Taos Integrated School of the Arts

Director’s Message:

“Many teachers work small miracles with their students in the face of great obstacles and lack of support, and they rarely get the credit they deserve for the many acts of compassion, encouragement, and courage that are part of each day’s job.”  –Robert L. Fried, The Passionate Teacher

May is Teacher Appreciation and if you haven’t thanked your child’s teacher, please don’t forget to do that. I am thankful for each person who works with our TISA students. They are professionals, doing one of the hardest jobs there is. I always say a doctor or dentist is also a professional who gets to deal with one child at a time! If you’ve ever hosted a birthday party for your child’s classmates or a sleepover, surely you know what I mean. So take time this month to at least say “Thank You” to your child’s teacher. Don’t forget our office manager Nicole, our Music, Drama and Dance teachers, Special Education and our wonderful Educational Assistants! TISA couldn’t be what it is without them!

TISA PTA NEWS:

We hope for a good turnout as the PTA is such an important part of TISA and TISA cannot maintain its charter without one. Finally, the last pizza day of the year will be Friday May 15, so be sure to get your money in by the morning of the 14th. It’s been a great year everyone! Thank you TISA teachers, administration and families. Have a wonderful summer!

Happy Mother’s day weekend! Enjoy the spring weather.
Best,
TISA PTA

Kinder News:

Our recent creation, Velocity was inspired by the inquiry-based science unit "Ramps and Balls" and the theme of architecture. The students’ collaborative creation, exhibited in the Annual Children's Art Show is a fusion of science, math, engineering, art, and technology, (henceforth merits the acronym, STEAM), incorporating mixed media from plumbing parts to pool noodles. The children are moving full STEAM ahead with their creative juices, exploring the possibilities of each 3D shape in action. They are dreaming up a marble maze that will span the whole playground, fit for the Guiness Book of World Records!

TISA PTA wishes you a wonderful summer break!

May 2015

Happy Friday, TISA community!!
TISA PTA would like to share the results of bingo night. Together with Sweets table, 50/50 raffle, and Bingo we were able to raise $1,569.00 dollars!!! That would be a success in our eyes. This event has no overhead, so it can be quite lucrative if all the right pieces fall into place.
We would like to thank each and every one who contributed to this event. Whether you were a prize donor, sweets donor, or a volunteer you made good things happen! Big thanks also to Emily Steele, our illustrious MC and to Taos Cow for always being so generous at our events. We couldn’t do it without you! Our next and last PTA meeting will be held Tuesday, May 19, at 4:30 pm at the Manzanares campus. This is a very important meeting as we will be looking to elect new officers. We will need a new president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. We’re also looking for someone to take over pizza day responsibilities.

Happy Mother’s day weekend! Enjoy the spring weather.
Best,
TISA PTA
FIRST News:
Wrapping up this school year, I'd like to thank the awesome TISA family for wonderful experiences and memories. Friendships made this year have strengthened each first-grader's foundational experiences as humans in an academic setting. 1st grade parents, thank you for your wonderful bits of sunshine shared with me this year! I look forward to seeing you all soon! "There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in our hearts." ~Mahatma Ghandi

SECOND News:
The Second Grade is looking forward to meeting their pen pals from Enos Garcia this month. After two months of exchanging letters and asking each other questions, they will finally get to meet their new friends in person. Questions have included, “Do you litter?,” “Do you like boys?,” and “What is your favorite dinosaur, color, song, or restaurant?” This authentic assignment has proven to be a great motivator for reading and writing. Second and Fourth Grades collaborated in the construction and artistic decoration of a geodesic dome for the children’s art show at the Stables Gallery. The dome is now hanging from the ceiling of the Second Grade classroom. Our caterpillars have progressed into a new phase – Pupa or Chrysalis. Students have been recording their observations and drawing illustrations as they wait for the butterflies to emerge.

From our SPED Coordinator
Thank you!
I just wanted to say thank you to all of my students for working so hard this year. This was my first year working full-time in special education and I am so grateful this opportunity was given to me at TISA. It was so nice to see every student that I worked with grow in their own way, and at the same time help me grow as an educator, and as a person. Thank you so much my students for being so wonderful! I will miss you you over the summer and I can't wait to grow with you again next year.
THIRD News:

The 4th grade has just finished their study of the Vikings and Norse mythology. Did you know that some of the days of the week are named after Norse gods? Tuesday is named for Tyr, the god of war and Wednesday is named for Odin, the father of the gods as well as Thursday for Thor, famous for his iron mitt and hammer! We are now studying the geology and history of northern New Mexico. We are excited to be partnering once again with Mesa Prieta and look forward to our trip to the vast petroglyph site west of Velarde, NM on 5/19. There are estimated to be more than 70,000 petroglyphs on this land and it is the largest known petroglyph site in New Mexico! We have also been writing poetry in honor of National poetry month. Here two free verse poems you might enjoy. Happy Spring everyone! Have a great summer!

FOURTH News:

Third Grade is ending the year with a bang! After three months of hard work, the class performed the play *Little Prince in Egypt*. It was a smashing success. The class is looking forward to the end of the year field trip with Field Institute of Taos and to having a long and relaxing summer break.

FIFTH News:

The 5th grade has had a great year! We did a super cool project this week in the style of pop-artist Andy Warhol. We will be studying Frida Kahlo next week and will create portraits in her style as well. We learned about the branches of government and practiced our business letter writing skills in writing a letter of concern to one of our representative in government. The next two weeks will be focused on the power of words as we prepare for our first 5-8th grade poetry slam. The top 3 poets from each grade level will compete to be TISA’s top slammer and win two movie tickets! Thanks for a great year!
**SIXTH NEWS:**
6th Grade's big end-of-the-semester art project is well under way. We were commissioned by Sargent Davis, with the Taos Police Department, to create a Command Control Center for the town of Taos. This map will serve our community as a training and demonstration tool, to prepare for emergencies, events and disasters. We enjoyed another visit at Taos Retirement Village and presented the residents with poems and watercolors inspired by the Childhood Interviews. We are preparing for our Middle School Poetry Slam in a couple weeks and helping one another with peer editing. And most of all we are looking forward to the end-of-the-year Fun Day and Field Trip!

**SEVENTH NEWS:**
Wow, it's almost the end of the year! The Grade Seven students are preparing their final portfolios for academic review. I'm extremely happy with the creative results that I've been seeing in the classroom. I've witnessed students who were barely able to write a page at the beginning of the year, push themselves to write five, ten, fifteen, and yes, even twenty page works of fiction. And guess what? Those stories are actually well-structured, well-plotted, and well-written. Also, the students will hand in their final research project with topics that span science, the humanities, medicine, history and more. It's really been an intense year and it's a grand feeling to wrap it up knowing that these students have grown in positive, life-affirming ways that will hopefully stick with them for years to come. Thank you.

**EIGHTH NEWS:**
The finalists in the 8th grade Egg Drop! We still need to climb higher!

**Future Highlights**
- May 13th @ 6:00 - GC Board Monthly Meeting
- May 15th @ 4:00 - Kinder Celebration Ceremony
- May 19th @ 4:30 - PTA Monthly Meeting
- May 20th @ 5:30 - 8th Gallery of Learning @ 6:00 - 8th Graduation Ceremony (Potluck to follow)
- May 21st Last day of school for students
- May 25th Holiday-Memorial Day - TISA Closed
- August 3rd Teachers Return
- August 10th - 11th Proposed first day of school for 15/16 Student/Parent/Teacher Conf.
- August 12th First day of school for students (15/16 school days will be Monday-Thursday)
- August 17th @ 4:30 Proposed PTA Welcome Back Potluck