

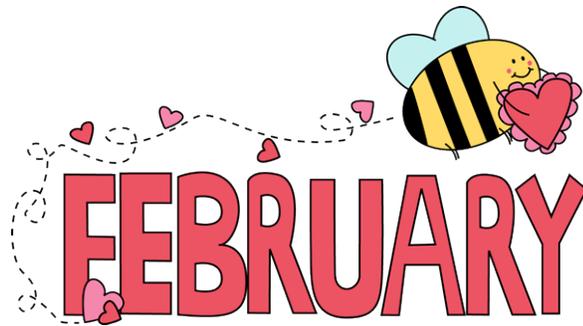
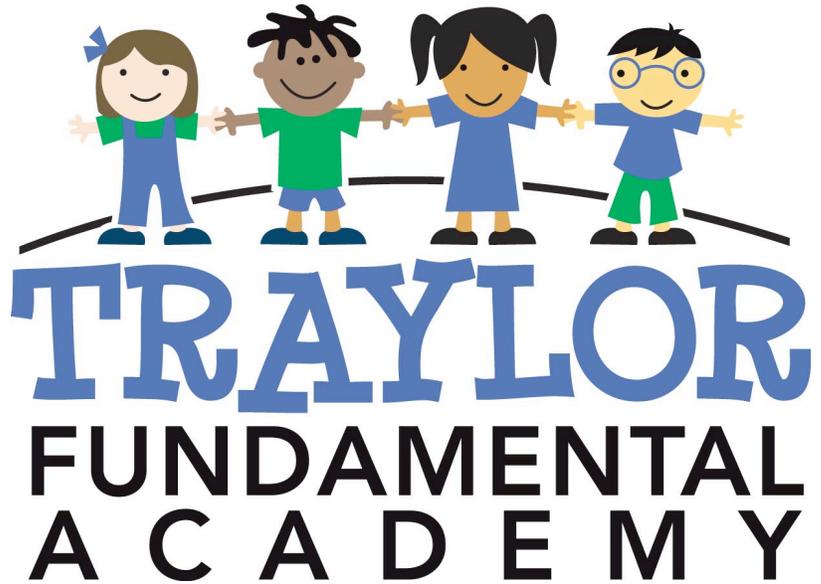
Traylor Tales

VOLUME # 5
FEBRUARY
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February Principal's Message

Welcome to February, Traylor community!

Coffee with the Principal – February, 10th @ 9:15 AM

Working in partnership with parents and families is one of my favorite parts of my work as a principal here at Traylor Fundamental Academy. As Helen Keller once said, I believe, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." I hope you'll consider joining me at **9:15 AM** in Room 202 for Coffee with the Principal. This is a chance to chat with each other, and a chance to learn a little bit more about the work we do with your children each day at Traylor. Depending on the size of our group, we hope to visit a few classrooms, as well. Keep an eye out for a flyer and RSVP sheet that will be coming home next week. *Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.*

- Henry Ford

Free English Course for Parents

DPS and the MATT Foundation are making a difference in bridging the communications gap with parents and our schools by offering an innovative resource to the community that can be used in the comfort of their own homes. Maestro en Casa, or "Teacher at Home," is a free English course designed to help parents learn basic English in real-life situations using useful terminology. We have about 10 families who are already using this great program and we hope more non-English-speaking parents at Traylor will take advantage of this great opportunity. Parents who are interested should stop by the office for more information or contact Julieta Quinonez at 720-423-8950 or Julieta_quinonez@dpsk12.org.

Curso de Inglés Gratis para Padres

DPS y la Fundación de MATT están haciendo la diferencia al ayudar el hueco de comunicación entre los padres y nuestras escuelas al ofrecer un recurso a la comunidad que se puede utilizar en la comodidad de sus hogares. Maestro en Casa, o "Teacher at Home," es un curso gratis diseñado para ayudar a padres aprender Inglés básico en situaciones de la vida diaria utilizando términos de mucha ayuda. Tenemos como 10 familias que ya están utilizando este gran programa y esperamos que más padres que no hablan inglés de Traylor participen y tomen ventaja de esta oportunidad. Padres que están interesados deberán venir a la oficina para más información o contactara a Julieta Quiñonez at 720-423-8950 o Julieta_quinonez@dpsk12.org.



Reminder about Arrival and Dismissal

As we come to this winter-weather time of year, we want to remind parents about some of our safety rules for arrival and dismissal. Remember that students are not supervised here at school until 8:30 AM, and they should not be dropped off earlier. If there is a special circumstance requiring students to be dropped off before 8:30, please call us in the office so we can help you plan for your child's safety.

At arrival, dismissal and any early pick up at school, please remember that the area in front of the school on Ivan Way is only for bus and day care van loading and unloading. Please follow all of the designated parking & no-parking signs to ensure safety and smooth transitions before and after school.

Also, let's continue to set examples for our Traylor children by only crossing the streets around the school at designated cross walks. Modeling this safe crossing will support our students' good choices in the future!



Pennies for Patients

January 21 - February 21.

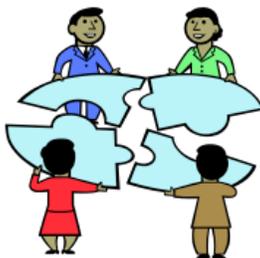
Students and Parents, DON'T Forget to bring in your pennies to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society! You still have time to submit all donations until February 21.

2014 TCAP SCHEDULE:

3rd Grade Reading
February 25th & 26th
3rd Grade Writing
March 11th & 12th
3rd Grade Math

2014 TCAP SCHEDULE:

3rd Grade Reading
February 25th & 26th
3rd Grade Writing
March 11th & 12th
3rd Grade Math
March 18th & 19th
4th & 5th Reading & Writing
March 11th, 12th & 13th
4th & 5th Math
March 18th & 19th
**3rd - 5th Grade Families: we will send home more testing updates, reminders, and tips to be ready to show your best on the TCAP tests later this month!



Culture Connection

Values Connection

Another month brings us another chance to look at how we are living the DPS Shared Values at Traylor. We know that some of our students are already getting to "show their stuff" on the ACCESS test, and others are looking right around the corner to doing the same for the TCAP test. So, this seems like a great time to highlight a very important value we have in DPS- the value of **ACCOUNTABILITY**.

Having accountability means that we take responsibility for our individual and collective commitments; we grow from our success and we learn from our failure. Accountability is at the heart of assessment- giving us the opportunity to see where we have 'hit the mark' and where we may

need to do more work. It helps us take responsibility for our commitments to helping every child succeed- a commitment we hold to very dearly in our community. At Traylor, we frequently look at student data gathered from the classroom, district, and state. This includes assessment results as well as class work. We use this data to design more effective lesson plans, create intervention groups, and target our instruction in order to help our children grow and reach their goals. Through thoughtful data analysis and teacher collaboration, we are working to ensure our accountability to the ideal that every child succeeds in DPS.

In the spirit of honoring our core value of Accountability, we would like to recognize a few of our team members who have been helping our school be accountable to the Traylor community. Denise Jonke is Traylor's Assessment Leader who works tirelessly to organize and manage all materials, as well as ensure their security. Also, a big thank you to Rita Vera, Lisa Williams, Debbie Garcia-Fleming, Laura Martinez, and Marisela DeAnda who have all given a tremendous amount of effort to help administer the ACCESS test for English Language Learners. (The ACCESS exam is an English-only exam that measures the English proficiency of our English Language Learners.) Whether that data comes from large scale state and district testing or from more informal "in the moment" checks of our students' understanding, the value is the same. Teachers hold themselves **ACCOUNTABLE** to provide effective student learning experiences by looking at formal and informal data and then adjusting their instruction based on what they find. It is through this core value that we know we are getting it right at Traylor Academy for your children!

Attention Traylor Families
The Traylor Office/Clinic is in desperate need of clothing for girls/boys pants and underwear. We need clothing for the primary grades (ECE thru 2nd). At this time we do not need any shirts. Thank you in advance for any donations!!

TABS (Parent Group) **Traylor Academy Boosters**

From: Traylor Academey Boosters

By Domenika Leinbach, President
TABS is excited to be back this year! Hopefully the weather has not kept any of you from school this past month. For February, be on the lookout for goodies bags that TABS will be providing to all students on Valentine's Day!

We want to thank those of you who made it to last month's TABS meeting. We talked about many things! The major topics up for discussion were upcoming fundraisers and need for volunteers. Due to a lack of participation and/or interest in several past events, we were left to consider if certain fundraisers or events would continue this year and beyond. We will be taking a vote on the fate of **Sweet & Spicy Night/ Silent Auction** at our next meeting, as well as taking suggestions for fundraisers. We hope you can make it, as we would like to hear your opinions on this and other matters related to your volunteer group here at Traylor.

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.

If you missed the last issue of Traylor Tales, please note that our meetings this year will be taking place the 3rd

Wednesday of each month. Be sure to follow us on Facebook for updates on TABS and Traylor related events and information. Our Facebook group name is: TABS (Traylor Academy Boosters).

Our next meetings will take place on the following dates:

- Wednesday, February 19
- Wednesday, March 19

All meetings start at 6pm and take place in the school's cafeteria. Pizza, drinks, and child care are provided at no cost. We hope to see you all there!

ECE

January has come and gone in a blink of an eye. The cold snowy weather has fit perfectly with our discussions of winter, penguins and arctic activities. Last month we have been learning about the letters I, R and Y. Coming up this month we will be doing projects around the letters B and V. Helping your child at home on letter and sound recognition really benefits them in the classroom. It also helps them to make their end of the year goals.

Dates to watch for include: 100 Day (February 11th); Valentine's Day (February 14th); No school (February 17-18th); Dr. Seuss Parent Meeting (February 28th).

More information to follow on all of these upcoming events.

Thank you for your continued support.

ECE Teachers

First Grade

First grade classrooms are continuing to work very hard and having fun learning. Students are learning many new skills in each subject.

In reading we are finishing up our how to unit. Students have been learning about the features a how to text has. We have been practicing how to reread text to make sure we understand and can follow the directions. We will begin a nonfiction unit that focuses on the main idea and key details very soon. In writing students have been writing their own how to books. They are making sure to incorporate the features of a how to text into their writing. We will begin a nonfiction unit in writing that will have the students writing about a topic they are familiar with, adding details and other nonfiction text features.

In math students are learning to be proficient with number stories that involve addition and subtraction and are being introduced to the "What's My Rule" routine. They are also learning to represent numbers, addition and subtraction problems with counters or drawings. Our next math unit will be on developing fact power.

In social studies students will soon be working on a unit called Kids Care. This unit has the students learning about communities and how they can help in their community. In science we are learning about the weather, how to use weather tools and our senses to tell the weather and how it affects us.

We are excited about the field trips we have in February. On February 6th we are going to the Museum of Nature and Science and on the February 28th we will be going to the Arvada Center to see a play.

Second Grade

Happy New Year from second grade! We've had an exciting start back to school. We went on a field trip to the Stock Show. It was a huge success. Thanks to all the parent volunteers who joined us. Small groups at the Stock Show is the way to go!

Second Grade

As we approach the end of the second trimester, in math we are still working on different strategies for 1 and 2-digit addition and subtraction. Watch out, because the introduction to multiplication is close! Please continue to practice telling time and counting money with your child. In Literacy, we are learning how text features help us become better readers, especially in non-fiction texts. You can help your reader by reinforcing how to locate and use the table of contents, headings, captions, bold-faced type, glossary, and index while reading informational text. We will be using these skills to help us research a topic and link it to writing. Our hope is that each child will be able to publish their own book. We are looking forward to next month as we will be going on another field trip to the Museum of Nature and Science. Also, look for information about Valentine's Day. Thanks for all you do at home that helps your child be a successful student at school.

POETRY SLAM

Denver Boys and Girls at Traylor Academy have had a tremendous year so far. Both boy and girl teams participated in a Poetry Slam at Lincoln high school and did a Traylor Terrific job! One of our students picture was featured in the Denver Post. Go Joshua Lopez. Another student we are extremely proud of is Aaron Gallegos.

Aaron you're so grand
You auditioned for the National Slam
You tried and did well
I hope you had fun
It took courage to be judged
Yet not a flinch
You stood your ground
With a smile

You made an impression
As your writing coach
I am proud
You have worked hard
And have been a Leader
I look forward to your great future
Aaron I am so proud of you. You represent Traylor Pride.

By Mrs. Maldonado
Scores Writing Coach

Third Grade

Wow, it is hard to believe we are more than half way through the school year. The third grade has been hard at work honing in on important skills and learning new things. We are finishing up our social studies instructional unit on "Human Rights." Our students have been engaging in conversations, reading, and writing about Human Rights all around the world. A reminder to all parents, third grade is the first year students take the standardized assessment called TCAP. It assesses reading, writing, and math. TCAP will start in February with reading. Look for more information to come. Continue to have your children read every night and work on multiplication facts. Thanks for your continued support!
Third Grade

Fourth Grade

We are so busy in Fourth grade that our school year seems to be flying by! We wanted to let you know that TCAP testing is coming up soon. Our TCAP dates are March 11, 12, 13, 18, and 19. Please keep these dates in mind when scheduling appointments. Reading is a part of our homework every night, but we hope you will take the time to listen to your child read and ask questions about the story. Even though many students have passed their multiplication math

facts tests, they need continued practice with their facts. It is very easy for them to lose their fluency with the facts if they stop working on them.

During the testing period it is important that your child get a good night's sleep and a good breakfast so they will have the energy they need for a very busy day. We appreciate all of your help as we prepare for our annual TCAP test.

Fifth Grade

After the extended holiday break 5th grade is back in action. Students have been assigned their monthly book report/project. In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. students are researching and learning about famous African-Americans that have contributed to American society. By completing this project students will have the opportunity to examine the lives of these famous men and women and recognize their importance to our history. This project is due Friday, February 21st.

In math we are continuing the study of fractions by learning how to add and subtract them. Once again, it is critical that students have their multiplication facts mastered.

Fifth grade is taking a couple field trips in February. The first field trip will be on the 13th to the Museum of Nature and Science. On this trip we will go to the IMAX theatre to view "Great White Sharks 3D." The second field trip will be on February 21st to the Buell Theater. Parents will receive more information on these field trip in the weeks to come.

VISUAL ART

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. students are researching and learning about famous African-Americans that have contributed to American society.

VISUAL ART- Continued

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Fifth grade is taking a couple field trips in February. The first field trip will be on the 13th to the Museum of Nature and Science. On this trip we will go to the IMAX theatre to view "Great White Sharks 3D." The second field trip will be on February 21st to the ballet. Parents will receive more information on these field trip in the weeks to come.

VISUAL ART

All students are receiving lessons according to the new Visual Arts of Colorado Academic Standards:

- 1. Observe and Learn to Comprehend**
- 2. Envision and Critique to Reflect**
- 3. Invent and Discover to Create**
- 4. Relate and Connect to Transfer**

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the new state standards, art room procedures, or student progress. Contact the office, and I will return your call.

Students in grades 1 – 5 keep all flatwork in individual portfolios in the art room. Late in April each student will select his favorite piece of work, to display in the annual school-wide art exhibit in May.

Connie Smith, Art Teacher

MEDIA CENTER

Google is up and running in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades! The students have been learning how to use Google Drive to create documents, tables, spreadsheets and various graphs. We will be moving on shortly to learning to use the drawing section and Google Presentations. With the new Chromebooks that Traylor purchased, making sure the students know how to use the Google Applications will increase their ability to make good use of technology in all of their core subject areas.

In second grade the students are finishing up their animal reports. They researched an animal, took two-column notes, created a table, and used that table to present their information. They practiced how to edit and input images. We will soon be using those reports to create a "Blabberize" where the students will present their reports. Be watching the Traylor Media Center website for those reports. We will also be sending a note home shortly to make sure all 2nd graders have access to the Denver Public Schools Google accounts, so they can be trained to use the Google Documents on the Chromebooks.

Kindergarten and first grade are taking advantage of a program the district purchased from Learning.com. The program walks the students through self-pace lessons that teach them how to use the desktop, menu bar, tools, mouse, keyboard and online menus. They will learn to use the drawing tools to create a picture and then type a sentence to explain what they drew.