



# Tiger Tales

A Message from the Principal – June 7, 2017

Hello TBES families,

Wow, did this year just fly by! That being said, lots of great and exciting things took place both academically and extracurricularly. The year started off with a bang as we kicked off with the most well attended *Harvest Festival* we have ever had! That was followed up later in the year with the biggest *Fun Run* we've ever had! All year long, you have all turned out in support of our school and community, and we cannot emphasize enough how grateful we have been for that! [Please click here for a more detailed "Year End Message" from our PTC](#) which also helps to highlight how your contributions, both financially and in terms of your time, have positively impacted TBES! Schools are commonly seen as the hub of a community, and we are proud of our role as a place that brings us all together! Our main purpose, however, is to educate our students and help prepare them for life, both academically and interpersonally, and we feel we continue to do that at the highest level.

From an instructional standpoint, there are a lot of exciting things on the horizon! First of all, we were very pleased with our new [i-Ready](#) program, and we are very excited to be able to utilize it more fully moving forward. **i-Ready** takes students through a diagnostic for both ELA and math to determine their current level of proficiency and then places them in the appropriate level for ongoing, online skill builders which can be done at school and at home (**i-Ready will continue to be available over this summer, and its regular use is greatly encouraged**). All students K-5th will complete the diagnostic assessments at the beginning, middle, and end of the year so we can really get an accurate picture of their growth over time. Students who we identify as being below grade level can also be tracked more closely through a shorter growth monitoring assessment which allows us to intervene more effectively and in a timelier manner. In addition, we are building in grade-wide protected time where students can all be grouped by level using **i-Ready** and teacher classroom data. This will allow students to be moved between grade-level teachers to develop skills at their current and most appropriate levels, including more meaningful enrichment for our high-achiever and GATE identified students. These groups can and will be fluid over a 4-6 week period so students can continue to be re-grouped according to strengths and needs. We are also happy to announce that after a half-year of piloting different options, our district has adopted new ELA (English-Language Arts) materials. In grades Tk-3<sup>rd</sup> we will be using [Benchmark Advance](#), and in the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades we will be using a combination of district adopted anchor texts, unit maps, and [Ready Common Core](#) reading and writing materials. Both **Benchmark** and **Ready Common Core** link to **i-Ready** which again allows for access to more appropriate intervention tools. This hybrid program was well-received by our teaching staff, and everyone is looking forward to implementing it this coming school year!

Math is moving into year three of our [Envisions](#) curriculum. While there have been some growing pains and adjustments necessary as a result of the new Common Core Standards, overall we continue to be very pleased and in awe of how well our kids seem to have adapted to the increased rigor that is required. Our teachers are doing an excellent job working with grade-level colleagues district-wide to identify the essential skills and map out the appropriate instructional sequence for greater understanding and ease of student mastery. We hope to see this reflected in greater math competency and fluency as our students progress through the standards and skills required at each subsequent grade-level.

This year in science at TBES students learned through STEAM. This included learning science through scientific inquiry, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. Students in all grades performed multiple science activities and experiments throughout the year, including a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student-designed project displayed at the science fair. Students used technology regularly, creating **Google** slideshows for research projects, performing virtual labs, and engaging in online activities to support the science curriculum. Students experienced engineering first hand through the designing and building of projects such as a bridge that could hold the weight of forty pennies. Using art, students were able to make connections between things such as color and light and how the human eye sees the artistic creations in our world. Math was always present in science lessons, through measuring materials for experiments, collecting data, graphing results of experiments and more. We also look forward to bringing back [Lego Robotics](#) for our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in 2017-18!

And speaking of technology, we all know what a big part of our children's future it is. To that end, we continue to build our technology infrastructure so more kids can have their hands on computers more often. This past year we had one iPad cart and seven Chromebook carts (35 Chromebooks per cart) available for use, along with our computer lab and a handful of classroom computers. In our ongoing effort to eventually be a 1-1 school (one computer per student), this coming year we are adding two more sets of Chromebook carts and updating the computer lab to Chromeboxes which will be faster, cheaper to support, and work better on our district-wide **Google** platform. With more devices available, teachers and students will have more time to utilize **Google** classroom capabilities, video instruction, on-line **i-Ready** practice, computer coding, and much more!

We continue to frame our day to day school culture and climate around our **ROAR** rules and award-winning PBIS program. We are very proud to be a school that strives to recognize and reward our students for their positive efforts and contributions around campus. This year we gave out over 2,000 **ROAR** cards that were used in our very popular Friday **ROAR** store. Again, we couldn't do this without you as your financial contributions help fill the store's shelves and your volunteer hours help to keep it open! When kids struggle behaviorally or interpersonally, we intervene with students and families to try and find the best possible ways to support them on an individual basis, and we continue to work with our district resources as well as outside groups like the **Lighthouse** to provide even more layers of intervention as needed. From an overall character development perspective, we are pleased to continue to be able to offer **Tiger Crew** leadership and morning **Traffic Tigers** opportunities to our 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders and **K-Kids** service club for our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. School-wide, we were able to bring a **3-Screens** anti-bullying assembly called "Be More Awesome"; we brought back **The NED Show** and their yo-yo mania message of "Never Give Up, Encourage Others, & Do Your Best"; and we were also able to once again take our 4<sup>th</sup> graders through the **Touch of Understanding** program which helps them gain greater acceptance for people with various forms of disabilities. The cherry on top, however, was how hard our students and community worked together to raise money for the **Leukemia and Lymphoma Society** through their "Pennies 4 Patients" fundraiser. As a school, we raised a total of \$8,216.19 which was the most we have ever raised!

Our amazing music program, led by our dynamic duo of Mrs. Gale and Ms. Harp, also played a large part in helping foster good feelings within our school and local community. We began by hosting an incredible Veteran's Day Assembly which packed our Multi! It was highlighted by wonderful musical tributes by all of our students and was capped off by the landing of a Blackhawk helicopter! Special thanks to Mrs. Johnson and her husband Chief Warrant Officer Charles Johnson (Aviation and Safety) for setting that up for us. In addition to the Veteran's Day Assembly, our music teachers orchestrated another fantastic Winter Concert; put on a band and choir performance in January; they took part in District Band Day; performed the National Anthem at a River Cats game; and performed at our Open House. Ms. Harp also introduced ukuleles this year with our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders which were very popular!

We expanded our other club and enrichment offerings this year as well. With Rachel Ludlow's help, we were able to turn our popular spring **Tiger Tracks Running Club** into a fall running team which competed against other elementary cross country teams from within the Placer County area. Mrs. Vickner was also instrumental in offering free after school computer coding instruction to all interested TK-5<sup>th</sup> graders this past year. As for paid enrichments, **Vision Soccer** continued to be offered as did **Firefly Art** and **Early Engineers**. As always, we continue to look for more and varied ways to ignite a love of learning in our kids and tap into interests they may not have known they had – stay tuned! If you have other ideas or suggestions, don't hesitate to let us know.

As you can see, it has been a busy year, and our staff have now gone off to a well-deserved summer break! I know they will come back energized and excited for another fantastic school year in 2017-18. Our office will be closed as of Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, and will re-open on Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions in the meantime, please direct them to our district office: (916) 645-6350. We reveal class lists in the Multi at 4:00 PM on Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> is the first day of school! Please continue to follow us on **Facebook**, and if you have not already downloaded our School App, please do so by searching for "Twelve Bridges Elementary School" in your device's App Store. Thanks again for a fantastic 2016-17 school year, and we look forward to seeing you soon!



**Go Tigers!**

Warmest Regards,

*Rey Cubias*