



# TRITON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWBURY • ROWLEY • SALISBURY

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

## News of the Week

October 2, 2009

### A note from a parent:

Dear Administrators,

I have just returned from the first manager's meeting for Destination ImagiNation. Barbara Mann did an excellent job of outlining this program and the expectations for managers this year. I'm a little nervous that I will live up to her expectations!

My purpose in writing to you is to thank you for your clear and intentional commitment to Destination ImagiNation! I'm sure you know that I have been a strong believer in this program for years. Your willingness to support DI financially indicates (to me) a belief in a "teaching philosophy" that is not common in public schools today. Thank you so much for your willingness to invest in a creative approach to learning that will serve **our students, our community, and our country** well in the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

Gratefully,

Robin Williams (NES)

Alicia Chiasson's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class (NES) had fun with "the math of all things." As a culminating activity for their unit on decimals, students are planning a dinner party for five guests. They were given a weekly circular from a local grocery store and a fifty dollar budget. They planned a menu and determined the total estimated cost without going over budget. It was fun to share menu ideas, and students learned a practical use for adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, and estimating decimals.

Jacob Sydney's 8th grade students are writing their first letters to pen-pals at the Siyabulela School in the township of Langa, South Africa.

[SES Kids Club](#) enjoys performing community service. On Thursday, October 1st, the Salisbury Police and Salisbury Firefighters had their annual cookout at the Hilton Center. In an effort to keep Kids Club in touch with members of the Hilton Center, they made baked goods to send over along with colorful framed paintings done by the kids!

[TMS grade 8 students](#) will be visiting the Whittier campus for a tour and informational overview on Thursday, November 5th.

[Pauline Currier's class \(SES\)](#) has been learning about apples. They have tasted and graphed their favorite kind. They have cut apples different ways and found the star in the center. Apple pattern printing was a big hit. On Friday they will be making apple muffins to top off the week.

### [Scantron Training Update:](#)

Last week, 15 staff members participated in a three day training for Scantron. Participants included assistant principals of the middle school and elementary schools, reading specialists, math specialists, and at the middle school, a science, social studies, math, and ELA teacher.

Scantron will allow teachers in Gr. 2 - 8 to:

1. Develop assessments using item banks containing thousands of items as well as ExamView CDs that come with some of our textbooks.
2. Score student answer keys by running them through specially purchased scanner/printers (including multiple choice, short answer, and open response). The short answer (SA) and open response (OR) still need to be scored first by hand, but can then be added to the answer keys. Classroom teachers can view their students' data immediately after tests are scanned.
3. Create reports and store student assessment data. These reports can be general (for example: by individual student, class, grade, school, or district), or specifically targeted (for example: looking at low-income students, homeless students, students who participate in Century 21, students on IEPs, students who have been identified as gifted, or any other group that is set up).
4. Prepare materials for extra practice and support, as well as short focused assessments (four questions) that can serve as "exit tickets" to show that a student has mastered a particular concept.

Along with Scantron, the district also has an affiliated product, NetTrekker for teachers Gr. 2 - 8, an easy-to-use educational search engine that helps teachers to find juried, high quality websites based on concepts/skills. These websites have practice sheets, demonstrations, graphics, Java applets, interactive games, lesson ideas, and much more, and each website is clearly described in a few sentences so that teachers do not have to open each one to find what they need. It is a fabulous resource! Teachers in Gr. 2 – 8, if you have not tried NetTrekker yet, take a look!

### In the interest of being GREEN:

The SES PTA paid for the mums in the courtyard at SES and Jane Keeler and Barbara Oswald planted them. Ten responsible 6th Graders take turns watering the flowers everyday **from their roof water collection system**. Also, Mr. Griffith keeps the sunflower and thistle feeders filled with the assistance of his Title I students.

Jane Keeler (SES) has started a website off of "**teacherweb**" for her class.

### TITLE I NEWS at SES:

Salisbury Elementary School was visited by the famous author, Ardith Cole. Ardith Cole has written numerous books on reading and writing. Her latest book called The Better Answer was the focus during a two day workshop at Salisbury Elementary School. Teachers in grades K-6 participated in this interactive professional development. Teachers had an opportunity to look deeper into the Better Answer Protocol as well as analyze students' writing to develop a baseline. In addition to the day activities, a group of teachers enjoyed dining out at Seaglass with Ardith Cole to further discuss topics in education. It was a wonderful experience for all.

Title I is opening a math lab for Title I students in grades 4-6. This lab will offer support to students who are in need of additional math instruction. The math lab will be available in the morning and afternoon, two days a week. The staffing of the math lab will consist of Title I teachers.

Student Council Elections at SES will be Friday October 9<sup>th</sup>.

[Today, TMS team 8-2](#) will be going to Kimball's Farm in Haverhill, MA. The purpose of the trip is to do some fantastic team-building activities, take part in a valuable lesson on sustainable agriculture and provide students with the wonderful opportunity to integrate some fall foreign language vocabulary along the way!!

Additionally, our students have been integrating technology in Foreign Language this week. They worked in the Middle School library on student computers using the companion computer series that accompanies the textbook. The students got to see the vocabulary of the chapter appear before their eyes on screen!! This is an exciting way to make our education come alive to our students!!

Our students are also learning about the awesome "Prove It or Lose It" slogan in Foreign Language. This is a great studying technique to help students read for comprehension and prove all their answer choices by going back to the reading passage and PROVING their answer choice!!! Stay tuned for more details!!

[Julie Deschenes and Maureen Winn's Pre-K classes \(SES\)](#) traveled to Cider Hill Farm in Amesbury to pick apples, tour the hay maze, and feed the animals. It was a great chance for parents to connect and the children to bond with their classmates, parent and/or grandparent. A BIG, "Thank YOU!" is owed to the generous sponsors, the SES PTA!

[Intermediate Math League of Eastern Massachusetts](#) was a new component of TMS 21<sup>st</sup> Century programs two years ago. Participating students practice appropriate math problems once a week leading up to monthly competitions. Math categories include Mystery, Geometry, Number Theory, Algebra and Team Question. They have competed with Pentucket, Amesbury, Georgetown, Masconomet, Ipswich, and Hamilton-Wenham.

The first year, their scores landed them in the next to last spot BUT last year, [\*\*THEY CAME IN FIRST IN THEIR DIVISION AFTER ONLY 2 YEARS OF COMPETING!\*\*](#)

This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> year and 32 middle school students have already registered! Congratulations and we wish them the best of luck for 2009-2010.