

The Tansey Times

February 2011

Kristen Farias, Principal

Melissa Homol, Assistant Principal

Upcoming Events February

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
	1	2	3 Parent Teacher Conf. 4-7pm	4
7	8 PTO 6:30	9	10 Coffee Hour 2pm	11
14	15	16	17 Parent Workshop	18
21 Winter Break 	22 Winter Break 	23 Winter Break 	24 Winter Break 	25 Winter Break
28	1	2	3	4 Spring Portraits

Building Character

During the month of January, we spoke to children about **alertness & action**

In February, we will focus on **determination**

January Characters of the Month

- K** KM: Aimee Tiebout-AC
KM: Veda Uon-AL
KH: Adam Kettle-AL
KH: Reese Walter-AC
- 3** 3N: Lorelei Barcellos-AC
3N: Thomas Panchley- AL
3B: Brayden Bergeron-AL
3B: Hailee Tavares- AC
- 1** 1S: Jake Silva-AC
1S: Nathan Botelho-AL
1D: Christopher Panchley-AL
1D: Malin Mayo-AC
- 4** 4M: Ethan Souza- AL
4M: Viola Pessoa-Cabral-AC
4S: Ceena Akbarieh-AC
4S: Alexis Pacheco-AL
- 2** 2S: Matthew Silvia-AL
2S: Morgan Paiva-AC
2F: Cameron Mello-AL
2F: Ethan Beaulieu-AC
- 5** 5M: Samantha Cosgrove-AL
5M: Lucas Souza-AC
5C: Krysta Peckham-AL
5C: Liliana Lopes-AC
ET: Nikolas Ford- AL
ET: Luis Garcia- AC

Art Maryanne Rose-AC
Mackenzie Rose-AL

Music Storm Bastille-AC
Gabriella Bernado- AL

PE Sydney Pereira-AC Niles Perry-AL

Staff Member of the Month

Mrs. Daniel- Alertness

Ms. Mainelli- Action

Victoria Streeto, Gr. 2

Mrs. Streeto has been teaching in the Fall River School System for 18 years. She has been at the Tansey School for 12 years as both a 2nd grade and 5th grade teacher. Mrs. Streeto loves Math and the logical thinking involved in it. When she is not at school she likes to read, do puzzles, play basketball and softball, and spend time with her family. Mrs. Streeto lives in Assonet with her husband, three daughters, two dogs and two cats.



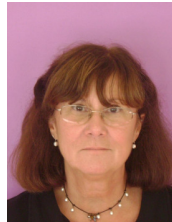
Lisa Furtado, Gr. 2

Lisa Furtado has been working with the Fall River Public Schools for 5 years. She began teaching in the first grade and then moved up to second grade. She has been teaching at Tansey since January of 2009. She lives in Fall River with her husband, Kevin. They have three children named Jakob, Ava and Kaiden. In addition to teaching she enjoys spending time with her family and friends.



Kathleen Lowney, Literacy Coach

This is Mrs. Lowney's 30th year as a teacher in the Fall River School Department. She has worked with students at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. She was a former Reading Recovery/Reading teacher for 15 years, a part of her teaching career that she loved very much. She is presently in her second year as a Literacy Coach at Tansey School. She lives in Westport with her husband and has three grown children, who have been the highlight of their lives. Mrs. Lowney likes to read, garden, travel, shop, and spend time at the beach.



Open Response

Our 2010 data indicates a **significant discrepancy** between students' ability to read and comprehend and how they respond to literature.

2010 MCAS	Open Reponse % Correct	Multiple Choice % Correct
Grade 3	38	74
Grade 4	36	70
Grade 5	40	69

2010 District ELA Assessments	Fiction Benchmark Open Response % Correct	Fiction Benchmark Multiple Choice % Correct	DIBELS %Low Risk
Grade 3	41	66	63
Grade 4	55	72	67
Grade 5	52	75	61

The Tansey Elementary School teachers K-5 are focused on improving students' ability to respond to what they have read in written form.

- ALL teachers K-5 provide at least 30 minutes per day of explicit instruction in open response.
- Students are using a T-Chart to organize their responses, placing their answer on one side and supporting evidence from the text on the other side.
- Students are being held accountable to **high standards**. They are given specific feedback on their work, and ask to revise responses to improve their scores.

STAKEHOLDERS' TEAM- We continue to work together to write the Redesign Plan for the Tansey School. We intend to have an initial draft of the plan completed by mid-February. The school staff will be asked to review and comment on the plan. Once the plan has been accepted, we will hold a parent workshop to present the work to all parents. The plan is focused around the open response instruction (see data above) and the professional development of teachers.

PTO/ School Council

Tansey Parents, we hope everyone is enjoying the snow. Hopefully, February will give us a break from shoveling. Our next meeting is on Tuesday February 8th at 6:30p.m. We will have a lot to discuss since there wasn't a January meeting. **We will be voting at this meeting on how to spend some of the money earned by the cookie dough fund raiser. Everyone present will have a vote.** International Night is Thursday March 10th and we need lots of volunteers. Notices will be sent home in a few weeks. I hope to see many of you at the next meeting. Being involved shows our children we care.

Messages from the Office:

- **CLOTHING DONATIONS**- We are looking for donations of uniform pants in navy, black, or tan that your children have outgrown (preferably elastic waist) to be used in the event that a child needs to change during the school day.

Counselor's Corner

- On December 13th, the School Committee approved the new Bullying Policy for all schools throughout the district (in response to the state's new anti-bullying law).
- This policy was submitted to DESE for their review and approval.
- In addition to the Second Steps Social Competency Program, the Fall River School Dept. plans to add Steps to Respect for children in grades 3-5.
- Steps to Respect is a Bullying Prevention Program that teaches elementary children to recognize, refuse, and report bullying, be assertive, and build friendships.
- I have been named the designee at the Tansey School who will be responsible for receiving any complaints or reports of bullying.

Mrs. Considine

A Note from Nurse Pam...

How to Stay Healthy in School~

HEALTHY FOODS!!! Did you know a healthy breakfast that includes sources of protein, fruit, dairy and carbohydrates is the best beginning for every day? Skipping breakfast can affect how well you perform at school. Your body requires healthy food fuel in order to function well. Snacks that provide protein such as cheese, yogurt or protein bars provide more useable energy than chips, cookies, or other "junk food". Fresh fruits and vegetables are also good snack foods. Water, pure fruit juices and milk are healthier beverage choices than sweetened fruit drinks.

ADEQUATE SLEEP!!! Did you know that going to bed at the same time each night is important in developing healthy sleep and rest patterns? Build family bedtime routines and rituals that are consistently maintained in order to ease you into a good night's sleep. Most elementary age children need about 10 hours of sleep every night. Your body needs enough rest to stay healthy and grow. How much sleep do you get every night?

DAILY EXERCISE!!! Did you know that the number one cause of childhood obesity in the US is due to lack of regular physical activity? Exercise at least one hour every day in an activity that increases your heart rate for a minimum of 20 minutes. This can be a challenge during cold New England winters but if you dress appropriately in warm clothing, outdoor activities can be continued throughout the winter. Brisk walks, jogging, scootering, biking, running with your pet dog, sledding, ice skating and skiing are all great outdoor winter activities. It is also possible to participate in indoor winter activities such as swimming, basketball, soccer, gymnastics, martial arts, yoga and Wii Sports games. Stay active and get up off the couch and MOVE!!!

What's Happening in Class?

Kindergarten

Hello Kindergarten Families!

It's hard to believe that another month has passed by! Here is a brief overview on what we will be working on throughout the month of February. In Reader's Workshop, we will be saying "goodbye" to the genre fantasy and "hello" to the genre realistic fiction. Here, the children will be responsible for understanding the difference between a story that is fiction from realistic fiction. In Writer's Workshop, the children will be continuing their work on creating personal narratives. The children's focus will be to zoom in on one important moment and stretching that moment across a number of pages. In Mathematics the children will be finishing up on their unit of composing and decomposing numbers, and moving on to Geometry. Here the children will be exploring various attributes of 2D and 3D shapes. Please continue to review with your child the sight words in their word of the week booklet. Happy February Everyone!

Grade 1

In Readers' Workshop the students have begun to explore the elements of nonfiction texts and are learning how to identify important facts and supporting details within them. They are also learning how to answer open response questions using T-Charts. The children have begun to discover the specific characteristics of informational texts and will be learning how to create an informational piece of writing on a specific topic with illustrations and appropriate vocabulary during Writers' Workshop this month. During our Math Sessions we will continue to work on strengthening early addition and subtraction skills as well as to work with pattern blocks while we explore the many different shapes and their attributes. In Social Studies we will continue to learn about our country's former presidents as well as their role in our country. Both First Grade classes will be wrapping up current Science units and beginning new ones!

Grade 2

February is going to be full of new beginnings. In Readers and Writers Workshops we will begin our non-fiction unit. Students will learn the elements of non-fiction texts and create a non-fiction book incorporating these elements into their writing. In Math we will begin a new unit Trades, Jumps and Stops which will focus on equivalence and the money model for addition and subtraction. In Science we will be learning about whales.

Grade 3

We are already into February! Our reading genre will be nonfiction with an introduction to biographies and a strong emphasis on answering open response questions. We are wrapping up our geometry unit and headed to addition and subtraction using place value with our context for learning book, The T-Shirt Factory. Multiplication will still be an ongoing process. Science will focus on endangered species and Social Studies continues with Colonial America focusing on the Pilgrims.

Art

The Art classes will be creating winter landscapes, stressing symmetry and the concept of positive and negative space. We will also begin a study of traditional African arts and crafts in preparation for Black History Month in February.

Grade 4

In grade 4, we are increasing our technology skills each week. We have learned to create our own personal folders on the computer desktop and are formatting text in WORD to create bio-poems. Look for our poems on the bulletin boards outside our classrooms during Parent-Teacher Conferences. Rocks and minerals will be our Science focus and is going to be a fun and exciting subject to study. We are continuing to work on answering open response questions in Reading and will soon be reading biographies as part of our non-fiction study. As we continue our WEX Writing program, we are reading and writing about In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson, a book about a young girl who moves to Brooklyn from Chungking, China. The chapters are all named for the months of the year and we are reading April and May this week. We are also wishing for the weather we get in April and May!

Grade 5

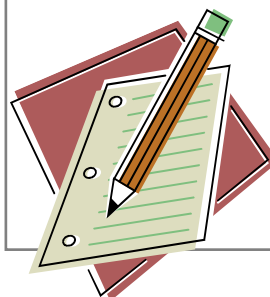
Grade 5 will begin publishing our persuasive essays this month and continue our work on answering open response questions with well developed paragraphs in Writer's Workshop. During Reader's Workshop we will continue with our nonfiction unit. In Math we continue to work on geometry – sorting and naming of polygons, identifying congruent and symmetrical shapes, and determining perimeter, area, and volume. In Social Studies we continue to examine life in colonial America. Lastly, in Science class, Mrs. Martin's class is wrapping up their work with variables and will be moving on to electricity shortly. Mr. Tavares' class begins working with variables and Mrs. Corvelo's class will begin studying the environment as they wrap up their unit on examining the solar system.

Music

February is a great month for a music teacher, with Black History Month upon us. Students K-5 will explore the genre of African American spirituals and call response songs used on the Underground Railroad. Our song of the month, Train is Acomin' to the Tansey, was chosen from this theme.

PE

K,1,2 will be participating in a variety of relay races. Grades 3,4,5 will be continuing with their floor hockey unit and will begin a basketball unit.



Kids Corner

The entire Tansey School participated in a Geometry Door Contest in January 2011. Students used their grade level standards to come up with a creative display of their learning on their Classroom doors. Seven judges scored the Geometry Doors based on creativity, link to standards, cross-curricular connections, child-created work, and clear purpose.

1st Place



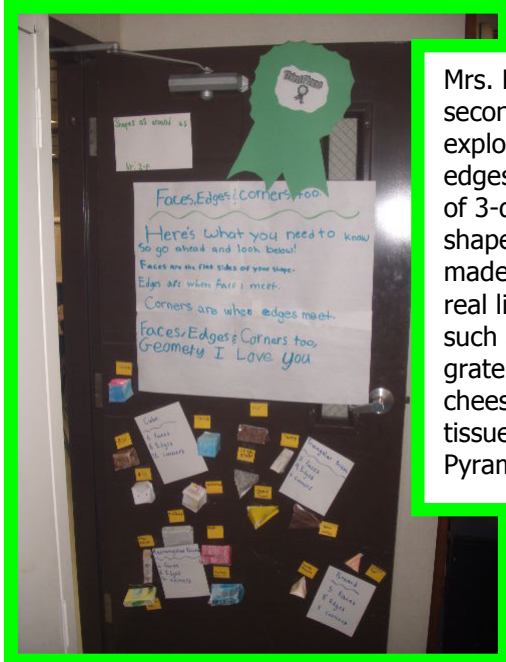
3N and 3B tied for second place! 3N calculated the area of their footsteps, which led to their door which had "Shape Boy and Angle Girl". 3B created a 2D and 3D "GeomeTREE" which included an interactive lift and cover game.



Tyler, Jordan, Elyssa, and Owen smile proudly in front of their **Shapes of our City** door. The four students voluntarily gave up their recess for several weeks to complete this project. Their 3-D door has famous Fall River landmarks all made from a variety of geometric shapes (including Charlton Memorial Hospital, Kennedy Park and the Tansey School) on a coordinate grid.



Mrs. Furtado's second grade class explored the faces, edges, and corners of 3-dimensional shapes. The children made miniatures of real life 3D objects such as a cheese grater, a wedge of cheese, a box of tissues, and Egyptian Pyramid.



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Miss Medeiros' kindergarten connected what they know about geometric shapes and following directions to individual portraits of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

