

THE TISA GAZETTE

Director's Message:

Fall has arrived and the leaves are just beginning to turn. This is such a beautiful time of the year especially in the mountains of Northern New Mexico. This was the first year that the Taos Fall Arts Festival had a Youth section and our students were well represented. We were very excited to have so many student art pieces in the festival this year. If you were unable to make it to the festival check out the pictures in this newsletter. I would like to thank Megan Bowers Avina, our 2nd grade aid, who took responsibility for delivering all our student art and working with the Arts Festival folks to hang the art. Just a note for next year's show, the Taos Arts Festival folks are looking for someone to volunteer to be in charge of the Youth part of the show for next year. If this is something you would be interested in, please let me know and I will connect you with the right people. Thank you.

We are now celebrating Fall with our own Fall Festival on Thursday, October 20, 2011 from 4:30-6:00. There will be activities for the entire family, including a potluck, a sing along and a lantern walk to complete the evening. Contact your classroom rep to see what you can bring for the potluck and if you are interested in helping with any of the activities we would love volunteers. We hope to see you all here on the 20th of October.



Leaves in the Autumn came tumbling
down,
Scarlet and yellow, russet and brown,
Leaves in the garden were swept in a
heap
Trees were undressing ready for sleep.
~Unknown

Valle Escondido Ranch

Kindergarten



Kindergarten at Taos Open Art Show

3rd Grade

From soup to superheroes, Mr. Pacheco's third graders have been extremely busy since the start of this school year. During our weekly cooking class the students have created delicious meals such as chicken noodle soup, pizza, pumpkin rolls, and cupcakes. This week, to support our unit on New Mexico, we will be making the state food: beans and red Chile along with homemade tortillas.

Our students also created superhero stories and action figures that were recently entered into the exhibit at the Taos Arts Festival. Our next writing project will be surrounding the theme of Halloween. Along with writing and illustrating a book and modeling their original characters, we plan on sharing our final projects during our Halloween party with our parents, families and our sixth grade buddy readers.

LOST & FOUND!!

We have a lost and found box located by the Office. Since the weather is slowly changing and students are wearing jackets more often, we are finding many jackets being left behind on the playground.

Please stop by the lost and found box see if any of the items in the box belong to your child. The box is filling up fast with nice jackets.

Visiting the Taos Open Art Show and the Harwood Museum last week were exciting ways to enliven our learning and take it beyond the classroom walls.

We have raised black swallowtails and monarch butterflies in class. Learning about the life cycle of a butterfly and observing the butterfly's dazzling symmetrical wings are expressed in our butterfly watercolors that all found a home in the Taos Open Art Show. We were fortunate to be able to see our butterflies on display and watch artists in the creative process at the art show.

In our imagination, we have gone to the farm, grew our crops had a bountiful harvest. Next, in our movement circle we took our carts full of the fall's treasures to the village market and -- fancy that -- we even made soup from a stone! As a culmination to the harvest theme, we made an imaginary trip to Taos Pueblo's harvest feast day by looking at images of artist's Jonathan Warm Day and Juan Mirabal's monumental painting, "*Taos Pueblo with San Geronimo Pole*," at the Harwood Museum.

In October we are continuing our nature study by embarking on learning about the journey and fascinating nature of seeds in preparation for a field trip to the fabulous SEEDS 3 Art Show at the Stables Gallery.

On the spooky side of life, as Halloween approaches and nature contracts, we will be focusing on the underworld. Think darkness, roots, paleontology, archeology, bones, fossils, rocks, and add a bit of Greek mythology (Hades and Persephone) to the mix. Come sing with us as we go on a luminous lantern walk at the TISA Fall Fest!

I also want to applaud our class for the hard work on handwriting, reading and math! See if your child can take you on a word walk along the TISA sidewalk one day. Check out our take-me-home "book buddies" we are about to launch to share books we made and illustrated. Way to go way to go Kindergartners!

Finally, here is a riddle for the children to crack:
 "What am I? The people sing a prayer as they send me into the air. I am sent from a bow. I am strong and straight. My tip is shaped like the capital letter A. I start with the letter "a" that says ("aaa")." (From *Turtle Island Alphabet*)



5th Grade!

The 5th grade class finished storytelling performances last week. Each student memorized a traditional story from about 50 available global stories. They read many of them and chose their favorite. Every student performed for the class and for the camera. Students evaluated themselves and one other student using a rubric which emphasized expression and gesture.

5th grade students are deepening their knowledge of Medieval Times. We have read King Arthur stories, Despereaux, The Hobbit and will move into The Canterbury Tales and Good Masters, Sweet Ladies. We are exploring woodcuts from the time period and are getting background information about illuminated manuscripts and stained glass.

Thanks to Chris Pieper for sharing his time and stories with the class.

HALLOWEEN!!

Since Halloween falls on a Monday this year and not all students attend Monday Enrichment class, we will allow children to dress up on Friday, October 28, 2011.



EARN AND LEARN!

Use your Smith's card and each time you shop a portion of what you spend comes back to TISA!

Call Nicole for more information!

CALENDAR REMINDERS!!

Fundraising Committee

Tuesday, October 4th at 4:15

PTA Meeting

Tuesday, October 11th at 5:30

Southern Exposure

School pictures

K-4th grades-Wednesday, October 5, 2011

5th-6th grades- Thursday, October 6, 2011

No School-Columbus Day

Monday, October 10, 2011

No Enrichment

Governing Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 12th at 6:00

TISA campus, in upper building.

TISA Fall Festival

Thursday, October 20th @ 4:30-6:00ish

6th Grade

Multiplication facts are an important foundation for most of the math concepts we will be working on this year. Please find time to practice these facts while riding in the car, washing dishes, or any other time you can slip in a little practice. We have been working with rounding decimals to the tenths, hundredths, and thousandths places, changing fractions into decimals, and multiplying and dividing decimals by 10, 100, and 1000. Next we are tackling two digit multiplication and division.

We have started our first theme of the year, our study of Greece. We will study the history, geography, myths, and the many contributions this civilization has made to our modern culture. In our science unit, Variables, we are currently experimenting with buoyancy and displacement, a phenomenon first studied by Archimedes, a famous Greek scientist and mathematician.