

# TIGER TALES



## THE TISBURY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



**October 2023**

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.

### Parent Teacher Conferences Sign-Ups

The Tisbury School Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on the below dates and times. Sign up for conferences will **BEGIN ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 8th** and the last date to set up a conference will be **Monday, October 23rd BEFORE MIDNIGHT**. Kindergarten to 4th grade conferences will be in person. 5th – 8th & Unified Arts conferences will be via Zoom ONLY on OCTOBER 30TH.

Look in the room column for the zoom link

- **Tuesday, October 24th from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday October 26th from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**
- **Monday October 30th from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Log on to the school page site at [www.tisbury.mvyps.org](http://www.tisbury.mvyps.org). Click on Parent/Teacher Conferences.



### Principal's Letter

Tisbury School community:

A year ago, the Town of Tisbury held a Special Town Meeting at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, to consider a request for additional funding for the school building project. Following the support of voters for the funding, the project was able to continue on the desired path. In the twelve months since, we have watched the significant progress. Observing this has been encouraging and impressive, as we see the renovation and new construction happening. The recent "topping off" ceremony, acknowledging the placing of the final beam, provided our students and staff an important opportunity to celebrate what is taking place. It is exciting to consider being in the renovated school, and we look forward to seeing the continued progress in the coming months.

We have had a positive start to this school year. For the first time in several years, we are looking at the year ahead of us with anticipated consistency. This is a comforting feeling, especially after the moving and transitions that have been part of the past few years. While being in the temporary school means that we do not have all the conditions we'd hope for, we are grateful to have established routines since moving in last November. We continue to look forward to what's ahead of us: moving into the renovated Tisbury School. But, in the meantime, we appreciate being settled.

Of the many wonderful aspects of our school, something that is understated but incredibly important is the Manter Fund. Following his death in 1935, Tisbury resident Ellis H. Manter's will and estate created an account that came to be known as the Manter Fund. Mr. Manter's will declares that proceeds from his estate were to be used "to the best possible advantage of the Tisbury public schools." Additionally, the will states that funds are used to provide footwear for students. Each year, the Manter Fund purchases shoes for many Tisbury School students. Additionally, it supports families in financial need with funding for field trips, medical needs, and clothing. The Town of Tisbury Treasurer oversees investment management of the fund, the Tisbury School Committee supervises, and Tisbury School staff members identify families who it can support. The Town of Tisbury Treasurer oversees investment management of the fund. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Manter, countless Tisbury School students have benefitted over many years. It continues to be an amazing gift.

Thank you for your continued support of our school. We have much to feel good about.

With gratitude,

John

## School Counselor Notes

I think sometimes what happens in the school counselor's office is a mystery to the outside world, especially at the K-4 level. To the students, I describe myself as the person who helps students solve problems, make (and keep) friends, and learn how to manage feelings. All teachers incorporate social-emotional learning but it's my specialty. Through parent consultations, I support families with these areas, too.

I see some students individually or in small groups in my office. Daily, I meet students at the American Legion for lunch groups where the goal is to socially connect, have fun, and sneak in some social skill building. Sometimes I go into classes to teach lessons about coping skills or problem solving. I join recess to help with play and problem solving skills. I see kids as needed whenever they might need to talk through a difficult moment or reset. I may see your students just simply to connect so they are familiar with me should they need some help navigating a challenge in the future.

October is Bullying Prevention Month so expect this to be the theme of social emotional learning. Consistent education and intervention can stop bullying. We will celebrate Unity Day, Wednesday, October 18th. We invite students to wear something orange as a call to action against bullying. We will learn what it means to be an Upstander against mean and bullying behavior.

Aly Lanzone Wiesner, MS, LMHC  
K-4 School Counselor



## TISBURY SCHOOL PTO NEWS

The Tisbury School PTO needs YOU! We are looking for candidates to take on the position of president or co-leaders. If you are interested in stepping into this role please e-mail [tisburypptoinfo@gmail.com](mailto:tisburypptoinfo@gmail.com) for details. Currently, the PTO helps with the Back to School BBQ, School Banking, Box Tops for Education and Staff Appreciation Week.

We recently received \$142.00 from the Community Bag Program at Stop and Shop. During the month of May we were selected to receive donations from each reusable Community Bag purchased at the Vineyard Haven Stop and Shop. Thank you to everyone who supported this donation!

School Banking has started again. Volunteers Geneva Corwin, Nancy Nevin and Sarah Ward are in the cafeteria every Thursday to help students make deposits. If you are interested in volunteering for school banking please e-mail [tisburypptoinfo@gmail.com](mailto:tisburypptoinfo@gmail.com). Students who wish to sign up for school banking can visit the volunteers and request an application. If your student is new to Tisbury, but did school banking at their previous school, parents can call Martha's Vineyard Bank 508-627-4266 to request their student's account be transferred to the Tisbury School.

A big thank you to the volunteers who managed a Tisbury Tiger sweatshirt order at the end of last year. We sold and distributed over 170 sweatshirts! We have a small amount of sweatshirts still available for sale, if you would like to purchase one please e-mail [tisburypptoinfo@gmail.com](mailto:tisburypptoinfo@gmail.com).

MV Libraries would love to get the word out to parents about Brainfuse, our free online resource for live tutoring and homework help, available to all MV library cardholders. More info: <https://www.vhlibrary.org/Homework.shtml>

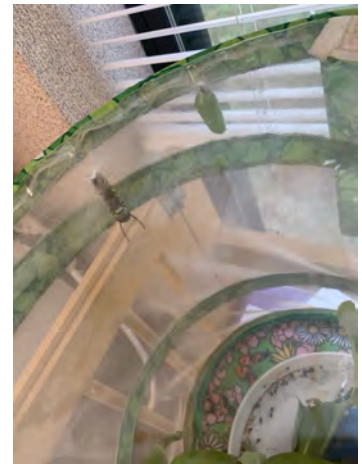
## 2nd Grade Writing

Mrs. Levett and Ms. Shannon are co-teaching writing with 2nd grade students in Mrs. Levett's homeroom this school year. They began the year writing about their families and collecting pictures and items for a family treasures project. All students completed a family tree and two pieces of descriptive writing about someone in their family. In the picture, students are seen sharing one of their favorite treasures.



## 4th Grade News

Both fourth grade classrooms started off the year learning about the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly. Martha's Vineyard hosts a variety of butterflies, but there is sure something special about the Monarch Butterfly! Native milkweed found all over the island plays hosts to the Monarch eggs. Both classrooms were lucky enough to see the process from eggs found on the underside of milkweed leaves through caterpillar stage then pupa (this is when the chrysalis is formed). We are eagerly awaiting the emergence of our butterflies. It takes approximately 14-21 days between each cycle that we observed in the classroom.

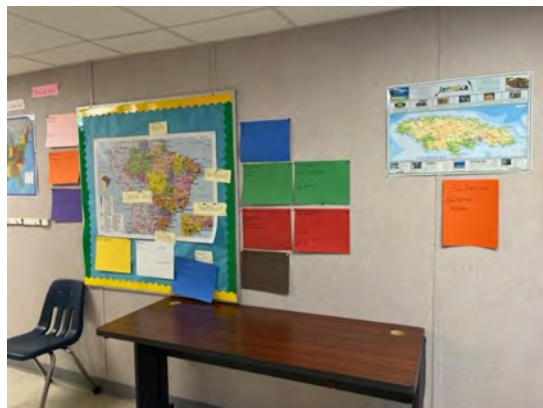


## ELL News

The start of school has been a mostly calm one this year. We are comfortable in our temporary setting, while still excitedly looking forward to the new classrooms to come next year. We are so grateful to our supportive community. We are thrilled to announce that Luciana Coutinho has joined us from the culinary staff as our second ESP/interpreter/translator!

Learning and connection is underway in room C102, Language Services, also known as the ELL classroom. This was evidenced by the open house last evening (Thursday the 21st) where we were visited by families whose children currently or previously learned English with us. It is our pleasure to welcome families into the building during these community events. Next time you are in, please stop by to add your family history to one of our maps, (see photos) and share in our global community building!

Liz Bradley, Shannon G. Carbon, Jen DeMirs, Luciana Coutinho, Laura Weisman



## Vocal Music

“Welcome to Music!” we sing in K-4 classes. “I’m glad you’re here!” I am truly glad to see all of our students back in our Music Classroom this year! We share our general music space with the string program and the band program, so there is always something going on in this corner of Building A, past the main office. The only classes that have a new location this year are the second grade classes who will have music in the Art room and the Library/Computer Lab.

It is important for all of our students to be mindful of the Music Room Rules when they come to classes here. Because we are all sharing this building and this space, it is especially important to be mindful of others. Families, please review these rules with students. If your student needs many reminders, I will write home to tell you so.

If you want to check in on the music your student is learning, you can access the [Music Homepage](#) by going to the Tisbury School [website](#) and find Mrs. Sanseverino. Choose your class from the boxes on the right, and you will find links there to hear the music we are working on in school. You will need to choose Student and enter the code j013036 to enter some of the MusicPlay links (your device will remember the password in the future). Please have fun sharing music together at home!

Also, our 4-8th graders are invited to sing after school with me in the Music Room on Thursdays this week as we prepare for the All Island Choral Festival. Our students will join singers from all of the elementary schools and the High School. Thursday afternoons, they will stay here at Tisbury for rehearsals from 2:40-3:15 to practice two songs for a concert at the High School Performing Arts Center on Thursday, October 19 at 6:30PM. More information will be coming out in emails to that age group.



Welcome and Bem Vindos! I am glad you are here!

Jessica Sanseverino  
Vocal Music



## 7th and 8th Grade Science

### 7th Grade Science:

Seventh graders have started the year with a unit titled Human Systems Interactions. So far, we have studied the digestive, excretory and respiratory systems. The most important aspect of this unit is to tie together each system as we add on, understanding how all systems are intertwined in the human body. We have also been lucky enough to travel to Penikese Island to study both the history and ecology of our close neighbor!

### 8th Grade Science:

Heredity and Adaptation is the first unit that the eighth graders are studying. We have covered the fossil history and structural relatedness of organisms. The kids are using Punnett squares to predict inheritance. They made the double helix structure of edible DNA, extracted DNA from strawberries and created generations of dragons to illustrate both dominant and recessive traits. We will finish the unit with a look at natural selection and a brief study of cloning.

Sue Adamo  
7/8 Science



# ART

In the Art room:

**Kindergarteners** have been observing shapes and colors on butterflies and symmetry in nature. They made translucent butterfly window sun catchers with tissue paper.

**First graders** used oil pastel and water color resist to create sunflowers after studying the colors and centers closely.

**Second and third graders** looked at tigers in the wild and then drew tigers with sharpies and watercolor crayons. It's interesting how everything they draw reflects their unique personalities!



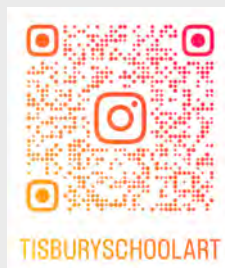
**Fourth, fifth and sixth grade students** looked at the colorful abstract work of Paul Klee.

They designed a piece featuring their name-first/middle/last (or nickname) repeating and becoming somewhat abstract. They chose an analogous color scheme (colors next to each other on the color wheel) to fill in the name design with watercolor pencils. The results are beautiful!



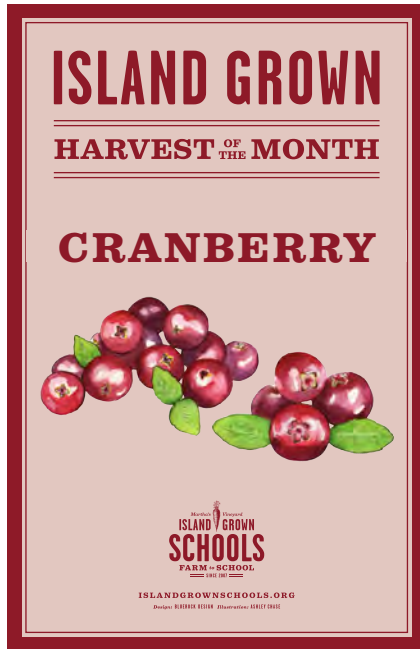
**Seventh and eighth grade students** learned how to balance positive and negative shapes to create a dynamic composition. We looked at how graphic designers create a balance of space in their logos. Students used the grid technique to measure and replicate their image.

Come check out what's happening in the art room @TisburySchoolArt on Instagram





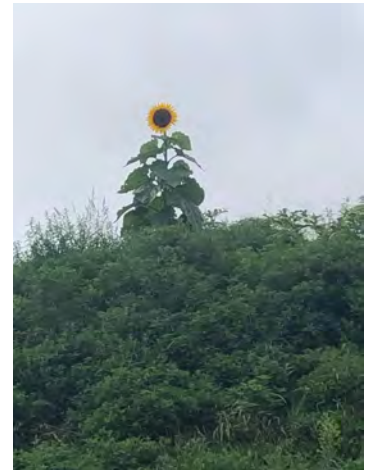
**Harvest of the Month: Cranberries**



**Tisbury Garden News**

Happy fall everyone. It was so wonderful to get back in the garden with the students this year! There is so much beautiful abundance in the school garden. All the hard work of creating a new space and planting last spring has given us so many veggies and flowers and herbs to explore and harvest in the past few weeks. We have also had some fun trips to the IGI farm, gleaned vegetables for the community.

One of the very best experiences so far has been the giant sunflower that sprang up on the top of the hill of excavated soil on the old playground. Soil and seeds from the old garden ended up on top of the hill and the biggest, most beautiful sunflower grew there! Maybe you saw it as you drove by at the end of summer. We harvested the flower head recently and have been exploring the hundreds of seeds. We will plant them next spring and have sunflowers everywhere!



The Harvest of the Month for October is cranberries. Cranberries are native to the island and have a long history of cultivation here. They have been a very important crop to the Wampanoag people for thousands of years! Cranberries are high in vitamin C and antioxidants and are anti-inflammatory. Did you know the island has its very own organically grown commercial cranberry bog? We will be learning about cranberries in classrooms as our outdoor garden time winds down this month.

Sam Greene  
Tisbury School Farm to School  
Program Coordinator

**NURSE'S NOTES**

**Healthy Vision and School!**

Children with vision problems may not complain that it is hard to see because they do not know what normal vision is. They think the way they see is the way everyone sees - even if it's blurry!



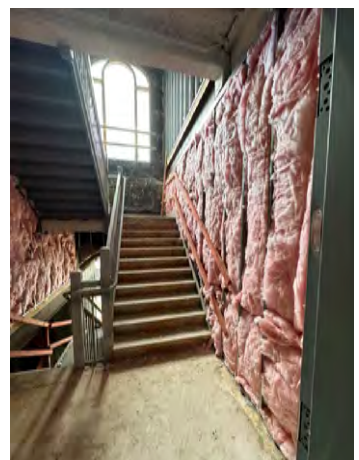
**Did you know?**

- 1 in 4 children needs eyeglasses to see the blackboard or to read a book
- Some vision conditions, if not treated, will lead to permanent vision loss
- Complaints and behaviors such as itchy eyes, headaches, blinking, or squinting can be signs of a vision problem
- Untreated vision problems may contribute to challenges with reading, falling behind in the classroom, having difficulty in sports, and connecting with friends
- Children born prematurely, or who have developmental delay or other special needs are more likely to have vision problems

*\*All children in grades K-5 and 7 will have a vision screening each school year. But if you have concerns about your child's vision, let the school nurse know or your child's healthcare provider.*



The Tisbury School Addition and Renovation Project continues to progress with the ongoing construction work on the new gym and administration additions. On Friday, September 15th, the school student body and teaching staff gathered in the parking lot outside the new addition to celebrate the “Topping-Off Ceremony” of the new building. Proudly displayed on a steel beam was the American flag, a Tisbury School banner, a sign including the signatures of all students and staff, and an evergreen tree – a custom of the steel trade that symbolizes a safe job well done and good luck for the future occupants. It was moving to witness 270 students, with hands held to hearts, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Principal Custer, School Committee Chairwoman Amy Houghton, and Building Committee Co-Chairwoman Rita Jeffers delivered inspirational remarks that the students will remember fondly for years to come. WT Rich Construction Managers continue to advance on the schedule as the vacant space on the second and third floors transform into classrooms. Electrical wiring, HVAC ductwork, spray-foam insulation, metal partition-wall framing, and drywall define the new school. Sitework and installation of site drainage infrastructure continues as the masonry restoration of the brick facade of the 1929 building shines. The project remains on track with a scheduled turn-over date of August 16, 2024.



**Contact Us!**

School Building Committee:  
[www.tisbury-school-project.com](http://www.tisbury-school-project.com)  
[tiburyschoolproject@gmail.com](mailto:tiburyschoolproject@gmail.com)



