

# TIGER TALES



## THE TISBURY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**March 2025**

P.O. Box 878, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568  
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Visit our website:

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

*Information is updated routinely.*

### 2nd Grade Haikus

Mrs. Smith's second graders are reading about super storms.

They are also learning how to write haikus (traditional Japanese poetry). Combine these two areas of study and you get poems about the weather! Here are some samples of their creative work:

"Foggy" by Maris M.

I can't see clearly  
When it is very foggy  
Clouds drop to the ground

"Cloudy" by William J.

Thunder is noisy  
Rainbow is warm in your heart  
Snow is cold

"Winter Disasters" by Parker H.

Blizzards are insane  
Blizzards cause avalanches  
You can slip on ice

"Storm" by Arthur D.

Thunder is scary  
Thunder electricity  
Hear the thunder roar



### Principal's Letter

Tisbury School Community:

Some may not be aware that our school now includes a pre-Kindergarten classroom. Fortunately, because of the renovation and addition project, our school has space to welcome this. The pre-Kindergarten classroom is one of a handful of Project Headway classrooms on the island. It is part of the Martha's Vineyard Public Schools Early Childhood Program, and the Tisbury School is pleased to finally be able to have this in our building. Pre-Kindergarten education is a vital need, on our island and nationwide. Project Headway offers important, valuable opportunities for children and families. It has been fulfilling to welcome these young students to our school, and we recognize them as they make their way around the school, interacting with students in grades K-8. Some of the pre-K students have siblings in older grades at the Tisbury School as well. In addition to the students, we also have been pleased to welcome Project Headway staff (Jen, Luciana, Dianne, Dwi, Claudia, and Jenna).

Later this month, students begin Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) testing. Students in grades 3-8 take tests in English/Language Arts and Math. Students in grade 5 also take tests in Science. Students in grade 8 also take tests in Science and Civics. Testing in our school begins on March 25. Testing concludes on May 23. More information will follow for families of students in grades 3-8 about MCAS testing and how to support students.

Tisbury's Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 29 at 7:00 pm in the Tisbury School gymnasium. In addition to conducting the important business of a town meeting, this event will be gratifying, as voters assemble in the school that they supported through the building project. Recent Tisbury town meetings have been held in the Performing Arts Center at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, so it will be great to be back "home."

It has been encouraging to see Tisbury School students participate in extracurricular activities, enriching their interests and learning beyond the regular school day. These activities include student council, school sports (track and field, basketball, volleyball), musical theater, computer club, guitar club, reading club, cooking club, stitching club, and chess club. Special thanks to the staff members who supervise these activities, as well as to the Tisbury School Wellness Committee for promoting these opportunities.

A reminder that spring Parent-Teacher Conferences will be scheduled on April 29, May 1, and May 5. More information will follow about this.

Thank you for your support of our school. We continue to focus on our school pillars: Respect, Community, Responsibility, and Compassion. Practicing and modeling these makes us stronger.

Sincerely,  
John

## Spanish News

Kindergarten class is learning directions by playing with a parachute. They are following directions in Spanish, singing and listening to stories. We are practicing the letter sounds : M,P,S.



First graders are learning about winter time and animals. They are learning by making an animal mask. We are reading books like the mitten. We are continuing with Spanish songs.



Second graders are practicing basic conversations in Spanish. They are learning about winter clothes, family vocabulary and listening to stories.

Third graders are going to the library every week. They are listening to the stories in Spanish and English. Then we practice oral

skills. Yesterday they were learning about carnival in South America. They created masks.

Fourth graders: We are cooking. Last week students were pretty engaged doing Salsa.

Sixth graders are learning verbs in different ways. In these pictures you will see students playing with boards. They were drawing actions and guessing the right word in Spanish. They are writing sentences and reading as well.



## 7th and 8th Grade Science



### 7th grade:

We are continuing our study of the human body. Seventh graders dissected sheep hearts, labeling chambers and valves to follow the flow of blood. We are moving into the skeletal and muscular systems, creating unique skeletons and dissecting chicken wings to identify how muscles and bones work together in our bodies.

### 8th



### grade:

The 8th graders have created marble ramps and used Newton's second law to calculate acceleration. They will apply this during our egg drop activity. We are also spending a few days on the engineering concepts behind bridges, in conjunction with some bridge building in art class.

Sue Adamo  
7/8 Science



## Health Education

Many elementary grades finished up their safety units for the year. Our **2nd graders** completed L.E.A.D. with Major Sterling Bishop from the Dukes County Sheriff's Office. This program focuses on goal setting, making safe choices and being a good friend. **Sixth graders** also finished their iteration of L.E.A.D. with Major Bishop. Their unit included nine strategies to avoid peer pressure and how to handle themselves if they've made a mistake. Thank you to Major Bishop for providing these great programs!



Many grades are beginning their nutrition units: **kindergarteners** are preparing to "eat the rainbow", **3rd graders** are learning about food allergies and sensitivities and **7th graders** in the process of making their own food trucks.



**1st graders** are in their fire safety unit and had a visit from Tisbury Fire Chief Patrick Rolston. Chief Rolston helped students map out exits from their bedrooms and homes in the event of an emergency.

Jane Taylor  
K8 Health Education

## Tisbury School Special Events

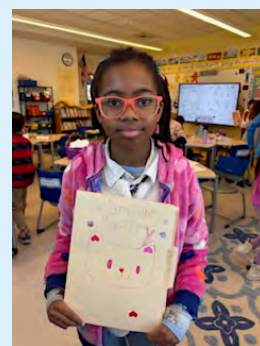
Eighth graders had a visit from community member Raffi Gregorian. Mr. Gregorian worked in our federal government for almost 30 years. He spoke with 8th graders about life in Washington D.C., working for the United Nations and shared his experience from serving in the U.S. military. Students were excited to hear from someone with depth in national and international affairs – this was a great opportunity for students to get excited for their Washington D.C. trip in June.

The Tisbury School Student Council, aka ROAR, sponsored a middle school dance this month. Students organized the event and recruited many faculty members to chaperone their endeavor. We are thankful to Mr. Custer, Mrs. Ogden, Mrs. Creato, Mrs. Jones and Ms. Taylor for chaperoning. We are even more thankful to DJ Smooth B (Major Bishop) for providing great much for the evening.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade News

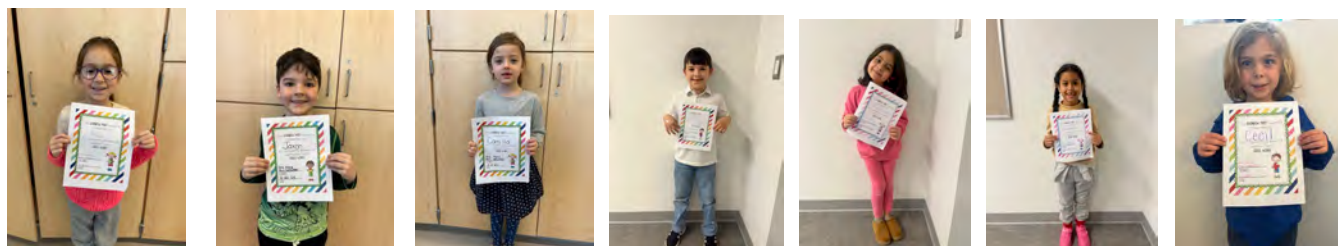
If you happen to walk into Mrs. Williamson's third grade classroom during the months of October, December, and February, chances are that you will see students reading, writing, and reciting poetry. Students will happily answer questions about stanzas, rhyming patterns, figurative language, and imagery. Learning and reading poems as a class provides practice for reading with fluency and expression. Discussing the vocabulary and meaning within poetry builds comprehension skills. The seasonal poems motivate students to make connections to personal experiences and inspire them to write personal poems. In February, students completed a poetry book report with a special focus on a self selected poem. Students were challenged to memorize their independent poem as well as the first verse of Paul Revere's Ride by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. On February 13th, the third graders orally recited their poems, and performed Paul Revere's Ride as a class to a standing room only crowd of parents, administrators, and teachers. A plethora of Poems were shared, important public speaking skills were practiced, and the applause was appreciated. Anne Williamson



## 1st Grade News

First graders have been working hard to memorize their addition math facts to ten. Congratulations to Ava, Cecil, Jaxon, Emanuely, Sam, Ana, and Camilla. 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



## Nurse's Notes



### Sports Drinks and Energy Drinks!

**Sports drinks** have become a popular drink at kids' sports games, but they are also being used on a daily basis by kids. But are they needed?

Sports drinks are made to rehydrate after an hour or more of intense physical activity, such as playing continuously during soccer practice on a hot day or a high-level athlete who is exercising intensely and sweating for more than an hour.

Sports drinks are usually not needed for recreational sports games where a child cycles in and out of playing for an hour or so. Water is the preferred method of rehydration.

But some children drink Gatorade with lunch, after school and with dinner. The average 12 ounce bottle of Gatorade has 21 grams of sugar. Snacks for children should have less than 8 grams of sugar. All of this sugar adds to obesity and tooth decay.

If your child does have a sports drink, encourage them to rinse their mouth with water afterward and be sure to brush their teeth well that day. Even sugar-free sports drinks can change the acidity in their mouth and be tough on their teeth.

**Energy Drinks** can sometimes be confused with sports drinks. These are not recommended for children or teens. They can interfere with sleep, increase heart rates and anxiety, and dehydrate the individual. Caffeine is a stress to their bodies and there are concerns in the medical community about how this affects bodies that are still growing. Sometimes energy drinks have other stimulants in addition to caffeine that aren't clear on the label.

For good health, children should be drinking water and at least two glasses of low-fat milk per day. This provides protein, vitamin D, calcium, and proper hydration. Juice should be very limited and used sparingly.

Source: Kids Eat in Color  
NPR Your Health

## Wellness Committee

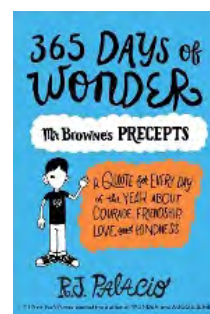
### Book Suggestions from the Wellness Committee



An empowering reflection on the many things we are and the ways we relate to the world. Poet Bob Raczka's, *You Are a Story*, highlights all of the nuance and potential of a growing person's identity, delighting in the things that make us special and connect us to others.



This trilogy is inspired by Derek Jeter's own life. *The Contract*, *Hit & Miss*, and *Change Up* focus on setting your goals high, thinking before you act, and dealing with growing pains. This is the perfect series for every baseball fan.



Mr. Browne's selections celebrate kindness, hopefulness, the goodness of human beings, the strength of people's hearts, and the power of people's wills. Interspersed with the precepts are letters and emails from characters who appeared in *Wonder*.

# ART

**Kindergarten** classes are learning what Abstract Art is by viewing Jasper John's U.S. map and alphabet. Kindergarteners created a colorful alphabet of their own using oil pastel and watercolor resist.

**First Graders** are gearing up for spring with flowers/butterflies/ and color theory. They learned how to use the color wheel as a tool to develop a color scheme. They were encouraged to pick colors that are close together on the spectrum-blue/violet, yellow/orange etc.

**Second Graders** are beginning to learn perspective, by drawing a fish bowl inspired by Henry Matisse. They practiced making an ellipse, a cylinder viewed from the side, and drew the fish bowl. We noticed the difference between geometric and organic shapes and Matisse's use of color. His courage and determination were noted, as he faced many health challenges in his lifetime. These obstacles did not stop him from becoming a world renowned artist.

**Third Graders** continue to work on their clay bears by illustrating a 3D paper habitat. They will begin a poster design contest for 'Friends of 'Sengekontacket'', to promote clean oceans and beaches.

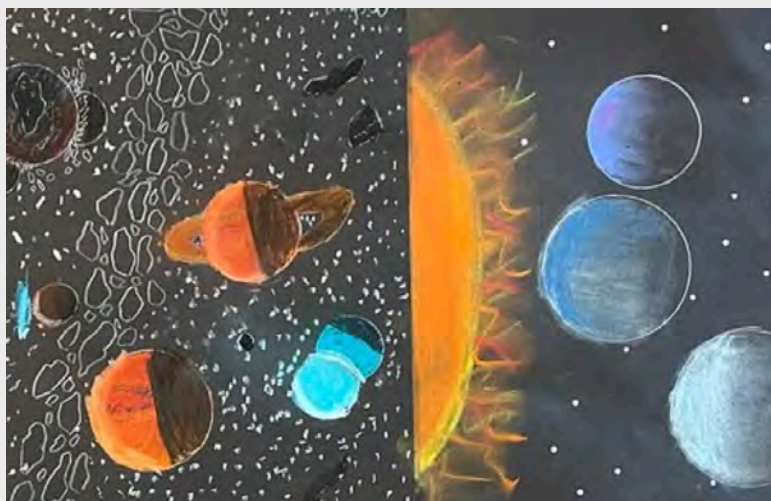
**Fourth graders** have surpassed my expectations and managed to succeed in perspective drawing! They learned how to use a vanishing point on the horizon line to make objects appear to recede into the distance.

**Fifth Graders** are just finishing up their Victorian houses, it's been over eight weeks! They have enjoyed their roles as architects and can identify the architectural details that make up a Victorian home.

**Sixth Graders** are studying waves in Science, and in Art. They learned the varying lengths of wavelengths of the colors in the spectrum, and why red is always on top (longest wavelength) This week, we investigated how to measure a wavelength, where the trough and crest are located, and then painted a wave, using splatter paint for foam.

**Seventh Graders** are revisiting potential and kinetic energy by constructing a marble roller coaster with colorful cardstock for a contest.

**Eight Graders** are using subtractive methods to create a 6" relief tile from leather hard clay. To create a relief, you raise the subject by lowering the plane around it, or carving the clay behind image. Traditionally these were hung in the cafeteria, a new spot will be located.







# SEPAC MV

*"Empowering Every Learner,  
Embracing Every Ability."*



## SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD

### Stay in the loop!

- Connect with other families [of children with special needs]
- Give and receive support in navigating [new/unfamiliar] territory
- Find resources on and off-island
- Become a resource!



### Contact US

Please Scan the QR Code to learn about our organization and how you can help us make a difference. You will also receive important updates and resources.



### Our Mission

Work towards understanding, respect for, support, and appropriate education for all children with special needs on Martha's Vineyard.



### Who we are

- Parents
- Educators
- Community leaders
- You!

### What we do:

Support, advise, and advocate for families of children with special educational needs

