

February 2019

# School Update

Bringing the latest news within the TBAISD MOCI and SXI programs to students, families, and the community.

933 Rose St., Traverse City, Michigan, 49686 | 231.933.5758



Hello students, families, and friends,

I hope that you are staying warm and safe during this time of record low temperatures and icy roads. While it seems like winter is never going to end, we do have much to look forward to in the coming months. Please take a moment to look through this newsletter to learn about some of the learning activities that students have been involved in. Please let me know if you have any questions about events coming up or any concerns related to your child's education. As always, thank you for sharing your children with us!

Sincerely,  
MartyAnn Guiney  
Principal of TBAISD MOCI, SXI, and Homebound Programs

## Students Get Into the Holiday Spirit!

Thank you once again for sharing your children with us during our Holiday Celebration Event this year. This yearly tradition allows parents to have some time to themselves for shopping while students spend time with their school friends. Students had fun participating in activities focused on different holidays, decorating cookies, doing holiday crafts, and sharing a meal together. We were fortunate to have a visit from Santa again this year at Traverse Heights as well. He is always a big hit with our students!



## TCAPS Peers Help Students in Mrs. Barker's Class Learn Math and Literacy

Mrs. Barker's class loves their second grade peers from Mrs. Rosalie Overheul's classroom at Traverse Heights Elementary! In December, the students from both classrooms worked together on a math lesson. They graphed what part of the gingerbread man cookie each participant bit off first. The students worked in small groups and then did a whole class graph. They found out most students bite off the head first!

Every Thursday afternoon a few of our TCAPS peer friends meet Mrs. Barker's class in the Library and read stories to her students. Presently, Mrs. Barker's class is learning about instruments. This past Thursday, her students and their peers acted out *Peter and the Wolf* together as they listened to the recorded version. Mrs. Davis's classroom came to watch. They had so much fun, and the wolf was a hit!



## SCHOOL & COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Feb. 16th:** *Pick of the Litter*, 25 cent matinee at The Bijou Theater in Traverse City, 10:30. This is a sensory-friendly event. *Pick of the Litter* is a documentary about the journey that dogs go on to become guide dogs for the blind. This looks like a good movie for those interested in guide dogs or for any dog lover!

**Feb. 20th:** Parent Network Workshop on Employment being hosted by Disability Network at the TBAISD Conference Center at 1101 Red Drive in Traverse City. 6:00-8:00 p.m. RSVP to Nicole Miller at 922-0903 ext. 318 or [Nicole@disabilitynetwork.net](mailto:Nicole@disabilitynetwork.net)

**Feb. 21st:** Valentine's Dance hosted by Arts for All. 6:30-8:30 at the Elk's Lodge, 625 Bay Street, Traverse City. Open to all teenagers and adults with disabilities. \$5.00 admission.

**March 16th:** St. Patrick's Day Party with musical guest Finnegan at the East Bay Branch Library, 1:30-2:00. Come join in music, stories, crafts, and more to celebrate St. Patrick's day!

**March 20th:** Parent Network Workshop on Recreation and Community being hosted by Disability Network at the TBAISD Conference Center at 1101 Red Drive in Traverse City. 6:00-8:00 p.m. RSVP to Nicole Miller at 922-0903 ext.318 or [Nicole@disabilitynetwork.net](mailto:Nicole@disabilitynetwork.net)

**March 22-31: No School, Spring Break**

**April:** TBAISD Traverse Heights programs will be hosting literacy events for families of students within MOCI and SXI programs. More information to come.

**April 19th: No School**

**May 27th: No school**

## Trucking Through the Halls of Traverse Heights

Traverse Heights TBAISD has a new Power Wheels Jeep Wrangler (motorized toy car) to enable our students to experience and learn about mobility skills while having fun. This car is being modified to accommodate our students' special needs. To help our students access the car, a switch was mounted to replace the foot pedal for acceleration. A high school student from the Manufacturing Technology Academy at the TBAISD Career Tech Center is currently designing a seat that will provide support for our students who need additional physical assistance for sitting. So, watch our hallways to see our kiddos "cruising" around in their jeep!



## Students Practice Using Core Vocabulary as They Learn About Rocks

Mrs. Strait's class has been learning about the rock cycle. Students learned that rocks are all different! They are different colors, shapes and sizes. The students had the opportunity to use the core vocabulary words *same*, *different*, *big* and *little* when examining different types of rock. Each student had a chance to break open a geode to find out what was inside while practicing using the core vocabulary words *in*, *what*, and *make*. When learning about the rock cycle the students learned how rocks can change and used the core vocabulary words *push*, *different*, *same*, *on*, and *make*. Mrs. Strait's class really enjoyed this unit!



## Athletes Brave the Cold

On a cold day in January, our students within our MOCI programs ventured out to Timber Ridge to participate in the Special Olympics snowshoeing competition. Our brave and determined athletes gave it their all as they tromped through the snow. Those who did not compete cheered on their friends. All enjoyed time warming up in the lodge!



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS CALENDAR

**Feb. 12– Apr 16:** Tuesdays 4:40-5:30  
Swim Practice at the Civic center

**Apr. 8:** Volleyball organizational meeting, 3:00-4:00 p.m. at Bay Wesleyan Church.

**April 12:** Local Swim meet, 10:00-noon at the Civic Center.

**April 15– May 27:** Mondays at 3:00-4:30 p.m. Volleyball practice at Bay Wesleyan Church.

**April 18:** 4:30-5:30 Track and Field and Bocce organizational meeting at Life Skills Center

**Apr 26, May 3, 10, 17:** 3:30-5:30 Bowling at Lucky Jacks

**Apr 25– May 23:** Thursdays 4:00-5:00 Track & Field and Bocce practice at TC Civic Center

**May 17:** 10:00-1:00 Track & Field and Bocce Spring Games at East Middle School

Special Olympics Michigan Area 2 is an organization independent of TBAISD. For questions or more information, please see [www.somi.org](http://www.somi.org)

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

AT TBAISD, we continue to work to improve our programs for students. Here are a few of the things we have been doing this year to work on school improvement:

- Professional development for all teachers on math instruction for students with cognitive impairments.
- Increasing access to assistive technology for literacy instruction.
- Initiation of the Zones of Regulation Program as a Tier One support for all students to learn about their emotions and how to self-regulate.
- Adoption of the Unique Learning System curriculum for access to science instruction aligned to the new state science standards.