

# April 2017 Tri-Center Newsletter



**High School 485-2257**

**Middle School 485-2211**

**Elementary 485-2271**

**www.tri-center.k12.ia.us**



## Superintendent's News and Comments

... **Dr. Angela Huseman**

*What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.*

*--Oliver Wendell Holmes*

## What We Expect and What Happens

This is the time of the year that I see as kind of a test, and sometimes a turning point, for students. They realize that there is not much of the school year left. At this thought, some of them decide to simply coast to the end, while others decide to “pour it on” so they finish as strong as they can. We all face this type of “test” daily. Do we persevere on that diet or eat cake? Do we carry through in disciplining our child even though it would be so much easier to just let it slide?

Stephen Covey, who wrote *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, proposed that one should “Begin with the End in Mind” daily with which I agree wholeheartedly. It is helpful to think about where one wants to be in terms of accomplishments and relationships when we embark on our daily journey. I found the following blog entry from Michael Josephson, to be a good illustration of this principle, even though Mr. Josephson shares this lesson at the age of 71.

## Reflections at 71: Life Expectancy, Life's Expectancies and The Seven Biggest Truths I've Learned

(updated December 12, 2013)

Where did the time go?

I hate clichés like this, but among the things I've learned in my 71 years of lurching around life is that these pithy statements became clichés precisely because they are true. Often profoundly so. Looking through the rear view mirror of my life the past feels like a movie played a triple speed.

For the vast bulk of you who are younger, probably quite a bit younger, than I am, I want to give you an insight: Hardly anyone believes they are really old (by normal chronological standards). Okay, I admit I'm not young — but old? Not me. The hard-to-believe fact is that I have already outlived the life expectancy of the average person born in 1942 (it was 68). That is really scary. Does this mean I'm on borrowed time? What is my likely expiration date? The news is better than I thought.

According to *Understanding Life Expectancy* by [Mark Stibich](#) (published in 2007 – perhaps it's even better today), my longevity outlook is better now than the average calculated for all people born in 1942. Because I didn't die of infectious diseases, car accidents or anything else I am in a smaller class of those born in 1942. All of us who survived to reach the 65 benchmark were told in 2007 that we could expect to live another 18.4 years (so if I hit the average I have 12 years left).

Okay, these are only averages, but I have a decent shot at another decade of living and learning. On the other hand ... (I don't want to think about the other hand).

I hope to learn lots more things in the next decade or so, but just in case, I think it is wise that for posterity I transmit some of the most important things I've learned so far. Life expectancy is not just about the length of one's life, but the expectations that define the quality of life. Here are the 7 biggest truths I've learned:

1. **SELF-IMPROVEMENT AND PERPETUAL GROWTH.** No matter my age, I (along with everyone else) am a work in progress. But the process can be either growth or decay. I choose growth. I also know there will always be a gap between who I am and who I want to be (and who I can be). It is never too late to close that gap. “One doesn’t have to be sick to get better.” Every day brings opportunities to improve my life and my character.
2. **INTEGRITY.** Understanding and keeping one’s integrity is one of the most critical challenges we all face. Life is full of temptations and distractions that can drive a wedge between our beliefs, words and acts. I’ve learned it’s a lot easier to talk about integrity than to live it. The true test is my willingness to do the right thing even when it costs more than I want to pay. I have a decent batting average, but it’s way below 1,000. Among the seductions is the tendency to “do onto others as they have done onto you.” No matter how I behave, some people will be mean-spirited, dishonest, irresponsible and unkind, but if I fight fire with fire, all I’ll end up with is the ashes of my own integrity.
3. **CHARACTER AND REPUTATION.** Both character (who I really am) and reputation (what others think of me) are very important. But, character is more important than reputation (it’s even more important than competence). As Lincoln said: character is the tree, reputation is the shadow. That doesn’t mean reputation is not important. Reputation affects whether people believe us (credibility) and the opportunities that are presented to us. Some people’s reputation is better than they deserve; others may deserve a better reputation than they have. The point is, we should constantly build and preserve both. Trustworthiness is the essence of character and being trusted is the essence of reputation. It takes years to build up trust and only seconds to destroy it. I must often remind myself that I tend to judge myself by my best intentions and most noble acts, but, in the end, I may be judged by my last worst act.
4. **ATTITUDE SHAPES EVERY EXPERIENCE.** I know I can’t always control what will happen to me, but I have a lot to say about what happens in me. As they say, pain is inevitable, but suffering is optional. There is absolutely no doubt that if I can monitor and manage the way I think about my life — including getting older — I can make the most out of my life. If I view every failure as a practice shot and learn from it I will always fail forward and that is success. My attitudes not only change my life, however, they also can change the lives of people I interact with. I can lift people up, console, comfort and encourage them. I can be a good example or I can be negative and drain them of energy and hope. Attitudes, both good and bad, are contagious.
5. **SUCCESS AND SIGNIFICANCE.** I’ve learned that the most critical step in being successful is how we define success. If I define success in small and shallow terms like winning a particular event or making money or earning some modicum of fame I will be limited by my small ambitions. Winning is more than coming in first. First, of all, there is no real victory without honor. Second there is no real victory unless what I’ve achieved is significant. The ultimate measure of success is whether I have lived my life well. To do that I need to remind myself what I hope people will say about me after I die and live backwards to earn that eulogy. I know that real success is being significant. Being worthy of the trust, pride, respect and appreciation of others — both strangers and those close to us — is the best life purpose I know.
6. **BEING GOOD AND WISE DOESN’T COME NATURALLY.** I believe that the quality of my life, and the lives of those I touch, will be determined by my ability to consistently adopt and live according to four key mindsets: 1) positivity (including optimism, enthusiasm, hopefulness and cheerfulness), 2) kindness, 3) gratitude and 4) forgiveness. Perhaps some are born with these outlooks or dispositions but I wasn’t. Thus, for me, it takes continuous and a conscientious effort to be positive, kind, grateful and forgiving, but when I do so it ALWAYS pays off for me and those around me. Nelson Mandela, to me one of the great men of our era, clearly chose to be forgiving. He felt anger and resentment and a desire for revenge but he responded to his better angels and willed himself toward reconciliation and banished bitterness.
7. **HAPPINESS.** I’ve learned that happiness is a worthy personal goal as long as it isn’t achieved through selfishness or self-indulgence. Happiness is both deeper and more enduring than either pleasure or fun. I’ve learned that what is fun or pleasurable is not always good for me and what is good for me is not always fun or pleasurable. I think the surest road to happiness is good relationships and that the best way to have good relationships is to be a good person. Finally (and this goes back to positivity and the power of attitude), I’ve adopted Abraham Lincoln’s insight: I will be as as happy as I’m willing to be. When good things end I am better off smiling because it happened than crying because it’s over.



## Counseling Comments ...Tami Harman

Scheduling will be taking place within the next couple of weeks. The master schedule is not designed yet but students will still plan their schedules based on coursework needed for the next school year. I will be going into the classrooms soon to give them the information they need to complete registration for the 2017-2018 school year. Parents, you should be having discussions about the coursework that you think your son/daughter will need for next school year. Schedules will be completed for both semesters to help us build the master schedule.

Seniors should be finalizing post secondary plans and continue to work on scholarships. April seems to be the month when a lot of scholarships are due and then scholarship opportunities begin to quickly taper off through the month of May. Keep researching and looking for scholarships that are still available.

### **National Honor Society:**

The 2016-2017 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony took place on Thursday, March 16th at 7:00 pm in the High School Cafetorium. There were 24 new members inducted. Those new members are:

Seniors: Samantha Brich, Adia Brown and Gage Wiggins

Juniors: Tobi Brich, Noah Dickerson, Carter Dollen, Anna Grace Hough, Wesley Kramer, Jordan Macias, Sidney Porter and Peter Turner

Sophomores: Lillian Dahir, Paul Eikenberry, Peyton Fox, McKenzie Hoffman, Brooklyn Hundt, Kayla Jensen, Olivia Maassen, Alyssa McDermott, Emma McDonald, Hailey McGee,

Chaeli Moir, Marie Ohlinger and Kaylee Rivera

Congratulations to the new inductees and their families.

## TC PROM 2017

**Bryanna Zmolek**

Tri-Center's Junior-Senior Prom will be held on Saturday, April 22nd at Tri-Center High School. The schedule for prom is as follows:

4:00 - 5:30 Pictures will be taken for couples in the cafetorium

5:30 Class Pictures will be taken in the cafetorium

6:00 Grand March begins in the High School gym

6:45 Dinner in the cafetorium

7:30 Dance Begins

11:00 Departure for Post Prom

## Nurse Notes

**Jen McGee BSN,RN**

### \*New Immunization Requirement for 2017-2018\*

In addition to the traditional preschool, kindergarten and 7th grade immunization requirements; there is a new meningococcal vaccine requirement for students.

Q: What grades are included in the new meningococcal vaccine requirement?

A: For the 2017-2018 school years, and all future school years, all students entering, advancing or transferring into 7th grade will need proof of ONE dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine. All students entering, advancing, or transferring into 12th will need proof of TWO doses of meningococcal vaccine; or 1 dose if received when the student was 16 years of age or older.

Please call your physician's office to see if this requirement has been met. Feel free to fax, email or drop off a copy of an updated immunization record. If your child has not received this vaccine, please do so by Wednesday August 23, 2017.



**Special Olympics  
... Julie Theulen**

The Tri-Center Special Olympic Team will be having a joint fundraiser with the Underwood Special Olympic Team on April 8 at the Minden Legion Building. A spaghetti supper will be served from 4 to 8 PM. The event also includes a silent auction. A list of auction items will be on the school website as well as FaceBook.



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

**April Highlights**

- April 1 – NWEA Testing this week
- April 5 - PK to IWCC for Health Fair
- April 7 - No PK today
- April 6 – School Board Mtg. 6PM HS Library
- April 7 - Kindergarten Roundup Day (If your child did not attend Tri-Center Preschool, please call us @ 485-2271 for information.)
- April 11 - Spring Music Program Grades K-1 2:00 and 7:00 PM
- April 12 - 1:30 Dismissal for Spring Break
- April 13 – No School
- April 14 – No School
- April 16 – Happy Easter
- April 17 – No School
- April 18 – No PK today.
- April 19 – No PK today.
- April 21 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade fishing at Arrowhead Park
- April 24 – Spring FAST testing begins
- April 26 - Secretary’s Day
- April 28 - No School – InService Day

**Mark your calendar...Last Day of School  
May 25 (1:30 dismissal)**

This is a busy time for children. Soccer practice, baseball practice, and many other spring activities can sometimes cause kids to forget that **schoolwork is most important. Help them plan their activities with school being the first priority.** They will have all summer to relax and enjoy their other activities.

**Preparing Class Lists For Next Year**

When making classroom assignments for children, there are many factors we consider for each child. Not only are we assigning a teacher to each student, we are creating student groups in which we hope learning can flourish. At each grade level, the teachers will sit down and analyze each student’s academic progress and their interaction with the other children. Groups are then made with discussion about what the teacher thinks is best for each child. In creating heterogeneous groups, we consider academic abilities that can balance the group for instruction. Having classes of students with high, average, and low abilities has shown us that they learn from each other. Kids bring with them a variety of skills and in sharing those skills, they influence the others in the classroom. Some students have special needs that need to be met. Recommendations from IEP’s and Special Education teachers are consulted for student placement.

We must consider a child’s personality when making a classroom placement. A child’s behavior may have some influence on their participation in the group. Is the student shy, reserved, aggressive, out-going? Does the student have a personality conflict with any other student or teacher? Does the student depend on another student for decision-making? Are there combinations of students that may hinder learning for others? These are many of the questions that we ask when making classroom placements.

To complete the task of making our heterogeneous classes we consider a student’s gender. A balance of girls and boys in the classroom makes a comfortable atmosphere for children. **As a parent, there may be something about your child that we need to know when determining his/her classroom placement. Please write that information down and send it to me before May 1.** With all things considered we hope to provide the best possible place for our children to learn and grow.

## **FIRST GRADE**

**. . . . Wendy Matson**

Keegan Cook, Brinley Jenson and Allie Thomas are winners in the Midlands of Iowa Creative Writing contest sponsored by the Midlands of Iowa Reading Council. They will be honored April 20th in Glenwood for their writings. They are first grade students in Mrs. Matson's class at Tri-Center.

