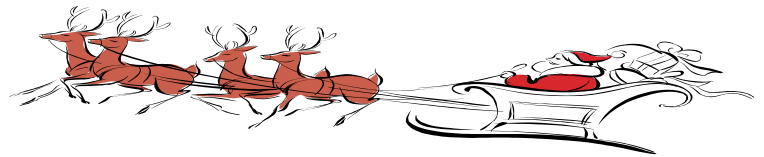




TISA



Director and Curriculum Director's Message:

Hello TISA families and community members,

This December, as we measure the last days of the year and prepare for the new one, TISA staff and students want to wish the very best for everyone in the Taos community. We have a vibrant school and many accomplishments to look proudly back upon in our three brief years of existence. None of these are possible without the greater Taos community and within that, the brightening TISA family.

We hope that all are able to attend the TISA Winter Program on Friday, December 7th, at 6:30pm at Bataan Hall on Civic Plaza Drive. As one of three community events TISA stages each year, the Winter Program will showcase the work of the students and of our three specialist teachers: John Biscello, our drama and theatrical arts coach and a recent published author of Freeze Tag, a collection of short stories, Madelyn Nazari, our music instructor, and a recording artist many times over, and Amber Vasquez, our movement and dance teacher and well known dancer and director of Taos Youth Ballet.

Another significant sight of the season will be the Festival of Trees, at El Monte Sagrado. This Thursday evening is children's night from 3:30-5:30. TISA has decked out the KTAO tree with musical motifs. Thanks to KTAO and the support of Jen Ventresca.

We thank you all, with these exhibitions of our learning and creativity. Please accept our warmest wishes and best regards for 2013.

Sandy Beery and Warren Kelly

Message from the PTA



Winter

The TISA PTA will be meeting Tuesday, December 4th at 5:30, with childcare and pizza provided- please join us! We're currently looking for a volunteer to help coordinate planning of several upcoming events- committees are formed, and have active chairpeople. We just need someone to be a point person for these committees to report to. Let us know if you'd be able to help with this by attending the meeting or emailing molly@twirlhouse.com or lkush@taosnet.com.

The PTA would like to announce the first Pizza Day, next Friday December 7th. Teachers will have sign-ups and be collecting payment earlier in the week if your child would like pizza for lunch Friday! Funds raised by pizza day will go toward the PTA fund for field trips and class supplies. We invite you to take a break from lunch packing and support TISA at the same time!

The PTA would like to thank Jen Ventresca and KTAO for organizing the TISA tree at the Festival of Lights. KTAO was very generous with their donations to make the tree a great deal for the bidders, and Jen did a lot of work with the teachers and TISA kids to get the tree decorated. Thank you!

Happy Holidays from the PTA! First meeting after break will be January 15th at 5:30.

Calendar Reminders

December 7th

Winter Festival 6:30pm
Bataan Hall

December 12th

Governing Council Meeting 6:00pm

December 24th - January 7th

Winter Break

School Ski Program

Ski packets have been completed and mailed out. We have a total of 40 students participating in the program this year. The program is for students in 2nd-7th grades only. Parents still need to make payment to TISA for the bus fee. The payments should be turned into the office and a receipt will be given. Please make sure your payment is for the exact amount as we do not have change in the office. **The bus fee will be \$37.50 per student.** We will have two pick up/ drop offs, Manzanres will be the main pick up and Seco will be the second pick up. Times will be sent out in a later e-mail. Please remind students that their best behavior is a must. Should an incident take place on the mountain it could result in disqualification to finish the program. Jamie Bauer, TISA's EA will be our school sponsor. We will be sending out more information to parents who are signing up to become sponsors. Thank you in advance for your help and participation during this school sponsored event.

Practice Conscious Discipline with your Kids

TISA practices Conscious Discipline. Parents can find more information about it at http://consciousdiscipline.com/about/conscious_discipline_for_parents.asp.

The core idea is that we can discipline differently than we were disciplined. We can break the cycle of "do as I say, not as I do," and learn to discipline without permissiveness, aggression or guilt. Look for windows into the process in upcoming newsletters. - Warren Kelly.



Kindergarten

"THANK YOU FOR THIS FEAST -- YUM YUM!
We couldn't eat another crumb!"

We celebrated Thanksgiving by play-acting the story, churning up a butter dance, doing chores from the olden days, taking our turkey for a tango, and having a 3-day fiesta. We cooked up a giant pot of stone soup and sorted our vegetables by their sounds. Here is our song to share with you all.

"What can you add to our stone soup?
Oh what can you add to our stone soup?
It must begin with the sound P
to belong in our stone soup.
Let's add potatoes, pumpkin, pepper and peas!
They all begin with the sound P
and make a very tasty soup."

Now our elves are busy in Santa's Workshop getting ready for Christmas!
We hope to have you over for tea in December!

1st Grade



First grade is reaching for the stars as we become lunar scientists this month during our Moon Unit which includes the study of meteors and other fiery orbiting objects. We made our own moon dirt and studied the impact of meteors upon the moon's surface. We will spend December watching the moon with the telescopes we made for optimum moon tracking. Our TISA Feeds Taos food drive is in its final stretch- please help us feed the hungry by donating a non-perishable item before December 19th. Our food collection box is located inside the Manzanares campus

2nd Grade

In second grade we are finishing up our "Layers" unit. We are exploring and mastering the layers involved in the writing process (prewrite, rough draft, final draft). We are learning and asking questions about the layers of our Earth. We have looked at rock layers, soil layers, and how these change over time. We are peeling back real and metaphorical layers in the things around us- where did it all come from? Can looking deeper than the surface layer of the people and things around us help us understand them better? In culmination we are creating Rock Creatures- puppets from the Earth's crust. These are inspiration for stories about rocks and the journeys they take to become what they are.



3rd Grade

The month of November flew by! Our class was thrilled to receive the gift of a class set of dictionaries from the Taos Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs. We've been using the dictionaries to help us define new vocabulary words, find synonyms, and help us with correct spelling. We finished our creation story books and are now starting our Human Habitation pop-up books. Over Thanksgiving break we had the homework of researching a human habitat. We are now compiling our research and getting ready to summarize information. We had an excellent time creating ornaments for the TISA tree at the Festival of Trees. December is sure to be a busy month!

4th Grade

The 4th grade class has been working on many different things. In math, we have been learning long division with one digit numbers divided into 4 digit numbers. We have also been learning about the cuttlefish. The cuttlefish are related to the octopus and the squid. It has a bone on its back and has long tentacles around its mouth. It swims backwards by sucking water into its mouth and spitting it out. It has special ink which it emits when it feels threatened.

But not everything is work in the 4th grade class. On, Wednesday we went to the library and to the Harwood Museum. At the Harwood Museum we saw many wonderful pieces of art and after the tour; we went into their art studio and made charcoal drawings. We were able to express ourselves in many different ways through our art. We also learned that different charcoal tools have different effects.

As you may know, our class has a tank full of crayfish. The crayfish are doing just fine. But we will be releasing them back into their home before vacation.

Brooke Walker



7th Grade

The 7th grade wants to wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanza, and a very Happy New Year. The weeks are flying by over here. We have been working hard on our film unit and learning a great deal about how to write research papers. There is only three more weeks of school left till Winter break and we have a lot to do!! Math and science don't magically become part of our brain; we must study hard to learn new concepts!!

See you in the New Year!
From the 7th grade



LOST AND FOUND BOX

We have a lost and found box located in the copy room. 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 warm jackets!!