

# December 2015 Tri-Center Newsletter



High School 485-2257

Middle School 485-2211

Elementary 485-2271

[www.tri-center.k12.ia.us](http://www.tri-center.k12.ia.us)



Superintendent's News and  
Comments

...Tony Weers

**Tri-Center Community Schools**  
Wishes You and Yours  
**A Merry Christmas 2015 & A Happy  
New Year 2016!!**

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES FOR  
SCHOOL\*\***

**School Dismisses at 1:30 on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
for Professional Development**

**School Dismisses at 1:30 on Tuesday, December  
22<sup>nd</sup>**

**for Christmas Vacation**

**NO SCHOOL December 23<sup>rd</sup> through January  
4<sup>th</sup>**

**\*\*School Resumes on Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>  
(FULL DAY)\*\***

**School Dismisses at 1:30 on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>  
for end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter/Semester**

**NO SCHOOL on Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> due to  
Professional Development**

**School Dismisses at 1:30 on Wednesday,  
February 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> for  
P-T Conferences**

**NO SCHOOL on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>  
NO SCHOOL on Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> due to  
Professional Development**

## **WINTER WEATHER---POWER ANNOUNCEMENTS Rapid Notification \*Part of POWERSCHOOL**

\*\*Please fill in or update your phone, cell phone, or e-mail address via the Powerschool Link if you have not already done so. For help with this please contact Matt Schmitz at [mschmitz@tctrojans.org](mailto:mschmitz@tctrojans.org)

**(Radio or Television)**

**\*\*Please listen to T.V. or Radio before  
calling the school\*\***

With the arrival of another Midwest winter, the possibilities of late starts, early dismissals, and calling school off are upon us once again. Please be assured that the school has a calling system in place and decisions regarding these items will be made in a timely manner so that families can adjust their plans accordingly. With numerous buses/vans on daily routes in our district of 200 square miles, the reality that everyone either drives or rides to school tells us that we have a lot at risk everyday.

Please keep in mind that we do live in the Midwest where weather can be severe at times and yet isolated in terms of area. It may be that part of our district is in worse condition than another, so please take this into consideration. If school is not cancelled and conditions in your area are such that travel is too risky, then please contact the school and indicate that your kids will not be able to attend on that day.

The media does an excellent job of keeping us informed of pending weather advisories, and we have access to several satellite websites via the Internet. Tri-Center Community Schools will act in a responsible manner, but we will try not to overreact.

Although we live in a region where people should know how to deal with snow, ice, and wind-chill, we must still do our best to proceed with caution. By all means, *please slow down* and encourage the members of your family to do the same.

The POWER ANNOUNCEMENT Rapid Notification (via the phone) will be used in the event that school is cancelled, started late, or dismissed early; so please be mindful of this means of communication. Also, please turn on the television (KMTV, WOW, KETV) or the radio (WOW 94.1 FM, KNOD 105.3 FM, KMA 960 AM, KFAB 1100 AM), and watch or listen for the announcement as a backup.

Please remember families have the final say in your children coming to school. If you feel weather, road, or travel conditions are not safe in your area keep your children home and contact he school office regarding your children's absence.

## **BUNDLE KIDS UP— PLEASE SEND THEM TO SCHOOL PREPARED FOR COLD WEATHER**

Make sure that your kids are ready for cold weather—especially if they are exposed to the elements while waiting for the bus. Hats, gloves, boots, coats are a must please send your kids out of the house ready for winter. If a situation exists whereby you cannot dress your child appropriately, call the school, and we will be glad to help.



I enjoy reading about teaching, learning, student engagement, assessment and anything else I can get my hands on that will potentially help ignite a love of learning in the young people I see every day. I

read the following piece from Focus on the Family online. This short piece has a wealth of practical advice for parents of children any age.

## **Cultivating a Love for Learning in Your Children**

By: Jody Caphart

If you observe babies and preschoolers, you will notice they are curious about the world around them. They are eager to learn about everything. Don't you wish you could keep this passion for exploration alive in their hearts, even as they grow older and head off to school? Here are a few tips to help your kids cultivate a love for learning:

### **Remain Excited About Learning Yourself**

A home with an enriched environment conducive to learning sends a message to your children that learning is important. The good news is that this doesn't require a big budget. Weekly visits to the public library can keep your home rich with books, while reading to and with your children daily is one of the best investments you can make to nurture a love of learning.

### **Include Your Children in Daily Activities**

Doing things together with your kids will teach them invaluable life skills. Let your children go grocery shopping and cook with you, work in the garage and help in the garden, fold clothes and play a role in other household chores.

In helping with daily activities, they may discover new interests, and you will be better able to hone their interests along the way. Additionally, as you talk with your children during these activities, you will develop the language area of their brain, which influences all aspects of their learning.

### **Discover Their Learning Styles**

As your children grow, embrace the way they learn best, and set up learning environments best suited to their particular learning styles. You may be thinking, *But I don't know how my children learn.*

To begin, become a student of your children. If you are a parent of toddlers or young children, you will notice that they are learning through all of their senses simultaneously. But as they begin the elementary years, their particular way of learning becomes more clearly defined.

Here are several learning patterns that you may observe in your elementary age children, plus suggestions about what you can do to enhance brain development on the home front:

- **Visual learners** learn best by what they see. Provide tools such as puzzles and other visual activities to enhance learning.
- **Auditory learners** need the dual process of listening as well as talking. In fact, in order to retain and retrieve information, your children need to talk about what they have heard.
- **Tactile learners** love to touch. They are not overtly active children, but you will find them busy with their hands. Learning will be enhanced by providing Play-Doh, building blocks and other hands-on activities in the home.
- **Kinesthetic learners** *must* move in order to learn. Once you see that their need to move actually enhances learning, it will help you to be more patient with them. Provide a lot of active learning opportunities, such as educational games in which they can participate. Keep the home environment rich with activities to explore and create. This interactive learning enhances brain development more than television, movies, video games and, yes, even computer time.

Remember, as parents, your passion for learning is contagious. If you model an eagerness to learn new things, your children will become more excited, too, and become learners for life.

***Have a Blessed Holiday Season!  
Enjoy your Family, Friends, and the  
Festivities!***



## **From the Principal's Desk ... Angie Huseman**

**“Arriving at one goal is the starting point to another.”**

**--John Dewey**



Perhaps it is appropriate that I begin this newsletter, the last one of the year and the last one before semester tests, with a reminder of good intentions. We all have them; the end of the year, however, seems to be the time when we think more about what we have not done, but wish we had. Obviously, the point I am hoping you all will make with your children, is that it is never too late to rededicate yourself to school. Now is not the time to simply say, “It’s too late to make a change.” The semester ends January 8th, So there is still plenty of school left this semester, as well as time for your student to focus on his/her job at hand--finishing the semester strong.. Additionally, I hope you will find the following article by Michael Josephson from his April 6, 2006 CHARACTER COUNTS Commentary a good conversation starter for you and your child.

### **Strategies for Teenhood**

One of the toughest jobs in the world is being a teenager. Everything is in transition. Everything is intense—even apathy.

Kids on the brink of adulthood have to cope with inconsistencies and conflicts. A desire to be special and different clashes with the need to belong and fit in. The desire for independence collides with an aversion to self-reliance and personal responsibility.

I want to suggest five strategies that can make the journey through adolescence less painful and more enjoyable:

**One:** Don’t run from responsibility; run toward it. The sooner you become visibly responsible, the sooner you will be authentically independent and free to do what you want and be what you want.

**Two:** Be yourself. You don't need orange hair, a nose ring or tattoos to be special. Dressing or behaving in extreme ways to stand out or blend in can seem like a desperate demand for attention. Discover your talents and build your character, and you will be not only noticed by respected.

**Three:** Resist the seduction of selfishness and short-sightedness. People who think only of their wants and needs sentence themselves to a dark and lonely dungeon. Don't confuse pleasure with happiness. Just because it feels good doesn't make it good. Don't trade all your tomorrows for today.

**Four:** Don't expect too much or settle for too little. No one can make you happy, but you can be happy. Hang out with people who bring out the best in you, and be the kind of person who brings out the best in others.

**Five:** Control your attitudes and you will control your life. You can't always control what happens to you, but you can always control what happens in you. Remember, pain is inevitable but suffering is a choice. So is happiness.

--Michael Josephson

## **The Power of Thank You**

The following was a blog posted by Jon Gordon on 25 Nov 2013 05:31 AM PST. I think it can serve as a great reminder to all of us.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving I'd love to share with you the benefits and power of two simple words. THANK YOU.

They are two words that have the power to transform our health, happiness, athletic performance and success. Research shows that grateful people are happier and more likely to maintain good friendships. A state of gratitude, according to research by the Institute of Heart Math, also improves the heart's rhythmic functioning, which helps us to reduce stress, think more clearly under pressure and heal physically. It's actually physiologically impossible to be stressed and thankful at the same time. When you are grateful you flood your body and brain with emotions and endorphins that uplift and energize you rather than the stress hormones that drain you.

Gratitude and appreciation are also essential for a healthy work environment. In fact, the number one reason why people leave their jobs is because they don't feel appreciated. A simple thank you and a show of appreciation can make all the difference.

Gratitude is like muscle. The more we do with it the stronger it gets. In this spirit here are 4 ways to practice Thanksgiving every day of the year.

**1. Take a Daily Thank You Walk** – I wrote about this in *The Energy Bus* and *The Positive Dog*. Take a simple 10-minute walk each day and say out loud what you are thankful for. This will set you up for a positive day.

**2. Meal Time Thank You's** – On Thanksgiving, or just at dinner with your friends and family, go around the table and have each person, including the kids at the little table, say what they are thankful for.

**3. Gratitude Visit** – Martin Seligman, Ph.D., the father of positive psychology, suggests that we write a letter expressing our gratitude to someone. Then we visit this person and read them the letter. His research shows that people who do this are measurably happier and less depressed a month later.

**4. Say Thank You at Work** – When Doug Conant was the CEO of Campbell Soup he wrote approximately 30,000 thank you notes to his employees and energized the company in the process. Energize and engage your co-workers and team by letting them know you are grateful for them and their work. Organizations spend billions of dollars collectively on recognition programs but the best and cheapest recognition program of all consists of a sincere THANK YOU. And of course don't forget to say thank you to your clients and customers too.

**”As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”**

**-- John F. Kennedy**



## **Counseling Comments** **...Tami Harman**

Happy Holidays!!

### **Seniors:**

Second semester is near, with only three weeks left before Christmas break, seniors should be making decisions about post-secondary choices and completing applications, finalizing ACT testing or setting up an appointment to take the COMPASS test. Seniors should be making their final college visits and narrowing down their choices. The main focus for second semester then is to finalize plans and apply for scholarships.

I will be holding a Senior Scholarship Work Night on Thursday, December 10th at 6:30 at the High School. We will be meeting in the High School Computer Lab. This will provide time for seniors to search and apply for scholarships they find through websites available. I will be there to help them search and answer any questions they may have as they are looking for and applying for scholarships. I thought this would motivate seniors to apply for more scholarships and just devote time to working on applying for scholarships. This is not mandatory but would encourage seniors to mark their calendars and attend the Scholarship Work Night!

I still have not met with all the seniors and their parents to discuss post-secondary plans. Please call the high school and arrange a time to meet to discuss your son/daughter's plans.

### **Juniors:**

It would be ideal for juniors to have taken the ACT test at least once already. There will be a John Baylor Test Prep before the April 9, 2016 test date. They still have a February test that they could take before the Prep course in April. It is nice to have a baseline score before the Prep test. The website is [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). If you need more information, please call.

Juniors, Sophomores and Freshmen took Iowa Assessments the week of November 16th. Those results will not be back until after Christmas break. These assessments allow students a chance to see how they rank in the areas of Reading, Mathematics, and Science.

Students will be working on second semester scheduling the first couple of weeks in December, they have already registered but they will have the opportunity to adjust or change schedules for second semester. Please discuss course options with you son/daughter.





## Yearbook News and Information

. . . . Sarah Elliott

### 2015-2016 Publications Staff Members:

**Seniors:** Hannah Larsen, Editor Whitney Matthews;

**Juniors:** Alyssa Baatz, Allison Eikenberry; and

**Sophomores:** Danielle Elliott, Braxton Larsen.

### 2015 YEARBOOKS! Trojan Survival Guide:

*Tips and Rules of 2015*, the **2015 Trojan Yearbook**, arrived in early November. We appreciate your patience with both the Publications staff doing proofs and the publisher (Walsworth Publishing) printing it. All the ordered and sold books have been distributed and we do have only 5 extras which we will sell for \$60 each or \$50 with the purchase of the 2016 book for \$50 (\$100 for the two). See or call Adviser Mrs. Sarah Elliott at the high school at 485-2257, ext. 100 if you are/will be interested in purchasing those.

**PAST YEARBOOKS!** In addition to any extra 2015 copies, we do have extras of other past yearbooks. Purchase any year's book at regular price and get \$5 off the second and on lower priced books. Past books costs are: \$30 for 2014 and 2013, \$20 for the 2011 and 2010, \$15 for the 2009 and 2008 and just \$10 for the 2003. Sorry, we are completely out of 2012 books.

**2016 YEARBOOK SELLS!!!** Sells of the **2016 Trojan Yearbook (#WeAreTC)** have begun, and we will also be doing on-line sales this year. Some specials and discounts will be offered to those purchasing their books at events throughout the year and at conferences in the spring. **BUY EARLY AND SAVE!** The 2016 books are \$50, and we do except a \$25 deposit if you wish to make payments. A yearbook could make **A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT.**

**SENIOR PICTURES:** Seniors and senior parents, pictures are due to the yearbook by Tuesday, December 22, 2015. These may be in color or black and white, but they should be wallet-sized, and head and shoulder shots work or look best. Don't assume your photographer will send them in to us. If the

photo is not received by December 22, it may be difficult to include it – we are working hard to get back on a timely schedule of printing and publishing the book, and it is difficult to meet our deadlines when others don't meet their deadlines. **GET PICTURES IN EARLY TO BE SAFE!**

**PARENT AND PERSONAL ADS:** Support the yearbook and honor your son/daughter, grandson/daughter, sibling, friend, or others at the same time. Parent and personal ads are \$30 and include the honored person's name, a small photo, and a message limited to approximately 20 words. Senior parents can expect to receive a letter in December or early next semester. Parent and personal ads can be purchased from Publications Adviser Sarah Elliott or Yearbook Editor Whitney Matthews at 485-2257, ext. 100.

**PICTURES ARE ACCEPTED:** The Publications staff is in need of and will accept pictures for possible use in the yearbook. Pictures can be submitted by email (sellott@tctrojans.org) or brought in for scanning and returned ASAP. We will also be getting the Community Upload set up again soon. The staff is currently in need of summer sports, fall sports, Homecoming, student sections, and fun/candid pictures for all grades 9-12.

**AD/SPONSORSHIP CAMPAIGN:** We will be starting our ad/sponsorship campaign sometime in the next week. If you are or know of a business owner who may want to advertise/sponsor a spread, contact Adviser Sarah Elliott at 485-2257, ext. 100. Advertisers/sponsors not only help fund a yearbook of which the district and surrounding communities can be proud, but also have the opportunity to support an educational program that teaches students valuable skills in writing, design, photography, computer use, and business.

**From the Elementary Principal  
...Diane White**



**T-C Elementary December  
Highlights**

- Dec. 4 No PK today
- Dec. 4 1:30 Dismissal for In Service
- Dec. 7 Christmas Program for Grades 2 & 3  
at 2:00 and 7:00.  
(Program is held in the HS Gym.)
- Dec. 8 Elem Student Council at 3:30
- Dec. 11 No PK today
- Dec. 12-13 Old Fashioned Christmas in Neola
- Dec. 14 MS/HS Christmas Concert 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 16 Elem Student Council at 3:30
- Dec. 22 1:30 Out for Christmas Vacation
- Dec. 23 thru Jan. 4 – No School for students
- Jan. 4 Teacher In Service Day
- Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> Welcome back to school, students!
- Jan. 7 NWMSU Children’s Theatre at TC  
1:15 and 2:15
- Jan. 8 End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – 1:30 Dismissal



**Special Olympics**

**Julie Theulen**



The State Special Olympics Bowling was canceled on Saturday, November 21, because of the snow. Although Cole Osbahr was not able to compete in State Special Olympic Bowling in Sioux City on Saturday, his family took him bowling and he got a personal best game of 125! We are sure that if the event would have been held he would have brought home a gold medal! WAY TO GO, COLE!

**Happy Holidays to you  
and yours!**

