

## Director's Message:

Hello TISA families,

What a great start to the school year. We are very excited about the addition of our 7th grade as well as all the students new to TISA. Our students are working hard and learning about the three C's and TISA behavior. They are also practicing being a STAR. If you don't know what these are, ask your children. They will enlighten you.

Please make sure to put the Curriculum Night activities on your calendars and join us for an evening of information and activities with your children.

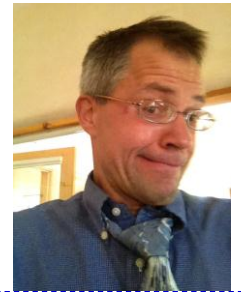
If you have time, please come and visit your child's classroom and catch the excitement they have about learning at TISA.

Best to you and yours,

Sandy



## Curriculum Director:



Hi Team TISA,

During this upcoming month of September, I anticipate TISA students will settle in-to the rhythm and routines of the school day. We as a school know what it is to work like a TISA student: valuing the 3Cs of Creativity, Confidence, and Collaboration. We have practiced the qualities of Thoughtfulness, Integrity, Safety, and Attentiveness in our actions. We are prepared to create the Conscious Discipline which will allow us to work openly, freely and interdependently.

During the month of September, TISA classes will hold their curriculum nights. This will be a time to discover how students at all levels have explored what a TISA student is, what a TISA student does, and how being a TISA student can feel.

TISA is crafting an exciting and vibrant culture. Students, parents, teachers, staff, and community members are invited to participate in this exciting endeavor. Thanks for all of your efforts, be they recognized or silent, in supporting this school.

Warren Kelly

## Welcome Linda Federico-DeGeest

Linda Federico-DeGeest is a 13-year veteran of living in Taos. You may recognize her from stints in real estate, or you may have received a massage from her! She graduated from NMSU in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education / Special Education endorsement. She has outlived the typical 7-year burnout rate of most Special Education teachers because she has taken breaks to pursue other interests in all that time. She comes most recently from Taos Charter School, where she worked on and off since its inception. Linda has taught children with special needs of all ages and ability levels since starting her teaching career in El Paso, TX in 1986. She lived and worked at Zuni pueblo for six years before moving to Taos. Linda believes that children are natural learners, and can learn given a supportive family, home, school, and community environment. She is very excited to be working with TISA, especially since there is so much potential in its newness! Linda and her husband, Leo, enjoy "hands-on" activities like building homes and furniture, gardening, fishing, hunting, exploring and traveling, wood-gathering...all those typical Taos things. A recent accomplishment she is proud of is finally hiking to the top of Wheeler Peak this summer. Mrs. DeGeest just returned from a training in Chicago where she learned more about the Wilson Language System that TISA uses as a vital part of their reading program. She looks forward to working with the children at TISA.

## NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM!

### Mrs. Megan's 1<sup>st</sup> Grade:

First-graders enjoy a visit from Gold Star Animals member, Sandy Miller, and her service learning dog, Mikey. The visit was part of the nationwide R.E.A.D. Program. Students met Mikey and explored the meaning of compassion. Mikey will be returning throughout the year to "read" with the students. Students in Ms. Megan's first grade are heavily into our "Welcome U.B.D" and have learned many new procedures and rules to assist learning throughout the year. Come check out our "Compassionate Behavior and Wishing Well Jar," which is filled with beautiful heartfelt drawings by first-graders. This week, we will dive into Singapore math and make dog biscuits for the animals at Stray Hearts.



### Mrs. Ale's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade at TISA has been busy building our classroom community. We created our three classroom rules, as well as the consequences that follow for breaking them. We wrote our classroom charter which is as follows:

We the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Class of TISA want to feel happy, energetic, safe, comfortable, and good. In order to feel this way, we promise to be good and nice. We promise to not be mean to anyone. We wish to have fun! We will respect others. We will try not to hurt each other by following the rules. We will be kind. We will be good friends. We will try to help others feel better by being thoughtful and keeping our space. We will not bully or tease. We will be ourselves!

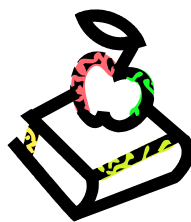
We have also worked extensively with the TISA behavior (thoughtfulness, integrity, safety, and attentiveness). We continue to learn about The Three C's that represent a TISA student (creative, confident, collaborative). Our class looks forward to our first curriculum night where we will have a chance to show parents all we have learned and created, and teach them what it means to be a TISA student and what The Three C's look like in action.

### Mrs. Linda's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:

The 4th grade has been working hard learning about the different "smarts" we all have. We have graphed them, done a human intelligence hunt, made a smart wheel and done lots of activities to find out what each of us is best at. We are working on writing our class charter and will be working on a "who am I?" book this week. We have been also painting, singing, learning to play the recorder, reciting poetry, and moving. The students have really enjoyed learning to dry needle felt and have made some amazing pieces of art in this medium! Needless to say, we are very busy!

### Mrs. Lynne's 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Boy, have we been busy in 6th Grade these first few weeks of school! We have been learning new routines, exploring the meaning of TISA behavior, writing our class charter, getting to know each other, practicing being STARS and wishing each other well. It's been a little tiring after our easier summer schedule, but a lot of fun too. We are happy to welcome 2 new students to our class this year: Alexandra Arguello and Moises Miera. See you at Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 13 from 5:30-6:30!



**Ms. Maya's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

*The school year has begun!!! These first three weeks have been very enjoyable. We have made puppets, worked hard in math, wrote skits about TISA behavior, started community building, and most importantly we got to know each other. We've had lots of fun and laughs with each other as well. Our teacher, Ms. Maya, has been great and super fun. We all hope the rest of the year is fun and exciting!!*

*From the 7th grade!!!!*

**Friends of TISA Foundation**

The Friends of TISA Foundation meets every 4th Wednesday of the month at 5pm in the 4th grade classroom. Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, September 27th at 5pm. We are currently developing a website and Facebook page as well as working on a brochure to give to potential donors. We are planning to hold fundraising events during the year and will keep everyone posted. Please feel free to join us if you would like to participate in helping to move TISA into the future! Contact Linda Seto if you have any questions.

**Monday Programs/ Aftercare**

Hurray! Although we would like to hear from more of you parents about your interest in the Monday program that has been created just for TISA kids at HAA (High Altitude Athletics), they are willing to start the pilot program beginning Monday, September 10th. We need a minimum of 7 children every Monday for the program to run! You may register your child at HAA any day before or the day of drop off in the morning. **The program will run from 8:30-3:30 for \$20 a day, with the option of the daily aftercare from 3:30-5:00 for an extra \$7.** Please pack a lunch for your child and comfortable and weather appropriate clothing (as they often do field trips). Water is available and they do sell snacks for 50 cents.

I also wanted to make the clear distinction between the **TWO** programs HAA is offering to TISA students:

- 1. Every day they offer aftercare** at their facility (walking distance from TISA) from 3:30-5:00 for \$7. They will pick up the kids at TISA and walk them over. Call HAA to schedule that (at least a day in advance) at **758-3118** and make sure to call or email Nicole to let her know your child should be in that group to walk over. HAA will provide a form for the teacher to sign and will be kept in the office at TISA.
- 2. The TISA Monday program at HAA.** As described above. Both programs are at the HAA gymnasium at 124 Civic Plaza Dr. Entrance door is on the left as you enter Martyrs Rd. off Placitas. You can park in the alley there or across the street on Placitas in the skinny dirt lot in front of the *fence of Enos Garcia East*.

***We hope these new additions will be helpful and fun for you and your children!***

**Upcoming Events:**

**September 3, 2012- Labor Day  
(No School)**

**September 4-14, 2012- NWEA testing,  
Grades 3-7<sup>th</sup> May change!**

**September 7, 2012- PTA Potluck  
Manzanares campus, 5-7pm**

**September 12, 2012 @ 6pm GC Board  
Meeting, upper building**

**September 13, 2012- Curriculum  
Night, Grades 5-7<sup>th</sup> La Posta campus  
@ 5:30**

**September 18, 2012- PTA Meeting  
@ 5:30, Upper building**

**September 20, 2012- Southern  
Exposure (school pix) Grades, K-4<sup>th</sup>**

**September 20, 2012- Curriculum  
Night, Grades K-4<sup>th</sup> Manzanares  
campus @ 5:30**

**September 21, 2012- Southern  
Exposure (school pix) Grades, 5-7<sup>th</sup>**

**September 26, 2012- Friends of TISA  
Foundation Meeting @ 5:30, upper  
building**

**September 28, 2012- Southern  
Exposure-RETAKES ONLY**

**October 8, 2012- Columbus Day (No  
School)**

**Taos Youth Theater/Aftercare**

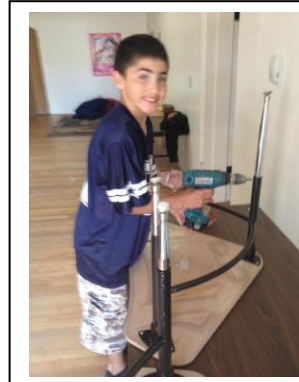
**Come Play After School, every Tuesday,  
3:30-5:30 @ the Coop Middle School.  
First Session is Free!! \$6 per session  
and \$1 will be donated per child per  
session to TISA.**

Taos Youth Theater is open to all Elementary and Middle School Youth. T.Y.T. promotes literacy, self-confidence, and emotional intelligence through fun and imagination.  
**Script Writing, Theater Games and Exercises, Jokes, Poetry, Performances!!**

Contact Nikki Cain@ 776-1265 to sign up.

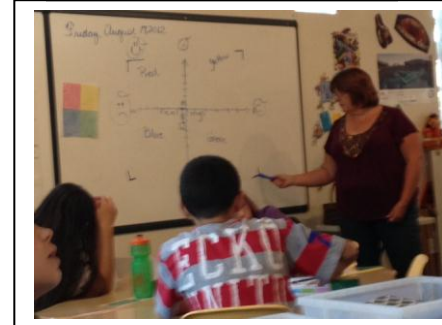
# Curriculum Night:

Grade	TITLE of performance assessment that will be shared during CN Sept. 13 5,6,7 Sept. 20 k-4 5:30
k	TISA TISA Boom Boom - The TISA alphabet show - TISA Star Kid
1	Flowing Acequias through compassion fields: watering the seeds
2	TISAness Charter and Tableaux
3	TISAness Posters and Tableaux
4	MI Expedition - What Smart Are You?
5	Bio Poem, Self Portraits, TISAness tableaux
6	Bio Poem, Self Portraits, TISAness tableaux
7	Bio Poem, Self Portraits, TISAness tableaux



Moises Mtz., A 6<sup>th</sup> grader helping Mr. Kelly fix furniture.

This is Lynne teaching the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class how to use a mood meter. The students observed that being in any extreme was an uncomfortable experience.



## TISA PTA

There was great attendance at the first PTA meeting of the school year, held the evening of August 21, with plenty of new faces and new ideas. We decided to build on the success of last year, during which we held several events and fundraisers and were able to offer class teachers funds totaling about \$900 each for field trips and supplies. This year, we hope to repeat that with your help, host a few new fun events so we can all get to know each other better, and also plan to work on making sure each of our families are as informed and involved as possible as our school grows.

Two new officers volunteered their help- thanks to Jen Ventresca and Michelle Locher as this year's Secretary and Treasurer. Another BIG thanks to Lesley Kushner for so much hard work in her years as President as she now moves into active retirement' as Vice President. Thanks to Molly McMullin for taking on the role as President for the 2012-2013 school year.

We look forward to seeing you at the first PTA event of this year, a Back-to-School Potluck this coming Friday, September 7. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 18th, and we'd love to see you there. We've worked to make helping easier for you this year, and promise to find you a fun and simple way to join in to make TISA its best.



### Back-to-School Family Potluck

Friday, September 7, 5-7 pm  
TISA Manzanares Campus

### PTA Back-to-School Potluck

Celebrate the beginning of the school year and get to know other TISA families during the second annual TISA back-to-school potluck dinner! Bring your family and a potluck dish according to the first letter of your family's last name:

Appetizers A-E  
Beverages F-J  
Main Dish K-O (we'll have grills available)  
Side Dishes P-T  
Dessert U-Z

We'll have one grill available for those bringing a main dish, but would appreciate the loan of at least one more. Please contact Susan Longhenry at [slonghenry@gmail.com](mailto:slonghenry@gmail.com) if you're able to lend a grill to this event. In the interest of environmental sustainability (i.e. avoiding the use of disposable dinnerware), families are welcome to bring their own plates, cups and utensils.

Come celebrate our wonderful school and get to know those friendly faces that you see at pick-up and drop-off!

Sponsored by the TISA PTA