

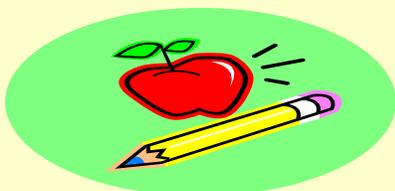


TISA
Newsletter May 2014
Volume 1, Issue 1

TISA's last day of school: 5/21/14

Director, Susan Germann

Time does fly – and it seems as if we're flying with it!! I don't know about you, but I am shocked at how little time we have left for this school year. I know that many parents want information for next year and we are working as quickly as we can to finalize everything. I can tell you that the staff has decided our looping pattern for the school for next year and it should work great! Kindergarten will remain in place as a stand-alone class. First grade will also be a stand-alone class. The teachers feel that these two grade levels are so important to set the foundation for reading and it is best for the children to have the concrete instruction in place for both reading and math. We will have a 2nd/3rd loop, which the



teachers also feel is beneficial because of state testing beginning in 3rd grade. Our next loop will be 4th/5th. The middle school will then be structured as 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, where the students will have three teachers during the course of the day. I am currently working with teachers to determine the best placements for each grade level and/or loop.

As we look forward to summer, I am hopeful that you will be able to spend quality time with your child(ren). I cannot stress enough the importance of reading to and with your child(ren) and keeping math activities alive. It is so critical to keep reading and doing math so that skills are not lost during the time away from the classroom. I will be very interested to hear what creative ways families devise to keep the reading and math lights glowing! Have a fabulous summer!!

Susan Germann, Director

From the Office

The lottery drawing has been done and all open spots are filled. If you have a child enrolled and need to register a sibling, please pick up the registration packet and return it before 5/21. All siblings have already been accounted for. Also, if your child will not attend TISA for the 14/15 school year, please inform me ASAP if you haven't already done so! The calendar for next year is not out yet, but as soon as it is approved, I will forward by email and also publish to our website. Parent teacher conferences are Thursday and Friday, May 22nd and 23rd. Please be sure to check the lost and found before summer break. All items not picked up will be donated to CAV. Wishing you all a wonderful fun filled summer!! Don't forget your sunscreen!

PTA

BINGO NIGHT is a week away!

Join us, Friday May 9th from 5:30-7:30 at the Taos Mesa Brewery for a fun night of community, food, drink and of course BINGO!

We will be having our sweets and treats table again, so we are asking for goodies to sell. These treats can be dropped off in the office at the Manzanares campus, no later than 4:30 on Friday. Also they can be brought to TMB at 5. Thanks for your support and hope to see you there!

In other news, it has been tradition to send the teachers and staff out to a dinner together for the end of the school year.

We ask that a \$5 donation be dropped off in the office with Nicole to help fund this dinner. We have a few weeks to do so, but hope to have the money in by the 16th if possible. There will be cards for each teacher for one to sign. Let's show these amazing people how thankful we are for their care and commitment to our children :)

Have a great weekend everyone!
-TISA PTA

Kinder

A Tremendous Year in TISA Kinder

In August we made many a friend,
Though spelling
supercalifragilisticexpialidocious
was not yet the trend.

In September's golden glow,
We picked pumpkins at *Lettuce Grow*.

In October Miss Annie had us counting
seeds,
Lots to store and more to eat.

In November we made lanterns fine,
Then sang "This little light of mine."

In December it was time for a spooky
treat,
Fun with "The Nightmare Before
Christmas." What a feat!

In January, to show off what we knew,
We put on an alphabet show with a letter
and a clue.

In February it was time for our sweet
pipes to sing
A new song about a "long legged" thing...

In March we read and read and read,
Our Read-a-thon earned us a trip to the
land of dinosaurs long dead...

In April Tickles came. He is our super
gecko!
We'll tell you, there is nothing like your
own class pet beau!



First

First grade celebrated Earth Day by reusing newspaper to make biodegradable seedling pots! Then we planted pumpkin seeds that we gathered way back in the fall from a pumpkin grown by one of our students! With luck we will have baby pumpkins in the fall, which would allow us to gather more seeds and plant grandbaby pumpkins! This has been the start of our unit on plants and ecology. We are starting to ask questions about how things are connected. What do plants need to grow? Why do animals need plants? Why do plants need insects? What happens when one species dies?

First grade is very excited to present our first play, a set of fairy tale spin-offs: "Cinderella Big Foot" and "The Three Wolves and the Big Bad Pig." It seems to be an exciting end to a very exciting year!



Second Grade

From winning the Children's Youth Award at Taos Fall Arts to a sold out show at the Living Light Gallery, second grade has shined brightly this school year! We have enjoyed many learning adventures together including our Taiji dolphin educational protest, saving Charlie the Stray Hearts dog to having our incubated eggs hatch right before our eyes. The highlight of the end of the school year and my time with these amazing, bright stars is a letter I received,

Dear Ms. Megan,

Thank you for teaching us things that can change the world. I didn't know that kids could have so much POWER.

Anika Griego

We will be heading for the hills our last week of school for an over-night adventure with Locology in San Cristobal.



2nd gd. watches as a beak emerges from the egg!



End of the year Life Cycles play was a smashing success!



2nd gd. has become real pros on the new chrome books this year!

Third

Third Grade has flown by, like the geese, flying North and South. We have learned many big lessons this year. Those that are most valuable are how to speak and be heard, how to listen and understand, how to respect and empathize. These qualities are ones that will live with the children forever. The class had formed a cohesiveness that should carry them for the remainder of their years together. And by accomplishing this, other learning took place. We learned new songs, rhythms; dances, painted beautifully, performed a lovely play, and of course, increased skills in reading and math. The beauty, talent, and joy that lives in each these children should never be overlooked or forgotten. They will grow to greatness! I am honored to have been chosen to spend my days with them all. They have reminded me to look deeply into each person I meet, for there is power and grace residing in every one.

As Joni Mitchell reminds us:

And the seasons they go round and round
And the painted ponies go up and down
We're captive on the carousel of time
We can't return we can only look
Behind from where we came
And go round and round and round
In the circle game *



Fourth Grade

As our school year comes to an end we took some time as a class to think about what our highlights for the year have been. Here is what the 4th Grade students had to say:

Adelaide enjoyed studying Norse Mythology and making the Norse book, going to Twirl to create a petroglyph project, and watching a documentary on volcanoes.

Finn enjoyed having live animals in the classroom!

Hailey liked reading *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and making dioramas and group posters about this book.

Jonah liked studying Bess beetles and crayfish.

Jorja enjoyed going to the Harwood Museum and working on our Norse Mythology books.

Kaden says he's looking forward to our overnight field trip.

Olivia loved getting to bring her pet rats from home to spend time in the classroom.

Kenyon said he liked the hike we took in the fall to the Devisadero South Boundary trail with 1st Grade.

Hana loved the animal reports and the Read-a-thon event, as well as when the class listened to the book, *The Last Holiday Concert*.

Harmony enjoyed the Ken Price exhibit and art project at the Harwood Museum.

Lilu loved the animal reports we did, as well as reading Pippi Longstocking, and our holiday parties.

Marlen has enjoyed working on our class play together.

Sasha liked making our Norse Mythology books and reading *Odd and the Frost Giants*. She also liked getting to know the students who were new to the class this year.

Liam enjoyed having the crayfish in class, every book we read, and all science!

We agreed that as a class, some of our favorite things we did together were the Taos Turkey Trot 5K and cooking projects such as Frito Pies and Turkish Delight. It's been a wonderful school year!

~Ms. Ale

TISA's End of The Year May Newsletter

Fifth Grade

Congratulations to the Colorful Dragons for being the Bridge team to predict their live load closet to their actual load! What is a live load you say? Ask any 5th or 6th grader and they will tell you it's the amount of weight their bridge can hold before breaking. Our greatest load was about 141 to 1. This means that bridge could hold 141 times its own weight! Pretty amazing! We have been working hard planning and building our bridges for the 4th annual bridge competition. This was held at Taos Charter School last Thursday with three schools participating! The 3rd and 4th grade classes came to cheer us on! Thanks to all the parents who volunteered to be judges and to the master of ceremonies, Warren Kelly. Once again he did a fantastic job organizing the event. We are now getting ready for our end of the year camping trip at Taos Junction. We'll be camping with the 4th grade. Some of our activities will be river rafting and FITTAOS. It's been an amazing year everyone! Happy summer!

Sixth Grade

The 6th grade has had an awesome, creative, productive year. From our Greek Unit and exhibition, and our Biographies to our Revolutionary portfolios and Bridge Competition, to our Landforms projects and Tall Tales-Westward Expansion Unit. We have learned and grown so much this year. You will not recognize the 5th graders we were a year ago, or even the 6th graders we started out this year as. We have matured and are ready to tackle 7th and 8th and all the challenges Middle School will bring. We have marched for Global Peace and cleaned Kit Carson Park on Earth day we have participated in, Celebrando the Taos MS Arts Exhibition and participated in so much more this year. We have worked so hard and well together and look forward to a well-earned end of the year trip and summer vacation!



Seventh Grade

In 8th grade we are hard at work on our exhibitions and performances for TISA's first Eighth Grade Graduation! The creativity is really flowing as the students design tri-fold posters to show off their work samples and essays. They are also designing power point displays on the chrome books and rehearsing their final play and dance performances. Our end of the year field trip will be a half day river trip through the Racecourse on the Rio Grande. It should be a grand adventure. Our parents will be meeting us at the end of the trip for a pot luck picnic. The field trip is Tuesday, May 20 and Graduation is Wednesday, May 21 from 5:00-6:45 at Old Martina's Hall. We are still looking for 8th grade parents to help with parking lot duty before the event. Where did the time go?



Thank You Students & Parents for another amazing year and for your continued support!

