School Ski Program

It’s that time of year again! The School Ski Program will be for children in 2nd-8th grades. The first ski day of the 5 week program will be Monday January 13th and ending on February 10th. Edward Sotelo is our school sponsor with the help of Gabriel Morgan. Any interested parents who would like to be a sponsor should send me an email. Sponsors will need to ride the bus both up and back down from TSV. The price for the 5 week program is $145. The ski registration packets will be ready for pick-up in the office starting Monday, November 4th. They will need to be turned back into the office no later than November 21st. We will reserve a bus for the ski Monday’s and only 41 students have the option to use the bus. The bus will be around $40 a student. Please send an email if you know your child will be a part of the ski program and if they will need the bus.

Director, Susan Germann

As I write this, today is Halloween – such an exciting day for all children and many adults. I didn’t take the time for a costume this year because the day crept up on me. I’ll start planning now for next year because I love “dress up!” It was so much fun this morning seeing all the creative costumes and happy faces.

When you get this newsletter it will be November 1st – All Saints Day and also Day of the Dead. I wonder – who are the saints in your life? They can be people who have passed or ones who are still with us. To me, a saint is someone who exhibits compassion and unconditional love to those around him/her. This would be a good time of the year to have conversations with your child(ren) about family history, especially those who have passed. I loved my maternal grandparents with all my heart and always will, though they are long gone. I still sometimes tell my children and now also my grandchildren, stories of events with my grandparents and remembrances of time with them. Doing so helps me to reflect on what I want to be remembered for and hopefully become a better person while on this plane.

I feel very grateful to be able to spend this time in my life with your children. I learn so much from them – our future saints!

TISA PTA, Welcome Deanna Sanders, the new PTA treasurer. Thank you for helping us out this year.

As a reminder the PTA meetings will always be held on the third Tuesday of the month. This month it will be on Tuesday November 19th at 5:30 and as always Child care and Pizza will be provided. Join us as we will talk about winter fundraising.
Second grade, As part of “Our Changing Community” U.B.D. we have begun learning all about the heroic people in the Mexican American community. Last week we focused on New Mexican born Dolores Huertes and her friend Cesar Chavez. We then learned all about Dia De Los Muertos from local muralist George Chacon. Chacon has been creating the community altar in the Taos Inn for the past 24 years. In math news we have moved from grouping tens to multiplication which is pretty exciting stuff! Web wise we are becoming technically savvy while practicing our 2 digit addition on khan academy. Shelter is on our minds as the days turn colder, last week we designed our own shelters from sticks, leaves, mud, straw and rocks then wrote a short story about what it would be like to actually live in the hut we had created, was it warm enough, too dark, safe from storms? As part of our shelter study we have voted to crochet scarves for the homeless. On the literacy front the “magic e” payed our classroom a visit this month and made the vowels state their names! We will soon begin our yearly “Taos Feeds Taos” food drive, please donate all you can and spread the word that TISA second grade has a drop off box for non-perishable food goods. If you have any yarn or crochet needles you would like to donate for our “Warming up Taos” shelter project please drop off at the Manzanares campus.

First grade joined fourth grade on a field trip to the South Boundary Trail in Taos Canyon just in time to enjoy the glorious colors of fall! We have started a unit on air and weather. Floating parachutes, making air powered water fountains and balloon rockets are some of the activities that are helping us explore concepts related to air. Is air really something? Does it take up space? Can it be compressed into smaller spaces? Can it be used to move things around? Air may be invisible, but it is powerful stuff!

Third grade, October has been such a beautiful month!!! Third grade has been enjoying the opportunity to work the soil to prepare it to sleep for the Winter and to nurture kale and flower bulbs. We studied our garden space to see where our plants would be best protected. The children intuitively knew that darker soil meant richer soil. They also concluded that planting next to a wall would protect and warm the plants. They worked together to turn the earth, singing songs in rhythm as they moved. We will plant flower bulbs and wait until spring for them to awaken........

Kinder

October has been filled with the magic of nature studies in the kindergarten class. Our wonderful student teacher, Miss Annie has been working with the children on a number of science projects involving pumpkins and plant skeletons. The children are proud to be creating their own pop-up seed books, science lab books, and a gigantic pumpkin patch installation up the stairway. We are studying patterns in nature, geometry, and art. This thematic unit will tie into our original interpretation of “Stone Soup” and another field trip to Lettuce Grow Farms mid-November.

Lost & Found

Please stop by the lost and found boxes located by the office or in the building near your child’s class. Many nice jackets are starting to pile up. If these items do not get picked up, we will donate them!
Fourth, the 4th Grade has been busily involved in a special P.E. project. For the last few weeks we have been training for the Taos Turkey Trot. This is a 5k road race and fun run/walk, which will take place on Saturday, November 23. Our class will enter under the team name “TISA Trotters”. Our goal is to walk/jog the entire distance and to finish the race as a team. We have been working with parent volunteers at Kit Carson Park on Friday afternoons. We have been working on concepts such as teamwork, positive self-motivation, gradual training, and the importance of stretching, warming up, and pacing. The benefits from this race will be donated to Taos Sports Alliance and the organization, Get Fit Taos Kids. We are learning about health and nutrition while participating in a project that will help other young people in the community do the same thing. We will integrate the arts by creating team tee-shirts that represent what TISA is all about. We encourage TISA staff and families to join us in this fun event. Visit www.taosturkeytrot.org for more information. Did you know that a 5k is approximately 3.1 miles?

I would also like to congratulate Sasha Kushner and Hailey Chanler who both won prizes for their art submissions in the, “Girl’s Guide to Swagger” art contest.

Sixth, the upper school would like to extend a formal thank you to Sarkis Gorial for sharing his expertise with a group of enthusiastic oil painters!

Upcoming Events
November-December

November 8th- End of Grading period 1
November 11th- Parent Teacher Conference
- No Monday Enrichment Program
November 12th- Parent Teacher Conference
- No school/ No Aftercare
November 13th- Monthly GC Board Meeting @ 6:00. 123 Manzanares Street
November 19th- Monthly PTA Meeting @ 5:30. 123 Manzanares Street.
November 25-29- Thanksgiving-Holiday
- No school/ No Aftercare/ No Monday Enrichment

December 11th- Monthly GC Board Meeting @ 6:00, 123 Manzanares Street
December 12th- Winter Program (Old Martina’s Hall)
December 17th- Monthly PTA Meeting @ 5:30. 123 Manzanares Street

From the PTA - Pizza Day
Thank you to all who participate in this wonderful fundraiser! We are off to a great start this year and hope to continue our success! We encourage parents to prepay for their child’s pizza and you are able to prepay at any time. You no longer need to pay the first of the month. If you would like to pay weekly for the first 2 weeks and then pay for the last two weeks of the month at once, go ahead! It all works for us! Because of this change and because we have all settled into pizza day each and every Friday, we will no longer be sending out weekly or monthly reminders. We do not want to inundate parents or teachers with anymore emails than necessary. We hope you and your children and enjoying pizza day!