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LUNCH

MONDAY 3/9
BRUNCH
English Muffin Egg Sandwich (V) with or without Cheese
Home Fries
Southwest Burrito with Salsa Cup
Baked Tostito Scoops
Salad Bar Garden Greens

TUESDAY 3/10
PTA Executive Meeting, 8:30am

What's Up This Week

MONDAY 3/9–WEDNESDAY 3/11
Caroline and Grace Farm Trip
Auction Committee Meeting, 8:30am

**WEDNESDAY 3/11–FRIDAY 3/13**
Oli and Lindsey Farm Trip

**FRIDAY 3/13**
School Leadership Team Meeting, 8am
Pi Day

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PI DAY

Roasted Chicken
Honey Corn Muffin
Baked Sweet Potato Waffle Fries
Assorted Grab–n–Go Salads
Salad Bar Traditional

**WEDNESDAY 3/11**
Hot Turkey Sandwiches on Ciabatta
Roasted Zucchini
Salad Bar Garden Greens

**THURSDAY 3/12**
NY Beef Hamburgers and Cheeseburgers
Baked NY French Fries
Fresh New York Apples
Assorted Grab–n–Go Salads
Salad Bar Burger/Sandwich Fixin's

**FRIDAY 3/13**
PIZZA
Assorted Toppings
Green Garden Salad
Apple Bake
Salad Bar Pizza Toppings Featuring Balsamic Chickpea Salad
Camp Trip Fundraiser!

We are celebrating Pi Day on Friday, March 13 with a game, a raffle, and...pie of course! Get a whole pie for $31.40 or a slice for $3.14. BONUS (students only): win one M&M for every digit of pi memorized. Sales, raffle, and game at drop off and pick up.

Pie donations much appreciated!

Contact Tatiana to order whole pies in advance at tatiana.prisco@gmail.com.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

We had a great turnout for the Advocacy Committee's information session on State testing last Wednesday! If you couldn't make it, we have good news. It is now available on YouTube. Dyanthe, our teachers and parents had an enlightening conversation about testing and how it affects education. Please check it out: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbHMcGHakk8
Save the date! The Wellness Committee will have a meeting on Monday, March 30 at 8:30am to answer questions about coronavirus.

Dear families,

It’s our 9th year at TNS and our youngest child (Zack) is now in 5th grade. I’d like to take a few
minutes to tell you why our family has always supported the opt out/test refusal movement. I am in no way an expert in this issue; I simply come from a place of seeing the testing model played out through my prior professional work in secondary education and higher-ed, and I’m speaking only from the experience of my own kids and our family. Simply stated:

- We opt out because we as a family believe these tests are inequitable from a social and educational justice perspective and because they can sap a child’s confidence.

- We opt out because there is so much inherent bias in the questions themselves and because those questions rarely reflect the standards they are supposed to be testing.

- We opt out because the tests, by virtue of being graded on a bell curve, can't truly measure a student’s mastery of subject matter.

We also believe education dollars shouldn't be spent on test prep, test proctors and test materials, but should be spent on things like art and music and smaller class sizes—and we are grateful to have those enriching experiences here at TNS. As you think about the testing industry in general, ask yourself: Who do these tests benefit? Follow the $–testing companies! It’s certainly not the individual child.

Our now 7th grader did not take the tests in elementary school during her time at TNS, yet that hasn't stopped her from now being engaged in her academics and socially thriving. TNS had taught her how to think, how to self-advocate and how to ask for help when it’s needed. When she does have to take a test or be assessed in any way, she’s confident and prepared and she does very well!

Opting out has always been our way of standing up in dissent and protesting where we see an injustice, because that’s how we can bring about change. It’s a way to push back, but also a way to protect what we feel is working in our school.

For 4th grade families considering the effect of a test score or lack thereof on middle school admissions, remember: It is illegal for a school to evaluate a child for middle school admissions solely on the criteria of a test, but if a test score is present – it must be counted in the rubric. So a poor test performance can actually hold a bright child back from achieving their desired outcomes to middle school of their choice. There are some schools that require tests, but the majority of TNS students go on to middle schools that don’t look at test scores at all, or have work-around in their admissions rubrics to accommodate the families that opt out. See how many middle schools use criteria other than testing for the rubric here.

Whatever your choices on this issue, know that I support you and I’m here to be a sounding board if you so desire. If you want to join me in Opting Out, you can use this form. (Or just email Dyanthe and ccd your teacher/s in a note.)
My best,
Ella (Zack’s mom, 5th grade)

The Library needs helpers! Do you have a few minutes after drop off or before pick up to help out? (Don't be scared, someone will show you how to do everything and it's the coziest little spot in school). Sign up HERE

Instagram
@neighborhoodgram

TNS Facebook Group
https://www.facebook.com/groups/TNSNY

View PTA meetings via livestream!

Our Facebook Group and Instagram Page is private and for current TNS families only
Please submit announcements by Thursday  
ptaparentengagement@tnsny.org

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