

TIS Digital Backpack  
December 11, 2023



*Photo courtesy of M. Lachut*

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE:**

**PJ Day for the Kids**



Thank you to the T.I.S. Community for the outstanding participation displayed during PJ Day for the Kids. This year's PJ Day was even more meaningful for us than usual as one of our students is currently undergoing treatment for cancer. As a school community we proudly support our friend. .

## **Winter Weather**

It is important that students come to school dressed appropriately for cold weather. Because temperatures can fluctuate drastically during the day, appropriate cold weather clothing should be worn as a means of protection.. Students will go outside for recess unless it is raining, or if the temperature and wind chill combine for a temperature less than 20 degrees. Any student not dressed in long pants and in possession of a coat or heavy sweatshirt, on days in which the temperature or wind chill falls below freezing will be kept inside for that day's recess period.

## **Reflex Math Fact Fluency**

Throughout the school year students are engaged in continued enhancement of their math facts. One way this is accomplished is through use of an online, game-based program called Reflex. Reflex helps students master their basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts. Your child has been using the Reflex program here in school and in the case of some classes, at home as well.

Since Reflex is an online program, your child has the opportunity to continue using the program at home from any device with internet access. To access Reflex, please follow the steps below or download the Reflex Student app for iPad users.

- Go to <https://www.reflexmath.com>
- Click "Login" in the upper right hand corner
- Students should login with the username and student password listed below

Each session in Reflex takes approximately 15 minutes. Students are encouraged to login to Reflex at least 3 times per week at home or at school and get a Green Light. ***"Getting the Green Light is how students can gain improved math fact fluency as quickly and efficiently as possible! The Green Light—located in the upper right corner of the screen—illuminates once a student answers a certain number of facts correctly on a given day. This marks the completion of a good day's math fact fluency practice. During each Reflex session, Green Light progress is measured by a ring around the indicator light in the upper right of the screen. As a student advances through their session, the ring will fill in green. Once the ring is full, the indicator light will turn green. This means the student has reached the Green Light. They can now log out, or if time allows, spend their tokens at the Reflex store. Although the Green Light depends on students correctly answering facts, not time used, students can typically get the Green Light in 15 minutes of concentrated use. For best results, students should get the Green Light at least***

**three days a week.”** <https://www.explorellearning.com/resources/insights/green-light-goal-reflex>

## Happy Holidays Tolland Readers!

It's December which means we're entering peak book giving time. Giving books as gifts is a great way to help raise kids who read. If you're looking for some suggestions, just click on the link below for a comprehensive look at the Best Books of 2023 from the *School Library Journal*. There's even a handy downloadable guide just below the brightly colored category section. And... for parents looking for ways to actively help their young readers, we've included instructions for corrective feedback.

[Best Books of 2023](#)

# T.I.S. CALENDAR

## DECEMBER

- 6 Grade 4 & 5 Chorus Concert
- 8 District P.J. Day (see flyer in the following pages)
- 13 EARLY RELEASE, 12:40
- 22 EARLY RELEASE, 12:40

**WINTER BREAK: DECEMBER 25, 2023 – JANUARY 1, 2024  
(FIRST DAY BACK IN SCHOOL IS TUESDAY, JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>)**

# NEW ITEMS THIS WEEK:

*From Our Reading Department*

## **December Reading Thoughts From the Reading Department**

Dear Parents,

The following passage will explain why it is so critical for your student to be reading at home each evening. We hope it will encourage you to read to and with your child daily. It is important that they have practice with reading out loud and silently as well.

Practice makes Permanent!!!

Happy Reading.

~~~~~

### Why Your Child Should Read for 20 minutes Every Day

**“WHY CAN’T I SKIP MY 20 MINUTES OF READING TONIGHT?”**

**LET’S FIGURE IT OUT --- MATHEMATICALLY!**

**Student A reads 20 minutes five night of every week;**

**Student B reads only 4 minutes a night...or not at all!**

**Step 1: Multiply minutes a night x 5 times each week.**

**Student A reads 20 minutes x 5 times a week = 100 min. /week**

**Student B reads 4 minutes x 5 times a week = 20 minutes**

**Step 2: Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks each month.**

**Student A reads 400 minutes a month.**

**Student B reads 80 minutes a month.**

**Step 3: Multiply minutes a month x 9 months/school year**

**Student A reads 3600 min. in a school year.**

**Student B reads 720 min. in a school year.**

**Student A practices reading the equivalent of ten (10) whole school days a year.**

**Student B gets the equivalent of only two (2) school days of reading practice.**

**By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade if Student A and Student B maintain these same reading habits, Student A will read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student B will have read the equivalent of only 12 school days.**

**One would expect the gap of information retained will have widened considerably and so, undoubtedly, will school performance. How do you think Student B will feel about him/herself as a student?**

**Some questions to ponder:**

**Which student would you expect to read better?**

Which student would you expect to know more?

Which student would you expect to write better?

Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?

Which student would you expect to be more successful in school . . . . and life?

The source for this article is the U.S. Department of Education America Reads Challenge publication “Start Early, Finish Strong, How to Help Every Child Become a Reader.” For further information see the [America Reads Website](#).

~~~~~

### ***Fall Back with Read Alouds!***

The fall is a great time to get back into curling up *indoors* with some pumpkin spice and a good book. Reading aloud to your children not only helps to ***strengthen your children’s listening, thinking and verbal skills***; it also helps to create warm childhood memories and some face to face family bonding *away from the glaring blue light of a screen*. And while you’re at it.....Why not “spice it up” by....oh.....let’s see .....**becoming your child’s personal fluency model**? “How, pray tell, do I do that, you ask? Just **make your reading sound like talking**. Ham it up a little! Add some expression! Put emphasis on different words to show meaning. **Ask them what they think. Give the characters different voices. Modulate your voice to thrill and engage** their attention. **Act out a scene!**

***The joy is in the visualizing!*** Remind your child to make movies in his/her mind and then talk about what you all saw in the “movie in your mind”. **Stop at different intervals** and ask, “What are you thinking?” **Review some wordless picture books** and talk about the clues in the pictures.

**Read some nonfiction together** and explore new places and topics. Don’t let the fleeting light and warmth of summer chill *your* bones. Grab a mug of

hot pumpkin apple cider latte, make some great family memories and **turn your child into a reader who ultimately prefers the book to the movie** and your living room to whatever setting lies beyond.....


The most important thing is to read. The more children read and are read to the better reader they will become.

Happy Reading!






# Letters to Santa



From November 28- December 13th 2023  
Santa's elves will be collecting letters left in  
the mail boxes at the Tolland Post Office,  
Tolland Public Library, Birch Grove and the  
Tolland Recreation Department Office.



It is so hard for Santa to write back when a  
child doesn't include their **FULL NAME &**  
**ADDRESS**, so please be sure that children  
include them!



**ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK'S DIGITAL BACKPACK**

**UPDATED TEPTO MEETING DATES CALENDAR:**

**TEPTO**

**TOLLAND ELEMENTARY  
PARENT TEACHER  
ORGANIZATION**

**JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS!**

Wednesday September 6: Birch Grove Primary Library  
Wednesday October 4: Tolland Intermediate School Library  
Wednesday November 1: BGP Library  
Tuesday December 5 : TIS Library  
Wednesday February 7: BGP Library  
Wednesday March 6: TIS Library  
Wednesday April 3: BGP Library  
Wednesday May 1: TIS Library  
Wednesday June 5: BGP Library \*

**7 :00 pm**

**All meetings begin at 7:00 PM**

Questions? TEPTO Contact Information:

Diana Gascon, President  
dcancellieri79@gmail.com  
Becky Moore, VP  
rlmoore313@gmail.com



# THE TEPTO YEAR AT A GLANCE



## SEPTEMBER

- JOIN US! BG LIBRARY:  
SEPT. 6 @ 7PM
- LYMAN PIE ORDERS
- KASTLE ORDERS
- CIDER MILL ROAD RACE
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR  
STORE- ONGOING ALL YEAR

## OCTOBER

- JOIN US! TIS LIBRARY:  
OCT. 4 @ 7PM
- STAFF APPRECIATION
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR STORE-  
ONGOING ALL YEAR

## NOVEMBER

- JOIN US! BG LIBRARY:  
NOV. 1 @ 7PM
- LYMAN PIE PICK UPS
- KASTLE ORDERS SHIP TO HOME  
TIS BOOK FAIR
- ART TO REMEMBER ORDERS
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR STORE-  
ONGOING ALL YEAR

## DECEMBER

- JOIN US! TIS LIBRARY:  
DEC. 6 @ 7PM
- FROSTY FEST
- BIRCH GROVE BOOK FAIR
- ART TO REMEMBER DELIVERY
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR STORE-  
ONGOING ALL YEAR

## JANUARY

- NO MEETING THIS MONTH!
- KINDNESS SIGN CAMPAIGN  
ORDERS AND PICK UP
- 5TH GRADE DANCE
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR  
STORE- ONGOING ALL YEAR

## FEBRUARY

- JOIN US! BG LIBRARY:  
FEB. 7 @ 7PM
- STAFF APPRECIATION
- KINDNESS SIGN DISPLAYS
- BUTTER BRAID ORDERS
- 4TH GRADE DANCE
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR STORE-  
ONGOING ALL YEAR

## MARCH

- JOIN US! TIS LIBRARY:  
MAR. 6 @ 7PM
- TIS BOOK FAIR
- BUTTER BRAID PICK UP
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR  
STORE- ONGOING ALL YEAR

## APRIL

- JOIN US! BG LIBRARY:  
APR. 3 @ 7PM
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR  
STORE- ONGOING ALL YEAR

## MAY

- JOIN US! TIS LIBRARY:  
MAY 1 @ 7PM
- BIRCH GROVE BOOK FAIR
- SPRING SOCIAL AND ART  
SHOW
- STAFF APPRECIATION
- VISIT THE SPIRIT WEAR STORE-  
ONGOING ALL YEAR

## JUNE

- JOIN US! BG LIBRARY:  
JUNE 5 @ 7PM\*\* (SUBJECT TO  
CHANGE)
- SCHOOL SUPPLY ORDERS

## JULY



## AUGUST

- SCHOOL SUPPLY ORDERS  
ARRIVE- FREE SHIP TO HOME!
- GEARING UP FOR THE NEW  
YEAR!



# SPRING 2024 REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Tolland Little League has opened spring registration for both baseball and softball.

Once again, we will be establishing teams early to get pre season practices in at Star Hill. To get the most of this benefit for all participants, registration will be closing for all levels other than our T-Ball programs January 7th. Scan for more information.

Please register today!!



## Unified Arts Update for November 2023

Art ~ Library ~ Music ~ Physical Education



### Ms. Ballard - Art

**Third** graders students will begin exploring the **Elements of Art** called **Space and Color**. They will create a **Paper Weaving**. We will be using the Element of **Color** to decorate our fall weavings. Fall pictures will be added to the paper weaving as well as the colored strips of paper. We will also be talking about repeat **Patterns of Color** in our weavings. **No smock is needed this month.**

**Fourth** graders will be working on **Fire Prevention Posters** during the month of November. We will be using crayons, markers or colored pencils for this project. **No smock is needed this month.** Students will be given all rules and a folder for their art work. **Take your time and do a job you're proud of! Good Luck to all!**

**Fifth** graders will be finishing up their **Marionette bodies by the tenth of November.** We will be taking a short break from our puppet making to work on **Fire**



**Prevention posters** like the 4th graders.

**We hope we can have a Tolland 4th or 5th grade student win the State Fire Prevention Contest this year!**

**Are you going to be the one? Good Luck to all!**

### Mrs. Hill - Library/Tech/STEM

**Third grade:** students will begin fiction genre studies at the intermediate school level. They will be learning about fantasy, mystery, historical fiction, science fiction, realistic fiction and traditional literature. Learning will be through a variety of methods, including: mini-movies from teachertube, powerpoint presentations, hands-on book sorting, genre bingo, Socrative reviews on the computer and interactive SmartBoard lessons. Third grade will also received the guidelines for the *voluntary* Library Book Challenges for this year. The library book challenges are based on reading from all different types of fiction genres.

**Fourth grade and Fifth grade:** have just finished reviewing nonfiction and students will now be moving on to nonfiction and reviewing the Dewey Decimal System. **Fifth grade:** just concluded a Library STEM Challenge in October to build a monster trap that did not hurt the monster. The students created some very interesting and innovative traps and demonstrated them to their classmates. Check out this short video clip from one STEM team. I will combine all of the videos taken for each STEM project by class. The iMovies



will then be uploaded to the class Library Google Classroom for viewing.



**Fourth grade** will show their STEM skills in the Library this month when they are challenged with **how to catch a turkey!**



**Ms. Baker - Music & Chorus**

**Grade 3 general music:** Third graders are learning to read and perform rhythms which contain eighth notes, quarter notes, quarter rests, and sixteenth notes, using boomwhackers and non-pitched percussion. The third graders are learning how to appropriately and respectfully sing their patriotic songs for our Veteran's Day assembly.

**Grade 4 general music:** The fourth graders just completed their studies of the music of Australia and are now working on the music of North America. Students learn about the music cultures, instruments and geography of this continent. The fourth graders are also learning to read and perform rhythms which contain eighth notes, quarter notes, quarter rests, and sixteenth notes, using boomwhackers and non-pitched percussion. They are learning how to appropriately and respectfully use a variety of musical instruments. They are also learning to sing their patriotic songs for our Veteran's Day assembly.

**Grade 5 general music:** The fifth graders are beginning their unit of study on music technology and composing and creating. They will compose and perform their own graphic notation pieces using vocal sounds and body percussion

as well as using our creativity boxes which are full of unique musical instruments. They have begun playing and learning about the ukuleles during their WIN block music time. Fun, Fun, Fun!! They are also learning to sing their patriotic songs for our Veteran's Day assembly.

**Grade 4 & 5 Chorus:** *Grade 4 & 5 chorus is preparing for the winter concert*

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023 in the TIS gym.**

**\*Grade 4 chorus concert will be at 6:00 in the Gym .**

**\*Grade 5 chorus concert will be at 7:15 in the gym.** *See you there!*

The TIS grade 4 & 5 **Spring concert will be Thursday, April 25, 2024.**  
*Mark your calendars!*



## **Mrs. Marchesani - 4th and 5th Grade Band 3rd Grade Music Times Three**

### **Chorus**

**Grade 4 Band:** Band members have learned how to assemble, disassemble and clean their instruments safely. They are working hard to learn fingerings and proper embouchure (mouth position). It is so exciting to see and hear students enthusiastically learning how to play their instrument! Students have reviewed the values for whole and half notes and whole and half rests. Many Band students are already playing simple melodies such as "Hot Cross Buns" on their



instrument!

It is truly a joy to witness your children on their amazing journey of learning how to play an instrument solo and in small groups!

**Grade 5 Band:** All Band members are working hard to master melodies using the Concert Bb scale. Later on, we will add in Concert Eb and Concert F scales. Mike Hannickel's "Scale Preps for Beginning Band" helps Band students develop technique and listening skills. We use them for warm-ups and a fun way to start Band class. We are also reviewing counting and playing eighth notes using the Standard of Excellence Book 1 (the red book) # 46 "Jim Along Josie" and #51 "Skip It Lou", both pieces are American folk tunes. Band members are starting to master playing syncopated rhythms and tied notes with different values. #153 "Kum Ba Yah" contains both of these rhythmic skills. *Save the date:* **Step Up Concert with Grade 6 & 7 Bands at TMS, 7:00 p.m. on March 18, 2024 and the snow date March 19, 2024.** Call time for Band members is 6:30 p.m. at the TMS



Band room.

**3rd Grade Music Times Three:** Music Times Three meets on Thursdays during our 2:40 to 3:10 p.m. WIN block. We have 78 students in our Mx3 membership! We are having fun singing two call and response style songs, "I Hear the Bells" and "Mr. Clicketty Cane". Two other popular songs are our TIS school song "Hawk Song" and "This Land Is Your Land". Our favorite movement activity is "Here Comes a Bluebird", a children's movement and singing game from Scotland which also promotes taking turns.

I look forward to the chance to help each student experience growth in their musicianship and leadership skills this year!

Please contact me anytime with questions or concerns! [nmarchesani@tolland.k12.ct.us](mailto:nmarchesani@tolland.k12.ct.us) 860-870-6885 x 40226



## **Mr. Downing – Physical Education**

**Third grade:** Students will be starting a throwing unit. During the unit, the critical elements associated with the overhand throw will be reviewed and the students will practice the overhand throw using a variety of throwing activities and games.



**Fourth grade:** Students will be starting a throwing unit. During the unit, the critical elements associated with the overhand throw will be reviewed and the students will practice the overhand throw using a variety of throwing activities and games.

**Fifth grade:** Students will be starting a throwing unit. During the unit, the critical elements associated with the overhand throw will be reviewed and the students will practice the overhand throw using a variety of throwing activities and games.

# TIS SPIRITWEAR!!

Get ahead on your holiday shopping with the TIS Holiday Sale! Featuring new designs and gifts for parents, grandparents and more! Shop at <https://1stplace.sale/109626>

## Holiday Sale Info

- **Sale Dates:** November 6th - December 8th
- **Savings:** 20% discount sitewide
- **Shipping:** Free shipping over \$75, \$5 shipping under \$75
- **Delivery:** All orders are guaranteed delivery by December 23rd

## Links

- **Store Link:** <https://1stplace.sale/109626>

**TIS**

**Holiday SALE**  
**20% OFF**

TIS  
TIS  
TIS HAWKS  
ONE SCHOOL, ONE TEAM, TIS!  
GRANDPA  
TIS HAWKS  
ONE SCHOOL, ONE TEAM TIS!

**GREAT GIFTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**  
Guaranteed Delivery By **DEC. 23rd**

**1ST PLACE** | **ORDER AT 1STPLACE.SALE/109626**  
SALE RUNS 11/6 - 12/8

SCAN HERE TO ORDER

TOLLAND RECREATION

# RECREATION YOUTH BASKETBALL

SATURDAY GIRLS & BOYS



**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

**GAMES:** Saturdays, schedule will vary

**PRACTICES:** Will be held 1 day per week during the weekday

**DATES:** Mid December - Early March

**BOYS LEAGUE GRADES:** 3rd & 4th, 5th & 6th, 7th & 8th, 9th-12th

**GIRLS LEAGUE GRADES:** 3rd - 5th & 6th - 9th

**FEE: \$100.00**

**NOT ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS AFTER NOVEMBER 17, 2023**

**VOLUNTEER COACHES ARE NEEDED FOR ALL AGE GROUPS. LEAGUES CANNOT START UNTIL WE HAVE ENOUGH COACHES. CALL THE RECREATION OFFICE AT 860-871-3610**



JOIN THE

-CREW-

After School

SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE!



TOLLAND RECREATION PRESENTS "the CREW After School" Program

CELEBRATING RECREATION, EDUCATION AND WELL-BEING

C  
R  
E  
W

- After School Care for TIS Students
- Monday-Friday open until 6:00 P.M.
- Includes Early Release Days!
- We focus on homework & reading each day as well as recreational games & activities

For more information call 860-871-3610 or visit [www.tollandct.myrec.com](http://www.tollandct.myrec.com)

\$250.00/per month

**- 50% ARPA Fund DISCOUNT**

**ONLY \$125/Month!**

# K-12 Student Accident Insurance **Enroll Online**



[www.studentinsurance-kk.com](http://www.studentinsurance-kk.com)

Worried about paying for your child's medical care if an accident should happen? K&K's student accident insurance can help.

## **K-12 Accident Plans available through your school:**

- *At-School Accident Only*
- *24-Hour Accident Only*
- *Extended Dental*
- *Football*

## **How to Enroll Online**

Enrolling online is easy and should take only a few minutes. Go to [www.studentinsurance-kk.com](http://www.studentinsurance-kk.com) and click the "**Enroll Now**" button.

1. Start by telling us the name of the school district and state where your child attends school.
2. We'll request each student's name and grade level.
3. You'll see the available plans and their rates. Select your coverage and continue to the next step.
4. We'll request information about you, like your name and email address.
5. Next, you'll enter information about the child or children to be covered.
6. Enter your credit card or eCheck payment information.
7. Finally, print out a copy of the confirmation for your records.

For further details of the coverage including costs, benefits, exclusions, any reductions or limitations and the terms under which the policy may be continued in force, please refer to [www.studentinsurance-kk.com](http://www.studentinsurance-kk.com). Student is able to purchase the coverage only if his/her school district is a policyholder with the insurance company.

¿Le preocupa tener que pagar la atención médica de su hijo si ocurre un accidente? El seguro contra accidentes para estudiantes de K&K puede ayudarlo.

## **Planes de cobertura en caso de accidente para K-12 disponibles a través de su escuela:**

- *Sólo accidentes en la escuela*
- *Sólo accidentes, 24 horas*
- *Dental extendido*
- *Fútbol*

## **Cómo inscribirse en línea**

Inscribirse en línea es fácil y sólo le tomará unos pocos minutos. Visite [www.studentinsurance-kk.com](http://www.studentinsurance-kk.com) y haga clic en el botón "**Enroll Now**" ("Inscribirse ahora").

1. Comience por decirnos el nombre del distrito escolar y el estado en el que su hijo(a) va a la escuela.
2. Solicitaremos el nombre y el grado de cada uno de los estudiantes.
3. Verá los planes disponibles y sus tarifas. Seleccione su cobertura y continúe con el siguiente paso.
4. Le solicitaremos información sobre usted, como su nombre y dirección de correo electrónico.
5. Después, ingresará la información acerca del niño o niños que recibirá(n) cobertura.
6. Ingrese la información de pago de su tarjeta de crédito o eCheck.
7. Finalmente, imprima una copia de la confirmación para sus registros.

Para obtener más detalles sobre la cobertura, incluidos costos, beneficios, exclusiones y reducciones o limitaciones y los términos en virtud de los cuales esta póliza podría continuar en vigencia, consulte [www.studentinsurance-kk.com](http://www.studentinsurance-kk.com). Los estudiantes pueden comprar la cobertura únicamente si su distrito escolar es titular de una póliza con la compañía de seguros.



## **School Meals 2023-2024:**

All students are eligible for a free breakfast each day. Students who qualify for free or **reduced-price meals** will also be eligible to receive one free lunch daily. **ALL OTHER LUNCHES WILL BE CHARGED AT THE CURRENT LUNCH PRICE PER SCHOOL.**

Payment for these lunches is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. The district participates in the National School Lunch Program and Breakfast Program which offers students nutritionally balanced meals daily. The lunch period is 30 minutes. Proper manners are always expected in the cafeteria. Free and reduced price meals are available based on financial need. Information on this program may be obtained from the main office or Abby Kassman-Harned, the Food Service Director, at [aharned@tolland.k12.ct.us](mailto:aharned@tolland.k12.ct.us) or 870-6854.

We use a Point-of-Sale System that allows you to put money into an account for your child to purchase meals.

Scanning – All students will be scanned unless the parent or guardian opts out of this biometric identification procedure. When your child comes through the service line, he/she will scan his/her finger as a means of identification.

Payments – The cost of lunch at Birch Grove and Tolland Intermediate school is \$3.15. One school breakfast is free for all students. One milk is provided for each lunch and breakfast. Ala carte milk is \$0.75. You may sign up for [“My School Account”](#) and make your payments online. Your child may give payment along with a form to his/her classroom teacher to send to the office, or he/she may bring payment directly to the cashier in the cafeteria at mealtime. Your payment may take us a few days to process. It is important to keep a positive balance in your students’ accounts. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact us at 860-870-6854 or [aharned@tolland.k12.ct.us](mailto:aharned@tolland.k12.ct.us)



*The End*

