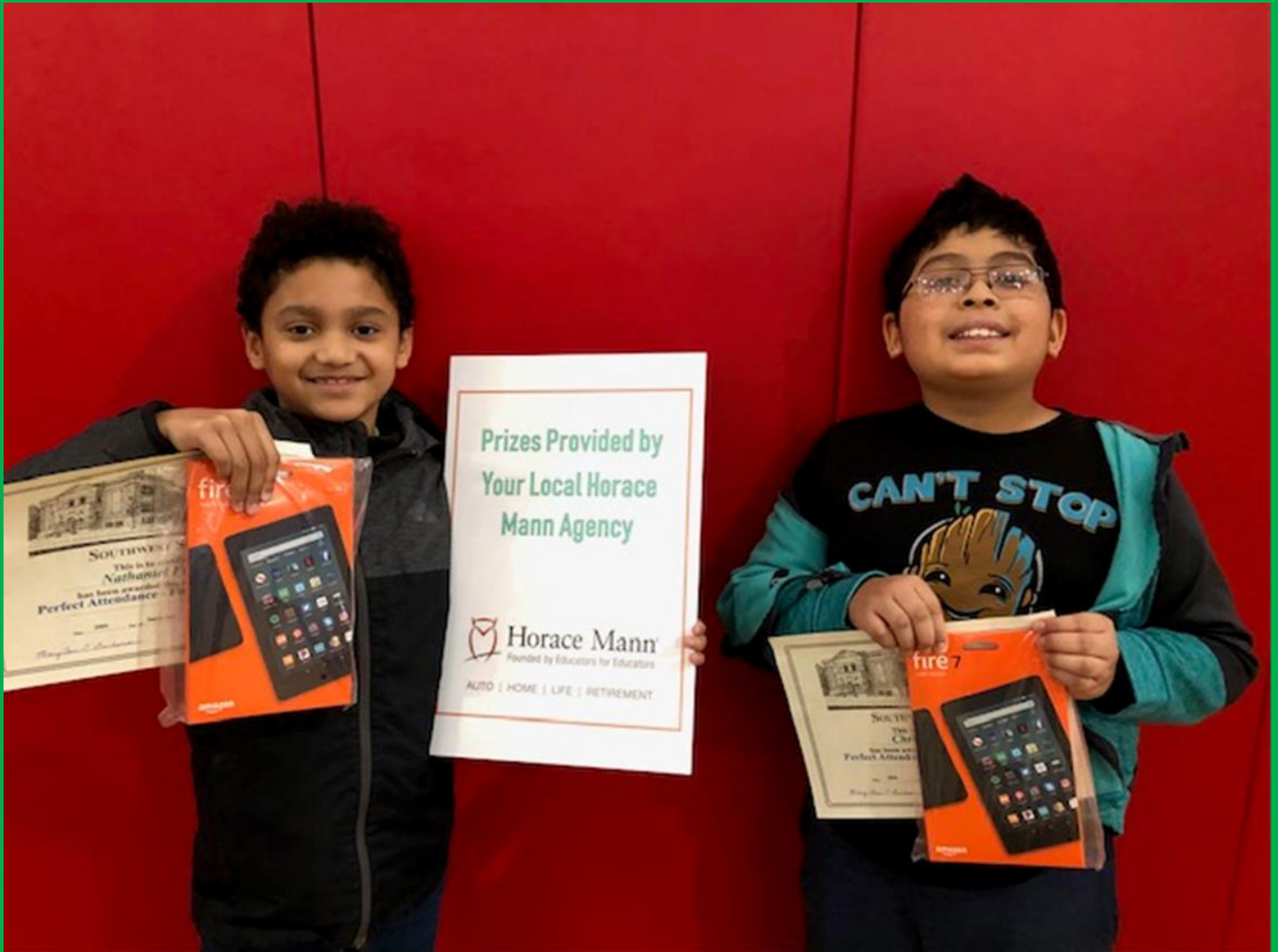
Students (Left to Right): Grade 4 Shamrock Team – Sayfullah Miah; Grade 4 Emerald Team – Aaron Francisco; Grade 4 Jade Team – Ronald Loja; Grade 5 Amethyst Team – Olyvia Gonska; Grade 5 Royal Purple Team – Corey Burdick ; Grade 5 Violet Team – Justin Prieto



Southwest Student Council Representatives



Southwest School – First Trimester Perfect Attendance Winners



Grade 4: Nathaniel Fernandez; Grade 5: Christopher Pineda



Enjoy these pictures of the great memories we created during our December Spirit Week. Thank you for being so supportive of our Southwest family.

Mrs. Wood's STEM Projects:



Crazy Hair Day:





Reindeer Games Assembly:

Present Toss:

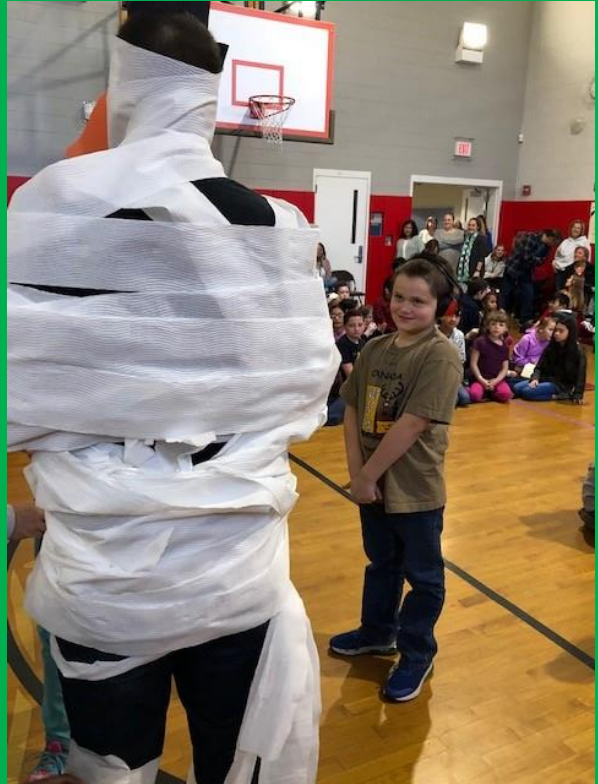


“Do You Wanna Build a Snowman?” 😊

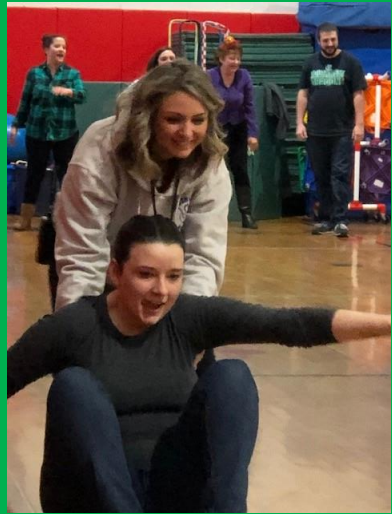








Sleigh Rides:





Looks like a few prank-loving elves had some fun in Mr. Mann's classroom 😊:





Music Department Info:

Grade 4 Band & Orchestra: Ensembles start the week of January 6th: Students will miss recess one day a week from now until the end of the school year to attend ensemble rehearsals.

Honors Band & Orchestra rehearsals begin on Wednesday, January 15th at TMS. If your child has been invited to participate and hasn't returned their permission slip, please email Mrs. Hyatt at ahyatt@torrington.org as soon as possible. She is trying to arrange busing yet will not be able to guarantee. Please return your permission slips immediately.

From our December 19th Winter Concert:





Parent's Corner

Please remind your children to check for their missing items in our Lost & Found located in the main lobby outside of the nurse's office. There is also an additional rack inside the gymnasium.



This is What Happens When You Stop Fixing Things for Your Kids

"I've got this!" – how many times in our lives have we thought or said this out loud?

As moms, we've said and thought this countless times – we do what needs to be done. When we're juggling 25 things at once we go into autopilot – You need 40 cupcakes made for school tomorrow? I've got this. You need a ride to practice, help with homework, and a costume for your presentation? I've got this.

Yes, we delegate and plan ahead but when push comes to shove...I've got this because most of us are "Fixers" at heart – we're programmed to do what needs to be done – in our work and personal lives. We don't always stop to think, we just start organizing and getting it done.

I never gave it any thought until my older son stopped me one day.

My boys were doing their homework at the kitchen table, and my older son (5th grade at the time) was telling me how another boy in his class was bullying him. He was making fun of my son's large feet (a size 14 at the time) and it clearly bothered my son. When he finished I said, without thinking, "I've got this. I'll send your teacher an email tonight. Then I'll call her tomorrow and set up a meeting so we can discuss this. Then, if it doesn't stop I'll..."

My son gently interrupted my stream of "to do's" and said "Mom, I'm not asking you to fix it. I just want to talk with you about it." Wow – what a lesson! I cannot tell you how grateful I am that he was strong enough to stop me and to tell me that he wanted to handle it.

Instead of me taking over and "fixing it," I thanked him for speaking up, we talked about how he felt and what he planned to do about it. I'm not always going to be there – he has to learn how to do difficult things for himself. We all want our children to grow to be independent but how can they do this if we don't give the chance to handle the tough stuff – the things they haven't encountered before? All I saw was that he was hurt, and I could make it better. I didn't stop to think – I just wanted to take care of it.

He was so proud of himself the next day when he told me how he handled it. *He fixed it – he did it – not me.* The way it should be. What if he hadn't spoken up? In my effort to help, I would have ruined any chance for him to take care of himself. How many times had he subtly tried to tell me this before? How many times have our children sat there while we rambled on with solutions when all they really wanted was

for someone to listen? He taught me such a valuable lesson – he taught me to stop and listen. Instead of “I’ve got this,” I had to learn “You’ve got this.”

Years later when he was in college, he called me from his car. He had me on his car speaker (the “squawk box” as we call it), and he was telling me about situation at school. I listened. I asked him what he was going to do about it. I didn’t immediately offer solutions. He told me his plan, we talked about his options and what he thought was the best way to handle it.

He called me later that day to say that his friend who was in the car with him at the time looked at him funny when he hung up our call. My son asked him what he was thinking and his friend said “That was your Mom? You talk to each other like you’re friends. She didn’t start telling you what to do or asking you a million questions. She listened to you. Your opinion mattered. I can’t imagine having that kind of conversation with my Mom.”

What his friend didn’t know was that if my son hadn’t stopped me all those years ago, that’s exactly what I would have done – and I may have even flown down there to handle it myself. My son told me he thought this was how all sons and Moms talked – he realized that day that it wasn’t. I reminded him of the middle school experience with bullying, and I thanked him again for speaking up. We laughed about me always wanting to fix things and having to let that go.

We can learn so much about parenting from our children if we’re willing to listen. His younger brother benefitted from this revelation – how many times did I have to pause and ask questions (How do you feel about this? How do you think you should handle this? How can I support you?)

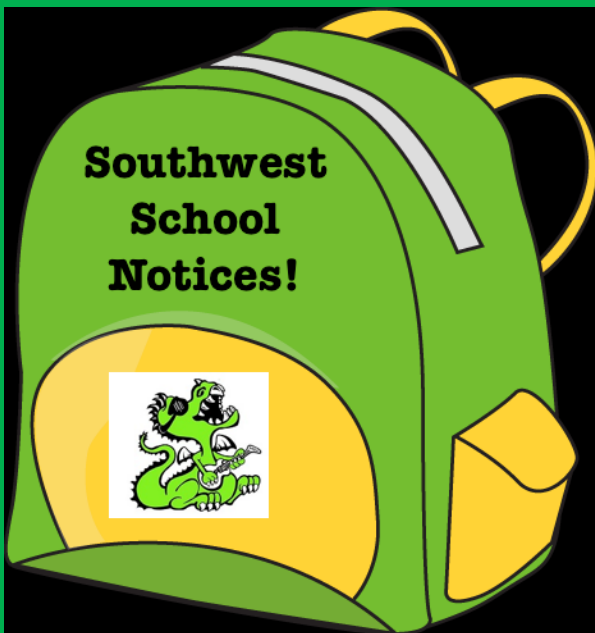
I’ll admit – it doesn’t come naturally. My heart and mind still want to jump right in and make it better, but I’ve learned that sometimes our children just want to talk to someone they trust. They can handle more than we give them credit for – our first instinct may be to help and to protect but when we let them work it out, they learn and grow and become confident.

Moms are naturally Doers and Fixers. But really, who wants a grown son or daughter calling to proclaim – “You must take care of this because I can’t handle it!”? None of us! We want to raise children who can think for themselves and take care of situations that will arise. If they want to consult with us, get our opinion or ask us to be a sounding board, lucky us.

If they genuinely have no idea what to do in particularly tough situation, we can help them figure it out. We can help them but we must resist the urge to take over. *We have to understand when it’s time to move away from “I’ve got this!” to “You’ve got this!”*
---From Grown and Flown



A safety reminder to parents who may be bringing their children to school after our 8:40 AM start time. Please escort your child into the school and sign in at our main office.



Please check your student's backpacks on a regular basis for any information being sent home.

School-related forms will also be posted on our school website under **BACKPACK NOTICES**. You will find this resource to be handy if your child states he or she misplaced a form. You will be able to access the form directly from our website. For cost efficiency of resources, we will continue to provide paper copies to students, yet parents will be able to access duplicate copies from the website if needed.

This year our school days are on a five-day rotation, Days A, B, C, D, E. This creative scheduling helps when we share staff members between schools. Your children were informed by their classroom teacher of the days they have their specials classes scheduled. You can find a copy of the calendar with the rotation dates on our school website. Please note that if there is a school cancellation, the rotation day will be dropped and we will follow the schedule posted on the calendar. For example, if we have one snow day which occurs on a Day B, when we return to school the next day, we will follow a Day C schedule. If snow days occur on the same rotation day throughout the year, we will review towards the end of the school year and make adjustments if necessary.



Attendance is vital to a successful, enriched learning experience. We are excited that we will be recognizing students with 100% attendance each month. One hundred percent attendance is defined as being present 100% of the time, no tardies, no dismissals, no absences. An excused absence, tardy or dismissal will not count towards 100% attendance. Families are encouraged to schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible. Parents are reminded to submit written documentation for each absence. Written notification is required even when a parent calls to notify the school of an absence. On the next page you will find a note you may use for your convenience.

Students with perfect attendance for each trimester will be entered into a drawing to win a Kindle through the kindness of Horace Mann.



Date: _____ Grade: _____

Child's Name _____

Teacher _____

Was absent on _____
because of _____

Was absent on _____
and a doctor's note is attached.

Was late today because of _____

*Parent Signature _____



Date: _____ Grade: _____

Child's Name _____

Teacher _____

Was absent on _____
because of _____

Was absent on _____
and a doctor's note is attached.

Was late today because of _____

*Parent Signature _____

September Perfect Attendance – 36%

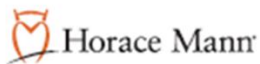
October Perfect Attendance – 34%

November Perfect Attendance – 36%

December Perfect Attendance – 36%



This is our Dragon Trophy. The homeroom that has the highest percentage of students in attendance each week has earned the privilege to display this trophy in their classroom. The students get very excited when the winning homeroom is announced over the PA system. Every student's attendance contributes to their homeroom's tally. Every student, every day makes a difference.



Your child could win a Amazon Fire Tablet!

Students with good attendance have a better chance of achieving in school. And kids like cool prizes! Put the two together, and you have the Perfect Attendance Spells Success program.

All students with perfect attendance during the semester will be placed in a drawing to win a Amazon Fire Tablet. The school will draw (2) names at the end of the semester.

Encourage your child to come to school and to learn something new every day. He or she could be a winner!

Prize(s) provided by Horace Mann representative Craig Hitchcock.





We are proud to announce the availability of our new Torrington Pride long sleeve shirt in our NEW webstore! This shirt has been designed to promote and express pride in both our city and our schools. The iconic “T” logo appears on the front of the shirt with “Torrington Pride” lettering down one of the sleeves.

We have worked hard to be able to bring this long sleeve shirt to a very affordable \$15 price point. Can’t wait to start seeing on people out in the public!

You can get one of these NEW shirts by visiting our Webstore at: <https://torrington.logoshop.com> Place your order today for delivery in mid-January! Proceeds to be shared by all Torrington Elementary school PTO’s to help fund field trips and enrichment opportunities for our students.

Orders must be in by Jan 10th for \$15 promo price!