

December 2019

Southwest School

340 Litchfield Street, Torrington, CT 06790

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

T: 860-489-2311 Fax: (860) 489-2324



Check out some of our amazing cafeteria staff members donning their new Torrington "T" holiday spice t-shirts with our "Rock-a-saurus Rex" Dragon.

Care for Self, Care for Others



Upcoming Events

- December 3 & 4 – PTO Holiday Store; 5:30 to 7:00 PM
- December 4: *Life Animated* film at TMS at 5:30 PM
- December 8 – Christmas Village Parade; 11:30 PM
- December 12 – PLC Day- Early Dismissal
- December 13 – Progress Reports distributed
- December 16 to 20: School Spirit Week
- December 19: Winter Concert - TMS @ 7 PM
- December 20: Early Dismissal Day



OCTOBER Dragons of the Month



Students (Left to Right): Grade 4 Jade Team – Charlie Stevens; Grade 4 Emerald Team – Cali Hoehne; Grade 4 Shamrock Team – Mackenzie Riggs; Grade 5 Amethyst Team - Madelyn Smulski; Grade 5 Violet Team – Samaira Chowdhury; Grade 5 Royal Purple Team - Elizabeth Larobis





NOVEMBER Dragons of the Month

Students (Left to Right): Grade 4 Shamrock Team – Julia Lopez; Grade 4 Jade Team – Gianna Maccione.; Grade 4 Emerald Team – Rachel Miles; Grade 5 Amethyst Team – Emma Archer; Grade 5 Royal Purple Team - Nyana Rivera ; Grade 5 Violet Team – Jordan Murphy

Each student received a Certificate of Appreciation and a 3-D printed Dragon



Mrs. Castellano & Mrs. Hyatt

Music Department

Practicing — is it worth the fight?

You and your child are still near the beginning of your journey, but I'm sure one very important word has already become an integral part of your child's music experience:

PRACTICE. Listen, few people like to practice — it's like musical homework!

I know that practicing can be a fight that you don't want or need. I also know that most of you are not musicians and may not know how to help your child be successful in it. That's ok. It's not so much **WHAT** they practice, but **THAT** they practice, even if it is for just 10 minutes. In your role as a parent, you can make a big difference when it comes to practicing. You don't have to know anything about their instrument or about music.


Helping your child set aside a regular, dedicated time for practice can have a dramatic effect on their trajectory as a musician!

What does regular practice look like? For a beginner, shorter, frequent sessions are better. It takes time to develop the ability to practice in a focused, sustained manner. Set a schedule and try and stick to it so they develop a routine. As they work through their materials, prompt them with, "that was great... can I hear that again?" Or, "AWESOME! You should play that for your brother/sister/parent." You will trick them into practicing without them even knowing it! Sneaky? Yes! But it works!

The key to guided practice is a consistent schedule and repetition. If you can get them to sit down regularly and play things multiple times, the improvement will be significant! Please know that **YOU** are a crucial part of setting up your child for success in music, and we're here to help you.

If you have questions or struggles, please feel free to reach out to us.





**Torrington Area Families for Autism &
Planning Across The Spectrum
Present a FREE Showing of "Life Animated"**

ACADEMY AWARD[®] NOMINEE
BEST DOCUMENTARY

FROM ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR
ROGER ROSS WILLIAMS

**LIFE,
ANIMATED**

BASED ON THE BEST-SELLING BOOK BY RON BUSHAR

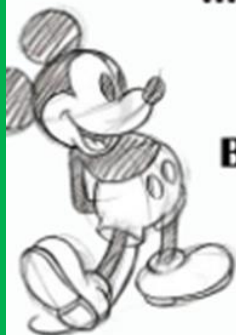


**Wednesday December 4th from 5:30pm - 8:00pm
at The Torrington Middle School Auditorium**

200 Middle School Drive in Torrington

.....
**Movie to be followed by a Q&A session
Popcorn and Refreshments will be served!
Bring the kids and enjoy a wonderful experience
of watching this beautifully done documentary**

.....
**Please RSVP to Christina at 860-759-3043
or Danielle at 860-480-8161**



**Torrington Area Families for Autism Y Planning
Across The Spectrum**

**Presentan una proyección GRATUITA de "Life
Animated" (Vida Animada)**

**El miércoles 4 de diciembre de 5:30 a 8:00 pm en el
Auditorio de Torrington Middle School
200 Middle School Drive en Torrington**

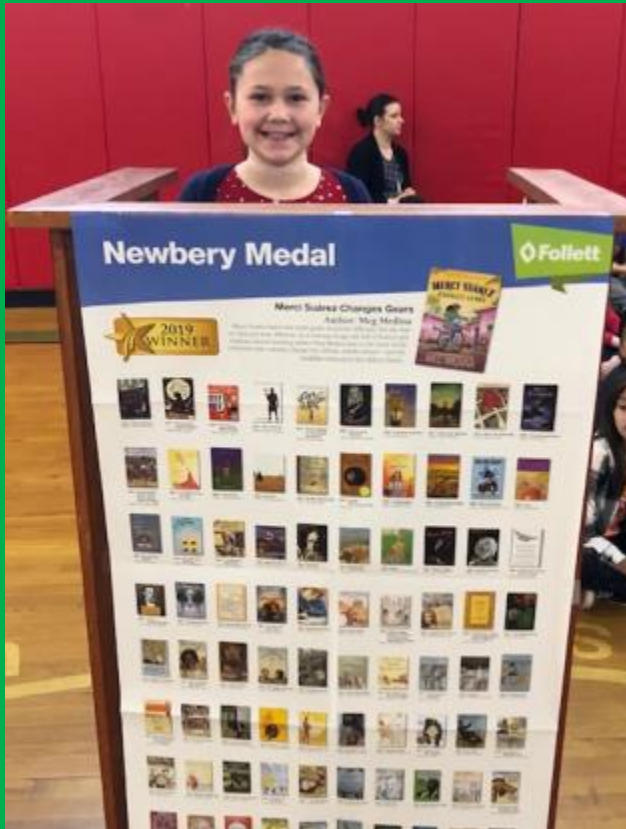
**La película es seguida por una sesión de Preguntas y
Respuestas**

¡Se servirán Palomitas y Refrescos!

**Traiga a los niños y disfrute de la maravillosa
experiencia de ver este documental bellamente hecho.**

**Por favor Confirme su Asistencia a Christina al 860-
759-3043 O Danielle al 860-480-8161**

Southwest students honor our Veterans







On November 8 students and staff members invited extended family members who served in the military to our school so we could express our appreciation to them for their service to our country. Over 40 members of the military were able to join us for our Veterans Day program.

Here are some pictures of our Southwest Family celebrating and appreciating each other with some fun activities prior to Thanksgiving break.















We LOVE our Southwest turkeys! 😊





Parent's Corner

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



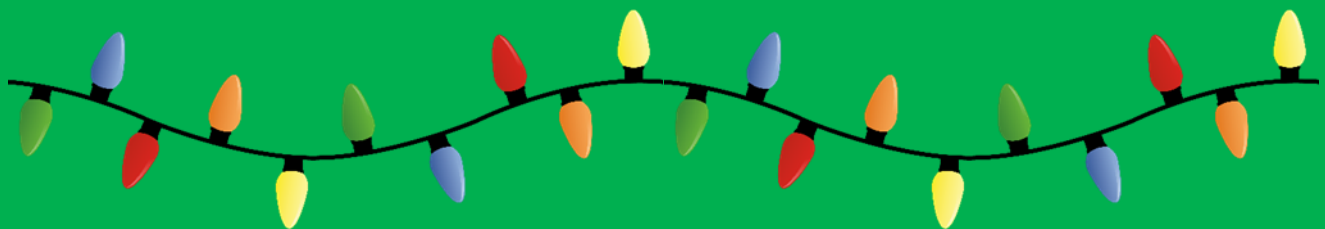
A safety reminder to parents who may be bringing their children to school after our 8:40 AM start time. Please escort your child into the school and sign in at our main office.

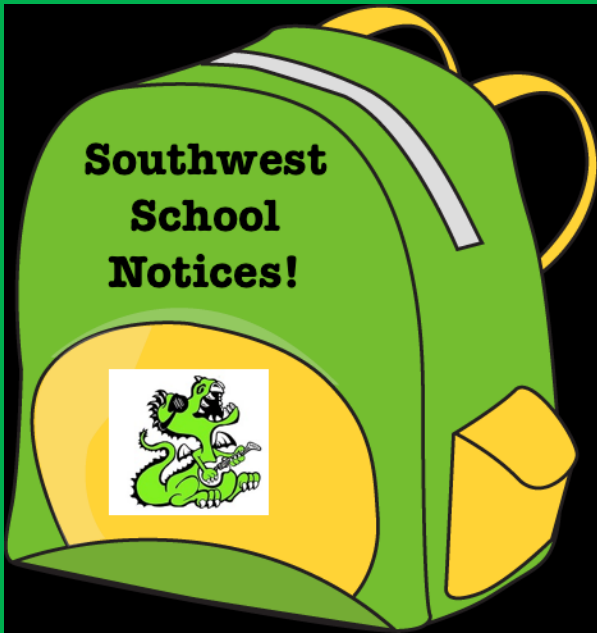


Carl Bozenski Christmas Village Parade on Sunday, December 8th

Should you wish to participate you and your child(ren) need to arrive in the parking lot of Fuessenich Park at 12 noon on Sunday, December 8th. Parents/guardians who participate in the Christmas Village Parade will be responsible for their own child(ren) throughout this event. Children must have a parent/guardian present to participate in this event. Thank you so much for your time and support. We look forward to seeing you and your child at the parade!

Si desea participar, usted y su(s) niño(s) deben llegar al estacionamiento del Parque Fuessenich a las 12 del mediodía el domingo, 8 de diciembre. Los padres/guardianes que participen en la Parada de la Aldea Navideña serán responsables por sus propios niños a través de todo el evento. Los niños deben tener un padre/guardian presente para participar de este evento. Muchas gracias por su tiempo y apoyo. ¡Esperamos verlo a usted y a su niño(a) en la parada!



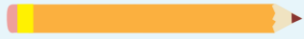


Please check your student's backpacks on a regular basis for any information being sent home. School-related forms will also be posted on our school website under **BACKPACK NOTICES**. You will find this resource to be handy if your child states he or she misplaced a form. You will be able to access 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.



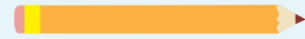
Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow



#schooleveryday



Asista Hoy, Tenga Éxito Mañana



#schooleveryday

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.

September Perfect Attendance – 36%

October Perfect Attendance – 34%

November 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.



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 _____



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.



YOU'RE INVITED TO SOUTHWEST SCHOOL'S
WINTER CONCERT



Thursday, December 19th

**7:00PM TORRINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM**

*Featuring the 5th Grade Band, 5th Grade Orchestra,
and both 4th and 5th Grade Choruses!*

All students should arrive at 6:30pm in concert attire; white on top
and black on the bottom. *Mandatory performance



ATTENTION FANS!

WANT TO HELP OUR SCHOOL EARN CASH? YOU CAN EACH TIME YOU SHOP AT OUR LOCAL



**REGISTER YOUR
STOP & SHOP
CARD
\$\$ FOR OUR KIDS!**

Designate our school today using ID Code **06562** and each time you shop at STOP & SHOP using your STOP & SHOP CARD, you will earn points for our school! Those points become CASH for our school to use for any of our educational needs.

Visit www.StopandShop.com/aplus or call 1-877-ASK-APLUS (1-877-275-2758)
This simple effort will make a huge difference for our school!



Holiday Store

Tuesday December 3rd and Wednesday December 4th
At Southwest School 5:30-7:00 PM

ptosouthwest@gmail.com

Keep an eye out for yearbook sales!!!
COMING SOON!!!!

Please contact the PTO to get involved and support events!

ptosouthwest@gmail.com

Looking for ways to volunteer with our PTO? Please log onto to

www.tinyurl.com/torringtonpto

A list of events for the school year are posted along with the times and areas
in need of volunteers.



**SISTER SCHOOL
HOLIDAY STORE!
2 NIGHT EVENT!**



December 3rd & 4th

5:30-7:00 pm

(there will be no shopping during the school day)

SOUTHWEST SCHOOL

Students will be able to shop for families, friends and teachers at affordable prices.



Join us for

STORY TIME, COOKIES & MILK!

There may even be a special guest!

Make a special project for nursing home patients or someone serving in our armed forces!

Funds raised go directly towards activities for all of our students at both Vogel-Wetmore and Southwest Schools!

If you can volunteer please email Vogel@torringtonpto.org or ptosouthwest@gmail.com



SCHOOL SPIRIT WEEK

**Celebrate the upcoming winter break
with some school spirit!**



Monday 12/16: Crazy Sock Day

Tuesday 12/17: Crazy Hair Day

Wednesday 12/18: Winter Celebration Day- wear your favorite winter or holiday sweater or holiday colors

Thursday 12/19: Pajama Day- please make sure your PJs are school appropriate and safe (no slippers)

Friday 12/20: School Spirit Day- wear your Vogel or Southwest shirts or school colors (blue and white for Vogel and purple and green for Southwest)

SPONSORED BY THE

SOUTHWEST AND VOGEL-WETMORE PTO





SEMANA DE ESPIRITU ESCOLAR

Celebra el receso de invierno que se acerca mostrando tu espíritu escolar

lunes 16/12: Día de Calcetines Locos

martes 17/12: Día del Pelo Loco

miércoles 18/12: Día de Celebración de Invierno - usa tu sudadera favorita de invierno o de los días festivos o colores de días festivos

jueves 12/19: Día de Pijamas – por favor asegúrate que tus pijamas sean apropiadas para la escuela (no pantuflas)

viernes 12/20: Día de Espíritu Escolar- Usa tu camiseta de Vogel o Southwest o colores de la escuela (azul y blanco para Vogel; púrpura y verde para Southwest)

ORGANIZADO POR LOS PTO DE SOUTHWEST Y VOGEL



Our Southwest Faculty and Staff would like to extend warm holiday greetings to your families

Happy Holidays

