



### Directors Message:

As we approach the end of our third year at TISA, I am also approaching the end of my time as part of the TISA community. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you for your support, encouragement and engagement in this exciting endeavor; building TISA.

I have enjoyed my time here and feel confident that TISA is a strong, thriving, well-prepared three-year old school, ready for the next set of adventures.

Always remember where we started and where we are going. Stay strong, focused and keep moving forward,

All the best,

Sandy Beery



### Curriculum Director:

Hi TISA families, Happy springtime and new beginnings,

This past Monday, during the staff Professional Development session - we completed a major task for TISA. The staff aligned the K-7 curriculum in terms of the TISA school-wide Essential Questions. Every TISA student, throughout his or her career, will work in a classroom guided by these Questions. "Who am I?", is first question. "What is design?" is the second.

From the interplay between these two questions, teachers produced a curriculum rich in Enduring Understandings - life-long, overarching lessons - such as, "I AM creative," "the sum is greater than its parts," "human forms of life are complex," and "local landscapes are reflected in storytelling forms." These understandings represent real inquiry into what it means to be one's self and into how we design our environment. The overarching curriculum created by linking these understandings together is broad enough to cover the standards set by the Core and NM state expectations with ease, and carries the imprint of our community mission. I am really pleased and proud of this accomplishment. Thank you to all the staff for their perseverance in this difficult work.



I just read Susan Germann's letter of introduction, which you will find in this newsletter. There is a sense of great opportunity in her words - and she isn't starting from scratch. Along with the curriculum work I have already mentioned, TISA offers Mrs. Germann many advantages and accomplishments going into its fourth year. Here are some of those advantages:

TISA is a true community with common expectations of school character. TISA students strive to be Thoughtful; they work on showing Integrity in their dealings with others; they are mindful to keep themselves and each other Safe, and they learn to pay Attention to their world - to investigate it and to reflect upon it. TISA.

TISA student, teachers, and their extended families are citizens of this community. They value and

recognize - Creativity in schoolwork, Confidence in the approaches we take to do that work, and Collaboration in arriving at our common destinations. The essential question of who we are as individuals is framed by who are we as a community. The design of this community reaches a high level of development within the curriculum at each grade level.

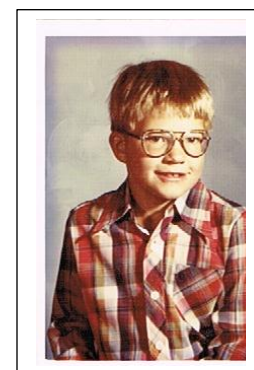
TISA already has aspects of a developed culture - with calendars dates for regular school events like Fall Festival, Winter Program, and Spring Exhibitions of Learning, and others. We have a sense of place in the greater community here in the heart of Taos, and have

made strong connections neighboring museums and other central venues. We are, in short, a little world-view. And I like it.

Art is the lens for all learning at TISA, and community building is its foundation. I have confidence in TISA, and I look forward to hearing all about its continuing story. Thanks,

Warren Kelly  
TISA Curriculum Director

PS - this is my 3rd grade picture - I'm sure you can see the resemblance and the shiner. Enjoy!



Mr. Kelly @ age 8!



### New Director's Message:

Dear Children, Parents and Staff of TISA,

It is with great joy that I write this first letter to you! I cannot wait to meet each and every one of you and get to know you. I'm very excited to be part of TISA! To introduce myself, let me say that learning and teaching have always been my passion. I've had a very diverse career including teaching all grades, K-8, in one capacity or another. My experience has been as a classroom teacher, and as a teacher of gifted students, along with teaching critical and creative thinking skills to all children in grades K-6. I've been an elementary curriculum director and a K-12 curriculum director. I've served as an assistant principal and a principal. I was director of a K-12 magnet school for five years.

I have a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education, a master's degree in special education with an emphasis on gifted, the equivalent of a master's degree in educational leadership and 24 hours of doctoral work. I am a graduate of the National Staff Development Council's Academy and have been responsible for staff development in several districts and on each campus I've served.

On a personal note, I have a husband, Dr. Terry Germann, who is a retired marriage and family therapist and a clergyperson. We have parented four children who are now all happily pursuing their passions. Our oldest daughter, Dr. Jennie Germann Molz is a professor at a college in Massachusetts and lives there along with her husband Martin and son Elliot who is 8. They have spent this semester in Finland where Jennie is teaching and doing research on a Fulbright Fellowship. Our second daughter, Amanda

Dalton, is a middle school art teacher and has just finished her master's degree in educational leadership. She lives in McKinney, Texas with her husband Jeff and son Hans Henry who just turned 7. Our third child, son Hans, is a



smokejumper based in Boise, Idaho. He works for the Bureau of Land Management and has a degree in economics. Our fourth, son Luke, is an entrepreneur who owns a business called Shutter Booth in McKinney, Texas and has just recently left selling Fiats to work for my son-in-law in McKinney.

We bought a small home in Taos about five years ago and then finally were able to move here two years ago. We have been visiting Taos for almost 30 years, camping, hiking and skiing. We have always loved being here and it is even better living here. I am an avid reader, knitter, cook and baker. I have five brothers and sisters and my parents, all living in northern Indiana. My mom is 92 and my dad will be 95 in August. My dad loves his ipad and is always sending me something.

Did I say I was excited to be at TISA? I'm already working on a list of ideas and know I'll love working with the children and staff. I look forward to many joyful days and all that we can accomplish on this journey together.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Germann, M.Ed.



### From the Office:

Nicole Abeyta

Yet another school year has passed us by, my oh my!!

Thank you to all students, parents, & teachers! You have made this year so wonderful. I like to think that I have the best job around, watching your children grown and learn has been so much fun! I can't wait for school to start up again to see how much they have changed!

Thank you for your patience during my maternity leave and for all of your support. My little Brayden is now 6 months and enjoying his big brother Malyki who just turned 3. They are the best of buds!

I would like to commend our first year teachers, Mrs. Megan, Mrs. Ale, and Ms. Maya! You teachers have done such a great job & TISA is honored to have you a part of our family. Thank you to Mrs. Jeanette who joined us this year and is doing extraordinary work! For all other teachers, you are the best at what you do & thank you for a smooth, fun filled year!

I am sad to see Sandy & Warren leave our growing school. I have worked so close with both of these amazing, smart individuals & I know they have a bright future ahead of them! I have learned so much from these two and will miss all the special moments we have shared together! You can bet I will keep in touch with them and give them a hard time every now and then! Please make sure you thank them for a job well done & wish them well!

I know we have a lot going on & before we finish out the year, a few things need to take place. I would like for all parents that have returning students to please fill out the income survey during parent teacher conferences on May 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. These surveys will be used for the 2013/2014 school year data reported to the state. Please update contact information in the office. For Kinder- Third grade, the Lion Vision form will also need to be filled out.



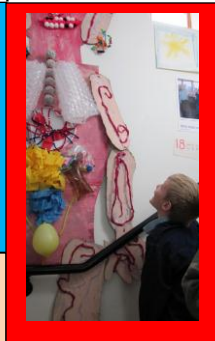
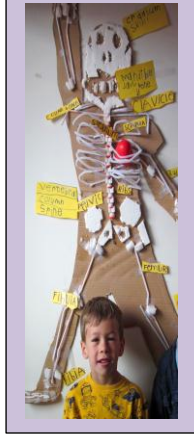
## Kinder News

Our last unit, "Get Set Ready, Roll" has to do with physical science. The children have been creating ramps and balls using the hands-on, minds-on inquiry science method. The class will celebrate this unit with fun carnival games and circus performances. Our field trip to Taos Airport on Monday, May 6, will connect nicely to several of the concepts we explored in the unit, such as speed, force, and motion.

Jonathan Kushner, (a real life pilot!) will be available to address questions from students such as "What's with gravity? Why doesn't your airplane fall to the ground?" Thank you for master-minding the trip, Jonathan.

Finally, to celebrate a year of adventure in learning, you are all invited to our Kindergarten Graduation on May 15, from 4:30-5:30. Thank you all, for making this a rock-'n'-rolling great year!

Here are a few of our latest favorite kinder photos. Can you find the giant in the esophagus? What body part is Shelli making? Can you spy who the skeleton is modeled after? What did Sienna use to create tracks in her painting? Guess who is playing the golden harp?



. . . . .

## First Grade News

First grade enjoyed a visit from Richard Archuleta of Taos Pueblo as part of our "The Mountain and Me" U.B.D.

Richard played his drum, sang songs and joined us in circle as we shared our feelings

about growing up with Taos Mountain in our back yard. Some shared wonderful, heartfelt sentiments such as Sage who wished he could, "Give the mountain a hug but it's too big".

We are looking forward to feeding the Buffalo at Taos Pueblo with the War Chiefs and our upcoming, "Take a Llama to Lunch" field trip through Columbine Canyon!



## Second Grade News

### PTA News:

Congratulations to everyone for a great school year, and thanks to all our wonderful teachers and families that help make TISA the great school that it is. Here is some PTA end-of-the-year news:

The PTA would like to give enormous thanks to Carolyn Jeantete, Emily Hall, Michelle Locher, and Jen Ventresca for organizing the fabulous event that was TISA Bingo at Taos Mesa Brewery. It turned out to be the most profitable fundraiser that the PTA has hosted to date, and a whole lot of fun, too. More thanks also very much due to the Brewery, many generous donors of prizes, and bakers of delicious treats. Taos Cow very generously donated their delicious ice cream, please return the favor by stopping by next time you're in Seco. More than \$2000 was raised, which will do a lot to get the PTA toward our \$10,000 fundraising goal for class supplies. Hooray!

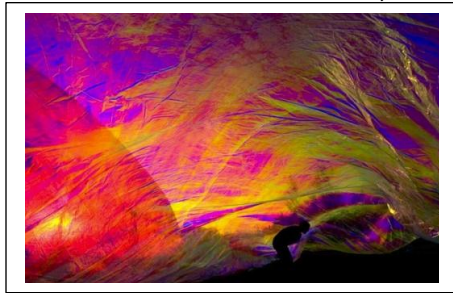
Another very successful fundraising project has been Friday Pizza Day. The last two pizza days will be this Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you very much to Lesley Kushner, all the classroom teachers, helpful volunteers, and Chalupps for making this go so smoothly.

The last PTA fundraiser of the year will be a Bake Sale at CID's on Monday, May 6th. The classes have worked hard to produce items for sale, including mini greenhouses and other great Mother's Day gifts. Baked goods will be needed from any families able to donate them. Volunteers will be needed for this event... stay tuned for details!!!!

The PTA will be hosting a potluck and book swap after school Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Come enjoy the weather and the company of our TISA community. We'll be

Who am I? What do I wish for myself? What do I wish for the world? What do I love? What is difficult or scary? Like trees that breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen, we can practice transforming our difficulties and fears with our breath. Second grade's Breathe In, Breathe Out poems are inspired by Judith Hill's Wage Peace with Your Breath. Here is a short quote from each second grader.

Breathe in falling, breathe out playing games. (Leonard Archuleta)



I breathe in war, I breathe out riches for everyone. (Ryder Ryan)

I breathe in the death of Venezuela's president, I breathe out peace. (Uma Abad)

Breathe in dog got cremated, breathe out friends. (Aspen Granger)

Breathe in grief; breathe out animals, and food for everyone, and opera singing. (Ella Aquino)

Breathe in sharks, breathe out Mom. (Ben Hardaway)

Breathe in killing the Earth; breathe out a lot of toys. (Steven Stewart)

Breathe in murder, breathe out music. (Ezra Ratigan)

Breathe in no trees, breathe out life. (Eddie Nixon)

Breathe in hate, breathe out peace. (Helena McMullin)

Breathe in thirst, breathe out dreams. (Venice Tovino)

Breathe in baby sister, breathe out legos. (Adrien Laos)

Breathe in monsters, breathe out rivers. (River Fox)

Breathe in Dad's sad, breathe out Mom and Dad. (Agustin Cabral)

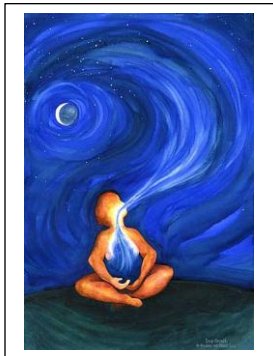
I breathe in my dog died, I breathe out happiness. (Sofia Basara-Hart)

I breathe in paper cuts, and I breathe out magnets and metal. (Javi Carvalho)

I breathe out Cartoon Network, I breathe out Mom. (Jay Strauss)

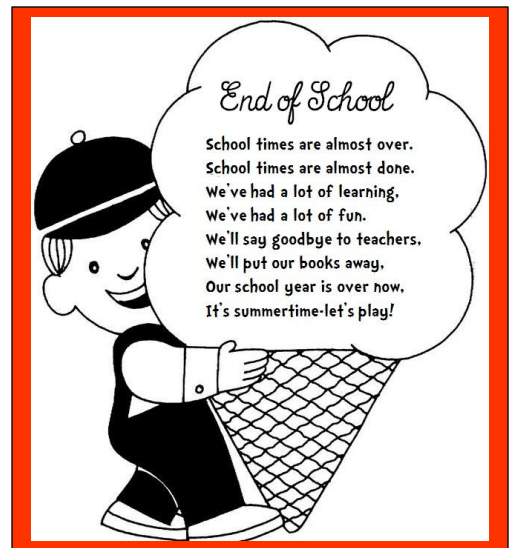
Breathe in people getting hurt, breathe out being with my Mom. (India Buchanan) Breathe in my horse is lost, breathe out no school. (Mikayla Gutierrez)

Breathe in sponging a hairy guy, breathe out popsicles. (Jeziel Varela)



### Third Grade News

It is hard to believe this school year is coming to an end! The 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade class has had an amazing time throughout the year. We have enjoyed incorporating the theme of, "Who am I?" into our different units of study. It has been evident throughout the year that the students in this class not only know who they are as individuals, but also what it means to be a TISA student. I have been so impressed to see how thoughtful and attentive the students in this class really are. The creativity of the students shines through the art they create, the plays they put on, and the projects they complete. The students have matured greatly over the course of the year. I'm confident that they will begin 4<sup>th</sup> Grade with great enthusiasm!



#### End of School

School times are almost over. School times are almost done. We've had a lot of learning, We've had a lot of fun. We'll say goodbye to teachers. We'll put our books away. Our school year is over now. It's summertime-let's play!



## Fourth Grade News

As we review our year, the 4th grade can look back and remember many highlights. We started the year with a camping trip at the Sangre de Cristo Youth Camp where we worked with horses, hiked, cooked out and enjoyed each other's company. Our fall studies started with animals and our relationship to them in which we researched our chosen animal, grew hydroponic beans, studied local crayfish from the Rio Grande and visited with herbalist Lucy McCall while studying the wetlands of Baca Park. Later, during our study of the Norse myths, we researched a god or goddess of our choice, wrote found poems about Eric the Red, and performed the play, "The Theft of Thor's Hammer" which was enjoyed by all. Our final project has been the study



of Mesa Prieta, the ancient lands of the Santa Clara people located

near Velarde, New Mexico. We recently went to Mesa Prieta to see the petroglyphs in situ and were thrilled to see the variety of images preserved there for thousands of years. There is even one from 1938 which the WPA made to let us know they worked on the trails! During the year, we enjoyed our many trips to the library, the Stables Art Gallery, High Altitude Athletics and the Harwood Art Museum where we took part in their school art program. We were even able to perform at the TCA in *the Night of A Thousand Stars!* We are looking forward to finishing our studies of Mesa Prieta in the next few weeks and camping at Orilla Verde near Pilar with the 5th grade. Please join us for our performance of *Its Electrifying* on **Thursday, May 16th at 5:30** in the second grade classroom. It should be electric! Thanks to all the parents

for supporting us this year and thank you TISA for the best year yet!

## Fifth Grade News

We have had a great 5th Grade year this year! We made globes, had a medieval fair, did a NASA mission, participated in the bridge competition (winning for best poster and 2<sup>nd</sup> for efficiency!) we learned how to record petroglyphs and went to Mesa Prieta again. We had great fun being pirates and sea creatures and building our sets. We wrote mysteries and learned how discuss literature using the Socratic Method. We studied our body systems and explorers. We read historic fiction and mysteries! We learned many new things, did lots of projects and had many laughs together. We loved going to Baca Park on Fridays, our class sleep over, our Christmas and Halloween parties, being Secret Santa's, Camping, going to Albuquerque and watching Mixed Up Files and A Wrinkle in

Time.



## Important Dates:

**May 1, 2013-May 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grades**  
**MAPS Testing**

**May 1, 2013**  
**4:30-5:30, upper building**  
**Meet & Welcome new Director**

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> & May 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**PTA Pizza Day's**

**May 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00-??**  
**PTA Bake Sale @ Cid's**  
**Parents needed to help!**

**May 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:00-8:00**  
**TISA GC Monthly Meeting**

**May 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:30**  
**PTA Monthly Meeting**

**May 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30, Don Fernando Bldg.**  
**Town of Taos**

**May 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**4-6pm, 123 Manzaneros Campus**  
**PTA Potluck & Book Swap**

This even is for all grades. Everyone should bring a dish and books to swap for summer reading!

**May 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**11:00-3:00**  
**Field day for 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grades @ Fred Baca**

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**11:00-3:00**  
**Last day of School! WOO HOO!!**  
**Field Day for K-4<sup>th</sup> Grades @ Kit**

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Parent Teacher Conferences**  
**Sign up with the teacher**

## Sixth Grade News

In 6th grade we looked back on how much we have changed developmentally so far and wrote poems entitled "I Used To, But Now I....." Here are single lines from each student's poems.

Lilith: I used to be full of never ending energy, but now I can never find enough of it.

Dominic: I used to play with weird baby toys like my little musical fish tank, but now I like cool TEACK DEACKS skate boards.

Macy: I used to wear cute girly dresses, but now I wear baggy t-shirts and swagger jeans.

Reed: I used to like my sister and we would get along, but now I fight with her all day long.

Chloe: I used to think boys were gross and smelly, but now I think they're actually cute, kind, and generous.

Niamh: I used to be a shy person, but now I can be a social person.

Natalie: I used to play on my toy computer, but now I play on my tablet.

Alex: I used to eat disgusting baby food, but now I eat delicious grilled meat. I like my grilled meat cooked medium rare.

Eve: I used to fall down when I tried to run, but now I run like a mountain lion zooming past others.

Lillie: I used to want to be a beautiful, elegant princess, but now I just want to be my sweet, crazy, loving self.

Seamus: I used to go to a private school that I didn't like very much, but now I go to a better school in sixth grade and will be here in seventh grade too

John: I used to have long hair, but now I have Justin Bieber hair.



Cole: I used to not like much math at all, but now I like it and

don't mind doing it.

Madison: I used to go crazy waiting for the days we went to grassy fields and sun faded, plastic play structures of the park, but now I worry I'm going to ruin my shirt if I lay on the grassy fields that used to be my life.

Victor: I used to play with my annoying rattle, but now I play with my friends and have epic snowball battles.

Siarra: I used to try to get out of dumb homework and schoolwork, but now I think of homework and schoolwork as a second chance so I'll work harder in seventh grade.

A.J.: I used to not talk a lot because I didn't have friends, but now I have a lot more friends and more stuff to talk about.

Mrs. Nichols: I used to think teaching might be magical and the most important career ever, but now I am absolutely positive it is.

## Seventh Grade News

Oh what a year!!!! We have gone through some great adventures in the 7th grade. We learned about film history and the process of making the film. We traveled to Egypt and learned about a different culture. As the year winds down we are finishing the last touches of a two year film project and there will be showing of it at the end of the year!! We have made our brains stronger by learning math and reviewing math. We have come together as a class family and learning how to become leaders and role models to our community. We have enjoyed drama, music, and dance this year. We are excited about 8th grade and hope to see everyone back next year to grow even more. We want to wish Ms. Sandy and Mr. Kelly well and send them off to their next adventure. We want to also thank Ms. Sonya for taking over for Ms. Maya. Happy Summer everyone and we will see you next year!!



Parents, please attend the Town Council meeting on **Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30pm** at the Don Fernando building. At this meeting, the Town Council will decide whether they will lease the building to TISA for the next school year, to house the upper grades classes. We need to pack the room with supporters to show our school community's support for this move. There are many reasons to support this move including the upper grades being closer to our Manzanares campus, being able to go to kit Carson Park, the library, and various other venues, the staff is excited about this move as it will enable them to work more closely together and do multi-grade activities. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to attend. Children are welcome and anyone wishing to speak may speak during the public comments portion to the meeting.

