

Traylor Tales

VOLUME # 2
OCT. 2013

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Golden Skate
Award Winners
Ms. Lombard's
Class

Skate City



Principal's Message

Traylor Supporting Our Colorado Community

Fall is definitely here in Colorado, and some in our state have been seriously impacted by the weather and flooding over the last few weeks. At Traylor Fundamental Academy, our staff members, students and families have shown our potential for caring for our community – all around our state – by conducting a very successful book drive and money collection for Lyons Elementary school. In its first week, we've already seen an awesome success. We've already received over \$200 and over 500 books! Thank you for showing that our Traylor Tigers community leads with our hearts! We'll give you update about the totals for money and books donated as this drive continues. Thanks to Ms. Barrera, Ms. Dunn, and Mrs. Kaspersen for organizing this service project!

Educating Your Child – in and out of the classroom – at Traylor Fundamental Academy

Did you know that at Traylor Academy we have included a 45-minute "DIVE" Block each day to our classroom schedule? During this time, our teachers work together to make sure that all students are getting additional support and additional challenges to meet their goals. If students need enrichment to reach new heights in their learning or need to be pulled out of the classroom for extra support, this is a time during the school day when they are not missing whole group instruction in reading, writing, math or other contents. We are trying this effort this year to help our student grow each day!

Did you know that at Traylor Academy our students this year go to PE or PE/Dance each day for 25

minutes and they receive an additional 40 minutes each day of Library/Technology, Music, and Visual Arts in a rotation? We value educating your children in a variety of ways at Traylor Academy, and we are very fortunate to have this schedule this year to ensure students are learning in and out of their assigned classroom.

This year, our student enrollment surpassed our projections at Traylor Fundamental Academy. During September, we met with our staff members and our Collaborative School Committee to determine how we would allocate additional funds our school received to support our students. We have added funds to accounts that will allow us to maintain and increase our field trips in all grade levels, purchase more

Educating Your Child – continued

classroom library books, and additional computers to increase our use of technology for all students. Also, we will be adding additional paraprofessional positions to support students and teachers in their work at Traylor. When we are fully staffed in our building this fall with these increases, we will have 13 paraprofessionals to support our classrooms, and many new computers in mobile laptop labs and in our classrooms, as well.

Traylor Academy Scholastic Book Fair October 15th – 17th

Mrs. Eickman previewed the Book Fair items this year with students during their LMC/Technology classes by highlighting selected authors on October 9th, 10th and 11th.

Book Fair Hours

- Tuesday, October 15th. Open during conferences (12:00-8:00 PM)
- Wednesday-Friday, October 16th-18th
- Open during student lunch times Wednesday & Thursday, October 16th-17th—Open after school from 3:45- 4:30

Traylor's 2013 SPF Rating

The School Performance Framework (SPF) is a comprehensive system to help schools focus on strengths and areas for targeted improvement. It takes into account a wide range of factors to give ratings on how well each school supports student growth and achievement and how well each school serves its students and families. The SPF is an important tool in measuring our progress toward

achieving our district vision – EVERY CHILD SUCCEEDS.

Traylor Fundamental Academy achieved a rating of **Meets Expectations (Green Status)** on the 2013 SPF, which means that our school achieved Meets Expectations in Status, and Approaching in Growth in Student Achievement. Our rating is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers, support staff and families.

While we celebrate this tremendous success, our goal is to exceed district expectations and achieve high status and high growth for all students. In order to accelerate our progress and make sure that all of our students are successful, we will continue to work and strive for improvements in:

- Student Engagement/Attendance
- Students' growth in Reading, Math and Writing, particularly our "Continuously Enrolled" students who have attended Traylor multiple years.
- Parent Engagement.

We will be working to increase our great attendance at Traylor. Please keep an eye out for our efforts from the office, teachers, and our school in this area to honor the positive on-time attendance of our students this year.

Also, our DIVE Blocks will help us to make sure all students are making gains and growing each year based on state and district assessments. Finally, we are working to engage parents this year in a variety of ways.



TABS

From: Traylor Academey
Boosters

By Domenika Leinbach,
President

TABS would like to thank everyone who attended our first meeting in September. Planning for future events is well underway. Our Skate City event was a success! The winner of the Golden Skate award was: Ms. Lombard's class. Stay tuned for future TABS sponsored Skate City events. The class with the most attendants gets to house the Golden Skate trophy in their classroom.

Our next major event is the Monster Mash school dance, which will take place on Friday, October 25th from 6:00-8:00 pm. Planning and volunteer information for this event will be discussed during the second half of our next TABS meeting.

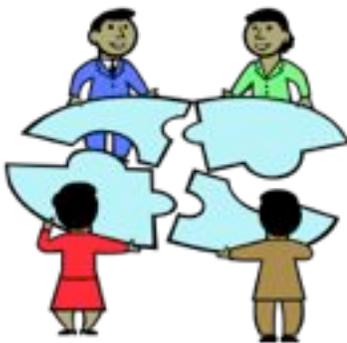
Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 19th at 6pm in the school cafeteria. Babysitting, pizza, and refreshments will be offered.

We hope to see you at the meeting so we can make this year's Monster Mash another one of Traylor's memorable events.

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

TABS (Traylor Academy Boosters) on Facebook

We've invited you to Parenting with Love and Logic sessions, our Family Engagement Nights (like our Health and Wellness night), various volunteer opportunities in classrooms, and many staff members are participating in the Parent Teacher Home Visiting Program this year. Please let me know if you can think of ways our school can improve our efforts to meet your needs and the needs of your children. We appreciate the opportunity to work here at Traylor for the incredibly important purpose of preparing your children as the leaders of tomorrow!



Culture Connection

By: Jodi Carlson Principal Intern

Hello Traylor Community- Welcome to the second installation of "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. This month, we are going to go a little deeper into the meaning and impact of the DPS Shared Values and highlight two very important values that we are demonstrating at Traylor every day.

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

Each of our DPS Shared Values 'speaks' to us in different ways, and sometimes one or two may resonate with a person more than the others. This month, I would like to talk about "Students First" and "Fun". They 'sandwich' all of the other values- providing the foundation for our work as educators.

Students First: We put our kids' needs at the forefront of everything we do.

We are putting students first every day at Traylor. Recently, 1st grade teacher, Letty Gonzales explained that 'Students First' meant many things: "giving your students the greatest opportunities for learning, of course, but also taking the time to make a one on one connection- being sure to say something positive, to smile and let them know you really care about them as a person." Thank you, Ms. Gonzales, for putting your students' academic needs on an equal level with their emotional needs! We know those little moments can make a huge difference in our students' day.

Another exciting way we are honoring this value is through our Parent- Teacher Home Visit program. Traylor is so proud to be one of the 46 schools participating in this valuable program which links teachers to families in a different

way than traditional conferences. Over 90% of Traylor's staff has received training to participate, and we have already conducted 13 home visits!! During the home visit, two teachers in your child's life will meet with your family away from the formal school environment. In this casual setting, teachers have the opportunity to learn your family's hopes and dreams and connect on a more personal level. The program increases student engagement and supports the idea that our students' lives become richer when their parents and teachers build positive relationships.

We would like to take this opportunity to celebrate one of our team members who has really put students first this year. LEANNE SCHULLER, one of our 3rd grade teachers, has been on 8 home visits so far and has more scheduled!! Leanne has been the primary teacher in some of those visits, and the support teacher on others. Way to go Leanne- thank you for not only putting your students first, but also contributing your time to helping other teachers and their students as well!

Fun: We celebrate the joy in our work and foster in our students a joy & passion for learning to last their whole lives.

As educators, with so many important needs to manage, we sometimes forget the joy that this work brings. Joining in with children's laughter, sharing a funny moment with a colleague, attending school events that allow us to see students in a different light, celebrating our students' and our

Fun: - continued

colleagues' accomplishments- these are all ways that we honor the value of "fun" at Traylor each day.

I have the pleasure of supervising recess on the playground, and it has been an incredible chance for me to get to know our students better while bringing some fun into my life through child's play. Even some of our Traylor parents are joining in the fun! We certainly have a lot of amazing parent volunteers who make the time to support us at Traylor regularly, and we would like to recognize a few who are joining in the playground fun: Justin Duran, Que Vo, and Cindy Vo have become familiar faces during 1st – 3rd grade recess time, engaging in games and activities with Traylor students. We would love to have you join us on the playground as well! Please speak with your child's teacher to determine the recess time, and be sure to check in with the front office for your visitor's badge.

Another way we are honoring the value of "Fun" at Traylor is through our **Citizenship Assemblies!**

Students who demonstrate good citizenship will receive a Traylor pen and a certificate that celebrates their contributions. Teachers make nominations of students from their classroom, and these nominations are then routed through the Specials teachers for review to ensure that citizenship is also demonstrated outside of the regular classroom.

If a student is selected to receive an award, parents will be invited to the assembly.

Traylor Good Citizens are students who:

- Follow classroom rules and expectations throughout the day
- Demonstrate kindness and respect to peers and adults
- Complete classroom work and homework within the given time
- Have consistent daily attendance with no tardy concerns

Please note that not ALL students in a classroom will receive a Good Citizenship award during the school year. In an effort to elevate and maintain the significance of Traylor's Citizenship Award, only students that have genuinely earned the privilege of this award will be nominated, but all students may be honored in other ways. Citizenship Awards will be one of the ways we celebrate the positive behaviors your students are demonstrating! Assemblies will be held in the auditorium on the first Monday of each month as follows:

4th & 5th Grades: 9:05 to 9:50 a.m.

ECE/K & 3rd Grades: 10:45-11:30 a.m.

1st & 2nd Grades: 2:30-3:15 p.m.

Traylor families and team, please let us know if there are other ways you would like to see us honoring our Shared Values at Traylor, and as always, thank you for everything that you do each day to enrich the lives of our students.

ECE

We enjoyed our visit to the firehouse! It was fun to learn together with our family members.

We spent time sharing about ourselves in September. We have been working on self portraits and sharing some of our favorite things. We have all made a lot of new friends and continue to work on sharing and being good friends to each other. In October, we will be learning about Fall and taking a look at trees. Our first look will be at apple trees. We continue our work on shapes, colors and letter recognition. Please continue to work with your child on recognizing their name and look for ways to learn while doing everyday activities. A few ideas are; to talk about the color of clothes they are wearing, the shapes they see on the way to the car, and count out their favorite snack. Thank you for your continued support.

Kindergarten

October will be a fun, but very busy month. In reading, the students will continue learning letters and sounds, as well as ten new sight words. We are finishing up our unit on families and will begin our new unit on friends. In math, we will continue counting and writing our numbers 1-20. Please practice counting objects up to twenty at home with your child. In science, we will learn about bats, spiders, and pumpkins. A big thank you to our parent volunteers!!! Your child loves it when you volunteer and so do the teachers. We want to thank our parents for providing a healthy snack each day for the students. We appreciate all you do.

2nd Grade

As we quickly approach the end of the first trimester, our second graders are busy, busy. In reading we are continuing to make text to self connections, developing reading strategies for decoding and comprehension, and using sequence of events to retell stories. We are also working on main idea and key details, answering questions based on text evidence, and predicting.

In math we are practicing our facts to be able to fluently add and subtract within 20. We are also working with place value and expanded notation. Something you can do at home with your child is practice counting by 2s, 5s, 10s, and 100s.

It's important that your child is at school every day. When they are absent, they miss valuable instruction time. Thank you for your continued support with homework.

3rd Grade

Exciting Field Trip for Third Grade

To kick off our study of Colorado, the four 3rd grade classes visited the State Capitol and Governor's Mansion on Friday September 27th. A tour guide volunteer greeted each class and took us up, down, and around the entire building, except for the dome, which is currently closed for repairs. Students peeked into the Governor's office, the House and Senate chambers, and climbed the stairs up to an interesting display highlighting the history of Denver and the Capitol Building. On this floor, students also had a chance to test their knowledge of state symbols and cast their vote on several state issues. Our tour guides shared

interesting information about the materials used in the building, including pictures hidden in the rose-colored granite. As a bonus, students caught a glimpse of dozens of quilts on display as part of a state competition.

Students also visited the Governor's Mansion where they were treated to an interactive overview of Colorado history. Later this year, our students will be learning more of the exciting stories, people, and places from Colorado's history. The Governor's Mansion is a beautiful place to visit any time of year, but you might want to mark your calendar for a visit the week before Christmas. That week, they offer free visits, and every room is decorated with a Christmas tree. Sounds like a fun family outing!

4th Grade

In Reading, fourth graders are focused on Main Idea and Detail. Students have been identifying the most important ideas from nonfiction text. Sometimes the main idea is implied and must be inferred. At other times the main idea is explicit and less difficult to decipher. Students are analyzing text to identify the main idea and supporting details. Students are also emphasizing the use of context clues to figure out unknown words. Sometimes nearby words help explain the meaning of unfamiliar words. These surrounding words can provide knowledge required to figure out the meaning of a new word. Please continue to read with your child each night at home for 20 minutes to increase vocabulary and build fluency skills. An important responsibility for fourth graders

involves establishing consistent homework routines, students are highly encouraged to maintain these good habits.

In Writing, students use information collected from main idea and detail charts to write summaries from nonfiction text. Paying close attention to details, correct spelling, and punctuation helps students form complete sentences.

In Math, students are focusing on place value skills to identify the values of digits up to one billion, in addition to reading and writing numbers up to one billion. By expressing whole numbers as sums of ones, tens, and hundreds and so on, students can observe the relationship between such sums and the way numbers are read. Fourth grade students are also strengthening their mental math muscles by reviewing addition and subtraction facts. All of these challenging concepts continue to shape our fourth graders into well-rounded readers, writers, and critical thinkers.

5th Grade

Our students completed their first fifth grade book report, and are now ready for this month's assignment. Students will be required to choose a mystery novel that is at an appropriate reading level for them, and have it approved by their teacher.

They will then follow the C.A.S.P.E.R format to complete their assignment. Look for more detailed information in the coming days.



5th Grade -continued

In math we continue to work on our addition, subtraction, multiplication, and number sense. Multiplication facts continue to be a struggle for many students so please continue working with your child on multiplication facts.

Please make sure that your 5th grade student is reading nightly, and discuss the book with them to aid in their comprehension. Thanks for your help with our 5th grade readers reaching their reading goals!

Art

All students will receive instruction in the characteristics and expressive features of visual art, in grade level appropriate ways. The lessons will support the new Colorado Visual Art Academic Standards. Bullet points for the standards are Seeing, Thinking, Creating, Reflecting. Grades 1 – 5 will keep all flatwork in their individual portfolios in the art room. Occasionally there will be a "take home day" for grades 1 and 2. Traylor students are brimming with great ideas, which will come forth in their work as the year progresses.

P.E. (PHYSICAL EDUCATION)

A special thanks to our Traylor parents for reinforcing the need for proper dress, safety, fair play and mutual respect in Physical Education and Dance as well as on the playground. We have seen a tremendous change!

In physical education our children will finish up with their physical fitness testing which included sit-ups, push-ups, pull-ups, pacer test and 1 mile run. In next few weeks students in Physical Education will get involved in basketball and volleyball skills.

In Movement and Dance students will continue working on activities which include balance and locomotor skills throughout the school year. Each student will include these skills in movement and rhythmic activities to increase coordination and make the students efficient movers.

Thank you,

Joseph Lucero & Julie Nelson

A Quick Peek

OCTOBER 2013

- Thursday, October 24 – Parenting with Love and Logic Classes, 5:30 – 7 PM
- Friday, October 25 – Monster Mash – TABs Sponsored Family Dance, 6 – 8 PM
- Thursday, October 31 – Halloween Parade and Activities @ Traylor Academy, 2 PM – 3:45 PM (More details to follow)

November 2013

- Monday, November 4 – Citizenship Assemblies
- Wednesday, November 6 – CSC Meeting, 5:15 PM, Traylor Library
- Thursday, November 7 – Parenting with Love and Logic Classes, 5:30 – 7 PM
- Monday, November 11 – No School for Students – Veterans' Day
- Tuesday, November 12 – No School for Students – Assessment and Planning Day
- Thursday, November 14 – Science Club, 4 – 5 PM, Room 107 or Room 208
- Tuesday, November 19 – TABs Meeting, 6 PM, Traylor Cafeteria
- Thursday, November 21 – Parenting with Love and Logic Classes, 5:30 – 7 PM
- November 25 – November 29 No School for Students – Thanksgiving Break