From the Director:

“Most people never get listened to adequately. Those who do, get better at thinking.”
-Peter Kline, The Everyday Genius

Over the past two years I’ve used quotes from this book many times. I love this book because it provides such a marvelous vision for empowering children – and adults – as they grow into the learners they’re meant to be. I believe that listening is a gift to be developed. I know that I listen more carefully to my grandsons than I did their parents. My best listening to my children occurred the first year we lived in New Orleans. We would all come home from school every day, fix Constant Comment tea (there weren’t so many choices back then) and play Sorry. As we played I would ask them to share things about their day, such as the funniest incident, something sad, how they were able to be creative, etc. Every once in a while my adult children will mention that year and say, “Wish we could do that one more time.” I would encourage you as parents to cultivate the art of listening to your child(ren). You probably already have experienced how quickly time flies when you’re raising a child. You cannot get that time back, so use it wisely!

PTA News:

The PTA will meet on Tuesday, April 21st at 4:30 Manzanares campus. Please join us tomorrow, Saturday, April 11th from 8:00-1:00 for our annual fundraiser at the Manzanares campus. You may also drop-off items for the garage sale first thing tomorrow morning. If you do not have items to contribute to the yard sale, you can bring a baked item for the baked goods table. There is a Inventors Event at Enos Garcia that Saturday... so I hope to have a good turn out!

Thanks again for all of your help.
And thanks to the parents who have already signed up to be volunteers!

Kindergarten News:

Kindergarten Rocked the Human Body on a Cellular Level

Ever wanted to sit back stage in front of a movie star and ask her questions? Well, this is just what I got to do after Kindergarten’s sensational show about the human body. I interviewed twenty brilliant dancers and their teachers: TISA’s very own kindergartners, along with their dance teacher, Amber Vasquez, and their drama teacher, John Biscello.

Here is what the kids revealed.

"In my costume I felt like I was a real white blood cell and I was in the real human body." (Kaya Bivens)
"I liked it when the white blood cells came out." (Olive Galer)
"It was fun to have all the people there watching. I loved it when the battle began and the white blood cells kissed their muscles and punched the air and when they got dragged off stage and when we said "G.E.R.M.S." around the red blood cells." (Odessa Carson)
"My favorite part was the finale and the song 'Petrified'. (Siena Price)
"Gymnastics is a little bit like dance. In gymnastics my favorite moves are the back-throw, the kick-over and the pivot turn. When I was a red blood cell, I did jumps. That was fun too." (Marissa Montoya)
"I liked when the platelets did the hammer move. My white blood cell costume for my muscles was fun with all the bubble wrap around my arms and legs. Except I couldn't sit "criss cross apple sauce" in it." (Col Makai Cassily)
Kindergarten News Cont.

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"The scab dance of the platelets was my favorite because it looked like a line, and when a big cut heals you can actually see a lot of lines." (Lili Hart)
"My favorite part was when the platelets went on their knees." (Bodhi Li Cain)
"I was going to be a red blood cell. I was sad because I was sick, so I couldn’t be in the show that day. I loved practicing though. My favorite part was dancing with the red hoops." (Jazmin Noble)
"I like to dance. When I grow up I’d like to be Katy Perry. I was a germ in our show." (Madelynn Rivera)
"It was a bit smaller audience than at the Broadway Bound show, but it still made me a bit nervous." (Vera Bell)
"I liked when the platelets rolled over. I also liked when the white blood cells said "Stop the fighting. I have an idea. Let's play cell phone." (Ava Collignon)
"Our dance classes with Miss Amber are cool. I like dancing better than writing." (Mia Montoya)
"I liked the jumping dance and I liked the white blood cells showing their muscles." (Aliya Cordova)
"Mr John is our drama teacher. He does a lot of fun games. I like him so much." (John Robert Le Blanc)
"I like the way we danced. It was really fun. I thought it was so fun that my mom and dad were watching me. I liked it when the platelets danced the most. I was a platelet." (Manuel Rivera)
"It was hard to figure out the dance when we first started. Then we got the hang of it. I liked when the white blood cells came out, and Kaya got targeted, and we all fell over. Then the red blood cells dragged us all out. That was my favorite part." (Erowynn Pounds)
"I liked the part when the platelets fixed a cut and made a scab." (Reesa Concha)
"I wondered how the germs could fall and not hurt themselves. Then I found out it was a pretend fall, so that’s why they didn’t get bruised." (Gabriel Mora)
"I liked it when we got to swing Kaya after she got attacked by the germs and when the red blood cells ran around in a circle." (Alina Martinez)

And now for those golden words from our choreographer, Amber and stage director, John. TISA is mighty fortunate to have such brilliant teachers as Amber Vasquez and John Biscello, who can take a kindergarten science theme and elevate it to unforgettably delectable on stage.

Our audience gave us rave reviews. "The show was so much fun," said Susie Fiore in her message."Loved it all. Even the kids delivering snacks and saying things like, “These are platelets. Would you like some? They’re good for your blood!” Nikki Cain wrote, "What an amazing show! Those kinders have loads of talent. I can’t wait for their next performance!!"

If you ask me, I say, this show is the proof of the pudding. Arts integration in action, that is. As I watched the kids’ riveting production and their joy sweeping away the audience, I felt steeped in pure art integration at its funnest. If the kids can stomp it, rap it, cook it and rock it, they will never forget it, right? Is there a more magnificent dream for any teacher than a class of five year olds smitten by life science?

And finally, a sneak preview into our next production from Gabriel Mora: “I hope our next show will be about Teal Dragons and computers and electric city." We will be sure to get you all a ticket.

First Grade News

Mr. John and the 1st grade class will be performing in "Bigfoot Cinderella" and "Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig" on April 23rd at 4:30 p.m.

Contact the Ms. LaRocque regarding plans for a Pot Luck to follow the performances.

-Ms. LaRocque
Second Grade News

The second grade has begun their study of Animals and their Habitats. The entire Salazar campus will soon begin a special research study led by the Earth’s Birthday Project. Each class will receive a group of caterpillars. The students will be conducting observations, drawing scientific illustrations, and collecting data as the caterpillars transform into beautiful butterflies. Our upcoming play, led by John and Amber, is scheduled for April 23rd. The second grade will perform Aesop’s Fables Remixed. They have been working hard on developing ideas for props, scenery, and costumes. We have also begun a weekly pen pal project in cooperation with another second grade class at Enos Garcia. The students are excited to write their letters as well as receive them.

Third Grade News

So far 3rd Grade has had a very busy spring! During our study of the moon students observed the visible changes in the moon’s appearance each night for four weeks. They then learned the names of the eight main phases of the moon. They created art that shows why the moon’s appearance looks different from earth each night. Each student also made a lunar calendar. This month we will move on to a study of the stars. 3rd graders are enjoying dressing up for spirit week.

Fifth Grade News

The 5th grade has been working hard on our bridges for the Bridge Competition. We will be competing against classes from Taos Charter School, Taos Academy, and Ranchos Elementary. Through this project, we have applied what we learned about weight, mass, and gravity as well as how to work together as a team. We will be finishing our study of Weight, Mass, and Gravity by finishing our paper rollercoasters. In Social Studies, we have begun a unit of study on early American government and will have participate in many class activities that explore the role of government in our daily lives.
**Sixth Grade News**

The 6th Grade began an Intergenerational Learning Program with Taos Retirement Village. We started it off by attending an Art Gala opening at the Village Gallery and later that week conducted Childhood Interviews of artist residents, and we really enjoyed ourselves. We hope the program will allow for enriching experiences for both the students and older adults, with an opportunity to learn from one another another, and help alleviate generalizations and stereotypes associated with aging and the elderly. We are looking forward to our next activity and visit!

In our Science UBD we are learning about Science-inspired Careers and we just finished the Sustainable Farming & Agriculture portion and created our own Urban Farms and Gardens project. Now we are learning about Medicine and had UNM medical students come to our class for a presentation. We are learning about the many, exciting options that are in the medical field and looking forward to learning from more UNM students.

We visited our little friends once again at Inspire Preschool and this time we helped them with a Community Mural they were creating for their walls. It was fun showing them how to color coordinate, use scissors and glue sticks--it was a messy job, but a good teaching experience for us!

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**Seventh Grade News**

Hello, everyone! Spring break has sprung and Grade 7 has been working harder than ever. After finishing up an excellent arts integrated book report project, they dove into the creation of a new essay this week in which they'll show off their formal voices. Also, they've been busy with poetry slam practice in collaboration with our weekly SOMOS mentor as well as daily science lessons. Moreover, I have to commend them on the fantastic effort they displayed at our ECO Park Walk-a-thon. The participating students showed great effort and positive attitudes. We have seven weeks left and so much to accomplish. Thank you, parents and guardians, for your continued support.

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**Eighth Grade News**

TISA eighth grade has been working on the 5 paragraph essay this month, as well as poetry in all its glorious variations (April is Poetry Month) we are lucky to have SOMOS writing volunteer Johanna DeBiase in the classroom every Friday as we prepare submissions for Taos Academy’s writing contest. We were featured in TEMPO this week for our submissions to Celebrando (a middle school art show) and were able to visit the Stables Gallery and see our work on the walls. Next week we will be competing with each other in “The Great Egg Drop Project” by constructing containers that will protect an eggs fall from a second story window. We were invited to both KTAOS and THE Mountain this past month to share what we do in the classroom we had a great time and got lots of amazing community feedback. In between state testing we will be biking around Taos this month visiting high schools as we prepare to fly the coop!
**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

4/11/2015 PTA Sponsored Garage Sale - 123 Manzanares Campus from 8:00-1:00

4/14-4/15 7th & 8th End of Year Testing starts

4/16-4/17 5th & 6th End of Year Testing starts

4/21-4/22 3rd & 4th End of Year Testing starts

4/21/2015 PTA Monthly Meeting @ 4:30 Manzanares Campus

5/1/2015 PTA BINGO Event Mesa Brewing

5/13/2015 GC Monthly Board Meeting 6p.m. 123 Manzanares Campus

5/15/2015 End of Grading Period 3

5/21/2015 Students Last Day of School (Report cards will be sent home with students)

5/25/2015 Memorial Holiday TISA Closed

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Want to help earn money for your child’s school?? Please help collect Box Tops and drop them off with your child’s teacher or in the office. Every Box Top helps. You can visit [www.boxtops.com](http://www.boxtops.com) for a list of qualifying products.

**Smith’s Rewards Program** - visit [www.SmithsCommunityRewards.com](http://www.SmithsCommunityRewards.com) to create an account and select Taos Integrated School of the Arts and click Save. **TISA’s Nonprofit Organization #80196**

Please note- Signing up for an account will not take away your fuel points. You will need to register your current fresh value card to the schools nonprofit organization number in order for the school to get rewards.