

Thursday Thoughts - December 16, 2021

And just like that... We are closing out of 2021. At STEAM @ Tope Elementary we consider ourselves to be part of an extended family with staff, students and parents. We understand that we need to find common ways to support our children as they grow and develop into what this world needs. We understand that we need to engage with them in their learning, development and growth.

One thing that your child needs over the break is YOU and YOUR time! So, take all the extra moments that you can to engage with them. Eat breakfast with them, watch a movie with them, read a book to them, go on a walk with them... JUST BE WITH THEM. Now more than ever our children need to feel LOVED and VALUED. This does not come with a cost to you. You can afford to give them these gifts. I fully believe that if you do not give your time to your child now, the cost will come later.

This is the first year that Dan and I have experienced an empty nest. Secretly, I looked forward to less cleaning, less cooking and a slower world with less commitments. I really thought that Dan would struggle more than I would. However, his duties as a principal still require his presence at the afterschool sports and programs that we once attended together to cheer on Brent, Ali and Nate. My evenings are quiet with a definite essence of emptiness. Don't worry about me, I have 300+ littles I get to enjoy every week.

I am looking forward to having my semi-adult children home for the holidays. My plan is to engage with them for every possible moment. Even as mini-adults they need to feel loved and valued. I mean, don't we all? I do reflect back on their younger years and that is one thing I wish I could have changed... Just letting go and engaging in real life and in real time a bit more often. I promise you-- You will miss your littles!

May you find peace and joy in the little things and the little ones this Holiday Season.

Find ways to give your child a beautiful life, even in the most difficult times.

Carrie Bollinger
Principal,
STEAM @ Tope

Below is a Winter Break Challenge for your child-- JOIN them in the opportunities!

















Winter Break Challenge

There's more to Winter Break than playing Fortnite and scrolling Tik Tok! Get creative with your time and complete these fun challenges over the Winter Break. Pull in friends and family to join you and take pictures! If you post them on social media, don't forget to tag us and your campus!



Color in the heart for each day to mark the challenge complete!

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| Clean your room and find gently used clothes and toys to donate.  | Bake cookies for a local service member or someone in your neighborhood.  | Smile at every person you see today.  | Fill a jar with candy and affirmations to give to a friend or family member.  | Write a thank you note to your mail carrier or trash collector.  | Play a game or do a puzzle with someone in your family, or with a friend.  | Do something kind for a neighbor, but don't let them know who did it!  |
| Give five affirmations to five different people today.  | Write down all the positive qualities about yourself.  | Choose one word that you want to focus on in 2022.  | Build a family Social Contract to help you have the very best 2022!  | Write a thank you note to a friend or family member.  | Do a chore around the house without being asked!  | Pick up litter in your neighborhood or at a local park. Leave the space better than you found it!  |

It is IMPERATIVE that you take a moment to fill out the link for Free and Reduced lunch. It is located on the D51 website under "Quick Links" <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Home/PickDistrict>

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CURRENT PBLs- updates to follow in 2022!

2ND GRADE PROBLEM ~ 2nd Grade completed an EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL panel on November 10th. More info to come regarding which VIABLE SOLUTIONS will be moving forward with spotlighting, preserving and honoring Tope's history!

3RD GRADE PROBLEM ~ 3rd grade completed an EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL PBL this past week. The children have bright futures as chiropterologists! (I just learned that word!)

4TH GRADE PROBLEM ~ Steam @ Tope 4th graders completed an EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL PBL and will be moving forward with several community members to help take action to protect the sustainability of our recreational spaces in order to preserve our community's culture and heritage.

5TH GRADE PROBLEM~ 5th grade completed an EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL PBL this past week. There are two viable solutions moving forward with supporting and enhancing a feeling of belongingness for all Tope learners.

Create a beautiful life at home with your child,

Carrie Bollinger

"Around here, however, we don't look backwards for very long. **We keep moving forward,** opening up new doors and doing new things, because we're curious ... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." Walt Disney

IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER ~

16 - End of 2nd Qtr

19-31 NO SCHOOL ~ Winter Break

JANUARY ~

3 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher Work Day

4 - Students return to school