

TIS Digital Backpack
January 16, 2023



Photo courtesy of M. Lachut

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE:

Student of the Month

Each month classroom teachers will be selecting students for a TIS Student of the Month Award. The award will be based on a school-wide monthly attribute. Students receiving the award will be notified by a school administrator. The monthly attribute for the month of January is Respect. A school administrator will notify students by presenting them with the award in their classroom.



Staff Superstars!

For the months of January and February, we will be featuring our wonderful teachers and staff members by writing them kind notes called Staff Superstars!

All students will have a chance to write a kind note to a staff member that might be featured on our morning announcements. Super Star templates are available in the Counseling Suite.

Thanks to all of our students who are helping to recognize our wonderful team here at T.I.S.!

Here is a list of Staff Superstars that have been read on our morning announcements:

1/10/23:

To Mrs. Babiec: You are so sweet, kind, and your class will always be there for you!

To Mrs. Fitzgerald: You have taught me more than any other teacher and you are the best teacher ever! You are also kind, helpful and amazing.

Dear Mrs. Storozuk: Thank you for being very kind and pushing me to the limits. I'm only halfway through the year and I've learned more than I ever have. Thank you!

Dear Mr. Downing: Thanks to you, I can run 10 times faster!

Dear Mr. Slayton: Thank you for teaching me math. You are really helpful!

1/12/23:

Mrs. Catlin: Thank you for helping me when I need help!

To Mr. Zevallos: You are really nice, funny, kind, thoughtful, caring, and reliable. Thank you for helping our class get smarter!

Dear Mr. LeBlanc: Thanks to you, I now know half of all the multiplication facts!

To Mrs. Arner: Thank you for teaching me a lot of things and for being so kind!

1/13/23:

To Mrs. Parent: You are the BEST Spanish teacher, and you are funny and fun, and thank you for helping me learn Spanish!

To the LEAP Staff: You all make my day when I say hi to all of you, and you are all so kind-hearted and fun and funny!

To Mrs. Dalrymple: Thank you for being understanding and helpful. You are one of the greatest teachers I've had in my TIS experience!

Dear Ms. Biddle: You are such an amazing teacher. You are so cool. I'm so glad to have you as a teacher!

Chromebooks

Student Chromebooks are used at various times during the school day. Students have been regularly informed to charge their chromebook each night. Any assistance with reminding your child to charge their device is greatly appreciated.

If your child was given a Chromebook to use while in second grade, we ask that any such device be returned to TIS. Any Chromebook returned to TIS will be delivered back to Birch Grove.

Student Water Bottles

Our school water dispensers will no longer be equipped with paper cups. Students are now able to fill their own water bottles from the dispensers. Students should bring a water bottle to school for their own use. Paper cups will be kept on hand for any student not in possession of a water bottle. The custodial staff will sanitize the dispensers nightly.

Hot Beverages

As of late we have experienced some spilling issues with students bringing disposable hot beverage cups to school. Please do not send your child to school with hot beverages in disposable cups. Thank you for your cooperation.

TIS CALENDAR



JANUARY

13 Wacky Tacky/Mismatched Day

16 NO SCHOOL

18 EARLY DISMISSAL (12:40)

27 NO SCHOOL



WACKY TACKY DAY 2023 AT TOLLAND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



pic 2



PIC 3



PIC 1



pic 4



Unified Arts Update for January 2023



Art ~ Library ~ Music ~ Physical Education



Ms. Ballard - Art

Send in the smocks today!

Grade 3 During the month of January the third graders will be working on **Snowman Locker Buddies**. This project is made from 2 paper plates, yarn, and construction paper. Students will design a head of a snowman. Each snowman will have a pocket so students could store items inside of it.

In the middle of January, we will be starting a **Clay Coil project**. Students will design a **base shape** and finish the rest of the clay project by **coiling up clay, 4 or 5 coils high**. The clay project will then need to dry before firing it in the **kiln**. After the clay project has been fired we will glaze it with **two colors of glaze**.

Grade 4 The fourth graders will be starting up their **Styrofoam Printing Projects**. The first printing project will be a **proof print using black ink**. After the **proof** is made students can check their printing block for errors. Once the errors have been corrected, other colored prints can be made. Each print will be labeled with the student's name, number of the print, and a title of the print.

Grade 5 The fifth graders will be working finishing their 3D Letters. The letters are starting to come alive with color! Each student will draw ten things about them on their letter. After the drawing step is finished students will then begin to paint their letters using **acrylic paint**. **This paint does not come out of clothes. All students are asked to wear a smock during class!**

Hello Parents. In the art room, students will not be permitted to wear their winter coats in class. Please, send a smock to protect and cover your child's clothes. The art room is used by three different grades and there are messy projects going on all the time.

Thank you for your help and understanding. Ms. Ballard

Mrs. Hill - Library Media

During the month of January, **all TIS students** will complete a **Destiny review**. This review is important to check for mid-year understanding. Destiny is the online card catalog that students use to look up library books. Lessons have been taught about identifying call numbers such as F for fiction. Students will be given time to practice Destiny skills, if needed.

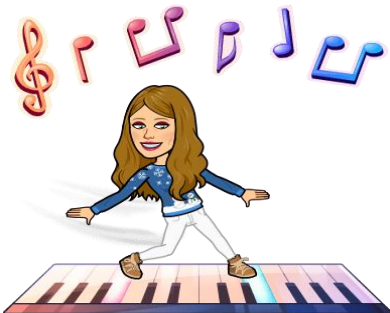
Later in January, **all TIS students** will complete a **Nearpod lesson about the life, work and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.** The Nearpod lesson has articles to read, videos to watch and interactive questions, polls, and a drawing activity. **TIS students** will also contribute to a school-wide bulletin board with the themes of peace and kindness.



designed by freepress.com

Let's celebrate Kindness!

Ms. Baker - General Music



Grade 3 general music:

Third graders are reviewing their musical concepts by working in cooperative groups. They will be playing instruments and games and using music technology along with working with Ms. Baker on their musical knowledge. The students are also studying about the composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The students will also be practicing their rhythm reading and music vocabulary.



Grade 4 general music: The fourth graders are reviewing their musical concepts by working in cooperative groups. They will be playing instruments and games and using music technology along with working with Ms. Baker on their musical knowledge. The students are now studying about the composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and they will be starting to study the music of Africa.



Grade 5 general music: The fifth graders are reviewing their musical concepts by working in cooperative groups. They will be playing instruments and games and using music technology along with working with Ms. Baker on their musical knowledge. They will be starting to learn how to play the ukulele at the end of the month. They will be learning how to read chord charts, tabs, strumming patterns and sing while they play. *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.*

Grade 4 & 5 chorus: The students have been working very hard on learning their music for the Winter chorus concert (postponed from November). The students are learning to sing rounds, create harmonies, and dance while their classmates sing. We are looking forward to rescheduling our concert. Paperwork will be coming home soon.

Mrs. Marchesani - Music Times Three and 4th & 5th grade Band

Music Times Three: Wednesday mornings at 9:00 am are fun times with Music Times Three 3rd graders participating in singing and movement activities. Current favorites include “Mr. Cicketty Cane” and “Here Comes a Bluebird”.

Grade 4 Band: Two standout favorite songs with 4th grade Band members are “Quarter’s Worth” #15 and “Good King Wenceslas” #26 in our Standard of Excellence red books. Tied notes are a new concept for Band members. “Farm Out” #34 in the red book (Old MacDonald Had a Farm) is a fun song to practice this concept!



Grade 5 Band: Students completed the Concert Bb “Scale Preps for Beginning Band” by Mike Hannickel and have begun learning the Concert Eb scale preps. The Concert Eb Scale Preps will help with learning “Regal March”, “Montego Bay” and many other songs with that

key signature. Our playing eighth notes review is going very well! Playing a variety of eighth note rhythms helps students as they are learning “Regal March”, “This Old Man” and “This Old Dude”.

Save the date: Step Up Concert Thursday March 9th (snow date Monday March 13th) held at Tolland Middle School grades 5 through 8 Bands. Students arrive at 6:30 pm and the Concert begins at 7:00 pm.

Inclement Weather policy: On early dismissal or late start days, small group Band classes WILL meet during the school day. 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 begin the cooperation unit. Students will participate in a number of activities while in small groups. The emphasis will be on planning, working as a group, and sharing ideas.

Fourth grade: Students will begin the cooperation unit. Students will participate in a number of activities while in small groups. The emphasis will be on planning, working as a group, and sharing ideas.

Fifth grade: Students will begin the cooperation unit. Students will participate in a number of activities while in small groups. The emphasis will be on planning, working as a group, and sharing ideas.

FROM THE TOLLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY:

Our library has some super exciting upcoming events and programs for kids, pre-teens, and teens. Please see the flyers below:



HOT SAUCE CHALLENGE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Looking for the perfect way to warm up this winter?
Celebrate National Hot Sauce Day at the library.
Enjoy our spin on the "Hot Ones" trivia challenge
and put your taste buds to the ultimate test!

Teens, ages 13+ ONLY. Registration required.

TOLLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
21 TOLLAND GREEN, TOLLAND CT, 06084
(860) 871-3621 | TOLLANDCT.GOV/LIBRARY

Take Your Child to the Library Day.

Saturday, February 4th 2023

10:30

STORY TIME

Enjoy stories, songs, and crafts with our Children's Librarian.

12:00

TURTLE DANCE MUSIC

A high-energy video dance program that celebrates autism inclusion and neurodiversity.

2:00

JOY BLOOMS: MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Joy Booms' interactive, educational, and enriching music program.

PLUS!

A scavenger hunt and crafts for kids and teens will be available throughout the library all day long!

Registration required

Call (860) 871-3621 or email ageary@tollandct.gov for more info.



Tolland Public Library
21 Tolland Green | Tolland, CT
www.tollandct.gov/library





VALENTINE'S DAY COOKIE DECORATION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14
4:00 - 4:45 PM

Decorate delicious cookies for your loved ones!

PRE-TEENS & TEENS
REGISTRATION REQUIRED | FREE



TOLLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
21 TOLLAND GREEN - TOLLAND, CT - 06084
WWW.TOLLANDCT.GOV/LIBRARY



ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK'S DIGITAL BACKPACK:

January Reading Thoughts from the TIS Reading Department

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!! [REGISTER HERE](#)

New this year

Multiple registrants from the same family will have a \$20 deduction on 2nd and all subsequent registrations. Please register all players at the same time for the discount to apply.

If you need assistance to cover registration fees

The T-Mobile Little League Call Up Grant offers a simple-to-use application to assist families in need with registration fees. Our goal is to provide resources to get and keep children on the field. Families interested in applying for a grant should click the image below.



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



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LITTLE BY LITTLE WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

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SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

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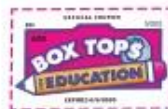


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Box Tops earnings are identified and automatically updated online.

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See how at [BTFE.com/emailgroceryreceipts](https://www.btfef.com/emailgroceryreceipts)



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You may occasionally find an old Box Tops clip on packages in stores. **You can still clip them and send them to school**, as long as each clip has a valid expiration date.

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THE BOX TOPS APP AT [BTFE.COM](https://www.btfef.com)

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The End

