

# \*Tansey Times\*

## November 2011



Kristen Farias, Principal

Melissa Homol, Assistant Principal

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 PTO 6:30	2 Picture Day	3 Parent Seminar- Understanding Learning Disabilities 4:30	4	5
6	7	8 Election Day	9	10 Character of the Month Breakfast 9 a.m.	11 No School	12
13	14 Cookie Dough Delivery 1:30- 5:30	15	16	17 Parent Teacher Conferences 5-8pm by appointment	18	19
20	21	22	23 Early Release Day	24 Thanksgiving No School	25 No School	26
27	28	29	30			

### News From the Office:



We are hosting a parent seminar for all Tansey parents Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30-5:30 to help parents understand different types of learning disabilities in children, how children are supported in class, and ideas for helping at home. Dr. Deborah Harris will be our guest speaker this evening.



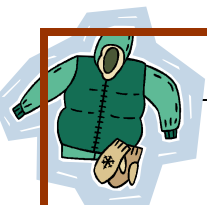
The weather is getting colder. Children go outside for recess and PhysEd all fall and winter, as long as the temperature is above freezing and there is no snow or ice. Please be sure your child is wearing appropriate outdoor wear. Any sweaters or sweatshirts children wear in school must be navy, yellow, or white.



Term 1 Parent- Teacher conferences will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-8:00p.m. Your child's teacher will schedule and appointment with you to discuss his/her progress in class.



**Top Cookie Dough Seller  
Congratulations Aimee  
Tiebout!!!**



## Fit Kids



**Don't let rainy cold fall days keep you from being active with your kids! Try this...**

1. **Play Treasure Hunters-** Stash clues around the house, directing kids to hunt for a hidden prize.
2. **Put on a Show-** Challenge kids to stage a play or talent show. Give them a theme or opening lines to get them started
3. **Bring Outdoor Games Indoors-** Play basketball with a soft foam or sponge ball, or just wad up some newspaper; the hoop can be any basket or receptacle.
4. **Take a Fit Field Trip-** Visit an indoor pool, bowling alley, kids' gym, or climbing wall
5. **Make a sand-free sandbox-** Use rice or beans in a large container with spoons, funnels, cups, toy cars, tea set, etc.
6. **Set up an obstacle course or fort-** Use couch cushions, cardboard boxes, sheets, broomsticks, etc. to create fun activities for your kids
7. **Brave the weather-** Suit up with boots, raincoat, mittens... you won't melt! A little cocoa or hot soup will surely help.
8. **Go to the videotape-** Try out some kids' fitness or dance videos



**Limit screen time! Keep your kids active by engaging in some fun physical games. Avoid excessive video games and TV.**

## PTO/ School Council



- ❖ Cookie Dough will be delivered to Tansey on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> and must be picked up between 1:30-5:30. These items need to be kept frozen. So, please plan accordingly.
- ❖ We are in the process of planning for the Holiday Parade. This year's theme is the Cotton Bicentennial. If you would like to serve on the committee, please email the PTO president, Casey Miranda, at [casey.79@verizon.net](mailto:casey.79@verizon.net)

## School Improvement News:



Mathematics continues to be a key focus area at Tansey. Our math coach, Ms. Botelho, meets biweekly with teachers to plan for instruction and review assessment data. We are planning a Parent Seminar/ Math Gallery Night for early December at which time we will provide parents with specific examples of the type of mathematics being done at each grade level. We will have samples of student work and provide photos and video of students engaged in math congress. Parents will even have the opportunity to move through math stations and solve math problems using the strategies and models taught to their children. We hope this will be a great opportunity for parents to experience how we are instructing our children in the area of mathematics and to enhance their own understanding of math concepts.

## TECHNOLOGY CORNER

Several parents have asked me about educational websites for their children to use at home. We have a list of sites which teachers and coaches have assembled that we frequently use with the students. I am in the process of checking each site to be certain it is still functioning properly and applicable to our goals for the students. You may access the lists at [www.delicious.com/tansey](http://www.delicious.com/tansey) to see what we are recommending.

Some of the favorite sites for the younger students are ABCya! and Poisson Rouge while the older students enjoy exploring many sites. To familiarize themselves with the keyboard, there are several keyboarding games listed. Dream Box, a Math site for Kindergarten through Grade 3, is not yet up and running for this year but we expect it soon. From alphabet games to research, we are compiling a variety of sources for our students. I have also placed a link for Google Apps on Delicious and will soon be sending home directions for accessing your child's account. At this time, students in Grades 3 - 5 have worked in Google Apps in school. Check back often as we are always searching for new sites and adding their links.

*Miss Stankiewicz*



## Characters of the Month October 2011

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

### **Friendship: To make friends, be a friend**

**KM** Joseph Botelho  
**KH** Paycience Boudreau

**1S** Luis Duarte III  
**1D** Joseph Francisco

**2M** Janelle Page  
**2F** Louraine Dayao

**3N** Sabrina Mitchell  
**3B** Ethan Beaulieu

**4NM** Catherine Callahan  
**4M** Caleb Rodrigues

**5S** Jonah Andrade  
**5C** Emily Pacheco

**ET** Kyle Garant  
**TECH** Gina Resendes

**Music** Brian DeMedeiros  
**ART** Kelvyn Baldessar  
**PE** Autumn Williams

**Staff** Mr. B



*Friends are like the walls of a house. Sometimes they hold you up, Sometimes you lean on them, But sometimes, it's enough to know they're just standing by.*

*Character of the Month Breakfast for September and October Characters of the Month will be held on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Students will bring invitations home soon!*



*“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 kindergarten students are busy working in their literacy centers. We will be approaching Unit 2 of Reading Street. Here the children will have numerous opportunities to explore the high frequency words "have", "is", "we", "my" and "like". We will continue to work on the sounds that letters make. "A, P, and S" are the sounds we will be working on this month. In math we will be continuing our work in stations that focus on numeral identification, before and after, recognizing both regular and irregular dot patterns, as well as building combinations up to 10. We will also be beginning a new unit exploring early number sense. In social studies we will be studying two holidays, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. Lastly, in writing the children will be focusing their work on personal narratives. Within this unit the children will illustrate and tell their story across a number of pages, as well as begin to write words or sentences using beginning, middle and ending sounds. We are so very proud of all the hard work and effort your children have demonstrated thus far!

## Grade 5

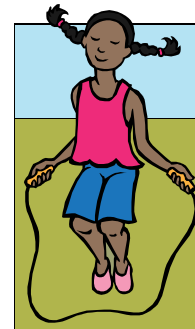
Grade 5 has begun the math Context For Learning unit called "The Box Factory". In this unit students will be learning about the commutative and associative properties of multiplication as well as surface area and volume for rectangular solids. During reading, we will begin the second unit in our new series. The big question all of our stories build off of is: "What makes people want to do the right thing? Students will continue to work on personal narratives during writer's workshop. Electricity and magnetism are the topics we will continue to investigate during Science. In Social Studies we will be finishing up our study of the Ancient Americas. We will focus on Indian lifeways in North America. We will also begin our unit on exploration.

## Grade 1

The first grade students have been working very hard across the curriculum, and they are well on their way to becoming independent learners! The students are enjoying reading many realistic fiction stories in our new reading program, while exploring the unit's concept of how people and animals are important to one another. Weekly spelling patterns will continue to focus on learning how to read and write short vowel words. In our Writers' Workshop sessions the students will continue to write personal narratives, and they are beginning to view themselves as writers! Math lessons will be full of enthusiasm as the children begin a new math unit. The unit incorporates a story about a double-decker bus which will help the children learn many strategies to combine and partition numbers to 20. In science, the students will be transformed into little meteorologists as they learn about daily weather and how weather can impact our lives. Social Studies lessons will focus on influential Americans who have left an impact on our country as well as important American symbols. We look forward to meeting with you during Parent Teacher Conferences!

## PE

As November arrives, we are discussing the benefits of regular exercise with our K through 3rd graders. With this discussion, we have also been going over fitness circuits and using a variety of different exercises. In our 4th and 5th grade we have started a basketball unit and will continue that through most of the month of November before starting Soccer.



## Grade 2

Second grade is "fall"ing into Unit 2 of Reading Street, which will focus on working together. In this unit we will be identifying cause and effect, author's purpose, and facts and details. We will also be comparing and contrasting. All of these skills will be practiced with a variety of texts. In writing, we will be finishing up our personal narratives and moving onto writing pieces that focus on giving directions. In math, we will be working on the Context for Learning unit, Measuring for Art Show, which helps develop efficient addition and subtraction strategies using the open number line. We are excited about this unit because we will be applying our math work by hosting an art show at the December Math Gallery! Stay tuned for more information about this event. In science, we will be wrapping up our unit on magnets and begin a unit on matter. In social studies, we will be learning about civics and government and students will be participating in a mock election. We look forward to seeing you during Parent Teacher Conferences!

## Art

November is Native American heritage Month. We will focus on how the environment ( natural resources ) provided the Native Americans with food, shelter, clothing and all of life's basic needs. Our projects will reflect traditional arts and crafts, creating examples of masks, totem poles, pottery designs, wampum and Navaho rug designs.



# What's Happening in Class?

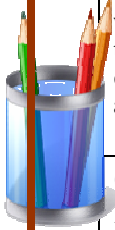


## Grade 3

During the month of November the third grades will be zooming to outer space in science. We will be studying our moon, sun and the planets that make up our solar system. The social studies block will be dedicated to comparing and contrasting Pilgrim and Native American life in Massachusetts. We will be beginning unit two of Reading Street. Children will be reading and responding to fiction and nonfiction text. During our writing block we will be using the writing process to teach personal narratives. We will be wrapping up our work with addition and subtraction on the open number-line and we will be moving into using ratio tables to problem solve in the context for learning unit, The Big Dinner. Our third grade community is looking forward to another month of working and learning together.

## Tech

As we approach the end of the 1st quarter, students in Kindergarten are continuing to show control over the mouse and are beginning to identify desktop icons to launch programs. Our next step is to locate and use letter and number keys. Grade 1 students are practicing using the shift key and the space bar as they type their names. Students in Grades 2 - 5 have a goal: to log on to the Tansey network without using their name and password cards by the end of the 1st quarter. Many have already achieved that goal while others continue to work on it. Students in Grades 4 & 5 are working in Google Docs to write a brief paper for their Science classes. We have a rubric of expectations for the format of their papers and Grade 5 students have already handed in their first drafts and I have commented on them.



## Grade 4

In math the fourth graders will be solving multiplication (partitive and quotative) repeated groups through story problems. We will use 10-times and partial products to compute efficiently up to 3-digit by 2-digit multiplication with the support of the open array as well as other equally strategic models. In reading we will explore answers to the "Big Question" - What is the value of teamwork? We will prepare final drafts of personal narratives and begin creating poems concentrating on word choice, focus, conventions and organization in writing. In social studies we are learning about limited and unlimited (renewable and nonrenewable) natural resources as well as our economy (supply and demand). Finally in science class, we will be learning about the unique qualities and characteristics of rocks and minerals.

## Music

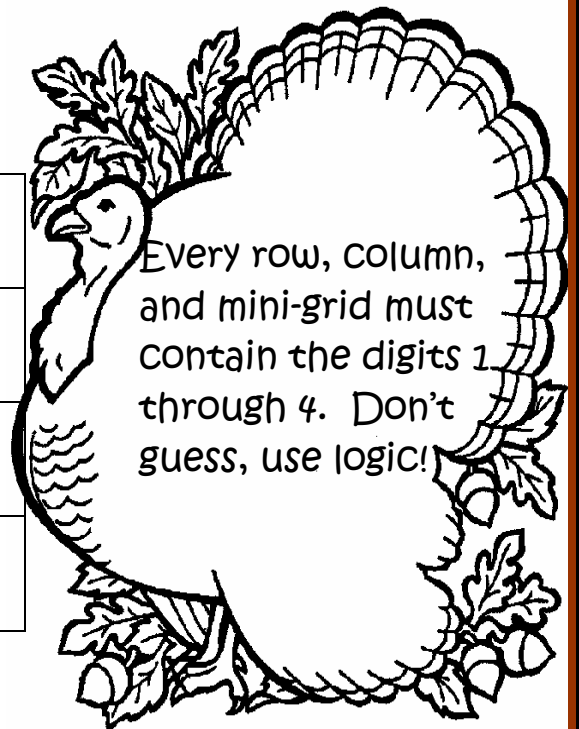
Greetings from Mr. B!  
This month in music, students in K and 1 will add beats and rhythm as we continue to integrate the math standards. Grades 2 and 3 will learn America the Beautiful with a historic overview of Katherine Lee Bates. Students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade will expand knowledge of music theory through stylistic exploration.



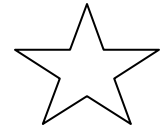
## Kids' Corner

		3	
4			
		1	
2			

		3	
	4		
		1	
	2		



Every row, column, and mini-grid must contain the digits 1 through 4. Don't guess, use logic!



# Math Stars

## Strategy of the Month

Being able to ask good questions will help you in many ways. Use these to solve problems:

- **What information do I know?**
- **What else do I need to find out?**
- **What question am I trying to answer?**
- **Have I missed anything?**
- **Does my answer make sense?**

Set the goal of asking good questions!

**Kindergarten:** Jody saw a ladybug with four spots. Draw a picture and write a number sentence to show how many spots Jody would see on two ladybugs?

**Grade One:** Jody saw a ladybug with six spots. Draw a picture and write a number sentence to show how many spots Jody would see on two ladybugs?

**Grade Two:** Maegen uses four blocks to build a house. If she builds a town with six houses, how many blocks will she need?

**Grade Three:** Jill counted the number of petals on six flowers that are all alike. When she finished she had counted 30 petals. How many petals are on each flower?

**Grade Four and Five:** Tickets for the concert cost \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. If the group has \$60, how many adults and how many children could go?

### Math Stars Home Tips

Sometimes the hardest part of solving a problem is just getting started. Having some steps to follow may help you.

1. Understand the information in the problem and what you are trying to find out.
2. Try a strategy you think might help you solve the problem.
3. Find the solution using that strategy or try another way until you solve the problem.
4. Check back to make certain your answer makes sense.

All problems should be answered on a separate paper, labeled with student's name and homeroom. Complete answers are required- please show your work!

Math Stars should submit work to Ms. Botelho by MONDAY, November 7th