

TIS Digital Backpack January 22, 2024



Photo courtesy of M. Lachut

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE:

Winter Recess

As we settle into winter, please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the colder temperatures. We will not go outside for recess when the temperature falls below 21 degrees or when the windchill index creates a "feels like" temperature of less than 21 degrees.

Sick Child Parking

We now have a parking space in our front lot reserved for family members to pick up sick children. All other visitor parking is located in the lot in front of the Parker School building. Please do not park in the lot in front of T.I.S. as we must limit vehicular traffic in areas close to the school building.

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.

Helping your Child with Reading at Home

<https://www.readingrockets.org/blogs/shanahan-literacy/time-tell-parents-truth-about-helping-their-kids-reading>

Below is an excerpt from an article that appeared in an online publication called Reading Rockets. The portion of the article below provides some guidance on how you can help your child with their reading at home.

Here are a few examples of how adults can really help:

Listen to your child read daily. Research has shown that, once kids are reading, it is helpful to read aloud to someone. I encourage parents to use the Pause, Prompt, Praise (3P) approach for this activity:

- **Pause:** When the child makes a mistake, Pause... give him/her a chance to correct it. Don't butt in until the child gets to the next punctuation point or where it is obvious that the error isn't getting fixed.
- **Prompt:** When a child makes a mistake, you can prompt him/her to sound out the word better (look at that again... sound it out... what if we break the word there?) or to use the meaning (does that make sense? ... what should that say?). If the child doesn't get the word after one prompt, tell the word and keep going.
- **Praise:** Praise the child for anything he/she does well (you read that great, you made a mistake but you fixed it, etc.).

Play word games: For example, I spy with my little eye something that begins with /m/. Recently, while dining with my grandchildren (a prek and a k), I'd say a word, "Big," and they would try to change just one sound in the word to make a new word (dig, or bib, or bag, etc.). Gosh, that was fun.

Please see the article below also.

T.I.S. CALENDAR

JANUARY

15 NO SCHOOL

19 ~~TOLLAND PTO PRESENTS: Grade 5 Dance~~ POSTPONED

24 Tolland High School Mid-Semester Day – PLEASE NOTE: TIS STUDENTS **DO** HAVE SCHOOL ON THIS DAY

26 NO SCHOOL for Kindergarten thru Grade 8 – TIS STUDENTS **ARE NOT** IN SCHOOL THIS DAY

FEBRUARY

7 EARLY RELEASE

9 Sports Team Day; Grade 4 Dance (see flyer)

19-21 FEBRUARY BREAK

27-28 Grade 3 to Wadsworth Museum (more info to follow)

NEW ITEMS THIS WEEK:

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!"

ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK'S DIGITAL BACKPACK

GRADE 3 HAVING FUN AT RECESS:







Spring 2024



**TOLLAND
LACROSSE**

**Registration
Now Open!**

www.tollandlacrosseclub.org





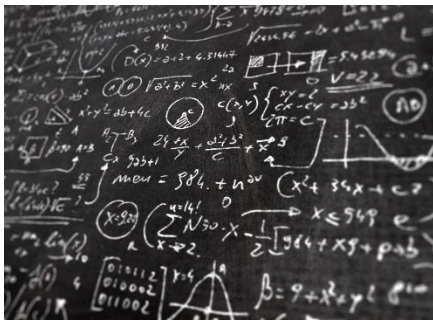
FAMILY INTERACTIVE STEAM NIGHT

Friday, February 2, 2024

6:00 – 7:30

Birch Grove Primary School

Come explore STEAM Activities with the Tolland Family Resource Center. You will be able to create art and experiment with hands-on activities. Please register by Friday, January 26, 2024. Spots are limited.



SNOW DATE: Friday, February 9, 2024



Scan or click the QR code to register for this free event. Open to children in preschool through 5th grade and their families.

FOR 5TH GRADE STUDENTS: THIS DANCE HAS BEEN POSTPONED DUE TO WEATHER CONCERNS. LOOK FOR AN UPDATED FLYER WHEN RESCHEDULED



TEPTO INVITES YOU TO WALK THE RED
CARPET AT THE

5TH GRADE WINTER DANCE

Friday, January 19th 6:00-8:00

TIS Cafeteria

\$10 at the
door
includes a
snack, water
and favor

Students must
be joined by a
favorite adult
for the duration
of the event

For specific questions, email dcancellieri79@gmail.com

FOR 4TH GRADE STUDENTS:



TEPTO PRESENTS...



The 4th Grade

**HOLLYWOOD
GLAM DANCE**

Friday, February 9, 2024
6-8pm
TIS Cafeteria

Tickets: \$10 at the door includes admission, water,
snack, and a favor!

Students must be accompanied by a favorite adult for the duration of the event.

For specific questions please email dcancellieri79@gmail.com

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.



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
dcancellier79@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!

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

GREAT GIFTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Guaranteed Delivery By **DEC. 23rd**

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

SCAN HERE TO ORDER



JOIN THE

-CREW-

After School

SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE!



TOLLAND RECREATION PRESENTS "the CREW After School" Program

CELEBRATING RECREATION, EDUCATION AND WELL-BEING



- 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

