



# *TRITON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT*

**NEWBURY • ROWLEY • SALISBURY**

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

## **News of the Week**

### **February 5, 2010**

#### **A Message From the Superintendent**

Our District's emergency plan has been tested this past week with incidences at Salisbury Elementary School and Triton Middle School. During both of these incidences involving a firearm in the building, Principals Jim Montanari and Jared Fulgoni followed safety procedures already in place and students and staff remained safe.

At approximately 1 PM on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, a student reported to Mr. Fulgoni that he had seen another student with a firearm. Following the school emergency plan, Mr. Fulgoni immediately notified the Newbury Police Department. The student was identified and the firearm was secured. Working cooperatively with the police, it was determined that there was no further threat to the safety of the school. The student was taken into police custody and will face appropriate disciplinary actions. The incident remains under active investigation by the Newbury Police.

On Wednesday morning, Tuesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, a student reported to Mr. Montanari, Principal of Salisbury Elementary School that another student had carried a pellet BB gun from home to school in his backpack. Mr. Montanari followed the established emergency procedures, notifying the police and securing the BB gun. The young student explained that he and his dad were going to go and practice shooting the gun after school. The Salisbury Police are continuing to investigate the incident.

Parents were invited to attend a meeting on Thursday, February 4, in the auditorium at Triton High School. Principals Jim Montanari, Jared Fulgoni, High School Principal Kevin McLaughlin, and Assistant Superintendent Kathleen Willis joined me and representatives from both the Newbury and Salisbury Police Departments to provide additional information regarding these incidents as well as answer questions.

The safety of our students and staff has always been our number one priority. Over the next few weeks, we will be reviewing procedures and examining our reaction to the incidences at our schools. We will implement whatever is necessary to keep our schools secure for our students and staff.

**Scheduled Triton Regional School Committee Meetings:** All meetings will take place at 7PM in the high school library.

Wednesday, February 3, 2010	Budget Meeting
Wednesday, February 10, 2010	Regular Meeting (vote on tentative budget)
Wednesday, March 3, 2010	Public Hearing
Wednesday, March 10, 2010	Regular Meeting (projected vote on budget)

**Watch the meetings live!** Important budget discussions affecting the Triton Regional Schools over the next couple of months can be viewed as they are happening! Viking Television (VTV) will stream the school committee meetings LIVE on the web at [www.ustream.tv](http://www.ustream.tv). To view the webcast, copy and paste the address into your web browser.

**Senior Deanna Latham receives full scholarship:** On Wednesday February 10th, Deanna Latham of the Girls Track and Field Team will sign her "Letter of Intent" to officially accept her full scholarship for track and field to the University of Wisconsin. All members of the girls' track and field team will be invited to the Faculty Cafeteria at 1:45pm to share this moment with Deanna in a brief ceremony. Any faculty/staff member/administrator who is free and wishes to attend is cordially invited, as well.

**NES** will have its third annual Valentine's Day greeting card drive to benefit the senior citizens in the Newbury-Byfield area in the next two weeks. At Christmas-time, we sent out over 500 cards to our beloved seniors and we had a lot of positive feedback from the community.

As you may know, there are 1,100 senior citizens in this community, a large portion of which are considered "shut-ins" or are in assisted living situations. As a community service, it's wonderful to delight these "seniors" again with some Valentine's cheer from Newbury's younger population. Families are sending in stamps, teachers are providing a 1/2 hour or so of creative

student time, and students are stuffing the provided envelopes with cards created by their friends. The Newbury Council on Aging and 3rd grade teacher Jen Lapham will handle the addressing and sending of these 550 envelopes slated to be sent this February.

**SES Invites Parents of Pre-School Children to Open House:** Parents of preschool children are invited to an Open House Information Night to be held in the Salisbury Elementary School library and preschool classrooms on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 PM-7:30PM. **The Information Night is for parents of prospective students and will consist on 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 in order to apply.** Spaces are limited.

The Salisbury Preschool provides child-centered developmentally appropriate preschool classes for young children ages three to five. Classes meet two, three or four mornings or afternoons each week. Tuition is based on the number of days/week. Financial assistance based on income is available for those who qualify.

**SES Kindergarten Information Night:** All parents who will have a child attending kindergarten in September at the Salisbury Elementary School are invited to attend a Kindergarten Information meeting on Tuesday, March 2 at 6:30PM in the school library. Snow date is March 3. Children must be five years old before August 31, 2010 in order to be eligible for kindergarten. At the meeting, information will be presented on both the half and tuition based full day kindergarten options as well as the screening and registration process. Kindergarten staff will describe the program and curriculum. Staff and parents will be available to answer questions. Screening will be held by appointment on Monday, May 3 and Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

**TRHS** has 28 students and three teachers travelling to Quebec April 9,10,11 with **VISIT CANADA**. The School Committee approved this trip in the Fall as well as the French Exchange for 2010-2011.

Beginning next week, Ms. Sternlicht will be sending host family applications home with students to host the 23 French students that will be visiting our school/community in October

2010. Interested families should contact her at [rsternlicht@trsd.net](mailto:rsternlicht@trsd.net) . The first student meeting will take place next Thursday after school and students will begin email correspondence to launch our school to school, community to community exchange.

**Rowley Public Education Fund and Pine Grove School** will present "Annie jr." on Friday, Feb. 5th at 7:00, and Saturday, Feb. 6th at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. at Pine Grove School. Boasting a cast of seventy-one 5th & 6th graders acting, singing, and dancing on stage and thirty-one 4th grade chorus members . The Director is Kimberly Robertson, musical director is Lois Freeman and choreographer is Jillian (Pinto) Cronin, with guest appearances by Mr. John Collyer, Mr. Skip Pearson and Mrs. Christine Kneeland. Tickets will be available at the door \$10 general seating and \$15 premium seating or online at [kscalley@comcast.net](mailto:kscalley@comcast.net).

**TMS 21<sup>st</sup> Century Triton Paws 4 People** (after school community service club) is currently collecting pictures and stories of students' adopted or rescued pets. Triton Paws 4 People will raise funds for local animal shelters and rescue societies by hosting Crazy Hat Day on Friday, Feb. 12. Middle school students can pay \$2 to wear a hat in school on that day. Students are also encouraged to wear crazy clothes to show their love for animals. Students who submit a picture will receive a raffle ticket to enter to win a hat on Crazy Hat Day. Pictures and stories will be posted on the bulletin board in the middle school lobby. **Triton Paws 4 People encourages students and their families to consider adopting a pet from a shelter, rather than buying one.**

**SES Kindergarten teacher Ms. Orroth** and her students will welcome an Amesbury Firefighter on Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup>. The father of one of her students, who is a firefighter in Amesbury, is visiting with a coworker to speak with the children. He is bringing all of his gear and is going to let the kids try it on. He said all the other kindergarten classes are welcome as well.

**Haiti Fundraisers Planned: THS Community Service students** would like to invite you to a good old home cooking night out at Triton. Our students, families, and staff members will be whipping up some of their best recipes to serve to you on March 6th, from 4-6 PM in our cafeteria. There will baskets of hearty breads and butter to accompany these foods. The cost is a mere \$5 for five substantial tastes (souffle cups) of New England's finest soups, stews, chowders

and chili. Baked goods will be on sale as well. [Monies collected](#) from this event will be [donated to the Haiti Relief Fund](#). We hope you and your families, friends and relatives will join us in this very first Taste of Triton.

[PGS Student council](#) has found out that with 50 cents, they can get a packet for purifying water in Haiti. They would like to collect as much change as they can for this cause and are calling this drive [Change for Change](#). If students or staff members donate 50 cents they can wear a hat on Friday. Fifty cents can buy enough purified water to supply a family of four! The collection box is in the school office.

[SES staff and students](#) raised \$600.00 for the Haiti relief fund. Special thanks to all. Mrs. Bissell's class alone raised \$89.00. Well done!

[A Smartboard has been generously donated to the first grade by an NES family.](#) The children are so excited about having this amazing, interactive technology tool in their classroom. The children have already been able to:

- Play an interactive clock game to learn about telling time to the hour and half hour
- Survey classmates and practice tallying
- Record the day's weather
- Interactively do their Foundations assignments
- Log attendance and the lunch and milk count in the morning

The possibilities are endless with this! We feel so lucky and grateful.

[PGS is Ready to Celebrate Valentine's Day:](#) It's that time of year once again and the third grade is happy to be opening the [PGS Valentine's Day Post Office](#). The familiar pink mailboxes will be placed in the hallways on Friday February 5th. The mail will be delivered on February 8,9,10,and 11.

[A Message from TMPO:](#) TMPO (Triton Music Parents Organization) would like to thank the Triton Teachers and Staff for their ongoing help and support with all of our fundraising efforts. We would also like to thank the District parents for their continuing support by purchasing items and attending events we hold.

In these tough budget times it keeps us motivated to know that so many people support the Arts and all the students involved in them as we do!

Important upcoming events: March 4,5,6,7 @7pm Spring Musical "Chicago"

March 11 Newburyport Jazz Festival, Newburyport High

March 20 7pm TMPO Benefit Concert, an evening of Acoustic Music @ Triton High School

TMPO now has two ink cartridge recycle drop off boxes. One at the High School office, and one at the Middle School. Anyone can drop off their ink cartridges at these two convenient locations. TMPO will use some of the money earned from these cartridges to buy supplies needed at both schools and to help fulfill the PTO wish list tree. Recently, TMPO efforts have contributed over \$400.00 towards these causes.

**DID YOU KNOW?:** The Triton School District consumes an average of 484 gallons of milk per week! Ms. Bolduc does because that's how much she orders!

**On Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, SES teacher Mickey Patten,** will be participating in the Penguin Plunge to benefit Special Olympics of NH. She had to raise \$350 just to enter and the donations are still coming in. So at 12:00 noon on Super Bowl Sunday, about 500 people including Mickey, will be running into the Atlantic Ocean across from the Ashworth by the Sea- All for a good cause- GO Mickey!

**NES has open computer lab** every Wednesday from 3-4pm. All grades are welcome. And admission is FREE. Students can speed up on math facts or math puzzles by playing computer games from Mrs. Raycroft's website or do homework, research PowerPoints, or any other projects from their class.

**Family Math Night @ NES:** You are invited to join Newbury Elementary School for Family Math Night, February 11, 2010 from 5:30-7:00. Parents play an important role in the mathematics education of our students. Please join us to learn some fun, hands-on games and activities you can use at home to promote mathematical thinking! Each grade level will provide opportunities for the students to show their families the mathematics they have been involved

with this year. Families can also visit the Rocket Math table to learn more about our new and exciting math fact program. And do not forget to enter one of our math contests, or view the PowerPoint projects designed by our sixth grade students. We look forward to seeing you there!

[NES 6th graders](#) had a great presentation from Brett Langendorfer (Bonnie Langendorfer's son). He shared his knowledge of the three monotheistic religions that originated in the Middle East. The students were highly engaged. They have asked Brett to return to talk about Hinduism and Buddhism!

[The NES Parent/Child Book Club](#) is for any child in **4th, 5th or 6th grade** accompanied by a parent or any other adult. The child and adult will read the book together or separately and then meet all together with Mrs. Valentine (NES Library aide) to have a lively discussion about the monthly book selection. When Zachary Beaver Came to Town by Kimberly Willis Holt is the March selection. NES Parent/Child book Club will be Thursday March 4th, 2010, 6:30 to 7:30pm in the school library. Please email [lvalentine@trsd.net](mailto:lvalentine@trsd.net) for more information.

[The SES Parent/Child Book Club](#) is for any child in **4th, 5th or 6th grade** accompanied by a parent or any other adult. The child and adult will read the book together or separately and then meet all together with Ms. Anne O'Brien and Ms. Brenda O'Connell to have a lively discussion about the monthly book selection. Weedflower by Cynthia Kadohata is the March selection. The SES Parent/Child book Club will be Thursday February 25, 2010, 6:30 to 7:30pm in the school library. Please email [ao'brien@trsd.net](mailto:ao'brien@trsd.net) for more information.

[Celebrate Savings:](#) Continuing on the utilities theme from last week, I would like to share with you how we have saved on our heating fuel costs. All schools within the district are heated with natural gas, with the exception of the heating system at the Salisbury Elementary School which burns oil as a backup. We have taken advantage of our ability to join the Greater Lawrence Educational Collaborative (GLEC) cooperative purchasing group. By joining with over 10 other local area schools/communities to collaboratively procure goods and services, we are able to enjoy greater economies of scale and achieve better pricing. This has indeed been the case with heating fuel. GLEC has employed the services of Energy Rebate, Inc., an outside energy consultant, to complete all bids and assist in the procurement of natural gas. We have made out

extremely well over the several years that we have been part of the collaborative bid. Currently, they were able to play the market well and we never felt the impact of the spike in fuel prices over the past 24 months. Also, we entered into a new contract for 24 months that began this past November and represents a further reduction in our rates for the remainder of this year and throughout FY11. While usage fluctuates depending on how cold the winters are, on average we project that we are saving approximately \$29,000 annually across the district on our heating fuel costs.