

# TAFT INTERMEDIATE

## CORE VALUE #5- KNOW YOUR VALUE, ADD VALUE TO OTHERS

The following students were nominated by their teachers for their outstanding demonstration of ACS's Core Value #5.



## UPCOMING DATES:

1/17 Grade Cards Sent Home

1/20 MLK Day- No School

1/23 Taft's Family Engagement Night

2/17 Presidents' Day- No School



Dear Parents/Guardians,

During the last school week of December, we were reminded of how important our partnership with families is. Thank you to everyone who helped make that week special—whether you attended the instrumental and choir concerts, volunteered at class parties, helped with gingerbread houses or holiday stations, or supported the PTO in delivering hot chocolate to students and coffee to staff. Your involvement makes a big difference, and we are so grateful. Whether you're chatting with your child about school, helping with homework, reading together, attending events, or volunteering, your support helps make Taft a wonderful place for our students. Thank you for being part of our school community!

**A few important notes and reminders:**

- On January 23rd, during the school day, a special guest from the NASA Glenn Research Center will present to each class. We are so excited for the students to have the opportunity to learn from him and ask questions.
- On January 23rd, in the evening, we will have a Family Engagement Night from 5:00-7:00. We hope to see you there!
- Cold weather is here! Please dress your child for the weather. We have outside recess as long as temperatures are above 20 degrees.
- If your child is missing a coat, encourage them to check the Lost and Found. Writing your child's name on the inside tag can be helpful.
- If you haven't already uploaded the new ACS APP, please go to the Taft webpage and click the link in the banner.

Warmly,  
Mrs. Hartzler

# Taft's Artists of the Month



## 4th Grade

**Aria Buffenbarger is Taft's 4th Grade Artist of the Month for January for her amazing glow light bulbs. Aria works on her artwork and thinks about how she can make her art look unique and different. Aria is a positive student to have in class, and she is always willing to help others around her.**



## 5th Grade

**Jaxon Whedbee is Taft's 5th Grade Artist of the Month for January for his awesome color wheel Mandala. Jaxon works hard in class and does a great job staying on task. Jaxon always uses his creativity and imagination in class to make art that is unique and fun!**







## 4th Grade The Ohio Bird Sanctuary



## 5th Grade



## Richland County Parks Department



**In December, our 4th grade and 5th grade students each had the opportunity to engage in fantastic presentations from local agencies. The Ohio Bird Sanctuary brought some feathered friends to Taft for the students to learn about. The Richland County Parks Department brought a variety of animals for the students to learn about and interact with.**



# THE COUNSELORS' CORNER

This winter has been especially cold and snowy! Some people notice changes in their mood or sleep patterns this time of year. Some might even experience **seasonal affective disorder**, a common name for a type of seasonal depression that mostly occurs in colder months. Seasonal affective disorder can also affect children. The signs are similar to those of other types of depression.

## **Children might experience:**

- Feeling sad or irritable when there's no obvious reason
- Losing interest in things that used to be enjoyable
- Low energy levels
- Changes in eating habits
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Self-criticism

## **Here are some tips for managing seasonal depression:**

- Encourage your child to spend time outside after school. Exposure to sunlight can help relieve symptoms. If your child needs a winter coat or other outerwear items, please contact us and we can help provide these.
- Eat well-balanced meals. Fresh produce can be expensive during the winter months, but canned and frozen fruits and vegetables still provide nutritional benefits to children. Free and reduced lunches are available through the school system. Taft students are also eligible for the Backpack for Kids Program, which provides children with food to take home over the weekend (contact us for more information).
- Consider participating in after-school activities or recreation. Local rec centers often have scholarship rates for memberships.
- Keep consistent bedtime and morning routines. Sleep is good medicine!
- Seek out additional help if needed. If you are concerned that your child might be dealing with seasonal depression or another mental health issue, contact his or her pediatrician or primary care provider. Our school counselors can also provide referrals to mental health providers.

Resource to check out: [kidshealth.org/en/parents/sad.html](https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/sad.html)

Mrs. Jessica Ellis, School-Based Therapist  
[jeellis@goarrows.org](mailto:jeellis@goarrows.org); 419-289-7969 (ext. 266)

Mr. Ted Lilley, School Liaison/School-Based Therapist  
[telilley@goarrows.org](mailto:telilley@goarrows.org); 419-289-7969 (ext. 251)



# ***Out of This World***

## *Taft Intermediate's Family Engagement Night*

**Thursday, January 23rd, 2025**

**5:00-7:00 pm**

**Taft Intermediate School**

**Free Food**

**Local Agencies with Free Giveaways**

**Writing Contest**

**Math Activities**

**Science Activities**

**Literacy Activities**

**Social-Emotional Activities**

**Many Other Fun Family Activities**

