

TIS Digital Backpack January 9, 2023



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE:



Dress for Winter Weather

It is important that students come to school dressed appropriately for winter weather. Coats, hats, and long pants should be worn as a means of protection from the winter weather. While some children prefer wearing shorts in the cold weather, not dressing appropriately for cold temperatures puts kids at risk for frostbite and hypothermia. Exposure to temperatures below 32 degrees can result in frostbite faster. Our 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.



Thank you PTO

Thanks to the PTO for purchasing novels for us to give to those students that have completed the library Ten Book Challenge. Once a student completes the challenge of reading ten books from different genres, their name is announced on our morning announcements, and they are provided the opportunity to choose a book from a selection donated by the PTO.

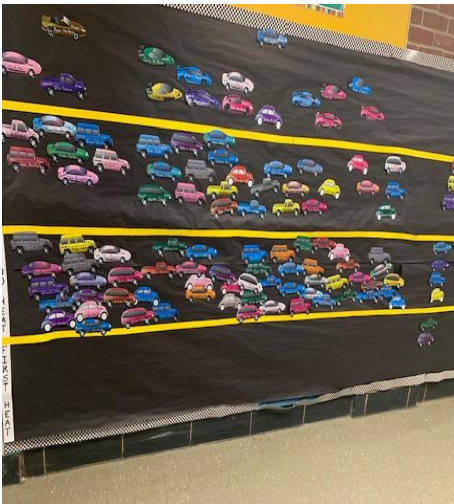
Universal Screens

As part of our comprehensive universal screening process, all students will be taking a variety of universal screens in math and ELA over the next month. The purpose of the universal screens is to enable the teaching team to obtain information on student performance in relation to grade level norms. Such information is used to inform our instruction relative to each student.

School Cell Phone Policy

We've recently experienced some minor issues with student cell phones usage in school. Below is the school policy regarding cell phones in school. The policy is consistent with that of Tolland Middle School.

All electronic devices are to be turned off and stored away for the duration of the school day (8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.). This includes, but is not limited to cell phones, music players, video systems, and video game systems. Cell phones and cell phone cameras that are misused anywhere on school grounds and/or on any school field trip or function will result in disciplinary action.



Keyboarding Leaders

The race car display outside the keyboarding lab is beginning to fill up. Students are awarded a paper race car when they pass their first typing test. Student names and words per minute totals are added to the cars before they are placed in the display.

TIS CALENDAR



JANUARY

13 **Wacky Tacky/Mismatched Day**

16 **NO SCHOOL**

18 **EARLY DISMISSAL (12:40)**

27 **NO SCHOOL**



T.I.S. SPIRIT DAY
WACKY
TACKY/MISMATCHED
DAY

Friday, January 13th!!



Teacher Tricks to Improve Reading Comprehension at Home



By M. Lee

Updated on May 15, 2014

You may not have signed up for recess duty or chalk stains on your pants, but if you'd like to improve your child's reading comprehension skills, you should start thinking like a teacher—and using some of the same tools teachers use in the classroom. Teacher-trainer and expert on young adult literacy Hal W. Lanse says "parents *must* educate themselves about the strategies teachers use, because the preparation for reading needs to begin long before formal instruction commences."

Many effective comprehension teaching strategies come naturally to parents. Lanse explains that a simple encouragement like "Norah, tell Dad what we did in the park this afternoon," for example, builds "an early understanding of how narratives work." But other instructional techniques aren't as intuitive. Here are three classroom tricks to use at home.

Set Kids Up for Reading Success

If you were going to build a house, you wouldn't just grab a pile of bricks and go at it. You'd learn about the tools and materials you'd need for the job, go over the architectural plans you'd be using, and hopefully take a basic course in construction techniques! In other words, you'd gather all the information and training you needed before you ever picked up a hammer. The same principle applies to reading. Teachers call it "front-loading," and it means preparing kids for reading by giving them tools that apply to a specific text.

Before reading a book of ancient Greek myths, for instance, first talk to your child about what myths are. Describe how ancient cultures used mythology to explain natural phenomena. Spend some time on the Internet, looking up the names and characteristics of the major gods and goddesses in the Greek pantheon. If you've bought your child a book about insects, look through the text for unfamiliar words like "antennae" and "wing case" and explain them before you read. Don't forget to activate knowledge your child already has, too. Talk about the insects that live in your backyard. Take a walk outside to observe them. Though it may seem like a lot of work, these preparatory steps can really pay off in deeper comprehension later on.

Think Like a Reader, Talk Like a Reader

Just reading to or with your children isn't enough. Teachers are experts at "think-alouds:" verbal explanations of the ideas, images, connections, and questions that go through their minds as they read. This might sound daunting, but it's easy to do once you get into the habit of paying attention to your own thought processes. Here's what a think-aloud might sound like:

It says here Luisa's face is turning red. That could mean she's feeling embarrassed or angry. I need to read ahead to find out. Ah! Here it says "Luisa wanted to disappear whenever her mom told the story about her getting lost at the zoo." That tells me why Luisa's face went red. It also tells me a bit about her mom—she might not realize how Luisa feels.

Lanse agrees. "Good readers," he says, "create a running video in their heads of the stories they're reading. Parents should take turns with their children describing the images they have in their heads as they read a story... the big secret to good reading comprehension is *talk, talk, talk.*"

Turn Your Child Into the Teacher

The classroom technique known as "reciprocal teaching" sounds complex but isn't. The idea behind this strategy is for adults and children reading together to take turns playing the role of the teacher. As you read with your child, take turns summarizing, coming up with questions, clarifying confusing ideas, and predicting what will happen next. This is a sophisticated teaching principle that's really fun to execute: children love being put in the driver's seat and getting to say things like "Okay, Mom, summarize what happened on this page!"

Captain Underpants=Comprehension Success

Lanse has one last tip for parents. "The biggest problem in the struggle to read well," he says, is "boring materials. Boys are the most resistant readers and we must put books in their hands that they like: scary stories, science fiction, sports books, gross-out humor. Yes, I'm saying you should buy your sons Captain Underpants!"



Spring Registration is OPEN

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

Registration closes earlier this year to begin a new program of indoor baseball and softball activities that will allow a proper evaluation of all players and get a head start on the season.

T-Ball and Instructional Softball closes [February 18th](#).

Minors and Majors Baseball (ages 7-12) closes [January 21st](#)

Farm, Minors and Majors Softball closes [February 4th](#).

Any registrations after closing dates are pending availability and will be assessed a \$15 late registration fee.

Please register today at www.tollandlittleleague.com



Come Try Lacrosse



FREE CLINIC



Saturday, Feb 4th*
9:30-11:00am

** Snow date: Feb 5th*

Tolland Intermediate School gym
Open to Girls & Boys Grades K-8

Every participant receives:

- * a chance to win one of two \$50 DSG gift cards**
- * \$15 spring registration discount**

No equipment required.
Lacrosse sticks available for loan.

Walk-ups welcome, but if possible, help us prepare and
PRE-REGISTER:

www.TollandLacrosse.org

ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK'S DIGITAL BACKPACK:



Unified Arts Update for December 2022



Art ~ Library ~ Music ~ Physical Education

Ms. Ballard - Art

Grade 3 The **third graders** will be making a 3D Snowman during the month of December. We will cut out the snowman and use a **new tool**, a hole puncher, to punch 58 holes around the snowman's body. Then third graders will try their hand at sewing with yarn. After we sew most of the snowman up, we will stuff him, or her to make them 3D. Once the snowmen are done being stuffed, we'll decorate them with colored paper.

Grade 4 The **4th graders** will be finishing up their Fire Prevention posters and starting a **Printing** unit. Each student will need a smock for this project. Students will design a picture, then transfer their design onto an inking block. The students will be able to select their own colors for their prints. This project can be a little mess, but it will be a lot of fun!

Grade 5 The **fifth graders** have been busy with their **3D Letters**. Construction and pasting is completed, and now the fun of designing a logo and painting begins! **We will be using Acrylic paint that does not come off of clothes. All students should have a smock during this part of the project.** We have been on this project for a while now, and it will be nice to see the letters come alive with color!

Mrs. Hill - Library Media

It's Multicultural Month in the Library!

During the month of December, students in **third grade** will do their first STEM project (paper airplane longest flight), learn their **universal address** (Earth, N.A., USA, CT, Tolland), will discuss and write about their own winter holiday traditions and then explore late fall/winter holidays such as Diwali, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa.

Fourth grade students will do their first STEM project of the year (design a turkey trap to safely catch a turkey), review their universal address, and do a mini-research paper on a winter holiday in another country. *Students that celebrate a holiday other than Christmas are encouraged to choose a holiday they do celebrate and explore traditions of that holiday in another country. If a student does not celebrate holidays, they are*

encouraged to choose a country they would like to know more about and focus their research on facts about that country.

Students in **fifth grade** will finish a nonfiction book “tasting” where they try out six nonfiction books of their choosing. They will pick a winter holiday from a list and take a “virtual field trip” to that holiday and then answer questions. Fifth graders will also participate in their first STEM project (marble run) of the year! In the final week, they will watch/listen to a winter story, complete a Nearpod lesson and do activities for that story. **There is always so much going on in Library class!**

Ms. Baker - General Music and Grade 4 & 5 Chorus

Let's celebrate diversity!

Grade 3 general music:

Third Graders will be learning about sixteenth notes, rondo form and the composer Wolfgang A. Mozart during the month of January. Students will be reviewing concepts learned during the first trimester using stations and small group learning.

Grade 4 general music: The fourth graders will be reviewing how to read and write using sixteenth notes, learning new content about Mozart and studying the music, instruments, games and culture of Africa. Students will be reviewing concepts learned during the first trimester using stations and small group learning.



Grade 5 general music: Fifth graders will begin learning how to play the ukulele. There will be resources provided on the google classrooms for students who wish to keep playing on their own. *Students are not required to purchase their own ukulele but, if you or your student are interested in investing in your own ukulele contact me in order to find a quality instrument at a reasonable price.* Students will be reviewing concepts learned during the first trimester using stations and small group learning.

Grade 4 & 5 Chorus: *Grade 4 & 5 chorus will be preparing for the winter concert. Dates for this concert (which was postponed from the November 17, 2022 concert date due to Ms. Baker's medical leave) will be sent home early January 2023.*

Mrs. Marchesani - Band/Chorus/Music Times Three



Music Times Three: During our Music Times Three rehearsals on Wednesday mornings, we have been working on developing proper singing techniques and healthy vocal habits. We have learned to sing “Over the River and Through the Woods” and we are working on a partner song titled “Going on a Sleigh Ride”. One of the Music Times Three group’s favorite activities is a Scottish singing and dancing game called “Here Comes a Bluebird”.

Grade 4 Band: All students began bringing their instruments to Full Band on Tuesdays for our 9:00 am rehearsal. Tuesdays are very exciting! We are learning stage presence skills and how do we, as a group of 86, play together. In our small group classes, we have learned how to properly clean our instruments after playing them. The Percussion section of the 4th grade Band are learning skills needed to correctly use mallet sticks and drum sticks.

Grade 5 Band: Our playing eighth notes review is going very well! “Regal March” is taking shape in small groups. We have learned about and reviewed 1st and 2nd endings. Students are also enjoying playing the “Duet” from the Bb “Scale Preps for Beginning Band” by Mike Hannickel. Currently, the Band’s most favorite piece is “Jingle Bells”. In January, we’ll add the Concert Eb scale preps to our repertoire.

Save the date: Grade 5 Band Step Up Concert with the 6th and 7th Grade Bands!

Step Up Concert: student arrival time is 6:30 p.m.; concerts begin at 7:00 p.m.
Grades 6 & 7 Band and Grade 5 Band “Step-Up Concert” at **T.M.S.**, March 9 (snow date March 13)

Inclement Weather policy: On early dismissal or late start days, small group Band classes WILL meet. Please contact me anytime with questions or concerns! nmarchesani@tolland.k12.ct.us 860-870-6885 x 40226

Mr. Downing - Physical Education

All grades: Students will begin the games unit. Teamwork and sportsmanship will be the focus.



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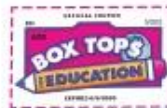
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The End

