

Tansey Times

October 2011







Kristen Farias, Principal

Melissa Homol, Assistant Principal

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				29 Open House 5-7:00 pm	30	1
2	3	4 PTO Meeting 6:30	5 Walk to school day Depart Highland School 8:05	6 Parent Informational Session 3,4,5 MCAS 6-7:00	7	8
9	10 Columbus Day No School	11	12	13 School Improvement Council 3:00-4:00	14	15
16	17	18	19 Parent Seminar1 Technology 9-10:00	20 Parent Seminar2 Technology 4-5:00	21 Halloween Party 6-8:00 pm	22
23	24	25 Coffee Hour 10:00-11:00	26	27	28	29
30	31					

News From the Office:

-  Children arriving to school later than 8:35 will be considered tardy. Children tardy more than 5 times will receive a detention. Please be certain students arrive on time.
-  Nurse Pam will be conducting health screenings this month. Parents will be notified of any concerns.
-  Please provide the office advanced notice if your child will be dismissed for an appointment. Upon return, appropriate documentation of the appointment should be provided to the office.
-  We will continue our monthly parent seminars this year. In October, our seminar will be focused around technology. We are offering 2 different sessions to try to best meet your needs. Parents will see what students are learning in lab, including an intro to GoogleDocs.

School Improvement News:

▪ Our School Improvement Team worked during the 2010-2011 School Year to write our Focused Improvement Plan. Two new resources identified in the plan were the addition of a full time Technology teacher and a full time Math Coach. The Tansey School is pleased to welcome Ms. Stankiewicz to her new role as the Instructional Technology Teacher and Ms. Botelho to the role of Math Coach.



▪ Our MCAS Data indicates that we have made AYP in both ELA and MATH.

▪ **STUDENT GROWTH PERCENTILE-** Students in grades 4 and 5 receive an SGP score. This number indicates their growth on MCAS, as compared to other students in who performed similarly to them the previous year. Typical growth is 40-60.

Grade 4 ELA SGP 47
Grade 4 MATH SGP 25.5
Grade 5 ELA SGP 56
Grade 5 MATH SGP 34

Due to our minimal growth in math, we will be focused on targeting mathematics instruction, providing coaching and professional development to teachers this school year.

▪ Our 1st School Improvement Meeting for the 2011-2012 school year will be held on Thursday, October 6 3:00-4:00. Any parent interested in serving on the School Improvement Council should contact Mrs. Farias kfarias@fallriverschools.org or Mrs. Homol mhomol@fallriverschools.org

PTO/ School Council



- Halloween Party October 21st 6-8:00
- PTO meeting October 4th 6:30 pm- all are welcome to attend.
- Any parents interested in volunteering for upcoming events (Halloween Party, Holiday Parade, Holiday Shop, Library...) should contact Casey Miranda by email @ casey.79@comcast.net
- REMINDER- Please register your Target and Stop & Shop cards for Tansey
- Mention Tansey at the CORKY sale!!!

Fit Kids



We will be participating in Walk to School Day October 5th



Student who wish to participate, should either walk to school from home OR meet us at the old Highland School at 8:00. We will depart at 8:05.

Any student who participates in Walk to School day may wear his/her favorite hat for the day.



TECHNOLOGY CORNER

October is Computer Learning Month. According to the Computer Learning Foundation, "Computer Learning Month is a time to try new ways of using technology, to learn new technology products, and to share knowledge with others in your local community about how to use technology." Here at Tansey we are moving forward in all these areas.

The teachers and I are collaborating to integrate technology into many classroom subjects and are planning projects that will span several curriculum areas. In Grade 5 we have designed a template for a timeline project that will span several units and can be used for other projects. Science classes in Grades 4 and 5 are using Student Google Apps to write a short report and share the work with their teachers digitally. Kindergartners and First Graders are drawing pictures and sharing thoughts for a slide show. (I could go on and on but Mrs. Homol only gave me this little space!)

Document cameras and projectors are becoming everyday teaching tools for all of us. Later this month we will be sharing information about Student Google Apps in two sessions here at school. This is a powerful web-based application which students will be able to access at home as well as in school to work and collaborate on projects with classmates and share their work with teachers.

Thank you for your support as we take technology at Tansey to a new level.



Miss Stankiewicz

Characters of the Month September 2011

*In the month of September, we spoke to students about **hard work** and **enthusiasm**. In October, we will focus on **friendship**. The following students were identified as characters of the month for September.*

Hard Work

Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.



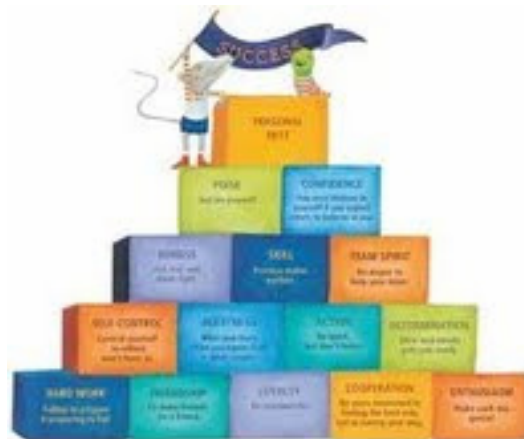
Enthusiasm

Make each day special.



KM Alana Carlton KH Noah Tessier	KM Landon Faeth KH Miles Davis
1S Reese Walter 1D Haylee Hadaya	1S Emma Gomes 1D Lucas Carvalho
2M Julianne Aguiar 2F Kiondra Boutin	2M Jake Silva 2F Zachary Martins
3N Zachary Massa 3B Alexandria Bouchard	3N Molly Timberlake 3B Niles Perry
4NM Francesca Tavares 4M Brian DeMedeiros	4NM Karson Dias 4M Lauren Baldo
5S Kelsey Alfonso 5C Alexie Jeronimo	5S Tyrese DaRosa 5C Emma Keene-Reinhard
ET Gabriel Pacheco TECH Mason Cipriano	ET Nikolas Ford TECH Isaiah Bass
Music Elizabeth Cruz-Rogers ART Julia Matos PE Storm Dillon	Music Kelsey Alfonso ART Shawn Lavoie PE Kelvin Baldessar
Staff Miss Skarpos	Staff Miss Mainelli

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 Kindergarten students are settling into their first year of school. In Reading, the students will be learning about sequencing, characters, setting, classifying and categorizing. We will begin to learn the sounds that the letters make. The high frequency words this month are “the, little, a and to.” In Math, we will continue to work on one to one correspondence, counting forward and backward, numeral recognition from 1 -20 and recognizing regular and irregular spatial patterns. In Social Studies and Science we will be focusing on our theme, “ All About Me.”

Grade 5

In 5th grade for the month of October we will be working on math concepts of surface area and volume. In reading our focus will be comparing and contrasting, sequencing, inferring and using context clues to determine unfamiliar words. Our writing will consist of working on various traits to end in a cumulative personal narrative piece. During science we will continue to work on the solar system with a focus on the moon and earth’s movements. Our social studies unit will focus on the Ancient Americas. We will look at the diversity among the Indians of the Northwest coast, Southwest coast, Eastern Woodlands and Middle America.

Grade 1

With September already behind us, First Grade is the place to be! The children are settling in wonderfully and have done a great job embracing classroom rules and rituals. Our Reading, Writing, and Social Studies, lessons focus around our unit theme, “Our World.” The children will be spending some of their literacy time learning how to read and write short vowel words as well as revisiting the elements of realistic fiction. Math centers will include many fun games designed to enhance early numeracy skills. We will bring our Science unit on water to a close toward the end of the month.

PE

In Physical Education we are growing together. We continue to work on the various forms of locomotion and levels (hi, low) with the K and 1st graders. In 2nd and 3rd we are working on cooperative gameplay, good sportsmanship as well as ways to move around things (over, under, around, between, etc...). In the 4th and 5th grades we are also continuing our work on good sportsmanship and working together, and for the main unit we are working on football and the aspects thereof.

Grade 2

2nd Grade students are soaring! In Reading, we are discovering what we can learn by exploring new places and things. We will be working on identifying main ideas and details in a variety of texts. We will be writing a brief report and a play scene. In Math, we’ll continue to work in centers to further develop our numeracy skills. Later in the month, we will begin a unit that will help students develop higher-level addition and subtraction strategies. In Science, we are wrapping up our exploration of magnets. Finally, in Social Studies, we will be learning about producers and consumers in our community.

Art

This month in the Art Classes we will be celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. The origins of many Halloween traditions and images will be explored. We will also create images based on the Mexican Day of the Dead.



Grade 3

Grade 3 is off to a great start! We will be investigating matter and properties of water during science. Our social studies time will be dedicated to studying the land and people of Massachusetts. During reading and writing we will be working on fluency, organization, features of a genre, and sequencing. Our math work is focused on a Context for Learning unit Ages and Timelines. This unit focuses on problem solving using the open-number line. As you can see we have a lot of work ahead of us, we are eager to share our ideas and work together!

Tech

Taney is taking a “Giant Leap” in Technology this year! All classes will have one period each week in the Technology Lab to work toward meeting the Massachusetts Technology Literacy Standards. Students in Grades 2-5 have reviewed the process to log on to the Tansey Network during September and the younger students will be taught the procedure later in the year. The K-1 students have been demonstrating the use of the mouse and identifying computer components (keyboard, mouse, and monitor) as well as locating icons on the desktop. Older students are creating files on the desktop in which to save work, learning to bookmark sites, and are beginning to use Google Apps to share and save work (more about Google Apps will be coming soon). During the month of October, we will be celebrating Computer Learning Month and extending our knowledge about using technology as a tool to make our lives easier. At Open House, families will receive a document which highlights our technology goals for each grade. They are ambitious but we have already accomplished many. My email address here at school is: astankiewicz@fallriverschools.org.



Grade 4

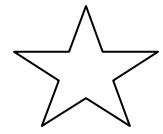
Grade 4 is off and running!! In reading we will continue to focus on the concept “What can we can learn from new places and people”. We will read featured anthologies and emphasize skills such as, sequencing, fluency, and features of various genre. Grammar Jammer helps us put learning to rap music. In Math we are working on multiplication and division. Some of the strategies we use include, unitizing, doubling, halving, and using what we know to help find what we don’t know. We are becoming great thinkers!! We will continue to study the solar system with an emphasis on moon phases. We may even track the moon nightly through the month of October. Finally in social Studies we will map and globe to determine absolute and relative locations. We will interpret this information through the use of legends, scales, and other visual aids. Also we will describe natural historical sites and identify their function as well as their significance.

Music

Dear Parents and students- a great big welcome from Mr. B. During the month of September, students K-5 heard excerpts and overviews from Vivaldi’s Autumn and a piano composition form Bela Bartok. Each week we will introduce a composer of past or present to enhance your child’s education. Hope you’re looking forward to October’s composers!



Kids' Corner



Math Stars



Strategy of the Month: Visualizing



Someone said, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Turning the words of a problem into a picture or a diagram can help you "see" the problem. By using the part of your brain that visualizes a situation or object, you may see relationships or information that helps you solve the problem. When someone tells you a story, try turning the words into a motion picture or a cartoon. When reading a description, try "seeing it in your mind's eye." If you can do these things, this strategy may be for you!

Try using a picture or make a diagram to solve these problems:

Kindergarten & Grade One: On the playground there are two bicycles. How many wheels are there? (Hint: How many wheels on a bicycle?)

Grade Two: Kristin wishes to bake some cakes. Each cake requires four eggs. How many cakes can Kristin bake if she has one dozen eggs? (Hint: How many eggs in a dozen?)

Grade Three: In the playground there are three bicycles and two tricycles. How many wheels are there? (Hint: How many wheels on a bicycle, how many wheels on a tricycle?)

Grade Four: Every bike slot in a bicycle rack was filled. Donna's bike was in the middle. There were six bikes to the right of Donna's. How many bicycles were in the bicycle rack?

Grade Five: In the restaurant there are 12 square tables. Only one person can sit on each side. What is the greatest number of people that can be seated if the tables are pushed end to end into one large rectangle? (Hint: Try creating an array.)

Students who complete their math problems should submit their work to Ms. Botelho (math coach) NO LATER THAN Friday, October 7th to receive a small prize. Be sure to show/ explain your thinking. Label work with student's name and homeroom.