

TIS Digital Backpack December 18, 2023



Photo courtesy of M. Lachut

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE:

CogAT

Last week, third grade students began taking a cognitive ability test called the CogAT. The CogAT consists of three 30 minute tests, a verbal battery, a quantitative battery, and a non verbal battery. The information garnered from the CogAT will be used to help teachers adapt instructional methods, learning materials, and the pace of instruction, to meet the individual needs of their students. In addition, the CogAT is used to help identify academically gifted students, which is mandated by state statute.

Recess Equipment

Recess equipment is provided by the school each day for student use during recess. We ask that children do not bring their own equipment to school for use during recess. The reason for this request is that in order to minimize recess injuries, we carefully purchase equipment, such as soccer balls, that are generally softer in nature than typical soccer balls. In addition, balls are often lost or inadvertently kicked over the fence each day during recess.

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.explorelearning.com/resources/insights/green-light-goal-reflex>

T.I.S. CALENDAR

DECEMBER

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 2ND)

NEW ITEMS THIS WEEK:

FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSE:

Appropriate Outerwear and Appropriate Footwear

Two reminders for your student. Please remind them to know their scheduled day for gym class. They should be wearing appropriate athletic footwear to participate in required gym activities. Should you have any questions please reach out to kdowning@tolland.k12.ct.us OR you may contact the nurse. If your student does not know their gym day, have them check their class schedule. If they do not usually wear athletic shoes, a good option would be for them to have a labeled pair they keep in their locker.

Winter weather and outdoor recess. Your student should plan to have appropriate outerwear for cooler temperatures. If the weather is 20 degrees F and calm, recess is most likely outdoors. Days where there is snow on the ground and the temperature is warm enough; outdoor play will likely occur. Please help your student plan to bring, or wear, the appropriate outdoor gear for their comfort level. Boots are needed to play in the snow.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS

Grade 3

It is so hard to believe that we are already so close to our Holiday break and when we return it will be January of a new year. Your third graders are making some wonderful progress and memories as we move through the year. Just a few reminders that it is around this time of year that school supplies begin to dwindle. So please refresh their supply of pencils and whiteboard markers. In addition, the weather has taken a turn and things are getting cold outside. Please make sure your child is wearing a winter coat when they arrive at school each day. Bringing hats, gloves, snow pants and boots is also important as we see some snow. If they have snow pants and boots, they are allowed to play in the snow, if they don't they will be on the blacktop only during recess. The office staff have been overwhelmed with students borrowing Chromebooks. Please remember that students are responsible for having a charged Chromebook each day. We encourage you to find a regular spot for charging and use it nightly.

We are buzzing right along with our curriculum. In the Bridges Math program we are in Unit 3, which focuses on addition and subtraction problems. Students are learning different strategies for solving word problems and learning about estimation and rounding. December Number Corner focused on fractions of a whole, equivalent fractions and collecting grams. We continue to practice multiplication and division facts on a daily basis and encourage students to practice this at home as well.

In Language Arts we are continuing with the Journeys program. We have read stories about traditions, such as the Kamishibai Man, and Harvest Birds. Our next unit has some informational texts about inventions that helped sports. We'll read some trickster tales, Native American stories, and about service animals. In Foundations we are currently working on the Bonus Unit. This unit includes work with Greek and Latin roots and prefixes.

After the winter break we'll begin our science unit that focuses on forces and motion. The unit includes several hands-on activities working with gravity, friction, static electricity and magnetism.

Grade 4

Fourth grade chorus members enjoyed caroling around the building as they treated TIS staff and students to a variety of holiday songs. We look forward to another festive treat on Tuesday, December 19th when the Tolland High School Band and Chorus Holiday Tour performs for TIS students and staff. TIS will also have a whole school winter assembly on Thursday, December 21st which will feature holiday songs from around the world.

This month's Number Corner activities focus on geometry as students explore congruence, line symmetry, and parallel and perpendicular lines in figures. Students

worked to define pentominoes and their attributes. Fractions and decimals are featured in Unit 3. Students use various tools to model, read, write, compare, compose and decompose fractions and decimals.

In language arts students use close reading strategies to analyze and annotate texts. Fact and opinion, theme, point of view, and drawing conclusions are all target skills. Selections include a variety of genres such as informational text, plays, and realistic fiction.

In science the students are exploring our changing Earth. The causes and effects of weathering and erosion on the Earth's landscape are the primary focus. At the end of the unit, students will apply their learning as they work to create a plan to slow erosion on hiking trails.

We hope that everyone enjoys some time with family and friends over the winter break and has a happy, healthy New Year!

Grade 5

In ELA, students are wrapping up our first module on cultures in conflict. Students completed their first novel, "Thunder Rolling in the Mountains," by Newbery medalist Scott O'Dell and Elizabeth Hall. Throughout this module, students learned about the American westward expansion, Nez Perce culture, and studied the conflict between the Nez Perce and the U.S. government. This novel is told through the poignant voice of Sound of Running Feet, daughter of Nez Perce leader Chief Joseph. Students concluded this module by reading Chief Joseph's "Lincoln Hall Speech" to members of Congress in 1879, in which he makes his case for his people to return to their homeland. At the end of the readings, students completed a compare and contrast essay about Chief Joseph and Sound of Running Feet.

In January, students will begin module 2 about wordplay and how authors use wordplay to engage audiences, create humor and meaning, and express themes.

Students have completed book reports on the following genres: realistic fiction, mystery, historical fiction and fantasy. Students will read a Nutmeg awarded book in January, a biography or autobiography in February, and a science fiction text in March.

In Social Studies, students have spent this trimester learning about indigenous life and exploration. Through our ELA text and other text types, students explored the cultural practices of indigenous peoples prior to colonization including ways of governing, gender roles, and economic systems. Students analyzed ways that cultural practices of indigenous peoples were similar/different than they were in surrounding regions.

Students are also learning reasons for European exploration and the conflicts the Europeans had with the Native Americans. Students are learning about the Vikings, Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus, and other early explorers. Students have begun to explain the reasons (economic, political, social and religious) that lead people to leave Europe for the New World. Students will continue to evaluate the impact of colonization on indigenous people's ways of life. In January, students will begin learning more about colonization.

In Math, students completed their unit on adding and subtracting fractions as well as learning how to simplify fractions and turn improper fractions into mixed numbers. We are now beginning Unit 3 - Place Value and Decimals. Students are extending their place value understanding of decimals by reading, writing, modeling and comparing decimals to the ten thousandths. They have learned a few new workplace games and a warm up "I Have ____, You Need ____" game. In December Number Corner, students are working on classifying quadrilaterals and creating scatter plots and line plots of their height and foot size.

In Science, students finished our Solar System unit by creating a final project on a topic we've studied this year. We finish December by engaging students in a mini unit on matter. When we return in January, students will begin a unit on ecosystems with a focus on Golden Jellyfish.

Happy Winter Break!

NEWS FROM OUR MATH INTERVENTIONISTS

The math intervention classrooms are really working hard so far this year! Third graders have been really polishing up those addition and subtraction skills. We've been playing some awesome games to help us with multi-digit addition. One of our favorites has been Target 100. The students add up some two digit numbers and then subtract that total from 100. Whoever is closer is the winner for that round. The third graders are getting really good at these games and working hard on their subtraction with regrouping. They also love Countdown from 90. They also have been working on learning some of the basic multiplication facts. Fourth graders have just started working on fractions. There has been a lot of talk about pizza and pies. Each class gets super hungry thinking $\frac{3}{8}$ of a pepperoni pizza! We have been learning about equivalent fractions and how if Mrs. Fischer ate $\frac{3}{6}$ of a large pizza and Mr. McCarthy ate $\frac{6}{12}$ of a large pizza; it would actually be the same amount of pizza. The fourth graders have also been able to master a memory game where they have to match a drawing of a fraction with its numerical representation. They are getting really good at matching those fractions. Fifth grade is doing a quick refresher on decimal place value. We are building visual place value charts in our classes so students can see the difference between 0.01, 0.1, 1, 10 etc. Sometimes making models of something and seeing the visual representation can make things a lot easier to understand. They have also been working on their fact fluency with some amazing games like The Product Game, and Products 4 in a Row. Speaking of fact fluency... many kids have been racking up the green lights through the Reflex on-line program. This is a great way to become a bit more automatic with facts of every operation. Keep it up TIS and if you haven't been on in a while, now is a great time to start up again!

ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK'S DIGITAL BACKPACK

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.

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### **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](#).

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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!

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 *

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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!!



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

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TIS HAWKS
TIS HAWKS
ONE SCHOOL. ONE TEAM. ONE GRANDPA
TIS HAWKS
TIS HAWKS
ONE SCHOOL. ONE TEAM. ONE TIS

GREAT GIFTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Guaranteed Delivery By **DEC. 23rd**

1ST PLACE Sportswear | **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

\$250.00/per month

- 50% ARPA Fund DISCOUNT

ONLY \$125/Month!

K-12 Student Accident Insurance

Enroll Online



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 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. 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 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. 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 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



The End

