



Tansey Times

December 2011







Kristen Farias, Principal

Melissa Homol, Assistant Principal

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Holiday Parade Patriotic Christmas
4	5	6 PTO 6:30	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Math Night K-2 4:15-5:15 3-5 5:30-6:30	15 Multiplication Olympics Gr. 4&5	16	17
18	19 Coffee Hour 11-12	20	21 Holiday Concert A-L 9:00 M-Z 10:30 Caroling 6-8 p.m.	22 Multiplication Olympics Gr. 4&5 Inclement Weather Gr. 3 to Providence College	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Vacation						
1 	2 	3 School Resumes				

News From the Office:

-  Our annual Holiday Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 21st. Families of students whose last names begin with A-L are invited to attend the 9:00 a.m performance. Families of students whose last names begin with M-Z should attend at 10:30.
-  Coming Soon: We will be holding a school wide assembly in January in which Abraham Lincoln will visit with our students, performing an autobiographical play.
-  Tansey students will be the guests of honor at the Saturday, January 21st UMASS Dartmouth women's and men's basketball games. We will perform God Bless America, and be seated in the new VIP suite!
-  Please note that there is no school on Monday, January 2, 2012. School resumes on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

School Improvement News:

MATH

Understanding Mathematics Instruction:

Please join us on Wednesday, December 14th for a Math Gallery Night. We will have displays of student work, sample problems, and math games for you to engage in with your child. We will be having a mini-lecture on some of the big mathematical skills and models used at each grade level.

Families in K-2 should come from 4:15-5:15
Families in 3-5 should come from 5:30- 6:30



Building Automaticity:

While our math curriculum is designed to build students' conceptual understanding of number, we recognize the need for students to be automatic with their math facts. In an effort to provide 4th and 5th graders with a fun and challenging opportunity to demonstrate their automaticity, we have designed the

MULTIPLICATION OLYMPICS

Students in grades 4 & 5 will compete in several events in which they will need to quickly solve a multiplication table to earn points for their team. This fun event will take place during the school day on Dec. 15. The winning class will be awarded a pizza party and a dress down day.

The **ONLY** way for students to become automatic is through practice. We strongly urge children to use the packets provided to them, as well as flash cards and games to study at home. **HAVE FUN & PRACTICE THOSE TABLES!!!!**



PTO/ School Council

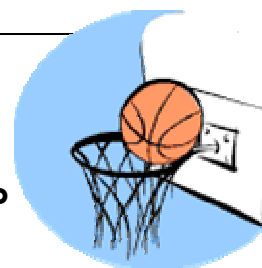


- We are pleased to announce that we raised over \$12,000.00 in our cookie dough and soup sale. A special thanks to the volunteers who worked so hard to sort and distribute the fundraiser!!!
- Please join us at our next PTO meeting on Tuesday, December 6th at 6:30 pm

Fit Kids



This month, our third graders will be going to Providence College to participate in the



PROJECT PROVIDENCE program. Athletes from the Providence College women's basketball team will lead our students through a variety of activities, teaching them the importance of good sportsmanship, proper nutrition, being of sound mind and body, and athletics.

Mr. Ducharme will supervise this trip, bringing several of his student athletes from the UMASS Dartmouth women's basketball team as chaperones.

We hope this is the first of many collaborative projects with UMASS Dartmouth. In fact, be on the lookout for more information about our students being the guests of honor at a UMD game in January!!!!



FALL RIVER CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARADE

December 3rd 12:30 pm
We will meet at Kennedy Park
no later than 11:50 am
GROUP #43

Tansey's theme is Patriotic Christmas. We encourage students to dress in red, white, and blue with a holiday twist!



Characters of the Month November 2011

*In the month of November, we spoke to students about **loyalty** and **cooperation**. In December, we will focus on **self-control**. The following students were identified as characters of the month for November.*

Loyalty

Be trustworthy

Cooperation

*Be more interested in finding the best way,
not in having your way*

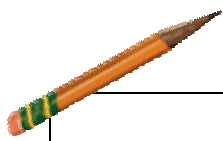
KM Nicholas Wood KH Chloe Pacheco	KM Lily Dumaine KH Olivia Giglio
1S Veda Uon 1D Trista Giacconetti	1S Emma Kershaw 1D Kiersten Anderson
2M Brenden Miranda 2F Dillon Corvelo	2M Jordin Costa 2F Isabella Tiburtino
3N Matthew Medeiros 3B Ethan Neto	3N Hannah Reitzas 3B Abigail Schnurr
4NM Jazmin Adolfo 4M Madison Paiva	4NM Brayden Bergeron 4M Gina Resendes
5S Neil Sousa 5C Adil Shahid	5S Madison Beaulieu 5C Elizabeth Bigelow
ET Gabriel Pacheco TECH Jasmine Johnson	ET Kobe Rockmore TECH Ryan Beaulieu-DeMatos
Music Cameron Mello ART Niles Perry PE Kaylee Tavares	Music Maria Faios ART Sebastian Rebello PE Monique Santos
Staff Mrs. Considine	Staff Ms. Botelho

Families of the above named students will be invited to attend a *Character of the Month* breakfast in November. More details will be sent home with children.



“Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to become the best you are capable of being.”

**Coach John Wooden
Head Basketball
Coach UCLA**



What's Happening in Class?



Kindergarten

The excitement of the holidays is here! In Reading the children will continue their focus on the big question, "How are animals and flowers unique?" We will be working on identifying and distinguishing the difference between realism and fantasy as well as zooming in on retelling the most important parts of a story. The children will also be learning the sounds for the letters "C, I, B and R". We will also continue to build on our high frequency words. Here are the five words that we will add to our list this month: he, for, me, with, she. We ask that you continue to review all previously learned high frequency words with your children. We want these words to become automatic when they see them in print and the only way to get there is through constant review and practice. In Math we will continue our work in math centers as well as building number combinations to 10. In Writing the children will continue their work on personal narratives by stretching a story like "gum" across a number of pages. In Science the children will be working on demonstrating various ways of classifying objects. We would also like to take the time to wish you all a jolly and safe holiday season!

Grade 5

During the month of December, Grade 5 will continue to work on Personal Narratives during writer's workshop. In science, we will be completing our study of electricity and magnetism. Our focus during reading will be to compare and contrast story structures and to determine author's purpose. Grammar work will center around verbs; action, linking, helping and main, as well as subject-verb agreement. Our math unit, Field Trips and Fundraisers, will help us begin our study of fractions and decimals. In Social Studies, we will begin our unit on early explorers.

STUDY YOUR TABLES FOR THE MULTIPLICATION OLYMPICS!!!

Grade 1

Our first graders will continue to work hard even with the excitement of the holidays! They will be learning about our community in our next reading unit. The students will continue to identify the plot in their texts as well as to focus on retelling their stories in the correct sequence. The children will also be introduced to long vowels and consonant digraphs. They will be exposed to common nouns and proper nouns and learn how to write friendly letters and brief compositions during our writing block. Math workshop will continue to generate excitement as the children learn how to use more efficient strategies to add and subtract to 20!

PE

In December we will be starting our soccer unit for the 4th and 5th grades. For grades K-3, we will be doing various fitness challenges and learning about the benefits of increasing our level of fitness. We look forward to the Multiplication Olympics at the end of the month for the 4th and 5th graders, as well as the Project Providence field trip for students in grade 3.



Grade 2

In second grade we are jolly, joyful and jumping into new learning! In reading, students will be working on the skills of identifying facts and details, stating the cause and effect, and comparing and contrasting. They will be applying these skills in a variety of texts, which include, expository text, drama/fairy tale and folktale. In our writing unit will continue to write "How To" pieces. Our focus will be the traits of word choice (strong verbs and time order words), organization (steps in correct order) and sentence structure (clear sentences with commands). Students have been on the lookout for different types of procedures that will be added to our "How To" bulletin board! In math, we will continue to strengthen our addition and subtraction strategies using the Open Number Line model. Also, we will be working on standard units of measurement. In science, we are learning about and exploring matter (solids, liquids and gas). In social studies, we are working on a geography unit.

Art

In the weeks after Thanksgiving we will be creating late fall landscapes concentrating on the concept of color contrast. In December we will be working with some of the common symbols of the season with an emphasis on book illustration.

Please join us at Math Night on December 14th to view student artwork which will be displayed in a collaborative project with the Grade 2 classes who have just completed their *Measuring for the Art Show* unit.



Grade 3

Our learning community will continue researching planets in our solar system during science. Our social studies unit will focus on comparing and contrasting Pilgrim and Native American life and their effects on Massachusetts history. During reading we will continue our work with Reading Street! The children will be reading fiction and nonfiction text. While they read they will question, visualize, compare/contrast, and read for main idea, in order to comprehend text. Our writing unit will focus on "How To" writing. We will continue our work with word problem solving in addition, subtraction, and ratio tables during math workshop. We will also be starting our Geometry unit. As you can see, December will be packed with learning and fun!

Tech

December finds us bringing to a close projects in Grades 3-5. Grade 3 is finishing work on a presentation of their lives with a slide for each year. Parents can view their work on Student Google Apps by having their child log in as they do in class. Students in Grade 2 are preparing for "The Art Show" by using Microsoft Word to make captions for the art work. Students are learning to use the Shift, Backspace, and Delete keys as well as how to center their work on a page. The 5th graders designed a template for the 2nd graders to use to keep all work equal size. The younger students are becoming comfortable with DreamBox and are enjoying the Math games and activities. Most students in Grades 2-5 are logging into the Tansey Network without their user name cards which is a huge accomplishment for this time of the year. Congratulations to all! Grade 1 students have been practicing how to use the Shift key and the Space Bar to type their names in Word in preparation for logging in beginning after the winter holidays.

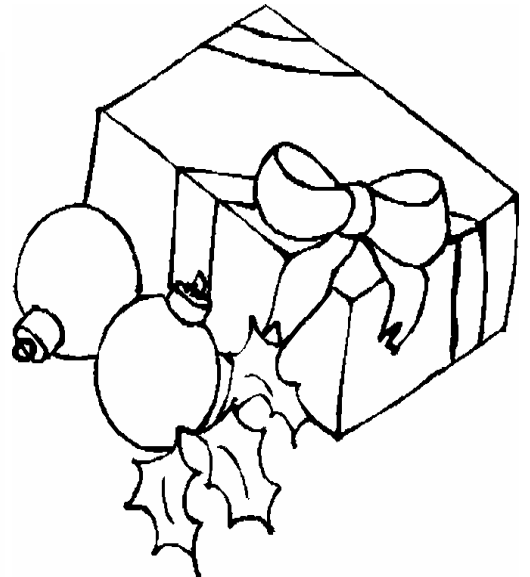
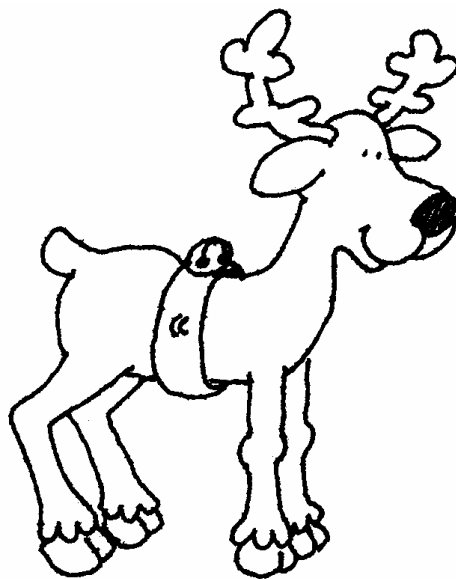
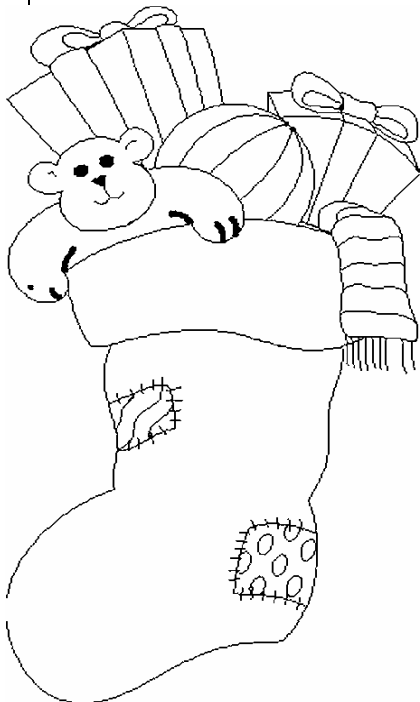
Grade 4

Happy December! In Math Gr. 4 this month will begin our Geometry unit. We have been studying our multiplication tables and are gearing up for the Math Olympics. Bring it on because we are ready. In reading we will continue to build on the concept of working together as a team. Our focus will be on what can be accomplished as a team. Some focus skills include: drawing conclusions, sensory words and story conflict to mention just a few. Listen to us read if you have a chance and you will see how our fluency and expression has improved through classroom modeling. Our writing focus this month will continue to be expository composition. Be sure to read them when they are complete, you will be amazed! In science we will continue to work on rocks and minerals unit. Thanks to all our parents for saving those used egg cartons. They made a great tray for sorting and categorizing our samples. In social studies, we will identify cultural and religious background of settlers of the Mid-Atlantic colonies. We will also discuss how industry and immigrants have contributed to industrial progress.

Music

Season's Greetings from Mr. B! This month in music, all students in grades K-5 will be working on holiday and patriotic songs in preparation for the parade, holiday concert, and caroling!

WE HOPE MANY FAMILIES WILL JOIN US FOR CAROLING WITH MR. B ON WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21ST AT 6:30 PM



Kids' Corner

Try to solve this fun winter puzzle!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
			16					22			25							4	9			1			

T																											
9	8	26	4	19	21		3	22	16	4		11	8	5	19		24	18	26		1	8	25	3	22	26	6

What are you most looking forward to this holiday vacation?



"I like to play outside in the snow."

Nick Wood, K



"...going to my vavo's house on Christmas Eve."

Brayden, Gr. 4



"I like to make a snowman."

Gillian Tibertino, K



"...going sledding."

Catherine Callahan, Gr. 4



"...going sledding with my family."

Eric Hackett, Gr.4



"...spending time with my friend."

Emily Pacheco, Gr. 5