



November 12, 2023

Tillman Family - It was another great week at Tillman, punctuated by a wonderful Veterans Day celebration on Friday. It's difficult to believe we only have seven school days left before Thanksgiving, and then winter break will be here before we know it. My family is also excited for our daughter's college graduation, next month.

Please read below for important information about this week's food drive and theme days, our ongoing school-wide book study, Turkey Day events, and a follow-up about the Trunk or Treat event. We'd also really appreciate you taking this year's [Panorama survey](#), if you haven't already.

We'll likely send reminders in the next few days about theme days. Have a wonderful start to your week.

Bryan, Max, and your team at Tillman

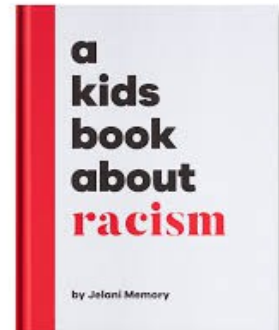
Mark Your Calendar

- Nov 13 (M) - [C Day](#); Tillman Food Drive begins; Sports Team Day
- Nov 14 (T) - Picture Retake Day; Silly Sock Day
- Nov 15 (W) - Backwards Dress Day
- Nov 16 (Th) - Wacky Hair Day
- Nov 17 (F) - Pajama & Stuffed Animal 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 Three

Tillman began a four week, school-wide book study last month 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.



- Our first read aloud was [A Kids Book About Belonging](#), with all classes discussing the question, "What can you do to make everyone feel they belong at Tillman?"
- Our second read aloud was [Our Skin](#), with all classes discussing the question, "How do we honor every individual at Tillman?"
- This week all students will hear the book [A Kids Book About Racism](#) and discuss the question, "**How does racism make it harder to belong?**"
- Our final read aloud, next week, will be 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. If you have any questions, please contact [Mr. Hoover](#) or [Dr. Painter](#).

Panorama Family Survey

KSD has extended the deadline for our parent/guardian survey, but we'd still VERY much appreciate your participation and feedback. We currently have 72 Tillman parents/guardians who have completed the Panorama survey, but we'd love to get this number up to and over one hundred. 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>

New/Updated Information

Tillman Food Drive for Kirkcare

Fifth Grade is excited to sponsor Tillman's annual Kirkcare Food Drive, the week of November 13-17. Each day this week will have a theme (see below), and the grade level that collects the most items will win a special surprise. Please review Kirkcare's Preferred Shopping List for desired food donations.

- Monday - "wear your favorite sports team gear" day
- Tuesday - "silly sock" day
- Wednesday - "backwards dress" day
- Thursday - "wacky hair" day
- Friday - "pajama and stuffed animal" day

TILLMAN FOOD DRIVE **NOVEMBER 13-17**

Help us to fill the pantry at Kirkcare!
KIRK CARE'S PREFERRED SHOPPING LIST:

MEATS (CHICKEN, SPAM)	GROUND COFFEE
FISH (TUNA, SALMON)	RICE
STEW	LOW SUGAR CEREAL
HEARTY SOUPS	OATMEAL
CHILI	COMPLETE MEALS & MEAL KITS
BEANS (PROTEIN CANNED OR DRIED)	DINNER MIXES (HAMBURGER HELPER, ETC)
TOMATO PRODUCTS	MACARONI & CHEESE
FRUITS (CANNED OR DRIED)	DESSERT MIXES
PASTA	BAKING STAPLES
PASTA SAUCES (CANNED)	PROTEIN/POWER BARS
CANNED PASTA	LAUNDRY DETERGENT
PEANUT BUTTER	DISH DETERGENT
JELLY/JAM	TOILET PAPER

Let's have fun bringing awareness to hunger insecurity by participating in theme days. Bring an item each day and follow the theme of the day!

MONDAY SPORTS DAY **TUESDAY SILLY Sock Day** **WEDNESDAY BACKWARDS DRESS DAY!**

THURSDAY WACKY HAIR DAY **FRIDAY PAJAMA DAY AND STUFFED ANIMAL DAY!**

SPONSORED BY FIFTH GRADE

Veterans Day Assembly

Tillman held our annual Veterans Day assembly on Friday morning, honoring the brave men and women who have served in our Armed Forces. We greatly appreciate all who were able to attend, including the many veterans with loved ones who attend Tillman. Thanks to Vocal Edge and the Scouts for their roles in making the event extra special!



Vocal Edge at Tillman Veterans Day Assembly





Trunk or Treat Follow Up

It's hard to believe, in many ways, that it's been nearly a month since our Trunk or Treat event. While most things at school have returned to normal, we understand that the events of October 15 continue to impact our kids, teachers, and families in different ways.

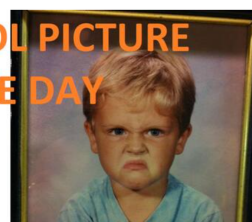
- As we move into the holiday season, it's important to remember that kids and adults may be affected by seemingly "normal" sounds, such as fireworks, popping champagne/wine corks, and popping balloons. Preparing for the possibilities of these sounds, and the feelings they could trigger, may be helpful to you and your children - especially if your family was at the event.
- If you'll be with family or in large-group settings during the holidays, it's possible that others may ask how you're doing and/or naturally be curious about details of the event. You may want to think in advance about how you'll handle any such questions, particularly if you'd prefer not to talk about your experience and/or feelings. If you'd prefer the event not be discussed with or around your children, it may be smart to share this with your loved ones in advance.
- If you need immediate support on an individual level, you can still reach out directly to Behavioral Health Response for a virtual or home appointment. They provide crisis support, telephone counseling and mental health resources 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They can be reached at 314-469-6644 (emergency response) or 314-628-6204 (non-emergency number).

As you may have heard, a grand jury recently indicted the defendant, who now faces fifteen charges (up from the original eleven). We've received requests to provide regular updates on the case, as so many parents understandably have a vested interest in the proceedings. We're happy to do what we can, but we don't have privileged access to information and families can likely get their most up-to-date news by tracking the case on [Missouri Case.net](#). Ongoing information about the case can be searched using the Case Number [23SL-CR09664](#) and signing up to receive notifications via email and/or texts.

Picture Retake Day

Wagner Portrait Group will be at school on Tuesday, November 14 to photograph any students who were absent on the initial picture day or any student that needs his/her picture retaken. Orders can be placed [here](#). The online pre-order password is: 4G7X4Y9Z

**SCHOOL PICTURE
RETAKE DAY**



If you are having a picture taken as a RETAKE, please make sure your student returns their package in its entirety, including the package insert sheet, to the photographer on retake day. Feel

free to attach a note to describe what you'd like us to do differently. Can't order online or have other questions? Call Wagner Portrait Group at 314-567-5900.

Trailblazer Cafe

We were thrilled to celebrate more Tillman students at Trailblazer Cafe last week. 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

KSD Information & Updates

Speaker Series Invite

Staff and families are invited to the Nipher Parent Speaker Series on November 15 at 6:00pm. Dr. Sylvester, a child and adolescent psychiatrist at Washington University School of Medicine, will present and answer questions about child anxiety disorders. The link to sign up for in-person attendance is here:

<https://forms.gle/vdTNbax3v5N723Uy8>



This presentation will also be live-streamed on YouTube at the following link at that time for those who cannot attend in person: <https://youtube.com/live/8EkQcDmiZJg?feature=share>

Dr. Sylvester completed M.D. and Ph.D. (neuroscience) degrees in 2009, a general residency in psychiatry in 2012, and a fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry in 2014, all at Washington University School of Medicine. Dr. Sylvester uses computer tasks and neuroimaging to study brain function in youth and infants to better understand anxiety disorders.

Turkey Day & Chili Bowl

- 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.](#)
- Tickets to the Turkey Day game are also now on sale at <https://www.kirkwoodschools.org/Domain/1668>. Be sure to select "Kirkwood Presale General Admission" online for proceeds to stay in Kirkwood. Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the gate. Kids six and under are free. Please note, that there is a processing fee for online purchases. In-person sales will begin on Monday, November 6 through Monday, November 20 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the KHS Athletic Office or the KHS Welcome Center. Cash or checks made payable to "KHS" only. No credit card purchases in person. Proceeds from advanced tickets sold in Kirkwood (both online and at the athletic office) are contributed to KHS programs.
- For a full list of Turkey Day/Spirit Week activities, please visit KSD's [Turkey Day website](#).

Repeat (and Still Important) Information



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 kirkwoodschools.org/STEAMFest.

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 Repeat (and Still Important) Information

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

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).



Save the Date: Tillman Trivia Night

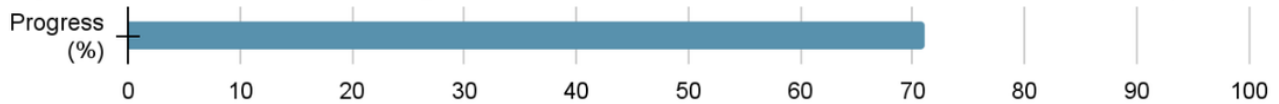
Bust out your bell bottoms and get ready to boogie down with your fellow Trailblazer's at Tillman's annual trivia night and auction. This year's event, themed **Saturday Night Fever**, will take place on Saturday, March 2 at Ursuline Academy.

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.

Donate to Express Fund

Express Fund is the PTO's no-hassle/no-selling fundraising tradition and one of the largest sources of income for our organization. All students directly benefit from the PTO, which provides teacher 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
eSpotlight

Latest KSD Spotlight



Family Update Archive



Latest BOE News

Digital Flyers

TILLMAN FOOD DRIVE

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Sock Day

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DAY!

THURSDAY
WACKY
HAIR DAY

FRIDAY
PAJAMA DAY
AND STUFFED ANIMAL DAY!



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@kirkwoodschools.org

Website: <https://www.kirkwoodschools.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