

Traylor Tales

Volume 1 2013

A Joint Project of:

Traylor Fundamental Academy & Traylor Academy Boosters (TABS)

2900 S. Ivan Way Denver, CO 80227

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From the Principal

By Shayley Olson, Principal

Welcome back to another fantastic year at Traylor Fundamental Academy! I hope your summer was filled with adventures, time with family and learning. Over the summer, many of us on the Traylor staff have traveled, spent time with friends and family, and a number of us have continued our learning through professional training to support your children. We have a dedicated and caring staff here at Traylor, and I'm proud to be Traylor's principal! It has been a great start to this year welcoming back returning students and getting to know new faces, as well. *At Traylor we are committed to the idea that all learners will be challenged, succeed and grow each day!*

Traylor Fundamental Academy is an inclusive fundamental educational program, committed to high standards for our students and staff! We are committed to preparing and motivating our students to be the leaders of tomorrow by providing rigorous learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom each day!

New staff members

Please welcome our new staff to Traylor Academy this year!

Jodi Carlson, Ritchie Principal Intern

Josefina Granados, Secretary I

Jeanette Hofer, School Nurse

Maria (Rosario) Sabatte, ECE&K (ELA-S) Teacher

Laura Martinez, 1st & 2nd (ELA-S) Teacher

Michelle Joy, 3rd Grade Teacher

Shelby Olson, Reading Intervention Teacher

Carolyn Alexander, Gifted and Talented Teacher (and continuing as a Reading Intervention Teacher)

Atindi Palladino, Speech/Language

Bernadette Jenkins, ECE Paraprofessional

Marisela Deanda, Paraprofessional

Throughout the year we'll be showcasing who we are as a staff at Traylor Fundamental Academy.

We will be displaying "All About Me" posters featuring new and returning teachers and staff in the building as a way to help us know more about each other in our community!

Parent and Family Involvement is Key

Parent Teacher Home Visits and Volunteering in the Classrooms

Some of our teachers and staff are participating in the Parent Teacher Home Visit Project at Traylor this year. We join over 40 other schools in the district (and countless more throughout the country) participating in this pilot this year. Please give us feedback about your experiences with Home Visits! All of our teachers are committed to getting to know our students and families. So, whether your teacher is conducting home visits, or if you can come in to volunteer in your child's classroom, we will appreciate the opportunity to get to know you and share your child's education at Traylor Academy with you.

Parenting the Love and Logic Way

Last year we offered an English and Spanish session in *Love and Logic* for parents based on parent requests. This is great opportunity to connect with other Traylor parents about some great strategies that can support all families and children. We begin these sessions again this month on Thursday, September 12. We will be offering sessions in Parenting the Love and Logic Way in English and Spanish this year. There will be child care provided and the sessions are offered for free. Parents will also receive a complimentary workbook from these sessions. If you're interested, please return your RSVP form or contact the office if you have any questions!

Community Resource Family Nights

Again this year, we will host at least three family engagement nights at Traylor to enhance academics and have fun together! Our first event will be our *Title I Family Health and Wellness Night*. The event will take place on Tuesday, October 1 from 5:30 – 7:00 PM. (Keep a lookout for the RSVP flyer going home soon!) We will have a light dinner and a variety of fun activities for children and adults, including hip hop dancing, yoga and important information about dental health from the experts. We hope you'll join us!

Traylor Classroom Happenings

Months at a Glance

Please look for the calendar of school events that will go home starting this month. We will keep these updated throughout the year, and will send revised calendars of events as we plan more engaging activities for our students and families this year! For some of the most up to date information about our school, please check out Traylor Academy's websites: traylor.dpsk12.org!

Attendance/On-time arrival

Did you know attendance and on-time arrivals are integral to a child's success this year and in his future success as a student? This year, we are ringing our first bell at 8:53 AM, to allow for more transition time for our classrooms. Students are on-time if they arrive before 9:00 AM. Please make sure your children are on time and that they attend each day they're well enough to be here. We have so much fun at Traylor every day, and we don't want any of our students to miss a thing!

Safety

Please make sure you follow all posted traffic and parking signs at our school. We want all of our students and families to be safe at Traylor. Please use the cross walks before and after school, park in legal parking spots (no double parking), and let our school office know if you have any questions or concerns. We will be arranging additional crossing guard training in the next few months, so let us know if you're interested in being trained and volunteering to help keep our school safe.



From TABS- Traylor Parent Volunteer Group

By Domenika Leinbach, TABS President

Email: tabs.traylor@gmail.com

Parents are the key to children's educational experience. At Traylor we have a great group of parents that are active and involved throughout the school. As we continue to build our school community, we are always excited to meet parents and help them get involved.

The TABS board would like to thank all of the staff, family members, and students who helped out for the months of August and September and made the following possible:

- Back to School Night
- Booths/ Welcoming Families
- Root Beer Floats
- T-Shirt Sales
- School Photos
- Traylor Tales Newsletter
- TABS Facebook Page Updates

I would also like to introduce this year's 2013 TABS board members:

- Domenika Leinbach, President
- Stacy Garcia, Vice President
- Laura Montoya, Treasurer
- Dawn Marlow, Secretary

We are excited and grateful for everyone who submitted volunteer forms. Your help and continued support will ensure the continued success of TABS sponsored events. We also appreciate the staff and families who took time out of their

schedule to attend our first meeting of the year. It was great to see both familiar as well as new faces. Thanks again for helping make Traylor Academy a great school and a first choice for your family!

September 2013

A Quick Peek at the Week's Ahead

- Sept. 2 No School for Students- Labor Day
- Sept. 4 CEC Meeting 5:15pm, Traylor Library
- Sept. 5 Picture Day EC, 1,2,3 grades
- Sept. 6 Picture Day Kindergarten, 3, 4 grades
- Sept. 10 TABS (Traylor Academy Boosters) @ 6pm, Traylor Cafeteria
- Sept. 12 Cub Scouts" Join Night" @ 7pm , Traylor Cafeteria
- Sept. 12 Parenting with Love and Logic Classes (Please RSVP) 5:30-7:00 pm
- Sept. 18 CSC Meeting @ 5:15pm
- Sept. 19 Traylor Skate City Night @ 6:00pm Skate City Littleton
- Sept. 26 Parenting with Love and Logic Classes (Please RSVP) 5:30-7:00 pm

October 2013

- Oct. 1 Health & Wellness & Title 1 Family Night, 5:30pm-7:00pm
- Oct. 2 CSC Meeting @ 5:15PM, Traylor Library
- Oct. 7 Citizenship Assemblies
- Oct. 8 TABS Meeting @ 6:00pm , Traylor Cafeteria
- Oct. 19 Science Club 4:00-5:00pm, Room 107 or room 208
- Oct. 10 Parenting with Love and Logic Classes (Please RSVP) 5:30-7:00 pm
- Oct. 14 No School for Students
- Oct. 15 No School for Students
- Oct. 15 Parent Teacher Conferences 12pm-8:00pm (by appointment)
- Oct. 24 Parenting with Love and Logic Classes (Please RSVP) 5:30-7:00 pm
- TBD Monster Mash Dance

Traylor Classroom Happenings

communication skills, have your child describe his or her day at school. Oral language practice helps with both reading and writing as well. Please work on math concepts such as telling time, counting money, and knowing basic addition facts automatically.

Please remember to initial the homework chart daily. The chart is also a good way to communicate questions or concerns you may have. We look forward to a successful and productive school year!

4th Grade

By Judy Cali, 4th Grade Teacher

As fourth grade teachers, we want to thank all of the parents and students that attended our Back to School Night. We have spent the past few weeks getting to know one another and learning the daily routines within our classrooms. We appreciate the help you have given your children as they get back into the practice of nightly homework. We have enjoyed a great start to what we hope will be a very successful year for everyone.

If you have a computer at home, be sure to take advantage of the Leveled Reader Database for our MacGraw Hill Treasures Reading program. You will find the database and many other resources with the following link:

<http://treasures.macmillanmh.com/colorado/students>. You do not need to login to use the Books By Grade. Just click the book cover of the grade level to find some other great resources. The login for the Leveled Reader Database is:

Username: **Traylor**

Password: **Tigers1**

In math, we are finishing our geometry unit. Next, we will focus on knowing the value of numbers to the billions place. We will read and write numbers to one billion. In addition, we will be collecting, graphing, and analyzing data. Please continue to help your children with their math facts.

We have also started writing summaries of fiction and non-fiction books. After your children have read a book, listen to them retell the story. Being able to retell a story is a helpful skill in preparation for writing a summary.

We want to extend an invitation for you to come visit us in fourth grade. Just sign in at the office and get a visitor's pass. We look forward to seeing you.

5th Grade

By Brooke Mrzlikar, 5th Grade Teacher

5th grade is off and running toward a busy year of learning and growing! We have already started our first chapter in Math, covering number theory, multiplication, and divisibility.

Our first unit in literacy has us reading some exciting stories and identifying story elements like plot and character. We are also working on using synonyms for context clues and phonics for decoding words.

Our first book report project is a postcard of a novel of their choice. Students choose a novel, and it must be approved by their teacher. This book report is due October 1st.

Throughout this year multiplication is a key component to our math curriculum, therefore it is imperative that students continue to study and commit their multiplication facts to memory for quick and easy recall.

We are looking forward to a great year with your 5th grade students. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Gifted and Talented

By Carolyn Alexander, GT
carolyn_alexander@dpsk12.org

My name is Carolyn Alexander and I am happy to be the new part-time Gifted and Talented teacher at Traylor. At Traylor, we are committed to supporting gifted and advanced learners. The Gifted and Talented (GT) teacher works with our teaching staff and identified students throughout the school year to ensure that these students are engaged in curriculum that supports and extends their strength areas. I am primarily responsible for conducting district-level gifted and talented testing, Advanced Learning plans, Identifying new GT students, and teaching groups of gifted and talented students using a "pull-out" model. I am looking forward to an exciting learning year!

Reading Intervention

By Shelby Olson
Shelby_olson@dpsk12.org

My name is Mrs. Shelby Olson and I am excited to be a part of the Traylor community. As a reading intervention teacher I provide extra reading instruction that is focused on pinpointed skills to help accelerate the reading growth of students. I work with small groups in a quick paced, engaging environment where students receive lots of practice to help master a skill. I look forward to helping our students become independent readers and further their love for reading.

By Carolyn Alexander,

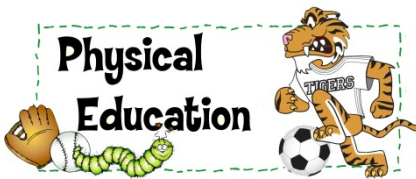
My name is Carolyn Alexander and I am the returning part-time Reading Intervention teacher at Traylor for grades 1st and 2nd. I will be pulling out small groups of students who need extra help with reading skills, word decoding strategies, making text connections and writing skills. I too echo Ms. Olson's thoughts of helping our students become independent readers and furthering their love for reading.

Traylor Classroom Happenings

Visual Art

By Connie Smith, Art Teacher

All Traylor students will have art class every three days, for 40 minutes. They will learn about the characteristics and expressive features of visual design, and they will use a variety of media. They will practice skills that will help them express their wonderful ideas. Students in grades 1 -- 5 will keep flatwork in individual portfolios in the art room. ECE and kindergarten students will take their artwork home as it is finished. If you would like to know more about the art program, or if you would like to visit an art class, call the office.



Physical Education

By Julie Nelson, PE Teacher

At the opening of school, students were presented with a review of school and playground rules and safety issues. Mr. Lucero and Ms. Nelson ask that parents reinforce the need for **proper dress**, **sneakers and safety** on the playground. We are reinforcing these rules with kids by teaching them the acronym **PE ROCKS**. **PE ROCKS** stands for:

Protect your PE equipment

Enter and exit quietly

Right to learn

On the whistle, stop, look and listen

Challenge yourself and others

Keep your hands, feet and equipment to yourself

Safety

We will begin the year with fundamental locomotor and dance movements, fitness activities and frisbee golf. Students will learn basic skills, rules and strategies for these games and activities.

We are looking forward the upcoming year and encourage parent involvement. Stop in the gym or cafeteria and see what your child is engaged in.

Music

By Dan Christian, Music Director

General Music

Students are currently focusing on knowledge of instruments and rhythmic elements according to the grade level curriculum and how to use their voice for music making.

As always all grades, sing and play many folk songs and music games to develop a love of music.

Choir

Choir has just started. Our first choir performance will be in October for citizenship assemblies. Rehearsals are generally on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for all choir students now.

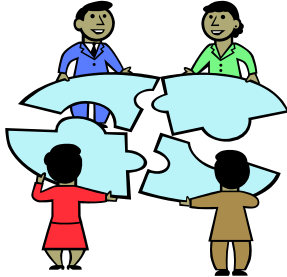
Band

Strings will meet on Wednesday at lunch from 12:30-12:55 and Winds and Percussion will meet on Friday from 12:30-12:55. This program is structured much like our choir program in that students come down to practice first and then go to lunch on their scheduled days. Instruments will start meeting on September 18th.

If you have questions about the music program or curriculum, please contact me at Traylor.



Culture Connection



Principal Intern

By Jodi Carlson

Hello Traylor Community- My name is Jodi Carlson; I am the Principal Intern at Traylor Academy this year, and I am very excited to be a part of this supportive and involved community of families and teachers. In my role this year, I will be learning a lot about our students, our school, and what it takes to be an effective leader. I would like to thank every one of you in advance for helping me along the way.

In addition to supporting instruction and student growth, interns are asked to pick a “passion project” for our school year. One of my passions is in reinforcing positive school culture- a culture that has a common vision, shared values, and celebrates exceptional efforts both from the students and the adults in our building. In each of our Traylor Tales, I will want to share these celebrations with you, the Traylor community. So, I am dedicating this space in our newsletter as the “**Culture Connection**”- a place for you to learn more about the DPS shared values and to join us as we acknowledge and show gratitude for the remarkable work that is being done here at our school.



In addition to honoring our students and our team, we will also engage community members in learning more about the DPS shared values and how we live them at Traylor.

The DPS shared values were developed and adopted on Aug 02, 2012 as a group of 1,000 employees from across the district—teachers, school leaders, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, social workers, facility managers, and district liaisons came together to share personal connections and to collectively choose the shared core values that are the foundation for everything we do together in educating our kids.

On that day, these Shared Core Values were selected:

- **Students First**
- **Integrity**
- **Equity**
- **Collaboration**
- **Accountability**
- **Fun**

These 6 Shared Core Values speak to our unified vision as a school and as a team – TEAM DPS!! We honor these values at Traylor and use them as our guiding beliefs as we engage with your students each day. Next month, we will give more detailed information about each of our shared values and begin monthly celebrations of staff who are living the values and students who are demonstrating positive choices and exceptional behaviors.

I look forward to sharing our celebrations with you and keeping you informed of new and exciting ways that we are supporting positive culture at Traylor Academy. I also invite you to share your ideas with me- please let me know of suggestions you have for celebrating teachers and students, or if you just want to give someone in the Traylor community a big “high-five” for whatever reason, please email me at jodi_carlson@dpsk12.org.

call me at (720) 424 3537, or find me in the hallway on your next school visit! Thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcomed at Traylor- I am really excited for all of the great things that are happening this year and even more excited about sharing them with you!

