

# TIGER TALES



## THE TISBURY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



**February 2026**

P.O. Box 878, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

508-696-6500

Visit our website:

[www.tisbury.mvyvs.org](http://www.tisbury.mvyvs.org)

*Information is updated routinely.*



## Principal's Letter

Tisbury School community:

Last month, Tisbury School 8th grade student Leticia Silva joined other 8th graders from all cities and towns in Massachusetts as part of Project 351. Project 351, a nonprofit organization, annually unites a class of unsung heroes for a year of leadership development, enrichment, and impact through unifying statewide service campaigns. This year, Project 351 celebrated its 16th year with a collective social impact on more than 1.4 million lives. Project 351's annual Launch celebration in January honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King. Through Project 351, ambassadors such as Leticia will develop the skills and confidence to mobilize their hometowns in service campaigns that address critical issues including hunger, clothing insecurity, and educational equity. Project 351 gets its name from the 351 towns and cities in Massachusetts. We are proud of Leticia for representing Tisbury, as she was very deserving of this recognition and responsibility.

We are just past the midway point in the 180 day school year. This offers an important time to reflect, consider, and look ahead. June will arrive more quickly than we realize, and it is therefore wise to ensure that the coming months provide the opportunity to ensure that desired and necessary growth and learning take place. Students, families, and teachers should work together on this. Please communicate with each other so that there is clarity and understanding. Celebrating students' successes at the end of the school year is something that we all look forward to, but it takes effort and time. Now is the time to consider what we want second semester to offer.

Just prior to February vacation, our school will celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Week, with activities focused on the importance of practicing kindness. Among these activities will be a whole school community meeting, where students in grades Kindergarten through 8th come together to recognize meaningful themes related to our school's pillars: Respect, Community, Responsibility, and Compassion. We've already recognized unity and giving, and look forward to a week that emphasizes kindness. One of the gratifying pieces of our community meetings includes vocal music teacher Mrs. Sanseverino leading all in singing our school's unofficial song, which she wrote. It is sung in English and in Portuguese. Just the other day, I observed junior high students singing it during their lunch in the cafeteria, which made me smile. It's yet another way to celebrate our school. The lyrics are:

*We are the Tisbury School  
The Community we are building is cool  
We have Respect for our teachers and our differences  
Compassion for our classmates and for ourselves  
And we take Responsibility  
For our Tisbury Tiger family.*

Thank you for your continued support of our school. It is a privilege to be part of the Tisbury Tiger family.

Sincerely,  
John

## Tisbury School State Report Card

Every year, each public school and school district in Massachusetts receives a report card. Just as your child's report card shows how they are doing in different subjects, the school's report card is designed to show families how our school is doing in different areas. A link to our school's report card is available at <https://reportcards.doe.mass.edu/2025/02960005>

The report card includes multiple measures of a school's performance – more than just MCAS scores. It represents a new way of looking at school performance, by providing information on student achievement, teacher qualifications, student learning opportunities, and more.

Report cards are designed to be useful tools for everyone connected to our school. Families can use the information to have meaningful conversations with us about what the school is doing well and where there is room for improvement. Community and education leaders can use the information to better understand how to support students and our school.

We encourage you to become involved in helping us improve our school. We see parents as critical partners in the success of our students and school, and we are grateful for your continued support.

Finally, if your child attends a school that receives federal Title I funds, you also have the right to request the following information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether your child's teacher is licensed in the grade levels and subject areas they teach,
- Whether your child's teacher is teaching under an emergency license or waiver,
- The college degree and major of your child's teacher, and
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you have questions about our school's report card, would like to become involved in school improvement activities, or would like to request information about the qualifications of your child's classroom teacher, please contact me at 508-696-6500. To see our district's report card or to search for other schools' report cards, visit <https://reportcards.doe.mass.edu>

Type "Tisbury" or "Tisbury Elementary" to view our report card.

Sincerely,

John Custer, Principal

## 2026 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/> Click on Parent's Info tab Scroll down to [Registration](#) for forms and general kindergarten registration information.

**Children must be five (5) years old on or before September 1, 2026 to be eligible for kindergarten.**



## Health Education

**Kindergarteners** completed their nutrition unit with learning about how different colors of food help the human body. They are excited to share their knowledge, so be sure to ask them about foods from each color of the rainbow!



**4th graders** finished their L.E.A.D. unit with Major Sterling Bishop. They've learned to be S.T.A.R.s, six steps to setting a goal and six ways to avoid peer pressure. Students also participated in role plays, using different strategies to avoid peer pressure. Major Bishop gifted the 4th graders a bag with L.E.A.D. items.



Jane Taylor  
K8 Health Education

## 1st Grade News

First graders are becoming quite the mathematicians. They have been working hard to memorize their addition math facts. Congratulations to Silas, Eloise, Alice, Nika, Layla and Amelia for memorizing their addition facts to 10. Now they will begin subtraction. Keep up the great work!

Mrs. Webster & Mrs. Krauthamer



## Spanish News

Hola, hola, dear families!

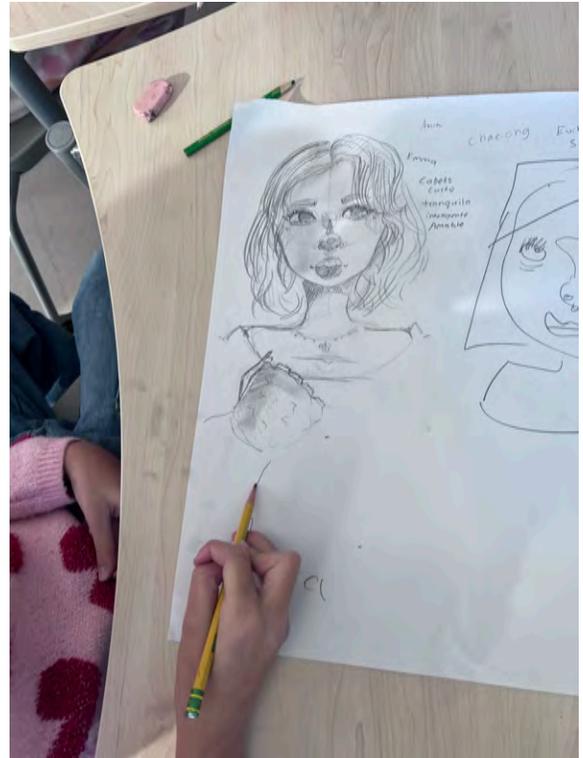
During the past month, we have continued practicing Spanish across all grade levels. Kindergarten students have memorized three Spanish songs, practiced counting numbers up to 20, and reviewed colors.

First and second graders are learning through interactive stories and games. Third graders are listening to stories and practicing finding key words to strengthen their vocabulary.

Fourth graders are learning through the Rockalingua program. In this unit, students are focusing on describing people in Spanish.

Fifth graders continue learning the foundations of Spanish grammar and the culture. Sixth and seventh graders are practicing their writing skills in journals, listening to videos, and speaking about what they learn.

Eighth graders are preparing for the STAMP placement test. I am very proud of their hard work—these pictures speak louder than words.



## Tisbury Garden News

We've been busy in the classrooms this winter learning about farms in Winter, food waste, Plants parts, earthworms and Herbs.

This month the 2nd grade will begin to plan the Spring Seedling Sale. Always so much fun!

And the IGS team will be in the cafeteria for another Harvest of the Month taste test.

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!

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

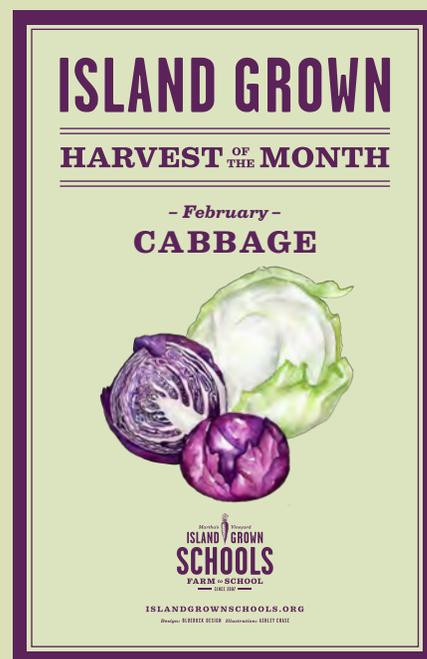
broccoli

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:

Seventh graders have started the Human Systems Interactions unit. Having begun with a quick overview, they are now studying each system in depth. Starting with digestion, students have been able to simulate the process (The Adventures of Peanut Butter and Jelly). The important part of this unit is how we tie each system together, building on our knowledge as we go. Looking forward to activities and dissections to bring this unit to life in the classroom!

### 8th grade:

We finished our Chemistry unit with two labs. The first was a Limewater lab, where kids saw new products form in a chemical reaction as a result of adding carbon dioxide to a solution. The next was a lab to combine sodium bicarbonate and hydrochloric acid, identify the

gas produced and evaporate the solution to confirm the solution contents. This allowed them to use molecular models to show how new bonds are formed from chemical reactions. We are headed into a physical science unit, Gravity and Kinetic Energy.



Sue Adamo  
7/8 Science

## ART

**Kindergarteners** made self portraits after looking in the mirror and learning different ways to draw the human face. They collaged their backgrounds with tissue paper hearts for Valentine's Day.

**First Graders** have been studying penguins in the classroom and in Art. They are currently making clay penguins by forming a hollow body, cutting a "cookie" flat circle in half for flippers, and adding any other details by scratching and attaching.

**Second Graders** observed the Northern Cardinal's bright color, cheerful song and characteristics. We discussed how to emphasize by making the bird big! Students choose the male or female to draw and paint. They added a gray blue sky, dark green pine trees and splattered snow.

**Third graders** are creating 3D diorama habitats for their clay bears using shoe boxes. Students could choose any type of bear to sculpt, and will now design a matching home. Students are encouraged to bring natural objects to add to these dioramas, like small twigs, moss or rocks.



**Fourth and Fifth Graders** have been celebrating winter by creating colorful collages depicting winter snow sports. Simplifying the human form into basic shapes with cut paper was demonstrated. We considered how to use positive and negative space to make a successful composition and add snow for movement. They viewed "A Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats to see how illustrators use contrast, movement, and color to create a mood and tell a story.

**Six Grade** is exploring space and galaxies using chalk pastels to depict the solar system and using value to give the illusion of a sphere. They are currently making mobiles with painted styrofoam balls tied to create balance on a sponge painted galaxy round disc.

**Seventh Graders** are investigating Egypt in their classroom and in the Art room. They learned about the mummification process and then formed a Pharaoh 'mummy' out of clay. They crafted a 3-D sarcophagus coffin from recycled cardboard.

**Eighth Graders** are working collaboratively with grid drawings of Van Gogh paintings. We enlarged the image with a projector and divided it into 16 canvases. Each student paints a couple of pieces, making sure to match colors and shapes with adjoining canvases. These will be displayed throughout the Tisbury School as a gift from the class of 2026!

