

TIS Digital Backpack
December 4, 2023



Photo courtesy of M. Lachut

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE:

HAWK Nests

Our most recent HAWK Nest meeting focused on empathy. Each HAWK Nest reviewed the meaning of the term empathy. As a culminating activity, students played a game of charades. During the game students acted out synonyms for empathy.

Assistant Principal, Jennifer Merritt, with her Hawk Nest Group



The purpose of HAWK's Nest is to support the health, safety, and social and emotional well-being of staff and students. We come together to build healthy relationships and teach social and emotional skills.

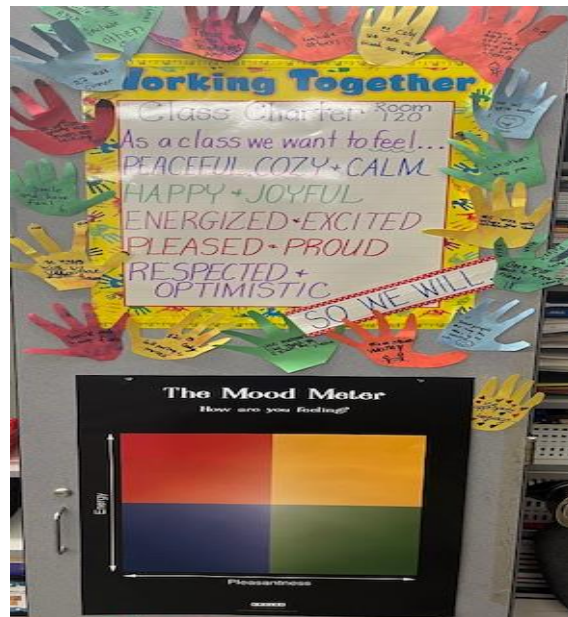
In this month's Hawks Nest we talked about the word "empathy," and practiced trying to figure out how someone else is feeling based on their facial expressions and body language.

My group was getting ready to play feelings charades. It was fun and we all got a chance to use our acting skills. Hawks Nest meetings are a great way for all staff to connect with kids!

Ten Book Challenge

Congratulations to our newest Ten Book Challenge finisher! Leo from Mrs. Dempsey and Mrs. Grabowski's team. All Ten Book Challenge finishers receive a token to choose a book from the PTO book vending machine.

Class Charter



All classrooms at TIS have established a class charter. Creating a Classroom Charter is a wonderful way for a class to establish a shared set of values and norms, which can help create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. By involving everyone in the process of crafting the charter, each student feels heard and valued, and can contribute to the creation of a positive and respectful class culture.

The Classroom Charter can include a variety of values and norms, such as respect, honesty, kindness, inclusion, and responsibility. These values can be expressed through specific behaviors, such as using kind words, listening respectfully to others, and taking responsibility for one's actions.

Once the Classroom Charter is established, it can be prominently displayed in the classroom as a reminder of the values and norms that the class has agreed upon. It can also be referred to throughout the year as a way to address any issues that may arise and to reinforce the importance of creating a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Overall, the creation of a Classroom Charter is a great way for a class to come together and establish a shared sense of values and norms, which can help promote a positive and respectful class culture.

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 2ND)

NEW ITEMS THIS WEEK

News from Student Services



REACH

Relationships
Emotions
Academic
Career
Help

REACH classes with Mrs. Bishopric, School Counselor, promote knowledge, attitudes, and skills through instruction in three content areas: academic achievement, career development, and personal/social growth. This year, we meet with all students approximately once per month in the specials rotation to deliver the lessons.

Third Grade

Third Grade students have had a busy year in REACH so far! We began the year with a lesson introducing the School Counseling team at T.I.S. Students learned how to schedule an appointment with a counselor and all about how we are here to help kids manage their big feelings! During the month of October, we learned about the importance of making sure others feel included. We read a story called No Zombies Allowed by Matt Novak, during which different characters were gradually left out from a fun party. By the end of the story, the characters realized how it's much more fun when everyone is included! Students then had a chance to create their own sign to send a message to everyone at TIS that we include others.



In November, third grade students learned about Friendship. We had a lesson about all the ways you can be a good friend to someone, including caring about their feelings, treating each other with kindness, trying to resolve conflicts, and looking out for each others' safety. We then had a chance to then visit the smart board and look at many different scenarios to determine whether the scenario described a good friend or not such a good friend.

Fourth Grade

In fourth grade, we began the year with a review of the counselor's role. We also took some time to write a personal or academic goal that students want to achieve by the end of the school year! Students were excited to think about all they can accomplish by the end of fourth grade. In October, we moved into learning about ways to stop bullying. Students participated in a four corners activity where they were able to share if they have ever experienced certain bullying behaviors. Then, we took the time to develop a Stop Bullying Plan to decide what to do if they ever see someone being mean!



In November, fourth grade students also learned about how to resolve a conflict with a friend. The steps to resolving a conflict include:

1. Share your feelings and perspective.
2. Listen to your friend's feelings and perspective.
3. Make a plan for the future.
4. Apologize to one another.
5. Let it go and move on.

Students had a ton of fun writing and performing their own conflict resolution skits for the class! We learned a lot about how to solve some of those smaller disagreements we sometimes have with our friends or classmates.

Fifth Grade

In fifth grade, we began the year with a review of the counselor's role. We also took some time to write a personal or academic goal that students want to achieve by the end of the school year! Students were excited to think about all they can accomplish by the end of fifth grade. In October, students participated

in the Second Step bullying prevention unit lesson of how to recognize and respond to bullying behavior. We had a chance to practice and demonstrate how to report bullying and how to refuse to let bullying happen.



In November, we began to learn about stress. Students had a chance to take a stress inventory where they were able to identify sources of stress in their lives. We then reviewed some coping strategies that they can use when feeling stressed, including listening to music, talking to a grownup, playing a game with a friend, eating a healthy snack, and going outside.

ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK'S DIGITAL BACKPACK



Wear your Pajamas to School – December 8, 2023

Please consider making a donation in honor of the young patients at Connecticut Children's who must wear their pajamas for days, weeks, or longer while fighting cancer or other serious illnesses. Help us help kids who need it most! Together, we can make a difference for these courageous kids. Bring \$1.00 to school to wear your pajamas to school or you can make a donation using the link below.

<https://give.connecticutchildrens.org/tolland23>

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

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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!!



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 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.



Grade 4 Chorus

Winter Concert

Wednesday December 6, 2023

at 6:00- 6:30 pm

Tolland Intermediate School Gym

Students are to arrive at 5:45 to room 136

Concert Begins promptly at 6:00pm

Students are asked to dress their best for this special performance.

***I am looking forward to seeing you all there for an evening of music,
entertainment and family fun.***

Thank you, Ms. Judith Baker





Grade 5 Chorus

Winter Concert

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 7:15-7:45 pm

Tolland Intermediate School Gym

Students are to arrive at 7:00 to room 136

Concert Begins promptly at 7:15 pm

Students are asked to dress their best for this special performance.

*I am looking forward to seeing you all there for an evening of music,
entertainment and family fun.*

Thank you, Ms. Judith Baker





The Tolland Family Resource Center presents

Family Gingerbread Night

Friday, December 8, 2023 – 6:00pm-7:30pm

(Snow date 12/15/2023)

Held at Birch Grove Primary School's Cafeteria, 247 Rhodes Rd., Tolland, CT 06084

Pre-Registration is required. Space is limited.

Join us for a fun filled family evening! We will provide an assortment of delicious supplies and directions to make graham cracker 'gingerbread' houses. You just need to bring your imagination and teamwork to build your own unique house. The cost is \$5.00 per house. Pre-registration by Friday, December 1st is required.

We will be participating in the Connecticut Children's Medical Center "**PJ Day for the Kids.**" Wear your PJ's to support the children fighting cancer and other serious illnesses at the hospital. Please consider making a donation to benefit CCMC.

Please return the bottom of this form by December 1, 2023, with a check made payable to Tolland Board of Education. Forms may be mailed to Tolland Family Resource Center, 247 Rhodes Rd., Tolland, CT 06084 or returned to your child's school in an envelope marked FRC.

Tolland Family Resource Center Family Gingerbread Night

Family Name: _____

Email: _____

Number of children _____ Number of adults _____

Number of gingerbread house kits _____ (\$5.00 each; 1 recommended per child, adults are welcome to make their own house, too)

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

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

1ST PLACE Spiritwear | **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
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- 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

DECEMBER

The End

