



# *TRITON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT*

NEWBURY • ROWLEY • SALISBURY

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

## **News of the Week** **January 15, 2010**

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for January 27, at 7:00 in the high school Library.

**This past Thursday during their history classes, THS juniors** participated in a World War II Day, that included a tour of some World War II memorabilia (collected by Andrea Sargent, with help from Laurie St. Jacques) and listened to presentations by a few World War II veterans (organized by Shawn McElligott). The students heard a description of the memorabilia by downloading an mp3 file and listening to it on their mp3 players as they proceeded through the exhibit as if they were in an actual museum.

This was a great opportunity for our students and one that may not be able to go on for too much longer as we lose somewhere around 500,000 World War II veterans each year.

The Student Council at NES just finished the "Coats for Kids" drive in conjunction with Anton Cleaners. The total count of winter coats donated was 302. This remarkable number represents about one coat per two students enrolled at NES.

The Student Council wishes to thank all that donated. These coats are going to a good cause, especially this year because of the economic condition. All in all, there were over 50,000 coats donated which still did not meet the need. Thanks again to all.

Karen Atherton, THS, is collecting for the Habitat for Humanity "Homes & Hope Campaign." Habitat for Humanity assists in creating quality, affordable housing in the United States and helps families around the world escape their dire situations. With the latest disaster in Haiti, this is an excellent time to present the campaign to the Triton community. If anyone

would like to contribute, please make checks payable to: Habitat for Humanity, and send via interoffice mail to, Karen Atherton-THS. Collections will be sent in as a collective contribution.

[Did you know](#) that Triton District students and staff [consume more than 700 lbs of fruits and vegetables per week?](#) It is a fact, just ask Ms. Bolduc!

[TMS Team 8-2 will be holding Student-Led Conferences](#) during the third week of January. These conferences provide an opportunity for our students to reflect upon their successes during their eighth grade academic year thus far. The students have been accumulating pieces of their core course work. The examples of work chosen were selected by both the students and the teachers. The portfolio each student has created will be shared by the student with a conferencing adult. This conferencing model holds the student responsible for their work, celebrates their strengths and acknowledges their weaknesses while providing an opportunity for goal setting in order to improve their overall success in eighth grade. Every student on Team 8-2 will participate in a Student-Led Conference.

[SES sixth grade](#) enjoyed a ventriloquist performance on Thursday, the 14th; this was arranged by Mr. Donoghue and Mr. Montanari. It appears SES has a budding ventriloquist among the sixth grade boys (Tommy Donovan. The students were very excited about the performance!

[On December 23rd, at PGS](#), a giant 27 piece puzzle, measuring 3'x6', was put together during the Holiday Sing-along. Each grade level had a symbol of light represented in the puzzle and each classroom (including staff) had its own piece. Students signed their names inside and around an outline drawn by art teacher, Jen Dubis and the words created the illusion of value. The mural will be preserved and become a permanent fixture in the school so that students, family and friends can come see it and enjoy searching for their names for years to come.

[Twenty-seven 4th grade beginning band students at Pine Grove](#) participated in a Performance Contest during Christmas vacation. They collected signatures of anyone who would listen to them perform a song on their instrument. Improvement in all 27 students was noticed! These students performed to a total of 400 people. The first place winner of the contest was Apphia Donoghue with 60 signatures and 2nd place was Paige Kacherian with 41 signatures. Congratulations!

[This past Tuesday night, the THS Drama One class presented its original play,](#) "The Almost Complete Anthology of Fairly Modern Fairy Tales." The play was written and directed by THS senior teaching assistants, and the performance truly exceeded all expectations. Over 100 folks were in the audience, and their response was very enthusiastic. Particularly pleasing, was the excellence of the script and the high quality of production, and although it's a "fractured" fairy tale, high school audience members really enjoyed it.

[A Note from an Audience Member:](#) Tuesday night I had the wonderful opportunity to enjoy the talents of Triton's ninth grade Theater 1 Class, when they performed "**The Almost Complete Anthology of Fairly Modern Fairytales.**" This hilarious performance exhibited the upcoming talents that our high school drama class is fostering. The two seniors involved in this creation, Mariah Donnellan and Donald Dow were allowed to "take the ball and run with it" and their creative efforts in both the writing and production were simply ingenious. This class not only provided upperclassman the opportunity to share what they learned over the years being in theater, but allowed the underclassman a voice in interjecting their creativity in improvisation. Seeing this performance was to me a constant reminder as to why theater has been such a great force in providing strong leadership and creative exploration for our students. I would like to thank Ms. Riordan for her continuous dedication to our students.

Amy Conant-Greene

[The NES first grade classes are beginning their research project](#) on animals in their habitats. Mrs. Mollineaux's class will be diving into the deep ocean, Mrs. Harper's class will be swinging through the rainforest, Ms. Williamson's class will be going on a safari through the African grasslands and Miss Soini's class will be trekking through the dry desert. We are excited to take a close-up look at how each of these animals survives in their habitat. When we have completed our research we will create a poster and host a habitat walk-about to share all of the information we have found.

[TMS is hosting the first annual 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Spelling Bee](#) Friday, January 15, at 6:00 in the high school auditorium. Please come and cheer on the team as they compete with Georgetown and Pentucket. [GO TMS!](#)

[The PGS student council](#) is doing a Valentine drive for the troops. The deadline is February 5th. Please look at the giving tree in the front lobby because this is going to be the drop off box for the cards. Let's can make our soldiers happy for Valentine's Day.

[The TMS Math League](#) would like to express sincere appreciation to Ms. Wilson, wife of Mark Wilson, math league coach, for taking the time to wash the team tee-shirts after each meet! That is "above and beyond" the call of duty. **THANK YOU MS. WILSON!**

[ELEMENTARY MATH LEAGUES](#) will be starting up soon! For registrations, please contact Kathy Comins, [kcomins@trsd.net](mailto:kcomins@trsd.net) for SES. Alicia Chiasson, [Laure](mailto:Laure) Paige, [lp Paige@trsd.net](mailto:lp Paige@trsd.net) for NES and Leslie Blaney, [lbianey@trsd.net](mailto:lbianey@trsd.net) for PGS.

[The TMS 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Service Club](#) has received approval (blame Le Grand Fromage - aka Mr. Fulgoni) for a crazy hat and clothes day on Friday, Feb. 12 (the day before vacation). Students will be allowed to pay \$2 to wear a hat in school all day. The proceeds will be donated to the Merrimack Valley Feline Rescue Society, MSPCA Methuen, New England Equine Rescue and AC4H (Another Chance for Horses). Students who participate will receive a raffle ticket to enter to win a hat.

Also students will be encouraged to wear crazy clothes to show their love for animals. This is free and on the same day.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Community Service Club will also request students to bring in pictures of their adopted or rescued pets. The pictures will be posted on a bulletin board to encourage students to adopt or rescue pets (if they are planning on getting a pet) or just support their local animal shelters and rescue societies.

### [PRESCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHTS](#)

Newbury Elementary School:	Thursday, February 4
Pine Grove School:	Monday February 8
Salisbury Elementary School:	Tuesday February 9

Parents of preschool children are invited to an Open House and Information Night to be held from 6:30PM – 7:30PM at their local school. The Open House is for parents of prospective students and will consist of an overview of the classroom program, including a PowerPoint presentation, as well as a tour of the preschool classrooms. Preliminary applications will be available for next year's program. Children must be three years old before September 1, 2010 and live in the town where they wish to apply. Spaces are limited.

The district preschool programs provide child-centered developmentally appropriate preschool classes for young children ages three to five. Classes meet two, three, or four half days each week. Tuition is based on the number of days per week. Financial assistance, based on income, is available for those who qualify. For further information, contact Kathleen Murphy, Early Childhood Coordinator, at [kmurphy@trsd.net](mailto:kmurphy@trsd.net).

[Mrs. Garron's TMS Computer Technology classes'](#) seventh and eighth grade students have completed the NetSmartz Workshop! The NetSmartz Workshop is an interactive, educational safety resource from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children<sup>®</sup> (NCMEC) and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) that uses age-appropriate, 3-D **activities** to teach children how to stay safer on the Internet.

The goal of the NetSmartz Workshop is to extend the safety awareness of children to prevent victimization and increase self-confidence whenever they go online. These goals include how to:

- enhance the ability of children to recognize dangers on the Internet
- enhance the ability of children to understand that people they first "meet" on the Internet should never be considered their friend
- encourage children to report victimization to a trusted adult
- support and enhance community education efforts
- increase communication between adults and children about online safety

The NetSmartz Workshop teaches children three basic rules for online safety.

- I will tell an adult I trust if anything makes me feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.
- I will ask my parents or guardian before sharing my personal information.

- I won't meet in person with anyone I have first "met" online.

Check out the site – [www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)

**Celebrate Savings:** Continuing this new section into its second week, I would like to share some changes we have made with our health plans over the past of couple years that have generated significant savings. With the cost of health care forever going up, there are basically two ways to save the district money, both of which involves more out-of-pocket costs the employees. The first method of savings is to change the plan design and the second is to have the portion paid by the district reduced. Over the past two years we have done both. Please be aware that due to the fact that we have several employee collective bargaining associations, medical benefits are subject to mandatory bargaining regulations and cannot be changed outside the bargaining process.

During the last contract negotiations we successfully negotiated changes for our medical and dental plans with all collective bargaining associations (CBA's). For those employees not in CBA's, including all administrators, the same medical/dental coverage that is negotiated with the associations is provided. The negotiated changes included a change in the contribution percentage for our HMO Plan from 75% District – 25% Employee to 70% District – 30% Employee. In addition, we offer a PPO Plan and the contribution rate changed from 70% District – 30% Employee to 61% District – 39% Employee. While these are not large changes in percentages, the net affect was an annual savings to the district of \$343,594 for the current 2009/2010 year. Due to the fact that this savings was the function of a change in how we share the costs, we, the employees, therefore collectively paid an additional \$343,594 for out-of-pocket medical care this year.

In addition to the change in contribution rates, we also made some plan changes that increased our office and emergency room co-pays as well as doubled the cost of mail-in prescriptions. These changes represent an additional annual savings to the district of \$185,299 for the 2009/2010 school year.

All told, these two changes represent a current year savings of \$528,893. As the cost of premiums inevitably rise, the annual savings to the school district will only grow larger.