



Taos Integrated School of the Arts



December 2014

Director's Message:

This year I selected a ten-year-old boy from the angel tree. My reason was that my ten-year-old grandson, Elliot, is here for two weeks and he can go shopping with me. He surely should know what ten-year-old boys like and want. The child will also get something practical from me. When my children were living at home I would take them with me to shop for the angel tree. This can be a difficult time of year for many people bringing about stress that is uncomfortable. Sometimes loved ones are missed or other change has occurred that can be sad. It's not all holly, jolly for everyone!

The lesson I attempted to teach my children was that this time of year is not just about receiving gifts, but about giving to others, especially people in need. If I have more than one coat (and I do) then I have more than enough and I need to expend my energy looking for someone to give one of my coats to. If you need a coat, let me know! I wish for you and your family peace and contentment during this busy time.

Holiday Cabaret- Winter Performance

TISA would like to invite our parents and families to our TISA Cabaret Winter Performance. TCA will be the venue for this year's winter performance. Due to the fact that there of limited seating, we will have an elementary performance on Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30 and middle school will have their performance on Thursday, December 18th at 7:00. All students need to arrive thirty minutes before the show starts. Tickets are now on sell and can be ordered ahead by phone and credit cared. Each ticket is \$5 and the money will be used to help pay for the deposit at the TCA. We are very excited to share the talents of your children. See you there!

TISA PTA

TISA PTA would like to remind everyone that pizza day will be on December 19th this month as school will not be in session on the 26th. Please have your money in no later than the morning of the 18th. Hopefully this will be a welcome treat for the kids and a calm before the storm break for parents. Our next PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, at 4:30. We're looking forward to seeing all of you there. We wish you a very happy holiday season and we'll see you on the other side!

Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour.

— John Boswell



Kindergarten News



Working on the letter C in Kinder

First News

The holiday season is upon us! The students are excited making holiday crafts and artwork to reflect the season. Please I feel free to share any family holiday traditions, customs, crafts or stories with our class. Contact the first grade teacher to schedule time to come in. Thank you and Happy Holidays to all!



In kindergarten December is an especially wonderful time of year to celebrate the children's Emotional Intelligence. We are building our awareness of emotions by observation, reflection and playing fun games. We had several sessions with Miss Leah, our friend from Community against Violence. She is teaching us about honoring our bodies and respecting others'. We have a few playful characters, the Mouse and the Monster, who help us find strategies for ideal communication.

As we experience the magic of this Holiday Season, we also reflect on how to give and help. Our Kindness Elf has the job of noticing acts of kindness! How pleasant is that instead of reporting problems? We also meditate on what it is like to be engaged in a variety of learning experiences. Here is a poem the children wrote about quiet reading.

May your holidays be blessed with inner peace and guidance.

Second News

The second grade class has been researching their birth gemstones. Jesse from Taos Rockers visited our class and provided a presentation about gemstones for each birth month. The students have been researching their gemstones and will collaboratively develop a multimedia presentation regarding birthstones. We have made small sculptures and beads with clay and will be designing sand sculptures this month. To decorate our classroom for the holidays, we will be growing crystal snowflakes.

Please stop by to see the outcome of our art project with the fourth grade. Led by Ms. Linda, the fourth grade students tutored second grade students in complementary watercolor techniques.

Third News

The 3rd Grade has been busy learning about measurement. Many students are commenting about how fun and exciting math can be. So far students have learned how to measure to the nearest inch, half inch, and quarter inch. The class has had hands on experience building polygons out of straws and twist ties. The students have also been introduced to the concepts of perimeter and area. Working in partners, students used geoboards and rubber bands to build squares and rectangles with given perimeters. Students gave learned that area

QUIET READING
 (collaborative poem
 written by Kindergarten)
 like floating in the air
 sitting on a cloud
 white, like skiing out on a snowy day getting first tracks
 like being at home resting
 quiet in my stomach
 sitting down with a cup of hot chocolate
 being on a beach in Hawaii
 practicing being a good reader
 being on a floatie in a swimming pool
 sleeping in a cozy bed
 reading to my dog
 quiet candle light
 being with my mom
 swimming in a nice cool glass of water
 like a cat curled up
 walking on air and water and laying down at the same
 time
 like having a dream
 sitting high up in a golden aspen tree
 relaxing in the sun rays
 calm in heart



is the space inside of a shape. They have used square units to measure the area of shapes and written multiplication number models using the side lengths of squares and rectangles.





Fourth News

The 4th grade has been busy inhabiting the undersea world of the cuttlefish, clam and octopus. We learned that the octopus is one of the most intelligent creatures in the sea! The cuttlefish and the octopus can both camouflage themselves. The octopus can change its appearance as many as twenty times in a minute! It can even mix different colors together so that it can blend into almost any background! In math we have been learning about data gathering and displaying it on a tally chart or line plot. Ask us about our raisin study. Did you know there may be as many as 60 raisins in a small box! In language arts we've read two books, the Sign of the beaver and James and the Giant Peach. We are now reading The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. As you can see, we have been really busy!

Fifth News

November was an exciting month for TISA 5th graders. We finished our study on Native Americans and presented our dioramas to the class. We learned and applied many new computer skills such as creating color brochures and writing persuasive essays.

The 5th graders went on Thanksgiving break thinking of peace inspired by our class labyrinth workshop, led by guest artist Sandra Wasko-Flood. We have now begun our social studies unit on the Age of Exploration and had an exciting boys vs. girls debate!



Sixth News

In our Science UBD Health and Nutrition we are currently learning about the digestive system and today we began learning how to read food nutrition labels. We are looking forward to a field trip to Smith's next week to continue learning about making healthy choices and maybe even buy some ingredients to make a healthy snack for our classroom.

In ELA we are learning to write a variety of poems and going to make our own poetry books. Ms. Grycner's shared a couple ballads with us and we really enjoyed it.

Seventh News

The seventh grade had a fantastic and productive week before the vacation. Students worked hard to complete a project in which they created a product that would benefit society. They wrote a one-page report describing the benefits of the product as well as designed a poster displaying their invention. Also, they are currently working on a history project that blends history with fiction. Otherwise, they are studying Geometry concepts in Math class and will begin several more in-depth and arts integrated projects that will combine disciplines and utilize their creativity. I am very proud of these students.





Eighth News

Ms. Megan's eighth grade class wants to remind the TISA community to check out our monthly page(s) in The Taos News entitled TISA Talks. Last week's paper included a story by class reporter and editor Josefita Trujillo about the nutrition program at Taos High school which helps teach new moms how to prepare healthy food for their children. Joseph Chacon talked his Grandmother into spilling her 5 generation Chile recipe for him and Lilly Hardaway's recipe column. Seasoned writers Justin Martinez, Analeya Rodarte and Ian Tosta were our class editors for the publication. We prepared and enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving class dinner before our much needed week off and are now hard at work on our Civil War rap/hip hop collaborative performance with local (famous) rap group SWO'ed Up! We are very excited to share it with everyone during our Winter Program on the 18th at the TCA. We love being neighbors with the Harwood and have been known to pop in for some sketching now and again especially during the Orale show.

We traded out our morning Welcome Work time to create ornaments for the 500 Wishes holiday tree at Friday Motors. Let it snow!

A special message from our family

On the back of your family's newsletter, you may want to add a simple greeting, a poem, or a child's drawing. This is the first part of the newsletter that your loved ones will see when they receive your newsletter in the mail, so make sure that it is festive and eye-catching.

You can add your own artwork to the back of a family newsletter by scanning in a drawing or a photograph.

You can also find a wide variety of holiday clip art and photographs on Microsoft Office Online.



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
<http://www.widgets.msn.com/>

IMPORTANT DATES

December 17th- Kinder-4th Winter Program @ TCA. Students need to arrive at 6:00, show starts at 6:30.

December 18th- 5th-8th Winter Program @ TCA. Students need to arrive by 6:30, show starts at 7:00.

Tickets are now on sale at the TCA and cost \$5 a ticket. TCA has limited space and tickets will be sold to first come first serve.

December 22-January 5th- Winter Holiday Break-No School- No Monday Enrichment or Aftercare Programs

TISA Ski Program

All registration packets have been sent out and TSV will be contacting you directly should they have incomplete packets. Moss Joseph will be the schools ski sponsor and I am working on a list of chaperones. As you all know, transportation will not be available to the students this year and parents are responsible for transportation. Please make sure all students meet in a group in the parking lot at 8:00. Attendance will be taken and we have a total of 38 students participating which means 4 approved chaperones. The first ski day is Monday, January 12 and ends on Monday, February 9th. Please make sure to pack appropriate clothing along with snacks and a lunch. Parents are welcomed to join and help out if you are able!