

April/May 2018 Tri-Center Newsletter



High School 485-2257

Middle School 485-2211

Elementary 485-2271



Superintendent's News and Comments

... Dr. Angela Huseman

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2018!

**Commencement May 20th, 2018
2:00 p.m. HS Gymnasium**

Graduation is a time for excitement, celebration and a little apprehension. Most seniors want you to believe they are ready for the world NOW, but inside (and it is buried a little more deeply in some than others), next steps bring uncertainty.

I am hoping between school and family, we have taught them the lessons they need to be successful in their next steps. Academics is supposed to be the school's main charge for kids, but we hope that the lessons we have taught and the opportunities we have given them, have made them strong, confident and capable good citizens and human beings.

I found a list that Jon Gordon has published for graduates or anyone pursuing a dream:

1. Where you are now is not where you are going to be.
2. You don't have to be perfect to start. Just start.
3. Don't be afraid to fail.
4. Sometimes you have to lose a goal to find your destiny.
5. You are here for a reason. You have a purpose and you are meant to live and share it.
6. You don't have to be great. You just have to have a great desire to be your best and bring out the best in others.
7. Ignore the critics. Just show up each day and do the work.
8. Stay Positive. There is a plan!
9. If you believe your best days are ahead of you, they are. The best is yet to come.

Financial Information:

At the regular April Board Meeting, which will be held on April 10th, 2018, the Tri-Center Board of Education will hold a hearing for the certified budget for the 2018-2019 school year. After several years of working to end the school year with a positive balance, we seem to be moving in the right direction. We estimate we will end this school year with approximately \$ 500,000 in unspent balance. Additionally, tax rates will be decreasing by almost \$.28, going from a rate of \$13.16 for the current school year to \$12.88 for the 2018-2019 school year. This is good news for the district and you, the taxpayers.

Recognition and Appreciation of Staff and School Board Members

The months of April and May contain several days/weeks of recognition and appreciation for various school employees and the board of education. Each of these individuals and collective groups come together to form a major portion of the Tri-Center Family. Their dedication and commitment to the task is tremendous--and consistent--for 180+ days every year. Please take the opportunity to extend a word of thanks or show some appreciation for the work they do and the unselfish efforts they make to create a safe and productive learning environment for the kids of our school district.

Administrative Professional's Day: April 25th
Teacher Appreciation Week: May 6th-12th
School Board Recognition Month: May

Conversations with your School Board

Our school board members volunteer many hours, early mornings and evenings of their time for the benefit of our community's children. They know they represent more than just the citizens who elected them to their positions, and they want to hear from those folks about issues (good, bad and indifferent) that are critical to all students in the district. At the same time, they are very aware that their role is to hire the superintendent, set policy and adopt goals. The superintendent and other district administrators are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the district.

When you are considering taking a concern/request/comment to the school board member, ask yourself if the school board is the proper place for the concern. Here is a quick checklist of questions to help you with that decision:

*If I am concerned about something, have I already talked to those closest to the problem and tried to resolve it there? If it wasn't resolved there, have I followed the chain of command through the bus driver, teacher/coach, principal/AD, and superintendent? Is it still unresolved?

*Is my concern something that affects all children in the district rather than one child, one bus, one classroom of children, or one building?

*Is my concern an idea, comment or question about the daily operations of the district? Have I talked with the appropriate administrator?

If you answer to these questions is 'yes', but you are still not satisfied that the problem has been solved, you have probably followed the proper 'chain of command' and should think about contacting the school board. If you want to speak to the board at a meeting, our school board has established procedures so it can hear from concerned members of our community.

**Last Day of School: May 24th, 2018
(pending no more snow days)**



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 utilizing advisory time to give students the information they need to complete registration for the 2018-2019 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.

The last ACT test dates for 2017-2018 is June 9, 2018 with a registration deadline of May 4th and July 14th with a registration deadline of June 15th.

The test dates for 2018-2019 are as follows:

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
September 8, 2018	August 3, 2018
October 27, 2018	September 21, 2018
December 8, 2018	November 2, 2018
February 9, 2019	January 4, 2019
April 13, 2019	March 8, 2019
June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019
July 13, 2019	June 14, 2019

Tri-Center plans to provide a John Baylor ACT Test Prep before the October 27th test date, mainly for seniors and another prep before the April 13th test date for juniors. It is advantageous to have a baseline score before taking the Prep course but not required. If you have any questions about the prep course please call Tami Harman 712-485-2257 or email tharman@tctrojans.org

National Honor Society

Congratulations to the graduating seniors and good-luck in your chosen career pathway. I am sure the skills of leadership, character, service and scholarship will help guide your future.



Elementary Principal ... Jami Helgenberger

The last few months of school are here! April and May keep families extremely busy and in seven short weeks, on May 24, kids will be out for summer vacation. That being said the last seven weeks of school we will continue to educate your children and hold them to high expectations while having fun at the same time.

We will begin our last round of the FAST (Formative Assessment System for Teachers) Reading Screener and will also be piloting a FAST Math Screener this spring. The window to have these assessments completed for the state is April 23 - May 18.

Track and Field Day will be held at the track Tuesday, May 15. Students should wear comfortable tennis shoes and sunscreen for protection from the sun. Families are welcome to attend this day and students will need to bring a sack lunch for this event. More details will be coming closer to this date.

There are many other school activities as we finish the school year, so please make sure to check bookbags and folders each night for notes and reminders coming home.

Once the weather warms up...have a wonderful spring!

Dates to remember:

April 11th - 1:30 dismissal, Staff Professional Development

April 20th - SCHOOL IS IN SESSION FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

April 25th - 1:30 dismissal, Staff Professional Development

May 9th - 1:30 dismissal, Staff Professional Development

May 15th - Track and Field Day

May 24th - End of 4th quarter/Semester 1:30 dismissal

Dan Elliott

... Washington D.C. Trip

At 2:30 A.M. on Friday, March 16, 78 Tri-Center students and teachers boarded buses for Omaha Eppley Airport enroute to Washington D.C. After a layover in St. Louis, the group arrived in Washington D.C. and started heading towards George Washington's home, Mount Vernon. When finished touring Washington's mansion and surrounding plantation, the group boarded the buses to drive back to Washington D.C. for supper and to stop at the Pentagon to visit the September 11th Memorial. The group was then ready to get to the hotel for some rest after a long but fun day.

Day two started with a tour of the National Cathedral. The Cathedral is an impressive piece of architecture and a beautiful structure. Other stops on the day included: the Library of Congress, the Capitol building, the Einstein Memorial, and the Vietnam Wall Memorial. It was then time to eat again. The group did eat extremely well during their stay in Washington D.C. Senior Jakob Orel commented, "I was never hungry." The final sites for the day were the Lincoln Memorial and Korean War Memorial.

The tour guides, Dante and George, were both fantastic. They were informational, fun, and worked great with the students. Senior Nate Bolte asked one morning, "Dante, what did you have for breakfast?" Dante replied, "I think you mean breakfasts!" Dante likes to eat.

On Sunday, day three, the group was able to get some pictures in front of the White House and see one of the longest continuous protests in American history. Concepcion Picciott started her protesting of nuclear war and war in 1981. She died in 2016, but volunteers have continued her cause. Additional stops were Ford's Theater (where President Lincoln was assassinated), and the Holocaust Museum. The group then had the opportunity to explore the various Smithsonian Museums which surround the National Mall. Junior Lilly Dahir commented, "I couldn't imagine a better way to learn about history while spending time with friends." After eating at Hard Rock Cafe, the group then did an evening tour around the Tidal Basin, which included the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial. This is a beautiful area in the evening as the sun is going down and reflecting on the water.

The final day started by touring Arlington National Cemetery and seeing the changing of the guards ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown. The final day sites also included: the Iwo Jima Memorial, the pandas at the National Zoo, the World War II Memorial, the National Archives, and the National Gallery. "It's unreal to see all of the memorials and buildings you've only ever seen on TV or in pictures," said junior Jordan Ring.

Of course, most vacations have a couple mishaps. At the hotel on the first night, the fire alarm went off three times. Other than interrupted sleep, the group was never in danger.

The Tri-Center Community should be proud of how the juniors and seniors represented T-C while on the trip. For many, this will be a once in a lifetime trip. Junior Paul Eikenberry summed it up well, "Washington D.C. was a beautiful place, and every American citizen should experience a visit there."

Special Olympics

... Julie Theluen

The Special Olympic team will be traveling to IWCC on April 10 to compete in track and softball throw. Team members include Cole Osbahr, Shawn Pickett-Pauley, Elijah Bearley, Kaleigh Gillespie, Miles Lee, and Joslyn Punteney. Anyone who places first at IWCC will go on to compete at State Track Meet May 17-19. Also during the State Track meet team members Cole, Elijah, Kaleigh, and Miles will be competing in bocce.

MS/HS Art

... Kelly Alfors

The art department ended March with the YAM (Youth art month) Winners receiving their certificate at the Iowa history museum Saturday, March 24th were Justin Bolte, Nathan Holtorf, and Hannah Wulff. (Brandan Ryan was unable to make it.) The next show where more students can enter will be our WIC art show. This show accepts 60 pieces of art rather than 10 in the YAM show. It will be held in Audubon on Saturday, April 21 from 10 am – 2:00 pm and Sunday, April 22 from 10 am - 2:00 pm.



TC Bowling

... Kelly Alfors

March ended our bowling season with our annual banquet. Award winners were Jordan Macias and Olivia Maassen receiving the All-star trophy for top bowlers, highest averages and highest scores. Jordan also got "Top Turkey" award for bowling over 25 turkey's. Charlotte Guerrero and Kaleb Smith were given the TC spirit award. The Award for "Most Improved" went to Erika Kline and Spencer Heine.

The 200 club recipients for the Boys: Jordan Macias, Noah Dickerson, Wes Kramer, Aiden Hess, Kaleb Smith, Spencer Heine, Sid Stowe
Girls: Olivia Maassen, Tillie Heim, Alyssa McDermott and Erika Kline

The last of the awards went to our girls district champions who went on to State to receive 6th place at the state tournament in Waterloo, Iowa. These girls received medallions: Olivia Maassen, Tillie Heim, Alyssa McDermott, Charlotte Guerrero, and Desi Macias. Olivia ranked 9th individually in the state of Iowa and received a metal.

"We weren't expecting this" was what the girls put on our State t-shirts and that is exactly right. We were the underdogs that found a place in the spot light. What an amazing year! The boy's team will be perfecting their 2-handed bowling and are on the rise, stay-tuned for more great news next winter.

