

# TISA News

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September 2014

## *From the Director:*

September is upon us and we are busy with activities and art in every classroom. If you are the parent of a 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader, you should be very happy with the difference you are seeing this year. Megan Avina, 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, is planning so many diverse and interesting activities for those students. She took her class to the high school last week for a photojournalism activity and they came away very impressed with the HS science lab and the culinary arts department. Jamie Grefe, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, is introducing his students to various types of writing. Megan and Jamie are trading classes two hours a week so that 8<sup>th</sup> grade can have access to the writing and 7<sup>th</sup> to photojournalism. Naomi Cyr, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, is introducing her students to the way government works. I love walking through their classrooms and spending a bit of time witnessing all the learning and activity. In October I will give you information on what our K-5 students are doing.

## *FROM THE OFFICE:*

Mornings are nice and cool with warm enjoyable afternoons. Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing for this constantly changing weather. Many students have been out due to illness, and we ask if you have a sick child, please keep them home. Please remind your child to wash their hands throughout the day. I would also like to remind parents that students should come prepared to school with a snack, lunch, and backpack. I have had a lot of parents bringing lunch to school during lunch time, please have your child ready to go in the morning. Please make sure all forms that go home are completed and returned to your child's teacher. Forms like the income form are important for the school to receive funding for the classrooms. Thank you to all our parents who have volunteered time thus far in setting up classrooms, maintaining campus grounds, and volunteering time in the classroom. Charter schools rely heavily on parents to help with the constant changes taking place within the schools.

## *TISA PTA:*

The TISA PTA would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to everyone who signed up! The showing far exceeded our expectations and we are so honored to be part of this community. As you all know, bad weather got in the way of our **welcome back pot luck**, but we are back on for **Friday, September 19, at Kit Carson Park from 4:30-6:30**. Hopefully the weather will cooperate this time around. We are so looking forward to welcoming the new TISA families and seeing familiar ones. Please join us! Once again, we are asking families to provide the following:

- K/8th- drinks**
- 1st/7th-desserts**
- 2nd/6th-snacks**
- 3rd/5th-mains**
- 4th-fruits/veggies**

Our first PTA meeting will take place at the Manzanares campus in the classroom across from Nicole's office, Tuesday September 23, at 4:30pm. We are trying this time in order to allow parents to attend directly after pick-up, but we are open to changing depending on turnout. Childcare will be provided as well as pizza for the children in attendance. We urge you all to be there, and are excited to get planning and moving! Happy September!



## Kindergarten News

We will be exploring the second set of letters in the alphabet (fghij) this week. This is meant to be as an orientation week for the children. We will be returning to each letter for an extended amount of time.

In math we will be exploring shapes and patterns this week.

In art, we will be looking at shapes in works by Mondrian, Miro, Hepworth, Moore and Goldsworthy.

### Conversation Seeds

Here are a few ideas you might use as conversation starters about school.

How do you tell shapes apart from each other?

Can you show me how to make a shape with yarn? paper? your body?

Can you find shapes out in your yard?

Can you tell when someone is upset? happy? confused?

How can you help a friend feel good/better?



## First Grade News

Hello First Grade Families!

Our class has been working very hard on our first grade goals. Continue to do a great job in supporting your student by completing math homework and reading with your child for at least fifteen minutes each evening. As we get a little further into the year, I will send more specific reading/writing assignments.

I would like to start planning for a field trip to Taos Pueblo. First grade will learn more about the culture and history of our original Taos residents and I will be asking the students to observe the architecture and design of the Taos Pueblo. Thereafter, we will begin construction of a classroom model of a pueblo community.

Thank you for all of your support!

--Ms. LaRocque

## SECOND GRADE NEWS

The second grade has had an exciting time getting to know each other through scavenger hunts, Interest Inventories, and games. The students have completed activities designed to promote self-awareness. The group has demonstrated their many talents in the arts and academic areas. We developed a Class Charter which emphasizes happiness, respect, and kindness towards one another. We are beginning a Beatles music project in cooperation with our music teacher, Ms. Catherine and some local musicians.

## THIRD GRADE NEWS

3rd Grade is off to a great start. We have spent time the last few weeks learning about ourselves, and about each other. We have been answering the questions, "Who am I?", and "Who are we?". As a class we have come up with rules for the class, and have written our classroom charter. Each student has completed a "Who am I?" book that we will share with parents at the first parent/teacher conference. We have welcomed some students to our class who are new to TISA. We are also getting used to our new campus and taking advantage of the lovely parks that are located very close to us. We worked in small groups this last week to create posters for the 8th grade Anti-Bullying campaign. As we transition from summer to fall we will begin our next unit, Human Habitation. We will ponder the question, "What is community?". We will learn about the first inhabitants of New Mexico and understand how communities develop with the settlement and movement of people.



## *Fourth Grade News*

The 4th grade has been enjoying being together once again. We are excited to welcome back Edward Nixon to the class although we were said to say good-bye to Javier Carvalho. We welcome our new friends Jack Martinez, Tyler Smith and Circe Tosta. We've been working hard learning the classroom procedures and routines. We've been singing songs, reciting poetry and dancing as well as reading good literature and reviewing place value in math. We've begun our study of geography and begun to make maps of our locale. We are looking forward to camping at Lama next week for two days, enjoying the meadows, streams and forests. We will be hiking, playing games and participating in campfire activities while there.

## *Fifth Grade News*

The fifth grade has begun working on its first novel study for the book *Becoming Naomi Leon*. We have had many lively conversations and will begin some art-integrated activities this week to help us explore the characters and connect the text in deeper ways. Keep reading!

## *Sixth Grade News*

In our Cultural Studies/Art class we have studied the Huichol Indian people of the Sierra Madres and the beautiful Huichol Art they brought the world. The students have all created a colorful Huichol yarn painting inspired by the novel of an immigrant family we are reading, and we're looking forward to displaying them in the classroom and on our school's Facebook page. Next week we are looking forward to learning about the Pueblo people and feel very fortunate that one of our classmate's is going to lead us in the oral history and cultural significance of Dream Catchers--and we'll be creating our very own!

We are learning about US Democracy in our Social Studies Unit and the 6th grade has created a Student Senate that will be conducting weekly meetings that look much like they do in Washington, D.C. They will be discussing various school/classroom topics and voting on them, learning how bills become laws and of course learn what their duties and responsibilities are to their state. Each student has chosen a state they wish to represent and we will be incorporating current events and issues into the weekly meetings. These government officials have not yet been sworn into office, but will soon!

We are also going to share other learning styles and follow a 6th grade student as she home schools this year and a 5th grader as he travels with his family road schooling around the world visiting all seven continents. It will be a wonderful way for students to hear the different personal experiences of learning, and we're hoping at the end of the school year get to all get together and celebrate a great year spent and shared.



## SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

It's been a fantastic start to the 2014-15 school year for Grade Seven. This year's Grade Seven are a boisterous community of young learners, eager to create and prepared to challenge themselves academically. So far, we've written social location maps, designed multidisciplinary posters, wrote movie pitches for imaginary films, read essays by world-class thinkers, studied fictional elements, practiced revision techniques, and took two quizzes with both open and close-ended questions and more. Our days are a fun mixture of creativity and academic rigor. If these first three weeks are any indication of the rest of the year, then the sky's the limit for these students. It's a pleasure to be working with them. - Mr. Grefe



## Eighth Grade News

TISA eighth grade is a hub of activity as we prepare to welcome PASEO Taos into our classroom this month. PASEO is an incredible collection of science/art installations that will grace our little town at the end of September. Eighth graders will be working with some of the artists both before and after the event. Please check out [Paseotaos.org](http://Paseotaos.org) for more information and to read about our involvement. On another media front we are hard at work on our monthly column for The Taos News, we gathered some great stories and photos during our tour of Taos High- wait until you see their new science wing! Our monthly column will appear in The Taos News on the last Thursday of every month, look for student bylines! Our welcome unit is coming to a close with the anti-bullying poster contest we created; I was so impressed by the poems the 8th graders wrote for our presentations. You can find daily TISA news and photos on our new Facebook page Taos Integrated School of the Arts.



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**September 19<sup>th</sup>**- PTA Welcome Potluck @ Kit Carson from 4:30-6:30.

**September 23<sup>rd</sup>**- PTA Monthly Meeting @ 1232 Manzanares Campus @ 4:30 in the classroom across the main office.

**October 1<sup>st</sup>**- 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade picture day @ Manzanares

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>**- Kinder-4<sup>th</sup> Grades picture day @ Salazar

**October 8<sup>th</sup>**- GC Monthly Board Meeting @ Manzanares in classroom across main office.

**October 17<sup>th</sup>**- PTA Lantern Walk afterschool (TBA)



Want to help earn money for your child's school??? Please help collect Box Tops and drop them off with your child's teacher or in the office. Every Box Top helps. You can visit [www.boxtops.com](http://www.boxtops.com) for a list of qualifying products.

**Smith's Rewards Program**- visit [www.SmithsCommunityRewards.com](http://www.SmithsCommunityRewards.com) to create an account and select Taos Integrated School of the Arts and click Save. **TISA's Nonprofit Organization #80196**

Please note- Signing up for an account will not take away your fuel points. You will need to register your current fresh value card to the schools nonprofit organization number in order for the school to get rewards.



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