



TOUCHSTONE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Greetings from Touchstone

Touchstone Community School
Newsletter
Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome to the first edition of the Touchstone Community School newsletter! This is a newsletter for all of us who are currently part of the Touchstone Community, for alumni and their families, and for the general public wanting to know more about our school.

For those of you reading this who are not familiar with the school, we are thrilled that you are taking the time to learn more about our students, staff, and overall program. We are very proud of our school and we hope that you will enjoy reading about some of the tremendous work and fun that takes place each and every day at Touchstone.

For those of you currently involved in the school, or for past graduates of the school, this newsletter is a celebration of all that we accomplish as a community and all that we should take pride in sharing with one another.

Our newsletter will be printed bi-monthly and will feature stories, art work, updates on the school, upcoming events, and general information on learning, teaching, and development.

With submissions from students past and present, a message from our principal and feature stories, this newsletter will inform, enlighten, educate, and enrich our readers.

Enjoy! And thank you for reading!

- Claire Hanlon (TCS Parent)



Students in the Blue Class (ages 5 and 6) examining eyes during the Human Body theme

Important Dates

April/May

- ☉ May 1st : Open House 4:30-6:30pm
- ☉ May 16th : Theatre Performance 6pm
- ☉ May 20th : Parent Meeting / Annual General Meeting 7:30pm

Inside this issue:

Greetings	1
French Program	1
Message from Ms. Tasha	2
Graduate Update	2
Illustrations	2
Stories & Artwork	3
Celebrating our Staff	4

French is Here to Stay / Le français demeure à Touchstone

Despite changes to the French programs in the province, Touchstone's program will remain unchanged. Touchstone's strong French program starts at age 4.

For the past several months, Mlle. Stéfanie has been working on a "Parent's Guide to Touchstone's French Program".

This guide, which will be available in April, gives detailed information about the program, including expectations of parents at home.

Some of the skills our students will acquire by the end of Grade 5 at Touchstone include the ability to:

- *Converse, read, and write in French, using past, present, and future tense verbs*
- *Identify and use all verb groups (e, ir, re, oir, etc.)*
- *Fluently combine verb tenses in a sentence*
- *Be aware of plurals, gender and accents in spelling and reading.*
- *Identify numbers from 1 to 100 million*
- *Give oral presentations in French*



Mlle. Stéfanie

Message from Ms. Tasha

Before Touchstone had its first student, a group of parents believed that children would benefit from an education that recognizes them as individuals.

We chose teaching methodologies and curricula that stimulate our children's natural curiosity, and quality teachers that are sympathetic to each student's unique gifts and learning styles.

Eight years later, having just completed our parent communications sessions, it is reassuring to know that the founding principles of Touchstone are universally held as the most important aspects of our school for our parents and teachers.

Overwhelmingly, feedback from Touchstone's parents confirms that "quality teachers who develop our children's full individual potential" remains the most important aspect of our school.

Some comments from our parent communication sessions include:

- *My child needs a challenge, and she can get that here at Touchstone*
- *Touchstone works for my child because he has trouble focusing and needs hands-on activities and a small class*



Tasha vanderLinde

- *Learning about Mesopotamia, electricity, medieval African kingdoms, and chemistry maintains my child's interest in school*
- *My child loves the opportunities to present to others and to perform on stage*

In upcoming newsletters, I would like to elaborate on the various things that our wonderful teachers do to recognize and develop the unique gifts of our students.

- Ms. Tasha
TCS Principal

Graduate Update

People are always wondering about our graduates. In every issue we will include information about what they have been up to, what they remember about TCS, and more!

For this first issue, we asked our graduates to tell us what they miss most about their time at Touchstone.

Here were some responses:

- *I miss having hands on activities every day*
- *I miss the easygoing environment and all of the teachers*
- *One thing I really miss about TCS is the teachers. All of them!*
- *I love how the teachers always made the lessons interesting and fun*
- *I miss being one of the older students and being able to help out with all of the younger grades*

Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.
~Voltaire

Writing Begins at 4



Illustrations and Stories



Exploring History



Hunger for Bacon Almost Satisfied

by Zachary (age 10)

Last Friday, February 29th, DJ Wolf, A.K.A. Big Bad Wolf, broke out of Bacon Beach Asylum. Porky Pig, chief of police, has no idea how DJ could have gotten out.

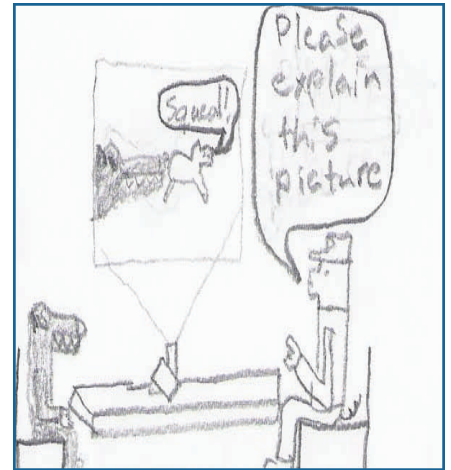
That very same day, at 2:45pm, DJ Wolf was seen chasing two pigs down Edible Lane. The two pigs were running towards a brick house. Once inside, the wolf tried to blow down the house.

After realizing the bricks were too strong, he decided to climb the chimney. Two minutes later, he ran out screaming, "FIRE!".

The pigs were interviewed and said "Such a rude man, blowing down houses and entering without so much as an invitation!".

DJ Wolf was returned to the Bacon Beach Asylum.

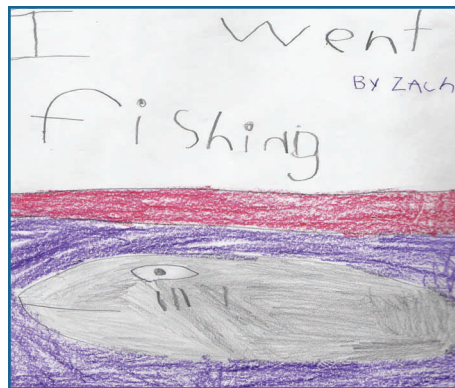
"I just wanted some bacon" was his only comment.



I Went Fishing

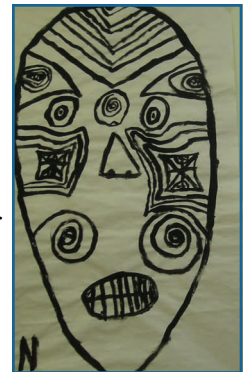
by Zach (age 6)

I went fishing with my Grampy and Dad. I got a big fish. Dad kept catching little ones. We went back to Grandma's house. Dad ate it up and I ate Kraft Dinner!



Maori Masks

This mask by Ian is an example of the wonderful Maori masks created in Art Class by the students in the Orange Class



Best Friends

by Alicia (age 7)

One beautiful day before school had started, I was there meeting all of the kids that would be in the same kindergarten class as me.

"Um, hello", I said kindly to one of the other girls. "My name is Alicia. What is your name?"

"Mira", she replied.

I wanted someone to play with

and I decided it was best to just ask her. "Do you want to play with me?" I asked her full of hope of making a new friend.

"Well, okay", she told me and I felt happiness inside of me because I had found a new friend and now with a thank you to that special moment, I am very best friends with Mira!



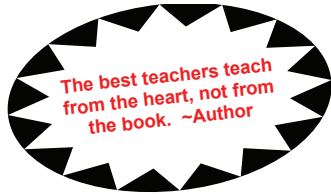


68A Hampton Road
 Rothesay, New Brunswick
 E2E 5L5

Phone: 506-847-2673
 Fax: 506-634-7222

www.touchstonecommunityschool.ca

Please send your questions or comments to
touchstone@touchstonecommunityschool.ca



Celebrating Our Staff and All That They Do

Although it is easy to take for granted the weekly updates that come to us via email from our teachers, it is just another example of how they all go above and beyond for us parents and for our children. Here are excerpts from what they have been working on in class over the last couple of weeks alone. These updates are such a positive reminder of what it is to be a student at Touchstone. Thank you teachers. We appreciate all that you do!

Pre-K to Grade 5
 are in the following
 order
 Red
 Blue
 Green
 Orange
 Purple

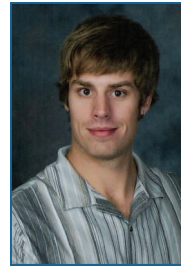
In theme, the Blue Class really enjoyed making paper like the ancient Egyptians. We learned that the Egyptians made paper from the papyrus plant, and that they used the juice from the plant to glue strips together. In class, we glued strips together with thinned down glue that resembled sap from a plant. Each child then added a picture to the dried paper.
 - Ms. Cindy



This week the students have been exploring their last names – printing them in proper capital/lower case format, discovering the letters in their last names, and comparing their last names to others. One of our bulletin boards is now filled with decorated last names, which has enriched lunch-time conversations with who has the longest name, the shortest name, who has similar letters, etc.
 - Ms. Andrea



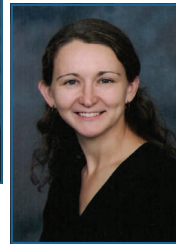
The kids were given an opportunity to show that they could write their own Haiku. I wasn't sure how this would turn out, and to be honest, I had strong doubts about whether this was an age-appropriate activity or not. The kids were so good at identifying syllables in words, and then sentences, that I felt we should at least try. Magical! Everyone was able to produce a great Haiku that followed the correct formula and rhythm!
 - Mr. Colin



The students presented the games they made to the class. I am impressed with the creativity and the math that has been incorporated into every game. Just to name a few, we have "math monopoly", "math bowling", and "race to get out of school".
 - Ms. Sabrina



Ms. Angela, TCS's very first teacher and Vice Principal, will be back from maternity leave in the fall!



SHAKESPEARE! SHAKESPEARE! SHAKESPEARE! The scripts are almost complete, and they look wonderful! Our kids have great imaginations and it has been very interesting to watch the progression of their scripts; you will be pleasantly surprised to learn where they have taken these plays! My Shakespeare research group is moving at high speed as well. They were very excited to begin typing their good copies last week. They have done a remarkable job on this assignment.
 - Ms. Krista



Ms. Dayna (TCS Music Specialist) teaching tin whistles



The Blue and Green classes have greatly enjoyed the various indoor and outdoor games that we have been playing, which encourage the children to work co-operatively, listen carefully to instructions, and run, run, run! We ended last term by revisiting our circuit training stations. Many students were thrilled to see that their scores had improved over their September records. Thank you to the Purple Class who showed great leadership skills while running the stations.
 - Ms. Rebecca (Phys. Ed. Specialist)

Please pass this newsletter along to a family who may be interested in learning about Touchstone, or recycle it.