



TRITON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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From the office of Dr. Sandra J. Halloran

News of the Week

May 31 – June 11, 2010

A Farewell Message from Dr. Halloran: In reviewing each past school year, all that was planned and all that was accomplished never ceases to amaze me. To look back on our shared work and accomplishments since I joined the Triton Regional School District in September, 1994 astounds me. I am truly thankful and appreciative of your support, diligence, and hard work these past 16 years.

As a District, we have mourned and celebrated together in support of each other. Over the years, we have shared some extremely difficult times in regards to budget deficits that resulted in the reduction of staff and programs. We have shared some extremely happy times, welcoming new staff members, seeing a new school opened and existing buildings expanded and renovated, and increasing our knowledge with shared professional development and collaborative district focus.

Our life's work, teaching and guiding children, is the most valuable in the world. Always remember that at times, you could be the most important person in a young student's life. Your unrelenting support, gentle prodding and genuine caring can teach them much more than any textbook or computer ever will.

It has been my pleasure and good fortune to work beside you and to lead you. Thank you for your numerous contributions to our school district and our students. It is wonderful to know that I leave the District in capable and caring hands.

An important Message from the TRSD School Committee: At the end of this month, Kathy Willis will be leaving Triton Regional School District to take on the post of Superintendent of the North Reading School District. While we wish Kathy the best of luck and look forward to

hearing of her successes at North Reading, it is important to acknowledge her 30 years of dedicated service in our district and to express our gratitude for her work in the community.

Kathy began her career in the district as a SPED teacher at Salisbury Elementary School. Through the years she continued to serve SES as Assistant Principal from 1990 to 1993 and Principal from 1993 to 1998. She joined the Central Office as K-6 Administrator of Elementary Education in the fall of 1998. In 2002, the responsibilities of this position were expanded to include K-12. Five years ago Kathy became the Assistant Superintendent.

As an administrator Kathy has attended many school committee meetings. Her presentations and reports have provided important detailed information, which has guided the decisions made by the School Committee on behalf of the district. Her commitment to the educational needs of our students is evident for all to see.

I hope you will join the School Committee in thanking Kathy for her decades of service in our district and wish her a successful tenure at North Reading.

Dina Sullivan

Triton School Committee, Chair

School Committee Meeting Announcement: The June 23rd meeting, as well as the August meeting will not be streamed live, but the meetings will be made available online. It is our goal beginning in September to again stream the meetings live as we will hopefully be able to correct the video quality limitations. Thank you for understanding.

Triton Volunteer Program Thank you: Assistant Superintendent, Kathy Willis, would like to thank all of the many volunteers who have spent countless hours behind the scenes working to make Triton Regional a better place for our students and our staff. Back in 2003 a group of parents concerned about the significant cuts to the schools' budgets approached the administration about creating a more formal volunteer program organized by volunteer coordinators in each of the schools. There has always been volunteerism in the schools but it was felt that a more coordinated effort could help to offset the budget cuts. Volunteers provide

assistance in classrooms, in the libraries, on the playgrounds, in the school offices, and during extra-curricular activities, to give a few examples.

Since 2003, we have grown the program to match resources with need. I extend a very special thank you to the volunteer coordinators for all of their years of service dedicated to this effort. The volunteers have made a significant contribution to the schools and I applaud them. The district supports the continuation of this program and welcomes your future involvement.

[THS science teacher Maureen Farley and six of her students](#) teamed up with Mass Audubon for their second annual day of "pepperweed pulling" on Great Neck in Ipswich on Wednesday, 9 June. Pepperweed is an invasive species that threatens the ecosystem of the Great Marsh. Their efforts last year paid off as there was a noticeable decrease in the amount of plants; however they still managed to fill six or seven huge contractor trash bags. Hopefully next year there will be even less.

[The NES spring concert](#) took place on Tuesday, June 8th at 7:00. The Choir, Chorus, Stage Band, Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band were all a part of the performance.

[A Variety of PGS News](#)

June 8th: Mr. Collyer's class and their Pen Pals from the Council of Aging went on a field trip to the IMAX theatre in Reading to see Shrek and then to Fuddruckers for a great lunch.

Mrs. Stasey and Ms. Stephan's class enjoyed a field trip to White Farms for a delicious ice cream.

June 10th: Pine Grove hosted a Celebration of Learning for the entire school. Each classroom offered a presentation and parents were invited into classrooms to view all the hard work that the students had accomplished over the year.

The 4th graders had their Invention Convention in the gym for classes and parents to view all the great ideas that students explored with for their inventions.

The PTO celebrated with their annual dinner at Off the Vine for the end of the year celebration.

June 15th: Pine Grove will be holding their annual field day with lots of games and activities for all students.

June 16th: A 6th grade Celebration will held in the All Purpose Room from 6pm to 7pm with the 6th grade dance following from 7:30 to 9:30pm.

TMS NEWS: Grade 8 Science Teacher Paige Ribaud-Smith has been awarded a Lift² externship this summer. She will work in an environmental science engineering firm in Peabody called Weston and Sampson. Part of her job will be to assist a scientist who is identifying endangered species and studying lake dredging and species populations. LIFT² (Leadership Initiatives for Teaching and Technology) is an innovative professional learning program for middle and high school science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) teachers. It is designed to help experienced and developing teachers relate classroom curriculum to authentic and relevant applications in the 21st century workplace. The program is based on a unique combination of graduate coursework, company sponsored externships in industry, and membership in an active community of learners. Participants incorporate 21st century workplace skills into their teaching to interest students in careers in the STEM fields. Ms. Ribaud-Smith's externship could lead to exciting possibilities for Triton students, such as involving students in gathering data, visits from scientists, and a field trip to the company.

Students **Maeve Callewaert, Curran Callewaert, Jason Plumer, and Frankie Herrick** participated in the **Massachusetts State Science and Engineering Fair** this past Saturday along with almost 300 other students from across the state. The event was held at Worcester Technical High School. Jason Plumer received an honorable mention for his project on Airfoil Testing. These Triton students should be congratulated for the high level of their projects and their hard work.

Elementary Math Leagues!: The final **Elementary Math Meet** was held at Pine Grove School. It was a beautiful, sunny day, and students enjoyed pizza outside on the bleachers following the meet. Each team showed particular strengths, with the Newbury Newton Euclid Sierpinskis excelling in the Mystery and Arithmetic categories, the Salisbury Mathletes winning in the Number Theory category, and the Pine Grove PEMDAS Denominators of Doom also scoring high in the Number Theory category. Newbury Elementary School won the meet, but all

schools are looking forward to a rematch next year. Graduating sixth-graders are encouraged to join the Middle School's awesome Math Team in the fall.

Top scorers for this meet were:

Grade 6:

PGS, Olivia Lees, 12

NES, Robi Scanfani, 12

SES, Jacob Phillips, 12

PGS, Ben Hills, 10

NES, Colton Holloran, 10

Grade 5:

NES, Taylor Gigandet, 10

SES, Ashleigh Litcofsky, 8

SES, Jessica Vedrani, 8

PGS, Bryan Hughes, 6

PGS, Melanie Primpas, 6

Math specialists Leslie Blaney, Kathy Comins, Laura Paige, and Social Studies teacher Jan Tosi presented at a **Scantron conference** last week. Their presentation focused on how Triton uses student data to measure student progress and to plan customized instruction. Although the **district is in its first year of using this web-based technology in Grades 2 - 8, it is proving an essential tool.**

Five NES Second Graders in Mrs. Williams' 2nd Grade Class have their poems showcased at the WritingFix website. They were chosen as good examples of poems inspired by Douglas Florian's book, Insectlopedia. Here is the link to see their wonderful work: http://www.writingfix.com/PDFs/Pic_Book_Prompt_Worksheets/Insectlopedia_2nd_grade_samples.pdf

A Variety of News From SES

On June 3,4,7,8: Each day a grade 5 class will take a field trip to walk the Freedom Trail in Boston

June 3rd: Grade 3 Ms. Foley's and Ms. Landreth's classes visited the Museums of Old York Maine

The Kid's Club will hosted a Senior Citizen's Tea at 3:30

June 4th: An enrichment program was enjoyed by the Kindergarten, Explore the Ocean, sponsored by the PTA

June 7th: The annual Meet & Greet took place for Grade 6 at the TRMS

June 10th: Grade 2 visited York's Wild Kingdom

June 15th: SES Annual Cook Out and Mini Relay for Life will take place.

June 17th: The annual Forget Me Not Ceremony/Dance is scheduled for Grade 6 Students- 5:30 PM

Mrs. Evans' class took responsibility for the daily watering of the plants in the Science Courtyard SES. When possible, they used the rain in the water collection barrel to water the plants which conserved the total water used. The PTA donated the pansies to fill the planters in May."

SES Kindergarten is having a "Teddy Bear Picnic" day on Friday, June 11th (in the morning). Classes are having an end-of-the-year publishing party/Sing Along on Tuesday, June 15th at 2:00.

Students in Ms. Foley's class presented PowerPoint presentations on the American Revolution to families and friends on Wed. June 2nd. Presentations included Boston Massacre, Tea Party, Battle of Bunker Hill, Paul Revere, Sam Adams, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin.

SES 3rd graders will be played a recorder concert for their parents and the students in K-2nd grade on Friday June 11th at 10 am in the Salisbury Elementary School Cafeteria.

Ms. Winter's NES class will be having an authors' tea on Wednesday the 16th from 1:15 to 2:30. They have invited parents in to see and listen to them read their image making books. It was a very long process because they created all of the textures used to make the books' and illustrations which are gorgeous! They wrote, edited, and typed the stories for their books. The front and back covers are laminated and the finished books are bound.

THS Teacher of the Year: This year's Teacher of the Year for Triton Regional High School is Mrs. Sha Riordan. Sha has been an active cross-curriculum collaborator--engaging her students, and allowing their talents to shine in the process. Her students are genuinely excited for what she asks them to do, as their exuberance in any of her productions would indicate. She brings an energy that contributes to the greater school community. She is truly someone that is a teacher both to her students and her colleagues. Congratulations, Sha!

TMS 8th grade teams presented poetry mini-slams in their English classrooms before having a full-blown presentation Thursday evening, June 11, in the THS library. Coffee was served, fingers were snapped, and 8th graders will strut their stuff in what was quite the shindig.

Congratulations!: TMS teacher, Jacob Sydney will be spending July studying in Morocco courtesy of the Fulbright-Hays program.

Great News from the Massachusetts Association of Foreign Language Teachers: All eighth grade students participated in the MaFla Poster/Essay/Podcast contests. This year's theme was "Languages: Gateway to Global Communities".

The podcast contest is new this year. The requirements are: that the audio clip has to be engaging and appropriate to the theme; the message must be creative and innovative with the effective and appropriate use of technology and the overall effect is communicating the message to the audience. Triton Regional Middle School students Tyler MacDonald and Jonathan Maker were the winners in the first MaFla Podcast Contest. They will share the fifty dollar prize and have their podcast showcased on www.mafla.org website. Congratulations gentlemen!

Additionally, from team 8-2, Madison Williams and Jason Plumer both were recognized for their terrific podcast submissions. On team 8-3 Callie Mae Merrill was recognized for her wonderful podcast.

Five students for TMS grade eight received a certificate of participation in the poster contest and five received participation in the essay contest. The artists are Kelly Herrick, Rose Gaffin, Mikayla Gigandet, Sadie Shennett and Zoe Heckman. Our authors are Istiaque Shanjik, Mary Sedler, Clare Delaney, Sydney Rybicki and Michael Woodbury.

Principal Jared Fulgoni and the entire staff at Triton Regional Middle School salute all the students for their diligent work. Congratulations to

[The Pine Grove 2009-2010 Kindergarten quilt is here!:](#) It has become a tradition in the Pine Grove Kindergarten to make a memory quilt. Every child has an old t-shirt, blanket, dress or pair of pajamas that brings a smile to their face. Each child in our Kindergarten program brings in their special piece of fabric and parent volunteers design and make the Kindergarten quilt. Each Kindergarten class makes a class quilt book with every child writing a page which tells why their fabric is special to them. The quilt is hung on display in our Link Art Gallery. When the children reach sixth grade, the quilt will be displayed and auctioned off at the 6th grade Recognition Night. This year's Kindergarten quilt is a beautiful underwater scene. Each child's piece is a sea creature.

[The Eighth Grade Foreign Language students](#) received their awards of excellence this week for the National Foreign Language Test administered earlier in the year. Mrs. Welch and Mrs. Faulkner made the presentation to the deserving students on Thursday this past week. It was a great pleasure to recognize their collective achievement in Foreign Language this year!! Congratulations to everyone.

What: **Triton Education Foundation Meet & Greet**

When: ***June 22nd, Tuesday evening, 6:30 p.m. till 8:30 p.m.***

Where: **Stripers Grille**

175 Bridge Road, Salisbury, MA 01952-2420

(978) 463-3343 www.stripersgrille.com

Please join us at an informal “Meet and Greet,” as we discuss what we do! See how we raise money and how we spend it to enhance our children’s education throughout the Triton District. Come and hear about our current push to bring educational technology into the Triton classrooms and other exciting initiatives we have in the works for 2010 and beyond.

For the past three years, we have been working to enhance the educational experience of all students in the Triton District, and we would like to share our successes and our aspirations with others who are interested in promoting excellence in education.

It’s time for the TEF Board to welcome new and interested members who share our vision. Do you or someone you know have a skill that can help make Triton Education Foundation better? Please come and learn what opportunities are available for anyone who wants to help in any way!

We are always looking for new ideas! We look forward to seeing you!

Please feel free to stop by anytime between 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.