

CENTER STAGE

sharing, caring,
and learning for life

Center Street
School Newsletter
Jan. & Feb.
2022



**CS STAFF
SHARES
APPRECIATION WITH
OUR
LOCAL
FIRST RESPONDERS!**



**CS Student Council
Most Successful Outreach
to our Animal Shelters - Ever!**



Thank You Everyone!

Center Street Information

BUILDING DOORS WILL BE LOCKED

As part of the District-wide security system and our emphasis on safety, the building doors will be locked during the day. Both of the main lobby entrance doors have a white box. Please push the button, wait for a response and someone will assist you. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Visitors to the Schools—We are not accepting visitors to our building at this time due to Covid-19. Students may enter the building upon their temperature check through the main entrance ONLY beginning at 7:45 am.

Also, as parents arrive in the morning with children, please remain outside of the school. Children must learn to proceed to their room on their own.

Teachers are expected NOT to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors.

These safety procedures need your support. If you have any questions regarding these procedures, please call the office. Thank you in advance for your help and support with keeping safety a priority.

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WE ARE MAKING TEMPORARY ADJUSTMENTS TO OUR STUDENT HANDBOOK FOR THE 2021—2022 ACADEMIC YEAR. Please see the adjusted details below and thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding as we create a safe learning environment for our students.

Birthday Treats—We know birthdays are very important days for our students. Due to the DOH and the CDC guidelines, treats must be store purchased with the ingredients on the outside of the package.

Class Snacks—Students are allowed to bring in their own daily snack as in the past. Due to the DOH and CDC guidelines, teachers will not be coordinating a classroom snack schedule where snacks are shared among students.

Water Bottles—We encourage students to bring in a water bottle with them each day to school. Please make sure your child's name is clearly marked on the bottle. Water bottles should be washed out each evening.

MEDICATION IN SCHOOL - If a student needs any form of medication at school, a written physician's prescription and written parental consent are necessary. Any medication should be brought in the original container to the health office by an adult where it will be stored and dispensed. Please contact Mrs. Reazor with further questions, please call the office at 795-2580.

APPR of Teacher and Principals -The District is required to implement Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR) of teachers and principals. The outcome of the APPR is that each teacher and principal will receive an Overall Composite Rating based upon Observation and Student Performance scores. The four possible Overall Composite Ratings are Highly Effective, Effective, Developing and Ineffective (HEDI). You may request the Overall Composite Rating for the teachers and principals in the school building to which your child is assigned for the current school year by contacting the building principal of your child's school. Further, if you require additional explanation of the ratings for the teachers and principals, you may contact Tony Gill, Assistant Superintendent, at 607-739-5601, x4263. Please note that this information may be released only to parents or legal guardians. The District will verify that any request received is a bona fide request submitted by a parent or legal guardian.

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to the HR Directors, Title IX/DASA Coordinator and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer;

Safe Schools Line - To report a concern, rumor, or other safety issue - call 795-2044 or 1-800-305-4984. Line is available 24 hours a day - ALL CALLS ARE ANONYMOUS AND CONFIDENTIAL.

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to seeing all of our students return to CS on Monday, January 3rd! It has been a wonderful first part of the school year as we have experienced so many different types of events again! Our students are loving it and so are our staff not to mention our families. I want to thank our excellent CS PTO for everything they have provided for our students since September. They have spend an enormous amount of hours volunteering so that our students can experience fun, laughter and excitement with the activities and events they plan for all of us. I am so grateful for our parents who continue to support our staff as they work diligently to assist our children in getting caught up from our previous remote months.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and or concerns. I generally work late in the evening, so I am only a phone call away.



Explore. Empower. Excel.

Sincerely,

Patti Sotero

Patti Sotero, Principal

Center Street Elementary Contact Information

812 Center Street
Horseheads, NY 14845
607-795-2580
Patricia Sotero, Principal
Sarah Bancroft, Secretary
Jessica Koellner, Attendance Clerk

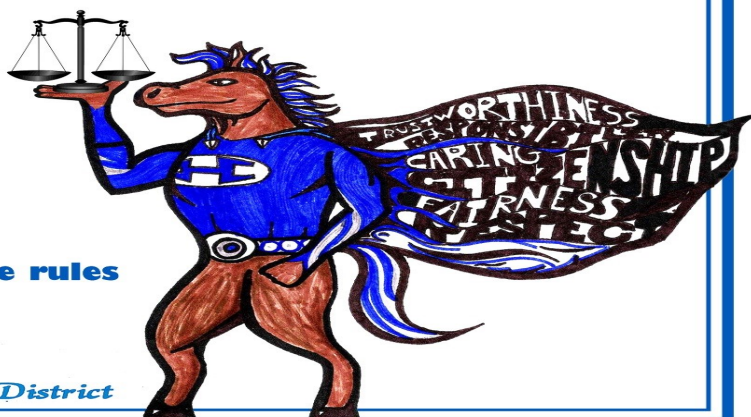
www.horseheadsdistrict.com
Michelle Yearick, Executive Team
Jamie Dauphinet, Executive Team
Alicia Tammaro, Executive Team

PHONE: 795-2580 X 2811

Character Education

Fairness

- Treat people the way you want to be treated
- Think about how your actions will affect others
- Listen to people with an open mind
- Take turns and play by the rules
- Tell the truth



December 15, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we near winter recess, we have a few items of information and reminders:

Calendar Adjustment for Thursday, December 23

The district is changing the school day on December 23, 2021, from a full day to a half day. The morning will be used as a time for students and staff to focus on wellness and spirit as we head into a much-needed winter recess.

We are currently experiencing a significant surge in COVID cases and direct contacts. The district would like to ensure that the winter recess is, as much as possible, outside of the required ten-day COVID direct contact and isolation window for students and staff. In doing so, it is our hope that attendance will be less affected by COVID exposures after the recess. I would have considered a full day; however, we don't know how many emergency closing days we will need to use this winter. Instituting a half day does not affect our allotted snow days and would not jeopardize our April break if winter weather causes too many school closings this year.

We recognize the strain and stress this pandemic has placed upon our students, staff, and families. Our hope is for students to have the morning of December 23 to enjoy time with friends and teachers and then get an early start to the winter recess in the afternoon.

On Thursday, December 23:

- **There will be no pre-kindergarten.**
- **Grades K-6 will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m.**
- **Grades 7-12 will be dismissed at 11:15 a.m.**

For grades K-6, if this changes your child's 'go home plans' for December 23, please send in a note to the main office on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Masking on Buses

This is a reminder that masking is required at all times on district buses and transportation vehicles. This is a state and federal requirement and there are no exceptions. Masking is an important tool in preventing the spread of COVID-19 on our buses as we are not always able to accommodate physical distancing.

We ask that everyone cooperate with this state and federal requirement. If students do not have a mask when entering a bus, they will be immediately provided one by the driver as they get on the bus. Failure to comply will result in loss of district transportation privileges for a period of time up to a semester. By state order, masks must be properly worn by students while on school buses, as well as any school buildings/facilities.

Test to Stay Update

We have updated the Test to Stay (TTS) strategy for those identified as direct contacts who are without symptoms and unvaccinated. The updates include information on direct contacts living in the same household as a person who has tested positive as well as use of district transportation. Read the full information on TTS here: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDTTestToStayStrategy.cfm>

continued

Vaccine Clinic

All appointments for the Chemung County Health Department's COVID vaccine clinic Friday are full. For more information on other Health Department clinics, please visit their information page at <https://www.chemungcountyny.gov/covidinfo/index.php>. As a reminder, COVID vaccination is not required in our schools. The district is simply providing the county the use of our site to assist those in our community who wish to be vaccinated.

As we near the end of the 2021 calendar year, we want to thank everyone for their care for our students and our schools. Like 2020, this year has not been easy, and we hope that everyone can take some time to celebrate and rest during the winter recess. Together we will weather this pandemic, and I know you share our hope that the new calendar year will see the easing of pandemic restrictions and requirements, and a renewed sense of health and happiness for all.

Wishing you all a joyful and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Douglas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "D".

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools

Books!



Books!

The 2022 Center Street School Book Exchange is About to Begin!

Books may be brought in any time through Thursday, January 13.

DAY ONE: Wednesday, January 19, 2022

ALL students receive ONE BOOK

(Volunteers needed from 11:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.)

DAY TWO: Thursday, January 20, 2022

The number of books a student can take home will be based upon the number of books his/her class brought in, with a maximum of four.

Class total = 16 – 30 books: Each student will receive 1 more book

Class total = 31 – 50 books: Each student will receive 2 more books

Class total = 51 – 75 books: Each student will receive 3 more books

Class total = 75 + books: Each student will receive 4 more books

(Volunteers needed from 11:00 A.M. – 1:45 P.M.)

Please e-mail contact@cspto.org if you would like to volunteer.

We will gratefully accept as many books as you would like to donate. The success of this book exchange rests with having a good selection of books to choose from as well as help from adult volunteers.

Each student should make an effort to bring in at least one book. There is always a shortage of books for the upper grades (chapter books). Ask your friends and neighbors to donate their gently used books to this event.

Please make sure that all donated books are in good shape and the content is appropriate for elementary youth.

CS PTO - JOIN US

JAN. 4TH FOR OUR MEETING!

Starts at 6:30pm in person or on a zoom!

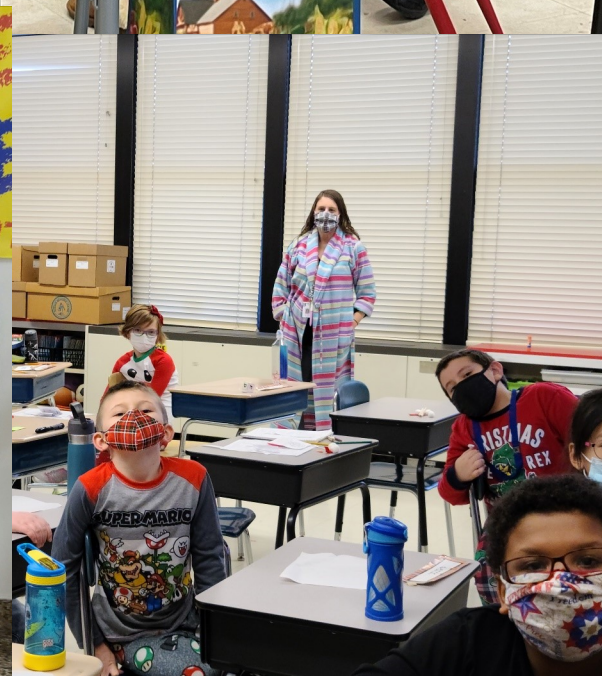
**A Work of Art -
each puzzle piece
created by every student
and staff member
at CS!**



PJ DAY - SO COMFY - SO MUCH FUN!



PJ DAY - SO COMFY - SO MUCH FUN!



DECORATING COOKIES & EATING THEM - YUM!



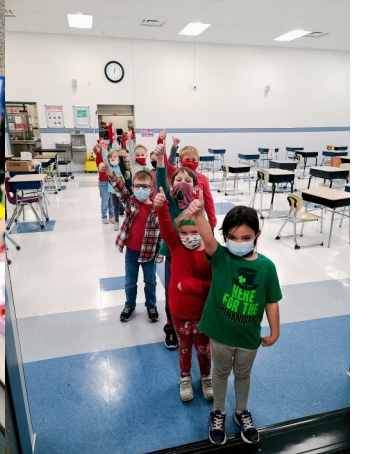
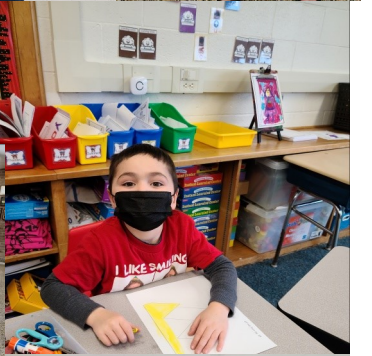
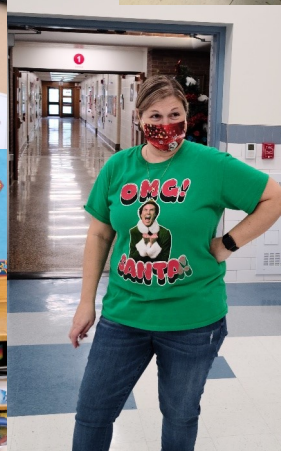
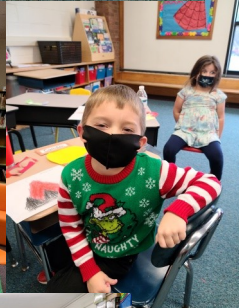
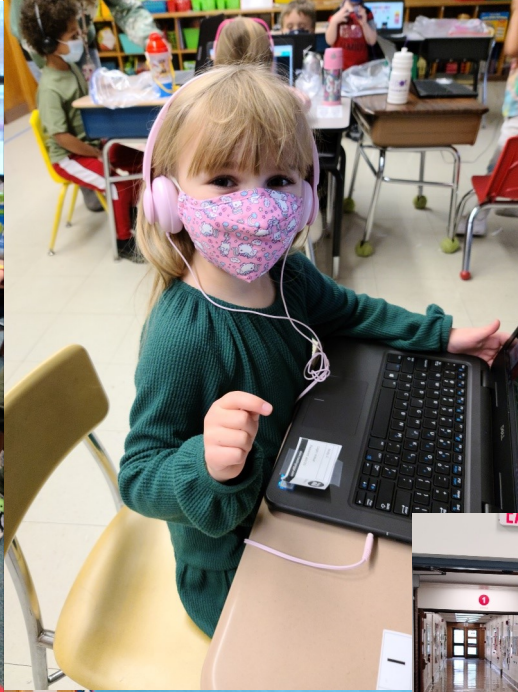
THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL CS PTO FOR PROVIDING ALL THE RESOURCES FOR THIS FUN AND YUMMY ACTIVITY!

Santa Visits CS!



It was a happy day!

RED & GREEN DAY



WINTER CONCERT MUSIC!

Thank you Ms. Hamilton -
our students sounded amazing!



CS STAFF SINGS AND RECORDS THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS TO OUR STUDENTS!



STUDENT COUNCIL SINGS TO STAFF - AS THEY GO CAROLING AROUND THE SCHOOL!





Good Apple Awards

The Good Apple Award is a tool to promote pride, self-esteem and positive character development. All faculty and staff nominate students exhibiting good character. At the end of each month, the principal will announce the recipients names, and will present the students with their award during their scheduled lunch time. A bulletin board is in the Main Lobby to display each month's recipients. The following students earned a good apple award for showing exceptional character during this month.

The following students received Good Apple Award Certificates for **December** -

Last Name	First Name	Grade			
Baranyk	Logan	Pre-K	Giancoli	Opal	3
Beach	Ensley	Pre-K	Therit	Dexton	3
Hall	Mackson	Pre-K	Wilson	Jonas	3
Wooten	Leo	Pre-K	Hornsby	Greyson	3
Decker	Arryah	K	Finnerty	Deklen	3
Epperson	Dennis	K	Palmer	Mackenzie	3
Joensen	Declan	K	Robinson	Lucas	3
Snegosky	Levi	K	Zuchowski	Averie	3
Charles	Shyhir	K	Culshaw	Braelynn	4
Corkins	James	K	Darrow	Connor	4
Henderson	Tyrell	K	Evans	Brian	4
Paul	Amara	K	Jaynes	Ellie	4
Crocker	Hunter	K	Manwaring	Ellie	4
Dallas- Greth	Ryker	K	Westervelt	Geonni	4
Warner	Thaddeus	K	Wright	Micah	4
Bates	Baylee	1			
Buchanan	Robert	1			
Nunez-Serrano	Akemi	1			
Stroell	Logan	1			
Sullivan	Addie	1			
Brooks	Lily	1			
Finnerty	Loklan	1			
Stroman	Ghrasun	1			
Tabamo	Jacob	1			
Wallace- Melendez	Rhianna	1			
Didas	Ethan	2			
Heppner- Smith	Clara	2			
McEvoy	Lilah	2			
Paul	Lily	2			
Eno	Draven	2			
Henderson	Lilly	2			
Miller	Emma	2			
Tyo	Raelynn	2			
Farrell	Nathan	2			



Reminders

Gym Days - are sneaker days - and you are then prepared to have fun!

Art Days - students need smocks to keep clean - any old shirt will do!



Center Street has a Facebook page. Please "like" us to stay up to date on activities, events, and other important information about our school.

JANUARY - FAIRNESS

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Winter Break</i>						1 <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR</i>
	3 <i>DAY 6</i>	4 <i>DAY 1</i> <i>PTO mtg 6:30</i>	5 <i>DAY 2</i>	6 <i>DAY 3</i>	7 <i>DAY 4</i> <i>Raider Day - wear blue!</i>	8
9	10 <i>DAY 5</i>	11 <i>DAY 6</i> <i>CIM K-2</i>	12 <i>DAY 1</i> <i>Fac. Mtg</i> <i>K Report Cd Mtg</i>	13 <i>DAY 2</i> <i>CSE Mtg.</i> <i>Gr 2 Trip to CMOG</i>	14 <i>DAY 3</i> <i>Gr 2 Report Card Mtg</i>	15
16	17 <i>MLK JR</i> <i>NO SCHOOL</i>	18 <i>DAY 4</i> <i>Gr 4 Report Cd Mtg</i>	19 <i>DAY 5</i> <i>Book Exchange</i> <i>RtI Report Cd Mtg</i>	20 <i>DAY 6</i> <i>Book Exchange</i> <i>CIM 3-4 /</i> <i>BOE Mtg - 6 HS</i> <i>Aud</i>	21 <i>DAY 1</i> <i>End of Marking 2nd Period</i> <i>Gr 1 Report Cd Mtg</i>	22
23	24 <i>DAY 2</i> <i>TA Mtg 8:00</i> <i>SBT mtg / Gr 3</i> <i>Report Cd Mtg</i>	25 <i>DAY 3</i> <i>504 Mtgs</i>	26 <i>DAY 4</i> <i>CIM 3-4</i>	27 <i>DAY 5</i>	28 <i>DAY 6</i> <i>Report Cards go home</i>	29
30	31 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> <i>CONFERENCE DAY</i>					<i>Rev</i> <i>Dec. 21, 2021</i>

FEBRUARY - TRUSTWORTHINESS

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 DAY 1 <i>PTO Mtg. 6:30pm</i> <i>Aimsweb</i>	2 DAY 2	3 DAY 3 <i>CS K</i> <i>Registration by appointment</i>	4 DAY 4 <i>Raider Day</i> <i>Swim Night-HS tbc</i>	5
6	7 DAY 5 <i>Aimsweb</i>	8 DAY 6 <i>504 MTG</i>	9 DAY 1 <i>Faculty Mtg.</i>	10 DAY 2 <i>CSE Mtg</i>	11 DAY 3	12
13	14 DAY 4 <i>Happy Valentine's</i> <i>Red, Wt Pink Day</i>	15 DAY 5 <i>CIM 3-4</i>	16 DAY 6 <i>CIM K - 2</i>	17 DAY 1 <i>BOE Mtg - 6 HS</i> <i>Aud</i>	18 DAY 2	19
20	21 PRESIDENT'S DAY NO SCHOOL	22 WINTER BREAK NO SCHOOL	23 WINTER BREAK NO SCHOOL	24 WINTER BREAK NO SCHOOL	25 WINTER BREAK NO SCHOOL	26
27	28 DAY 3 <i>SBT Mtg./Pennies to Prevent</i> <i>Polio—Student Council Outreach</i>					



MAKE SOME
RESOLUTIONS!

Be the Change You Want to See This Year! Digital Citizens are Upstanders not Bystanders! Stand up for what is right! Weed out Fake News! Say no to harmful influences online!



**Digital Citizen
Competency #4**

BEING BALANCED



There's something deeply satisfying about stacking stones. It's very common in Zen gardens which seek to create order out of nature's seeming chaos highlighting the harmony and balance of our place in the world.

A **balanced digital citizen** is someone who can make informed decisions about how to prioritize their time and activities both on and offline. While technology has become a critical element to how we live our 21st century lifestyles, sometimes it can be overwhelming.

Consumer technology is designed to keep you engaged and keep your attention, which is done through notifications, alerts, flashy games or advertisements, and other designs meant to keep you using the product or application. More importantly, technology has a way of making us feel connected to our friends and family in ways that were unimaginable even 30 years ago.

Unfortunately, an "always on" lifestyle can be harmful. Spending too much time on technology has been shown to diminish the mental health of people, especially young people.

For more information, view the tips provided in the box to the right and read these short articles.

3 Tips for Balanced Digital Wellness

- <http://go.gstric.org/505-Balance1>

Don't Ban Technology; Help Kids Strive for Balance - <http://go.gstric.org/505-Balance2>

Techniques to help you find your balance:



1. Be honest with yourself and answer the question: Am I happy online? If you do not feel happy when you are using technology, it may be time to reflect on some changes you can make to change that feeling.
2. Form healthy habits: Take a break from tech! If you feel overwhelmed or unhappy by your technology use:
 - a. **Step away.** Take a tech break, even if it is for 5 to 10 minutes. If you can, leave your technology in another room, especially at bed time.
 - b. Turn off notifications or even use the do not disturb setting on your phone, especially at night. If you are worried about missing an important call or text, you can always allow certain people to bypass the do not disturb setting.
 - c. Limit your technology usage at bed time. Screens emit a blue light that is designed to invigorate brain activity. Aim to disconnect about an hour before you go to bed. If you must use technology before bed, try out a blue light filter on your device.
3. Be present: Going out with friends? Having dinner with your family? Put the tech away. Having real conversations can help you feel connected to the physical world. Avoid your social feeds and games on your device and be present with the people you are with.

ALSO IN
THIS ISSUE

FAKES, FACTS, BOOKS, BOOKMARKS & MORE



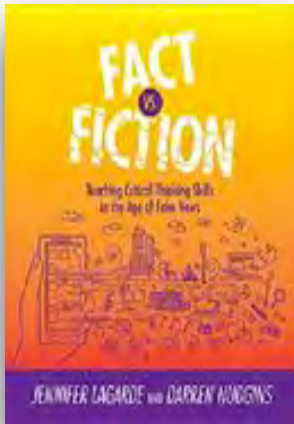
ALL OF THE FAKE NEWS



FINDING THE FACTS



Can You Spot Fake News?



Do you ever wonder who or what can you believe? Do the things you see and hear online conflict with what you see on other media? Are you being bombarded with Fake News on all your social media profiles?

Fact vs Fiction Teaching Critical Thinking Skills in the Age of Fake News by Jennifer Lagarde and Darren Hudgins is a great read that not only goes into why Fake News exists but also what we as teachers can do to teach our students to determine what is factual information and what is not.

TAKE A QUIZ

<http://go.gstric.org/505-fake-quiz>



Use the link below to view a video of GST's own Katie Cooke sharing her highlights of the Fact vs Fiction book by Lagarde and Hudgins. <http://go.gstric.org/505-fake-video>

Learn to evaluate information like a professional fact-checker

FACT CHECK TECHNIQUE:

LATERAL READING

WHAT IS LATERAL READING? It is a technique that fact checkers use to do research about the source site that is providing the information. While looking at a site's content, the lateral reader searches the Internet to see what other sites are saying about the given site.

Do the other sites find that the site is reliable? Is the information credible? Can the sources of information be verified and authenticate?

All of these research questions may help the reader to create a context for the information.



Lateral Reading Crash Course <http://go.gstric.org/505-lateral-video>

More about Lateral Reading

What "Reading Laterally" Means

<http://go.gstric.org/505-lateral-read>

How do I read laterally?

<http://go.gstric.org/505-learn-lateral>

Expand your view with lateral reading

<http://go.gstric.org/505-expand-lateral>

Learning To Spot Fake News: Start With A Gut Check

<http://go.gstric.org/505-gut-check>



SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

WITH MARY ANN THE LIBRARIAN

How do I pick a really good book to read?

A STUDENT QUESTION

That is a great question and there is no one way to pick a book that you will love. I don't like to pick a book by it's cover because often the covers are misleading and don't really tell me what the book is about (See the Fun Fact below).

I enjoy reading **nonfiction** and sometimes it is hard to find those great nonfiction reads by just going to the shelves. I like to find a book using the library catalog (see the definition of OPAC below). The OPAC gives you lots of information about your book - things like a summary, reviews, sometimes even a whole chapter to read, and also where the book is located in the library.

Look for books by an author you like, or pick a random book just to see if it works for you. Another great suggestion is that you can also ask a friend for a recommendation.

Remember that your friendly school librarian can always help you to select a great book!

Library Fun Fact - Authors usually have very limited input about what goes on the cover of their book. The publishing company chooses the covers in part to sell more books (On the downside, sometimes cover will misrepresent what the book is really about.).

DEFINITION: An OPAC is an Online Public Access Catalog (Your library catalog is an example). Users search a library catalog to locate books and other material available at a library.

<http://go.gstric.org/505-catalog>



DEAR TECHIE TAYLOR



Dear Techie Taylor,

I see a lot of web sites each day but often I forget how I got to them. Is there an easy way to get back to sites I have visited before?

Website Loser

Never fear Loser! We are here to help you not feel like a loser any more.

First, most browsers keep a "history" of the sites that you visit. Look in the menus of your browser for how to view sites in your history. You can control how long the browser keeps its history alive.

Second, browsers also provide ways to save a more permanent list of sites that you would like to return to - they are called different things in different browsers and go by names like bookmarks (Firefox and Chrome, favorites (Internet Explorer), and collections (Microsoft Edge). Use these links for more tips.

Chrome Bookmarks

<http://go.gstric.org/505-chrome-b>

Firefox Bookmarks

<http://go.gstric.org/505-firefox-b>

Internet Explorer Favorites

<http://go.gstric.org/505-IE-faves>

Microsoft Edge Collections

<http://go.gstric.org/505-edge-collect>

In addition for instructions on how to backup your bookmarks use this link

<http://go.gstric.org/505-backup-bookmarks>

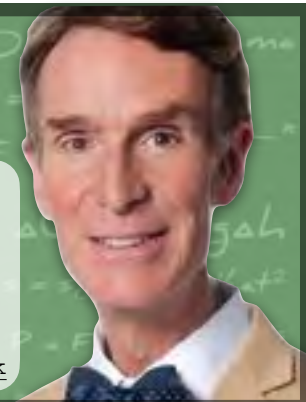
Sincerely, Techie Taylor

Bill Nye, He's Our Science Guy!!

31 Bill Nye titles have been added to the **SLS Swank Portal** for teachers to use with their students.

Science rocks!

<http://go.gstric.org/505-try-swank>



Facebook (the parent company of the Facebook social platform) recently changed its name to Meta citing their desire to move the company in a different direction. Insiders say that the change had been planned for a long time but coming so quickly after a former employee testified before a senate committee about some shady decisions that were made at Instagram - it raised a lot of questions. What do you think?

Use the links below to explore more information about how Facebook's (and other social media's) algorithms are seen to be effecting young people and their mental health.

How the Facebook Algorithm Works in 2021 - <http://go.gstric.org/505-fb-algorithm>

Social Media Algorithms by Platform - <http://go.gstric.org/505-by-platform>

How Social Media Algorithms Manipulate You - <http://go.gstric.org/505-manipulate>

How Algorithmic Bias Can Hurt Teens - <http://go.gstric.org/505-algorithms-teens>

Practice makes Perfect! This would be a great time to practice the lateral reading technique from page 2 on some of these sites about algorithms and social media. What can you find out about them? Are they biased in any way?



Do You Instagram?

Instagram (or just "Insta") began its social life as a quick and easy way to share photos directly from your camera or phone. We use it for sharing our mini-posters and memes. <http://go.gstric.org/505-instagram>



INSTAGRAM GUIDE <http://go.gstric.org/505-insta-guide>

WHAT IS A MEME? <http://go.gstric.org/505-memes>

FREE STUFF FOR THE NEW YEAR

- ★ It costs you nothing to be kind to others online.
- ★ It costs you nothing to stand up to those who use social media to ridicule, harass, or harm others.
- ★ It costs you nothing to speak out against fake news and news algorithms that encourage violence, hatred, racism or other destructive actions.
- ★ It costs you nothing to be a leader for positive change in your communities (home, school, social media, etc.).

As we start a new year, strive to be a shining light in the darkness. It costs you nothing.

