Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse. - Henry Van Dyke

October through December marks the official holiday stretch! The pumpkins, the scarecrows, the turkeys, the tinsel, the garland, and more! TMA/TR is ready for the holiday season. The first quarter comes to an end, and our first assessment or progress comes to a close. We are so proud of the progress that the students have made in these first nine weeks.

We have plenty of exciting activities at TMA/TR for the season. We completed our first annual Trunk or Treat event on campus, held our third Walk for the Cure for Pinktober Friday, and more. Read all about it in this issue of Tiger Tales.
Focus on the Faculty: 
Ms. Sonja Rosarius

Ms. Sonja Rosarius has been a member of the TMA/TR family for many years. Currently, Ms. Rosarius is a Teacher’s Assistant at the Twin Rivers campus during the mornings, and then comes over to our main campus to teach art classes for our First-Sixth grade students.

Ms. Rosarius has a strong passion for education and expression through art. Ms. Rosarius is taking over the role played by Mrs. Guevarra, who unfortunately had to leave the state to handle some family affairs. We wish Mrs. Guevarra the very best as she goes through this difficult time.

Please join us in giving Ms. Rosarius a warm welcome to the main campus!

Alumni Highlight: 
Alexandra Peralta

Our Alumni Highlight for this month focuses on Alexandra Peralta. Alex is sister to Victoria Peralta, another member of our esteemed Alumni Group at TMA/TR. Alex was a part of TMA since the age of three, and graduated with the 8th Grade class of 2009. Upon leaving TMA, Alex went on to Lake Mary Preparatory School for high school. Graduating in the top of her class, Ms. Peralta is now a freshman at Wake Forest University! We are so proud of Alex and wish her the best as she continues on the path of excellence.
The leaves may not be falling and the air may not be chilly, but we here at the TMA/TR PTA know that fall is here and we want to celebrate. **We had a blast at our first ever TMA/TR Trunk or Treat event. A special thanks to Vanessa Huff, Felipe Ortiz, Christine Williams, Trudy Kirby and all our volunteers who helped create this memorable event!**

We have been enjoying our Spirit Nights, how about you? **Stay tuned for an update for our November Spirit Night(s).**

Through the year we will be collecting and donating food items to Families in Transition, a charity that helps Seminole County homeless and hungry children. During this holiday season we would like to make it more personal and sponsor holiday meals for individual families. As in past years, we want to participate in the **Basket Brigade**, an annual event that provides Thanksgiving meals to hundreds of struggling local families - this year we would like to sponsor families in December as well. **WE NEED HELP ORGANIZING FOR THIS AMAZING CAUSE.** We would like each class to sponsor 1 family, putting together a complete holiday meal (basket.) If you are able to help in any capacity, please reach out to any PTA board member, or call/email me directly (contact info below.)

**Mark your calendars for our Drop and Shop on December 14th.** Bring the kids to us at the TMA campus for a fun-filled time while you go out and shop, wrap presents or, well, take a well-deserved nap! We’ll have qualified babysitters on site leading activities with the kids. The fee for this service will be kept very affordable.

**No-Fuss Fundraising Opportunity:** Did you know that you can raise money for our school while going about your regular everyday activities? You can raise money every time you do an Internet search! Go to [http://www.goodsearch.com/](http://www.goodsearch.com/) where you can sign up. Select Tuskawilla Montessori Academy PTA as the charity you’re raising money to. Set GoodSearch as your default browser and then every time you search 0.01 is donated to our school.

**Calling All Volunteers:** This year the PTA is taking a different approach and encouraging the parents/teachers to decide on the activities we pursue. Decisions have been made about the upcoming activities but there is as yet not enough volunteers to make the events a success.

Thank you Parents, Teachers and Children for everything you do to make the TMA/TR community so welcoming and enthusiastic. We couldn’t do it without you!

Christine Mauriello and the entire PTA Board
407-968-6702
cem6178@gmail.com
Tuskawilla Montessori Academy

TMA Happenings

November 6: Dress Up/Dress Down Day
November 12: Lower Elementary Field Trip: Blue Springs State Park
November 12: CFPA Star Kids Performance at TMA Gym
November 26: Thanksgiving Feast (Joint TMA/TR in TMA Gym)
November 27-29: Thanksgiving Break (School Closed-No Child Care)

*For the latest events/dates, please visit our website at www.tuskmont.org

Pinktober 2013-Walk for the Cure 3

A special thanks to all of our amazing participants, volunteer parents, and more! We were able raise over $1,000 for Martha’s Angels! We enjoyed having Ms. Hillary, President and Founder of Martha’s Angels, there with us during our walk and school-wide picture. She shared her passion for breast cancer awareness and the driving force behind starting her non-profit organization.

Famous Faces in Montessori

Jimmy Wales
Founder-Wikipedia

Jimmy Wales is the founder of the famous online research tool, Wikipedia. He has attended the University of Alabama and Indiana University, where he received a PhD in finance. He taught at several universities throughout the nation before starting Wikipedia and web-hosting company, Wikia.
Tuskawilla Montessori Academy

**Chess Club**

Interested in joining our Chess Club? We have a Beginner's Group and the Advanced Group that meet once a week, at the TMA Main Campus. Interested in joining? Email Coach Huff at Vhuff@tuskmont.org

**Cooking Classes!**

Does your child show passion for cooking? Would you like your child to help around the kitchen at dinnertime? Register for Cooking Classes at TMA! Contact Mrs. Garner at sgarner@cfl.rr.com for more information! Classes are offered before and after school.

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**Thanksgiving Break**

TMA/TR will be closed from 11/27-11/29 for Thanksgiving Break (no childcare available). We wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving

**Thanksgiving Feast**

**Tuesday, 11/26**

Both Main Campus and Twin Rivers Campus students will meet in the gym for a school-wide feast. Please stay tuned for an email from your teachers with more information!

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**TMA Student Highlight: Children In Need**

For the holiday season, TMA students will be visiting children with terminal diseases and sharing the love of the holiday season! We will be making fleece blankets to deliver to each child, along with a message of caring and holiday peace. If you would like to help us out in this quest, please email Felipe at FOrtiz@tuskmont.org. We will need parent volunteers to make the blankets with our students, fleece donations, and more. The more the merrier!

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**Baby DJ**

Stay tuned for our annual Baby DJ Toy Drive!
Preschool/Kindergarten

In November, we will be discussing the First Thanksgiving, The Mayflower, Pilgrims, and Native American culture. We will also emphasize the importance of table manners, nutrition, and sharing. Our school feast will be a memorable one for the children. We will be joining the rest of the student body for a joined feast in the Main Campus gymnasium. They will be helping play a part in this annual tradition at TMA/TR! They will be dressed up as Pilgrims and Native Americans as we learn about the First Thanksgiving and the importance of sharing with your neighbors. The teachers will be contacting you for the items that each class is responsible to share with the rest of the campus. We wish all of our students and families a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Upper Elementary

The month of November brings a flurry of activities to our classrooms. We begin the month with our biography/autobiography book report presentations. Also, in language, we continue to focus on parts of speech and punctuation. The students have been putting these lessons to work through both their vocabulary assignments and by writing in their classroom journals. In math, a final push to the memorization of multiplication facts is underway. This essential knowledge provides a pivotal base for the further learning and understanding of higher math concepts. We are also beginning our exploration into fractions.

Our culture lessons this month will cover the Needs of Man and the beginning of Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas. In science, Ms. Jackie continues the gardening study course with our students every week. From soil tests and measurements, to watering strategy and more; Ms. Jackie has really taken our study of gardening and botany to a new level! A special thanks to all of our volunteer parents for all of your help!

Middle School

The middle school will be studying the American Revolution and the Constitution, while the 6th grade continues to develop projects with their chosen civilization. Writing topics are based on their historical projects. 6-8 grade students will continue to study a unit per/week in their Vocabulary Workshop. Science work will involve the study of elements on the Periodic Table and a study of the atom. Experiments will supplement the student's science activities. Students will also begin planning our annual Native American Festival.
We will celebrate Thanksgiving again this year with both campuses in the gymnasium. The upper school band will be playing for us and a few first - eighth grade students will be speaking. Our preschool and kindergarten students dress up in costumes like the first thanksgiving as Native Americans and Pilgrims as we all gather together and give thanks.

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John F Kennedy

Wishing all of you a Happy Thanksgiving!

-Terry DeLong