

TIGER TALES



THE TISBURY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



December 2025

P.O. Box 878
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
508-696-6500
Visit our website:
www.tisbury.mvyps.org
Information is updated routinely.

Wellness Tip from the Tisbury Wellness Committee

Engage in Cooking Activities as a Family

Cooking and eating together as a family creates connectedness and a rhythm to life when things feel chaotic. Family member's presence around cooking and sharing a meal increases communication and provides a break from life's distractions. It reminds people that they have each other and that they have something to be grateful for during this holiday season.



Principal's Letter

Tisbury School Community:

Even as we anticipate the approaching school vacation in late December, it's important to remind ourselves of the many meaningful happenings in our school in the coming weeks.

For decades, the Tisbury School has supported the Red Stocking Fund by making donations, thanks to the generosity of students, families, and staff. The Red Stocking Fund is an island non-profit organization, run by volunteers, whose mission is to provide clothing and food for families in need on Martha's Vineyard. Our school celebrates Tigers Give Week each December, and our school-wide focus on giving is highlighted by our collective donation to the Red Stocking Fund. In most years, the donation exceeds \$1000. The Red Stocking Fund does amazing work supporting local families, and it is a wonderful tradition that the Tisbury School continues to partner with this organization.

Tigers Give Week includes many opportunities for our students and staff to demonstrate the spirit of giving, and this folds in nicely with our school's pillars (core values) – Respect, Community, Responsibility, and Compassion. Wearing the color red during that week is a visible symbol of our school's focus on giving and helping others. Please watch for an email detailing the events of that celebratory week.

If you're interested in attending events that also celebrate the season, please note that the All Island Band's winter concert is scheduled for Thursday December 11 at 6:00 pm at the MVRHS Performing Arts Center. The following day, American Legion Post #257 hosts the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at the entrance to the Oak Grove Cemetery (off State Road) in Tisbury on Friday December 12 at 11:00 am. Tisbury School 5th graders are special guests at this event, which honors veterans.

Special thanks to the cast and crew of James and the Giant Peach, the Tisbury School junior high musical production. Performances were held in mid-November, and were evidence of the hard work and dedication from students and staff. Thank you for your continued support of our work with students. We have much to feel grateful for.

Sincerely,
John

Tisbury Garden News

The gardens are almost put to bed for the winter and lessons will move into the classrooms. But some flowers are still blooming! And the hardy kale may just stay until spring. The 1st through 3rd graders harvested many seeds to plant next season.

If you do see seeds sprouting this month, those are the winter cover crops that will nourish the soil and provide a living mulch during the cold months. We have also left some stalks in the ground that may provide shelter for our overwintering important pollinator insects.

Congratulations to Snow Corwin who won the October Harvest of the Month raffle and received a bag of local organically grown cranberries.

The December Harvest of the Month is winter squash. Squash comes to us from Central America and Mexico. Hundreds of varieties were developed by indigenous people, beginning thousands of years ago, for their special trait of longevity off the vine....feeding people through the long cold winter.

Keep your eyes open in the second floor media center for some squash activities and new raffle question!



7th and 8th Grade Science

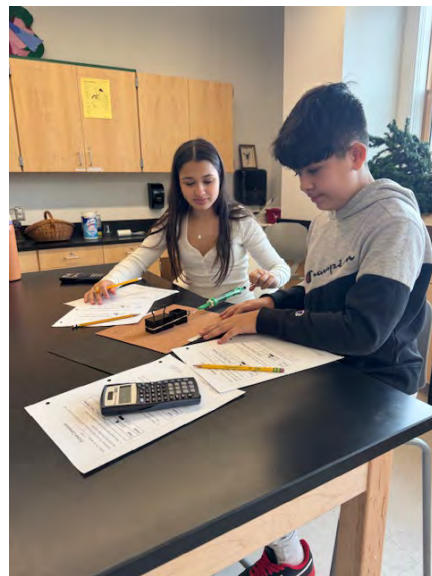
7th grade science:

The seventh graders have started a new unit, Electromagnetic Force. They are using spring scales to measure force, looking at friction and calculating net force. The unit will involve building complete circuits and looking at the relationship between magnetism and electricity.



8th grade science:

After "getting to know" the Periodic Table of Elements, the 8th graders are using this knowledge to complete labs and predict what substances are being produced in reactions. They have learned to balance chemical equations. Other labs involve phases of matter, endothermic and exothermic reactions. Our Chemis-Tree will be adorned with ornaments from a solubility activity!



Health Education

2nd graders are completing their ambulance safety unit. They've learned about tools used on the ambulance, gotten to speak with Tisbury EMTs and Paramedics and have explored the ambulance to see some of these tools in action. We are thankful to our Safety Friends: Paramedic Supervisor Jason Davey, School Resource Officer Cory Medeiros, Fire Chief Patrick Rolston and Deputy Fire Chief Marques Rivers.



Students participated in a relay, where they put a skeleton together. These skeletons were purchased with funds from the MV Savings Bank Educational Mini Grant many years ago and are still relevant and a fun way to conclude this unit. We also had a visit from our safety friends, helping us learn to care for an injury, such as an open fracture.

7th grade enjoyed their recent unit of financial literacy and food/nutrition. Students used the financial knowledge we learned and created their own food truck/cafe. The names of these eateries were brilliant this year: we had British Barliament, Nacho Mamas and The Grillmore Girls, to name a few. We were joined by Meredith Aldrich, co-owner of Mocha Motts, to share her experience as business owner and her time working in the food and restaurant industry.

8th graders are finishing their class novel, *You'd Be Home Now*. It is a compelling story of a family and a community facing mental health challenges and substance use. In addition to discussing the content of the novel, 8th graders have completed a character analysis and plot diagrams.

Jane Taylor
K8 Health Education



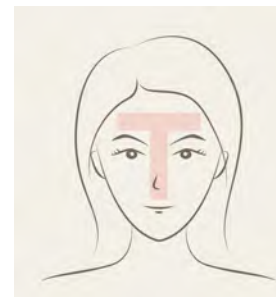
NURSE'S NOTES

Let's Stay Healthy this Winter!!

Promote Proper Hand Washing in Your Household!

The T ZONE is the only portal of entry into the human body for all respiratory infections!

(Influenza, adeno virus, RSV, common cold, conjunctivitis, pharyngitis, tonsillitis, bronchitis, pneumonia, Cocksackie virus, Streptococcus, Pneumococcus, TB, and more)



1. WASH YOUR HANDS WHEN THEY ARE DIRTY AND BEFORE EATING

2. DO NOT COUGH INTO YOUR HANDS

3. DO NOT SNEEZE INTO YOUR HANDS

4. DO NOT PUT YOUR FINGERS INTO YOUR EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH

1. **Wet** your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. **Scrub** your hands **for at least 20 seconds**. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
4. **Rinse** your hands well under clean, running water.
5. **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or an air dryer.



Let's Fight the Flu Together and Stay Healthy!

Influenza is a contagious disease of the respiratory tract (nose, throat, and lungs) that can lead to serious complications, including pneumonia and the worsening of other chronic health conditions. Flu symptoms may include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and muscle aches.

Fight the flu, by getting vaccinated, wash hands frequently, cough into your elbow, and disinfect hot spots at home, school and work (telephones/cell phones, appliances, faucets, light switches and door handles, tv remotes)

Get the
FLU  **SHOT**
not the flu!

Spanish News

During the past month, our Spanish classes have been busy and full of learning!

Kindergarten explored animals and some food vocabulary. They continued playing games, dancing, and learned two Spanish songs.

First graders enjoyed listening to stories in Spanish and practiced letter sounds through playdough activities and a bingo game.



Second graders focused on building the foundations of Spanish through stories and the Rockalingua program.

Third graders continued reading stories, learned about alebrijes, South American holidays, and the fall season. They also practiced finding words in Spanish.

Fourth and fifth graders explored South American culture through stories and videos about Día de los Muertos and Thanksgiving traditions. They practiced

writing in their journals.

Sixth graders learned vocabulary related to family, sports, and places in their community. They also created “Grateful Hands” for Acción de Gracias.

Seventh graders continued learning more Spanish verbs through real conversations, games, and lots of practice.

Eighth graders completed a project where they wrote biographies inside boxes. They chose important figures from South America, such as Selena Quintanilla, Pelé, Frida Kahlo, Benito Juárez, and Neymar, and presented



their work in Spanish.

Enjoy the pictures! Thank you for sharing your children with us.

Señora Crespo
K-8 Spanish

5th Grade News

The 5th graders took their annual field trip to Plymouth on November 7th. First they toured around the Mayflower II and heard about the 66 day journey the Pilgrims took, and then we walked over to Plimoth Rock to see how not-so-big it actually is!

Next we took the hungry children over to the Plimoth Patuxet Villages to have a picnic. After lunch, students enjoyed climbing into the huge mishoon (canoe) at the Patuxet homesite. Many of them got to smash some corn and chat with the Wampanoag woman cooking rabbit stew over an open fire. They also got comfortable in the Wamponoag longhouse with the soft deer, bear, and raccoon skins.



When we finally reached the English village, they bravely marched through, engaging with many Pilgrim actors. They played some traditional Pilgrim games, like roll the hoop and dress-up, wandered through the gardens to check out the vegetables still growing, and helped two Pilgrim women crush the herbs for their next meal. We hope you enjoy the photographs attached!



ART

Kindergarteners sculpted and glazed clay pumpkins. They have also been creating paintings in the pointillistic style of Georges Seurat, with a sailboat and fall tree.

First Grade are investigating the seasons and how trees look during different times of the year. They also used dots in a pointillistic style to depict autumn trees.

Second and Third Graders are drawing and painting winter foxes, and splatter painting snow, which is always a fun technique to try.

Fourth Graders are sculpting clay snowmen by forming pinch pots and stacking pots from large to small.

Fifth Graders are learning how to turn a shape into a form by adding value tones and highlights. They are also beginning their signs for the holiday sing-along.

Sixth Graders investigated the work of Jasper Johns, who abstracted everyday objects, like numbers, targets, and flags with heavy texture and blurred colors. They traced numbers on top of each other and developed a color scheme.

Seventh Graders closely observed trees and how to add value tones to create the illusion of a form. They used charcoal and pencils to add fall colors for leaves.

Eighth graders continue to work on the pottery wheel, or hand building with clay. Their pots are becoming more uniform with practice!

