

Traylor Tales

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Traylor Tiger Choir
Performance at Tinsel Towne

Principal's Message

Welcome back to Traylor Fundamental Academy!

It seems difficult to believe we're already in December of this great school year, and I hope you're reading this Principal's Message after a Thanksgiving break full of fun with friends and family. Over Thanksgiving break, I had an opportunity to join a special family reunion in California.

I was so thankful to be a part of the Traylor community, as I shared all of our great work here with our students, staff and families! I am very thankful for this community, and am honored to share some of the hard work we've undertaken over the past month or so.

At Traylor, we believe in educating the whole child, and we have had a number of special opportunities for your children this fall at our school. Students have participated in

Science Club, Spelling Club, Destination Imagination, the Roar of the Tiger Traylor Choir, Student Council and Denver SCORES. Our Denver SCORES girls' and boys' teams culminated a very successful fall season of learning more about soccer, sportsmanship, and creative writing with fantastic Poetry Slam performances at Lincoln High School. Their effort and preparation really shone through and they represented Traylor Fundamental Academy with great dedication in those performances!

We are at the end of our first round of *Parenting with Love and Logic* sessions for parents in English and Spanish. We thank our parents who have participated in this learning and sharing throughout the fall! Also, for parents who would like to take part in this free opportunity during our next sessions, keep an

eye out for upcoming *Love and Logic* classes starting after Winter Break!



PAWS- Supporting Awesome Behavior!

We are beginning our efforts to more regularly honor the work of our dedicated and respectful students here at Traylor! You may have heard your child talk about a PAWS slip they received for good behavior. When students are observed being particularly Prepared, Accountable, Working Hard or Supportive, they will earn a PAWS slip. Staff will write the student's name, the positive behavior they observed, and then

PAWS– continued

Each week, we will do drawings to highlight the behavior of these star students, and those lucky students will receive a prize. We also hope to decorate our school with the PAWS our students have earned to visually display what a great community of learners we have here at Traylor Fundamental Academy!

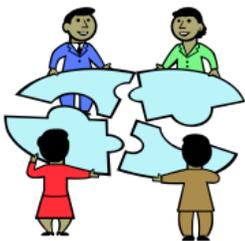
School Choice

SchoolChoice enrollment for the **2014-15 school year** begins on December 16, 2013. In the meantime, get prepared by learning about the key steps to enroll your child in a new school.

- If you're interested in enrolling in a new Denver Public Schools elementary, middle or high school, please check out the Choice and Enrollment Services website at schoolchoice.dpsk12.org to learn more about your options!

Remember Key Dates:

- **Sign up** for a Parent Portal account to access online SchoolChoice (current DPS students only) <https://myportal.dpsk12.org>.
- December 16, 2013 – SchoolChoice Round One enrollment begins
- January 31, 2014 – SchoolChoice Round One forms are due
- Early March 2014 – Parents will be notified of their child's school of enrollment



Culture Connection

By: Jodi Carlson Principal Intern

Greetings Traylor Community, welcome again to the Culture Connection, a place to learn more about the DPS shared values and stay in touch with the extraordinary work of our Traylor staff. Our DPS shared values are:

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

In this installation of Culture Corner, we will be discussing INTEGRITY. Thinking of how we value integrity in DPS, we have an expectation of someone that does whatever is necessary to support student achievement, someone who values the community's expectations, and who does not fail to appreciate the immense trust that is placed in them. Integrity means being fair and compassionate without compromising high standards for our students or ourselves. Having integrity also means we support one another as we strive to reach these high standards. Traylor Academy is filled with individuals honoring the value of INTEGRITY, and we would like to acknowledge the work they are doing.

You may have heard about some of the exciting and important changes in Colorado education- the shift to the highly rigorous Common Core State Standards and the new PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) examination students will be taking each year beginning in grade 3. Be assured that at Traylor, our teachers are working diligently to prepare our students to successfully meet these new expectations. In fact, we have dedicated this year's professional development to aligning the standards of our Fundamental Academy to the standards of the Common Core and designing lessons and assessments that match the rigor of the PARCC. We celebrate the INTEGRITY of Traylor teachers as they undertake new learning to support what our outstanding students need.



TABS

From: Traylor Academey Boosters

By Domenika Leinbach, President

TABS would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and end of year. We would like to thank everyone who helped make October's Monster Mash dance a success. This event seems to grow every year and TABS was happy to host everyone who attended this year. The Monster Mash would not have been possible without the help of all the volunteers: teachers, para-professionals, staff, parents, family members, and students. We hope students also enjoyed the Halloween treat bags that TABS provided this year. Another TABS thank you goes out to everyone who volunteered and helped Mrs. Eickman during the book fair as well as those who prepared a special dinner treat for teachers and staff during Parent/Teacher conferences. It is such a treat to see how excited and happy our children get when they see their family members and teachers help the school outside the classroom. We hope to see you guys at future TABS events. Everyone is welcome! Next TABS Meeting; January 14th 2014 @6pm.

Want to keep up with TABS Follow the parent group at:

TABS (Traylor Academy Boosters) on Facebook

Culture Connection - continued

Did you know that at Traylor, we have set aside a two mornings every week in order to collaborate and support each other through these changes? At times, we learn together as a whole staff, and other times are set aside specifically for grade level teams to work together to expand their understanding of these shifts. In order to be successful at achieving our goals, each grade level has a Teacher Leader to help guide them through this work.

Teacher Leaders participated in a week-long training over the summer to prepare them for their leadership role. Also, to support their ongoing professional learning, Teacher Leaders meet twice monthly after school with other leaders from around the district in order to stay informed and effectively plan professional development and collaboration meetings with their teams.

Traylor's Teacher Leaders have demonstrated the value of INTEGRITY by going above and beyond to honor our commitment to provide high-quality education for the Traylor community.

Therefore, we would also like to acknowledge Traylor's Teacher Leaders, **Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Guidi, Mrs. Gumm, and Mr. Higgins** for their INTEGRITY in driving student achievement as well as professional development. It is very important that all teachers are empowered to take on new challenges with confidence and integrity, and that is exactly what is happening here at Traylor!

ECE

We hope you and your family had a wonderful break in November. This time of year is a special time to spend with our families. In ECE, we have been talking about our homes and families and the different traditions we have. We will be displaying family pictures in our rooms. If you haven't sent in your picture yet, we would love to include your family in our display.

In December, we will continue to work on letters and sounds as well as focusing on Gingerbread Men and the holidays. Don't forget our holiday celebration on **Friday, December 20th**. Remember this is a parent meeting, therefore you will need to come with your child and there will be no regular school this day. We will be sharing some songs we have learned and decorate cookies together.

Thank you for your continued support.
ECE Teachers

First Grade

First graders have been very busy learning number patterns in Everyday Math. One of our most important topics in math this year is the study of patterns. Patterns are predictable and this past month we have focused on odd and even numbers, patterns in number lines and grids, and number sequences. First graders are also continuing to solve simple addition and subtraction problems.

In reading, first graders continue to become successful readers using a variety of strategies. You can help your child read with accuracy and fluency and support comprehension by asking questions about their reading. Ask questions that focus on key details about the story and that

describe characters, setting and major events. First graders will participate in several field trips this year. In the new year, our field trips will include the Arvada Center and the Steele Planetarium. Thank you for sending an eager group of first graders to school every day. Our students seem to come prepared to learn new things daily! We also want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy and peaceful holiday season!

Second Grade

Hopefully you didn't blink, because you might have missed November. Whew! Second grade's first field trip to the Molly Brown House was a lot of fun. A big thank you goes out to the parents who were able to join us.

In math, we are still working with base-ten strategies for addition and subtraction, telling time to the minute, counting coins and bills, and making change. Literacy has us focusing on oral reading fluency and non-fiction text features.

We are learning how to create how-to paragraphs in writing. Our focus in Social Studies is on different types of communities and what makes a community. Now that you've had a chance to review your child's SBPR, you can see the areas that your child is showing progress and/or needs improvement and needs your support. Please continue to read at least **20 minutes nightly**. Again, thanks for all your support with homework and building responsibility.

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade students enjoyed a field trip to the Museum of Science and Nature on December 3rd. We had the opportunity to observe sharks in their habitat, the world's oceans. Rocks and minerals of Colorado and the Colorado ecosystems are important to our fourth grade learners.

Our reading studies are revolving around an energy unit of study. Students are practicing critical thinking skills and determination of fact or opinion. Students will study one of the energy sources and study information within a small group. Culmination will result in a writing assignment to demonstrate the pros and cons of an energy source.

Math skills center around the world of decimals. We have been practicing decimal ordering, comparison of size, estimation, addition and subtraction. Students need to round-up those decimals, line the decimal points up, even them out and compare, add or subtract. Fraction equivalents to their decimal counterparts are being practiced. We then write them as both fractions and decimals.

Happy holidays to you and your family,
Fourth Grade

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade students continue to be very busy learners. In math we are finishing up our division unit and will begin our unit on fractions, decimals, and percents. Many students are struggling to find success because they have not mastered their math facts. You can help your child by using flashcards or simply asking them multiplication problems. In reading we continue to focus on decoding, comprehension, and

various skills. We have also been working on summarizing and parts of speech.

Our third book report project has been assigned and is due **Wednesday, December 18, 2013**. Students are reading a historical fiction book and then creating a diorama of their favorite or most memorable part. Dioramas are accompanied with a summary paragraph of the depicted scene.

Typically every year fifth graders take an overnight trip to Balarat. Because of flooding in the Balarat area an overnight is looking unlikely as repairs are being made to the road and other areas of Balarat. There will be an alternative to the Balarat field trip that will possibly consist of two days but will not include an overnight. Fifth grade teachers are waiting to hear what the alternative will be.

LMC News

News From the Library!!

This year's book fair was a great success! Traylor's online book fair was fifth in the country thanks to Ms. Olson and the school's purchase for RIF. We made over **\$3000** for new books for the library and for the TABS Reading Is Fundamental book distribution. Our new library books will arrive shortly!



We will also be running our annual Box Tops contest beginning the first week in December and running until February. Last year we raised over **\$800** to help out at Traylor. Keep those Box Tops coming.

Our new laptops for the LMC technology center have arrived and we are beginning to get those out.

The old computers will be available soon for teachers to use in their classrooms. It is a very exciting time for the Media Center. We begin using our new Google accounts this month with the students in grades 2-5. We will have very structured lessons on how to use email, google documents, and other google applications. The students are very anxious to begin the lessons.