



TAOS INTEGRATED SCHOOL OF THE ARTS



March 2013

Dear TISA families. I would like to share a thought with you.

Spring is soon upon us and this always makes me think of bees. I have always found bees fascinating. They are intriguing, particularly when they are in flight. Their shape and physical structure defy the law Physics. They shouldn't be able to fly based on their structure . . . but they do fly and do it well.

I find children to be much like bees. Just looking at them and interacting with them one might conclude they shouldn't be able to fly, but they do . . . and continue to surprise me how well they do it.

As such, I see myself as a bee keeper. I understand that regardless of their "structure" all kids can fly. My job is to provide them shelter, cover them with smoke to calm them when they get wound up, and when they are ready, stand back and let them fly.

Happy Spring to all the bee keepers.

Sandy



Hi TISA Students, Parents, and Staff and Community,

Over the past month, a great run of Class Curriculum Presentations have happened school-wide. I think we have found a schedule that works. "Curriculum Nights" have become the "Curriculum Afternoons" and attendance has been very strong. I hope that you have all noticed that signature TISA Creativity, Confidence and Collaboration at work.

Kindergarten became an Egyptian Tomb lined with cartouches designed by each student; many totemic moons rose and many stories were told in first grade; puppet presentations and great crowds of parents enlivened second grade; a smartly executed open house, learning expo and art auction occurred in third; sixth grade Greek gods and goddesses presented in pairs and then returned for a dramatic encore; and seventh grade, also in a dramatic vein, produced two shows, including Peter Pan – how appropriate.

Fifth grade created a medieval town and held court a few weeks back, and made a quick navigating trip to space with a telecom link to NASA command in real time. Last but certainly not least, we are anxiously anticipating fourth grade's epic journey through Norse mythology coming in March. Kudos goes out to all students, teachers and their audiences.

Events to remember: 5th and 6th grade will compete in the 3rd annual stick bridge engineering competition at the Gary Embler Gym, Taos Charter School on March 8th. Bridges will break from 1-2pm approximately. We are seeking bridge judges in the initial part of the event from 12 to 1pm – please contact warren@tisataos.com if you want to participate. We need community judges.

Spring Break runs from March 11th through March 15th. On the following Tuesday, the 19th, New Mexico SBA testing for grades 3-7 will take place. It's a chance to show what we know. Kids definitely rise to the occasion, but it takes lots of energy – so they do need a little more TLC, encouragement and good cheer during this time.

Please have your child on campus ON TIME, well rested and ready to go with a smile. The testing will be taken one or two sections a day, for the following two weeks, starting first thing in the morning. Teachers will have special requests and instructions, so monitor those notes from class carefully.

Following the testing, classes will gear up for Spring Exhibitions of Learning in mid-April, the last of the three traditional TISA school wide events that we plan each year. Look for more details later –

Thanks for supporting this unique school and what it offers.

Warren Kelly, Curriculum Director.





MARCH

March 8th
Pizza Friday

March 11th
Special Governing Council Meeting @6pm

March 11th- 15th
Spring Break - No School

March 18th
Open Lottery Begins

March 19th
SBA Testing Begins 3rd-7th
PTA Meeting @ 5:30

March 29th - April 1st
Vernal Holiday - No School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

This is just a reminder that TISA will open the lottery Monday, March 18th. The lottery will close on Tuesday, April 23rd and the lottery drawing will be held on Friday, April 26th. The office has received all of the, are you returning next year forms, and it doesn't look like we will have too many spots to fill as of right now. We already have a list started of new Kinders for next year, based on the sibling policy. I will have new registration packets ready by next week for those parents who will have a Kindergartner with us this coming school year. If you know that you will be moving or changing schools please advise the office as soon as possible so we will have a more accurate count of how many spots will be opened. Please pass on the word that TISA will soon have open lottery and lottery applications will be available in the office or on our website, www.tisataos.com starting Monday the 18th. Many calls have been made to the office to inquire about availability for this coming school year, TISA's future is looking very positive!



We are happy to announce that TISA will now be participating in the Box Top fundraising program. A Big thanks to Isabel DePuy, a parent of a TISA 3rd grader, Isabel is heading up the program and more parents are encouraged to join and help out if needed. Isabel is working on making manila envelopes as a drop off for the box tops. Each class will have an envelope for students and parents to drop off any box tops you may have already collected. Each box top is worth \$.10, but some of them are double and even triple the points. This is just the start to the Box Top fundraising program, but we ask that you start clipping and collecting. A list will be mailed out of over 200 qualifying items/brands that contain these box tops. We will keep all parents and students up to date as we find out more information. This is a fun, easy way to help TISA fund raise and the whole family can be involved. Please double check any items/ boxes before throwing them away. Let's make this exciting fundraising program a hit towards a brighter future for our TISA students.



Kindergarten



Highlights from February in Kindergarten include the culmination of our Egyptian studies with resident Egyptologist (Aris' mom), Fiona Ratzlaff. The children especially enjoyed cooking up an Egyptian feast with Miss Fiona and exploring the TISA kindergarten burial tomb. The Egyptian recipes even got published in a cook book! During our curriculum afternoon we took our families on a trip to ancient Egypt and taught them about the pyramids, water wells, gardening, jewelry, face paint, spices, oils, hieroglyphs, and cartouches. Thank you, Miss Fiona!



1st Grade



First grade teamed up with Fourth grade for a fun filled math lesson that Resulted in 136 valentine cookies!



First grade enjoyed an informative and creative adventure at the Harwood Museum of Art. We will venture over a few more times this year for arts Based projects



First grade works on spelling with 3D sponge letters. We have a classroom full of amazing spellers! Watch out future spelling bee contestants!

2nd Grade

Second grade celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday with a Read-A-Thon! We read all morning in our PJ's and read a total of 283 books! Way to go second grade readers!!!

Kim



3rd Grade

3rd Grade finished off the month with a fabulous Curriculum Afternoon! We were so excited to have our families in the class with us to share what we have learned about the Sun, Moon, and Stars. We worked on a special art project (see picture) that we framed and sold to our families in order to raise money for our class field trip. Also, we showed our families the Sun Symbols we created and read them the Sun Tales we wrote and typed up. We are now in the midst of getting ready for our class play, which will be next week. We are also very excited to have the chance to visit Taos Charter School next week for the Popsicle bridge competition TISA 5th graders are participating in.



4th Grade

The fourth grade has been working hard in their studies of Norse mythology. Our studies will culminate with a production of the Theft of Thor's hammer next Thursday at 5:30pm in the 2nd grade classroom. The performance is open to all. We have really enjoyed our studies and now know many of the myths of the gods and goddesses of the Norse culture. We are currently working on writing the myths of our chosen god or goddess and finishing up our beautiful lesson books. In March, we will begin our studies of Mesa Prieta, the ancient lands of the Santa Clara Pueblo culture. In May, we will be taking a field trip to the mesa where there are over 9000 petroglyphs!

We have also been enjoying our outings to the High Altitude Athletics facility. The students have been learning to do forward and backward rolls, flips, working on the bars and generally having lots of fun! We're looking forward to doing it again soon. Thank you to parents for making this happen.

Meanwhile, our artistic activities continue on. We are painting, modeling and felting as well as making lots of music. Some of us may even be in the Night of a 1000 stars in April! Look for us in the line up! We continue to enjoy our dance, music and drama classes too. Thank you Madelyn, John and Amber!

5th Grade

We have been working on our bridge competition which will happen at noon on March 8th. We have learned about compression, tension. We have started our Decimal and Algebra units and are getting ready to start our Body Systems and Explorers Units after break. We had a great Read Across America Day; as you can see we got 'Seusical'. We look forward to spring break and then getting back to work! Read-A-Thon donations are due the 8th as well



6th Grade

Wow! The Sixth Graders did such a great job on all their projects and presentations for our Welcome to Mount Olympus Open House yesterday! They really came together on the play and their posters were great, even though they were a bit rushed. I am so proud of everyone!

After all our hard work we have had a wonderful day of celebration today. It started out with donuts, clementine's, and milk provided by me. While enjoying our "breakfast" we filled out feedback sheets on the Greek Unit and then talked about what went well, what students needed to improve on, how the unit was overall and what I could do to improve it for next year's class? It was a great discussion and provided great closure to the unit. I really appreciate the well thought out feedback and will definitely put it to use.

To wrap our Greek Studies we watched the movie Wrath of the Titans, not to be confused with Clash of the Titans. Same concept, though.

At the end of the day, Mr. Kelly reviewed the Bridge Building Contest with us. We will be working in teams of 4 to build popsicle stick bridges and design presentation posters. The competition will be the Friday before spring break, March 8. Please be looking for bus/field trip permission forms to come home soon. It will cost each student \$2 to ride the bus to Taos Charter for the competition. We are all pretty excited to be involved in this competition with the 5th graders!



7th Grade

The 7th grade has been very busy; we had our adventure into Egypt. The 7th grade transformed the classroom into a living museum! The Shadow of Peter Pan play by our drama teacher John was fabulous!! We are now traveling into New Mexico history and native plants in science.

Thank you,
Maya Burnett y Velarde
"Respect: the willingness to look again."

