



# *TRITON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT*

NEWBURY • ROWLEY • SALISBURY

*From the office of Dr. Sandra J. Halloran*

## **News of the Week**

May 29, 2009

**TMS teacher Jacob Sydney** will be going to South Africa for six weeks to study its history and culture through the National Endowment for the Humanities. Twenty-five educators from around the country were selected from 160+ applicants. Jacob will return with new curriculum for the middle school. More can be found at: <http://www.neh.gov/projects/si-school.html>, and then you can click on the South Africa Institute website.

**TMS** enjoyed a visit from an author on Friday, May 22. Local author Ann Stott addressed Team 7-2 students. She spoke about easy fiction, the traits of good writing, how a book is put together, and the publishing process.

**NES 5<sup>th</sup> grade** is studying a literature unit about the Revolutionary War. The main character is a young boy who fights with Washington's army and carries a musket. One of the ongoing challenges for this character is the weight and operation of the musket. On Wednesday, May 27, a volunteer brought in a real colonial musket (obviously unloaded) so that the students could see and feel the real thing.

**SES kindergarten** classes have been learning about farming and the importance of farming in our community (community helpers). Topics have included work that is done on the farm and tools and spaces used to care for and operate a working farm. They also have talked about products that come from farms such as vegetables, meat and eggs and how lamb's wool becomes yarn or tomatoes become tomato sauce. On a visit to a farm they plan to see animals, explore farm tools and kitchen tools and learn more about New England farming.

**THS girls track team** won its second consecutive Cape Ann League Open Title this past Saturday. Deanna Latham won titles in three individual events and one relay. In the 100 yard hurdles, she broke the meet record. Rachelle Bourque earned league titles in Javelin and Shot Put. Hadley Crossman also was CAL champion. Merideth McWeeney, Hadley Crossman, Taelour Murphy and Deanna Latham combined to win the 4X100 relay. Ashley Pinette won second place in Shot Put and Discus. Brittany Caprio finished second in the Javelin.

**SES 5<sup>th</sup> grade** was off to the Saugus Iron Works on Wednesday, and Thursday. The students had a great time. Next week, the 5th grade will be embarking on a trip to Boston, via the train, to walk the Freedom Trail. It should be a wonderful adventure

**NES 6th grade** will be walking to raise money to buy uniforms for children in Africa on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. While learning about Africa two speakers came into school and shared their experiences in Africa. Jack Christian from *Amesbury for Africa*, [www.amesburyforafrica.org](http://www.amesburyforafrica.org) shared his visits to their sister city, Easbulu, Kenya. *Amesbury for Africa* has been involved in many projects in Kenya including providing uniforms to children so they can attend elementary school. Doctor Sue Crawford and her son, Matthew Crawford, visited NES last week to share their experiences throughout Africa. Dr. Crawford and her husband, Dr. Glen Crawford, have been providing hospital equipment and training health providers throughout Africa for over 20 years. Matthew Crawford, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Page School in West Newbury shared his experiences traveling to Africa. Matthew has attended school in Newburyport's sister village, Bura, Kenya; he is also one of the youngest people to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. The Newburyport/Bura Alliance also raises money to supply uniforms to children in Kenya so they can attend school.

**NES 5<sup>th</sup> grade Green Team United** has returned from an extremely busy, fun filled week down at the University of Tennessee where they competed in the 2009 Destination Imagination Global Finals! They completed an instant challenge and their central challenge--Operation Cooperation--to place 19th out of the 49 teams that competed in their challenge. The rest of the time they traded pins with children from 45 other states and countries, went to impressive opening/closing ceremonies, played ultimate frisbee, hiked five miles to a waterfall in the Smokey Mountains, saw bears, deer and snakes, experienced dorm life and visited a historic homestead and church dating back to 1820. It was an incredible experience!! They would like to thank all the people who made it possible for their team of creative, outside the box thinking fifth graders to have the Globals experience and the chance to represent NES.

**PGS Spring Concert** will be Thursday, June 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the All Purpose Room. Featured at this concert will be the Advanced Band, the 4th Grade Chorus, the 5th and 6th Grade Chorus, the Beginner Band, and the Triton District Elementary Stage Band. Directors are Kevin Carubia and Lois Freeman. There will be a finale including all of the 4th, 5th and 6th grade musicians of Pine Grove. They would also like everyone to take a minute to look at the artwork of 6th grade artists in the Link Art Gallery. The students worked hard on these and the show is a last hurrah and something special to add to their final days at PGS. The art that is labeled was shown at the Triton District Arts Festival.

**PGS 6<sup>th</sup> grade** had Paul Zambella from the local Forensics Center come in to show them all kinds of cool items, just like on CSI, this past Thursday. Grade 6 will also be doing Hot Air Hype on Friday; this is when they build hot air balloons all day and then get to launch them in the afternoon outside on the field.

**PGS 2nd grade** has been very busy creating Image Making books. This project has involved making papers using a variety of techniques such as marbling, straw blowing, watercolor with and without salt, and plexiglass prints. Once these papers were completed the children found images in their papers which inspired some original stories. At this time the children are busy

creating collages, writing their stories and publishing their books. These books will be proudly shared at the Celebration of Learning in June.

As part of the Social Studies curriculum PGS 2nd graders are studying the history of their ancestors. This project addressed two of the Massachusetts Learning Standards. The goal is to become familiar with the lives and traditions of family members who are two or more generations removed. The children interviewed family relatives, looked through family photos, went to the library and scanned the Internet for information about the countries of their ancestors. This also will be shared at the Celebration of Learning.

**THS Theatre** is presenting a return engagement of "Zombie Prom - The Musical" on June 20, at 7:00 in the HS auditorium. The performance is a fundraiser and all proceeds will go to upgrading the stage drapery and lighting instruments. Suggested ticket price is \$10 per person. Tickets are available from cast members and in the Visual and Performing Arts Department office. Contact Holly Libert, VPA administrative assistant, for information at [hlibert@trsd.net](mailto:hlibert@trsd.net).

**Kristen Lazzaro, THS director of guidance** was awarded Administrator of the Year from the North East Counselors Association on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**SES** will be involved in the Mini-Relay for Life again this year coordinated by grade two teacher, Michelle Howard. This will be the fifth year that SES has participated in this school-wide community service event to raise money for the American Cancer Society. It will occur on Tuesday, June 16th. The students will take turns walking one hour shifts from 8:30-2:30. Each grade level will be responsible for walking one hour. The event began as an off-shoot from the national Relay for Life Event in an effort to raise money for Ms. Howard's family team, the French Connection. Because of the generosity of the SES students, families, and staff, Ms. Howard's family has raised over \$30,000.00 in the past four years. Each year SES raises over \$3,000.00 alone. The children kicked off the fundraising today and will collect donations right up until the morning of the relay. This event brings SES together for a common cause. It allows children a safe venue to discuss the realities of cancer and to share survivor stories. The event allows all of us to hope and it empowers the students knowing that they are making a difference. With each step the students take, we are working toward stomping out cancer. Each step they take brings us closer to a cure. Ms. Howard says she is proud to be part of such a thoughtful and giving community.

**The Salisbury Elementary band** celebrated Memorial Day by marching in the Salisbury Memorial Day Parade. The annual spring concert will be presented at 8:45 am on Wednesday June 3 and the evening concert will be presented at 7 pm that evening, in the cafeteria. Grade three recorder students will also be performing.

**SES 2<sup>nd</sup> grade** students in Amy Farrell's class will be performing Fairy Tale Plays on Tuesday, June 2nd at 2:15. They have been practicing for two weeks and they are ready to perform!! Parents are invited!

**On May 13<sup>th</sup> THS (Marine Biology, Environmental Science and Natural Science students)** went on their annual whale watch with Captain Bill's out of Gloucester. As happens occasionally, they were scheduled to go on May 6, but the weather was nasty so they rescheduled. May 13 could not have been nicer. The weather was perfect, the seas calm and the whales plentiful. There were mothers and calves frolicking all around the boat the whole time they were out there. Students learned about some whale behaviors that occur between mother and baby. The students also got to witness some unusual feeding methods in humpback whales. No one got seasick! (That is a first!) Every year the Whale Center of New England (the naturalists on the whale watch) give them a whale through their Adopt-A-Whale program. This year they adopted Coral, an 11 year old male humpback whale.

**On May 19th**, all NES grade one and grade two teachers along with the principal, reading specialist, reading recovery teacher, and K-2 special education teacher were privy to a dynamic presentation in New Hampshire on Six Plus 1 Traits. Six Plus 1 Traits of writing is a language students and teachers can use to talk about writing. The traits are the qualities of writing and include: idea/content, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, conventions, and presentation. A common rubric sets the standards of excellence in all of these areas. Teachers were extremely pleased with this workshop, gained valuable ideas and knowledge, and were able to come back the very next day and implement some of the lessons that were modeled.

**The following Triton Regional Middle School students** have recently been **recognized by the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association** for their participation in this year's **Essay Contest**. The theme for this year's state-wide contest is **Foreign Language ABCs: About Better Communication**. The following students wrote outstanding essays and will receive a certificate for their terrific work:

**Tyler Haynes**  
**Amelia Woodworth**  
**Emily White**  
**Emily Fougere**  
**Julia Snelling**

**The following Triton Regional Middle School students** have been **recognized by the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association** for their participation in this year's **Poster Contest**. The following students made outstanding posters and will receive a certificate for their creative work:

**Kayla Coy**  
**Justin Gould**  
**Victoria Skoniecki**  
**Erin MacIsaac**  
**Paige Wheeler**

Congratulations to all who participated in the contest! Triton was one of 21 schools participating in this prestigious contest. We are very proud of you.

## **DID YOU KNOW...**

**More than 16 years ago**, Pine Grove School Kindergarten parents and teachers began a very special tradition - **“The Tradition of the Quilts.”** Each year, kindergarten children are asked to bring in two pieces of cloth from an article of clothing or blanket, etc. that has special meaning for the child. One piece of the material is sewn, by volunteers, into a beautiful quilt. Each year the quilt has a different theme. This year’s theme, in honor of our new president, is “Unity.” When the kindergartners are sixth graders, the quilt is displayed in the link Art Gallery along with the quilts from grades one through five. The sixth grade quilt is raffled off at their sixth grade graduation.

The second piece of cloth is put into a book with a caption explaining why this cloth was so important to the child. The kindergartener provides an illustration that is included in the book. These quilt books are displayed with the quilts and then the graduating sixth grade students are given their pages of the book for their own memento. The students love to see what they said and drew when they were kindergarteners. A wonderful tradition!