

**SIXTH GRADE NEWS**  
**January 6, 2006**

Dear Parents,

It is wonderful to be back at school and catch up with each of the students. We are happy to see that everyone is refreshed and ready for a strong second semester.

Mature Literacy Pillar & Citizenship Character Quality - Upcoming Projects

The second semester of sixth grade at TCKS will challenge students to apply their knowledge in several problem-solving scenarios. Science Fair projects, debates, persuasive essays, and the Stock Market projects will all require students to develop an **evidence-based** rationale for proceeding with a particular hypothesis or position. A thorough literature review to substantiate a hypothesis or debate position will provide the support for these positions (versus opinions or assumptions). Following this background research, students will subject their hypotheses or positions to empirical testing in order to evaluate the validity of their hypotheses or positions on basis of results (i.e. Science Fair results, debate winner, essay evidence supports conclusions, stock performance). The acquisition of these skills is crucial in developing the cognitive abilities of our students, and, truly, in their effectiveness as citizens in a democracy.

While we're offering an enriched learning environment here at TCKS, students still vary in their own personal levels of cognitive development. Please be patient with your sixth-graders through these projects and let them handle their own challenges. Steering your child to research sources, networking with peers, and checking in with teachers at school are great ways to support your student.

Sincerely,

The Sixth Grade Team