



Superintendent's Bulletin

Triton Regional School District

January 16, 2007

Sandra J. Halloran, Superintendent of Schools

Volume 1, Issue 3

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Greetings:

The new year is here and with it comes "budget season." Many stakeholders in the Triton Regional School District are involved in the development and passing of the annual budget. Although the budget is presented by School District Administration and voted on by the School Committee, the budget process takes into consideration the input from staff, parents, principals, and the community.

We have been and will continue to work on ensuring that the entire budget process and final budget document are thoroughly explained and understood by all constituents. Please know that should you have questions regarding any aspects of the budget, we are always willing to provide answers to you.

DO YOU KNOW???

- As part of their monthly community service work, Triton Regional Middle School students, in cooperation with the PTA and Troop Support, USA, will be conducting a card and candy campaign for the troops overseas for Valentine's Day. Our students have been recognized as one of the biggest contributors to Troop Support, USA. Their overwhelming support is greatly appreciated.
- Pine Grove School, under the direction of Physical Education teacher, Kyle Campbell, has a before school morning exercise program, *Every Body Get Up and Move*. The program is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Governor's Committee on Physical Fitness and Sports.
- Newbury Elementary School has 12 sixth graders participating in National History Day. They are producing project boards, documentary films and plays. The competition for these projects will take place in early March.
- Salisbury Elementary School has been awarded a \$4,000 wellness grant from the Massachusetts Department of Education. The school has also received a \$500 Wal-Mart grant to beautify the courtyard.

Superintendent's Advisory Council:

A Superintendent's Advisory Council has been formed. Five representatives from each town will meet with me on a monthly basis. The purpose of the Council is to enhance communication between parents, community members, and me. Topics for discussion will be identified by the members. Recommendations and actions will be reviewed and implemented as appropriate. I look forward to meeting with this group and have high expectations for the work we will accomplish.

- Newbury: Randall Esber, Thomas Strickler, Anna Tenaglia, Alicia Greco, Michelle Lorenzo
- Rowley: Curtis Bryant, William Eldridge, Peter Censullo, Susan Beausoliel, Hilary O'Doy
- Salisbury: Susan Bartlett, Robin Farago, Heidi Riccio, Mary Kirk, Charles Flynn

Contact Us

Triton Reg. School District
 Superintendent's Office
 112 Elm Street
 Byfield, MA 01922

Voice: (978) 465-2397
 Fax: (978) 465-8599

<http://www.trsd.net>

Upcoming Events

- **Wed., January 17th:**
Superintendent's Advisory Council Meeting; 6:30-8:30 PM
Superintendent's Conference Room
- **Wed., January 24th:**
Job Description/Salary Range Subcommittee Meeting; 5:30-7:00 PM
Superintendent's Conference Room
School Committee Meeting; 7:00 PM
Triton Regional High School Library
- **Mon., January 29th:**
No School Professional Development Day
- **Tues., January 30th:**
School Committee Communications Subcommittee Meeting; 3:30 PM
Superintendent's Conference Room
Policy Subcommittee Meeting; 6:00 PM
Superintendent's Conference Room
- **Thurs., February 1st:**
District Communications Committee Meeting; 7:00 PM
Superintendent's Conference Room
- **Wed., February 7th:**
Early Release Day; Professional Development
School Committee Meeting; 7:00 PM
Triton Regional High School Library
- **Wed., February 14:**
Tentative School Committee Meeting; 7:00 PM
Triton Regional High School Library
- **February 19th through February 23rd:** No School; Winter Vacation

Academics:

The Teacher Induction Program

The Triton Regional School District provides guidance and support to all teachers new to the district through our Teacher Induction Program. New teachers are assigned a fully trained mentor teacher when they are hired. Mentors are outstanding, experienced teachers whose teaching reflects excellent content knowledge and pedagogical strategies. They are knowledgeable about the professional and community resources in the school and district and are willing and able to invest time to develop mentoring skills. New mentors apply to and are selected by their building principals and participate in training during the summer.

Prior to the start of the new school year, newly hired teachers attend an Orientation Day that includes a discussion with Triton District Administration, an overview of district policies and procedures, meetings between mentors and new hires, a workshop on classroom management, and receptions at the various school sites. Guidebooks are distributed to the new teachers for quick and easy reference.

Over the course of the year, after-school workshops are offered to new hires and include topics such as classroom management, special education/504 regulations, parent conferences, instructional strategies, standards-based curriculum and assessment, and time management. Teachers earn in-service credit for attending these sessions. In addition, the Triton District supports the use of release time from teaching duties for both mentors and new hires so that they may engage in peer coaching/classroom observations and/or professional development relative to the program. Mentors and new hires meet on a regular basis throughout the year.

The five purposes for teacher induction programs are to:

- improve teaching performance,
- increase the retention of promising beginning teachers,
- promote the personal and professional well-being of beginning teachers,
- satisfy mandated requirements for induction and/or licensure, and
- transmit the culture of the system to beginning teachers.

Hurling-Austin, 1990

We believe that a strong teacher induction program not only allows beginning teachers to improve their teaching and develop collegiality, but also offers a vehicle for experienced mentors to fulfill their needs as adult learners. Currently, there are 38 trained K-12 mentors in the Triton District.

Middle School Update:

Kathleen Willis, Assistant Superintendent, has been appointed chair of the Middle School Task Force. Kathy will be contacting staff, parents, students, and community members within the month to form the task force. Updates will be posted to the district website.

Don't forget to check out the district website, located at <http://www.trsd.net> for all the latest happenings. Be sure to sign up for the TritonNews List Serve so you are notified of all important events.

Sandra J. Halloran
Superintendent of Schools
shalloran@triton.info

Kathleen M. Willis
Assistant Superintendent
kwillis@triton.info

Christine A. Kneeland
Admin. of Pupil Services
ckneeland@triton.info

Brian L. Forget
Business Administrator
bforget@triton.info

Robert C. Manseau
Triton Reg. High School
Principal
(978) 462-8171
rmanseau@triton.info

Peter A. Gadd
Triton Reg. Middle School
Principal
(978) 463-5845
pgadd@triton.info

Sylvia A. Jordan
Newbury Elementary School
Principal
(978) 465-5353
sjordan@triton.info

Jennifer M. Roberts
Pine Grove School
Principal
(978) 948-2520
jroberts@triton.info

James L. Montanari
Salisbury Elementary School
Principal
(978) 463-5852
jmontanari@triton.info

District Improvement Plan Update:

The district administrative team has been compiling demographic data for the District Improvement Plan. We have collected data that provides us with specific information regarding the students, staff, and communities that make up the Triton Regional School District. With this data we are answering the basic question, "Who are we?" The answers to the question, "Who are we?" set the context for the district, have huge implications for the direction the continuous district improvement plan will take, and can help explain how the district gets the results it is getting.

The second question in our continuous district improvement planning model is "How do we do business?" This question helps us understand organizational culture, shared assumptions, beliefs, and typical behavior. How the district does business can be ascertained through studying student, staff, and parent questionnaire results.

Questionnaires were developed for faculty, staff, students and parents based on *Using Data to Improve Student Learning*, a resource the district is using as a guide for data-driven decision making. Faculty and staff completed questionnaires during the month of December. Students in grades 3-8 will be completing the questionnaire from January 8th to January 18th. Due to mid-term exams, high school students will participate in the survey from January 30th to February 9th. All students will be completing the questionnaire on line. The surveys are comprised of 28-33 questions and should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. A parent survey will be conducted from February 6th to February 16th. The results of the surveys will be analyzed and will be incorporated into the District Improvement Plan.

I will continue to provide updates on our process and progress as we move forward with the District Improvement Plan. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions regarding this matter.

Middle School/High School Principal Search Update:

The Middle School and High School principal positions were advertised in the Boston Sunday Globe on January 7, 2007. These positions were also posted throughout the district and on-line including the Triton Regional School District (TRSD), the Massachusetts Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (MASCD), Education Week, and the Boston Globe BostonWorks websites. Kristen Lazarro, Director of Guidance, and Timothy Coyle, Social Studies Teacher and Program Coordinator, have been appointed co-chairs of the High School Principal Search Committee. Nancy Reed, Assistant Principal, has been appointed chair of the Middle School Principal Search Committee. Kristin, Tim, and Nancy will be facilitating focus groups and establishing search committees during the next month.

FY08 Budget Update:

The Initial FY08 Budget will be presented and discussed on Wednesday, January 24, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library. There was a request for an earlier presentation to the School Committee in an attempt to provide information regarding each Town's Assessments as soon as possible. This is 2 weeks earlier than the normal presentation of an initial budget. That fact, coupled with a new State Administration that delays a first budget by 30 days, means that our Revenue projections will be best estimates at this point. After the initial presentation on the 24th, the budget will be discussed at the February 7th, March 7th and March 14th meetings prior to a vote to approve the budget. March 14th will be the official public hearing on the vote, but be sure to be involved beginning on the 24th of January so you hear the full process and rationale for decisions that are being made.

High School:

Dear **High School** Focus Group Members,

The search for a new high school principal is underway. Mr. Manseau who has served the high school and the district with distinction since September, 1997, will be retiring September 28, 2007.

An integral part of the search process involves participation in focus groups. The groups are designed to obtain participant input about the attributes, experience and knowledge that a new high school principal should possess. The groups also provide an opportunity for participants to identify immediate tasks which the new principal should address.

The focus group session for **students** will be conducted as follows:

Triton Regional High School Library on February 1, 2007
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

The focus group session for **parents and community members** will be conducted as follows:

Triton Regional High School Library on February 5, 2007
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The focus group session for **faculty and staff** will be conducted as follows:

Triton Regional High School Library on February 7, 2007
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, and wish to provide input or have questions, please feel free to email me at shalloran@triton.info. or my administrative assistant, Patty Morelli at pmorelli@triton.info.

I hope that many focus group members will be able to participate as each person's contribution is very important to the process.

Middle School:

Dear **Middle School** Focus Group Members,

The search for a new middle school principal is underway. Mr. Gadd who has served the middle school and the district with distinction since November, 1998, will be retiring July 27, 2007.

An integral part of the search process involves participation in focus groups. The groups are designed to obtain participant input about the attributes, experience and knowledge that a new middle school principal should possess. The groups also provide an opportunity for participants to identify immediate tasks which the new principal should address.

The focus group session for **students** will be conducted as follows:

Triton Regional Middle School Library on January 31, 2007
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

The focus group session for **parents and community members** will be conducted as follows:

Triton Regional Middle School Library on February 5, 2007
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The focus group session for **faculty and staff** will be conducted as follows:

Triton Regional Middle School Library on February 7, 2007
2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, and wish to provide input or have questions, please feel free to email me at shalloran@triton.info. or my administrative assistant, Patty Morelli at pmorelli@triton.info.

I hope that many focus group members will be able to participate as each person's contribution is very important to the process.