

TIGER TALES



THE TISBURY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



October 2025

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

Healthy Vision and School!

Vision and Hearing Screenings started the week of September 15th!

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.*



Principal's Letter

Tisbury School Community:

The first day of school this year was, as usual, exciting and celebratory. For most, it also felt more settled than it's felt for years in our school. Feeling settled generally includes a sense of reassurance, comfort, and calm. All of these are beneficial – to students, staff, and families. Even though the transition from summer vacation to the start of school can be challenging, I'm hopeful that for most in our school community, this year it was easier.

It has been wonderful to finally have our playgrounds fully open, including the fields on both the east and west sides. This summer, contractors painted the basketball courts. A new flagpole is expected to be installed this fall. All of this adds to the amazing building that we've now been in for a year. The school campus is certainly something that the Town of Tisbury can be proud of.

Reflection and acknowledgement are practices that are important to me, and I encourage in others. I have sincere gratitude, as I enter my 15th year as principal of the Tisbury School, for so many people who have helped support me and our school. Among those who stand out is Dr. James Weiss, Superintendent of Schools on Martha's Vineyard from 2005-2015. Dr. Weiss strengthened our island school system, and evidence of his leadership is still present. Sadly, Dr. Weiss passed away in August. He was an exceptional person, and he dedicated himself to supporting children, even after he retired. His passing is a profound loss for the island community, but we are stronger because of his work. I am one of many who remember him fondly and appreciate all he did. Throughout this year, I'll continue to look for opportunities to recognize and honor him.

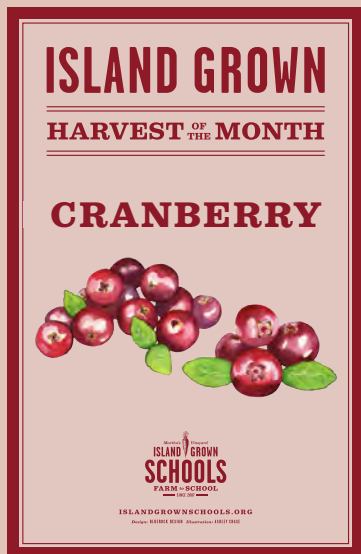
As we settle in to routines, please ensure that you mark calendars with events and happenings. Students do not have school on October 10 or October 13. The PTO Tiger Trot will take place on October 17. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for October 21, 23, and 27.

The Tisbury School continues to be exceptional. This has been true for many years, due to the quality and strength of its people. Now that we have a facility and campus to be proud of, I'm mindful and grateful that we are very fortunate. Being part of this school community is something I am sincerely proud of, and never take for granted. Thank you for doing your part to help make our school strong.

With gratitude,
John



Harvest of the Month: Cranberries



Tisbury Garden News

"Wow! It's so wonderful to have our new garden beds overflowing with flowers and veggies!

Have you seen how tall the sunflowers are?

Everyone worked hard last spring to plan and plant and now we have beautiful abundance.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades visit the garden every week to explore and taste and smell.

Last year the 4th grade Spanish classes planted beds of plants from South America and this year, as 5th graders, they will harvest tomatoes, tomatillos, potatoes, amaranth, beans and marigolds.

The 5th grade's corn, beans, pumpkin and sunflowers are growing strong and tall and will be harvested soon.

The Harvest of the Month is cranberries.

Cranberries are native to Martha's Vineyard and have been an important crop of the Wampanoag people for thousands of years.

What's the name of the special habitat where cranberries grow?

Stop in at the media center to help create a cranberry and toothpick structure and answer the raffle question.

You might win a prize!"

Sam Greene
Tisbury School Farm to School
Program Coordinator

7th and 8th Grade Science

7th Grade Science

Seventh graders have started the year with the Populations and Ecosystems unit. We will look at characteristics of organisms and their environments. We will research some ecosystems and predict how different factors will affect the organisms that exist there. To introduce the kids to the tools and terms of dissection, we started with a pickle. We will move on to worms, mollusks, squid and grasshoppers as we study invertebrates.



to the structure of other organisms.

Sue Adamo
7/8 Science



8th Grade Science

Heredity and Adaptation is the first 8th grade unit. We look at the evolution of life throughout Earth's history, then expand into the genetics of inherited traits. One of our first activities was an owl pellet dissection. The kids looked at the bone structure of the owl's prey (usually a rodent), comparing it



Spanish News



¡Hola, hola!

My name is Lorena Crespo, and this is my second year teaching Spanish. I'm so excited to share what's been happening in our classes!

1st and 2nd Grade – We've been practicing greetings, letter sounds, and numbers through games, songs, and art activities.

3rd and 4th Grade – Students listened to engaging stories in Spanish and played bingo while learning numbers.



5th and 6th Grade – We explored Hispanic countries and created our own "passports" to record our discoveries.

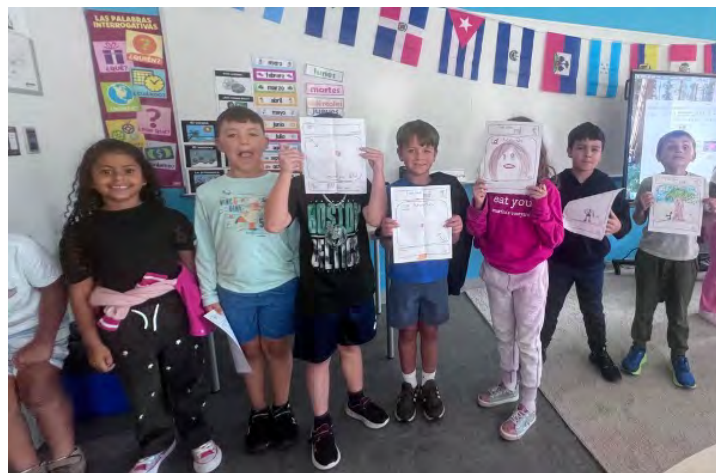
6th Grade (extension) – Students learned even more about family vocabulary and Hispanic culture.



7th and 8th Grade – We discussed the importance of learning another language, compared cultural differences, reviewed numbers, and began writing in Spanish about their own families.

It has been such a joy working with your children so far this year. Thank you for sharing them with us!

Señora Crespo
K-8 Spanish



Vocal Music

Hello Tisbury families!

Your Music Department is ready to go this year. Our Band room is inspiring, the Vocal music room is rocking and the Strings program is busier than ever.

All families have a window into Tisbury Vocal Music classes through the school web page. Under the "Classes" header, or anywhere you see Mrs. Sanseverino's face, click to find our Virtual Music Classroom. There, I will share your grade level's songs and lots of games to reinforce student learning at home. Check it out and come back to find new links anytime!

Jessica Sanseverino
K-8 Vocal Music



ART

Right: 3rd grade quilt square designs

Bottom: 2nd grade lighthouses



NURSE'S NOTES

Remind Your Child to Wear A Helmets

When riding a BIKE, SCOOTER, moped, or skate board!!

Please protect your child's head and promote helmets!!



BRAIN INJURY IN KIDS

ALMOST *half* A MILLION KIDS

are treated in an emergency department each year for traumatic brain injury*, including concussion.

* alone or along with other injuries or conditions.

THAT'S MORE THAN 5,000
OF THE NATION'S LARGEST SCHOOL BUSES
FILLED TO CAPACITY.



SOME BRAIN INJURY SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

☐ Headache
☐ Dizziness
☐ Blurred Vision
☐ Difficulty Thinking Clearly
☐ Sensitivity to Noise & Light

LEARN MORE SYMPTOMS @

www.cdc.gov/TraumaticBrainInjury



50%

of BRAIN INJURIES AMONG KIDS

ARE DUE TO FALLS

WHAT TO DO
if you think a child has
A BRAIN INJURY

A	ASSESS THE SITUATION
B	BE ALERT FOR BRAIN INJURY SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS
C	CONTACT A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL



HELP KEEP KIDS SAFE *from* BRAIN INJURY



STAIR GATES

Use gates at the top and bottom of stairs to prevent serious falls among infants and toddlers.



CAR SEATS

Use child safety seats and booster seats that are correct for a child's age and weight. Make sure they are properly installed.



HELMETS

Make sure your child always wears the right helmet for their activity and that it fits correctly.



SOFT SURFACES

Use playgrounds with a soft landing surface (such as sand or wood chips, not dirt or grass).



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

LEARN more AT:
www.cdc.gov/TraumaticBrainInjury