

# TIGER TALES



## THE TISBURY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**April 2026**

P.O. Box 878  
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568  
508-696-6500

Visit our website:  
[www.tisbury.mvyps.org](http://www.tisbury.mvyps.org)  
*Information is updated routinely.*



## Principal's Letter

Tisbury School community:

In schools, when April arrives, it seems that schedules become fuller, events are more frequent, and the weeks pass more quickly. This is part of springtime routines in school, as we look to complete necessary business, celebrate successes achieved over the course of the year, and also begin to plan for September. There is much happening, so it is therefore important to be mindful of all events.

Following the April school vacation, parent-teacher conferences will be held on April 28 (grades K-4 only), April 30 (K-8), and May 4 (K-8). Students in grades K-4 will be dismissed at noon on all 3 of these dates. Students in grades 5-8 will be dismissed at noon on April 30 and May 4. Please be sure to sign up for a conference if you wish to meet with your children's teachers.

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) testing for students in grades 3-8 resumes after the April vacation, and continues into late May. All students in grades 3-8 will test in Math, while students in grade 5 will also test in Science, and students in grade 8 will also test in Science and Civics. During

MCAS testing, our entire school supports the most favorable conditions for students to be successful.

In addition to many local field trips, vocal music and band concerts, and Field Day events, we look forward to our annual recognition of Memorial Day with the March to the Sea parade and ceremony on May 22. Also, the 8th grade class trip to Washington D.C. is scheduled for June 1-5. The following week, 8th grade graduation will take place in the school gymnasium on June 10 at 5:00 pm. Barring any additional school closures, the last day of school will be Wednesday June 24. Again, there is much happening during April, May, and June, so please mark your calendars.

Tisbury's Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 28 at 7:00 pm in the school gymnasium. The school's fiscal year 2027 budget will be voted on at that meeting. Our school has been fortunate to receive strong support from voters, and this should never be taken for granted. Our town should be proud of its commitment to children and education, and we should acknowledge this support. Certainly, the school community is grateful.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Sincerely,  
John

### 1st Grade News

First Graders are becoming math superstars! They are working hard to learn their addition and subtraction math facts. We have a huge group of mathematicians this month. Congratulations to Jason, Isaac, Anastasia, Kiyana, Zappa, Veronica, Leahnaija, Isabella, Aydan, Abraham, Lennox, and Ben who all recently mastered their addition facts to 10. We also have Nika, Zoe, and Jojo who have memorized their subtraction facts! Way to go first graders! Keep working hard!

**Addition:**



**Subtraction:**



### 3rd Grade News

Last week, third grade participated in an incredible Islandwide program, hosted by the YMCA. Students spent the morning in the pool learning about water safety. Specifically, they learned how to rescue someone without putting themselves in danger, as well as what to do when their boat capsizes. Perhaps most importantly, students learned how to recognize and rescue themselves from a rip current. The lifeguards were amazing, sharing helping life-saving information while also making it fun. There might even have been a waterslide! This program has been offered for the last 14 years and Tisbury third grade is fortunate to be a part of this Island tradition. Students also wrote personal narrative essays about their trip, which will be included in an autobiographical memory book.



narrative essays about their trip, which will be included in an autobiographical memory book.



## 4th Grade News

4G spent some time thinking about messages that may inspire others, just as leaders from the past such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Nelson Mandela, FDR, or John F. Kennedy. Below are their sweet messages of inspiration to others.



## 6th Grade News

We took a field trip to the Boston Museum of Science at the beginning of March which included a private planetarium show. It was great being able to see many exhibits that correlated with subjects we have learned about - fossils, planets and geologic time scale.

We are finishing up our informational essays in ELA and are learning about the Middle East in Social Studies. We just started the unit Equations and Inequalities in Math and are finishing up our recent Science unit with a Data Project using numerical and categorical questions that we will be asking students and adults in the Tisbury School.



## Spanish News

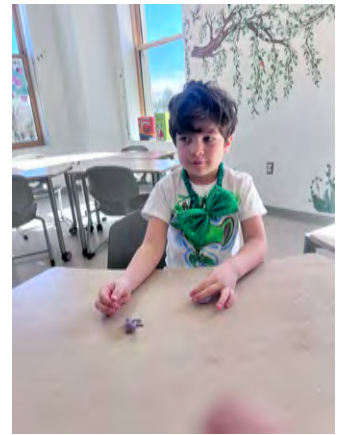
¡Hola, hola! During the last few months, students have continued expanding their vocabulary and learning about cultures across the Spanish countries. Here's what each grade has been working on:

**Kindergarten** students are practicing greetings, songs, and stories in Spanish. **First graders** have enjoyed dancing to "How Are You?" song and The Chameleon song. They are also learning to count up to 31. **Second graders** have been learning about clothing and farm animals through stories and interactive games. **Third and Fourth graders** have been using Rockalingua to learn through games and stories. Third grade focused on fruits and places. Fourth grade explored different fruits from South America.



will soon begin a project about culture and food from Hispanic countries. Once again, thank you for sharing your children with us!

Ms. Crespo  
Spanish Teacher



**Fifth graders** have been practicing likes and dislikes and using the verb tener (to have) while describing animals.

**Sixth graders** have been learning about the cultures and countries of Central America.

**Seventh graders** are practicing conversations through restaurant role-play. They created their own menus and are learning to write sentences in the past tense.

**Eighth graders** made tacos this week! They worked as a team and truly enjoyed the experience. They



## 7th and 8th Grade Science



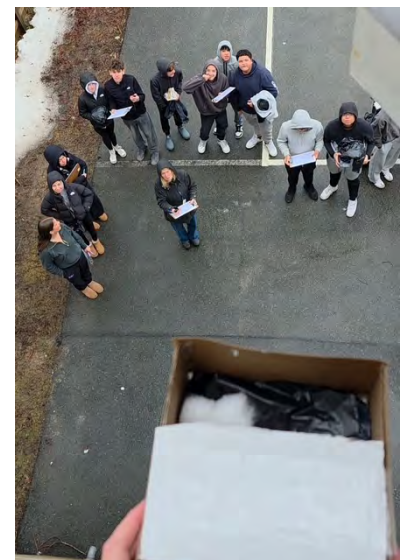
### 7th grade:

The seventh graders are finishing up the human body unit. They have studied bones and muscles, dissecting chicken wings to see how muscles work in pairs. To end the unit, they study the nervous system. This involves memory exercises, a look at sheep brains, a cow eye dissection and some neuron simulations. Hoping to tie it all together to see how our body systems are interrelated!

### 8th grade:

We "celebrated" the end of Gravity and Kinetic Energy with an egg drop from the second story of the EMS building. The kids were able to measure distance, time their drops and calculate speed. In the end, there was a clear picture of how speed affects a collision. Our two fastest egg drops were fatalities! The eighth graders are moving on to Earth Science and some review for our upcoming MCAS testing.

Sue Adamo  
7/8 Science



## Health Education

**Kindergarteners** are completing their unit on germs. We've learned how germs affect the human body, how they are spread and ways to stop germs from spreading. Be sure to ask your kindergartener about our classroom experiment with flour and Legos!

**1st graders** are working their way through fire safety. Recently, Chief Rolston and Deputy Chief Rivers helped students draw exit plans for leaving a space where there is an emergency. Students are learning the difference between tools for us to use and tools for the fire department to use. We are looking forward to a field trip to the fire station this spring.



**2nd graders** are part way through their L.E.A.D. unit with Major Bishop and have learned about safety with medication, being a good friend and how to handle making a mistake.

**3rd graders** are learning about the human body. We did two great experiments that demonstrated how the heart pumps blood throughout the entire human body. Students have learned about the different layers of skin and about the human eye.

**4th graders** are continuing with their safety unit and discussing safety online and on gaming platforms. Students have also discussed the pros and cons of video games. Ask your 4th grader their thoughts on this – many had strong opinions!

**5th graders** completed their unit on energy drinks and caffeine this week. We prepared for an in-class debate, discussing if energy drinks should have a legal age of purchase and consumption. Students worked in small groups, generated arguments, vetted sources and used critical thinking skills in the debate prep process. We are thankful to our community partners for joining us as judges: Resource Officer Cory Medeiros, Fire Chief Patrick Rolston, Deputy Fire Chief Marques Rivers, Major Sterling Bishop, Harbormaster Michael Gately and Sara Dingleddy from the Superintendent's office.

**7th graders** are in their substance unit, specifically discussing performance-enhancing drugs, how some modern medicine procedures and techniques have been used to support the use of PEDs and addressing the essential questions of, if everyone is doing this, is it okay to do?



Jane Taylor  
K8 Health Education

# Tisbury Garden News

Happy Spring!

The end of March was cold and wet, but 1st graders managed to plant some spinach and radish seeds in our garden. We just couldn't wait to get our hands dirty! Hopefully we will see them popping up early this month. The 3rd grade is taking part in the island-wide First Peas to the Table contest, modeled after a contest that Thomas Jefferson used to have with his neighbors at Monticello.

We voted on our pea varieties and hopefully we will get planting soon. The second grade has started planning for their annual seedling sale in May. This month we will start all of the seeds and they will spend some time at the greenhouse at IGI before coming back to be transplanted. First grade also has chicks hatching this month! They have been learning a lot about how chicks develop in the egg, and what they need before and after hatching. We'll be hearing some peep-peeping the week of the 13th.

The Harvest of the Month is seafood. We may think of fish and shellfish when we hear the word 'seafood', but if you look closely at the picture you will notice seaweed, too! Many kinds of seaweed are edible and very nutritious. There are even seaweed farmers growing kelp in island waters. This month's raffle question: Oysters are one of the only animal proteins we can eat that actually improve the environment where they grow or are farmed by filtering pollutants from the water. How many gallons a day can an adult oyster filter?



## LOST AND FOUND

Our Lost and Found is located in the front hallway outside the office. If your child is missing anything, please encourage them to take a look at the items. After the end of the school year, the items are donated to Goodwill. Thank you.



## Wellness News

### Tip from the Tisbury Wellness Committee:

Pre-school aged children should be physically active throughout the day to enhance growth and development

Children and adolescents should have 1 hour of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily

- Aerobic at least 3 days a week (running or soccer)
- Muscle strengthening at least 3 days a week (climbing or push-ups)
- Bone strengthening at least 3 days a week (gymnastics or jumping rope)

### Physical Activity is important for:

- Physical Benefits
- Cognitive Development
- Emotional Well-being
- Developing Social Skills and Team-work

The National Survey of Children's Health and the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey reports:



20-28% of children ages 6-17 years of age in the United States meet the daily 60 minutes of daily physical activity



## NURSE'S NOTES

### Vitamin D

Due to lifestyle changes and sunscreen usage, the majority of the population shows signs of vitamin D deficiency.

### What is Vitamin D good for?

Vitamin D helps ensure the body absorbs and retains calcium and phosphorous, both critical for building bone. It also modulates cell growth, neuromuscular and immune function, and can help with reduction in inflammation. Vitamin D deficiency can lead to Rickets, a bone softening disease. Vitamin D deficiency also increases the risk of bone fractures in older children, teens, and adults.

### How do I get Vitamin D?

**Naturally in foods**-salmon, sardines, tuna, mackerel, pork, mushrooms, and eggs.

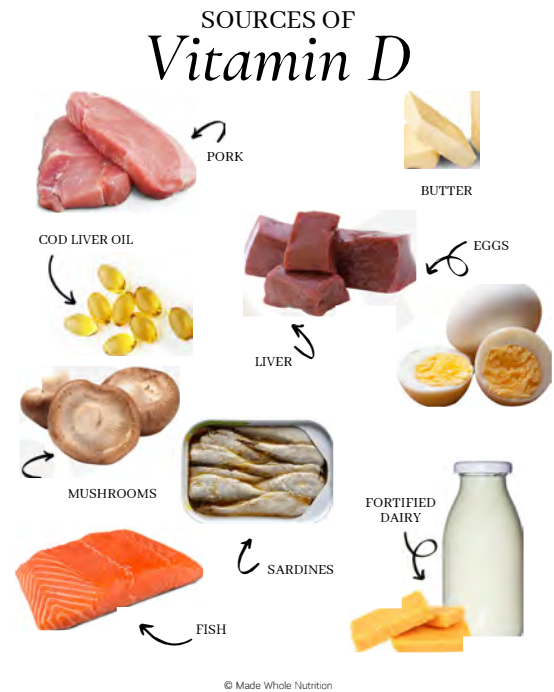
**Foods fortified with Vitamin D**- milk, cereal, orange juice and yogurt.

**Vitamin D can be found in supplements. Consult your doctor about their recommendations for you or your child.**

**Direct sun exposure can provide some vitamin D needs.** Ultraviolet B radiation converts a precursor in uncovered skin to vitamin D<sub>3</sub>. However, there is variability in the relationship between the amount of UV radiation exposure and vitamin D and prolonged exposure in the sun is harmful to the skin.

**People with darker skin and older people may not absorb as much vitamin D from the sun.**

- American Academy of Pediatrics



### Reminder:

**CPR class- 7th and 8th grade students interested in taking a CPR class, please contact Nurse Coogan.**



# ART

**Kindergarteners** are learning to form a pinch pot by creating a sphere and pinching the walls to a uniform thickness. They pressed flowers, butterflies or fish in the center to create an imprint in the clay.

**First Graders** are welcoming spring! They experimented with watercolor crayons on diffusing paper to create vibrant butterflies, flowers and bumble bees.

**Second Graders** sculpted penguins from clay while learning pinch, coil and glaze techniques.

**Third Graders** begin their "Carry in/ Carry Home" Friends of Sengekontacket posters to raise awareness about the problem regarding leaving trash on beaches. These posters will be featured around the island to help keep our environment clean.

**Fourth Graders** created a STEAM project acting like toy designers! They fabricated a paper sailboat that harnesses the wind of a fan, goes in a straight line, and is visually appealing. The engineering design process was utilized- create idea- design prototype-test prototype-redesign-retest prototype.

**Fifth graders** reviewed primary colors and symmetry. They envisioned a vase, folded and cut it to make it symmetrical, and traced and overlapped vases. Next, they colored with only primary colors (red/magenta, yellow, blue) and where it overlapped, secondary colors (green, orange, purple) were created.

**Sixth and Seventh Graders** are making clay animals by observing the animal shape, simplifying into geometric forms, and scratching and attaching clay forms together.

**Eighth Graders** are learning a brief synopsis of important art movements throughout the last 165 years, starting with Impressionism through Modern Art. They chose an artist's work to replicate in the same style as the artist and will write a paragraph on the art movement the artist is associated with.

