

2013



TISA December Newsletter

Director, Susan Germann

Special events

December 11th @ 6pm- GC Monthly Board Meeting.

December 12th @ 6pm- Winter Program, "A Nightmare Before Christmas" @ Old Martina's Hall. Kinder-8th grade!

December 17th @ 5:30pm- PTA Monthly Meeting. 123 Manzanares Street.

December 23rd-January 3rd- Winter break holiday, no school, no Monday Enrichment, no Aftercare.

Special thank you to Carolyn Tartaglia for your purchase of 3 bags of ice melt and the help of spreading it!

Special thank you to Emily Hall for taking on the TISA Holiday Tree task.

Special thank you to all the parents in the TISA community who donated for the TISA Holiday Tree! A full list of donations is on the last page.

Special thanks to Edward Sotelo for his assistance in turning in the ski registration packets for all students participating.

Thank you to all parents who volunteer time in the classrooms and on fieldtrips. Parent volunteers are extremely important and hope to see more in the future!

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.tisataos.com

Dear Parents,

This time of year can add stress to a family, but it doesn't have to. Whatever you celebrate - Christmas, Hanukkah, Pueblo, Kwanzaa - what your family observes can be a time to reflect, re-evaluate, and possibly receive. When all four of my children were at home there were many years when we did not have money for shoes, clothes and gifts. We started a tradition of gifting each other with tasks of love. I would give out 3x5 cards and we would each write out what we would do for another family member. I always especially loved what the youngest might come up with, but had a little anxiety when he said he'd do dishes (he broke a lot of dishes early on). Children are so resourceful, and of course they all want gifts. However, how do you become a gift to another person? We would also work as a family to make sure our elderly neighbors had food. When we lived in New Orleans, we invited an elderly neighbor for Christmas dinner and we were all deeply touched when she told us how many Christmases she had spent alone. So, my point is that during this season, spend time with your children and get creative about how to give and receive. Along with gift buying, look for people who need a little love in their lives.

Happy holidays from our family to yours!

School Ski Program

School Ski registration packets have been delivered to TSV thanks to Edward Sotelo. Edward is the school ski sponsor this year. Some children were not able to get a seat on the bus and if you are a parent driving your child up and are willing to carpool, please let me know. We have a total of 55 students participating this year. Gabriel Morgan and David Medina will also be school chaperones. We are needing a few more parents who can drive up to the mountain and help on the mountain and in the Tenderfoot Katie's building at all times. Please let me know if you are interested. The 5 week program starts on January 13th and ends on Monday, February 10th. The bus will pick up students from Manzanares campus at 7:15. Please make sure you are not late, the bus will not wait! The second pick up will be at the Seco Community Center around 7:30. The kids will leave the mountain around 3:30 to be back by 4:30 depending on weather. The bus fee is \$29.77 per student & checks need to be made to TISA. All bus fee payments need to be in no later than Wednesday, January 8th. Please remind your children of proper behavior while participating in the program. Students with bad behavior will not be allowed to finish out the program and a refund is out of the question as per TSV.

TISA PTA

Greetings fabulous TISA parents! TISA still needs six parent volunteers for the Winter Performance, four outside Old Martina's, and two inside. No takers so far. Please help! The PTA will host a 50/50 raffle at the event, so don't forget to bring your singles along with you. The next PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 17, from 5:30 to 6:30, at the Manzanares campus. Pizza and childcare will be provided. Please come. We are once again in search of a treasurer, someone with a head for numbers and a few hours a month to give to the PTA. Come on, we're fun! Either way, if you can make it to the meeting, we would love to have you. We value your voices and opinions so much, and want to know what you would like to see from us as we move into a brand new year. On the subject of pizza, just a reminder that pizza day will now be held the last Friday of each month ONLY. That way we can make it a pizza party fun treat once again. Happy holidays from the PTA!



Mrs. Jutka's Kinder



Holding the Light in Kindergarten As we venture into the darkness and cold of winter, we want to honor the magic, hope, and joy of the season while honoring the diversity of our students and families. On December 4th, Johanna and Eric hosted a non-secular Hanukkah party with our kindergartners. Parents came to help with crafts, potato pancakes, and games. In December we focus our thematic unit on peace and gratitude. We will share an original musical play and stone soup with students and families. During the last week before the Holidays we will go Christmas Caroling in the neighborhood to spread some holiday cheer. *We welcome families to come share seasonal stories, a culinary dish, or creative tradition.*



Mrs. Megan's 2nd Grade

Second grade dove into Reflexmath.com (TISA's new online math curriculum) in a big way this month! Students are able to log on and work independently on their math facts for at least 30 minutes per day. The only problem so far is getting them to STOP doing math! I would like to thank Perry Kushner for all the computer help he provides on a daily basis. Good work Perry!

We enjoyed a wonderful visit from Taos Pueblo Tribal Member Richard Archuleta before our break. Richard sang traditional Taos Pueblo songs, taught the kids a fun song and then we all danced a round dance. Most importantly he shared with us what Thanksgiving means to many Taos Pueblo residents, gave a blessing with and for us in his native Tiwa and shared some delicious Pumpkin Bread Pudding we had made earlier in the day. We then were lucky enough to welcome Autumn Borts Medlock, huge blocks of micaceous clay and amazing instruction which enabled us to create beautiful clay figures. This week we have begun our Magma, Granite, Sandstone, Quartzite creature stories. Emmett and Josie gave a short presentation of how Magma turns into Quartzite while Amalea transcribed the progression on the white board for our story outlines. I would like to thank Maria Samora, Autumn Borts Medlock and Deanna Sanders (through St. James church) for providing 3 ski club passes for our second grade family. Thanks also to Carolyn Tartaglia for filling up our Taos Feeds Taos box and purchasing ice melt to help break up the slippery sidewalk after the snowy break! We are still collecting for Taos Feeds Taos- let's take care of the community we call home.



Mrs. Michelle's 3rd Grade

When I was 9 and in third grade, December was the longest month of the year, It lasted as long as summer.....

As an adult, December is as fast as a lightning! We have so much to celebrate and accomplish that three short weeks are never enough. We reflect each day what we are grateful for in our lives. We made beautiful leaves to keep as reminders of some of these. Someone each day speaks of gratitude for food. Our class is hoping to participate in the distribution of food for Taos Feeds Taos. We are collecting food as a school for those who are in need of food. The third grade is hoping to participate in the distribution of food for Taos Feeds Taos. The world reminds us each moment of how fortunate we are. Children are experts at showing us. When asked, they will help us to appreciate the tiniest of blessings! We hope that you are reminded to notice the beauty of the snowflakes that make the snowman.

Words from Third Graders: What I like most about Christmas is giving to others. I'm grateful for pie. I have gratitude for my cousins who are fighting for our country. I'm grateful that my grandfather survived the World War. I'm grateful for my mom. I'm thankful for my school and friends. I love my teacher. I'm grateful for a warm place to live. I'm thankful for my family. I'm grateful for my life.



Mrs. Ale's 4th Grade

A big thank you from the 4th Grade to all who participated in the Taos Turkey Trot! The event was a great success in spite of cold and windy weather. We had 11 4th graders, two siblings, and many parents and members from the TISA community successfully cross the 5K finish line. This felt like a huge accomplishment, and the training leading up to the event was very meaningful and inspiring!

The 4th Grade would also like to wish everyone at TISA a happy holiday season.





TISA Holiday Tree Donors:
Special thank you to the following businesses & parents who so kindly donated time & services! We appreciate each and every one of you & thank you for making this magical event come alive at TISA!

Northside Health and Fitness, Shelly Ratigan, owner sponsored our tree and added \$949 passes/certificates included!
 --2 night stay Casa Granados on Taos Country Club golf course, courtesy of Stark Family and Deanna Sanders. Value \$450
 --Shanene Tomlinson, Ultimate Facial value \$80, Spirits of Beauty.
 --Brown Rice services value \$100
 --Elena Trujillo (3) certificates for vocal technique, acting, or yoga value \$150
 --Real Eyes eye exam plus small goodies bag value \$170
 --Dr. Lucas Schreiber--consult value \$150
 --Salon Marjorie's Cut and highlight with Amber Brooke value \$120
 --Aura Fitness punch card for yoga classes value \$96
 --Taos Cow 12 pint punch card value \$72
 --Re-Threads \$25 certificate
 --Sanders Cleaning Service 2 cleanings value \$100
 --Optimysm \$10 certificate
 --USANA Rice bran & papaya enzyme exfoliator value \$20

Mrs. Linda's 5th Grade

Winter is coming! It's getting colder and the snows are coming our way. In preparation for winter, we are going to beautify our dead garden beds with irises and tulips. We are getting our greenhouse ready to plant kale. We hope to harvest this throughout the winter months. Fractions are our main subject in math. We have been simplifying, adding and subtracting unlike fractions. We will begin studying multiplying and dividing of fractions soon. We have also been getting special visits from Mr. Long, a retired math teacher who comes infrequently to reveal secrets about number patterns and such. We are all very enthusiastic about his visits; he is a very interesting character that has taught us that there are only 36 single digit multiplication problems to learn. We have been studying ancient India with their ripe cultures and myths. We learned how the great Ganges River was formed. Shiva was asked by King Bhagirash to help him consecrate his ancestors' ashes and enlisted the reluctant help of Ganga, the goddess of the rivers. She tried to drown Shiva but her waters flowed harmlessly from the great Himalayas into seven smaller rivers and formed the Ganges River, the holiest river in India today. We have started our work in our yellow project books in which we will be drawing and writing about India. Recently, we learned about the caste system. I have found it very interesting that you were not allowed to marry another person from a different caste. Castes were different groups of people who are set in categories below and above the economy according to one's birth. Once a person dies, if they lived a good, well used life, they reincarnate into a higher caste. If they were bad or did a great sin, they would be dropped down to a lower caste. If you'd like to know more about ancient Indian mythology and culture, please ask a 5th grader. Happy winter!

Journalists: Azure, Milan, and Brooke,

Mrs. Jeanette's 6th Grade

We are in full swing with our epals and have already exchanged mail. We are busy this month with making sets and props and rehearsing. In clubs we are going to be doing crafts. If you want to provide your child with yarn, knitting needles, crochet hook, round embroidery needle, embroidery floss, aida cloth (or hand towel or book mark), glitter pens and other decorations like sequins and old holiday cards and wrapping paper. We will provide basics for those who need them. Students will choose 1 or 2 activities and

We have completed our Shapes and Designs projects and shared our slide shows they were very creative! We are now beginning Covering and surrounding, which as you may have guessed is all about area and perimeter or circumference! We are also honing our problem solving skills with POWs (Problem of the Weeks) they will get a new one every Tuesday! We are working at mastering our multiplication facts and have begun our ice cream Sunday challenge. Students can practice their facts at www.reflexmath.com.

In literacy we continue to work with prefixes and suffixes and adding endings to root words. We are reading about Archimedes and his discoveries. They have vocabulary words every week and the quizzes are on Tuesdays. On Fridays they get their spelling lists and need to complete 5 activities off their spelling contract every week. They can practice both spelling and vocabulary on www.spellingcity.com. We are currently reading a science fiction or fantasy novel and should be recording chapter summaries. These should be completed every chapter or every day (depending on the student's preference). They will make a book jacket to present their story to the class they will get directions for that the week before break.

In Social studies we are finishing up our Greek stations and beginning our projects and portfolios. We will work on our sets, costumes and props when we return in Jan. Look for news about our exhibition dates in mid Jan! In Science we are finishing up our variables unit with making and testing catapults. In January we will explore simple machines focusing on Archimedes levers and pulleys.

Mrs. Nichols' 8th Grade

In 7th and 8th grade we are hard at work on our novel studies of *Esperanza Rising*, *Bless Me Ultima*, and *Blood and Thunder*. These novels are part of our New Mexico History Unit. The students are working together in Literature Circles. We are learning to write a business letter and using this skill to write to the Pueblo that students will be researching. Working in partners they will create a power point presentation about their Pueblo. In social studies we are studying New Mexico history using both our new text books and our research about New Mexico's Pueblos.

The Funniest Face

The funniest face
 looked out at me
 from a silver ball
 On the Christmas Tree! At first I
 thought
 It was Santa's elf,
 But I looked again and
 It was just myself!



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