



March 19, 2024

# Travell eNews



## In this Issue (scroll through):

- Kona Ice Truck - After School THIS FRIDAY (3/22)
- Author Visit: John Parra (4/5, All Grades)  
\*\*Purchase Books on Community Pass by  
THIS WEDNESDAY, March 20\*\*
- Author Visit: Chris Grabenstein (4/26, Gr. 3-5)  
\*\*Purchase Books on Community Pass  
by April 10\*\*
- Men's Night (4/25)
- NEW: Travell Golf Tournament - 1st Ever! (5/17)
- SEPAG Information
  - Virtual Coffee & Chat (3/20)
  - Sensory-Friendly Dinner (3/25)
  - SEPAG FAQ



**IMPORTANT DATES:**  
Mon March 25 - Mon, April 1:  
Spring Recess  
\*\*\*Students Return Tuesday, April 2\*\*\*  
Wed, April 10: No School, Eid-Al-Fitr



TRAVELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Friday, March 22  
Afterschool

**Cash, Credit, Apple Pay all accepted!**  
**And check out the new pre-pay option on the next page.**

*This information will be shared with AlphaBest so  
that students staying will have the opportunity to  
visit the truck too!*

*Proceeds benefit HSA Sponsored enrichment programs for Travell students.*

# NEW OPTION...

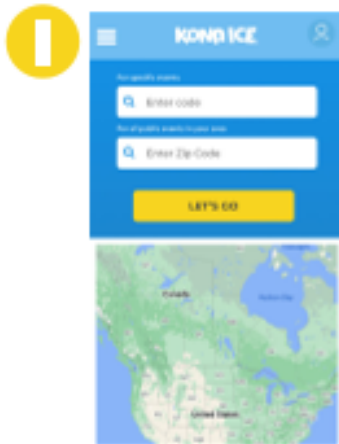


Cash, Credit, and/or Apple Pay all accepted on the day of OR....

## PRE-PAY ONLINE

CUSTOMER.KONA-ICE.COM

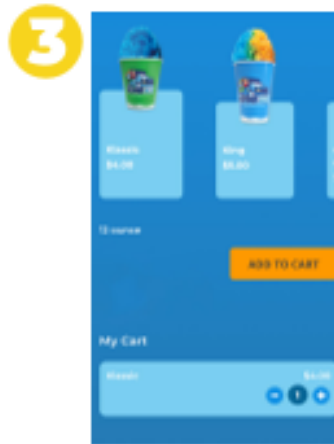
Find your event



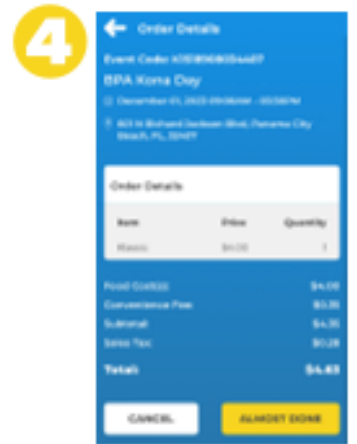
Confirm your event



Select your cup



Review your order



Note: Prices are for placement only and do not reflect actual price points.

Travell Elementary School Fundraiser  
Friday, March 22, 2024, AFTERSCHOOL  
Place orders at [customer.kona-ice.com](http://customer.kona-ice.com)  
Event Code: K255387283

Orders need to be placed by Thursday March 21st.

Would you like to buy a Kona for someone else or donate directly to the school? Please add the 'Pay It Forward' item to your cart.

20% of the sales will go directly to Travell Elementary School.

**KONA ICE**  
**PRE-PAY**  
**SCAN THIS CODE:**



KONA ICE OF PARAMUS

917.830.3322 | [paramus@kona-ice.com](mailto:paramus@kona-ice.com) | [www.kona-ice.com](http://www.kona-ice.com)



Travell School  
welcomes  
Award Winning Author/Illustrator  
**John Parra**



April 5, 2024

We are excited to announce that John Parra will visit with all K-2 students at Travell School on Friday, April 5, 2024. A resident of Queens, New York, he is an award-winning illustrator, fine artist, designer, author, and educator best known for his Latino themed children's picture books.

For his work, he has received many awards and accolades including Three American Library Association's Pura Belpré Honors. He has taught art at the Carnegie Art Museum in Oxnard, CA and regularly speaks as a visiting artist at schools and literary conferences across the country, advocating art and reading education.

John's artistic path began when he was growing up in Southern California, where he spent his days exploring and drawing. His Hispanic roots and heritage provided a rich cultural palette of inspiring imagery and customs. Mexican art and murals, folk art, science and nature, landscape designs, pop art, music, family characters and memories are all visual influences seen in his work.

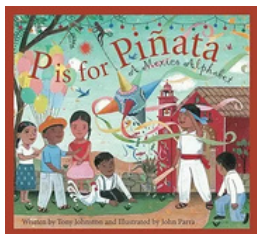
During school visits, he enjoys answering students' questions and making them laugh. For more information about the illustrator, his books and blog, visit [www.johnparraart.com](http://www.johnparraart.com).

Author visits are a wonderful opportunity for young readers, writers, and artists to meet the creators of the books they read. Consider extending this learning experience through the purchase of an autographed book. (A percentage of the sales will benefit our school!)

This visit is made possible due to the generous support of the Travell HSA...many thanks!!

**Book Orders are due Wednesday, March 20th**

Order online at: <https://register.communitypass.net/ridgewood>



***P is for Piñata: A Mexican Alphabet***

Hardcover \$19

*The country of Mexico has long been a popular travel destination. But there's much more to enjoy and appreciate than just sunshine and warm temperatures when exploring this region with its ancient history and proud traditions. Enjoy an A-Z tour of our neighbor to the south in *P is for Piñata: A Mexico Alphabet*. Young readers can visit the tomb of a Mayan king, experience the life of the vaquero (Mexican cowboy), attend the world-famous Ballet Folklórico de México, and sample the everyday treat that was once known as the "food of the gods." From folk art to famous people to the original "hot dog," the treasures of Mexico are revealed in *P is for Piñata*. Vibrant artwork perfectly captures the flavor, texture, and spirit of its landscape and culture.*



***Waiting for the Biblioburro***

Hardcover \$19

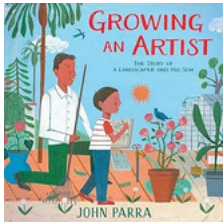
Ana loves stories. She often makes them up to help her little brother fall asleep. But in her small village there are only a few books and she has read them all. One morning, Ana wakes up to the clip-clop of hooves, and there before her, is the most wonderful sight: a traveling library resting on the backs of two burros—all the books a little girl could dream of, with enough stories to encourage her to create one of her own. Inspired by the heroic efforts of real-life librarian Luis Soriano, award-winning picture book creators Monica Brown and John Parra introduce readers to the mobile library that journeys over mountains and through valleys to bring literacy and culture to rural Colombia, and to the children who wait for the BiblioBurro.



### **Little LIBRARIES, Big HEROES**

Hardcover \$18

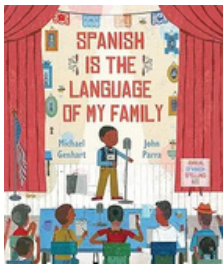
Todd and his friends love heroes. But in school, Todd doesn't feel heroic. Reading is hard for him, and he gets scolded for asking too many questions. How will he ever become the kind of hero he admires? Featuring stunning illustrations that celebrate the diversity of the Little Free Library movement, here is the story of how its founder, Todd Bol, became a literacy superhero. Thanks to Todd and thousands of volunteers—many of whom are kids—millions of books have been enjoyed around the world.



### **Growing an Artist: The Story of a Landscaper and His Son**

Hardcover \$19

Today is a big day—the first time Juanito gets to help his papi on the job as a landscape architect! Throughout the day, Juanito sketches anything that catches his eye: a nest full of baby birds, a nursery with row upon row of plants and flowers, and more. Father and son travel from house to house, pruning, weeding, mowing, and turning overgrown and chaotic yards into beautiful spaces. A few of the clients don't appreciate Papi's hard work, like Juanito's classmate who pretends not to see him. But Papi always feels pride in owning his own business and in a job well done. And at the end of the day, Juanito may get the chance to turn his artistic eye toward landscape design—just like his papi.



### **Spanish is the Language of My Family**

Hardcover \$19

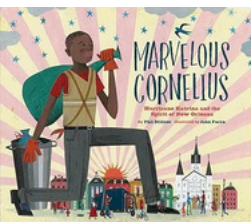
As a boy prepares for his school's Spanish spelling bee, he asks his grandmother for help with some of the words he doesn't know how to spell yet. When she studies with him, she tells him how different things were back when she was a girl, when she was only allowed to speak English in school. This only inspires him to study even harder and make his family proud. Based on stories author Michael Genhart heard from his mother as a child, *Spanish is the Language of My Family* is about the joy of sharing cultural heritage with our families, inspired by the generations of Latino people who were punished for speaking Spanish and the many ways new generations are rejuvenating the language.



### **Gracias /Thanks**

Hardcover \$20

There are so many things to be thankful for. For one young boy, it's flying ladybugs, splashing ocean waves, a best friend, Dad's thick chocolate syrup, and much more. Straight from the heart of a child flows this lighthearted bilingual celebration of family, friendship, and fun. Come share the joy, and think about all the things for which you can say, "¡Gracias!Thanks!"



### **Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina and the Spirit of New Orleans**

Hardcover \$17

In New Orleans, there lived a man who saw the streets as his calling, and he swept them clean. He danced up one avenue and down another and everyone danced along. The old ladies whistled and whirled. The old men hooted and hollered. The barbers, bead twirlers, and beignet bakers bounded behind that one-man parade. But then came the rising Mississippi—and a storm greater than anyone had seen before. In this heartwarming book about a real garbage man, Phil Bildner and John Parra tell the inspiring story of a humble man and the heroic difference he made in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Questions? Contact Christina Morbelli at [christinamorbelli@hotmail.com](mailto:christinamorbelli@hotmail.com) or 602.466.8697



Travell School  
welcomes  
Award Winning Author  
**Chris Grabenstein**

April 26, 2024



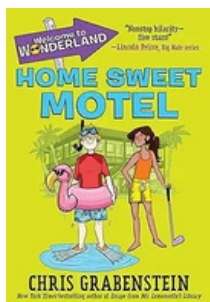
We are excited to announce that Chris Grabenstein will visit with students in Grades 3-5 **virtually** at Travell School on Friday, April 26, 2024. For more information about the author and his books, visit <https://chrisgrabenstein.com/>

Author visits are a wonderful opportunity for young readers, writers, and artists to meet the creators of the books they read. Consider extending this learning experience through the purchase of an autographed book. (A percentage of the sales will benefit our school!)

This visit is made possible due to the generous support of the Travell HSA...many thanks!!

**Book Orders are due Wednesday, April 10th**

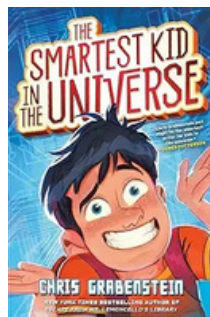
Order online at: <https://register.communitypass.net/ridgewood>



**Welcome to Wonderland: Home Sweet Motel**

Paperback **\$8**

Eleven-year-old P. T. Wilkie may be the greatest storyteller alive. But he knows one thing for a fact: the Wonderland Motel is the best place a kid could ever live! All-you-can-eat poolside ice cream! A snack machine in the living room! A frog slide! A giant rampaging alligator! (Okay, that last one may or may not be made up.) There's only one thing the Wonderland doesn't have, though—customers. And if the Wonderland doesn't get them soon, P.T. and his friend Gloria may have to say goodbye to their beloved motel forever. They need to think **BIG**. They need to think **BOLD**. They need an **OUTRAGEOUS** plan. Luckily for them, Gloria is a business **GENIUS**, and **OUTRAGEOUS** is practically P.T.'s middle name. With Gloria's smarts and P.T.'s world-famous stories and schemes, there's got to be a way to save the Wonderland!



**The Smartest Kid in the Universe**

Paperback **\$9**

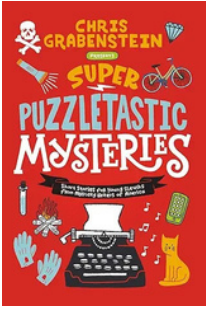
Twelve-year-old Jake's middle school is about to be shut down—unless Jake and his friends can figure out how to save it. When Jake spies a bowl of jelly beans at the hotel where his mom works, he eats them. But those weren't just jellybeans, one of the scientists at his mom's conference is developing the world's first ingestible information pills. And *that's* what Jake ate. Before long, Jake is the smartest kid in the universe. But the pills haven't been tested yet. And when word gets out about this new genius, people want him. The government. The mega corporations. Not all of them are good people! Can Jake navigate the ins and outs of his newfound geniusdom (not to mention the ins and outs of middle school) and use his smarts to save his school? Bonus! Includes extra brainteasers to test your smarts!



**Dog Squad**

Paperback **\$9**

Duke is not your average dog. Along with his crew, he fights crime and goes on claw-biting adventures helping dogs in peril in the hit streaming sensation - Dog Squad! Fred is a pretty average dog. He's scrappy. He's loveable. But he's not brave like his heroes on Dog Squad. Fred looks an awful lot like Duke from Dog Squad, though. In fact, when Duke needs a stand-in, Fred's the perfect choice. But the Dog Squad action doesn't always stop on screen! When there's danger in real life, can Fred find the courage to step up and save the day?



**Super Puzzletastic Mysteries: Short Stories for Young Sleuths**

Paperback \$10  
Hardcover \$18

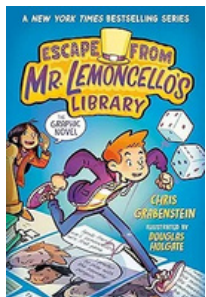
Bestselling author Chris Grabenstein and the Mystery Writers of America bring together twenty peerless puzzles—from bestselling authors such as Peter Lerangis, Stuart Gibbs, Lauren Magaziner, Kate Milford, and, of course, Grabenstein himself—in an anthology of mystery short stories that invite readers to try to unravel the riddles themselves. From tales of hapless superheroes and stolen squirrel monkeys to murderous triplets and haunted basements, these thrilling, puzzling, and hilarious cases have one thing in common—YOU get a chance to be the detective before the author reveals the solution. With twenty never-before-published mystery stories, this collection will leave young detectives sleuthing for more!



**Shine!**

Paperback \$9

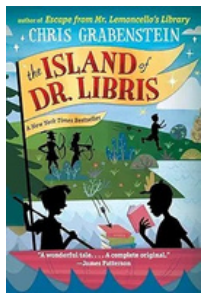
*Shine!* might be the catchphrase of twelve-year-old Piper's hero--astronaut, astronomer, and television host Nellie Dumont Frisse--but Piper knows the truth: some people are born to shine, and she's just not one of them. That fact has never been clearer than now, when her dad's new job has landed them both at Chumley Prep, a posh private school where everyone seems to be the best at something and where Piper *definitely* doesn't fit in. Bursting with humor, heart, science, possibilities, and big questions, *Shine!* is a story about finding your place in the universe--a story about figuring out who you are and who you want to be. BONUS! Science experiment included!



**Escape From Mr. Limoncello's Library: The Graphic Novel**

Paperback \$14  
Hardcover \$22

When Kyle learns that the world's most famous game maker, Luigi Lemoncello, has designed the town's new library and is having an invitation-only lock-in on opening night, he's determined to be there! But the tricky part isn't getting into the library—it's getting out. Because when morning comes, the doors stay locked. Kyle and the other kids must solve every clue and figure out every secret puzzle to find the hidden escape route!



**Island of Dr. Libris**

Paperback \$9

What if your favorite characters came to life? Billy's spending the summer in a lakeside cabin that belongs to the mysterious Dr. Libris. But something strange is going on. Besides the security cameras everywhere, there's Dr. Libris's private bookcase. Whenever Billy opens the books inside, he can hear sounds coming from the island in the middle of the lake. The clash of swords. The twang of arrows. Sometimes he can even feel the ground shaking. It's almost as if the stories he's reading are coming to life! But that's impossible . . . isn't it?

Questions? Contact Christina Morbelli at [christinamorbelli@hotmail.com](mailto:christinamorbelli@hotmail.com) or 602.466.8697

Save  
T.H.E  
DATE



# TRAVELL MEN'S NIGHT

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

GEARBLOCK BREWING COMPANY IN WALDWICK

8:00PM

\$40

Two hours of drinks, food, and your team's terrible first-round pick.  
More details soon...

Questions?

Tom Torre (ttorre03@gmail.com)  
Bryan Kozlowski (bryankozlowski@icloud.com)  
Stephen Del Percio (sdelpercio@gmail.com)





THE HSA INVITES YOU TO THE

# 1ST TRAVELL GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY MAY 17, 2024 | 1:00PM SHOTGUN  
THE GOLF CLUB AT MANSION RIDGE

Early Bird (before April 5) - \$275  
Registration - \$300

GREEN FEE (INCLUDES CART)  
BOXED LUNCH  
6 BEVERAGES PER CART  
BUFFET DINNER  
2 HOURS OF OPEN BAR

Dinner and Drinks only - \$100

## PRIZES

CLOSEST TO PIN  
LONGEST DRIVE  
BEST GROSS SCORE  
BEST CALLAWAY  
SCORE  
50/50



OPEN TO TRAVELL FAMILIES AND GUESTS  
CONTACT DAVID CHOW FOR QUESTIONS - DACHOW@GMAIL.COM

Click [here](#) to register



# Join Us for a Special Education Virtual Coffee Chat!



◆ **March 20, 2024 at 8:00 pm** ◆

**Learn from other parents. Share your experiences.** Navigating the special education system is far from intuitive. It is common for parents to have difficulty advocating for their children when they “don’t know what they should know.”

Join other parents on Google Meet for an informal Q&A and discussion moderated by Meghann Bierly, the Ridgewood SEPAG’s VP-Education and Engagement.

Join on Google Meet  
[meet.google.com/ftn-cych-fks](https://meet.google.com/ftn-cych-fks)



**Ridgewood SEPAG**

*Formerly the Learning Services Home & School Association*

[www.RidgewoodSEPAG.org](http://www.RidgewoodSEPAG.org) • [contact@RidgewoodSEPAG.org](mailto:contact@RidgewoodSEPAG.org)

# Sensory-Friendly Dinner

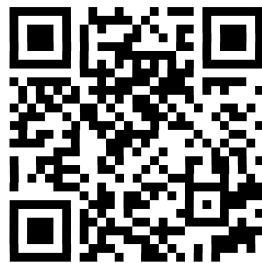
MacMurphy's Irish Pub  
8 Godwin Avenue, Ridgewood

Monday, March 25, 2024  
Arrival Windows: 5:00pm - 7:00pm

- ◆ Reduced noise and lighting
- ◆ Understanding wait staff & Expedited service
- ◆ Table activities for kids
- ◆ Contributions from STEPSS students
- ◆ And more!

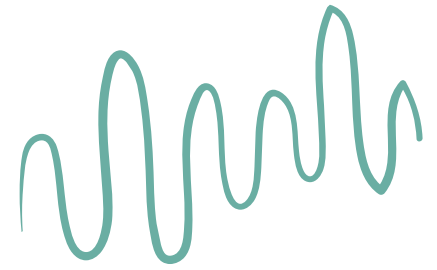
Registration required:  
[https://Mar24SEPAGDinner  
.eventbrite.com](https://Mar24SEPAGDinner.eventbrite.com)

Please visit  
[RidgewoodSEPAG.org](https://RidgewoodSEPAG.org) for  
FAQs about our dining  
events and a social story  
about eating out, created  
by STEPSS students!



# FAQ

## for Ridgewood SEPAG Sensory-Friendly Dinners



### ✓ What is a Ridgewood SEPAG sensory-friendly dinner?

A sensory-friendly dinner is a time for families and friends to eat out at a local restaurant. Consider this your typical dining experience, except that special care has been taken to provide a lower-sensory atmosphere, such as turning down or off overhead music, as well as a judgment-free experience, including dining with families who have similar support needs and being served by staff who are prepared ahead of time on the general needs of our community. Food and checks are expedited, and our Ridgewood STEPSS students (ages 18-21 years) often provide activities to keep kids entertained during brief waiting periods. Although we can't guarantee 100% satisfaction, we do hope these thoughtful adjustments help you have a great experience out with your loved ones.

### ✓ Why is the Ridgewood SEPAG doing this for our community?

The Ridgewood SEPAG, in conjunction with Ridgewood Village Council and support from Access Ridgewood members, are providing this much needed service because we all need to feel seen and included. Many families never take what they see as a risk to eat out, either because they worry about their child's unpredictable behavior at a restaurant or because they've tried in the past but had a negative experience for any number of reasons. Our goal is for you to release yourself and your family of the pressure, help you access a delicious meal at a local restaurant, and be exactly who you are: a valued member of our diverse and powerful community.

### ✓ If my child is struggling (e.g., not staying in their seat/at the table, not keeping noise levels down), do I need to leave?

You may of course pick up your check and excuse yourself anytime. However, we hope that you trust you're in a safe space among families who understand the difference between disrespect and impulses.

### ✓ Do I need to make a reservation with the restaurant to attend?

No. However, you should reserve a spot on the Ridgewood SEPAG Eventbrite for the particular dinner so that the restaurant can anticipate how many families to expect throughout our designated window. Once the event has been arranged by the Ridgewood SEPAG with the restaurant, we will distribute a flyer that includes the restaurant name and address, timeframe, and a link/QR code to the Eventbrite reservation site.

### ✓ How much do I pay?

There is no fee to RSVP for the event, and pPayment is made at the end of your meal in a typical restaurant-patron transaction. You simply pay for what you eat!

### ✓ Is there a way to stay informed about upcoming sensory-friendly dinners?

The Ridgewood SEPAG's goal is to host one sensory-friendly dinner per month during the school year, and perhaps during the summer as well. All families on the Ridgewood SEPAG email list (i.e., families whose Ridgewood students receive services under an IEP or 504 Plan) will receive notifications about the dinners through emails and the Ridgewood SEPAG monthly newsletter. Others may "follow" the Ridgewood SEPAG on Eventbrite, to be alerted about upcoming dinners.

### ✓ Where can I submit feedback?

We are eager to hear all feedback that families have about our sensory-friendly dinners. If your family's needs were not adequately met by the set-up of the event, we would love to hear from you so we can make our future dinners more accommodating for your family and others. Also, if there were aspects of the event that worked well for your family, we'd like to hear about that, too, so we can continue those accommodations. Any and all thoughts are welcome and can be shared by emailing us at [contact@RidgewoodSEPAG.org](mailto:contact@RidgewoodSEPAG.org).



**Ridgewood SEPAG**

*Formerly the Learning Services Home & School Association*

[www.RidgewoodSEPAG.org](http://www.RidgewoodSEPAG.org) • [contact@RidgewoodSEPAG.org](mailto:contact@RidgewoodSEPAG.org)

Updated January 2024

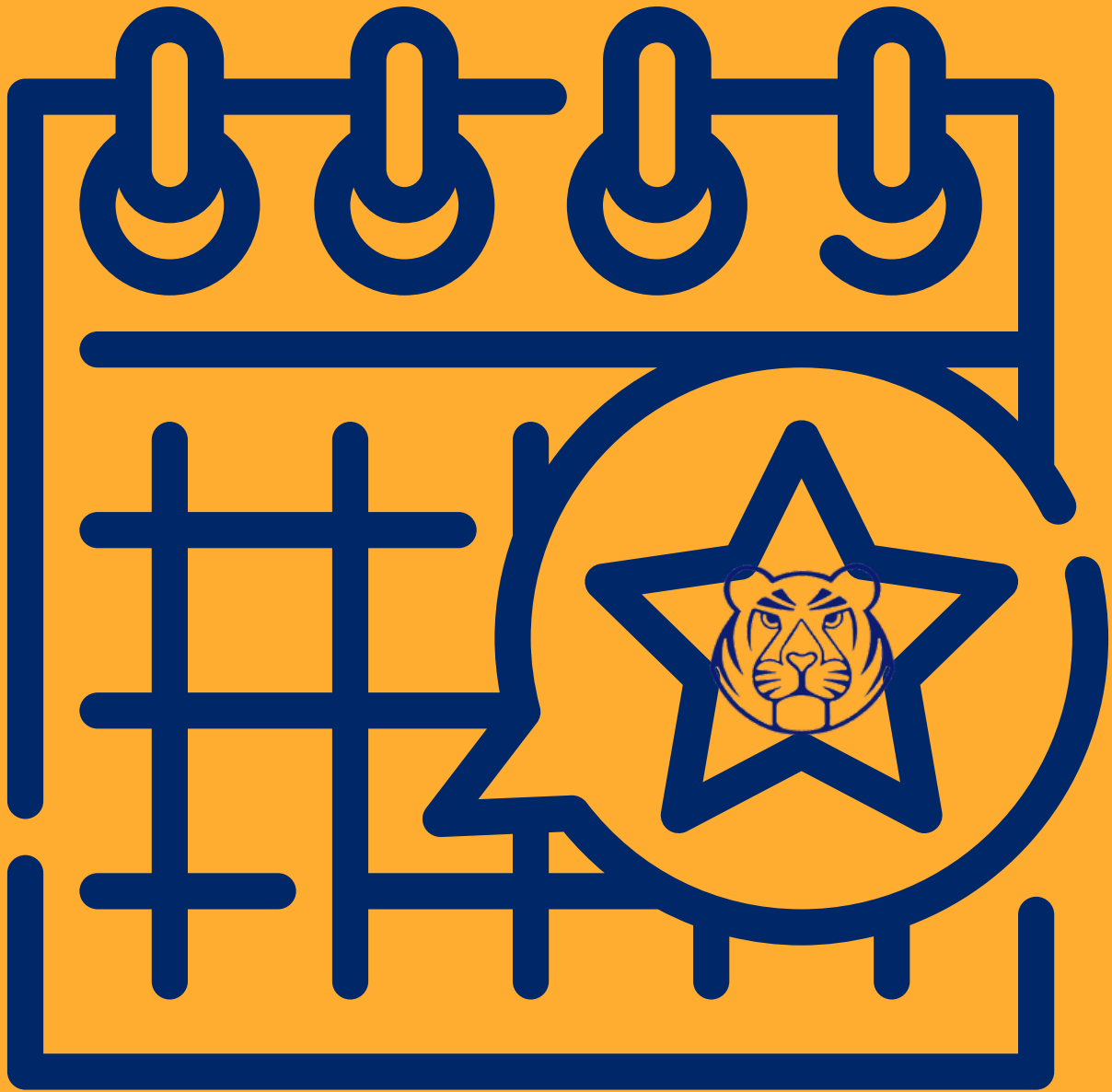
yearbook

**SUBMIT PHOTOS  
FOR THE 2023-2024  
YEARBOOK!**

*First Day of School, Back to School BBQ...  
let's make memories!*

[Travellyearbookphotos@gmail.com](mailto:Travellyearbookphotos@gmail.com)





**Be sure to check the GroupSpot calendar feed for important dates such as General HSA meetings, no-school-days, deadlines, etc.**