

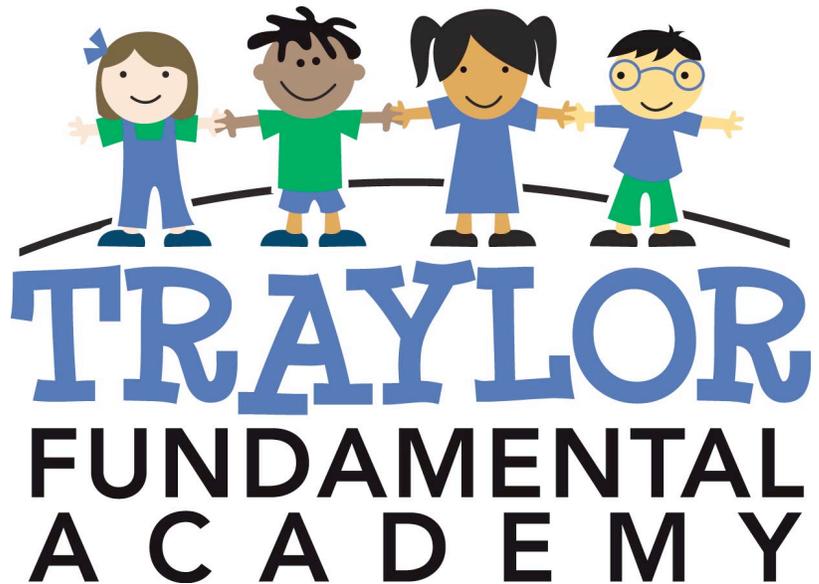
# Traylor Tales

VOLUME # 6  
APRIL 2014

2900 S.  
IVAN WAY  
DENVER, CO

PHONE:  
720 424 3480

ATTENDANCE LINE:  
720 424 3490



## April Principal's Message

### Principal Update

We are having a blast here at Traylor Fundamental Academy as we usher in the new season! Students are learning, attending fun and educational field trips, and using technology more and more often. Denver SCORES Spring Season has started with our SCORES students working on improving their community action writing and soccer skills together as a team! Our parent and community volunteers are leading fantastic Shakespeare practices after school – and our Science Club and Jump Rope Club are meeting regularly, too! (Remember: our School Science Fair is May 8<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't returned your permission slip, please do that ASAP! If you have any questions about that, please see Mrs. Marker.)

### Parent Teacher Home Visit Project Update

We have had nearly 200 completed Parent Teacher Home Visits this year. Thank you to our teachers and staff who have worked with our awesome families to plan these great relationship building opportunities. We have 27 teachers participating in the program this year, and look forward to our work continuing next year. It's important to note that in Denver Public Schools, over 5,000 home visits have been conducted! DPS leads the country in the PTHV Program! We have surpassed other districts by hundreds of visits this year already. With Traylor being a new school to the program, our numbers show our commitment to this project – and to connecting to our students and families in new and authentic ways!

### Budget and Hiring Update

Beginning in February, we start the budget and hiring planning for our next school year. Our Collaborative School Committee (CSC) and Personnel Committee have been busy, making plans for our budget and hiring for next year. I will provide more updates before the end of the year once we have made more of our hiring decisions. Here are a few of the highlights for next year's staffing that we know will help us to support your children's needs even better! We are excited to announce that we will add an additional teacher to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and we will expand our health services to have a full-time Nurse and a full-time School Psychologist next year.

### TCAP/Testing

Our students in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades were very focused during their statewide TCAP testing over the past

**TCAP/Testing** continued  
few months in Reading, Writing, and Math. (This spring, our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will take a Social Studies assessment and our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will take a Science assessment on the computer, as well.) Thank you to all of our students' families for bringing them to school on time and ready to do their best during the testing days! Starting in the 2014-15 school year, students throughout Colorado (and in other states) will be taking a new test, PARCC, that is aligned to the new Common Core State Standards. Our teachers and staff are working diligently to make sure our students are ready for the rigor of these new standards – and to help all of our Traylor students learn to think critically for future challenges in school and life. Also, it's important to note that these assessments will be on the computer. We are excited to continue to use our new laptops and Chrome Books to make sure our students have the technology skills they need for this test and to navigate and succeed in our technology-focused society! Here's the link to the PARCC samples. If you'd like to check out some samples of what the new test will be like next year, check out this link to sample test items. I'd love to hear what you think!

(<https://www.parcconline.org/computer-based-samples>)

"We learn by pushing ourselves and finding what really lies at the outer reaches of our abilities." – Josh Waitzkin

While the results and student data we get from these tests is helpful for our school's efforts planning and preparing quality instruction for your children, it's important to note that daily challenges and fun learning continues after TCAP here at Traylor Academy!

"You must feed your mind with reading materials, thoughts, and ideas that open you to new possibilities." – Oprah

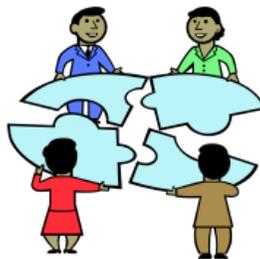
### **Family Literacy Night**

Keep an eye out in April for the RSVP forms for our last Community Resources event. On Tuesday, May 6, we will host a Family Literacy Night, complete with pizza, Storytellers, Free Book Give-Aways for all students, and other interactive literacy events. We hope you'll join us!

### **Communication coming soon...**

Keep an eye out for more information coming home in the next few weeks about the 2014-15 school year from our school and CSC. There will also be a *Calendar of Events* – with important school dates from April through June – coming home this week, as well.

Text alerts – we will be sending a letter home giving parents the option to receive text alerts from the school. We hope you'll take advantage of this new opportunity to stay connected to important announcements at Traylor!



### **Culture Connection**

Hello Traylor Families, Spring is in the air and it is time again for another Culture Connection- a place to learn about our DPS Shared Values and how we are living these values here at Traylor. Our DPS Shared Values are: *Students First, Integrity, Equity, Collaboration, Accountability, and Fun*. This month's installment will discuss an incredibly important value- Equity. The concept of Equity supports the idea that EVERYONE

deserves a fair chance to be successful.

We know that in order to have a prosperous society, we must have a well-educated population. We know that schools are an important piece of this equation by offering new ideas, challenging work, and a supportive environment that helps build confidence and perseverance. We also know that not everyone comes to school with the same background or abilities. Every student that walks in Traylor's door regardless of gender, economic status, physical or cognitive ability, ethnicity, culture, or language background will have equal access to the same high-quality education as their peers. This is one of the many aspects of being an educator in America that makes us incredibly proud.

Each of our classroom teachers pulls small groups of students together every day to engage in lessons designed to meet their needs as individuals, helping to ensure they understand the material at the same level as their peers. Traylor offers a Qualistar- rated Early Childhood Education program that allows us to build foundational skills for children regardless of income or background. Our Special Education teachers work closely with parents as well as classroom teachers to make sure we are supporting the needs of learners with different abilities- this includes specialized interventions, motor skills support, testing accommodations, and frequent progress monitoring.

At Traylor, we frequently consider how to use our resources to best meet the needs of our growing community. We have programs designed for literacy support as well as programs designed to meet the needs of our Gifted and Talented learners. Did you know that there are many languages spoken in the Traylor community?

### **Culture Connection**<sup>-continued</sup>

These learners also get language support through our English Language Development program as well as in some of our Native Language Transition classes. Even our after school programs are designed to support equity- ensuring that both girls and boys from all backgrounds have equal access to athletic and arts programs.

Considering all that we do to honor the value of equity at Traylor, it is incredibly difficult to narrow down to a handful of staff and teachers to honor in this regard. Ultimately, the entire staff and many community members/volunteers deserve recognition for this value. We would like to call special attention to our teachers who make the pursuit of Equity their ultimate focus: Rosario Sabatte, Bernadette Jenkins, Kathy Marker, Cindy Prosser, Anne Marie Kaspersen and Lori O'Brien work with our youngest Traylor Tiger cubs to ensure that they have the foundation needed for academic and social success as they move into later grades. Because of the work of these teachers, many students at Traylor have equal opportunities to academic achievement, and this will be a factor in their future success.

### **Traylor Academy Boosters**

#### **TABS (Parent Group)**

From: Traylor Academy Boosters

By Domenika Leinbach, President

**Traylor Food and Art Festival**, formerly Sweet & Spicy, will take place on **Thursday, May 1** from 6-8pm. Family Fun Night, will take place on **Friday, May 16th** from 6-8pm. Please expect flyers from TABS with details and volunteer requests. We will need at least 50 volunteers to help make this event a success with set up, running games, and clean up.

Also, Traylor is working on publishing our first yearbook! A pre-order flyer will be distributed in early April.

As we start to look ahead for the next school year, we will have several TABS board positions open. If you are interested in learning more, or being more active within the Traylor community please join us at the next TABS meeting.

Our next TABS meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 16 at 6pm in the cafeteria. We hope to see you there!

#### **ECE**

It's hard to believe the year is coming to an end. We hope that you enjoyed Spring Break.

We have grown so much since the fall. We have learned to write our names, how to create and form letters, as well as their sounds. We have also learned how to manipulate numbers through simple addition and subtraction.

Coming up this spring, we will learn about the zoo, plants, and bugs. We are looking forward to collecting bugs and examining them through magnifying glasses.

Thank you for your continued support!

*ECE Teachers*

#### **Kindergarten**

February was a fun month as we celebrated 100<sup>th</sup> Day and Valentine's Day. We were very busy counting to 100 by 1s, 5s, and 10s, as well as writing numbers to 100.

On Valentine's Day, the students enjoyed sharing kind words and candy with each other, as well as other fun activities. In reading, the

students will continue to learn ten new sight words a month and have many opportunities to practice these words in the classroom and at home as they read their books.

In language arts, we finished our unit on weather and will begin a new unit on plants. In math, we will continue practicing counting by 10s and 5s to 100, as well as by 2s. The students continue to learn how to add and subtract and many other math skills.

March brings a new season and a new unit in Science. The students are learning about their five senses and will become scientists as they ask questions, do experiments, and write down what they see. They will also learn about animal super senses. We are very proud of the hard work we see the students doing everyday in the classroom. We appreciate all the time you spend with your child at home on academics because it shows in the classroom. It always seems that during this time of the year the students grow by leaps and bounds, both physically and academically. It is so much fun to see their enthusiasm when they succeed. The time you spend now with your child will have big dividends later in life. Keep up the great work parents!!! We appreciate all you do!!

#### **First Grade**

First of all, we would like to thank the volunteers that have been coming into our classrooms to work with our first graders. The time and effort you are dedicating to working with our students is truly appreciated and the students are enjoying working with each one of you. The kids are making a great deal of growth in the area of reading. They have incorporated the one hundred most frequently used words they learned at the beginning of the year to help them while they are reading.

**First Grade**-continued

They are doing a great deal of work learning different word families. That hard work has helped them tremendously in the area of reading and writing. Each one of them has made so much growth since the beginning of the year. We are so proud of their progress and encourage you to keep working with your child daily. Please continue to work with your child on counting money, telling time to the hour, half-hour, and quarter-hour. Also, continue to work on simple addition and subtraction facts. On our field trip to Steele Planetarium, we will learn about the importance of light energy from the Sun to support life on Earth. As well as the motions of Earth that account for night, day, and the seasons. Once again, thank you so much for working with your child and supporting the learning that is happening in the classroom every single day.

**Third Grade**

The year is flying by! Our third graders are now almost fourth graders, and are being instructed as such. We had a wonderful time visiting the Museum of Nature and Science in March. The museum always holds such wonders to explore! As a follow-up to our Space Science unit, we visited the planetarium, which was fun and informative. Please take advantage of the free days at the museum and plan a family outing. We are very proud of our third graders for working hard and taking the TCAP assessment seriously. Thank you parents, for preparing them for testing by reading, completing homework, and encouraging them each day. As we finish up with our last few months of third grade, it will be "full steam ahead." Our expectations of homework and class work continue to be raised, so your children will be fully prepared to enter fourth grade.

We appreciate your support in making reading, homework, and attendance a priority.

**Fourth Grade**

TCAP is finished and we want to thank parents for honoring test schedules and for sending your children to school on time. Moving forward, Fourth Grade will embark upon a journey through our beautiful state, Colorado. This Social Studies Interdisciplinary Unit on Colorado past and present emphasizes the Social Science perspective on Geography, History, Economics and Government. Fourth Grade students will be taking an online Social Studies test on Colorado in the middle of April. Students are excited to take the test on newly purchased Chrome Books. In writing, students will choose an American Historical Figure to research and then write a biography poster report. Students will read about the person, tell what they are famous for and cite their sources. This report will also include an important life lesson they have learned from the person and other interesting facts about their life. In Mathematics, students will continue to practice multiplication facts and long division. In Reading, please continue to read for 20 minutes each night at home.

**Nurse**

Champ Camp is July 20-26, 2014 at Glacier View Ranch (Near Boulder, CO). This is a low cost asthma education program for youth (ages 7-14). There will be rock climbing, canoeing, asthma education, zip line. Campers and volunteers sign up online.  
www.champcamp@lungcolorado.org

Call (303)847-0279 for details.  
Sponsored by the American Lung Association

**ART**

All students will be represented in the school wide art exhibit on Mayst. Each student in grades 1-5 will select a "personal best" piece of artwork, from his/her portfolio, to hang in the exhibit.

**Music**

Dear Traylor Community,  
General Music  
Students are currently focusing on melodic and rhythmic elements according to the grade level curriculum and using voices and instruments for music making. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades are enjoying playing Vh1 keyboards given to the school five to six years ago. As always all grades, sing and play many folk songs and music games to develop a love of music.

**Choir**

Choir will be going to Jump Street in late April or early May.

**Band**

Band will be performing at the Food and Arts festival on May 1st.

Thank you,  
Dan Christian-Music Director