



Tillman

Family Update

November 5, 2023

Tillman Family - We greatly appreciate your ongoing support, especially as we collectively navigated the last three weeks and celebrated our kids on Halloween. We were thrilled to welcome over three hundred visitors to campus on Tuesday, and it was exciting to have our students walk through the new gym and library on our parade. We look forward to officially opening these spaces, and our new classrooms, in the next few weeks.

We hope you've been able to enjoy this beautiful fall weekend. Please read on for numerous important bits of information. Take care, and have a great week.

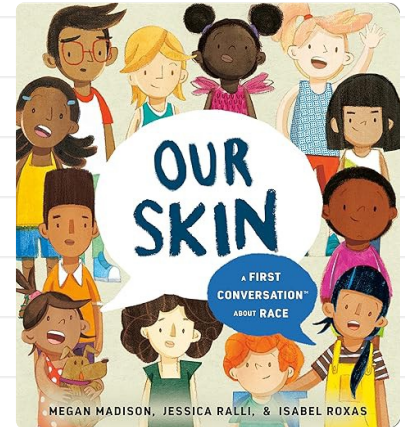
Bryan, Max, and your team at Tillman

Mark Your Calendar

- Nov 6 (M) - [C Day](#).
- Nov 7 (T) - No school for students, Tillman Night at [Chicken Out!](#) on Manchester
- 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
- Nov 28 (T) - PTO meeting, 7pm
- Dec 20 (W) - End of First Semester
- Dec 21-Jan 3 - Winter Recess
- Mar 2 (Sa) - Tillman Trivia Night

Safe & Inclusive Spaces, Week Two

Tillman began a four week, school-wide book study last week to discuss belonging and racism with our students. The entire school hears the same read-aloud on morning announcements each week, and then classroom teachers facilitate age-appropriate discussions centered around the same question. This work is necessary, at least in part, to address an unfortunate increase we've seen in the use of racial slurs and hurtful language.



- All students heard [A Kids Book About Belonging](#) last week, discussing the question, "What can you do to make everyone feel they belong at Tillman?"
- All students will hear our second read aloud, [Our Skin](#), on Monday, Nov 6, and discuss the question, "**How do we honor every individual at Tillman?**"
- Over the course of the next two weeks, will also read and discuss *A Kids Book About Racism* and an excerpt from *Antiracist Kid*.

Families can help reinforce this important work by talking to your Trailblazer about honoring the dignity of individuals and rejecting hate. In addition to the links 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

Veterans Day Assembly This Friday

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

VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY
Friday, November 10

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

Panorama Survey Window Closing Soon

We're up to 49 Tillman parents/guardians who have completed our Panorama survey, but we'd REALLY like to get this number up to and over one hundred. These surveys inform our thinking and help us measure and plan for our 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>

Tillman Restaurant Day at Chicken Out! - This Tuesday

Tillman's next restaurant day will be at Chicken-Out (10463 Manchester Road) on November 7 from 11am-9pm. 15% of all dine-in, carry-out, & drive thru orders benefit our students! Order online or via its app. Be sure to mention 'Fundraiser' and help raise funds for Tillman!



Boundary Adjustment Updates

If you have not yet had a chance to read information about boundary adjustments from Monday's [KSD eSpotlight](#), we encourage you to do so. Please know that district administrators and an outside consulting group have weighed the benefits and challenges of numerous boundary and waiver options over the last two years, at both the elementary and middle school level. Even with the recent announcement about elementary boundaries, administrators and members of the Board of Education are committed to exploring options that would address priority areas identified during the community feedback process, including the Tillman split. These discussion will continue, with transparency and communication a priority.

Construction Update

Our beautiful new library and gym spaces will be ready and open for general use at some point next week, with moves into new classroom spaces beginning around Thanksgiving. We're also excited to have roughly sixty new parking spaces now available to staff and visitors in our back lot, accessible on the east end of our campus. We will likely not shift any arrival/pickup routines to the back of the building until late November or early December, allowing time to fine-tune and communicate any plans.



We Are All Trailblazers - T-Shirts Now Available

As mentioned last week, 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. **These shirts are also now available to anyone in our community, with proceeds from sales going towards counseling support and resources at Tillman.** You can [view and purchase shirts here](#). Shirts can be delivered to schools or shipped to an address for an additional cost.

Spring Musical Reveal

Friday's Hispanic Heritage Celebration assembly included a performance by Vocal Edge, a student-led "Culture Game Show," and the surprise reveal of Tillman's spring musical. Auditions for Frozen will be December 4-7, during 2nd-5th grade music classes. More information will be coming soon, including audition materials and rehearsal schedules. The musical will be held on April 18-20.





Tillman 23-24 Musical Reveal



STEAMfest 2024

It's now time to register your Trailblazer for KSD's annual STEAMfest science fair! We're excited to bring back this event in person for Kirkwood students. To reserve your spot, please complete our [KSD STEAMFest reservation form](#) for each student participant by Monday, Nov 27. Emails will be sent in early December to those who register, with important information regarding project approval and project submission with their deadlines. For additional information about STEAMFest, please visit our website at kirkwoodschoools.org/STEAMFest.

Lost & Found

This the season for a growing Lost & Found, as many students tend to wear a jacket or sweatshirt in the morning but feel they no longer need the added layers at recess. You may want to add a name or initials to anything you know you want kids to bring home.



Trailblazer Cafe

We were thrilled to celebrate another twenty-some Tillman students on Friday at Trailblazer Cafe. We're proud of these students who've been putting Blaze's 3 BEs into action!



Kindergarten



1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade

Repeat (and Still Important) Information

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.

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](#).

Shout-Outs

Special thanks to all of our volunteers who made the Halloween celebrations such a wonderful experience for our Tillman community! Your hard work allows us to stay connected as a community and show our Tillman pride. Go Trailblazers!



Save the Date: Tillman Trivia Night

Bust out your bell bottoms and get ready to boogie down with your fellow Trailblazer's at Tillman's annual trivia night and auction. This year's event, themed **Saturday Night Fever**, will take place on Saturday, March 2 at Ursuline Academy.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or have an item or tickets to donate to this year's auction, please send an email to tillmantrivianight@gmail.com.

PTO Repeat (and Still Important) Information

From Your PTO Board

The Kirkwood School District is committed to creating a community of belonging through equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and understanding to be empathetic, successful, and to treat all people with dignity.

Tillman PTO would like to align with the KSD strategic plan to promote the values of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) within our community. These values have been stated in the KSD strategic plan (click [HERE](#) for the plan) and as a community we are responsible for finding ways to uphold and pursue these values.

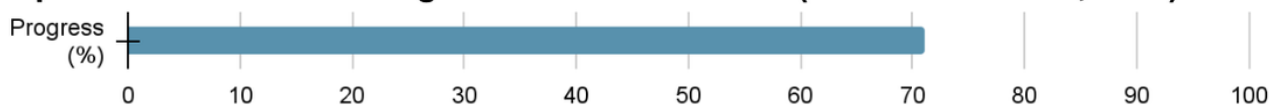
Therefore Tillman PTO provided official notice at the PTO meeting on 9/26/2023 of the proposal to add up to two DEI Officers to the PTO Board and to amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the Tillman Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to reflect the change. At the next PTO meeting on 11/28/2023, members will vote on the proposals. Tillman PTO encourages you to review the proposed changes (click [HERE](#) for the proposal).

Donate to Express Fund

Express Fund is the PTO's no-hassle/no-selling fundraising tradition and one of the largest sources

grants and stipends, funding for school projects and field trips, community building activities, and financial assistance as needed in the school community. A donation of \$35 per student is recommended for meeting our budget goals, but any amount helps. There is also an optional "Trailblazer Level" of \$100 which comes with the opportunity to win various prizes throughout the year! You can make your tax-deductible donation via [MySchoolBucks](#).

Express Fund Donation Progress Versus Goal - 71% (As of November 3, 2023):



A number of additional PTO items that were previously shared 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](#).

Latest KSD Spotlight

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/Ly3yEgMAY1PhPWTFa>

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

JOIN US FOR THE 27TH ANNUAL CHILI BOWL

Limited Seating
Ticket sales are
open

\$12 Adults
\$5 for Kids and
K-12 Students

Your ticket includes a chili
sample from each
participating restaurant,
hot dogs, drinks, and dessert.



**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