



Tillman

Family Update

November 19, 2023

Tillman Family - We have a short week ahead of us, at least a short school week, and it'll be winter break before we know it. We wanted to take a moment to share how much we appreciate our families and all you do for our students and our school. We're also incredibly grateful, on a personal level, for how we've been welcomed into the Tillman family over the last two years. This is a great place to be, with terrific kids, staff members, and families, and we certainly don't take our good fortune for granted. Tillman has a bright and exciting future, but it's also important to recognize that our here-and-now is pretty special, too. During this Thanksgiving week, we say thank you.

Tacky Day on Monday (black & orange) and Spirit Day on Tuesday (red & white). Have a wonderful week and a terrific holiday.

Bryan, Max, and your team at Tillman

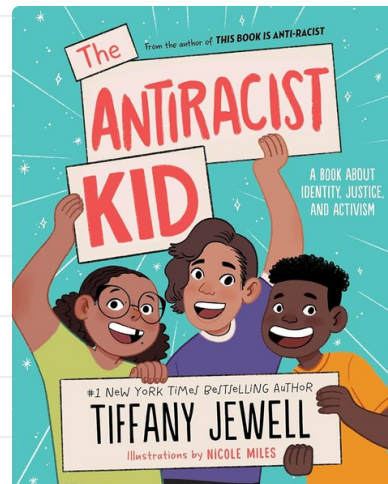
Mark Your Calendar

- Nov 20 (M) - [D Day](#); Turkey Day Spirit Week - Tacky Day (wear orange & black)
- Nov 21 (T) - Turkey Day Spirit Day (wear red & white); Turkey Trot; Leaf Raking
- Nov 22 (W) - No school; KSDF Chili Bowl; Kirkwood High Pep Rally
- Nov 23 (Th) - No school, KHS Turkey Day game; Happy Thanksgiving!
- Nov 24 (F) - No school, Thanksgiving Recess
- Nov 27 (M) - [B Day](#)
- Nov 28 (T) - PTO meeting, 7pm in new library
- Dec 5 (T) - Tillman Restaurant Night at [Hi-Pointe Kirkwood](#)
- Dec 11 (M) - Vocal Edge concert at KHS, 6:00
- Dec 12 (T) - Vocal Edge concert at Tillman, 7:00

- Dec 15 (F) - Kindergarten musical for families, 2:30
- Dec 20 (W) - Pajama Day; End of First Semester
- Dec 21-Jan 3 - Winter Recess
- Jan 23 (T) - PTO meeting/Summer Camp Informational Fair
- Mar 2 (Sa) - Tillman Trivia Night

Safe & Inclusive Spaces, Week Four

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?"
- Last week all students heard the book, [A Kids Book About Racism](#) and discussed the question, "How does racism make it harder to belong?"
- For our fourth read aloud, students will hear an excerpt from [The Antiracist Kid](#) and discuss the question, "**How can you be a positive change for the Tillman Community?**"

Families can continue to 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



Thank you to the 86 Tillman parents/guardians who have completed the Panorama family survey. We suspect the survey will be closed in the next week or so, so any final push we can make to add to this number is greatly appreciated. Not that we're competitive... but two other elementary schools have well over one hundred respondents! To complete the survey, please click

[HERE](#).

New/Updated Information

Turkey Trot

We will hold our annual Turkey Trot event on Tuesday, November 21. Our event kicks off with an assembly at 9:00 in the gym for all students, where we will enjoy performances by Vocal Edge and Pepper Steppers before exiting the gym to begin our run/walk around the neighborhood. We will have staff positioned throughout the route and Officer Steve Olsen will also be on site. Families are welcome to watch the Turkey Trot along the route. Students will trot north on Bernice, west on Sarah, south on Curran and east on Quan. If you or your child(ren) are uncomfortable with the event as planned, we will have an optional video set-up in the music room.



Leaf Raking - Loaners & Donations Needed

We are also excited to give back to our community with a Leaf Raking event on Tuesday, November 21. Students will be raking leaves in identified yards throughout our neighborhood, as a service project and act of kindness to our community. Please sign up [HERE](#) if you are willing to donate yard bags and/or loan us a rake and/or leaf scooper to be used on this day. We greatly appreciate your support. We could not pull off this worthwhile event without you.

STEAMfest 2024

The deadline to register your Trailblazer for KSD's annual STEAMFest science fair is Monday, **November 27**, the day after Thanksgiving recess. We hope that many Tillman students will participate this year! To reserve your spot, please complete our [KSD STEAMFest reservation form](#) for each student participant. 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.



Counselors' Corner

November is National Gratitude Month. Expressing gratitude on a regular basis has both physical and mental health benefits such as reducing stress, depression, anxiety, pain and improving immunity and sleep quality. At Tillman, we push our students to practice gratitude all year long! Further, when appropriate, we encourage our kiddos to replace thoughts of what's going wrong with thoughts of gratitude. Children mimic our behavior and mood so when parents share things they are thankful for, it helps promote positivity and improves everyone's overall health. Give it a try at the dinner table. Happy Thanksgiving. We are thankful that your family is part of our Tillman family!

Volunteer Opportunity

Our new Tillman Library is looking for volunteers to help with checking in and out books, shelving materials, and other projects. Please use [this link](#) you'd like to sign up. New volunteers should plan to visit the library for an orientation training on Monday, Nov 27th from 1:00-1:30 and let [Mrs. Curtis](#) know via email if they cannot attend.



Magazine Donations Needed

The counseling center is in need of child appropriate magazines to use for various activities. Thank you in advance for any donations!

Trailblazer Cafe - November 17

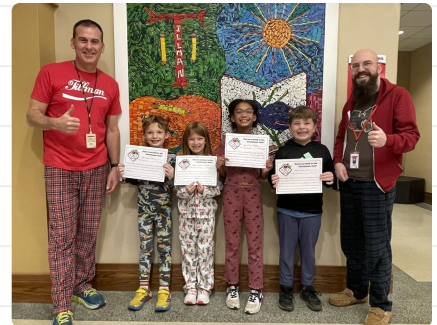
We were excited to celebrate another group of Tillman students at Trailblazer Cafe last week. We're proud of these students who've been putting Blaze's 3 BEs into action!



Kindergarten



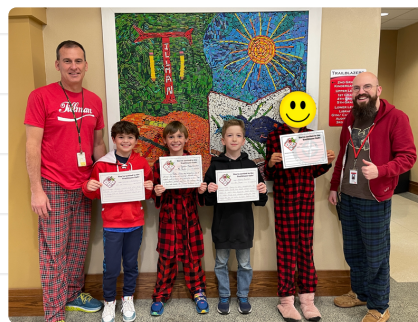
1st Grade



2nd Grade



3rd Grade



4th Grade



5th Grade

Repeat (and Still Important) 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 Information

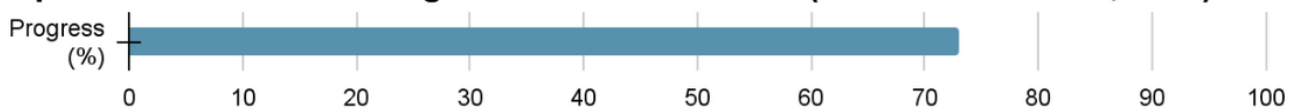
Additional information about PTO can be found on our [Tillman PTO website](#).

Breaking News: Tillman Express Fund

We are pleased to announce our **Thanksgiving Express Fund Trailblazer Level Challenge**: Anyone who donates at the \$100 Trailblazer level will be automatically entered in a drawing for an Andy's \$50 gift card. Donations must be submitted by November 30th to be eligible for this challenge. Current and new Trailblazer level donors are eligible. You can make your tax-deductible donation via [MySchoolBucks](#).

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 - 73% (As of November 17, 2023):



PTO Meeting

Please join us in our new library for our second PTO meeting, at 7:00 on Tuesday, Nov 28. This is a great opportunity to connect with other parents and stay up-to-date on all things Tillman. Childcare will be provided.

- We will vote on the proposal to add up to two DEI Officers to the PTO Board by amending the Constitution and Bylaws of the Tillman Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to reflect the change (click [HERE](#) for the proposal). If you are interested in these positions, please contact a PTO Board member or email tillmanpto@kirkwoodschoools.org. Assuming successful passage of the proposal, voting will then take place on the nominations for the DEI Officer positions.
- We will also share committee updates, review upcoming events, and offer a Q & A session with the PTO Board and Tillman administrators.

Restaurant Night at Hi-Pointe - Tuesday, Dec 5

Tillman's December restaurant night will be held at Hi-Pointe (951 S Kirkwood Road Kirkwood, MO 63122) ALL DAY. Fifteen percent of all dine-in, carry-out orders benefit our school! Order online or via the Hi-Pointe app. Be sure to mention 'FUNDRAISER' and help raise funds for Tillman!

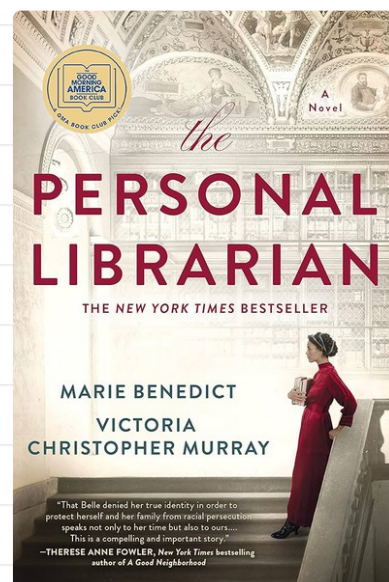


NOTE: If ordering online or with the app, please be sure to enter **FUNDRAISER** (ALL CAPS) in the promo code field when checking out.

Tillman Unite Book Club - New Date & Location

Join us on Dec 7 at 7pm for the first Tillman Unite book club meeting of the year! We will be discussing [The Personal Librarian](#) by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. This is the fictionalized story of Belle da Costa Greene, a Black woman who passed herself off as white to work in JP Morgan's personal library.

Tillman parent and avid reader, Kate Meyer, will be facilitating our discussion in a welcoming and supportive environment. This is a great opportunity to connect with others and to learn more about and from each other. Even if you haven't finished (or started!) the book, we welcome you to join us and contribute your valuable thoughts to the discussion.



[The Personal Librarian](#) is widely available at public libraries, various booksellers, and Tillman Unite's Lending Library in Tillman's main office. Join us to discuss this remarkable story on Thursday, December 7 at 7 PM in the NEW Tillman library. Free childcare and refreshments provided. All are welcome! *If you haven't already, please [join us on Facebook!](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Thursday, December 7 at 7 PM [The Personal Librarian](#) book club

Tuesday, February 20 at 7 PM Book/media club (topic TBD)

Tuesday, March 12 at 7 PM Meeting (topics TBD)

Tuesday, April 16 at 7 PM Book/media club (topic TBD)



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.

KSD Information & Updates

Turkey Day & Chili Bowl

Tickets to the Turkey Day game can be purchased on the [KSD website](#). 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 are available through Monday, Nov 20, from 9:00-3:00 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](#).

PTO Repeat (and Still Important) Information

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
-



Latest KSD Spotlight



Family Update Archive



Latest BOE News

Buzz Book

Digital Flyers



Bring science inquiry to life by participating in STEAMfest! Reserve your spot today to participate. See below for dates to remember.

NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	FEBRUARY	APRIL & MAY
11/27 Final Day to Reserve your spot in STEAMfest 	12/14 Application Due 12/21 Students are notified of Project Approval	2/9 Project Submission 2/10 at noon Judging Results <i>Students receive grading info. and STEAMfest ranking</i>	Additional Information & Dates for Regional STEAMfest Coming Soon!

Visit kirkwoodschoools.org/steamfest by November 27, 2023 to participate.





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