



TRITON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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From the office of Dr. Sandra J. Halloran

News of the Week

January 22, 2010

TRSD School Committee Meeting: Wednesday January 27, 7:00 in the THS library. The FY11 budget will be discussed in preparation for the formal presentation to the committee on March 3rd.

Don't miss a minute of the important budget discussions affecting the Triton Regional Schools over the next couple of months. Viking Television (VTV) will stream the school committee meetings LIVE on the web at ustream.tv starting this Wednesday, January 27th at 7pm. To view the webcast, copy and paste the following address into your web browser...

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/triton-regional-school-committee-meetings>
or log onto www.ustream.tv and search by Triton Regional School Committee

TMS 21st Century Community Spelling Bee 2010: The first annual Community Spelling Bee held its final competition on Friday evening, January 15th, in the Triton High School auditorium. The competition was between three schools, Triton, Pentucket and Georgetown. The words used were the same words used for the Scripps National Spelling Bee, and a second word list specific to middle school. All students were given these lists prior to the event. All contestants did a superb job. Coming in **third place** was our own 7th grader Ceili Riccio. **Second place** was another Triton student, 8th grader Sydney Rybicki. **First place ended up being a tie between Georgetown's Ryan Bahar and Triton's Devon Shuman.** The judges gave them some of the hardest words on the word lists, then went off the word lists and into dictionaries, and finally into Mr. Sydney's personal word list to find difficult words that might knock one of them out. Neither contestant broke after spelling 17 words correctly, so the judges finally declared a tie! Next year we hope to include Nock Middle School, Masconomet and other local area schools. We will also be inviting the community to participate in various roles.

Sincere words of thanks go to Kim Armstrong, Jacob Sydney and Alan MacRae for their dedication and hard work. Congratulations to our participants and winners- Your school is very proud of you!

Spelling bee contestants included Triton middle school, Pentucket and Georgetown students: Shanon Alvino, Ryan Bahar, Emily Bisson, Evan Burke, Caitlin Cole, Mary Kate Corrado, Kandace Demers, Kelsey Dion, Cassidy Dodge, Kiersten Floodman, Thomas Gallagher, Thomas Lane, Nico Limacher, Allison MacIsaac, Kenny Mc Ardle, Marissa McGrath, Duncan Hough, Matt McParland, Patrick Meehan, Hailey Perry, Atlee Quarrier, Ceili Riccio, Sydney Rybicki, Pat Slack, Sullivan, Devon Shuman, and Sarah Wiles.

SES Homework Club has started! Four days a week the Homework Club will gather to do homework with the guidance of one of the fifth grade teachers. Students will be able to receive expert re-teaching and assistance as the curriculum becomes more demanding. In addition, a mini-lesson on organizational or study skills will occur at the beginning of each session. Of course the kids can bring snacks, and, on Thursdays, purchase items from the "Sweet Shop" of Kids Inc.!

TMS Team 7-2 students Caitlin Broderick, Hannah Canning, Cara Orlandi, Ceili Riccio, and Ally Sirois submitted [poems that were selected for publication](#) in the [Creative Communication anthology *A Celebration of Poets*](#). Congratulations!

The National Honor Society will be hosting its annual blood drive on March 11th in the wrestling room. They are sending this notice out early for you to consider donating blood. The Red Cross will be set up that day between 7:30 and 1:30 pm. They do not have the sign-up sheet from the Red Cross yet, but will notify everyone once sign up begins.

The SES Student Council will be organizing a [Nickels in Need for Haiti drive](#). We are hoping that students will bring in a nickel for every year of life and adults will donate a nickel for every year working.

News for the THS Junior Class (Class of 2011): **Junior Prom:** The date for the Junior Prom has been set for Saturday, May 8 at the Atkinson Country Club. Tickets will go on sale after February vacation for all juniors eligible to attend. To be eligible, all class dues (\$45/year) must be paid and all outstanding debts, such as text books, must be paid or returned.

Junior Winfrey's Fudge Sales: The junior class is selling fudge from the famous Winfrey's -- chocolate, pennuci and chocolate walnut -- for Valentine's Day. All proceeds will go to the junior class to help pay for activities for Homecoming, Senior Week, and other class events. Fudge is \$7/pound. See a class of 2011 member for details.

Tyler Soucy and Hannah Clark, members of Pine Grove Student Council, are working on a project to help Haiti. They will be posting news and charitable organizations in the A.P. room. If you would like to donate to the Red Cross they will have a collection jar in the PGS office. They will accept cash and checks. The student council will total the cash and make one check to send or checks can be made out to "American Red Cross." Please put the word "Haiti" on the check as well. Thank you for your help.

The **SES Kids Club** recently completed the "Officer Mike's Challenge." They raised 176 items of food in just one month! All participants will be enjoying an ice cream party with all the fixings the first week of February! Officer Mike, Ms. Pollard, Ms. Roberts, Ms. Appolloni and Ms. Davis will be serving the students while dressed in aprons and old fashion Ice cream server hats! They are now half through their second challenge. They have raised over \$80.00 in spare change and their goal is \$150.00 by May. If their goal is reached they will be having a Pizza party, compliments of the Salisbury Police department, who has already issued a check for \$50.00! All funds raised will be used to buy two \$75.00 gift cards for families in need. The students really are very involved with both these projects and are very excited about their bank that counts the money as it is deposited. Jayson Davis is volunteering once a week to guide the Kids Club students in a floor hockey tournament. Students look forward to Jayson days and this experience of "giving and receiving" offers many teachable moments. Kudos to Lisa Davis, her Kids Club staff and volunteers Officer Mike Alder and Jayson Davis for "making a difference."

A Message from Ms. Sweeney My GREAT news is that I am happy to be working with Chris Astuccio in the TLC classroom, and more than grateful to be back with my middle school family. Thoughtfully, Nancy

[News from the Art Department & Mrs. Merluzzi:](#) Currently on display in the halls of Newbury Elementary School – A Collage of Snowmen created by Kindergarten artists, Matching Mittens on a Sparkle Snowball Background by Grade 1 artists, Still Life Fruit Bowls by Grade 2 artists and Prehistoric Cave Paintings by 4th grade artists.

To help us celebrate the District Visual and Performing Arts Festival during the week of March 8-12, the PTA has generously agreed to rent a display about the artwork of artist Vincent van Gogh (Dutch 1853-1890).

In preparation for this event all students in grades 1-6 are learning of the tragic life and outstanding artistic abilities of Vincent van Gogh (Dutch 1853-1890). Although the details of his life are sad and sometimes shocking, students are learning to appreciate van Gogh's contribution to the art world.

Each grade level will create a work of art inspired by van Gogh's artwork. These will be on display during the evening of March 11 when Newbury Elementary will host an Evening of Art.

[Celebrate Savings:](#) Two weeks ago I explained to you the new bus contract that will begin on July 1, 2010 and the savings we will realize in the coming years. In addition to our regular day transportation, we also made a change in the current school year for all special education transportation. As you may know, we are required to provide specialized transportation for students with disabilities if their individualized education program (IEP) calls for such a service. Through efforts by the state and educational collaboratives across the commonwealth, there has been a push to collaborate on special education transportation. SEEM Collaborative is one of the groups that has worked on this effort and formed the Northeast Transportation Network. The Network has contracted since 2009 with North Reading Transportation, which is our new regular education transport company, to provide these services. By joining the Network for the 2009/2010 school year, we are saving more than \$200,000 on our special education transportation costs, while still maintaining the same high level of service that we have maintained over the years.