



# *TRITON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT*

NEWBURY • ROWLEY • SALISBURY

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

## **News of the Week**

**December 11, 2009**

**H1N1 update:** Our absences from the H1N1 and other flu like illnesses have decreased significantly and no new cases have been reported. If this changes in the coming weeks and absences rise due to H1N1 or flu like illnesses, we will again keep you updated on the numbers.

**Loss in regional transportation reimbursement and increase in transportation costs results in reduction in force:** Unfortunately I need to inform everyone of a budget situation that we, as a district, have been dealing with since the Governor announced his recent budget cuts approximately one month ago. Although the Governor has indicated that public school finances were not impacted, we in fact have had a significant cut to our revenues as regional school transportation reimbursement has been reduced. This reduction has translated into a loss of \$305,000 plus we are facing a deficit in special education transportation in the amount of \$85,000 due to additional students needing services. The total deficit in our operating budget at this time is \$390,000. In order to correct this deficit we must adjust our district budget and, therefore, we will need to take extraordinary measures at this time.

As you know, all purchasing has been frozen since mid October. This measure stabilized the budget but any savings realized by this step is unable to address the new budget deficit.

We have been operating for a number of years with a budget that has not allowed for the continuation of some programs. Efforts to sustain these valuable programs on a whole or at least partially, has necessitated expending funds from our excess and deficiency account. Consequently, we have no reserve funds left to reduce the impact of this new loss in revenues.

The executive board of the Triton Regional Teachers' Association met on Tuesday, December 8, to formulate a proposal to bring forth to Triton teachers that will enable a reduction in the proposed cuts. The vote of the teachers' association is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Affected staff members were notified by administration on Wednesday, December 10. On Wednesday evening at the school committee meeting, I made recommendations to the committee for the necessary reduction in force to balance the budget. The school committee voted to table the vote until after the results of the teachers' vote.

The school committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM in the high school library. At that time, based on the results of the teachers' vote, the committee will vote on the reduction in force. If the teachers' vote is a positive one, the three elementary teachers and two music positions will be removed from the reduction in force list. Unfortunately, the other cuts will remain and be voted on by the school committee.

***Pending reduction in staff needed to balance the budget***

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>CURRENT FTE</b>	<b>NEW FTE</b>	<b>TOTAL SAVINGS</b>
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>NES</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$39,765</b>
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>PGS</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$28,631</b>
<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>SES</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$33,170</b>
<b>Gifted/Talented Teacher</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$52,554</b>
<b>ETC</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>HS/District</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$44,252</b>
<b>Health Coordinator</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>\$27,451</b>
<b>Receptionist</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>High School</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$19,356</b>
<b>Receptionist</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Middle School</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$19,549</b>

<b>SPED Clerks</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$25,707</b>
<b>Office Clerk</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$29,071</b>
<b>Music – MS</b>	<b>Bump MS/HS</b> –	<b>District</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$29,042</b>
<b>Music – HS</b>	<b>Bump MS/HS</b> –	<b>PGS</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$47,502</b>
<b>TOTAL COST SAVINGS</b>					<b>\$396,051</b>

**News about our news from THS English teacher, Mr. Allen:** After seeing our high school budget for the school newspaper frozen, the *Triton Voice* student staff has stepped up, put on their sales hats and obtained advertisements so a hard copy newspaper can be produced. The paper should be out in the middle of this month and feature nearly 30 stories despite having a staff of only five students. Mr. Allen and staff members Lauren Scharf, Adrienne Ramirez, Makayla Fernandez, Alysa Southall and Lucy D'Amelio would like to especially thank Mr. Kurt Riese for helping us obtain ads.

**The students in second grade at NES** have been learning the continents and the major features of the Earth. They've been working with Sheppard Software to become master geographers! Jen Lapham (Grade 3 Teacher) is leading NES students in a project to create cards for shut-ins for the holidays. Students across all grade levels have been involved in the project.

**Congratulations & Thank you:** Congratulations to PGS teacher Jillian Pinto on her marriage to Joe Cronin on Sunday December 6th, 2009.

Thank you to Karen Moore and the PTO Board for another great Craft Fair at Pine Grove Elementary School this past Saturday December 5th, 2009, this was a huge success.

**The kindergarten at SES** will be collecting coins to donate to Pettengill House next week. It is their annual tradition, embracing the true spirit of the holiday season. The children are always so excited to bring in their coins!

**SES Holiday Concert Rescheduled:** Due to a conflict in meeting dates, the holiday concert is going to be held on Monday December 14, 2009 at 5pm in the Salisbury Elementary School cafeteria. All are invited to come and enjoy our holiday music.

The American Girl Doll and Giant stocking will be raffled to support the Santa's Helper program on Tuesday December 15th. Tickets will be sold at the concert Monday evening.

**The TLC middle school class** would like to thank the cafeteria staff for going above and beyond to help us run our Breakfast Club. This is a club where special education students are learning about table manners, conversational/social skills and restaurant jobs. They also work with menus and money to improve all skills. Everyone is learning and engaged and we have the cafeteria staff to THANK because we could not do it without them.

**Happy holidays from The TMS 21<sup>st</sup> Century Green Thumb Club. The Green Thumb Club is selling student handmade ornaments in the offices of the high school and middle school.**

**Wreaths Across America:**

The Wreaths Across America 2009 convoy passed south through Rowley directly by Pine Grove School on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at approximately mid morning. PGS classes greeted this convoy with flags and waves. Wreaths Across America 2009 is a convoy of three eighteen wheel trucks carrying wreaths to be placed at veteran's graves in Arlington National Cemetery. This convoy coming from Harrington, Maine also includes a Maine State Police escort, dozens of Patriot Guard riders on their motorcycles as well as state and local police.

**Science teachers in Grades 6, 7, and 8 have been awarded a \$10,000 Tower Foundation grant** to purchase laboratory supplies such as microscopes, digital infrared thermometers, electronic probes, scales, stopwatches, Bunsen burners, conductivity sensors, DNA models, magnets, spotting scopes, triple balance beams, an incubator, and other equipment. Teachers will be able to give their students additional laboratory and field experiences as a result of this generous grant.

[Triton Middle School hosted its first round of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Annual Community Spelling Bee competition.](#) This school-wide event narrowed the contestants down to ten candidates. These winners will join 30 other Bee winners from three other schools, Nock, Pentucket, and Georgetown for a Community Spelling Bee. That final competition will be hosted by Triton, January 15<sup>th</sup> in the high school auditorium at 6:00pm. The first place winner will be awarded a trophy that will have his or her name engraved on it. The trophy will be housed at his or her school for the year until the next spelling bee. Prizes will be awarded to all as well.

Spelling Bee Winners – Round One – TMS In House Competition

1. Caitlin Cole
2. Allison MacIsaac
3. Devon Shuman
4. Kandace Demers
5. Matt McParland
6. Sydney Rybicki
7. Kaley Riccio
8. Patrick Meehan
9. Kiersten Flodman
10. Kenny McArdle

[Rowley resident, Alexander Koutzoukis, a 2005 graduate of Triton Regional High School,](#) is appearing in a new NBC reality show called The Sing-Off. Alexander sings a cappella with the Tufts University Beelzebubs who were chosen as one of 8 groups to compete for a Sony recording contract and a cash prize. The Sing-Off airs on NBC Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights (Dec. 14, 15, & 16) from 8-10 PM , with a live finale Monday December 21 at 8 PM.

<http://www.bubs.com/groupAKoutzoukis.asp>

<http://www.nbc.com/sing-off/contestants/>

[http://www.tv.com/video/32061/The+Sing-Off+-+Series+Premiere+-+Clip+10?o=tv&tag=vid\\_carousel;vid:9](http://www.tv.com/video/32061/The+Sing-Off+-+Series+Premiere+-+Clip+10?o=tv&tag=vid_carousel;vid:9)

