

TIS Digital Backpack
December 19, 2022



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE:

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.

Winter Weather

It is important that students come to school dressed appropriately for winter weather. Because temperatures can fluctuate drastically during the day, coats, hats, and long pants should be worn as a means of protection from the winter weather. 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.

School Hours

Our school hours are 8:45 - 3:15. Students arriving to school after 8:45 will be marked tardy. Any student dropped off after 8:45, must be walked into the building and signed in by a parent or guardian, as T.I.S. staff may not be on outdoor duty past 8:45.

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.

TIS CALENDAR



DECEMBER

23 Early Dismissal – SILLY SWEATER DAY!

December 26 thru January 2 – WINTER BREAK (classes begin again on TUESDAY, January 3rd)



***T.I.S. SPIRIT DAY
SILLY SWEATER DAY!!***



Friday, December 23rd

ITEMS FROM LAST WEEK'S DIGITAL BACKPACK:



FREE MEALS FOR ALL STUDENTS WILL END ON DECEMBER 23, 2022.

STARTING JANUARY 3, 2023, ALL MEALS WILL REVERT TO PRE-PANDEMIC PAID STATUS Breakfast and Lunch Meal Prices for Students: BREAKFAST LUNCH Birch Grove Primary \$1.95 \$3.15 Tolland Intermediate \$1.95 \$3.15 Tolland Middle \$1.95 \$3.35/\$3.75 for deli Tolland High \$1.95 \$3.50/\$4.00 for deli Reduced Meal Price \$0.30 \$0.40 Ala Carte Milk - 8 OZ \$0.75 \$0.75 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application Information The application and other supporting information can be found by clicking here. Applications may also be picked up in your child's school or by request from the food service office. We encourage families who may qualify for financial assistance (and who have not done so already), to complete and submit the confidential Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application. Parents or guardians can submit this application in person or by mail to the Determining Official, Abby Kassman-Harned, located at the Tolland BOE, 51 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT 06084 or by sending it to the Food Service Office via your student's school. The application is available online in the Food Service portion of the website. The application includes detailed instructions on how to complete and submit to the Food Service Department. Applications can be submitted at any point in the school year as household income may change during the year. Please reach out to Abby Kassman-Harned, Director of Food & Nutrition Services at 860-870-6854 with any questions. SNAP If you have not qualified before, please reapply - Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) recently implemented new eligibility benefit levels in the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This will result in an estimated 44,000 additional Connecticut residents in 17,600 households becoming eligible for the food assistance program. Please click here for information about SNAP benefits. How to make payments into your child's account There are 3 ways to place money onto your child's account: 1. Checks: Checks should be made payable to Tolland Food & Nutrition Services. We ask that you include your child's first and last name for reference. 2. Online payment: Credit card and debit payments are accepted through the myschoolaccount.com website. Please note there is a transaction fee charged which is explained on the website. 3. Cash: We discourage cash since it is impossible to track. However, we do accept cash to make a deposit on your child's account. We ask that you place the money in an envelope with your child's first and last name and write School Meals on it to avoid confusion. Meals can also be paid for individually with cash at the register at the time of purchase. This method does slow down slow down the meal service lines which is why we prefer a pre-payment. Account Information All students access their meal account using the biometric scanner to purchase snacks and a la carte items. This allows: • Quicker service in the line • Students with allergies and food restrictions to be identified • Parents to put controls on their child's purchases Students must have funds for snack and ala carte items at the time of service, there is no charging for these purchases. Our Point of Sale program works directly with myschoolaccount.com to provide detailed information about your children's account, so you can view it FREE anytime! We strongly recommend that all parents sign into myschoolaccount.com to access your child's account information. From myschoolaccount.com you can: • View balances & receive low balance email reminders • Check your child's spending habits • View

online account statement & make payments District Charging Policy Our district charging policy is currently being updated. U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA): In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: 1. mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or 2. fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or 3. email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



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

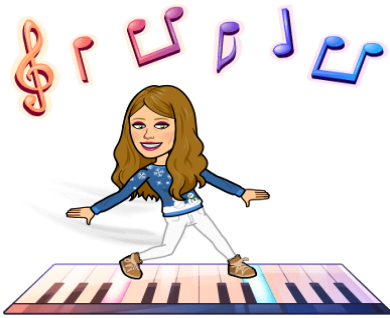
It's Multicultural Month in the Library!

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.

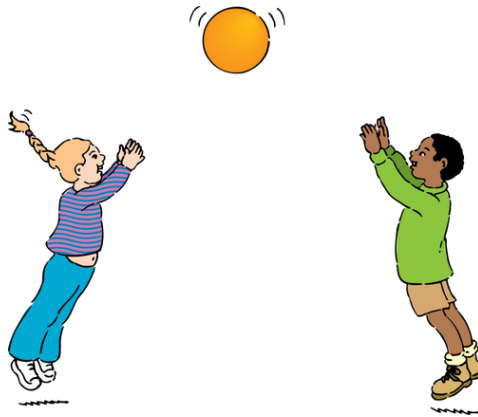
Save the date: Grade 5 Band Step Up Concert with the 6th and 7th Grade Bands!

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.





***2023 Spring Registration
NOW OPEN!***

Girls & Boys grades K - 8

**No experience necessary!
Come play the fastest sport on grass!**

**Don't wait: Early bird discount through 1/17/23
Registration closes 2/17/23**

**For more information and to register go to:
www.TollandLacrosse.org**



Join us on Wednesdays beginning November 30th

Miracle League ~ All Star Bowling

5:00-6:00 PM

Spare Time Vernon 350 Talcottville Road Vernon

We need bowlers and peer buddies to assist and cheer on the Athletes!

Weekly Fee will be collected each week to cover bowling and shoes from 5:00-6:00 PM.

Please contact Laurel Leibowitz at teacherleibo@gmail.com to

Register as a bowler or Buddy!



DONATIONS WELCOME!

**BRAND NEW KIDS' ITEMS:
HATS, MITTENS, SCARVES, SOCKS**

♥ DONATE BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9th ♥

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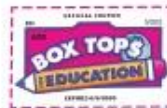
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The End

