Librarian Bernadette Brinkman reminds us that “Take Your Child to the Library Day” is Saturday, February 1. In honor of this literary day, the Penfield Public Library has planned two special events. The first is “drive-in story time” from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. for children ages 2 to 5 accompanied by an adult. Participants will “cruise” in a box car of their own creation. After the vehicles are constructed, families can munch some popcorn and listen to a special story time. The second program is a family scavenger hunt for children ages 5 and up accompanied by an adult. Visit the library any time between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to pick up the scavenger hunt list and begin your curious adventure. Find all the correct answers to clues inside the library, and be the first family to turn in your completed list to win a prize. Entries will be judged, and the prize will be awarded to the winning family on Monday, February 3. Registration begins Friday, January 17 for Penfield town or school district residents and Friday, January 24 for all others. Register in person, by phone (340-8720) or online (www.penfieldlibrary.org) for each program.

Tell your favorite gal or guy to mark their calendar for a special date night and unique evening get together. The Penfield Recreation Department will be hosting an Adirondack Victorian Valentine Dinner & Lecture fundraiser on Thursday, February 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the rustic Dolomite Lodge. The evening includes a 10-course tasting menu pulled from some of the most elegant Adirondack resorts and great camps of the Victorian time. The candlelit evening will include live music, a silent auction, performers, and a special presentation, “A Taste of the Past: Victorian Dining” by Christopher Bensch, the VP of Collections at the Strong Museum of Play. This event is a fundraiser for the Daytime Education at Recreation (DEAR) program at Penfield Recreation. Seating is limited, tickets are $50.00 per person and available by contacting the Penfield Recreation Department at 340-8655.

I recently had the honor of attending two Eagle Scout Courts of Honor. The first was for David Fernandez of Troop 310. David’s Eagle project involved piping water to the various gardens in the Penfield Victory Garden on Five Mile Line Road. He arranged to have a trencher come in and bury the water lines and then placed spigots in locations adjacent to the gardens. This water supply eliminates the need to carry water from the road to the gardens in buckets. The second court of honor was for Alex Mills from Troop 260. Alex’s Eagle project consisted of building shelters for feral cats for Lollypop Farm, the Humane Society of Greater Rochester. The Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program and the requirements include earning at least 21 merit badges and demonstrating Scout Spirit through the Boy Scout Oath and Law, service, and leadership. This includes an extensive service project that the scout plans, organizes, leads, and manages. On behalf of the entire community of Penfield, we congratulate both David and Alex on achieving the highest award from Boy Scouts of America.

February and April school breaks are just around the corner. The Recreation Department is offering several youth wellness programs during these breaks to help keep our young residents busy and entertained. These popular programs fill up quickly so now is the time to log on to www.penfieldrec.org to register.

While spring seems to be a long way away, Penfield Little League is getting into “full swing”! Join the league that produced more championships than any other league last year. Register online at www.penfieldbaseball.com to join an organization that has been involved with our community for more than 60 years!

So baseball is not your sport? Flip to page 19 of the Winter/Spring 2014 PenRec Brochure and fill out the youth soccer registration form then mail or drop it off at the Recreation Department sooner rather than later, as programs fill up quickly.

Until next week, I hope you are enjoying the break from the extreme cold and taking advantage of our mini January thaw!

Tony
supervisor@penfield.org