



# *TRITON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT*

**NEWBURY • ROWLEY • SALISBURY**

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

## **News of the Week** **February 12, 2010**

### **A Message from the Superintendent**

As we continue to read about events involving young students, it is important that the reporting of these issues be factual. When the reporting is inaccurate, I feel it is necessary to restate the facts. At the same time, protecting the rights of students involved and being careful not to interfere with the integrity of any police investigation remains a priority.

This past week, there were newspaper reports regarding a student who allegedly set fire to his home after arriving home from school. The young person involved is a special education student who attends an out of district school and is transported daily on a special needs van. These vans have a limited number of seats and cannot transport more than a small number of students at one time. The van transporting this student also has a monitor in place to ensure the safety of all students.

Any incident involving bullying or other type of harassment on a school bus or van requires a written report so that it can be dealt with promptly. Let me be absolutely clear, there have been no reports involving bullying or harassment of any kind from the van driver, van monitor, student or parent. Furthermore, the formal report from Health and Human Services received after this incident contains absolutely no mention of bullying.

As Superintendent, please let me assure you that bullying is not tolerated on our buses, our playgrounds or in our schools. The Triton District has a harassment policy that is reviewed annually for students and staff and it is posted in every classroom and office. The safety and security of our students and staff remains our number one priority.

**Scheduled Triton Regional School Committee Meetings:** While there will also be normally scheduled content during these meetings, the focus will largely be on the FY11 budget process, wrapping up with a voted budget by the March 10, 2010 meeting. All meetings will take place at 7PM in the high school library.

Wednesday, February 10, 2010	postponed because of the “storm”
Wednesday, February 24, 2010	rescheduled from February 10th
Wednesday, March 3, 2010	
Wednesday, March 10, 2010	

**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.

**Congratulations to the Triton Varsity Winter Cheerleaders** who placed second in the Cape Ann League Cheer Competition on February 7th! Led by captains Makayla Fernandez, Lindsey Goldstein and Rebecca Moore, the team qualified to compete in the North Regional Cheer Competition on Sunday March 7th at Andover High School. Also, thank you to all who made the competition, which was hosted here at Triton, a great success. GO VIKINGS!!!

**2010 Retirement Party News:** The party honoring district retirees has been scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Rowley Country Club, (now called Carriage Pines).

**A Valentine Tradition at PGS:** Thirty years ago, Pine Grove School Readiness Teacher, Dewey Morse, began a February project to help her students match letters and numbers. Dewey and her students opened the Valentine’s Day Post Office. Children in the primary grades “mailed” Valentine’s cards to friends and teachers in other classrooms by placing them in large hallway collection boxes. The Readiness students sorted the cards and delivered them to various classrooms throughout the school. When the Readiness program was eliminated, second grade

teacher Robbin Duncan took over the February tradition. As Pine Grove School expanded, so did the Valentine's Day Post Office and the responsibility of delivering Valentine messages was passed on to the third graders. This year the Valentine's Day Post Office is once again open. The large pink collection boxes have been placed in the hallways. Classroom teachers and staff have placed Valentine boxes, baskets and bags outside of their rooms. Each third grade class has been assigned a day to run the post office. Like the students 30 years ago, the third graders will collect, sort and deliver Valentine's Day wishes to everyone at Pine Grove School. Traditions like the Valentine's Day Post Office are another reminder of what makes Pine Grove School special.

**THS has been fortunate enough to have some new stage drapery installed.** We replaced the really tattered and torn "stuff" with a new mid-stage traveler and down stage legs.

This costly replacement was funded through several sources – TMPO donated \$2000, another \$1000 was donated by an individual, and proceeds from last June's "Zombie Prom" event were used. Today's work was a significant step in the direction of several updates and improvements we are trying to complete, and we are very excited about it.

We ask that before ANYONE uses the stage for ANY activity - even if you are an old hand at THS stage stuff - that you meet with Mrs. Riordan in advance of your event. **Also, we must ask that there be absolutely NO PAINTING on or backstage!** We will provide a complete list of new stage regulations very shortly, but until we do so, please keep in mind that damage to the old drapes was caused primarily by carelessly moved scenery and rough treatment.

WE WANT THIS NEW DRAPERY TO STAY IN PERFECT CONDITION FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!

**SES Kids Club** served Valentine breakfast this morning- bacon & eggs and made the school smell delicious!

**National French & Spanish Exams:** Many foreign language students have voluntarily registered to participate in the National French and National Spanish exams. Forty- three seventh graders and 37 eighth graders will take the French Test during the school day on March

4. Forty-six eighth graders will take the Spanish Test during the day on March 18. Mr. Fulgoni and the Triton Regional Middle School staff commend the students for extending their learning experience beyond the classroom and competing in the national exams. Good luck to all!

**Grade 2 at NES** is looking forward to a wonderful program being presented by the Museum of Science on Tuesday, February 23rd. Second Graders will witness amazing experiments as matter transforms from solid to liquid to gas. We are [sending out a big thank you to the NES PTA](#) for providing this great enrichment program for our students.

### **Kindergarten Information Nights:**

NES: Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> (auditorium)

PGS-Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup> (library)

**The THS wrestling team** has been doing amazing things. Last weekend Triton's team beat the number one ranked team for first place in their division sectional tournament! The week before at the Cape Ann League tournament, Triton had two wrestlers take first place for their weight classes, two took second, two took third and two took fourth. [GO TRITON WRESTLERS!!](#)

**SES Celebrates Literacy:** During the first week in March, SES will be celebrating **Read Across America**, in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Family and community members will be invited to come in and read their favorite Dr. Seuss book to classes. Other activities will be going on during some of the students' specials. The Student Council will be holding a Dr. Seuss Dress Up day on March 2nd and teachers will be conducting other activities in their classrooms throughout the week. Mr. Montanari and Mrs. Maher will also be reading the *Pass the Pen* book that SES created.

**THS Peer Mediators** will be attending the 6<sup>th</sup> annual peer mediator's forum in Peabody on February 26<sup>th</sup>. We are very fortunate here at Triton to have this wonderful group of students who are volunteering their time and effort to learn necessary conflict resolution strategies to ensure a more peaceful school climate. It has been proven that the earlier the intervention, the greater the success. Staff and students are urged to contact any administrators or teachers as soon as any issues arise. All peer mediation referrals are handled with seriousness and utmost confidentiality.

Triton High School peer mediators attending the 6<sup>th</sup> annual forum (Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>)

BANNON, JESSICA  
BREWSTER, HENRY  
CAMPBELL, MICHAEL  
CIARAMELLA, VINCENT  
FAULKNER, MATHEW  
GRAY, CHRISTIAN  
MICHEL, NICK  
NESTOR, ANNE  
PACQUETTE, DEREK  
PARKS, ELIZABETH  
REUSCH, C.J.  
SHORT, JACQUILYN  
SPINELLA, JULIA

TMS Team 8-3 celebrated Mardi Gras on February 9th. (a week early, due to February break). All students prepared a dish to share with the team and the food was outstanding. Each student received a Mardi Gras necklace and he/she could participate in the limbo contest. Ms. Randall supervised the limbo contest in the hallway. It was very exciting with all the students cheering on their friends. Taylor Paquette was the limbo winner with Ashley O'Neil as the runner up. Congratulations, ladies!

Team 8-3 would like to give a big "Merci" to Ms. Berthoud who brought in a fantastic fondue and supervised the students near the heating element. "Damos gracias" a Ms. McCartney who sent in extra Mardi Gras beads for the students. We certainly appreciated the help.

SES second graders will take part in the annual Passport for Learning Day. In this social studies' unit, the children learn about immigration and research where their ancestors came from. They choose a country that they would like to represent and they research information about their chosen country at home with their parents through books, the internet, and conversations with family members. The students then write a paragraph about their chosen country and choose an artifact to represent it. In school, the children create a flag of their country. On Passport for Learning Day the children travel around the world visiting the different countries

represented by their peers. They listen to their peers' paragraphs and learn about their artifacts. Then before they leave a country to visit another, they present a passport that gets a stamp with the countries' flag on it. This culminating activity is always a huge hit with children and parents alike.

**The Salisbury PTA** has been given a generous donation of bottled water from Poland Springs! AND they have also generously donated water for the 6th grade Meet and Greet held annually on the THS/TMS campus in the spring.

**Celebrate Savings:** Triton has been a member of the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency since fully regionalizing in 1994. This insurance trust is a branch of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, and has provided for extremely competitive and stable rates for our insurances. All Property, Liability, Casualty, Workers' Compensation and Unemployment insurance policies are written through MIIA and have been since joining. In 2006/2007 we joined the MIIA Health Insurance Trust, which brought that same level of competitive rates and predictability to the much larger costs of health care. Much of the savings mentioned in previous weeks in this newsletter have been through changes to the plan since joining MIIA.

Beyond the savings with the medical insurance, we have taken many opportunities to get credits for participation, attendance, and leadership at the many trainings available through the property, liability, and casualty insurance policy group. We have annually received in the vicinity of \$5,000, but upwards of \$10,000, in credits on our policy premiums as a result of our participation. Our Manager of Facilities and Grounds, Chris Walsh, has also been asked by MIIA to make presentations at their trainings as he has demonstrated excellence in facilities maintenance. In addition, we have received an annual loss control grant for \$5,000, which is the result of efforts taken by Chris and our facilities staff for preventative maintenance with building systems.

### **A Message from the Massachusetts Commissioner of Education, Mitchell D. Chester**

**Census in Schools:** The 2010 Census is quickly approaching, and Census questionnaires will be sent to every household in the country in early March. This national effort directly impacts federal grant amounts for Massachusetts schools, as well as our congressional representation. To

raise awareness and understanding of this effort I urge you to designate the week of March 1-5 as Census in Schools Week.

The primary goal of the Census in Schools initiative is to help students learn about the importance of the Census so they can encourage their families to complete and return the 2010 Census questionnaire. It is essential that we raise student awareness of the Census statewide, but particularly in language-minority, low income and other hard-to-count communities to help increase questionnaire return rates.

The Census Bureau has developed a range of 2010 Census learning materials for K-12 schools. In August 2009, the Census Bureau mailed complimentary kits to superintendents and K-8 principals throughout the state that included wall maps and quick-start resource guides. In October 2009, wall maps and mini teaching guides were mailed to social studies chairs in all high schools.

These materials and others are available online at [www.census.gov/schools](http://www.census.gov/schools). With them, K-8 students will be able to sharpen their skills in critical thinking, reading comprehension, history, math, geography, and data and map analysis. High school students will have opportunities to deepen their knowledge about the history of the Census, demographics, apportionment, redistricting, and other topics. The standards, lesson plans, and resources prepared by the Census Bureau are consistent with the standards in the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks.

I hope you will plan with the teachers in your schools to use these materials in educating students about the Census and its importance to Massachusetts residents, particularly during the week of March 1-5.

#### TMPO BENEFIT CONCERT

The Triton Music Parents Organization is having “An Evening of Acoustic Music” Saturday March 20 @ 7pm (doors open at 6:30) To be held at Triton Regional High School, Elm St., Byfield, MA

#### MUSIC BY:

Wayne O’Blenes & David Fuller  
Triton Music Staff and Students

*Special Guest*

Zach Field Drum Studios

Adults \$10.00 Seniors/Students \$5.00 Refreshments Served

For tickets see any TMPO Member or the High/Middle School Office

Or call: Wayne O'Blenes 978-465-8216

Larry Buckless 978-948-2313

All Proceeds Benefit the Performing Arts Department and Students