

December 2016 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. Angie Huseman

Tri-Center Community Schools Wishes You and Yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

****PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES****

School dismisses at 1:30 on Thursday, December 22
NO SCHOOL DECEMBER 23RD thru
January 3rd
School Resumes on Wednesday, January 4th
(Full Day)
1:30 out Friday, January 6th for end of
quarter/semester
No School Monday, January 16th for
Professional Development

WINTER WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

With the arrival of another winter, the possibilities of late starts, early dismissals and calling school off are knocking at the door. Please be assured the school has a calling system in place and decisions regarding these items will be made in as timely a manner as possible so families can plan accordingly. With so many buses/vans/routes in our 200 square mile district, the reality is that everyone either drives or rides to school which equates to a lot of risk every day.

Please keep in mind that we do live in the Midwest where weather can be both severe and isolated in terms of area. It may be that part of our district is in worse condition than another, so please keep this in mind. If school is not cancelled, yet the

conditions in your area are such that you feel travel too risky, please contact the school and let us know your child(ren) cannot attend that day. Families get the final say in these instances.

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

Power School Notification: Now is a great time to check how you have notifications set up in the Power School Parental notification area. When you log in to your parent PowerSchool account, click on the **Power Announcement** tab on the side of the page. Then, click on the Expand All tab. Make sure you have numbers and email addresses entered. If you have any questions about getting this set up, please contact Matt Schmitz at mschmitz@tctrojans.org or Angie Huseman at ahuseman@tctrojans.org.

As you will all have experienced one time or another, technology is great--when it works. If you don't have your information set up in the automated PowerSchool system, you can also get information about school closings on the TC Webpage, TC Facebook page or TC Twitter site. Or, you can do what we have all done for years; turn on your television or radio to the local news stations (KMTV, WOW, KETV, KNOD, KMA).

Baby, It's Cold Outside!

I have already told several students in the middle/high school area that it is probably time to put the shorts away and get the pants out. Make sure that your kids are ready for the cold weather--especially if they have to wait outside for a bus. Hats, boots, coats and mittens are necessary



equipment at this time of year. For all of those students that drive to school, my dad always preached for me to have extra warm attire **IN** my car anytime I left to go anywhere.

If you are having difficulties accessing warm clothing for your child, please call me, and I will help you figure out how to make this happen.

Happiness Is Key

I am currently reading a book titled, *The Happiness Advantage* by Shawn Achor. This is a subject that has been on my radar for quite a while. (Both of my sisters, my daughter and my mother have already received this book as an early Christmas present). I believe a person's attitude about life is a pretty good predictor of the type of life that person will live. Are you a glass half-full or half-empty type of person? Which type of person do you prefer to be around? I do not believe that we are destined to be a "half-empty" type of person if we choose not to be. Mr. Achor has reviewed studies that support this thought.

I have been sharing little "bites" of this book with T-C Faculty and Staff, and I think the following excerpt is something that can positively impact anyone that has the chance to read and digest it---that is, IF one wants to try to be more of a "half-full" type of person.

Jell-O at Lunch

Positive emotions can begin to open our eyes and minds to new solutions and ideas even at a very young age. In one interesting study, researchers asked four-year-old children to complete a series of learning tasks, such as putting together blocks of different shapes. The first group was given neutral instructions: Please put these blocks together as quickly as you can. The researchers gave the second group the same set of instructions, then asked them first to briefly think about something that makes them happy. Now at only four years of age, these kids obviously don't have a wealth of happy experiences to choose from; they can't look back on career accomplishments or wedding days of first kids (we hope). So most likely, they thought about something along the lines of the Jell-O they had at lunch. Still, it was enough to make a difference. The children who were

primed to be happy significantly outperformed the others, completing the task both more quickly and with fewer errors.

The benefits of priming the brain with positive thoughts don't end at childhood either. To the contrary, studies have found that across the board, in both academic and business settings these same benefits persist throughout our adult lives. For instance, students who were told to think about the happiest day of their lives right before taking a standardized math test outperformed their peers. And people who expressed more positive emotions while negotiating business deals did so more efficiently and successfully than those who were more neutral or negative. The implications of these studies are undeniable: **People who put their head down and wait for work to bring eventual happiness put themselves at a huge disadvantage, while those who capitalize on positivity every chance they get come out ahead.**

Thank you for all you do for Tri-Center students.



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. 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 Monday, December 12th at 6:30 at the High School. We will be meeting in the High

School Library, bring your computers. 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 8, 2017 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. If you need more information, please call.

Juniors, Sophomores and Freshmen took Iowa Assessments the week of November 14th. 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

2016-2017 Publications Staff Members:

Seniors: Colby Brink; **Juniors:** Callie Eckmann, Editor Danielle Elliott, Assistant Editor Tillie Heim, Braxton Larsen; and **Sophomores:** Miranda Barron, Paul Eikenberry, Hailey Pursell.

2016 YEARBOOKS!

Final proofing for #WeAreTC, the 2016 Trojan Yearbook, is complete and the book was submitted a few weeks ago. We are hoping to get them just before the Christmas Break. Again, we apologize and want you to know we appreciate your patience with both the Publications staff doing proofing and the publisher (Walsworth Publishing) printing it. If ordered before they come in, the cost is \$50, and then any extras may be purchased for \$60 each while supplies last – which won't be long. See or call Adviser Mrs. Sarah Elliott at the high school at 485-2257, ext. 100.

2017 YEARBOOK SELLS!!!

Sells of the 2017 Trojan Yearbook (Putting Us on the Map) will begin next semester, 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 2017 books are \$50, and we do except a \$25 deposit if you wish to make payments. A yearbook could make A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT, so call Adviser Mrs. Sarah Elliott at the high school at 485-2257, ext. 100 if you would like to purchase a book before next semester.

SENIOR PICTURES: Seniors and senior parents, pictures are due to the yearbook by Tuesday, January 31, 2017. 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 January 31, 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 early next semester. Parent and personal ads can be purchased from Publications Adviser Sarah Elliott or Yearbook Editors Danielle Elliott and Tillie Heim 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@tetrojans.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 have started our ad/sponsorship campaign. 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. 2 1:30 Dismissal for InService
- Dec. 5 Christmas Program for Grades 2 & 3 at 2:00 and 7:00
(Program is held in the HS Gym.)
- Dec. 6 Elem Student Council at 3:30
- Dec. 9 No PK today
- Dec. 10-11 Old Fashioned Christmas in Neola
- Dec. 12 MS/HS Christmas Concert 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 20 Elem Student Council at 3:30
- Dec. 20 NWMSU Children's Theatre at TC 1:15 and 2:15
- Dec. 22 1:30 Out for Christmas Vacation
- Dec. 23 thru Jan. 4 – No School for students

A Peek at January...

- Jan. 3 Teacher InService Day
- Jan. 4 Welcome back to school, students!
- Jan. 6 End of 2nd Quarter – 1:30 Dismissal
- Jan. 13 No PK today
- Jan. 16 No School - InService
- Jan. 27 No PK today

Happy Holidays to you and yours!





.... Julie Theulen

On Saturday, November 19, Elijah Bearley and Kaleigh Gillespie competed in State Special Olympics Bowling in Sioux City. Kaleigh came home with 2nd place and a silver medal in her division. Elijah came home with 3rd place and a bronze medal in his division.

The team will compete in basketball skills at IWCC in Council Bluffs on January 10. **GO TC!**

