



T.I.S. Digital Backpack **January 9, 2015**



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE:

Student Council News

Our student council is preparing for the annual "Snow Creature Feature" – an exhibit of paper “snow” creatures at T.I. S. For this school spirit event, each homeroom decorates a giant paper snow creature and hangs it outside their door. Each homeroom chooses a theme for their creature, and students are asked to bring in materials relevant to their theme. Every student will be given the opportunity to vote for their favorite snow creature. School-wide winners will be announced in late February.

Third Grade Great Poetry Race Winner

Congratulations to the students in Mrs. Babiec’s class for winning the latest Great Poetry Race competition. The Great Poetry Race is a contest aimed at improving children’s reading fluency. Students are given a poem to read and then given the task of reading the poem to as many adults as possible. Following each reading, adults are asked to sign off on a form, as a means of verifying that the child read to them. Student in Mrs. Babiec’s class compiled 425 adult signatures during this latest round of the Great Poetry Race.

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Testing

All Tolland Intermediate School students will soon begin our second round of Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing. Map testing is a computer adaptive assessment that will be used, in conjunction with a variety of other assessments, to continuously monitor the progress of each one of our students. MAP testing will occur three times during the course of the school year. The first round of testing took place in our computer integration lab. Computer integration teacher, Julie Kirk, administered the online assessment to individual classes during their weekly computer integration class.

Lockdown Postponed

The lockdown at Tolland Intermediate School, scheduled for Thursday January 8, was cancelled due to the late opening.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- 14** Half Day of School
- 15** Geography Bee, 9:00 a.m.
- 19** Martin Luther King Day – no school
- 20** Coffee With The Principals
- 22** Grade 4 and Grade 5 Band Concert AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL
- 28** Half Day of School
- 30** Sports Team Day

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hicks Municipal Center
Council Chambers
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING

7:30 – 10:00 P.M.

AGENDA

January 14, 2015

VISION STATEMENT

To represent education at its best, preparing each student for an ever-changing society, and becoming a full community of learning where excellence is achieved through each individual's success.

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting – December 10, 2014

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2 minute limit)

The members of the Tolland Board of Education welcome members of the public to share their thoughts and ideas at this time. When appropriate to do so, members of the Board and the administration may respond to comments during "Points of Information". However, in consideration of those in attendance and in an effort to proceed in a timely manner, follow-up discussion may need to take place outside of the meeting setting.

D. POINTS OF INFORMATION

E. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S FINAL REPORT

- F.1 Obsolete and Surplus Equipment
- F.2 Budget Sessions/Budget Workshops (no enclosure)
- F.3 Monthly Financial Report- December, 2014

G. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

H. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- H.1 Working Agreement (no enclosure)

I. BOARD ACTION

I.1 Education Reserve Fund

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2 minute limit)

Comments must be limited to items on this agenda.

K. POINTS OF INFORMATION

L. CORRESPONDENCE

- Town Council Meeting – December 9, 2014

M. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

N. NEW BUSINESS

O. ADJOURNMENT

Welcome Reception

for
Dr. Walter Willett
Superintendent of
Tolland Public Schools

The Tolland Board of Education invites the community to a meet and greet event with Dr. Willett, our new Superintendent of schools.

JOIN US!

Thursday, January 29, 2015
6:00 – 7:30pm
Tolland High School Cafeteria

Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be served.

All are welcome!

Breakfast with Superintendent Willett!

**Come enjoy coffee and donuts. Bring your
questions, comments and conversation!!**



January 21, February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20

9:00am - 10:00am

Tolland Board of Education

51 Tolland Green

RSVP only if childcare is Requested

jpalumbo@tolland.k12.ct.us

COMMUNITY BUDGET WORKSHOPS

*Please mark your calendars for our **COMMUNITY BUDGET WORKSHOPS @ the Tolland High School Library @ 7:30 PM***

January 15

January 20

January 21

What is a Community Budget Workshop? A Community Budget Workshop is where I (the Superintendent), the School Administration, and the BOE welcomes and encourages *citizen input* as it continues through the process of developing the education budget for the 2015-16 school year. During these workshops, discussions will include: goals, priorities, and opportunities for cost savings as it pertains to the budget details. Additional information may be requested as needed. This is an opportunity to impact the Superintendent's Budget Request. Please mark these dates on your calendar, and please come out!

After completing the budget workshops, deliberating, and making modifications as needed, the Board of Education adopts a budget at the regularly scheduled meeting on **February 11, 2015** which will then become part of the Town Manager's community conversation on **February 18, 2015** at the Fire Training Center at 7:00 pm..

Timeline for Preparation of 2015-2016 Budget

1/15/15	Community Budget Workshop	Superintendent/School Admins/BOE
1/20/15	Community Budget Workshop	Superintendent/School Admins/BOE
1/21/15	Community Budget Workshop	Superintendent/School Admins/BOE
1/28/15	Board of Education Budget Review Session	Superintendent/Business Manager
1/28/15	Presentation to BOE of Superintendent's proposed Superintendent/Business Manager Fiscal Year 2015 – 2016 Budget to Board of Education Board of Education Budget Review Session	
1/29/15	Board of Education Budget Review Session	Superintendent/Business Manager
2/04/15	Board of Education Budget Review Session	Superintendent/Business Manager
2/11/15	Regular BOE meeting -Adoption of Board of Education Budget	BOE
2/17/15	Superintendent submits Board of Education Budget to Town Manager (by February 21, per Town Charter)	Superintendent
3/3/15	Manager convenes joint meeting between Council and Town	
	Board of Education (by April 11 per Charter requirement) Council Room – 7:00 p.m.	BOE
5/6/15	Budget Referendum	Town
7/1/15	Fiscal year 2015-2016 budget year begins	

T.I.S. Student Council

Snow Creature Feature Contest



The “Snow Creature Feature” contest has begun! For this school spirit event, each homeroom will decorate a paper snow creature to be hung outside their door. T.I.S. student councils will provide each homeroom with three white circles. Homerooms will be responsible for choosing a theme for their creature, and bringing in decorating materials relevant to their theme. Students will vote for their favorite snow creature. We will also have a panel of judges voting for their favorite creatures in various categories!

Rules:

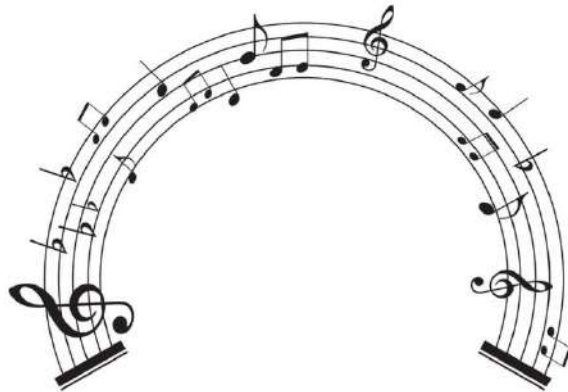
1. All homerooms must use the three white circles provided, and cannot change the size or shape of those circles.
2. All Snow Creature themes must be school appropriate.
3. Homerooms may **NOT** use food items as decoration materials.
4. Snow Creatures must be decorated with some materials. They cannot be decorated with drawings alone.
5. Snow Creatures must be completed by the deadline to be included in the contest:

February 20th.

Watch for information coming home regarding your child’s homeroom’s snow creature!
Suggested materials to send in include:

- Ribbon
- Pom poms
- Aluminum foil
- Buttons
- Pipe cleaners
- Google eyes
- Stickers
- Straws
- Yarn
- Old jewelry/clothes/ accessories
- Hats
- Feathers

If you are interested in helping out with a snow creature, please contact your child’s homeroom teacher directly.



GRADE 4 AND GRADE 5 BANDS WINTER CONCERT

Concert date: Thursday, January 22, 2015
Place: **Tolland Middle School in the Auditorium**
Students arrive: **6:30 p.m. and report to the band room**
Concert begins: **7pm**
Concert dress: Ladies: a dress or dress pants/skirt and dress shirt, nice shoes
Gentlemen: dress pants, dress shirt, nice shoes
No sneakers, sweatpants or sweatshirts!!

Please remember to be respectful of middle school equipment, since we are using their facilities.

There are so many beginner band students, that I am in need of a few chaperones to help in the band room while I am warming them up ☺

We are looking forward to a fun-filled concert with your wonderful young musicians!

Please email me at rbattersby@tolland.k12.ct.us if you are interested in helping out in the band room during the concert and I will get back to you and give you all the information ☺

Please contact me with any questions or concerns!

Thank you!

Mrs. Rebekah Bazzano, Grade 4 and Grade 5 Band Director

90 MINUTE DELAY LESSON SCHEDULE WITH MRS. BAZZANO

The 9:00-9:30 lesson will be from 10:25-10:45

The 9:30-10:00 lesson will be from 10:45-11:10

The 10:00-10:30 lesson will be from 11:10-11:30

The 11:45-12:15 lesson will be from 11:50-12:20

The 12:20-12:50 lesson will be from 11:30-11:50 (this time will be for small group lessons only, no recess ensembles)

The 1:45-2:15 lesson will be from 2:10-2:30

The 2:15-2:45 lesson will be from 2:30-2:50

The 2:45-3:15 lesson will be from 2:50-3:15

2 HOUR DELAY LESSON SCHEDULE WITH MRS. BAZZANO

The 9:00-9:30 lesson will be from 11:00-11:20

The 9:30-10:00 lesson will be from 11:20-11:40

The 10:00-10:30 lesson will be from 11:40-12:00

The 11:45-12:15 lesson will be from 12:00-12:20 (this time for small group lessons only, no recess ensembles)

The 12:20-12:50 lesson will be from 12:20-12:40 (this time will be for small group lessons only, no recess ensembles)

The 1:45-2:15 lesson will be from 2:10-2:30

The 2:15-2:45 lesson will be from 2:30-2:50

The 2:45-3:15 lesson will be from 2:50-3:15

No morning band, lessons, or chorus rehearsals before school on days with a delay

BAND INFO:

**4th and 5th Grade Small Group Lessons
On Scheduled Half Days**

<u>Original Lesson Time</u>	<u>Half Day Schedule</u>
8:00-8:30	8:00-8:25
8:30-9:00	8:25-8:50
9:00-9:30	8:50-9:15
9:30-10:00	9:15-9:40
10:00-10:30	9:40-10:00
11:45-12:15	10:30-11:00
1:45-2:15	12:15-12:45
2:15-2:45	12:45-1:05

NO RECESS BAND and **NO RECESS CHORUS** on half days

BAND INFO

Help During 4th and 5th Grade Winter Band Concert!

I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday!

I am in need of people to help backstage during the concert. I have only received one response so far from a parent when I sent home the notice about the concert a few weeks ago. I am in need of help before the concert, and in the band room while the 4th grade band is on stage. For example, if you are a parent of a 5th grader, then you could help out in the band room to make sure that the 5th grade is behaving in the band room while the 4th grade band is on stage performing. A parent of a 4th grader could help out before the concert, and then go to their seat when the 4th grade band is seated on stage. After the 4th grade band is done playing, they will sit in the first few rows of the auditorium, and I will have Mrs. Baker and Mrs. White watch them for me. I promise that you will have every opportunity to watch your child perform on stage! I really could use the extra help and I would really appreciate it!!

Please email me at rbattersby@tolland.k12.ct.us letting me know that you would like to help out!

Thank you!

Mrs. Rebekah Bazzano (Battersby)
4th and 5th Grade Band Director

January 9, 2015

Dear Fifth Grade Parents:

On Thursday, February 26th, the fifth grade students will have the unique opportunity to spend the day and evening with a group of students from Canton High School. These high school students are trained counselors who work with younger children as part of a program known as ***Esteem***.

Some of the topics covered in the ***Esteem*** program are:

- Self-esteem
- Awareness of drug and alcohol-related issues
- Helping others
- Understanding feelings
- Developing coping skills

The Canton students and their two teacher-advisors will work along with our students and teachers throughout the day in the TIS gymnasium. Our students will also take part in a group presentation for parents that night. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this special program on **Thursday, February 26th**, from **6:00 - 7:15 PM**. (Snowdate: March 12th)

An *Esteem* t-shirt will be ordered for each fifth grader. Students will wear the shirt during the day and at the evening presentation to show their team wide commitment to this program. Since the Canton students spend the entire day with us, we will also provide dinner for the ***Esteem*** team. The cost for the program and t-shirt is \$10 per child. Please send cash or make a check payable to TIS SAA by Friday, January 30th.

We look forward to having you and your child experience this memorable day.

Sincerely,

The Fifth Grade Teachers



I read the Esteem letter and have included the \$10.00 payment.

_____ Student Name

_____ Parent Signature



Please Join Us For an Open House

When: Thursday, January 22nd, 2015

(Snow Date: Thursday, January 29th, 2015)

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Place: St. Matthew Preschool

111 Tolland Green

Tolland, CT

Classroom #4 in the Parish Center

Everyone is welcome to join us and take this opportunity to see our classroom, learn about our program and talk with our teachers.

If you cannot make it on this evening, please feel free to contact us to schedule another time to chat and see our classroom.

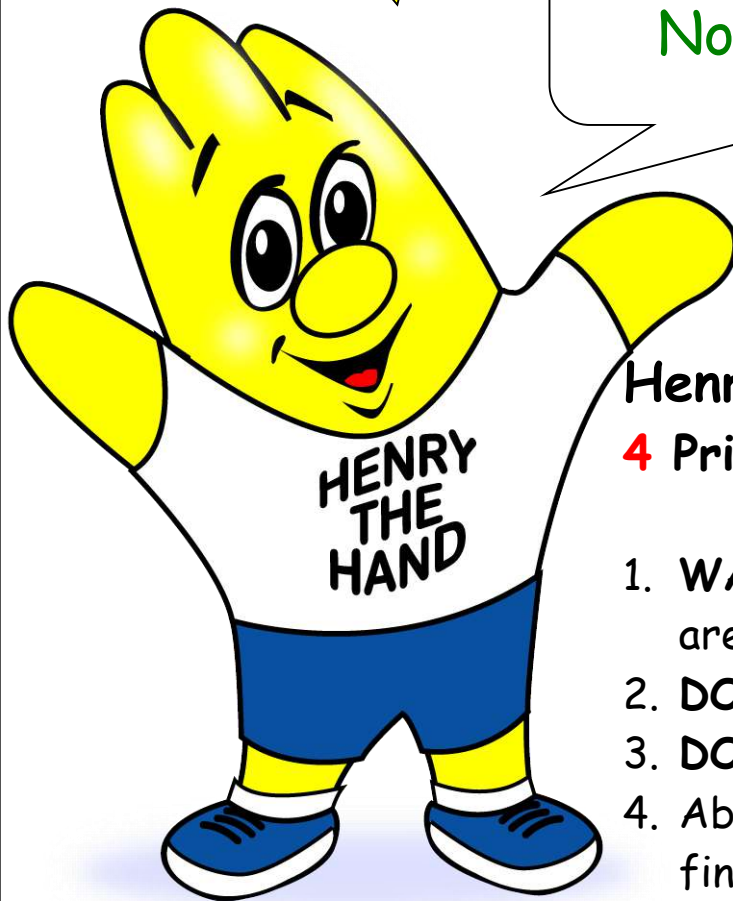
Eveline Siebesma

By phone: (860) 872-0200 ext. 357

By email: eveline.siebesma@stmatthewct.org

Help keep
Tolland Intermediate School
Healthy

Spread the Word
Not the Germs



Henry the Hand's®

4 Principles of Hand Awareness:

1. **WASH** your hands when they are dirty and **BEFORE** eating.
2. **DO NOT** cough into your hands.
3. **DO NOT** sneeze into your hands.
4. Above all, **DO NOT** put your fingers into your eyes, nose or mouth!

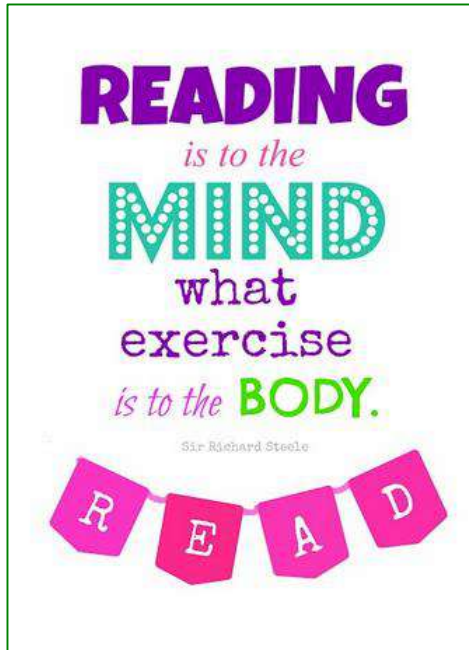
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Henry the Hand Foundation promotes Hand Awareness.

Cincinnati, OH 45241

513.769.3660

www.henrythehand.com



Dear TIS Parents,

Do you love books? Do you love seeing kids get excited about books? The TIS Book Fair needs your enthusiasm!

As the current co-chair of this TEPTO sponsored event, I will have to step down due to a work opportunity. But this is YOUR chance to STEP UP! The book fair is NOT just a fundraiser. First and foremost, it is an opportunity for students to get excited about reading, and for adults to encourage them along the way. My favorite part of the book fair....seeing that child that is not really interested in reading, get super excited about the fair! "Yay! The book fair is coming!" And finding that book that just might get them reading!

The book fair also helps TIS reach their goal to increase the volume of reading for every child in the building. This is a great event to do with a friend or two or three, and creates a book fair team to help manage this week-long book extravaganza for the students!

We are all parents.....and together with the school staff, we are all here to help our children be successful students. A *team effort* makes the book fair fun and successful for everyone! Please help if you can!

If you'd like more information, contact Karen Moran at 4morans@gmail.com or Jess Burney at jessburney13@comcast.net



Happy New Year from Stop & Shop

Important Reminder ...

School enrollments and registrations END January 31, 2015. No new school enrollments or registrations will be accepted after January 31, 2015.

It's Not Too Late to Register your Stop & Shop Card

Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to designate your school today.

Bonus Trivia

In the same way that humans are identified by their fingerprints, dogs are identified by what kind of prints?

Do you think you know the answer?

Five correct entries will be chosen at random and will win 500 points for the registered school of their choice. The answer MUST be submitted via e-mail by 1/23/15 at askaplus@cranecommunications.com

Winners will be announced in
next month's Newsletter.

See official rules for details
stopandshop.com/aplus

Bonus Challenge

December Winners: 500 points each

1. Mount Pleasant High School Providence, RI
2. Carlton M Viveiros Elementary School
Fall River, MA
3. West Babylon Junior High School

Join the thousands of satisfied customers who enjoy the quality, value and convenience of online grocery shopping and delivery with Peapod, while earning A+ School Rewards™ for your school. Visit www.peapod.com to see if you are within the current delivery areas.

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Tolland Little League 2015 Winter Clinics

Tolland Little League will be offering 4 winter clinics that will be run by Tolland High School's Baseball/Softball Staff in February & March. Registration is now open for the 2015 Winter Clinics.

NOTE: DUE TO SUPER BOWL SUNDAY WE HAVE CHANGED THE START TIME ON THE FEBRUARY 1st CLINIC TO 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Clinic #1: Infield/Outfield Fundamentals:

Baseball: 8-12 year olds

Sundays in February: 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22

TIME: 2:00-4:00 pm (FEBRUARY 1ST ONLY)

TIME: 6:15-8:00 pm (February 8, 15, 22)

Place: Tolland High School

Cost: \$85.00

This program is designed to help improve all around defensive baseball skills from throwing and catching the ball properly, to improving footwork for infield/outfielder's, and attacking the baseball. Fielding drills will stress the importance of creeping on every pitch, anticipation/reaction, ground balls/fly balls, double plays, cutoff drills, communication, and basic game situations. **Limited to 40 players ran by Todd Euliano (Coaching Coordinator/Director of Training and Development)**

Clinic #2: Softball Clinic: (Hitting/Fielding):

Softball: 8-12 year olds

Wednesdays in February: 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 2/25

TIME: 6:30pm - 8:00pm @ Tolland High School

Cost: \$85.00

Players will learn the correct swing plane, proper grip and stance through tee work and soft toss. Also, players will learn the art of bunting from both sides of the plate. We will focus on good throwing mechanics from a ready position, fielding position (while moving) along with cut off and ground ball drills. This clinic will also cover catching with 2 hands with and without gloves, communicating and base running techniques.

Limited to 40 players ran by Bill Pompa (Head Coach Varsity Softball)

Clinic #3: Offensive Clinic (Hitting/Bunting/Base Running):

Baseball 8-12 year olds

March: 3/2, 3/3, 3/4, 3/5

TIME: 6:30-8:00 pm @ Tolland High School

Cost: \$85.00

This program is designed to help improve your child's ability and confidence on the offensive side of the baseball. They will get 4 sessions of pure offensive instruction where they will learn the importance of balance and timing throughout their swing, how to bunt a ball properly, and aggressive base running skills. In addition, they will learn the importance of pitch counts and pitch selection. **Limited to 50 players ran by Scott Czerwinski (Head Coach Varsity Baseball)**

Clinic #4: Pitchers/Catchers:

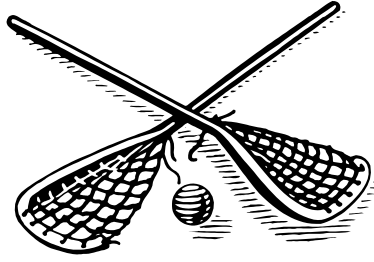
Baseball 8-12 year olds

March: 3/10, 3/12/ 3/17, 3/19

TIME: 6:30-8:00 pm @ Tolland High School

Cost: \$85

This program is designed to help improve players who want to have a focus on pitching/catching. The clinic will be led by Tolland High School baseball coaching staff and current players who will focus on all areas of importance for each position. Pitchers will work on arm circle, grips, balance drills, pitching delivery, follow thru and completion of motion. Clinic will cover drills and techniques to improve consistency and velocity on the mound. Catchers will work on stance set up, proper receiving of pitches, blocking, fielding their position, proper technique for catching pop-ups, and throwing to bases. Clinic will cover drills and techniques for young catchers to improve defensively in all aspects of the position. Seven coaches from the high school staff and numerous players will allow each camp member plenty of instruction and attention over the course of the clinic. **Limited to 50 players ran by Scott Czerwinski (Head Coach Varsity Baseball)**



Free Girls Lacrosse Clinics For Grades 1-5

(No experience necessary)

We have sticks and goggles available if needed.

When: January 21st, 26th and February 2nd from 6:30-7:30pm

Where: Hick's Gym in the Tolland Town Offices Building

Please contact:

Kate Tellers (ktellers@yahoo.com) to register.

Gail Otis (gailotis0103@gmail.com)

****We are looking for volunteers interested in coaching at this grade level or helping out.

Tolland Family Resource Center 2015 Summer Camp Program Interactive Family Survey

In the constantly updating world we live in, it is important to provide challenging and entertaining environments for people to develop and thrive in. These conditions are even more vital for school aged children. At the Tolland Family Resource Center, we strive to better our program each year by attending professional developments, researching and applying new teaching methods, and most importantly listening to the families of the children we care for. There are many new improvements being made in the pursuit of making the experience for both children and families as rewarding and convenient as possible. This year, the Tolland Intermediate School may be serving as the venue for the 2015 Summer Camp Program. If this location change takes place, many of Tolland's resources will be made available to the program on a daily basis. Such opportunities include; walking distance to Crandall Park, where campers will be able to hike the vast network of trails, fish the pond, work in the youth garden, as well as explore and admire the beautiful environment; access to the Tolland Public Library; a brand new outdoor playscape facility; and much more. The new site also features our own private entrance on the side of the building adjacent to the FRC classroom, along with a newly installed security system in which the staff has direct audio and visual contact with those outside of the building, ensuring the safety and well-being of those inside. We are all trying to achieve the same goal of providing the best possible care for the children of the FRC, so please help us by voicing your opinion on the projected change of venue, as well as by participating in this short survey.

Tolland FRC Summer Activities

Listed below are a series of projected activities for the 2015 Summer Program.

Please take the time to fill out our survey and return it to the

Birch Grove or T.I.S. FRC site as soon as possible.

Your families' input is very important to us!

	Activity/Trip/Program Update	Not Interested			Willing to Try		Very Interested	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<i>Place an "x" in appropriate column</i>							
1	Archery Program							
2	Tennis Program							
3	Youth Gardening							
4	Library Trips							
5	Fishing at Crandall Pond							
6	Exploring Tolland Green							
7	Hiking Club/ (i.e. Crandalls, Joshua's Trail System etc.)							
8	Swimming at Camp Newhoca (Bolton, CT)							
9	Chess Club							
10	Sports Clubs							
11	Wilderness Observations							
Field Trips								
12	Spare-Time Bowling							
13	Southwick Zoo							
14	Hammonasset State Park/Beach							
15	Sturbridge Village							
16	Stone Age Rock Gym							
17	Launch Trampoline Park							

18	Harkness Memorial Park/Beach							
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	Activity/Trip/Program Update	Not Interested			Willing to Try		Very Interested	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<i>Place an "x" in appropriate column</i>							
19	Devils Hopyard State Park							
20	Connecticut Science Center							
21	Essex Steamboat/ Train							
22	Rave Cinemas (Available Film at Time)							
23	Rockcats Baseball							
24	Gillette Castle State Park							
25	Somers Golf Center							

Additional Comments:

In the space provided below, please share any suggestions regarding day to day activities, field trips, scheduling, and other recommendations your family has that may help us build upon our enriching and exciting curriculum.

**Thank you for taking the time to help us make the
Tolland Family Resource Center
the best place it can be!**

FRC NEWS AND EVENTS

The Family Resource Center has planned many special programs and events. For information on FRC programs, please visit the Birch Grove Website (http://www.bgp.tolland.k12.ct.us/for_parents/digital_backpacks)

The End

Snowflake Facts



The world's largest snowflake found to date was 38 centimeters wide and 20 centimeters thick. This snowflake occurred at Fort Keogh, Montana, USA on January 28, 1887.

Snowman Facts

The world's tallest snowman made measured a massive 34.63 meters and was made by the people of Bethel, Maine, USA. It took 2 weeks to build, finally being completed on February 17, 1999. The snowman, nicknamed Angus, was so big that he had vehicle tires for his mouth and trees for arms.

