



October 29, 2023

Tillman Family - While our healing will necessarily continue over time, last week was a terrific step forward for Tillman and our broader community. Many of our classes followed schedules that were much more close to normal. Probably a hundred different students were recognized, in one way or another, for their kindness, responsibility, and/or safe choices. And many, many different individuals and groups across our community provided kind and generous supports for our students, staff, and families. We thank our wonderful PTO, office staff, and district office for helping to coordinate these efforts.

Please read below for several important updates, including more specifics about Halloween, a reminder about the Panorama survey, and details about an important school-wide book study that starts tomorrow. **As a final reminder, if you haven't given us a t-shirt size for your student(s), please do so by 8pm tonight at [this link](#).**

Thanks for your continued support of our students and the Tillman community.

Take care.

Bryan, Max, and your team at Tillman

Mark Your Calendar

- Oct 30 (M) - [B-Day](#); Tillman Book Study: [A Kids Book About Belonging](#)
- Oct 31 (T) - Halloween Parade & Parties (2:20)
- Nov 1 (W) - School-Wide Pajama Day; Read, Right, & Run (8am); 1st Qtr report cards available
- Nov 2 (Th) - Vocal Edge practice (8am)
- Nov 3 (F) - Hispanic Heritage Celebration Assembly (2:30)
- Nov 5 (Su) - Daylight Savings ends

- Nov 7 (T) - No school, Election Day & teacher professional learning
- Nov 10 (F) - Veterans Day Celebration, Panorama survey deadline
- Nov 14 (Th) - Picture Retake Day
- Nov 20 (M) - Turkey Day Spirit Week - Tacky Day (wear orange & black)
- Nov 21 (T) - Turkey Trot; Turkey Day Spirit Day (wear red & white)
- Nov 22-24 - No school, Thanksgiving Recess

Halloween Parade & Parties

We are excited to welcome visitors for our Halloween parade and parties on Tuesday. Please read below for several important logistics. As a reminder, adjustments to our plans were made to allow for the greatest number of students to feel comfortable participating and ensure that any family member who wants to view the parade is be able to do so in a safe and secure manner.



Viewing the Parade

- Rather than starting in front of Tillman and parading through the neighborhood, we will meet behind the school and parade around the perimeter of our back campus. The parade will begin at 2:20.
- Family members who'd like to line the new parade route must first be cleared for campus-access through our [Raptor Visitor Management System](#), just as they would if accessing a classroom in our building.
- We strongly encourage anyone wishing to view the parade to pre-register using [this form](#).
- Guests who have pre-registered can check in between 1:45-2:20 to receive their pre-printed name tags. Checkin will be outside, at the entrance to the new back parking lot (located east of our new wing). As an FYI, 230 guests have pre-registered as of Sunday morning.
- Those who have NOT pre-registered will need to enter the building through the front center doors, signing in through the office before heading to the back of the building.
- **Please bring your license/ID if you plan to attend, whether you pre-register or not.**
- After the parade, we ask all visitors to exit through the parking lot and return your badges before leaving campus.

Party Information

- Only parents who previously signed up through PTO to run parties will have access to our classrooms for the event. These parents/guardians will also be required to Raptor onto campus and can pre-register at [this link](#).
- ALL party volunteers, including those who pre-register, are asked to enter the building through the front center doors and check-in before going to the classrooms. We will have visitor badges printed and ready for those who have pre-registered.
- **Please bring your license/ID if you plan to attend, whether you pre-register or not.**

Additional Details

- Please do not send students to school in costumes, as they will be given time to change at school before the parade. Students should be able to change easily and independently into their costumes at school. We strongly discourage excessively violent or gory costumes and

makeup. "Weapons" of any kind...swords, toy guns, toy knives, etc. must remain at home.

Masks are okay as long as they are not gory and don't impair student's sight as they're walking in the parade.

- Students who do not feel comfortable participating in the parade will have the option to view a Halloween video in the gymnasium before transitioning back to their classrooms for parties.
- If students need a costume or do not feel comfortable wearing a costume they were wearing at Trunk or Treat, please call the office at 314-213-6150. We will make sure students have a costume.

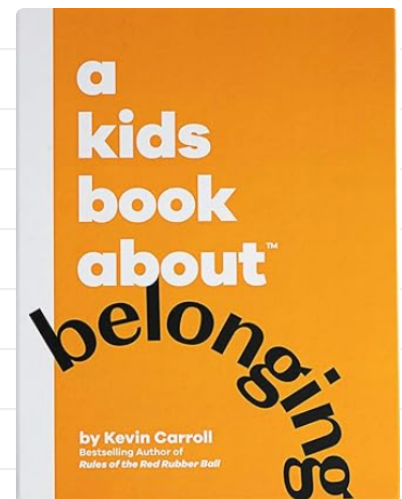
Safe & Inclusive Spaces

The following information was also included in the Oct 15 Update, the date of our Trunk or Treat event. Families may have understandably missed this information, and our book studies were necessarily postponed. We are prepared to begin these important conversations with students this week, continuing them through November.

We are deeply committed to creating spaces that are safe and inclusive for each student. This means directly confronting racist, hateful, and hurtful language when it occurs. Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in the use of racial slurs this year, specifically the n-word.

The children's book *Our Skin* begins with the following introduction:

'Young children notice a lot - including skin color, race, and even injustice and racism. It can be hard to find the right words to answer their questions or to start a conversation about race. But when we don't talk about it, children often come to their own conclusions, which can include bias and stereotypes because of the world we live in. Simple conversations can help make sense of their world and even recognize and speak up about injustice.'



Starting Monday, we are beginning a four week, school-wide book study to discuss belonging and racism with our students. The entire school will hear the same read-aloud on morning announcements each week, and then classroom teachers will facilitate age-appropriate discussions centered around the same question. Over the course of four weeks, staff and students will read *A Kids Book About Belonging*, *Our Skin*, *A Kids Book About Racism*, and an excerpt from *Antiracist Kid*.

All students will hear [A Kids Book About Belonging](#) this week, discussing the question, "**What can you do to make everyone feel they belong at Tillman?**" Families can help reinforce this message at home by talking to your Trailblazer about honoring the dignity of individuals — and rejecting hate. In addition to the link above, a resource that may be helpful is [Beyond the Golden Rule](#), from Learning for Justice, which includes information about how to help kids foster a community of belonging and treat others with respect. We will continue to update families each week, with links to the upcoming book and our discussion question. If you have any questions, please contact [Mr. Hoover](#) or [Dr. Painter](#).

New/Updated Information

Panorama Survey Reminder



We're bumping this one toward the top of collective our to-do lists, as only 33 Tillman parents/guardians have thus far completed the survey. We've obviously been busy with other things over the last two weeks, but these surveys do inform our thinking and help us plan for upcoming school improvement work. If you're willing to help, please complete your survey by **Friday, November 10**. The family survey includes 31 questions and will take approximately 11 minutes to complete. We'd greatly appreciate your participation.

To complete out the survey, please visit: <https://surveys.panoramaed.com/kirkwood/fall23family>.

T-Shirt Size Requests

As mentioned in Thursday's email, an anonymous donor has generously offered to purchase a t-shirt for all Tillman students, with the Kirkwood School District Foundation doing the same for our staff. **Families are asked to complete [this form](#) by Sunday at 8pm, providing shirt size information for each student you have at Tillman.** We currently have size information for 323 Tillman students. We'll purchase a proportional number of each size, by grade level, for any student not named via the forms.



Library Move

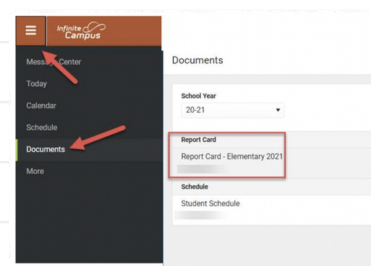
Our new library is almost ready! If you'd like to help Mrs. Curtis with the move, please consider signing up up [this Signup Genius link](#). Thank you!

1st Quarter Report Cards

We extended our first quarter grading period at Tillman to give our students and teachers time to heal after the Trunk or Treat event.

While healing will continue over time, report cards for Tillman students will be available to parents/guardians via the [Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#) on Wednesday, Nov 1 at 9am. Families can

log into Infinite Campus, click on the menu bars (top left), then Documents, then the report you want to review. We will send additional information about report cards on Wednesday.



[Please complete this form](#) if you need to create an Infinite Campus parent account or recover your username/password for an existing account. For other questions or issues with Infinite Campus please contact icportal@kirkwoodschools.org.

Easy as Py

The Easy as Py coding club will soon be starting soon after school for interested 5th Grade students. The club is facilitated by a former Tillman Elementary student and current Kirkwood High

School Senior and will be overseen by Mr. Hoover. Please see the digital flyer below and/or view [the registration form](#) for additional information.

Trailblazer Cafe

A return to Trailblazer Cafe couldn't have come at a better time. It was wonderful to celebrate these Tillman students who've been putting Blaze's 3 BEs into action. We're proud of them and appreciate their positive leadership!



Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade

Repeat (and Still Important) Information

Veterans Day Celebration

We are excited to invite veterans to Tillman for our 2023 Veterans Day Celebration on Friday, November 10 at 9:30. In order to plan for our assembly, we request RSVPs from veterans and accompanying adult guests. Please use [THIS LINK](#) by Nov 1 to RSVP if you plan to attend Tillman's 2023 Veterans Day Celebration. More details to follow for those who RSVP.



A number of additional items that were previously shared in the Sunday Update are still relevant. In an effort to streamline our weekly communication, we've shifted these repeated items to our Tillman website, under Family Resources --> [Events & Information](#). Please look to the website for information about the items listed below.

- Volunteer Information - Field Trips
 - Work on Bioretention Basin
-

PTO New/Updated Information

Additional information about PTO can be found on our [Tillman PTO website](#).

PTO Information

A number of PTO items that were previously shared in the Sunday Update are still relevant. In an effort to streamline our weekly communication, we've shifted these repeated items to our PTO website, under Our School --> PTO --> [PTO Updates & Information](#). Please look to the website for information about the items listed below.

- New Position Proposed for PTO Board
 - Tillman Express Fund
 - Tillman Unite Book Club
 - Spirit Wear (now available ALL year)
 - Sign-up Parties for Adults
 - Room Parent & Classroom Party Volunteers Needed
 - Additional Volunteer Opportunities - Sustainability, 5th Grade Celebration, Tillman Unite
 - New Student Welcome Sign Return
 - Buzz Book
-

KSD Information & Updates

Turkey Day & Chili Bowl

- [2023 Turkey Day apparel](#) is available for order now, with proceeds benefitting the KHS Class of 2026. Place your order before the [store closes](#) at 3PM on **Wednesday, November 1**.
- KSDF will host the 27th annual Turkey Day Chili Bowl Cook-Off in the KHS Walker Commons and Cafeteria. Community members are invited to sample chili prepared by area restaurants and vote for the best chili in town. Tickets can only be purchased online in advance until they are sold out. [Please visit the KSDF Chili Bowl website to purchase tickets](#).
- For a full list of Turkey Day/Spirit Week activities, please visit KSD's [Turkey Day website](#).

Bobby Norfolk Event - November 4

KSD is organizing a [Folktales from Around the World](#) event for staff, the community and their families. Join the fun on Saturday, November 4 in Meacham Park.

2023-24 School Calendar Reminders

- November 7: Staff Development, No School for Students
- November 22: No School for Students
- November 23-24: Thanksgiving Recess - District Closed
- December 20: End of First Semester
- December 21-January 1 Winter Recess: District Closed
- January 2: Records Day - No School for Students
- January 3: Staff Development Day - No School for Students
- January 4: School Resumes
- January 15: Martin Luther King Day - District Closed
- February 16: Staff Development Day - No School for Students
- February 19: Presidents Day - District Closed
- March 8: End of Third Quarter
- March 15: Staff Development Day - No School for Students
- March 18-22 Spring Recess - District Closed
- March 25: No School for Students
- March 26: School Resumes
- April 2: Staff Development/Election Day - No School for Students
- April 19: Teacher Work Day - No School for Students
- May 23: Last Day of School for Students*

*Earlier drafts of the calendar may have indicated the last day of school this year was an early dismissal for all schools. Due to the number of hours required by DESE, the final day of school on Thursday, May 23 is not scheduled for early dismissal for K-8. High school students will continue to follow a typical exam schedule on the final day of school. [Download a copy of the district calendar](#)



Latest KSD Spotlight



Family Update Archive

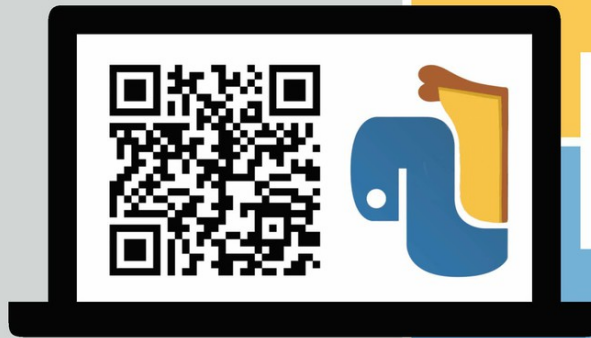


Latest BOE News

Digital Flyers

EASY AS PY

- LEARN THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PROGRAMMING THROUGH PYTHON
- EXPLORE FUN PROJECTS LIKE CHATBOTS, ADVENTURE GAMES, AND MORE
- TAUGHT BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH A DECADE OF CODING EXPERIENCE



Interest Form:

<https://forms.gle/Ly3yFgMAY1PhPWTF>

Join Tillman's after
school coding
program!

FOR FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

**SIGNUP FOR DETAILS
ABOUT DATE AND
SPONSOR**

For more information, please contact Kat Crawford at easyaspycoding@gmail.com

**Turkey Day
2023 apparel
is here!**



Don't miss this opportunity to purchase your 2023 Turkey Day apparel so that you can sport it while cheering on the Pioneers to another victory and keeping the Frisco Bell at KHS, where it belongs.

All proceeds will benefit the KHS Class of 2026 (Class gift to KHS, Senior shirts, reunion, etc.)

*Easy Online Ordering
Elementary and/or middle school orders will
be delivered to the schools to be sent home
with students.*

*Be sure to place your
order before the store
closes at 3PM on
Wednesday,
November 1.
**NO LATE ORDERS
WILL BE ACCEPTED!***



*For more information and to order, go to:
<https://www.daddysgraphics.com/march/2023-turkey-day>*

The poster features a whimsical autumn-themed illustration. At the top, a large tree with vibrant orange and yellow leaves hangs over a green field. A string of small, colorful flags or leaves is strung across the top. The background is a light green with stylized white clouds. In the center, the event details are written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the text, there are two more trees with yellow foliage, and a small evergreen tree in the distance. The bottom of the poster shows a field with various plants and flowers.

Folktales from Around the World

by Bobby Norfolk

**Saturday, November 4th
Meacham Memorial Park, 340 New York Street
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Face painting and snacks
provided. This event is free
and open to the public.**



**we
want to
know!**

Our district values your feedback! We are asking our families to take a brief survey to tell us about your experience with the Kirkwood School District. To ensure we continue to provide high quality, rigorous learning experiences that meet the needs of our learners and foster a climate of belonging, we need your input. Take the survey online before November 8!



Visit kirkwoodschools.org/survey



Tillman Elementary School

Email: tillman.news@kirkwoodschoools.org

Website: <https://www.kirkwoodschoools.org/tillman>

Location: [230 Quan Avenue, Kirkwood, MO](#)

Phone: [314-213-6150](tel:314-213-6150)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TillmanElementary>



Tillman Elementary

Tillman is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters