



T.I.S. Digital Backpack

November 21, 2013



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE



Twitter – Keep up with some of the fun we have at T.I.S. by following us on **Twitter @TISNews**

Winter Weather

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

The Book Fair is Coming!

Please see the flyers in this edition of the Digital Backpack for more information.

Congratulations Clean Sweep Award Winning Classes

Thanks for doing your part to keep our school looking great!

Mrs. Kneeland's class

Mrs. Bockus' class

Mrs. Arner's class

Congratulations to the students on bus 222 for being awarded a Hawk Card

T.I.S. Food Drive

Our food drive challenge has begun. As we draw closer to Thanksgiving, the Hockanum Valley Community Council has asked for our help. Many of our neighbors in Tolland, Vernon and Manchester are counting on the Hockanum Valley Community Council for their holiday meal. Please consider donating your non-perishable food items to this worthy cause. A collection box for these items is located in the front lobby of the school.

Thank you to all of you who have donated so far.



Flash the Hawk says:

Tomorrow (Friday, November 22nd) is

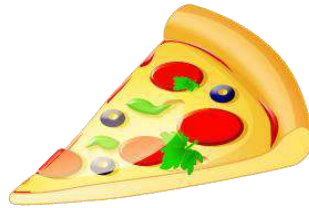
WACKY, TACKY DAY!!

Wear your wackiest outfit!

IMPORTANT NOTICES:

November 27th is a half day. Dismissal time is 1:20.

LUNCH ON NOVEMBER 27TH (HALF DAY): Lunch will be served on Wednesday, November 27th. **There will be one entree** choice "cheese pizza", along with fruit, vegetables and milk. Students not wishing to order the pizza entrée should bring a bag lunch.



PICTURE RETAKE DAY

Is scheduled for December 5th.



Our Nurse's Office is in need of "larger-sized" pants for boys and girls. Size 10-14 would be great!



COFFEE WITH THE T.I.S. PRINCIPALS

9:00 a.m.

October 10, 2013

November 21, 2013

December 19, 2013

January 9, 2014

February 13, 2014

March 13, 2014

April 10, 2014

May 8, 2014

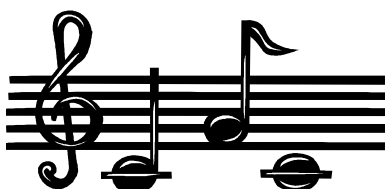
(June 12th – tentative)



*Winter Concert 2013 Grade 5 Chorus
Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 pm
Tolland Intermediate School All Purpose room*

You are invited to the grade five chorus concert on Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 in the TIS APR. Students are to arrive at 6:40 to Ms. Baker's music room. Students are to dress their best. Please no jeans, sweat pants, athletic outfits or T-shirts. I am looking forward to seeing you all there for an evening of music and entertainment.

Thank you, Ms. Judith Baker



BOOK DRIVE

TO BE HELD DURING TIS BOOK FAIR

With the holidays and the book fair fast approaching, please take this opportunity to pass on **gently used** books to the TIS Reading Department. Books must be in *excellent condition* and will be used by children of all reading abilities. The books your child has out-grown, may be utilized by the reading department to engage other children in reading.

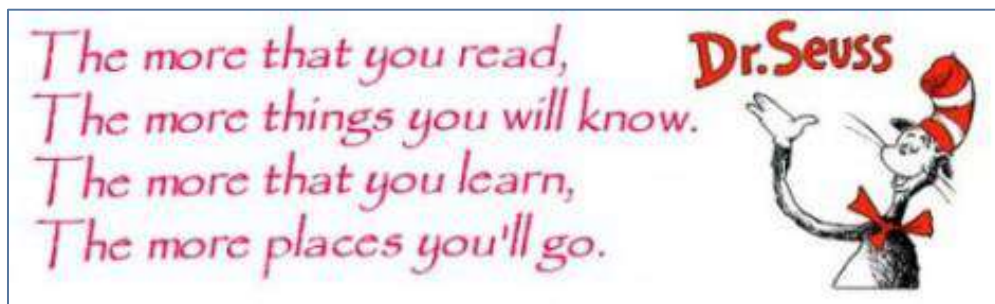
Suggested titles/popular series (but not limited to):

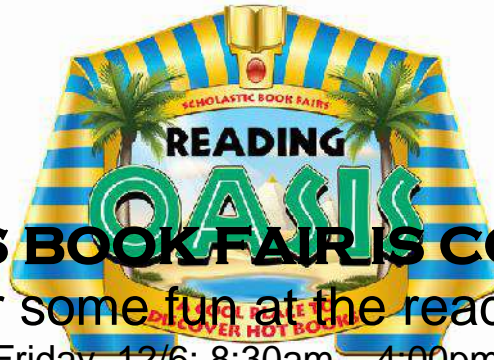
Geronimo Stilton	Fly Guy
A-Z Mysteries	Ivy and Bean
Magic Tree House	Mercy Watson
Puppy Place	

****A BOX WILL BE LOCATED OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY DURING THE BOOK FAIR FOR YOUR BOOK DONATIONS****

QUESTIONS: CONTACT KAREN MORAN, 4MORANS@GMAIL.COM

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





THE TIS BOOK FAIR IS COMING!

Join us for some fun at the reading oasis!

Friday, 12/6: 8:30am – 4:00pm
Saturday, 12/7: 9:00am – 1:00pm
Monday, 12/9: 8:30am – 4:00pm
Tuesday, 12/10: 8:30am – 8:00pm
Wed: 12/11: 8:30am – 8:00pm
Thursday, 12/12: 8:30am – 6:00pm
Friday, 12/13: 8:30am – 3:00pm

CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE FAIR?

Shop our online fair at www.scholastic.com/fair
Orders must be submitted by Dec. 10th for holiday delivery

ALL FOR BOOKS - CHANGE WAR!

During the week of the fair, we will have a "change war"
between 3rd, 4th and 5th grades at TIS!

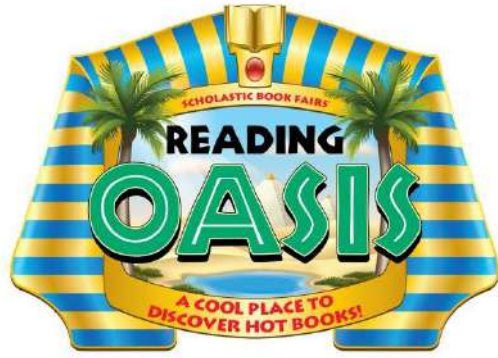
The grade that brings in the most funds will win a special assembly with our famous
science coordinator, **Mrs. Tyl!**

Funds raised will go toward our school library!
(Participation is optional and at your discretion)

Your book fair chairpersons:

Karen Moran, 4morans@gmail.com
Steffanie leensvaart, psnleens@comcast.net
Jessica burney, jessburney13@comcast.net





Help Kids Discover a Treasure of Books by **Volunteering** at Our Book Fair!

Dates: December 5th – 13th

Volunteer to help kids enjoy our Book Fair: a journey back to Ancient Egypt overflowing with hundreds of treasures just waiting to be discovered. We need your help to make this our most historic Book Fair ever! We appreciate your help in whatever form it takes! Join our volunteer team to:

- Bring creative flair to signs and decorations
- Cashier and Sales
- Organize and put things in place
- Offer a helping hand, set up, or pack up
- Help shoppers of all ages find the perfect book

We're using VolunteerSpot (the leading online signup and reminder tool) to organize our Book Fair.

Please sign up for TIS Fall Book Fair 2013 - here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/hrLuJt>
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders.

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

**Contact: Jessica Burney, jessburney13@comcast.net
Phone: 774-253-0079**





Dear TIS Parents,

Tolland Community Women (formerly known as Tolland Junior Women) are collecting the following items that will be distributed to children in need: **Winter hats, mittens, scarves, socks, and slippers.** If you are interested in participating in this collection, please send any of the aforementioned items to school with your child. We request that the donated items be ***new or in excellent condition; socks and slippers must be new.***

There will be a box in the office of Tolland Intermediate School for 3rd Grade, 4th Grade and 5th Grade. The grade with the most items brought in before Thanksgiving break will earn a pajama day!

Sincerely,

Minna DiBella
Tolland Community Women

**** Many of these items can be purchased at discount stores, such as Dollar Stores.****



Tolland Elementary Schools Parent Teacher Organization

Join us and bring a friend to our next TEPTO meeting!

Monday, December 2nd 2013
at 7:00pm
TIS– Library

Are you curious about the upcoming school year budget? What changes that may be ahead in the future for our schools? Then don't miss this opportunity to attend our meeting. We will be having Mr. Bill Guzman Superintendent, a Town Council Member and a Board of Education Member with us to give us some insight on how the process works, and answer questions you may have for them.

If you are unable to make this meeting and you have a question and or comment for any of them please email either Co-President Colleen Yudichak at cyudichak@gmail.com or Sarah Poulin spoulin03@gmail.com and we will be more than happy to ask on your behalf and get the information you are looking for back to you by email.

Our agenda will also include:

- **Principals and Teacher Reports – what's going on at school!**
- **Superintendent, BOE Member and a Town Council Member**
- **Book Fairs and Lil' Shoppers**
- **Discover the opportunities in making a difference in the schools**



Inside Special Education

ished regularly by Directors of Special Education in Tolland, Mansfield and Willington, with the goal of providing direction, guidance, information and support to parents and families of students with special education needs.

Smarter Balanced Field Test

The next generation of high stakes testing is upon us. This school year districts have an assessment choice. Since the mid-1980s the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) has been administered to elementary and middle school students. During the mid-1990s the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) was introduced for 10th grade students. This school year with the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) a new test is being piloted and our district has chosen to participate. Specifically, students in grades 3-8 and 11 will be assessed in English Language Arts/literacy and Math using the Smarter Balanced Field Test (SBFT). In order to appropriately assess students in the Science domain, the CMT will still be administered to students in grades 5 and 8, with the CAPT being used in grade 10.

This new assessment is computer based and adjusts academic levels up or down depending on student responses. Many accommodations, once available for students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan, are now embedded as universal tools, available to all. The most frequently used accommodation is extra time which also includes a separate setting. Since this is now embedded for all, it is no longer considered a specialized accommodation.

Most student annual review meetings were held in the spring of 2013. Therefore, for students with special needs or with a Section 504 Plan, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has advised that IEP or Section 504 revisions are necessary to reflect any adjustments to the CMT/CAPT Accommodations form and to indicate whether a new SBFT Accommodations form is necessary. Additionally, a new IEP Page 9a has been created to reflect the SBFT. Your student's case manager will contact you regarding how the changes can be made. In most situations, it is likely that an IEP amendment will be created to include any

changes and the respective Accommodation form(s). The Amendment Signature Page must be signed by the parent. For parents who prefer, a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting can be scheduled. Please stay tuned as we will be in touch to ensure that everything is in order for the spring 2014 testing window.

Pre-Writing Skills

The mastery of handwriting requires development of pre-writing skills.

The Occupational Therapist works closely with the teacher and parents to address these skills through activities, play, and instruction that builds a strong foundation for handwriting. By the latter half of kindergarten, most students have developed these pre-writing skills.

Here are the prerequisites that students need to have greater success with handwriting:

1. An established hand dominance
2. The ability to cross the midline of the body
3. A functional grasp
4. An understanding of directional terms and the ability to recognize similarities and differences in forms
5. The ability to copy basic lines and shapes
6. The ability to use two hands in an activity
7. The ability to coordinate eyes and hands together
8. The ability to maintain an adequate sitting posture
9. Orientation to print

Activities to promote these and other underlying skills can be easily incorporated into daily routines. Sports, games, and everyday activities at home can help children improve many of the functions that make up handwriting skills. It is more important for children to practice manipulating small objects through play and daily activities of living. Proficiency skills should follow once a solid foundation of manipulation skill is established.

The Referral Process for Special Education Students

If you are concerned about your child's progress in school and you think the problems may be related to an emotional or learning disability, you may need to refer your child for an evaluation. There are some things you should do first:

- 1) Speak to your child's teacher about your concerns. Many concerns may be typical for the age of your child.
- 2) The school must consider alternate interventions in the regular classroom before they can make a referral. These interventions must be documented and the progress must be monitored. Even with classroom interventions in place, a parent may refer their child for further evaluation.
- 3) Once the school receives the referral, a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) must meet to determine if an evaluation for special education service is necessary. The parent is a vital and equal member of the PPT. At this PPT, the team will discuss the child's progress, parent concerns, and interventions that have taken place.
- 4) If it is determined that an evaluation is needed, the types of evaluation and tests to be administered will be determined at the PPT. Parents will need to give the school written permission for the assessments/evaluation.
- 5) Another PPT will be scheduled to review the evaluation results and the team will determine if the child is eligible for special education.
- 6) If your child is eligible to receive special education, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be developed by the PPT. Parents must give their permission in writing for their child to receive special education services.

The entire process, from the initial referral to the implementation of the IEP must be completed within 45 school days.

Dear Ide A



Dear Ide A:

At PPT, the school told me my child will receive writing help from the special education teacher in his classroom because that is the least restrictive environment. What is least restrictive environment? Lori

Lori,

The Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) is the environment in which a student can succeed that is most like the environment in which nondisabled peers are educated. Based on the information you provide, the PPT determined that your child's needs in the area of writing can be met satisfactorily in the classroom setting while included with peers. If your child has IEP writing goal(s), specially designed instruction must be provided by a special education teacher. You can contact this teacher to discuss how your child's unique needs are being met in the classroom setting.

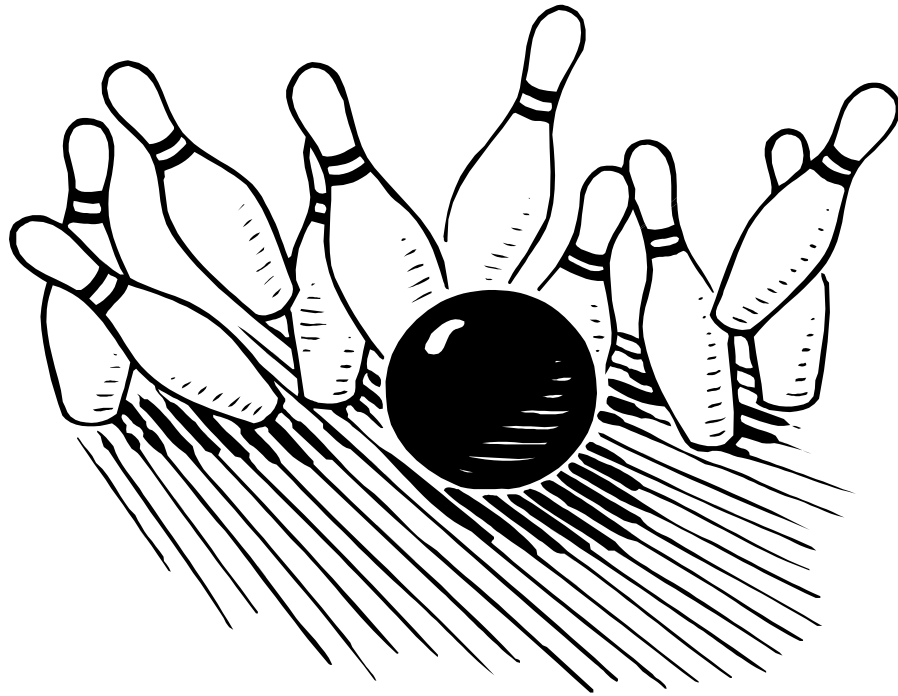
Sensory Friendly Films

AMC theaters provide special opportunities for families to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment. The auditoriums dedicated to the program have their lights up, the sound turned down and audience members are invited to get up and dance, walk, shout or sing. The idea for the program began with a parent request for their autistic child. AMC are thrilled to now offer the program at locations nationwide. Upcoming screening:

December 7, 2013- Frozen 2-D

All shows are at 10:00 am local time. Call the theater to double check for any change in schedule.

AMC Loews Plainville 20
220 New Britain Avenue, Plainville, CT 06062



All Star Bowling is a bowling program for special needs bowlers and their peer Buddies. Our 2013-2014 season begins Tuesday, December 3, 2013. It will be held Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00 pm at Spare Time Lanes in Vernon, through March if interest allows.

Cost for bowlers is \$5.00 per week. This includes bowling for an hour and shoe rental. Bowlers age 5 and up are welcome. The lanes are handicap accessible and bowling ramps are available.

We need lots of peer Buddies to assist and cheer on our bowlers! Call or email Laurel Leibowitz with questions or to register. (860)870-5834 or lleibowitz@tolland.k12.ct.us

The Tolland Family Resource Center Presents
A Family Gingerbread Building Workshop makes it a tradition

Tuesday, December 10, 2013



Join us for a fun filled family evening. We will supply the materials and directions to make Graham Cracker Gingerbread Houses. You need to bring your imaginations and team work to build your own unique Gingerbread House. We will provide an assortment of delicious supplies! Light refreshments will be served. The cost is \$5.00 per child or \$25 per family max. Please make checks payable to **Tolland Board of Education**. Those wishing to donate undies, diapers or socks for the needy are encouraged to bring them along.

Names of Decorators: _____

Email: _____

Number of people: _____

Please return with a check made payable to T B of E in an envelope marked FRC to BGP or TIS or mail it to TFRC Rhodes Rd. Tolland, CT 06084



Looking for ideas to increase communication at home? Join us Monday, December 2 for a relaxing night with your child (ren). We will start at 6:00 with a baked potato and salad bar dinner. Bring your favorite topping to share for a potato and for a salad bar. I will bake the potatoes and have the salad greens ready. From 6:30-7:30 we will learn the art of journaling from Heather Freeman who has been journaling with her girls for years! A great pre-teen communication tool!

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Names and  
ages \_\_\_\_\_

Email/phone \_\_\_\_\_

Salad and Potato  
toppings \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the school in an envelope labeled FRC with a check for \$5 for journaling supplies made payable to TB of E



The End