Director’s Message:

Did you know that the plant, English Ivy, helps to absorb mold? I did not know that until recently and when I became aware of that I put it in the office at Manzanares and the office at La Posta. I also purchased some for my home. I don’t know that there is mold in these places, but I love plants and thought why not. I also love children and know that they absorb so much when they are young. We at TISA, the teachers and education assistants, are continuing our work on Conscious Discipline and this year we’ve added a component, creating the School Family. We are, each one of us, concerned about the emotional wellbeing of every student. TISA is blessed with amazing teachers who watch student interactions and individual students. From my perspective, I’m also concerned about their nutritional well-being. The very best drinks for children are water and fresh juice. Some protein and healthy carbs are great. My children did not get sugar or sugar drinks until they discovered them at school. All four are extremely healthy to this day. High fructose corn syrup is very bad for developing children’s brains – research that for yourself, not matter what the marketers say. My wish for every child is a well-balanced, happy time at school and at home.

Susan Germann

Chess Club
Gabriel Morgan

Last Sunday, 9/22, The Tisa Chess Club organized its second USCF rated scholastic tournament. The first was last Spring. Attendance was excellent, with around 80 contestants from all over the state competing for trophies and prize money. Many thanks to Cids for their continued support. Congratulations to Kian and Nitis Morgan, Adriel Hanf, Milan Foley, Orion Joseph and Perry Kushner for their strong effort. In the difficult U-1250 Mars section, TISA 5th grader Kian Morgan went undefeated to become the second ranked 5th grader in the state. His brother Nitis played through a flu to take 11th in a field of 18. In the U-900 Earth Section, TISA 5th grader Aiden Hanf took tenth place with two wins. In the U-600 Venus Section TISA 5th grader Milan Foley took four wins in five rounds to tie for second place in a field of 20. TISA 3rd grader Orion Joseph took 6th place with 2.5 wins. In the K-3 section TISA 2nd grader Perry Kushner won two games to take 9th place.

Congratulations to all the kids for turning out to compete as the season had barely started. Let’s get some practice and continue our team efforts at the Los Alamos Kick off on November 2. Save the date.

TISA PTA
Carolyn Jeantette
Jennifer Ventresca
Estelle Marchasin

TISA PTA is gearing up for the school year ahead! We are sponsoring the Potluck before the TISA Fall Festival Lantern Walk on Friday October 18th from 4-6:30. So look out for a more detailed email coming soon! Don't forget to attend our next TISA PTA meeting on Tuesday October 15 from 5:30-6:30pm, at Manzanares Campus in the upper building. As always, Childcare and Pizza will be provided—for Free!! We will be finalizing all logistics for the Fall Festival Potluck. We will also be discussing upcoming events for the winter! So please come with ideas and questions. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and our teachers. Let’s brainstorm on how we can help our children and the TISA communities thrive! We are in need of more parent involvement to make the Fall Festival and various school events throughout the school year happen! If we don't have parent involvement, then these events may not happen at all. So please consider some of your time and effort towards TISA on behalf of your children.

We are still in need of a Treasurer, so we are looking for one more parent to volunteer. Please feel free to contact Carolyn: jeantette1@hotmail.com or Jennifer: jventresca@gmail.com if you are interested in this position and/or just stop by the next meeting for more info! Thanks and we’ll see you there!
Kinder News

Jutka Furesz

Children in kindergarten have been keenly observing the change of the season. We said goodbye to summer frolic and welcomed the chill of autumn. We are tasting flavors of the bountiful harvest and had a joyful celebration with Taos Pueblo on their feast day. What a precious tradition to participate in!

It was exciting to spend a Friday afternoon with our new study buddies, Miss Jeanette's 6th grade class as well. We shared our insights about the need to kindle our own light this time of year. The kindergartners talked about the days getting shorter and the nights getting longer. The sixth graders took it further and introduced us to scientific concepts, such as the tilt of the Earth. The two classes created a circle and shared lantern songs. Then the older students helped our youngsters get started on their own lanterns using the batik resist dye method. Yay for study buddies!

First Grade News

Kimberly Hamill

"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales." - Albert Einstein

Taking Einstein's quote to heart, first grade has been immersed in dozens of fairy tales from all over the world! We are learning about the parts of a story (setting, characters, problem, turning point). We are continuing to ask questions about the stories we hear. In comic strip form children created their own versions of familiar tales based on "what if" questions. (What if Snow White didn't have a prince? What if the Beast was Lord Garmadon?) First graders are now working to create their own fairy tale. They invented a hero first and made a sculpture of it for the Taos Open: a hero cat!

We are working hard to build stamina in reading and writing. Children practice independent reading and writing each day, adding a few minutes each time. Children practice words, sentences and have even begun writing stories of their own! As they become more and more confident with their independent skills, teachers can spend more and more time working intensively with small groups on specific, individualized tasks.

First graders begin their science work with quiet observations. What do you see, smell, hear, taste and feel right now? Recording these things in observation journals, we begin the real work of scientists. Our next unit will be about air and weather. Our world has many stories to tell, both in fantasy and reality!!!
Hello and Happy Fall!

The 4th Grade class has had a wonderful month. The change is a season has coincided well with our plant and animal UBD. Students have had the opportunity to work in science groups to create mini-sprouters where we watered several different types of seeds and recorded any visible changes over the course of two weeks. Students were able to first observe seeds in a dormant state. Once water was added students noticed that the seeds started to swell. Then, as seeds started to sprout, we saw roots come out and the seeds eventually lost their seed coats. By the end of the second week most seeds had grown a stem and leaves. We then transferred these seedlings to a hydroponic set-up where students will continue to care for the plants and record observable changes over the next eight weeks. We enjoyed a visit from Mrs. Lorraine who shared her impressive collection of fossils. Students were able to see plant and animal remnants from millions of years ago!

Fifth Grade
Linda Seto

The 5th grade has had a busy few weeks. We have been gardening on Fridays with the 2nd grade at the Manzanares campus and have harvested lettuce and eaten lettuce and kale salad! What a wonderful treat! We will now be working in the greenhouse at our La Posta campus classroom for the winter. The second and fifth grade classes went to the Sangre De Cristo Youth Ranch on Wednesday and enjoyed eating lunch at the ranch and exploring the pond where we found a couple of water snakes. The second grade then went home and we stayed on at the camp until Friday. We spent the time hiking, drawing, singing around the campfire, cooking in the outdoor kitchen and working with their horses. We even celebrated several birthdays and had some out of town visitors. A great time was had by everyone! Thank you to John Wilson for his generosity and to Daniel Hutchison for his songs around the campfire. We are finishing up our botany studies and will begin our ancient history studies with ancient India next week. Happy October everyone!

Important Calendar Days

10/1/13-10/18/13- MAPS Testing, 3rd-8th Grades
9/27/13-10/7/13- Taos Fall Arts, 10-5 @ Taos Convention Center.
10/9/13- GC Monthly Board Meeting @ 6pm. Manzanares campus.
10/15/13- PTA Monthly Meeting @ 5:30 Manzanares campus, child care and pizza available.
10/16/13- Southern Exposure picture money due to office.
10/16/2013- Lion’s Club eye screening. Kinder-3rd grades only at Manzanares campus, starting at 9am.
10/18/13- PTA potluck/ lantern walk from 4-6:30 @ Kit Carson.
10/31/13- Happy Halloween!!
10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25- Pizza Friday! Please pay with your child’s teacher by Thursday.
10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28- Monday Enrichment from 8-5pm. $20 per student, $16 per sibling!
Aftercare is Tuesday-Friday! $5 per student and $4 per sibling!! Sign up today!
Sixth Grade
Jeanette Henshaw

In Science we explored Pendulums and will continue to explore scientific methods and variables and controls by building ‘lifeboats,’ ‘planes,’ and ‘catapults. In math we have been exploring polygons and basic shapes and have moved into angles – both learning to recognize benchmark angles and measuring & drawing them. We will finish the month exploring the properties of triangles and quadrilaterals. Then we will create PowerPoints demonstrating all we have learned about shapes and geometry for our final project for this unit! In S.S. we are continuing to learn about Ancient Greek History Especially the Athenian philosophers and the Spartans.

We sadly say farewell to cornel and gladly welcome Lily Colley to our Classroom! Look for Info about our next PTA meeting on the 15th of October and then our potluck and lantern walk on the 18th.

Seventh Grade
Jason Padilla

In 7th and 8th grade Math and Science, We are finishing work in our first science unit: Basic Physics and with that we are finish our element posters. Each student received a random number that became the element from the periodic table that they needed to draw, categorize and research to make into a poster. Students had fun learning about the different properties of different elements, for example, gallium melts in the palm of your hand!

7th and 8th graders are working hard in math as well. They continue to make great progress in Connected Math. 7th grade is working with scale, proportion and similarity, while 8th grade begins work on linear algebra, graphs and tables. Both classes had so much fun walking to the other campus last Friday and thoroughly enjoyed the fantastic second grade play: Munchkin Mediation! A big thanks to Ms. Megan for inviting us!

Eighth Grade
Lynne Nichols

Eighth grade had an amazing experience in first grade on Friday! Ms. Kim organized a paper mache lantern making project for our classes to do together. We picked learning buddies and worked together on a lantern for both the eighth grader and the first grader. The energy was so happy and warm; we had a wonderful time and can't wait until our next visit to finish up the lanterns. Then we will march together with our learning buddies in the Lantern Walk during the Fall Festival. Thank you so much Ms. Kim for all your efforts in putting this activity together! We also thoroughly enjoyed the second grade play, Munchkin Mediation.

Both seventh and eighth grade are just about finished up with our Create-a-Country projects. The maps are coming out beautifully. This week we will be writing a description of our islands and the people that inhabit them. In literacy seventh and eighth are getting very good at shared inquiry discussions about short stories by authors such as Kurt Vonnegutt, Jr., Ursula Hegi, and Geoffrey Becker. They have finished their essays entitled, "If I had Million Dollars". They have some great ideas!!