

THE TISA GAZETTE

Director's Message:

"If my future were determined just by my performance on a standardized test, I wouldn't be here. I guarantee you that." Michelle Obama

From the feedback I've received from parents, most of you would agree with the quote. I also agree with the quote. I did not do well on tests until I was in a second Masters program and a professor taught us how to take tests. So, I was well along in my life when that happened. Tests have been part of my life for a long time and my attitude was that I endured them. I know of no high school in the state that will award a diploma without a test, nor is there a college that will award a degree without some type of testing. My attitude about the PARCC is to wait and see because we haven't seen the test yet. My greater concern is how the state rates schools with letter grades. You have an opportunity right now to take the parent survey and the students will also take a survey. In my letter this week I gave you a list of individuals to whom you can write letters stating your opinion. I'm curious to see what solutions might arise. I do believe the MAPS (Measures of Academic Progress) over the course of the year do give us valid feedback on how to best meet the academic needs of our students. Might that not be enough for a K-8 school? I wish!



TISA PTA

Dear TISA Families,

The PTA is looking for prizes for our biggest fundraising event of the year. That's right, it's Bingo time again! While Bingo Night is still a ways away, we need to secure fabulous prizes to ensure a good turnout! Prizes need to be on the higher end (jewelry, gift certificates, etc). If we pool our TISA resources, the night is sure to be a huge success and lots of fun. Please contact Carolyn Jeantette at jeantette1@hotmail if you have anything to offer or can point us in a good direction.

In other news, the PTA has decided on a Spirit Week! We need a little fun to celebrate this great Winter and Spring being on its way. We will send out reminders, but here is what it looks like:

April 7~Crazy hair or hat day

April 8~Pajama day

April 9~ Dress like an artist day

April 10~ Dress like a superhero or a nerd (or both!)

Pizza Friday is the last Friday of every month and will take place on the 27th. Please remember to bring in your money no later than the morning of Thursday, March 26th!

We are looking forward to our annual TISA Yard Sale, so please save your goodies and help make this event a success.

Finally, this month's PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, at 4:30 at the Manzanares campus. We are heading into a transitional year and will be looking for new officers, so if you feel you have the time to give and would like to help make the TISA PTA a success, please come and volunteer. We need a PTA in order for TISA to maintain its charter, so this is terribly important; We look forward to seeing all of you there!

We hope you have a joyful and beautiful month!
TISA PTA

Kinder News

TISA is a community of artists.

TISA smART Fridays give an opportunity for students from different grades to interact, create, celebrate art, and learn from each other in an open atelier.

This year kindergarten students had the chance to work together with the older grades on smART Fridays. It is always heartwarming to see the little kids look up to their elders. We have explored a variety of art concepts, from cool colors to perspective, from shadows to texture this way. A few of the paintings were actually co-created by an elder and a younger student.

I find these smART Fridays as inspiring as the students do! These collaborative activities build a strong, trusting, creative TISA community. Art on! To view more images of these wonderful art projects, please visit TISA's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Taos-Integrated-School-of-the-Arts/977221702303884>



Third Grade



Second Grade News

The second grade continues to study plants and will soon begin an investigation of animals and their habitats. We will build terrariums and add animals to study. We recently planted wheat in straws to observe their root and plant development. The students document our activities and their observations in their journals. They continually add illustrations of observations. As we conclude our study of symmetry, we have completed some interesting art projects. The students were given a photograph of themselves split in half. Their drawings of the other half of their face are very impressive. We studied tessellations that have been popularized by M.C. Escher. Students created their own template to design a repeating pattern piece of art. The students have become very proficient in computer-aided design with the use of the KidPix software. They are working on designing slide shows that include animation, art, and their recorded voices.

Fifth Grade News

The 5th grade has been learning about the American Revolution in our Social Studies unit. We are getting ready to “publish” our Patriot and Loyalist newspapers. During the afternoons of the week of testing, we will be filming our Revolution video.

In Science, we have been studying the relationship between Gravity, Weight, and Mass. We used the engineering model to design and test our own parachutes. We are now looking at how these forces play together in a roller coaster system and will be designing our own marble rollercoaster systems.

Coming up next after rollercoasters, we will be exploring these forces and how they play together in bridge construction. We will be competing in the Bridge competition with a class from Taos Charter and a class from Ranchos Elementary on April 10th.

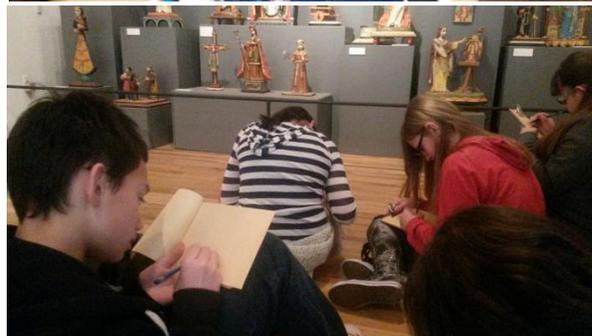
Sixth Grade News

The 6th grade is learning about Ancient Egyptian culture, history and religion in Social Studies, inspired by the novel we are reading *The Egypt Games*. The students are currently working on their own Pharaohic cartouche and next we will sculpt scarab beetle cabochons.

In English Language Arts, our focus for February was Black History Month, learning about African Americans who contributed to our country, inspiring and revolutionizing. During March we are learning The Art of Interviewing and looking forward to interviewing community members at Taos Retirement Village later in the month.

Our Science Unit this semester is called Science-Inspired Careers and right now we are studying Sustainable Farming & Agriculture. Spin the Globe, is a research-based project we are working on--the focus being conservancy efforts around the world. We are also learning about amazing organizations like wwoof.net and idealist.org. and how they are connecting the world—taking intention to action making positive differences in our global village.

And we always enjoy our time at the Harwood Museum. This month’s visit was on the Hispanic Traditions of Religions Saints, the *Santos* and *Santerenos* that make them—and we got to make our own unique *bultos*!

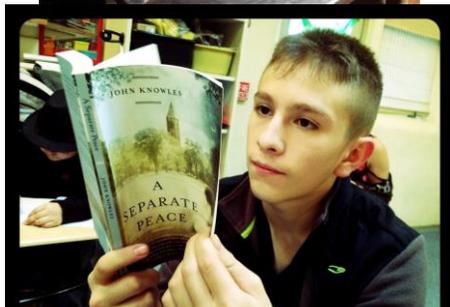


Seventh Grade

Greetings, everyone! The Grade Seven students have been doing some very impressive work! First, they have been honing their skills on reading contemporary fiction and responding to it in writing. Second, they recently completed a project in which they researched and wrote about a historical person and even made mini-books about that person. Third, they are currently engrossed in an international mythology project that connects them to other countries and folklore. Moreover, they've been going over the scientific method, analyzing Shakespeare, and, in general, exercising their vibrant creativity. I am very proud of them.

Eighth Grade

8th grade continues on with our classics unit moving on from *A Separate Peace* to *The Catcher in the Rye* which has captured teenager's imaginations for generations. We are looking forward to classroom visits from a *Somos* writer who will be sharing fiction writing tips throughout our third trimester. 8th grade has a team of science leaders who will be developing science projects and sharing with their classmates. We are looking forward to a spring warm up and getting back on our bicycles to tour Taos area high schools as we prepare to graduate from 8th grade. As always remember to look for our monthly column in the Taos a News entitled TISA TALKS- it's chock full of great stories including this past weeks, which tells about the student showing of *SELMA* at Storyteller7 which we organized and invited area schools to join in!



CALENDAR REMINDERS!!

GC Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 11th @ 6p.m.

PTA Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 17th at 4:30

PARCC Testing (3rd-8th)

March 10th-March 26th

SBA Science (4th & 7th)

March 24th-March 26th

Spring Break!

March 30-April 6. Classes resume on March 7th.

Pizza Day!

Friday, March 27th!

Spirit Week

April 7th-10th

