

The title 'Common Sense' is written in a large, bold, black font. To the left of the word 'Common' are several pumpkins. To the right of the word 'Sense' is a tiger walking to the right, with a few leaves scattered around it.

Common Sense

A BI-monthly newsletter for
Thomas Paine Elementary School

November 2014

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Adventure...the Future Begins Here!

Welcome to the Adventure...the Future Begins Here! I have been thinking about the roles we play and the impact it has on the daily lives of young people for many years as a student, parent, teacher and administrator. I have come to realize that the future is asking us to do more. I am personally thoughtful about the future. I believe all of us must seek out inspiration to make a difference. In order for us to make a difference in our community, T-Paine is committed to promoting leadership and building strong habits that will bring into focus all that we do for our young people. We are beginning a new adventure together with promoting The Leader in Me program that is based on the 7 Healthy Habits of Healthy Kids. I strongly believe these 7 habits will build leaders and brighten the future for all of us, together. This major initiative will be based on the inspiration to make a difference. Here is a quick overview of our habits.



Habit 1 — Be Proactive (You're in Charge)

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.



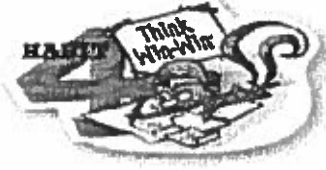
Habit 2 — Begin with the End in Mind (Have a Plan)

I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision. I look for ways to be a good citizen.



Habit 3 — Put First Things First (Work First, Then Play)

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.



Habit 4 — Think Win-Win (Everyone Can Win)

I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in others' Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives.



Habit 5 — Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood (Listen Before You Talk)

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.



Habit 6 — Synergize (Together Is Better)

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than anyone of us can alone. I am humble.



Habit 7 — Sharpen The Saw (Balance Feels Best)

I take care of my body by eating right, exercising and getting sleep. I spend time with family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I find meaningful ways to help others.

We hope you will join us on this Leadership Adventure.
Carpe Diem!!
Dr. Kirk M. Rickansrud

News from the Classrooms



Kindergarten

We have been very busy learning our letters and sounds in kindergarten. We have been learning our sight words too. Kindergarteners are excited to use what they are learning as they become readers and writers. Kindergarten is so much fun!

1st Grade

Greetings from the First Grade Explorers! The last two months have been very busy as we continue to build strategies and skills as readers, writers, and mathematical thinkers!

We are now completing our first Humanities unit entitled My Class, My Community. We've focused on the need and purpose of school rules, the development of classroom rules, the Seven Habits of Happy Kids and our Tiger character traits of Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, and working as an Active Citizen in our communities.

In our upcoming Science unit, we'll be exploring weather, and how it impacts our lives.

Wishing a Happy Thanksgiving to all from our fabulous first graders!

2nd Grade

Second grade has started the year off showing our common

Core values of responsibility, respect, resilience, and active citizenship.

We work every day to become leaders and use the 7 Healthy Habits.

We celebrated our individual differences and demonstrated how we are

all part of a whole group as we made our class character quilts. Synergize...

together is better! We are Bucket Fillers in second grade. We work on Healthy

Habit 4 - Think Win-Win when we are kind to others, and do nice things to fill

others buckets. In reading, we have been working to increase our stamina

and learning how to be independent using the Daily Five. Be proactive..you're

In charge! Second Grade off to a great start!

3rd Grade

Happy Fall!! Our Third grade year is off to a wonderful start! We have been using QAR and the Fab 4 to better comprehend our reading. We will continue to use these reading strategies throughout the school year.

The children are having a lot of fun Clarifying, Predicting, Questioning, and Summarizing before, during, and after reading. Look forward to seeing our first published personal narratives. The children have been using VOICES to develop their narratives to make them interesting stories to read. They are excited to read and share their stories with the rest of the class. Soon, they will be learning to write effective opinion pieces.

In Math, they are learning how to become more effective problem solvers, and to communicate how and why they solved problems. They are finishing up regrouping, and are headed next to learn about arrays to have a better understanding of multiplication.

The children are very enthusiastic about setting learning goals and sharing their many accomplishments.

4th Grade

Language Arts

- Identifying the main idea
- Summarizing fiction & non fiction text
- Identifying the theme of the text
- And much more!!!

Social Studies

Government Unit

- Presidential Elections - coming soon!!!

Writing

- Using the 6 traits of writing to create a descriptive personal narrative

Math

- Multiplication and Division: Meanings and Facts
- Generate and Analyze Patterns
- Place Value
- And much more!!!

News from the Classrooms

5th Grade

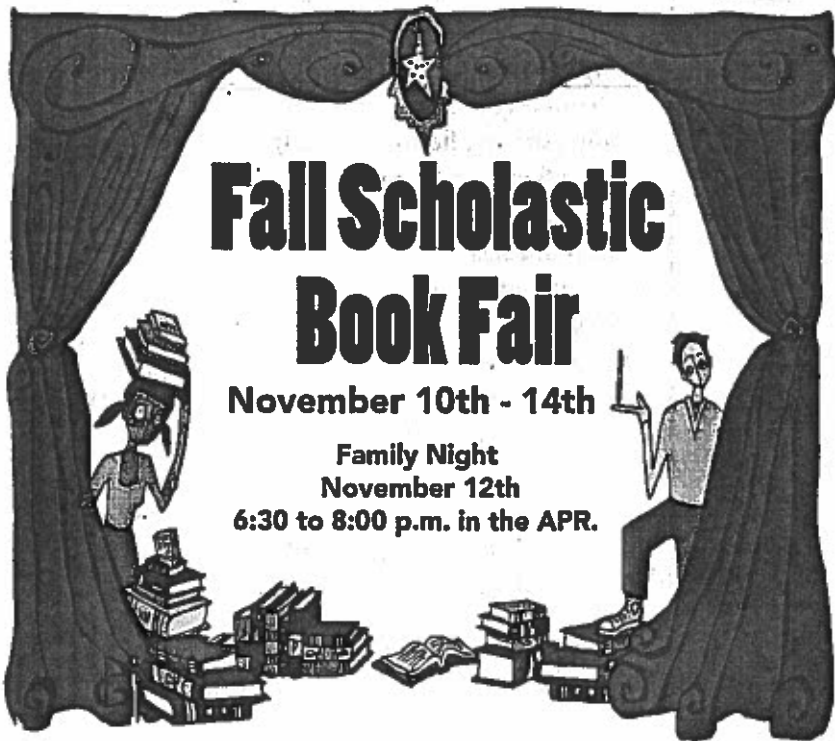
Many exciting things are happening in grade 5. Over the last few weeks we have been working on infusing the 6 traits of good writing with both reading and social studies. We are analyzing mentor text by comparing it to the 6 traits narrative writing rubric. One of the most exciting lessons we have completed is about point of view and perspective. We will use this understanding and combine it with our knowledge of Native American tribes to create narratives from the Native American point of view.

In math, we continue to build on our understanding of multi-digit multiplication. Please try to work on mastery of the basic multiplication facts up to the 12 times table. This is an essential skill and will be used in many future applications.

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to be part of the 5th grade activities committee. Each year this committee helps to organize fundraisers, field trips, and the end of year celebrations. Please check for flyers and information!

MD 1 and 2

We welcomed new students to our Program at Paine. Our students have been busy exploring the Fall Season through many language-based and hands-on activities. We enjoyed listening to Fall books and talked about Seasonal changes. We took a nature walk and collected leaves and some pinecones. We used our Sensory skills to create projects with our leaves and used apples to make apple prints. We enjoyed an apple tasting activity and used our Math skills to graph our favorite types of apples.



Fall Scholastic Book Fair
November 10th - 14th
Family Night
November 12th
6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the APR.



FALL BALL

Friday November 14th
7pm-9pm

\$6 per student (only Thomas Paine students permitted)

Lots of dancing, costume contest & fun!

If anyone would like to volunteer to help please call me,
Jean Molyneaux at 856-321-1841

The Thomas Paine Kiss and Go

AM Drop Off Information



Drop off Time: 8:45 AM; School begins: 9:00 am

Please do not bring students to school prior to 8:45 am.

There is not ample supervision before that time to accommodate large numbers of children

Drop off Area: In the front of the school and they walk to the back of the building.

There will be an educational assistant there to direct the student to the rear playground.

Grades K, 1, and 2 will line up by the equipment.

Grade 3 will line up at the blacktop entrance. Grades 4 and 5 will line up at the ramp by the Grade 5 wing.

On days of Inclement Weather:

Students will be directed to enter the APR door.

NO cars should drop off students at the rear of the building.

This is extremely dangerous as buses are pulling up and teacher's cars are arriving.

Please remember "Kiss n' Go" so that the traffic lines keep moving. Always look for parents crossing the lot as they bring children into the building for SACC.

Thank you for supporting our safety goals at Thomas Paine.

Please call the office at 856-667-1350 if you have any questions.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

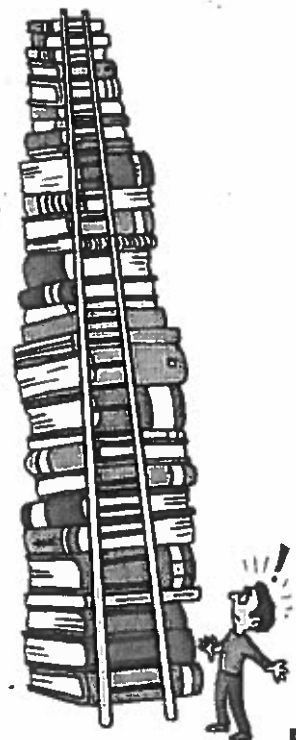
Mr. Cheeseman is always looking for volunteers to help in the library. Any amount of time you can spare (whether it is one hour per week on the day your child/children visit the library or if you can afford additional time) is greatly appreciated.

Stay Connected!

Thomas Paine's website:
<http://paine.cherryhill.k12.nj.us/>

Email: PainePTA@yahoogroups.com

Thomas Paine International Elementary
School PTA on Facebook



Visit our new and improved website!

THOMAS PAINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



HOME CONTACT US PTA/PARENT INFO LUNCH MENU TITLE I INFORMATION NEWS NOW MORE...

PAINE TIGERS



Welcome to the adventure, your future begins here

WELCOME!

4001 Church Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Phone: 856-667-1350 Fax: 856-755-1491

Principal Kirk M. Rickanrud

School Calendar



HIB Policy HIB Grade Report HIB Memo Code of Conduct Rotation Schedule K-4 SBRC

Cool Resources and Links!



Check out the Lunch Menu



HOME CONTACT US PTA/PARENT

eBoard

Teacher	Email
Dr. Rickanrud	krickan@tpes.k12.nj.us
Mr. Mike Crossman	mcrossm@tpes.k12.nj.us
Mrs. Lisa Clive	lclive@tpes.k12.nj.us

and as always connect with teachers & staff

Counselor's Corner



Please Read This Important Information!

Recently, Dr. Rickansrud and I talked with students about respect and bullying-prevention. In kindergarten and first grades we read and discussed books about using kind words, cooperating and playing fairly. Grades 2 through 5 learned about the anti-bullying law and procedures. All students were taught how they can be "Up-standers" (helpful bystanders) when they encounter mean-spirited behavior and about the difference between conflict and bullying.

I recommend that students and staff members describe people's words and actions and I am asking parents and guardians to do this as well. Describing is much more effective than labeling. For example, it is more helpful to say, "Winston is cutting in front of me" then, "Winston is mean." It is better to tell someone that "Harriet didn't ask me to play soccer," than to declare that "Harriet is a bully."

If your child tells you that a classmate pushed him, ask what was going on before that happened. In most cases, there was an argument or negative words were exchanged. Here's a typical situation: During recess, Nigel wanted Sherlock to pass him the ball. Nigel said, "What's wrong with you? Didn't you see that I was open?" Sherlock responded, "I passed it to Mariana who was open too." An argument takes place and Nigel pushes Sherlock and then Sherlock pushes him back. Your child Nigel only tells you that Sherlock pushed him. If you get upset, you might call the school and say that your child was pushed and you want something done about it. If you ask questions, you may discover that your child was involved in a playground conflict and that he was a big part of the problem.

If you insist that your child is being "bullied", the principal would tell the "anti-bullying specialist" to begin an **investigation** that includes talking to the involved students and possible witnesses, getting written statements, completing a lengthy report, and forwarding it to the district anti-bullying specialist. Then the superintendent and Board of Education determine if "HIB" (harassment, intimidation or bullying) occurred. A letter would be sent to you and a copy placed in your child's permanent file and in the file of the student you accused of bullying, regardless of the outcome of the investigation. **This is New Jersey state law.**

Conflict is a part of life and we want students to learn healthy ways to work through it. Bullying is one-sided, purposeful, cruel and usually ongoing behavior that can cause serious harm to the target. We take bullying very seriously at Thomas Paine and will follow through with the above procedures. However, if the counselor and principal spend several days investigating a situation that turns out to be conflict, this takes away from class time for some students and pro-active services for all. **This is just one reason why it is important that we choose our words carefully and describe what's happening rather than immediately labeling it.**

If you have concerns about any situation at school, please contact me. I am here to help our students learn how to handle the challenges and conflicts of everyday life. Working together, we can continue to make Thomas Paine Elementary School a place where everyone lives our core values of respect, responsibility, resiliency and active citizenship.

Toby L. Snider, M.Ed.
School Counselor

