



TRITON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWBURY • ROWLEY • SALISBURY

From the office of Dr. Sandra J. Halloran

News of the Week

November 13, 2009

Influenza Update:

Each week I will provide an update of the total confirmed student cases of H1N1 for each of the schools. In addition, I will provide the average number of students who were absent for the week due to influenza-like illness (ILI). If you have any questions about this information, please contact your child's principal or school nurse. Thank you for your continued support.

	NES	PGS	SES	TMS	THS
Confirmed H1N1	6	0	0	0	7
ILI	53	11	1	15	83

A Very Important Message from a School Choice Parent:

Greetings Superintendent Halloran,

I am new to Triton this year (school choiced in) and just want to say how wonderful it is to be part of a school system where I receive information on a weekly basis not only from NES but from you on all the schools. It is fabulous. I have forwarded this past update to a number of people and they all wish their schools would do what you do (in addition to letting everyone know about the great things the staff and students do the symptoms page has been a huge hit and other moms can't believe this simple document hasn't been created / distributed by their schools). I hope the next superintendent keeps up with this weekly newsletter.

Best regards, Beth Van Duzer

[PGS received a donation from Rowley House of Pizza](#) owner, George Dagas, in support of the environmental camp program for fifth grade students. [Thank you Mr. Dagas!](#)

Destination Imagination News:

Middle School Destination Imagination teams formed on Tuesday, November 10th. Once students are working on their team challenges they will be meeting once a week after school. They are preparing for the Regional tournament held here in March. As soon as the teams have been chosen- the team lists will be published in the next newsletter.

THS Principal Kevin McLaughlin's RECOGNITION AWARDS announcement: Each month staff is asked to submit nominations to the administrative team: Mr. McLaughlin, Ms.Dawe, Mr. Brennan, and Dr.Lazzaro. They may nominate any student and any staff member.

Students of the Month for October:

Freshman of the Month: Alaina Marino
Sophomore: Shannon Kelley
Junior: Sophie Lowe
Senior: Emma Peditto
Most Improved Student: Mathew Hartford

Staff Member of the Month: Diane Shealy

Please offer your congrats to the winners.

Each winner received a framed certificate and a small gift. Their pictures will be displayed in the office window.

Mrs. Mann's TMS science classes are finishing up an intensive Lab Safety Unit in which students are learning to use all the safety equipment in the room. Once they master the Bunsen burners, students will be running a lab to distill water and discuss why the process cleans the water. Mrs. Mann feels all the students should know all the correct procedures and be responsible for each other's safety during labs. The students in 7-3 seem to be taking the issue of lab safety very seriously.

SES Student Council under the direction of Pat McGranahan, sent in 600 Capri Sun pouches on Friday - good start in their recycling campaign! They will be continuing their work on the food drive this week. As everyone knows, there is quite a need this year.

NEWS from PGS: Mr. Collyer's class took a walking field trip to the Council on Aging to meet their pen pals on Thursday. RPEF (Rowley Public Education Fund) is holding a Trivia Night on Saturday 11/14/09, this event is so much fun that it is sold out!

SES Intramurals Happenings: Teams are getting ready for the Williams Bowl! Next intramural sport will be basketball. Sign-ups will occur in physical education classes the first week of December. Intramurals will be after school until 3:55 on Tuesday and Wednesday starting in December.

NEWS from NES: A special musical selection was sung by Mrs. Fremont-Smith's 5th grade class for Veteran's Day. The song they sang was "We Are Proud of Our Veteran's."

CORRECTION: **The NES Wind Ensemble and Choir** will be performing at the upcoming tree lighting on the Green. Date to be announced - Also, the **annual Winter Music Concert** will be on **Tuesday Dec. 8th at 7:00**. The ensembles performing are the **Wind Ensemble, All District Stage Band, Choir and Chorus**.

*This was incorrectly reported as the THS Wind Ensemble. We are sorry for any confusion this may have caused.

PGS & NES are proud to announce that they will be offering a monthly **Parent & Child Book Club!** Starting in January - Watch for more news to come!

SES Celebrates National Family Literacy Month: An SES Literacy Workshop will take place on Tuesday, November 17th from 3:30-4:30 the Kindergarten and First Grade Parents are invited to a literacy workshop hosted by Bethany Marshall, SES Reading Specialist. (Babysitting available)

How can help my child's growth in literacy, at home?

- *Learn, and gather material for games aimed at working on sounds, letters and words
- *Learn how to help him/her choose *just right* books to read at home
- *Learn about the DIBELS, Maze and DRA assessments your child has taken and why our school uses them
- *Learn about the Web sites that empower parents and their children to have fun learning together

*Learn how to support reading strategies taught at school

*Q & A about anything literacy at SES!

The ONLINE Winter Viking Corner Store is NOW OPEN!!! Check it out and do some Holiday Shopping On-Line from November 2-29, 2009. To access the on-line store, click on to the [Triton High School Website](#), Click-"About TRHS", and Click--Viking Corner Store On-line!! Payment is with a credit card and deliveries will be made to your home December 14-18. All items can be seen in the high school lobby store.

The students from Mrs. Causer's THS Entrepreneurship class will be selling Triton Vikings spirit apparel from The Viking Corner at the Salisbury Elementary Craft Fair on Saturday, November 21 from 9 to 2 p.m. Please come and support our Viking Store!

SES 2nd Grade NEWS: We are learning about fossils. The students recently went to the science lab and sifted through debris that was shipped to our school from a North Carolina mining site. They found fossils that were 2.5 - 5 million years old. They found clam shells, scallop shells, coral, shark teeth, crab claws, barnacles, and a sting ray mouth plate. The children have learned that fossils are evidence of life long ago. They can be bones, teeth, imprints, or molds from living organisms. They have talked about how fossils form. They know that when the organism dies, the soft parts rot away leaving behind bones and teeth. These hard parts can get buried beneath sand or mud. Over millions of years, the Earth's surface changes and more and more layers of sand or mud pile on top of the organism. Fossils are found when the Earth's surface changes again, exposing the fossils. Fossils can also be found because an animal was frozen or an insect got trapped in amber. They have also learned that fossils can be imprints of plants as well. Scientists know the age of a fossil by testing the age of the rock in which it was found. This has been an exciting unit of study. On Thursday, the students will be making their own fossil prints using plaster of paris.

The annual Salisbury tree lighting will take place in Salisbury Square on the Sunday following Thanksgiving. Students may wear Santa Hats for this performance. The Salisbury Advanced Band and Choir will be performing carols. Arrival time is 10 minutes before 6 pm at Salisbury Square. Students must remember to bring their instruments, band music and flashlights. Stands will be provided. After the caroling and tree lighting, we are invited to the Methodist church in

the center of Salisbury for refreshments.

The annual SES winter holiday concert will take place on Wednesday December 9, 2009 at Salisbury Elementary School in the cafeteria. Start time is 7pm, Advanced band, choir and stage band students arrival time is 6:30 pm.

[An open letter to Staff:](#)

Dear Staff,

We are approaching that time of year when it is customary to think about the people and “things” in our lives for which we are thankful. It can be a very busy and harried season for us with always too much to do and not enough time to do it. As educators, this reality is a constant and like me, many of you probably feel at times that your mind has vacated your head...

In preparation for a workshop next week on the McKinney-Vento Law and homelessness as it relates to our students and our district, I came across a letter from a homeless child who is now an adult. This woman’s message will make all of us pause and think about how we relate to our students and I have included it.

[No matter how busy we are or overwhelming our jobs can get, WE have the chance to make a difference in the life of a child Every Single Day That We Walk through Our School Doors.](#)

To be resilient, children only need one adult in their lives who they know cares about them. This simply means an adult they can talk to, be safe with, check in with each day just to say hello. Very often in situations with homeless students, YOU are that one person. At times, you are the ONLY person. All five of our schools have students who are homeless. In fact, if you have been teaching in our district schools for more than one year, every one of you have had homeless students sit in your classrooms. Some of you have been aware of, some of you have not. Please read the following letter and know how important you are. Teachers have the most important job in the world and some would say the toughest. I, being a product of a few of the most caring teachers in the world, would say you have the BEST job in the world.

Have a thoughtful and thankful holiday and thank you for making a difference.

Carla Collins

Message from a Homeless Child All Grown Up

Today, as an adult no one would ever guess that I was once a homeless child. I have a family of my own, a successful career, and I own my own home. They say I'm resilient and adaptive, but there is more to it than that. Let me share with you what homelessness felt like as a child, and some of the things teachers did for me that made a tremendous difference in my life.

I never lived in a homeless shelter. We moved frequently. Some nights we slept in the back of a pickup truck, other nights in an abandoned house, and I lived most comfortably "doubled up" with other families. My longest stay was in a home with 14 people - two bedrooms and one bathroom. I slept in the living room by the front door, along with five other children. At least it was warm.

When life is so uncertain, you find yourself wanting to control anything you possibly can. This often can lead to outward aggression or withdrawal. I experienced both at different times. Chronic hunger can lead to hoarding food, because there may not be any food tomorrow, so you'd better grab what you can now. Separation from people you love and possessions is sometimes unbearable. I reached a point where the pain of leaving friends was just too much, so I decided making friends was a bad idea. It was so hard to change schools - especially in the middle of the year. In some places the teacher had someone show me around. In others I felt invisible. It wasn't easy showing up in ugly clothes that didn't fit, but at least they were clean (most of the time). I think I took fifth-grade health four times, but never learned any social studies that year, because each school I went to was teaching in a different order. I sure knew how my food was getting digested, but I didn't care. I just wanted to get something to eat.

When I think back about why I ended up where I am, and why other children sharing that same living room have not been so fortunate, I realize that I found anchors to hold on to. When I say anchors, I mean people who meant something to me, who said just the right things at the right time. These anchors were most often teachers.

Teachers can be so powerful in the eyes of a child, and don't even realize it. When life is so chaotic, teachers seem to be the only stable adults in your life you have to look up to. My mother meant well, but she had her hands full just trying to keep us fed. I had one teacher

actually give me a picture of herself, a letter reminding me that I could be anything I wanted to be, and her address to write to her any time. I never wrote, but I carried her picture and her letter with me from place to place. I had other teachers just take a couple of minutes to talk with me about life - many of them expressed the importance of a good education, and that a strong education was my way out of poverty. They said I was smart, they said I was special, and they said I had the ability to do whatever I wanted to if I focused on it. I believed them. They gave me hope and they showed me that they cared, and that's what made the difference. Their words were always with me. I knew drugs and alcohol were a dead end and education was the key. They were right. Thank you to all the teachers out there who truly care about their students. Although you may often feel unheard, your words are not falling on deaf ears.

Fondly,

Adele Walker, MA