

# TIGER TALES



## THE TISBURY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



**February 2025**

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:

Five years ago this month, I wrote the following for that edition of *Tiger Tales*:

*As the Tisbury School Building Committee continues its important work to advance a building project, there are valuable opportunities for public input and involvement. I continually remind people that this is not simply any building project. Because it is a school, the facility serves a unique purpose and therefore needs to support the diverse needs of children. I acknowledge that some people may not fully understand the responsibilities schools now have, as they have evolved and increased over time. I have worked in education since 1996, and I have observed significant changes – and improvements – during that time to support children. Especially in a school that educates students in grades Kindergarten through 8th, the responsibilities are many. A school building needs to have appropriate spaces for the programs it offers. The Tisbury School offers exceptional programs. This is something our community should be proud of. At a recent workshop about the school project, a participant shared a desire to feel the same pride in the building that is felt in the school staff and programs. Several individuals have since mentioned how that comment resonated with them. I get it. The opportunity that our town has is also a shared responsibility for our entire community. I know I'm not alone in believing that the most important building in a town is its school. Therefore, the hope of a comprehensive building project that improves the facility and provides for the needs of students is promising.*

Now, several months after moving into the renovated Tisbury School, we can all reflect on the project – from design through completion. It's a story with a happy ending, thanks to the efforts of many individuals, organizations, departments, committees, and supporters. Our professional team (CHA Solutions, Tappe Associates, and W.T. Rich Company) offered guidance and direction that we needed. We remain grateful. As the island considers a comprehensive building project for the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, there are important lessons learned from our experience in Tisbury.

We are halfway through the school year. Ahead of us remains MCAS testing for students in grades 3-8, starting in late March and continuing through late May. Also, we look forward to the school musical production of Shrek Jr. in late March. Tisbury's Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for April 29, in the school gymnasium. As we look to spring, teachers will plan many local field trips. And hopefully, if Mother Nature cooperates, we will be able to fully use our new playgrounds.

Thank you for your support of our school. We are very fortunate.

Sincerely,  
John

## 2025 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Please contact Esther Teves in the office at 508-696-6500 for a registration packet. Registration documents can also be downloaded from the school's website at <http://www.tisbury.mvyps.org/>. Scroll down to the [Parent Section](#)



Click on [Registration](#) for forms and general kindergarten registration information. **Children must be five (5) years old on or before September 1, 2024 to be eligible for kindergarten.**

## 1st Grade News

First graders have been working hard to memorize their addition math facts to ten. Congratulations to Darius, Cecil, Aurora, Anden, Daniel, David, Felix, Jaylen, Josie, Nyah, and Hunter! Next they will work on learning their subtraction facts.

Mrs. Webster & Mrs. Krauthamer



## Summer Sports Program



Hello families-

After 4 long years my Summer Sports Program will be returning!

If you are looking for something for your child to do this summer to keep them active, this is it! This is not a school sanctioned activity so if you would like more details, please contact me at [coachnicholsmv@yahoo.com](mailto:coachnicholsmv@yahoo.com)

Thank you!  
Coach Nichols

## Spanish News

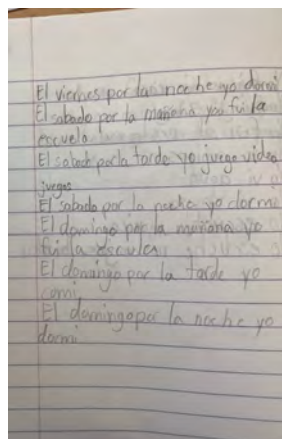
Kindergarten students learned Spanish songs. They can sing now without me. Now we are reading books about animals. They practice with play dough.

Every week we are reading books at the library in Spanish and English with our third graders. They are learning more Spanish. We are reading about animals.

Fourth graders learned about potatoes Thanks to our amazing Sam Green. We had the opportunity to cook mashed potatoes. They enjoyed it.

Our 5th graders are learning how to describe people in Spanish. They like music activities as well. Our 6th graders learned to count until 1000. They are pretty engaged with Spanish numbers. Their vocabulary is increasing.

I am proud of our 8th graders. Every week they are writing their journals in Spanish. Next month they will take a placement test in order to get ready for the High School.



## Spelling Bee Winner



Congratulations to 5th grader Melissa Fogaça! Melissa is our new Tisbury School Spelling Bee Champion. Melissa, and her 5th grade class, will go to the Performing Arts Center at the high school in mid-March for the Island-Wide Spelling Bee.

Good luck, Melissa!



## NURSE'S NOTES



### February is National Children's Dental Health Month

- Brush and floss your teeth twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste
- Eat a healthy diet that limits sugary beverages and snacks
- See your dentist regularly. Most kids need to be seen every 3 to 12 months to prevent cavities and gum disease.
- Don't put babies to bed with a bottle and check teeth regularly for spots or stains on the teeth.
- Dental sealants can help protect your child's teeth. Sealants form a protective barrier that helps prevent bacteria from causing tooth decay.
- Mouth guards in sports are an important piece of protective face gear. They cushion blows that might otherwise cause broken teeth and injuries to the lips and face.



## Beyond the Brush: Oral Care for Kids



### From Birth

Make sure baby has a nutritious diet to ensure good tooth development & prevent cavities

### Through Infancy

Rub baby's gums clean daily with a wet piece of soft gauze or damp washcloth within a few days of birth

### From Baby's First Tooth

The first tooth means it's time for the first baby's first annual dental visit- teeth usually poke through between 6 and 12 mos.



### Through Age 2

To prevent teeth from tipping forward or growing in crooked, wean pacifier use no later than 2 years old

### Toddler Years

Brush your kiddo's teeth with a child-sized brush & smear of fluoride toothpaste

### Early Childhood (3+)

Under parent supervision, have children brush with a pea-sized dollop of fluoride toothpaste 2x a day and visit a dentist 2x a year



### Throughout Childhood

Avoid sharing utensils- forks & spoons, cups, and straws- with your children to prevent the spread of bacteria that cause cavities

### Adolescence (6+)

As soon as permanent molars come in, children can have sealants applied to prevent tooth decay- sealants can be reapplied every 10 years

### Teens & Beyond

Unless your dentist recommends otherwise, continue taking teens to twice a year checkups for a lifetime of good dental habits & savings

*ShadowCreek Ranch*  
DENTAL SPECIALISTS



## Tisbury Garden News

We've been busy in the classrooms this winter learning about wool, earthworms, soil, Liberty tea, grains, farming in the city, parts of plants and the history of chocolate and potatoes.

And by the end of February it will be time to start thinking about starting our first seeds for our new garden!

The harvest of the month for February is cabbage.

Cabbage is one of the oldest cultivated vegetables and has been grown by humans for 4,000 years.

Cabbage is packed with nutrients and can be eaten in so many ways...raw or cooked or even fermented.

Have you ever tried a bite of a raw cabbage leaf?

It is surprisingly sweet!

Congratulations to Scarlett Garcia and Vianna Baird who won the December and January Harvest of the Month trivia questions!

The February question is: Cabbage is part of the Brassica vegetable family. Which of the following vegetables is also part of this family?

tomatoes

lettuce

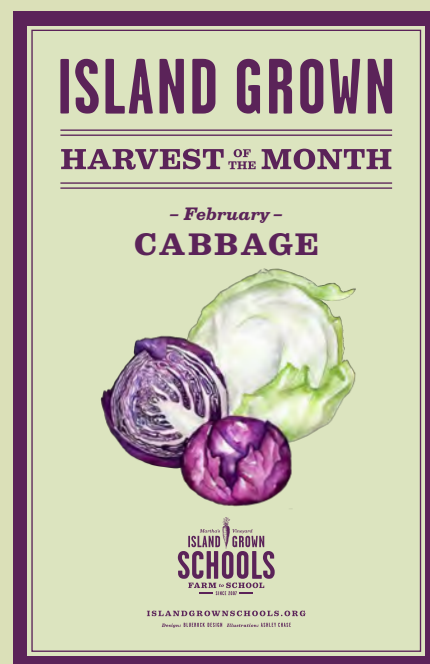
broccoli

carrots

Head to the 2nd floor library and do some cabbage activities to answer the question!

Sam Greene

Tisbury School Farm to School Educator



## 7th and 8th Grade Science



### 7th grade:

The 7th graders have started a unit called Human Systems Interactions. As we look at each human body system, we explore the effects on other organ systems. We began with the digestive system, tracking our food's path in *The Adventures of Peanut Butter and Jelly*. We will dissect pig kidneys and sheep lungs and hearts as we delve into the excretory, circulatory and respiratory systems. It is an exciting journey!

### 8th grade:

Gravity and Kinetic Energy is our current unit. The 8th graders are exploring acceleration, potential and kinetic energy and factors that affect the pull of gravity. We look forward

to activities such as "Stop or Crash" and marble collisions as we look at real life applications of these science principles. Our culminating activity will be an egg drop from the second story of the building.

Sue Adamo

7/8 Science





## Environmental Tips from the Wellness Committee

Use a Reusable Water Bottle

Compost Food Scraps and Limit Throwing Food Waste in the Trash

Cut Down on Meat and Embrace more plant-based meals

Producing a half pound of hamburger releases as much greenhouse gases as driving a 3,000 pound car nearly 10 miles.

Plant or Preserve Trees

Forests may absorb and store as much as 30% of carbon emissions. Burning or clearing them releases the stored carbon back into the atmosphere.

Cut Down on Paper Waste

Recycle

Buy and Use Reusable Bags

Decrease single use plastics

Pick Up Trash and Don't Litter

Support Local Food Produce

You're cutting transportation costs and it's great for the local economy

Save Water

Save water by taking shorter showers, avoiding small clothes washes, and turning all your taps off.

Save Electricity

Switch to Energy efficient Light Bulbs.

Don't use unnecessary lights.

Buy Sustainable Foods

Chemicals damage farmland and lengthy transport routes pollute the air.

Check the source of your food and look for sustainable accreditations.

Only Buy What You Need

Spread the Word

Try to be positive and encourage everyone to get involved.



## Health Education

**Kindergarteners** are completing the first of two safety units this year. We got to meet Tisbury's Safety Friends, aka Emergency Personnel. These folks visited class and engaged in literacy and math activities with kindergarteners. We are thankful to Tisbury Fire Chief Patrick Roslton, School Resource Officer Cory Medeiros, Tisbury Harbormaster Gary Kovack, Tisbury Paramedic Supervisor Jason Davey, State Police Sergeant David Mackin and Major Sterling Bishop from the Dukes County Sheriff's Office.

**1st graders** are completing their nutrition unit. Students reviewed how each color food helps their bodies and discussed what superheroes would eat, based on their super powers.

**3rd and 4th graders** concluded their safety units for the year with a visit from our safety friends to learn about when to make an emergency call and what to say, should they ever need to make one. We are thankful to Chief Roslton, Officer Medeiros, Harbormaster Kovack, Paramedic Davey, Major Bishop and Tisbury Police Sergeant Max Sherman for visiting **3rd and 4th graders** for this important unit.



**5th graders** are into their nutrition unit and discussing the differences between energy drinks and sports (electrolyte) drinks. They are preparing for a debate: should energy drinks have an age restriction? Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are in their substance units, focusing on strategies to avoid peer pressure.

Jane Taylor  
K8 Health Education

## ESL news

Throughout the month of January, our EL (or emerging bilingual students) took four sessions of Access tests. They are to be congratulated for taking this process seriously and showing all that they have learned. How amazing to be housed in our beautiful new building with ample space to accommodate the different test sessions. As always this was a whole staff endeavor, and we appreciate, and our students benefit from, the flexibility and support of the good folks in our building.

5th grader Melissa Fogaça became our spelling bee winner. As a bilingual student, she is making all the Tisbury Tigers proud. Congratulations/Parabens Melissa!!

All students benefit from many opportunities to understand and produce academic English, but their English Language Development classes are not the only place they are learning! Our entire staff supports our emerging bilingual students and monolingual students alike by using visual and graphic supports during their lessons, speaking slowly with newcomers and many classrooms are embracing the various co-teaching models across the island and here at Tisbury. Wishing you a happy "Primavera" or Spring, right around the corner.



# ART NEWS

**Kindergarten and First Grade** self portraits are on display through February at Mocha Motts

**Kindergarten** students started using clay by forming a kitty using the pinch pot method for body. They pinched ears, coiled a tail, and carved a face with whiskers.

**First Grade** students turned a flat shape into a form by building 3D snowmen with paper, cardboard, oil pastel and watercolor resist.

**2nd Grade** students made paper lanterns for the lunar new year! These were constructed from red paper, gold paint pens, and streamers.

**3rd Grade** students began a clay bear habitat project. Students chose any bear to sculpt, panda, polar, black or grizzly. They will glaze and render their natural habitat with colored pencils.

**4th Grade** students brushed the surface of perspective drawing by depicting two sides to a barn. They added a horizon line for depth, barnyard animals, and tractors.

**5th Grade** students have been diligently working on their 3D Victorian houses. They have been constructing gable roofs, dormer windows, porches, Juliet balconies, gothic windows and gingerbread trim on a 1"x6"x10" piece of pine.

**6th Grade** students painted and arranged a solar system with styrofoam balls, string, and cardboard. Some painted a galaxy with splatter paint as a backdrop to the planets.

**7th grade** students are wrapping up their Egyptian unit. They created an individual project, either at home or in Art, that depicts an important figure from Egyptian history. Projects include jewelry with ceramic jewelry boxes, Obelisks, Sarcophagus with clay mummies, pyramids and portraits.

**8th Grade** students have crafted a Greek column with clay, choosing Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian style with slab construction. Using the pinch pot technique they formed a Krater, a traditional Greek pot. The intent is to have them display together with an Ivy plant. Students will see examples of Ionic columns at the White House in D.C.

Thank you to Kathryn Harcourt, for her donations of wood turnings and scraps.



Top: 4th Grade Barn

Middle: Kindergarten Self Portraits

Bottom: 1st Grade Self Portraits