



WILLIAM E. COTTLE SCHOOL

*"Preparing Every Student For Excellence"*

## **COTTLE WEEKLY**

**March 11, 2018**

Greetings, everyone:

Please be apprised that our students will have a full day of school on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. The decision was made in the face of our challenges with inclement weather and loss of power. The last time I wrote we were in the throes of flu season. I sincerely hope your family is healthy and well past this terrible period. We are all thankful to Ms. Notaro, our School Nurse, for her leadership and attention to the health of our students. We thank you, our parents, for the attention that you give to your child's health and your sensitivity to the children of others.

Before I begin articulating current projects and special programs in process here at WEC, I want to mention the importance of the phrase **"if you see it, say it"**. I have received many well-meaning texts and emails on situations that needed our attention with regard to student and school safety. I read and respond as honestly as possible. I certainly learn and at times act on your communications. Our district is beginning a partnership with a school safety firm, Altaris. They will begin a complete safety assessment of all school buildings and grounds and then present their results to our Superintendent, administrative team, and Board of Education. Then it will be up to us as educators, parents, citizens and students to prioritize what changes are to be made, both immediately and over time, to improve our safety protocols and procedures. These changes will be shared with you prior to implementation. The phrase "total commitment, change in philosophy, and cultural change by the entire WEC staff, parents, students, and visitors" must be strongly considered because sporadic compliance, benign neglect, or total disregard for our procedures will divide us on the topic of student and school safety. So, please be ready. Know that our Emergency Response Team continues to discuss vigilance and procedures. Thank you for your communications on areas where we must do better. To Perry Vazquez and all Cottle parents who have stepped up to help us during these difficult and confusing times, thank you.

A first grader emailed me on Thursday evening informing me that we had forgotten to recite the pledge that morning. With the delayed opening and my desire to simply get the day started calmly after a disconcerting week, I forgot to call the students into the office for our daily Pledge of Allegiance. She told me that both she and her mom decided to recite the pledge that evening to an American stamp, which I thought was a pretty cool idea, sincerely. The Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy, a Superintendent of Schools, in 1892. Bellamy wanted to create a stronger sense of

patriotism within our country because, prior to the writing of our pledge, our nation's sense of togetherness had been broken following the end of the Civil War. Who can deny that our sense of “togetherness” gets tested every day by tragedies, large and small. Yet, each morning we get a chance to recite and remember, throughout our classrooms and hallways, a pledge of togetherness to our nation and all that our flag represents. David McCullough wrote, in a book titled The American Spirit, “we are still the strongest, most productive, wealthiest, the most creative, the most ingenious, the most generous nation in the world, of any nation of all time”. This is us.

Please make the time to vote on our district’s Bond Referendum on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

This impressive list of projects, programs and information is not in order of importance:

- Parents, due to multiple school day closings due to weather and power outages, school will be in session on the following dates: **Friday, March 16, Friday, April 6, and Friday, May 25.**
- Congratulations to the Tuckahoe PTA on their sold out Cultural Arts program. Broadway’s **Anastasia**. The New Broadway Musical is Sunday, March 11, 2018
- Thanks to our PTA for sponsoring *another* successful **Random Acts of Kindness** week
- Thanks to SEPTA for sponsoring *another* successful **Building Bridges** week
- Thanks to our PTA for sponsoring *another* **Books n’ Bites** program. This is still in motion.
- Thanks to the Concordia Conservatory for sponsoring a play titled “Henry and the Humbug” for our second and third graders on March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Author/Illustrator Terry Taylor will visit our Kgn. and 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes on March 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The Cottle Theatre Club will perform the play, **Annie**, on Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be two school performances (K-2 and 3-5) in the morning and an evening show as well! The two daytime shows and one evening show will be on Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Our PTA’s slate of after school programs are as follows:

**Mondays:**

- Grades K-1: Curiologists - Environmental Science
- Grades 1-2: Intro to Paleontology
- Grades 3-5: Curious Engineer: Ancient Engineering and Architecture

**Tuesdays:**

- Grades K-1: Curiologists
- Grades 1-2: CODING: INTRO TO TYNKER 1
- Grades 3-5: Minecraft Roman Architecture

**Thursdays:**

- Grades 1-2: Intro to Robotics
- Grades 1-2: CODING: TYNKER 2 (second section after INTRO)
- Grades 3-5: Robotics and Programming

- The **New York State Assessments for 2018** are as follows: ELA on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> for grades 3-5; Math on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for grades 3-5. More info to

follow on the changes to the NYS Testing Program in 2018. We think all parents will be relieved and supportive of the changes.

- As promised, our Cottle Chorus will be singing our National Anthem at Citifield on May 31<sup>st</sup> in a game that features the New York Mets versus the Chicago Cubs. The links for tickets and t-shirts are below. This is the first time we are pursuing this ability to purchase tickets and t-shirts electronically, so please let us know if you have any trouble doing so. Tickets for seats are \$21 and t-shirts range between \$7 to \$9.50. You might have to set up an account if you want to purchase tickets or t-shirts, but after that it should be easy!

- [https://stores.inksoft.com/cottle\\_school\\_chorus](https://stores.inksoft.com/cottle_school_chorus) = t-shirts

- <https://groupmatics.events/s/email/CottleElementary> = tickets

Happy Saint Patrick's Day,

*Mr. Cuglietto and Mr. Kilgallen*