BULLDOG BULLETIN

TGNS PARENT NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2020/ JANUARY 2021

THOMAS GREGG
NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL

"TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER, TAKE CARE OF THIS PLACE"

A NOTE FROM MR. PIPPIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year, Bulldogs!! Can you believe it is finally 2021? It has been such a difficult and unusual school year so far. I am so proud of all our students, families and staff for their perseverance through all the turmoil. We have still seen lots of great teaching and learning

going on both in person and virtually.

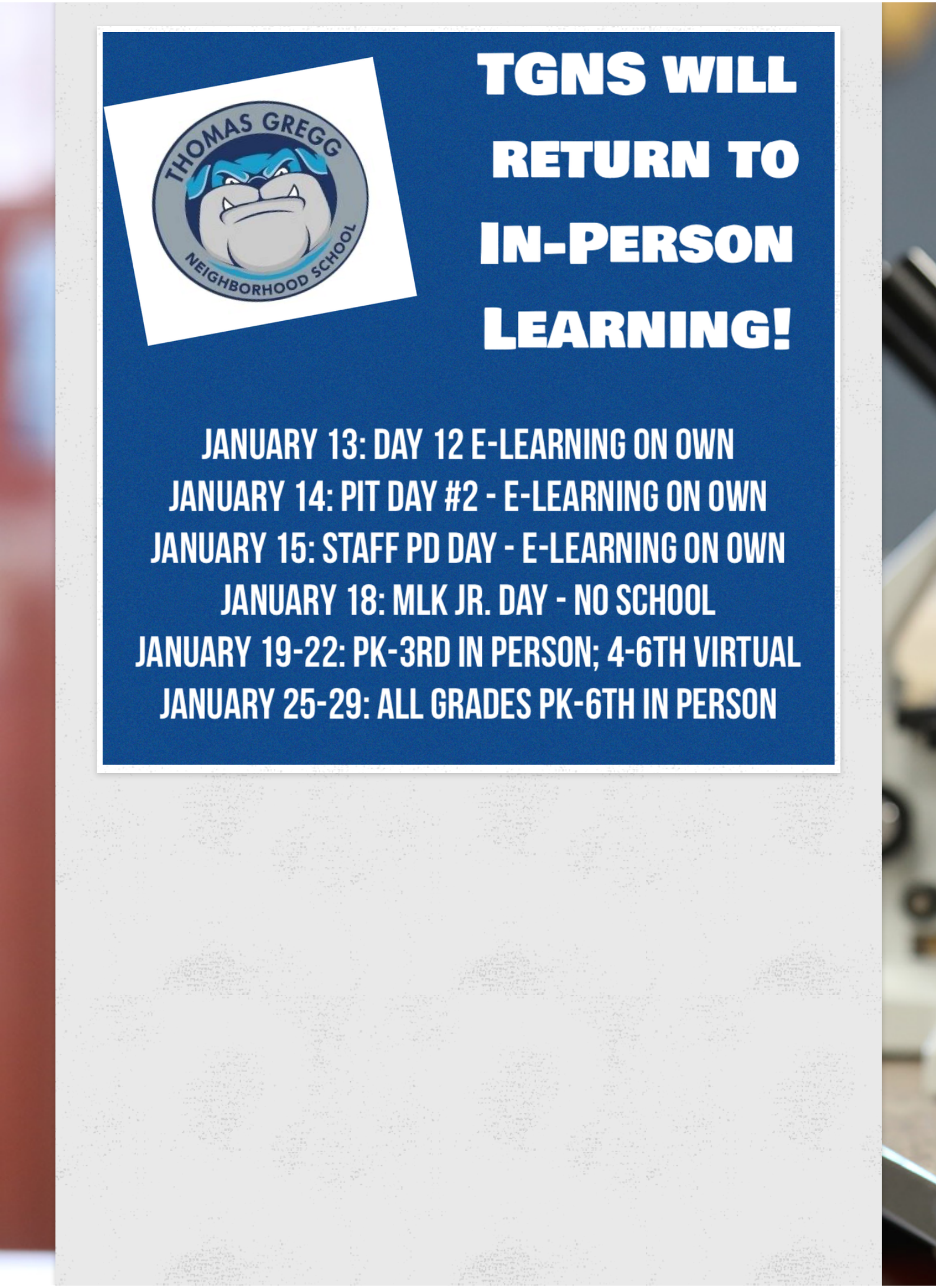
While I am very excited to be able to offer in-person learning again beginning January 19, I still share in the worry and fear of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We will reinstate all our COVID protocols and procedures so that we can do our very best to keep our students and staff safe and healthy. We will also continue to provide a strong virtual learning option for students and families that opt to remain virtual.

I am asking all parents and guardians to remember to screen their child EVERY day before going to school to make sure their child is healthy enough to attend. If your child is showing any symptoms of illness, keep them home and contact the school for attendance purposes.

We look forward to seeing all our smiling (but masked!) faces of students very soon and can't wait to kick off the second half of the school year!

Best,
Mr. Pippin

STUDENTS RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING


TGNS WILL RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING!
THOMAS GREGG
NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL
JANUARY 13: DAY 12 E-LEARNING ON OWN
JANUARY 14: PIT DAY #2 - E-LEARNING ON OWN
JANUARY 15: STAFF PD DAY - E-LEARNING ON OWN
JANUARY 18: MLK JR. DAY - NO SCHOOL
JANUARY 19-22: PK-3RD IN PERSON; 4-6TH VIRTUAL
JANUARY 25-29: ALL GRADES PK-6TH IN PERSON

SCHOOL HOURS

- Front Office Hours: 6:45am - 3:15pm
- Doors open for breakfast: 7:10am
- Tardy Bell: 7:30am

TGNS IS AN "A" RATED SCHOOL!

Thomas Gregg is so very proud to have earned an A grade from the state of Indiana.

BULLDOG STRONG! STAY SAFE EVERYONE!

DO THE FIVE!

Help stop coronavirus

1. Hands -Wash them often
2. Elbow- Cough into it
3. FACE -Don't touch it
4. FEET- Stay more than 6ft apart
5. FEEL sick-Stay home

BULLDOGS OF THE MONTH

What is Bulldog of the Month?

Every month each teacher will select one student from their class to be the BULLDOG of the Month! The teacher will decide what student has shown positive behavior, academic effort, and good attendance. Those students are acknowledged for their achievement.

Each student was given a goody bag filled with treats and prizes as recognition for exemplifying the TGNS Core Values. See below for our November 2020 Bulldogs of the Month.

KINDERGARTEN

Emely Lara Rodrigue
A'layah Alco
Ailyn Nava

FIRST GRADE

Geon Owens
Franklin Ortega-Ortiz
Aaliyah Brown (not pictured)
Seth Pitcher

SECOND GRADE

Janelle Voss
Natalie Keener
Thomas Kayse
Tanya Campos-Perez
(not pictured)

THIRD GRADE

Mi'twuan Harvey
Kiersten Gullens
Grevil Hernandez Ramos
(not pictured)
Emmanuel Garcia
(not pictured)

FORTH GRADE

Christopher Henderson
Emmanuel Ordonez Roblero
Jade Arguelle-Hernandez
Omar Rivera-Ortiz
(not pictured)

FIFTH GRADE

Yaret Lara Rodriguez
Brian Ramos-Leon
Tylen Smith
(not pictured)

SIXTH GRADE

Axa Mora-Avila
Jaden Shepherd
Semaj Chisom
(not pictured)
Amaritza Patton
(not pictured)

DECEMBER 2020 BULLDOGS OF THE MONTH

Our December Bulldogs of the Month could not be photographed due to virtual learning, but we know they still enjoyed their treats and we are so proud to recognize them here!

Preschool

- Allison Elliott

Kindergarten

- Abigail Avila
- Chevy Lawson
- Nat'lee Trujillo
- Madeleine Garcia

First Grade

- Myiah Wilson
- Carolina Ramirez
- Cierra Lewis

Second Grade

- Rita Lara Rodriguez
- Chris Aceves-Nava
- Levi (Richard) Thomas
- Ivaneli Bentiez Vazquez

Third Grade

- Deysi Nava
- Jahiem Carter
- Jacqueline Iriarte

- Josseth Euceda-Ulloa

Fourth Grade

- Amairani Correa-Montoya
- Zaria Davis
- Christopher Zambrano
- Mercedes Brenton

Fifth Grade

- Aleyshanaiz Jimenez
- Emily Costillo-Jimenez
- Camila Vega-Rodriguez
- Whyatt Dickinson

Sixth Grade

- Julia Cook
- Nevaeh Pippin
- Annabelle Callow
- Joslyn Voss

CLICK HERE FOR UPDATED 20-21 SCHOOL CALENDAR

JANUARY

Wednesday, January 13
- Day 12 - E-Learning Day for students (not live)
- IPS Showcase of Schools

Thursday, January 14
- PIT Day #2 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (E-Learning Day for Students)

Thursday, January 15
- Staff Professional Development (E-Learning Day for Students)

Monday, January 18
- MLK Day (No School)

Tuesday, January 19
- Students PK-3rd Grade able to return in-person

Thursday, January 21
- Food Group

Friday, January 22
- Day 6

Monday, January 25
All Grades PK-6th able to return in-person

FEBRUARY

February is Black History Month!

Monday, February 1
- Day 12

Tuesday, February 2
- Groundhog Day

Thursday, February 4
- Food Group

Tuesday, February 9
- Day 6

Friday, February 12
- Classroom Valentine's Day Parties

Monday, February 15
- President's Day - NO SCHOOL

Thursday, February 18
- Food Group
- Day 12

Friday, February 26
- Day 6

MARCH

Thursday, March 4
- Food Group

March 8-19
- IREAD-3 Testing Window for 3rd Grade

Monday, March 8
- Day 12

Tuesday, March 16
- Day 6

Wednesday, March 17
- St. Patrick's Day

Thursday, March 18
- PIT Day #3 - Parent/Teacher Conferences (E-Learning Day for Students)
- Food Group

Wednesday, March 24
- Day 12

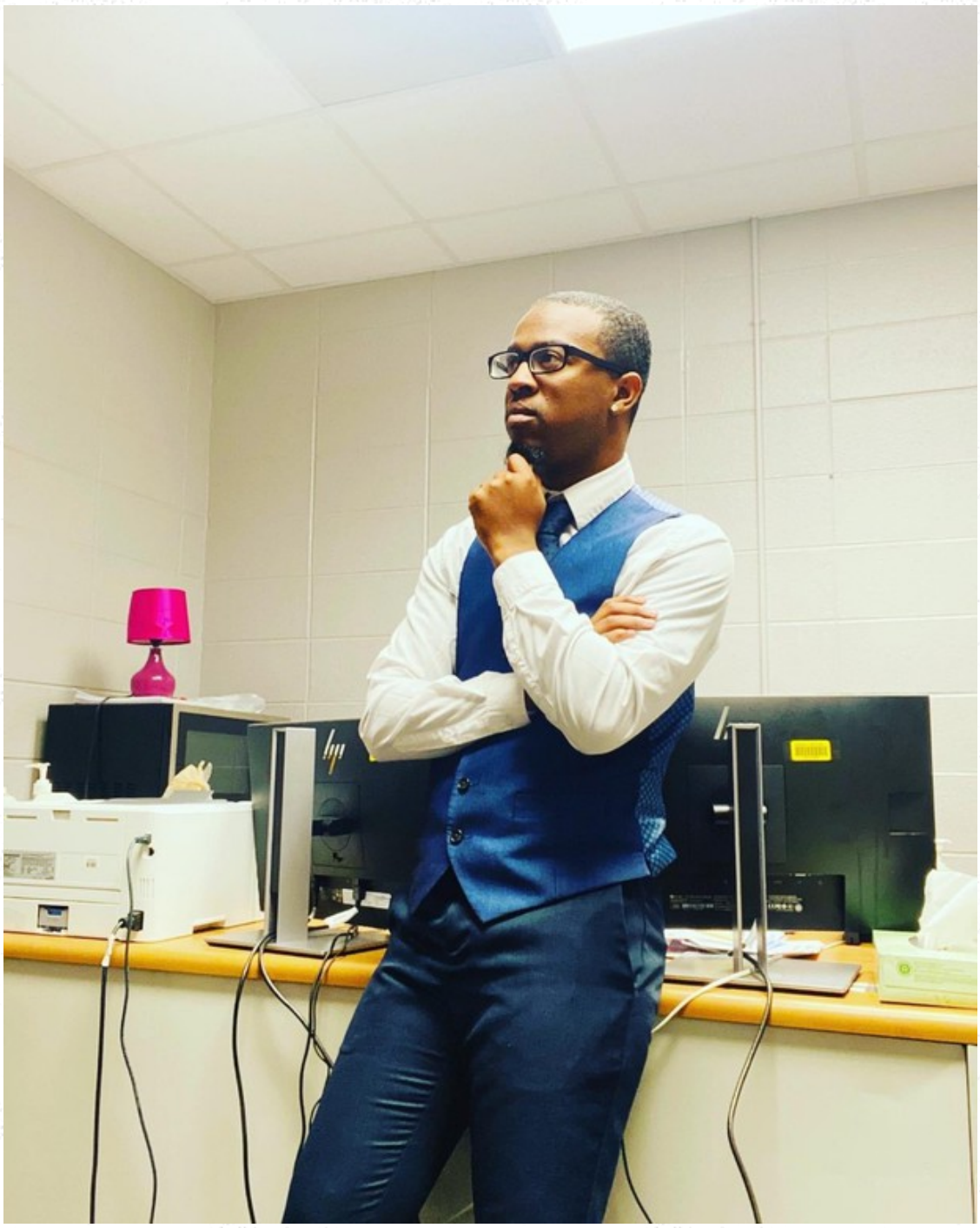
STAFF Spotlight

MR. BRANDON JOHNSON - K/1ST GRADE VIRTUAL TEACHER

Mr. Johnson has been in education for eight years as a teacher in both brick and mortar and virtual classroom settings. He is a graduate of Ball State University with a degree in Elementary Education and a concentration in Technology. He is currently teaching the Kindergarten and First grade virtual classroom. Brandon has enjoyed becoming one of the

newest additions to the Thomas Gregg Neighborhood School family. He is grateful for the opportunity to build new relationships with the staff and families of our school.

Mr. Johnson enjoys spending time with his wife and their one-year-old son. Some of his hobbies include music, cars, eating good food, and watching pro-wrestling!

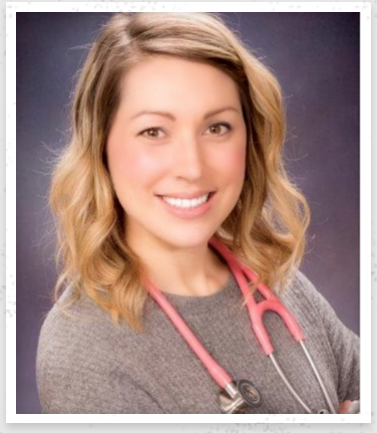


MR. SHANE EVANS - SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL LEARNING COACH

Mr. Evans has been in education for six years now. He started as a Teacher Assistant and now serves as the Social-Emotional Learning Coach. Shane mentioned he chose education as a career because he was inspired by the movie "Lean on Me." The movie and his life experiences

significantly influenced his desire to work in the inner city and make a difference in students' and families' lives.

In Shane's position, his focus is on the social-emotional well-being of students. He is also motivated to shine the light on the good that students, families, and staff are doing around the school building and community. He tries not to be the "usual" type of teacher. Mr. Evans is intentional with building many positive relationships by showing the students and their families he is more than a teacher. Shane is also a dedicated father, coach, mentor, and inspiration to many.



NURSE PRACTITIONER - MRS. CRISTA O'CONNOR

HEALTH TIPS FROM NURSE PRACTITIONER CRISTA

As we welcome 2021, we all need to remain safe and healthy! Until a Covid-19 vaccine is wildly available, continue to practice your best Covid-19 prevention strategies. This includes...

- Hand Hygiene - Washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds is the best thing you can do to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Wash your hands often, especially after coughing or when in public. If soap and water is not available, you can use hand sanitizer with at least 70% alcohol.
- Social Distancing - Avoid crowds, stay home when able, and do not invite family and friends into your home that do not live with you. With the holiday season upon us, it is going to be easy to let your guard down and celebrate like years past, but this year we need to keep the festivities to your immediate household.
- Wear Facial Covering - If you must go out in public, always wear a cloth facial covering. The mask should cover your nose and mouth. Remember to wash your covering or mask with hot water often.

A lot of times the spread of the Covid-19 illness occurs before the person starts to show symptoms. Even though you or someone you are around feels fine, they may still have the virus and unintentionally spread the virus to others.

If you become exposed to someone that tests positive for Covid-19 or you develop symptoms (fever, cough, congestion, sore throat, headache, diarrhea, change in taste or smell), stay home and distant yourself from others. Someone with exposure typically needs to quarantine for 14 days. Call your primary healthcare provider for guidance.

The Marion County Health Department offers testing. An appointment can be made by calling 317-221-8967 or online at https://mcphdredcap.hhcorp.org/surveys/?s=A4F4NY3PDH. The Walgreens at Washington and Lasalle offers rapid testing. An appointment can be made online at https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/testing/consent.

Despite these challenging times, I know we can all make a difference by practicing these simple health tips. I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season!

Crista O'Connor
Family Nurse Practitioner
Shalom Health Care Center

INDY WINTER FARMERS MARKET

Indy Winter Farmers Market is open and runs through April 24, 2021. Open hours are 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Circle City Industrial Complex located on East 10th Street and Brookside

Ave. The IWFM offers Triple-Match SNAP/EBT, which allows shoppers to extend $20 and EBT into $60 worth of purchases **each week**.

That means when a person comes to the IWFM and swipes their EBT card for $20, they receive an additional $20 of market tokens and $20 of Fresh Bucks checks. The first $20 can be spent on any SNAP/EBT-eligible item, and $20 of Fresh Bucks can be spent on produce. This is not a one time or once a month program. **Shoppers using EBT can participate weekly.** Indiana grown, fresh and winter storage produce is available the entire winter season.

Find more information at https://www.indywinterfarmersmarket.org/. Email Danielle Guerin at marketmanager@growingplacesindy.org with questions.

Click the link to view more information:
https://myips.org/central-services/foodservice/

IPS MEAL DISTRIBUTION LOCATIONS

Meal distribution begins the week of Nov. 23

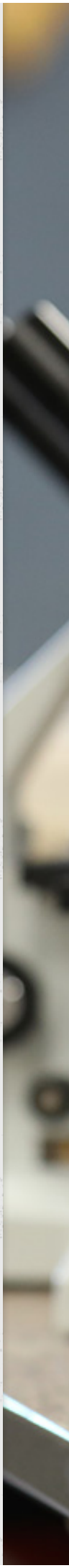
Schedule:
• 8–10 a.m. and 12–3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.
• On Tuesdays, students will receive three (3) days' worth of meals.
• On Thursdays, students will receive two (2) days' worth of meals.

Meal distribution locations:
• Anna Brochhausen School 88 | 5801 E. 16th St. | Door 6
• Arlington Middle School | 4825 N. Arlington Ave. | Door 8
• Brookside School 54 | 3150 E. 10th St. | Door 8
• Carl Wilde School 79 | 5002 W. 34th St. | Door 11
• Center for Inquiry School 70 | 510 46th St. | Door 7

• Charles Warren Fairbanks School 105 | 8620 Montery Road | Door 5
• Clarence Farrington School 61 |4326 Patricia St. | Door 7
• Cold Spring School | 3650 Cold Spring Road | Door 6
• Christian Park School 82 | 4700 English Ave. | Door 7
• Daniel Webster School 46 | 1450 S. Reisner St. | Door 6
• Eleanor Skillen | 1410 Wade St. | Door 11
• Ernie Pyle School 90 | 3351 W. 18th St. | Door 9
• Francis W. Parker School 56 | 2352 N. Columbia Ave. | Door 1
• George W. Julian School 57 | 5435 E. Washington St. | Door 7
• George Washington Carver School 87 | 2411 Indianapolis Ave. | Door 6
• George Washington High School | 2215 W. Washington St. | Door 2
• Harshman Middle School | 1501 E. 10th St. | Door 6
• IPS | Butler Laboratory School 60 | 3330 N. Pennsylvania St. | Door 6
• James A. Garfield School 31 | 301 Lincoln St. | Door 2
• James Whitcomb Riley | 150 W. 40th St. | Door 8
• Meredith Nicholson School 96 | 3651 N. Kiel Ave. | Door 8
• Paul I. Miller School 114 | 2251 Sloan Ave. | Door 7
• Sankofa School of Success @ Arlington Woods 99 | 5801 E. 30th St. | Door 10
• Sidener Academy for High Ability Students | 2424 Kessler Blvd. | Door 6
• William McKinley School 39 | 1733 Spann Ave. | Door 9

Gleaners Meal Box Program and IPS Food Service evening meal distribution, which begins the week of Nov. 30, will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7 p.m.:

· Anna Brochhausen School 88 | 5801 E. 16th St. | Door 11
· Charles Warren Fairbanks School 105 | 8620 Montery Road | Door 1
· Christian Park School 82 | 4700 English Ave. | Door 9
· Daniel Webster School 46 | 1450 S. Reisner St. | Door 5
· Eleanor Skillen | 1410 Wade St. | Door 6
· Ernie Pyle School 90 | 3351 W. 18th St. | Door 9
· Francis W. Parker School 56 | 2352 N. Columbia Ave. | Door 8
· James Whitcomb Riley | 150 W. 40th St. | Door 6
· Meredith Nicholson School 96 | 3651 N. Kiel Ave. | Door 5



FOOD BANKS

John Boner Center
Food Distribution (Every Mon.)
Time: 1:00-3:00pm
Address:2236 E. 10th Street
Location: Door#2
Westminster
Food Distribution
Time: Mon. 9:00am-12:00pm/ Thurs. 8:30am-11:30am
Address:2325 E. New York Street

URBAN LEAGUE FOOD GIVEAWAY

Address:777 Indiana Ave.
Drive-Thru Food Distribution
*No ID required. For more information call 317-693-7603

COMMUNITY COMPASS APP

Community Compass connects Indianapolis residents to critical food resources and nutrition assistance. The Community Compass contains a finder for such resources as food pantries, Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) retailers and clinics, hot meal sites, farmers' markets, and other food related events, and more.

https://www.indyhunger.org/compass/

2·1·1
Get Connected. Get Help.™

211 RESOURCES

- Supplemental food and nutrition programs
- Shelter and housing options
- Utility assistance
- Employment and education opportunities
- Service for veterans
- Healthcare, vaccination, and health epidemic information
- Addiction prevention and rehabilitation programs

- Re-entry help for ex-offenders
- Support groups for mental illness and domestic violence

https://in211.communityos.org/

THE ARTS FOR LEARNING COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

In partnership with Thomas Gregg Neighborhood School, Arts for Learning Teaching Artists **Sofiya Inger** and **Dianna Davis** are creating an art installation **"Cloud Vibrations"** that combines artmaking and sounds. Over the past few weeks, they have collected artwork and music recordings from the students at Thomas Gregg to compose a large installation at Re:Public gallery space, near the John H. Boner Neighborhood Center.

This multi-sensory exhibit is designed to be experienced outside, activated by a motion-sensor that turns on the audio visual when it detects someone standing in front of the building.

“Cloud Vibrations” is now open! Many of TGNS students contributed work to this installation that will be in display at the Republic Art Space.

Date: December 19th-January 23rd.
Location: Re:Public (Ary Gallery)
Address: 2301 E. 10th street
Please drop by to check it out!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARBARA OLMSTEAD

SHOE CLOSETS INC.

Shoe Closets Inc. has developed its shoe closets ministries in over 50 schools in Indianapolis and surrounding communities. In 2019, 1,800 pairs of shoes were given away to students in need. TGNS is grateful to benefit as one of the schools listed in receiving shoes for our students throughout the school year for at least the last five years. Shoe Closets Inc. is better known as the "Shoe Fairy People" to many of our staff. "It's like they secretly appear and re-stock our shoe cabinet with a fresh assortment of boys and girls shoes".

"We serve a high population of transient and low-income families. On any given day, a teacher may send out a request for one of their students who stand in need of shoes either because the shoes are too tight or just worn down. Our students usually skip away thankfully with the biggest smile on their faces". Shoe Closets Inc. started as a simple charitable endeavor in 2011. In this way, they discovered a need in the community and a small way to help families who struggle to provide for their children.
Many of the schools served have above 70% student participation in the Federal Lunch Subsidy. The cost to maintain an existing school shoe closet for a year = $2,000 at no fee for the schools. Barbara Olmstead, Executive Director, shared some exciting news in a 2019 Newsletter, "We have now moved out of our garage into a distribution center. A dear donor has paid the rent for the remainder of the year." Shoe Closet Inc. believes all children, regardless of

their economic status, need and deserve to have a good pair of shoes to help them feel significant.
Thomas Gregg Neighborhood School would like to thank Barbara Olmstead and her wonderful team of "Shoe Fairies" for the generous donation of shoes we receive in support of our students. We would also like to commend you for the great work you are doing by changing lives one pair of shoes at a time. What a blessing you are to the many schools you serve in the community!

Thank you for all you do in support of our students and families!
To learn more about Shoe Closets Inc. Ministry visit the link:
https://shoeclosets.net/

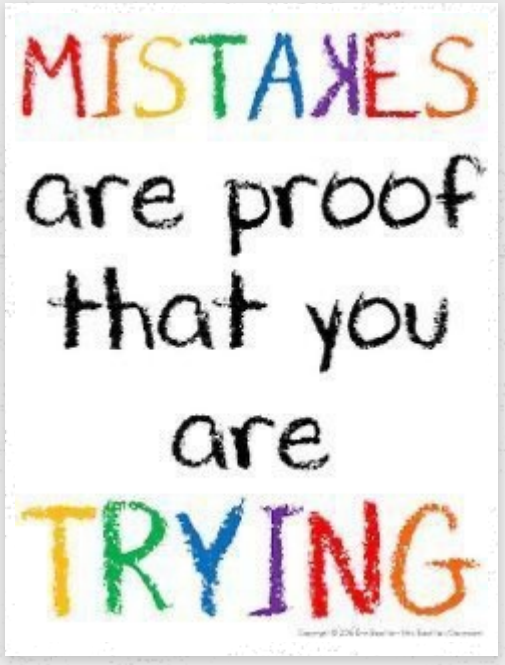
FARMERS 2 FAMILIES

Every Saturday in December, food boxes were distributed to families in need. Pastor Clyde Jones (husband of 6th-grade teacher, Patricia Jones) and a host of friends in their ministry of world missions initiative each week served a total of 100 food boxes to families in need. Thomas Gregg school parking was used as a convenient location to serve the 46201 zip code. TGNS would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Jones and the COGIC ministry for serving our community.

PLAYWORKS AND VIRTUAL PLAY

Starting **December 7** there will be a weekly video sent out to teachers to use for recess or any time students need a break. These will be about 15 minutes long and include 2 games that will vary based on grade.

Additionally, Coach Patrick will be sending out a signup sheet to meet with each class live once a month for 15 minutes. The sessions will be used as a break to help teach the kids a specific SEL skill through play.



~ Author Unknown

HELPFUL LINKS

[TGNS Website]
[2020-2021 School Calendar]
[TGNS Staff Contact List]
[Indianapolis Public Schools]
[John Boner Neighborhood Centers]

Questions?: Should you have any questions, please email info@thomasgregg.org or call the school at 317-226-4215! We will be happy to assist you in any way we can.

STAY CONNECTED!

Facebook @thomasgregg15

2302 E Michigan St, Indianapo... ross@thomasgregg.org
317-226-4215 thomasgregg.org