



Traverse Mountain Elementary

Tiger Times



THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE

ISSUE 6 • February 2013

Feb 1	PTA Meeting 10am	Feb 18	No School
Feb 4	Minimal Monday	Feb 21	SCC 3:45pm
Feb 6	Kindergarten Registration	Feb 26	Clark Planetarium (6th grade)
Feb 6-7	Common Days	Feb 28	Ballet West Assembly 1:15pm
Feb 6-7	Parent/Teacher Conferences	Feb 28	Faculty Meeting 3:30pm
Feb 14	6th Grade Dance		

In This Issue:

THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE
 PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE
 PAGE 1

TIGER OF THE MONTH
 VOLUNTEERING
 PAGE 2

TABLE TALK
 PAGE 3

BOX TOPS
 PTA MESSAGE
 PAGE 4

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to our students who are working very hard on the Ken Garff Road to Success Reading Challenge. Through the end of December, our students logged 66,035 days of reading. Reading five days a week earns a student one ticket and seven days a week earns a student 2 tickets towards the prize drawings. We will have another bike drawing at the end of February.

Reading is fundamental to all learning and as a school, we are dedicated to work in partnership with families to promote literacy development for all students. Reading fluency has been identified by the National Reading Panel as a key component in teaching children to read. "Fluent readers can read text with speed, accuracy, and proper expression. Fluency depends upon well-developed word recognition skills, but such skills do not inevitably lead to fluency. It is generally acknowledged that fluency is a critical component of skilled reading." (NRP, 2000) One of the main processes to help children improve fluency is through repeated readings. Have your child read a passage "cold" then reread the passage again a few times. Finally, have the child "pass off" the passage. This could be a fun activity to do with a timer.

Our school uses the DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) as one assessment for reading. Teachers use this assessment to pinpoint areas that students may need more support. While a student may do well in many areas, teachers use these assessments to guide specific instruction on what will benefit individual students. Teachers will review student scores at our upcoming Parent Conferences.

Thank you for taking time each day to read with your child! No other factor will help your child become a better reader than having time each day to read with you.

Let's all spread the love of reading in February!
 David Stephenson
 Principal



Tiger of the Month

Congratulations to those students who were named Tiger of the Month for the month of September! When you get a chance, check out the bulletin board across from the office and read more about our amazing students!!

Kindergarten	
Carson James	He works hard and always follows the rules.
Kaitlin Ung	She is kind to others, patient, respectful, and hard-working.
1st Grade	
Asher Childs	He comes to school with a positive attitude and always tries his best.
Jackson Mosteller	He is always on task and always goes beyond what is required of him.
2nd Grade	
Triston Cardona	He is a friend to all in the class and is always willing to help.
Olivia Holt	She listens very well to directions and is very helpful.
3rd Grade	
Miriam Ahlstrom	She comes to school prepared, always does her best, and is an amazing helper.
Dallin Gentry	He is a great friend and is always happy and positive at school.
4th Grade	
Anabelle Smith	We always know that if she is there, people will feel included and important.
Wesley Sharp	He always finishes his schoolwork with his best effort. He is also a class leader.
5th Grade	
Aspen Shupe	She makes our class awesome with her great attitude and wonderful smile.
Bradin Rohde	He makes our class great because he wants to help others succeed.
6th Grade	
Tate Weiss	He is eager to learn and is consistently willing to help others.
Lindsey Burker	She always steps up by doing the right thing in a quiet way that others can follow.

Volunteer Opportunities

Please visit the links below and see if there is something you could do to help.

- Book Fair:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4BABAD2A1-madscience>

- PTA:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4BA4AD283-traverse>

- Computer Lab:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4AAFAF238-computer>

Table Talk

Dear Parents,

We will focus on honesty as the character trait for February. You will receive the "Table Talk" note in your email. Please review it with your child and sign the attached form. Thank you for your support!

The PTA

✂

Child's First and Last Name: _____

Child's Teacher: _____

We have completed the "Table Talk" discussions about honesty.

Parent's Signature: _____

(Please return this portion to your child's teacher.)

fold

Discuss: Are there times when being honest is difficult? Explain. What does the saying, "Honesty is the best policy" mean?

Discuss: How do the words sincere and integrity relate to honesty?

HONEST

fold

HONEST

Character Table Talk Directions: At home, "Table Talk" discussions can be folded, placed in the center of the table at meals or other times so that each week discussions can reinforce good character. Thank you for working together to help our children develop good character.

Discuss: Our character word is HONESTY. Honesty means being truthful in our actions and words. What does that mean to be honest or truthful in our *actions* and our *words*? Why is honesty important? Give examples.

Discuss: What is a conscience and how does our conscience help us to be honest?



Box Tops

We have our next box top deadline coming up. This is our last one for the year. Please send in your box tops by the end of the month so that money can go towards this school year. The winning class will get a pizza party!!

1st Place Lego Champs

Congratulations to Wei-Ming McCage and Spencer Ahlstrom! They participated in the State Lego League Championship and won 1st Place in Strategy and Innovation & Robot Performance. Their team name is Grid Skippers. Way to go!

PTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are so excited that the new year has started out so well here at the school. We held our first ever Creativity Fair in January and it was so great to see all the fun and creative projects that the students brought to share with us. I hope that this is something that will grow and be an even bigger success in the coming years. Thank you to all the students who participated, and I just have to say that we have so much amazing talent at our school.

I also want to say that I am truly amazed at the wonderful staff that we have at our school. There are so many extra programs that our teachers and others at the school run that take even more time out of their personal schedule (as if they didn't have enough to do just with regular classroom time), but give so much to enrich the learning of our students. We have teachers spending extra time on a school musical, a design challenge class, knowledge bowl, book fairs (thanks to our incredible librarian), eBooks in the 4th grade, and the list goes on (sorry I can't mention them all). I am so grateful to be able to see our devoted school staff up close and personal and I am proud to be able to assist them in any way that I can.

I hope that others take the time to show their appreciation to the Traverse Mountain School staff by volunteering to help with some of these programs. We have lots of activities that need a few volunteers to help out with coming up. We have the book fair, and the teacher dinners during parent/teacher conference this coming week (Feb. 4th-8th) and we still need computer lab help for the 4th graders the week after (Feb. 11th-15th). I am so grateful to those of you who have signed up on the lists that we have sent out for help. We could never accomplish as much for our kids without our teachers in all they are doing, and they need our help to be as effective as possible in these tremendous extra activities. So thank you for giving them the support they need to move forward in their great supplementary endeavors.

Our community and our school staff are the best in the world. We are so very lucky and I am grateful to be a part of it. Thank you, and keep doing what you are doing. It makes a huge difference in the lives of our children and our community. I can't say thank you enough, so THANK YOU!

Rachelle Funk
PTA President



Download a 50 count Box Tops collection sheet here:
http://www.hopepta.org/joomla/images/boxtops/box_tops_50.pdf

Looking Ahead to March	
3/1	PTA Meeting
3/4	Minimal Monday
3/11-3/15	Teacher Appreciation Week
3/13	5th Grade Maturation
3/15	Cookie Dough Begins
3/18-3/20	School Musical Dress Rehearsal
3/21	SCC
3/21-3/23	School Musical
3/28	Faculty Meeting
3/29	Cookie Dough Orders Due
3/29	PTA Meeting



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