



“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.” -Mother Teresa

Such a short quote and yet so difficult to achieve. While it is a very worthwhile goal, I’m coming to believe that achieving this type of love is truly a life-long goal. I know my own children didn’t always leave me happier, especially when there was discipline involved. I know that I did always try to match the consequence to the offense. My youngest son, for example, shorted out the entire computer lab at his middle school, based on a dare. When I could breathe again, I required him to put baby covers over every plug in his computer lab, while his classmates were in there. He does speak to me!

As a teacher, I’ve had to learn that I don’t have all the information on any given child. I’m not walking in anyone’s moccasins but my own. I’ve always held the belief that I need to practice compassion with my own and other children, but also hold them accountable. Life has a way of holding us all accountable and you may have heard me say before that we need to practice compassion balanced with challenge. These are some of the greatest gifts we can give our children. I do know that mostly moms tend toward compassion and dads seem to go for the challenge – but not always. I also know that it is much easier being a grandparent and can say that my seven and nine-year-old grandsons always leave me happier! I think Nicole’s son, Malyki, usually leaves me happier because I look at his monster trucks! Have a great March!!

Happy March, TISA family's and faculty!

The Sweetheart Pancake Breakfast was a great success last month. We raised over a thousand dollars! Thanks to the teachers for helping with the tickets, and to all who bought/sold tickets. We can look forward to this being a regular fundraiser for our school. It gave us such a lovely feeling of community to see all the children along with their parents, enjoying a breakfast together.

The PTA board would like to send out a big thank you to Jed Noble for signing on as our new treasurer!

For our upcoming, March meeting, we would like to try out something new. We have gotten some feedback that an earlier meeting might be better. So stay tuned for the new time of our PTA meeting that happens the 3rd Tuesday of every month. We will discuss the next fundraisers that will help us in our FINAL push for raising money that goes to teachers, and directly back to our children.

TISA Pride orders can be placed in the office. Please make sure you make payment at the time of purchase, if paying by check please make check payable to TISA PTA. Please see the last page for prices and available items. Help support TISA as a school and the PTA!

Thank you all for your support!
-TISA PTA





MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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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					

March 4th
Special GC Board Meeting, 3p.m. Director's Office

March 9th
Daylight Savings- Spring Forward

March 10th
Open Lottery Begins

March 11th
SBA testing window open for 3rd-8th grade

March 12th
GC Board Meeting, 6pm

March 20th
Spring begins

March 31st - April 4th
Spring Break - No School



Kindergarten

Practicing visual thinking strategies has become a weekly activity known as "gallery talk" in our kindergarten class. We have viewed and discussed Picasso, Rousseau, Bruegel, Hiroshige, just to mention the big names. The test of the pudding: our field trip to the Harwood. A real art gallery with many tangible pieces to wonder about. Rebecca Aubin picked special colonial artwork for last week's discussion. We got to view bultos and retablos, which also worked perfectly well with our studies in 2 and 3 dimensions. The children were so attentive and thoughtful, it made me, their teacher want to break into a cheer leading chant. We had a 35 minutes discussion in the gallery, which is marathon-length for kindergartners.

Sketching in the gallery was a treat! Then we got to join Rebecca and her staff for a hands-on retablo workshop. Back in class, the children discussed and journaled on each other's artwork in the afternoon.



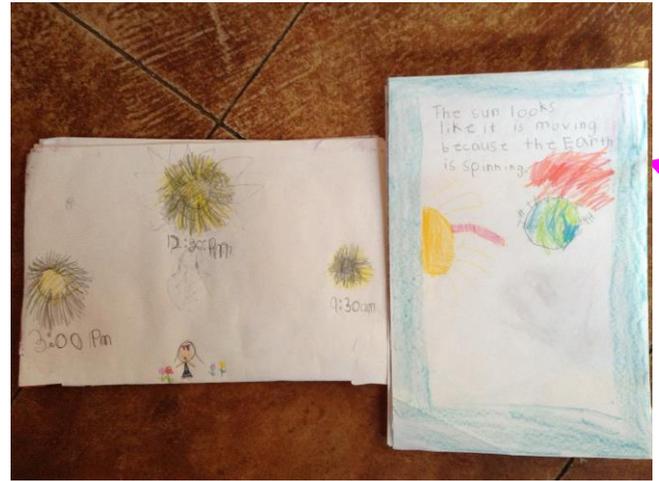
This is just a reminder that TISA will open the lottery Monday, March 10th. The lottery will close on Thursday, April 17th and the lottery drawing will be held on Friday, April 25th. The office has received all of the, are you returning next year forms, and it doesn't look like we will have too many spots to fill as of right now. We already have a list started of new Kinders for next year, based on the sibling policy. Registration packets for those parents who will have a Kindergartner with us this coming school year will be able at a later date. 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 10th. Many calls have been made to the office to inquire about availability for this coming school year, TISA's future is looking very positive!



1st Grade

First grade is still learning about the universe around us by studying the Earth, moon and sun. Why does the sun look like it is moving across the sky? Why is the moon always changing its shape? We are working on a short presentation called "Earth Had a Challenging Childhood", which explains in parable form what our planet was like in its beginning, and how the moon was formed!

The first grade class has been working hard on writing! Every student has written an original story, and we are now working on gathering facts for our first non-fiction reports



2nd Grade

"Everything is awesome when we work together as a team" is the theme in second grade this month! From vowel teams, activism teams and literacy circle teams to song writing, double digit number teams and haiku writing teams, second grade is working together! Sharing our gifts with each other is one of the most vital tools we can implement both in the classroom and our community. As we enter the home stretch of second grade - multiplication, cursive, chapter books and another fabulous gallery opening are all on the agenda.



EXPLORA! In second grade!



Second grade visits Enos Garcia to spread the word about the Dolphin hunts in Taiji, Japan.



Taos Fall Arts Best of Show winner Stuart Wittner visited second grade and led a found object sculpture class!

3rd Grade

February challenged us to contemplate symmetry. We painted hearts in honor of St. Valentine's Day. We have decorated our room with 20 gorgeous hearts which are striving for symmetry. We spent time reflecting the creation process for these hearts. Many children spoke of how difficult and frustrating the work was for them. They shared how they would make an attempt and then have it be less than what they had envisioned. So they would paint over their work, clean the slate so to speak, and try again. Many had to persevere and begin again multiple times. Some even cried. All came to a completion that they were okay with. All take pride in their work. The results are not perfectly symmetrical hearts. Rather, they are beautifully layered, complex examples of the striving involved. The lasting lesson that we are all left with is that the beauty is found in the imperfection and we can take pride in the striving itself. Isn't that what it means to carry the message of St. Valentine's with us all year long? Isn't that what our journey on earth is all about?



4th Grade

I'm so happy to announce that TISA will be having a school-wide Read-A-Thon on Friday, March 7th, from 9:00 to noon. I want to thank Ms. Kim, our 1st Grade teacher for organizing this event. The students are VERY excited about it. We will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday, inspiring a love of reading, and raising funds for our class. Our class has set a goal of raising \$500 to go toward our end of the year field trip. Each student would be in charge of raising about \$25. I will send home a form today. Students should ask friends and family members to sponsor them in the Read-a-thon. Basically, they come up with an estimate of how many chapters they think they will read in about two and a half hours. Then, they ask sponsors to pledge an amount per chapter. Students will keep track of what they read throughout the day, and get back to their sponsors. (For example: if a sponsor pledges \$1 per chapter or short book, and the student reads 15 chapters and books by the end of the read-a-thon, the sponsor would owe the student \$15.) Students can wear their pajamas, bring in pillows, blankets, and favorite books from home. Parents are invited to participate in the fun. I would love to have some snack donations if possible. I have attached the sponsor form, as well as sent a hard copy with your child. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to be involved! Remember that all funds raised will used by your child's classroom to take a great end of the year trip. Please help your children get sponsors.

Thanks!



5th Grade

The 5th grade has been finishing up their study of the respiratory, circulatory, excretory, and digestive systems. Did you know we all have two kidneys? Cellular wastes are removed by your kidneys which act like filters. The waste chemicals are filtered out and converted to urine which collects in the bladder! We've also been studying ancient civilizations and are now studying ancient Mesopotamia, also known as the land of two rivers, It is present day Iraq. Our class has enjoyed our Harwood Museum visits and will be continuing our work with retablos. We created our own retablos and will now make more permanent ones on wood. We have also ended our study of a Cricket in Times Square and are presenting our final projects about the book. These are in the form of 3-D figures, game boards, puppet shows and moving pictures. We have now started our study of Caddie Woodlawn, the story of a young girl living in the 1860s. Warren Kelly came by the class this week and we built towers out of toothpicks and marshmallows in preparation for the Bridge project in May! We are all really excited about this upcoming engineering project! Stay tuned for more information!

6th Grade

Our great exhibition was a fabulous success! Everyone enjoyed it (even with dances modified to accommodate Chitons (Greek Togas!) We are half way through our Revolutionary War unit this week looking at important people and next moving onto the battles and development of America's version of Ancient Greek democracy.

In math we are now comparing, computing and converting between fractions, decimals and percents. We are also finishing up our park exhibitions for Covering & Surrounding. We will review math concepts for the SBAs and end the year with probability!

In literacy we are reading Revolutionary Era historic Novels. Students are running and participating in Literacy Circles. We are also practicing our reading strategies, using context clues and comprehension strategies for non-fiction texts. Finally, we are creatively writing and interpreting poetry in our Poetry Unit, which will culminate in creating a hardbound, illustrated class poetry anthology.

In science we are working with levers and pulleys and revisiting and improving on our bridge designs to maintain TISA's hold of the Taos Bridge Competition trophy! (Competition to be held the beginning of MAY)

We had a fabulous time at the Harwood learning about, sketching and making our own version of Retablos and look forward to returning in April for the Ken Price exhibit.



7th & 8th Grade

In 7th and 8th grade we have been working on negative and positive numbers, the Pythagorean theorem, scientific method/projects, New Mexico history and Junior Great Books.

In both math and reading, we will be preparing for the NMSBA and making sure that students do as best they can on these important tests. We are asking parents to encourage their child to do well on the tests, to help their child get a restful night's sleep, and to provide a healthy breakfast for the next few weeks. Thank you for your help in advance!

We had an amazing guest speaker come in and give us a brief history of northern New Mexico and Kit Carson. Natividad Tuski, grandmother of both Blaze Tuski (8th and 6th) was an excellent presenter and did a fantastic job talking about the history of our own backyards and the famous people that lived here not too long ago.

8th graders are working diligently on their science fair projects and their 8th grade graduation exhibitions that we will present in May. These will be some great shows and we hope that many parents, staff, and students will come out to support our first graduating class from TISA! The tentative date is Wednesday, May 22, but we will update this as we progress through the year.



Tisa Pride

- Mens Long Sleeve- \$22.00
- Womens Fitted shirt- \$20.00
- Kids shirt-\$10.00
- Tote Bag-\$20.00
- Coffe Mug-\$10.00
- Mouse Pad-\$10.00