TIGER TALES

THE TISBURY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



October 2026

P.O. Box 878
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
508-696-6500

Visit our website: **www.tisbury.mvyps.org**
Information is updated routinely.

Healthy Vision and School!

Vision and Hearing Screenings have started

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 start of this school year was positive, as we welcomed students back and greeted a new Kindergarten class. The Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) Welcome Back to School Cookout on September 11 was a festive, spirited, well-attended event. As well, our Back to School Night events on September 17 provided families an important opportunity to meet teachers and receive information to support a good start to the year. As we now settle in to routines and school schedules, it is important to note school events and mark your calendars with upcoming events. Among these:

October 9	Teacher Professional Development
October 14	School Picture Day
October 15	All Island Choral Festival
October 16	PTO Tiger Trot
October 20,22, 26	Parent-teacher conferences

The Martha's Vineyard Public Schools system has a new Superintendent, Dr. Jaime Curley. She has already become a regular presence in our school, and we welcome her to our school community. Among her commitments for our schools is that we understand today's students and respond to their academic, social, emotional, and individual needs so that every student feels supported, included, engaged, and able to succeed. Our staff aligns with this commitment in our daily work. We are fortunate to be supported by the Superintendent's Office, School Committee, School Advisory Council, and Parent-Teacher Organization. Ultimately, children benefit from this shared effort.

Each day, as students play on the playground before school starts, I look at our campus and remind myself of how fortunate we are. Now in our third year occupying this school, feelings of pride and gratitude endure, as they should.

Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Sincerely,
John

Vocal Music

Tisbury Vocal Music is off to a great start!

We have completed our introductions to Music Production class with Mr. Haas in the 5-8 classes, also our auditions for the fall musical, Beauty and the Beast Jr. We are well into our reminders of Music Room expectations and reviews of music notation for everyone. "We are going to have a lot of fun, 'cause music time has just begun…"

Looking ahead, please consider supporting any 5-8 singer who is interested in joining the All Island Choral Festival (AICF) on Thursday, October 15. We will take a bus of students from Tisbury to the High School during the school day. Students will eat pizza and rehearse from singers from all of our island schools for a ONE NIGHT ONLY performance that evening! Parents are only expected to bring their singers back to the High School Performing Arts Center (PAC) that evening for the free concert.

Also, check out our landing page for music updates as the year goes along! All of the icons have links to information, games and music that we are working on in class.

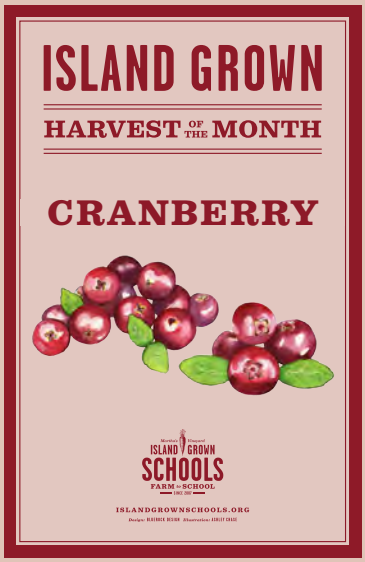
Jessica Sanseverino, K-8 Vocal Music







Harvest of the Month: Cranberries



Tisbury Garden News

Our Autumn garden is still going strong! Gound cherries, cucumbers, kale, corn, herbs and a few tomatoes are providing opportunities for exploration and tasting.
When the children observe that our beautiful flowers now look like they are 'dying', we learn that they are actually offering an abundance of seeds that we can harvest and save to plant next spring!
Mrs Buckley's morning math group harvested sunflower heads. We noticed they make a spiral pattern and talked about the Fibonacci numbers within. We will harvest the seeds to count by 10s, package them in origami envelopes to take home ,and plant some in the classroom this winter for sunflower sprouts.
Kindergarten is exploring Stone Soup. We read the story, made pretend soup, and will visit the Farm Institute later in the month to harvest vegetables and make real Stone Soup.
5th grade will begin a Social Studies unit of local Indigenous foodways and explore the 3 Sisters/Trio of Life growing system and 7th grade will visit the IGI farm to harvest potatoes and forage as our early human ancestors did.

Speaking of important Indigenous crops, the Harvest of the Month is cranberries.
The raffle question this month is:
"Cranberries grow in bogs on runners or vines.
Identify the correct order of steps for 'wet' harvesting commercial cranberries:

1. Transport the berries to market.
2. Flood the bed (or bog).
3. Harvest the berries."

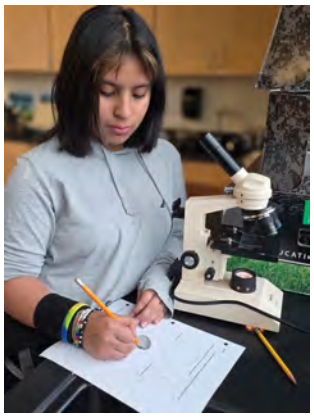
Students can visit the 2nd floor library to do some cranberry activities and answer the question.

Happy Autumn!



7th and 8th Grade Science

7th Grade Science
Seventh graders are off and running with Populations and Ecosystems. We will study animals, plants and their interactions throughout the unit. Some of our lab activities have included dissections of worms, grasshoppers and mollusks. We look at different body systems and the complexity of each.



8th Grade Science
Eighth graders have begun the year with the Weather and Water unit. We are studying density, air pressure and heat transfer to see how our weather systems are created. Complex concepts such as the Coriolis Effect are covered in this unit. Some of our labs have included Liquid Layers, Rising Water, Egg in the Bottle and Convection Chambers.



Sue Adamo
7/8 Science

Spanish News



This month in Spanish, we focused on consistency, routines, and building a strong foundation for learning.

It has been wonderful getting to know our kindergarteners and welcoming our new students, while reconnecting with returning students.

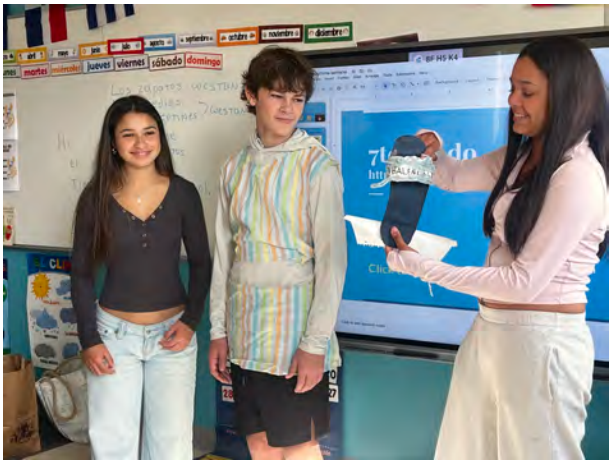


Kindergarten explored Spanish through songs and stories, while **first and second graders** revisited familiar songs, games, and stories.

Third graders enjoyed Rockalingua and Spanish stories.

Fourth graders began building grammar foundations through books, music, and vocabulary.

Fifth graders worked with Sam Greene to learn about the history of plants and vegetables in South America and even made pico de Gallo!



Our **sixth and seventh grader**s showed their creativity by designing clothing posters.

Our **eighth graders** took it one step further with a Spanish fashion show, creating unique outfits and even making chancletas (sandals) from recycled materials.It was a month full of language, creativity, culture, and hands-on learning. Thank you for sharing your children with us.

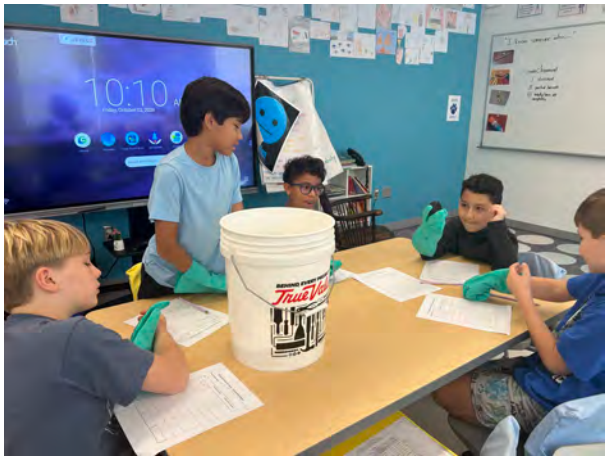
Ms. Crespo
Spanish Teacher

6th Grade News



6th Grade is excited to be back with our school friends (old and new). We are currently finishing up our Decimal Operations Unit in math and are learning about the Geological Time Survey in Science with Mrs. Tarter. We just finished a fun "playdoh cupcake" lab helping us understand how layers of rock are formed. In Social Studies we are wrapping up fundamental Geography skills and in ELA we are in the midst of our first narrative writing unit with Mr. DeBettencourt. We just had a fabulous field trip to Outdoor Classroom in Yarmouth for 3 days and 2 nights and will have some photos to share in the next newsletter.

Health Education





Health Education is off to a busy start this school year!

1st graders are preparing for a walking field trip to Owen Park, as part of their water safety unit, with the Tisbury Harbormasters. Students are excited to learn about safety signs and tools used to help people stay safe in and on the water.

4th graders are working through their identity unit and are discussing the origin stories of their names. We had a visit from the new Superintendent, Dr. Jaime Curley, who told us about how her grown-ups chose her name.

5th graders are concluding their unit on non-visible conditions and empathy. We've discussed conditions such as diabetes, ADHD, ADD, mental health and concluded with an experiment to further help students understand the impact of a concussion.

6th graders have completed their skeletal system unit and are onto the muscular system. Ask any 6th grader about different types of fractures, as well as the names of many of the 200+ bones in the human body. They are excited to share their knowledge.

8th graders have a new class this year with myself and Mrs. Creato. Friday mornings, they have Advisory. In this class, we cover various topics: communication, team building, community service and eventually this time will be used to support the transition from 8th grade to 9th grade. Major Sterling Bishop from the Dukes County Sheriff's Department is helping us prepare for a day trip to the Ropes Course later this fall.

Jane Taylor
K-8 Health Education

NURSE'S NOTES

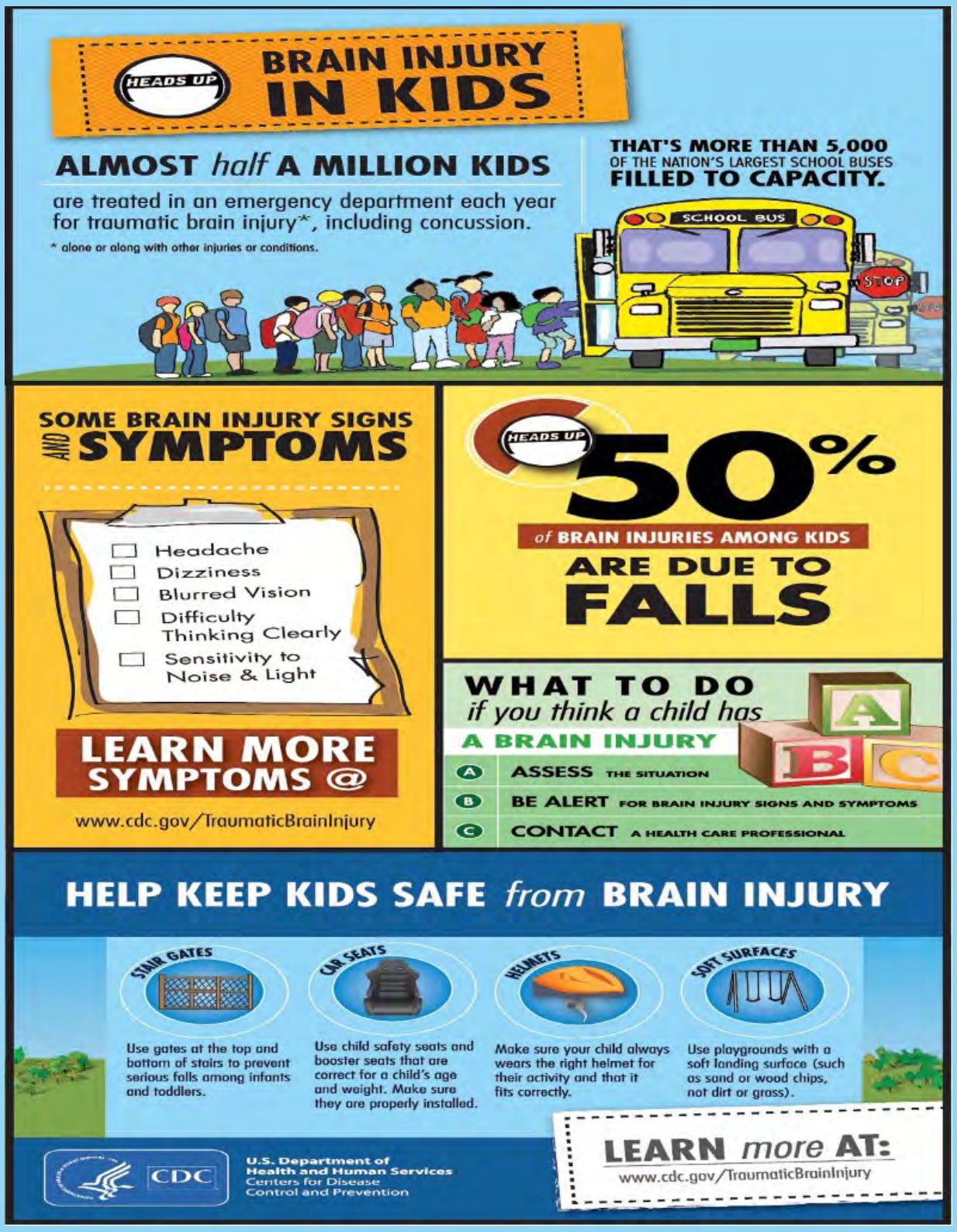


Reminders:

- Submit all Emergency Forms to the school as soon as possible
- Submit any requested forms and documentation to the school nurse as soon as possible
- Contact your healthcare provider about getting a flu shot. Flu season is just around the corner!

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!!



ART



Kindergartners are starting the year with rainbow collages, we discussed rainbow colors, safety tips, and the correct way to hold and use scissors. Students practiced by snipping paper to create a mosaic rainbow





First Graders explored insect anatomy and created a bug in a jar scene. They pressed watercolor fingerprints on paper shaped like a mason jar. They added antenna, six legs, and personality with the black pencil.

Second Graders made painted watercolor paper which they used to craft and sculpt 3-D folded tigers crouching in the grass.

Third Graders formed two pinch pods to create a clay pumpkin, with coiled stem. These sculptures will be glazed in a few weeks after firing in the kiln.



Fourth Graders have been designing and coloring 3-D foldable flip houses. We discussed how repeating colors, shapes and textures, can create harmony when designing a room.

Fifth Graders used observation, drawing techniques to draw a sunflower. They outlined with black glue and used oil, pastels with blending techniques.

Six Graders learned about the history of signal flags, or nautical flags, and designed their name with this old maritime form of communication



Seventh Graders are experimenting with radial symmetry techniques. They used the cardboard cutter to cut a Circular disk, then added colored string using various pattern sequencing to create layers.

Eighth Graders viewed block print fabric from around the world and designed a linoleum block to create repeat a pattern. Emphasis was placed on composition- using a balance of positive and negative space effectively. We also reviewed carving tool safely, proper printmaking techniques and how to present work neatly.