

# December/January 2017 -18 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

## 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 Wednesday,  
December 6th for Professional Development

School dismisses at 1:30 on Friday, December 22  
NO SCHOOL DECEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup> thru  
JANUARY 2nd.

School Resumes on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>  
(1:30 Dismissal)

No School Monday, January 15th 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](mailto:mschmitz@tctrojans.org) or Angie Huseman at [ahuseman@tctrojans.org](mailto: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!!

### **Senior Information:**

- Seniors should be finishing applying to colleges and working on scholarships.
- After applying, transcripts need to be sent (Contact Mrs. Harman to have them sent)
- The scholarship process is timely, organizing scholarship information according to deadlines and keeping a calendar with application deadlines will be helpful to students.
- The FAFSA may now be completed (as of October 1) and submitted; many colleges have priority deadlines so it is important to have the FAFSA completed and on file.
- I have met with 29/48 seniors and their parent(s) to go over post-secondary plans. I would still like to meet with all seniors and parents. Please call the high school and setup a time for a meeting.

### **Junior Information:**

- Juniors should be gathering information on the colleges they may want to attend, visiting with representatives from different schools and planning when to take the ACT test.
- Juniors should try to take the ACT test at least once junior year and again in the beginning of their senior year. It is a great idea to have a baseline score before they take the prep course. There will be an ACT John Baylor Test Prep before the April 14th ACT test for juniors and another in early fall of their senior year.

### **Sophomores and Freshmen:**

- They need to keep focusing on their academics and being active in school activities as well as community organizations. Class rank, cumulative grade point averages, attendance, and ACT scores will determine their success.

Juniors, Sophomores and Freshmen took Iowa Assessments the week of November 13th. 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.

### **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY NEWS**

Second semester sophomores, juniors and seniors that qualify with a 3.5 grade point average will be given an application late in January. Students will then complete the application and return it to Mrs. Harman. Students that complete the application are then ranked by staff and those rankings are brought before a panel for final evaluation and a selection process is used to determine those students that meet the qualifications for admission into the National Honor Society. More information in the next newsletter.





## Yearbook News and Information

....Sarah Elliott

### 2017-2018 Semester 1 Publications Staff

**Members:** **Seniors:** Callie Eckmann, Editor Danielle Elliott, Assistant Editor Tillie Heim , and **Sophomore:** Amanda Brich.

**2017 YEARBOOKS!** The **2017 Trojan** yearbook, *Putting Us on the Map*, arrived just before Thanksgiving Break. 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 \$50 each while supplies last. See or call Adviser Mrs. Sarah Elliott at the high school at 485-2257, ext. 100 if you are/will be interested in purchasing one.

**2018 YEARBOOK SELLS!!!** Sells of the **2017 Trojan Yearbook (Game On! It's Your Move)** will begin next semester, and we will be doing on-line sales again 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 2018 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.

**PICTURES ARE ACCEPTED:** The Publications staff is in need of and will accept pictures for possible use in the yearbook. The staff is currently in need of candid pictures of students in all high school grades, Homecoming, fall sports and activities, student sections, and students working at their jobs. Also, seniors, please submit any “through the years” pictures – all those fun candid pictures of class trips, birthday parties, etc. from elementary, middle school, and early high school.  
**SUBMITTING PICTURES:** It would be best to submit pictures through Community Upload. Download the Yearbook Snap app, find Tri-Center

High School, and upload your pictures using the code TCYPpics. Pictures can also be submitted by email (sellott@tctrojans.org) or brought in for scanning and returned ASAP.

**SENIOR PICTURES:** Seniors and senior parents, pictures are due to the yearbook no later than Friday, January 27, 2018, but it would be super if you could get them in before Christmas Break. 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 27, 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!** It works best if seniors pictures are submitted digitally at sellott@tctrojans.org, however, they can be brought in and scanned and returned as well.

**AD/SPONSORSHIP CAMPAIGN:** We have started our sponsorship campaign. If you are or know of a business owner who may want to sponsor a spread, contact Adviser Sarah Elliott at 485-2257, ext. 100. 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  
....Jami Helgenberger**

During the holiday season is a great time for us to be thankful for the wonderful things that are happening in our lives and in our school. It is also a good time to reflect on the positive atmosphere that comes with the Christmas Season. Every day I am thankful for all the people associated with the Tri-Center Schools. Tri-Center is a great place to be! We have a great student body and great parental support. We have employees who have dedicated their lives to make our school a special place for your children. We have a community that takes genuine pride in what is happening at our school. Put all of these things together and you realize that Tri-Center is a very special place to educate your children.

We are focusing on different character words that will help build not only good quality students but also good citizens. Our current word we are focusing on is kindness. I encourage you to talk with your children about what kindness means and what it looks like.

Now that we are into the winter season please ensure that your children are dressed appropriately for the weather. Send them to school with appropriate hats, shoes, gloves, and snow pants. We believe going outside for recess is a great way for students to get fresh air and have an opportunity to run off some excess energy before returning to the classroom. We will have inside recess if the feel like temperature is below 10 degrees.

**Dates to Remember:**

- December 22nd - Christmas break begins, 1:30  
early out
- January 2nd - No School, Staff Professional  
Development
- January 3rd - First day of the Semester, 1:30  
dismissal
- January 8th - School Board Meeting 6:00
- January 12th - No Preschool
- January 15th - No School, Staff Professional  
Development

- January 24th - 1:30 dismissal, Staff Professional  
Development
- January 26th - No Preschool
- February 2nd - No Preschool
- February 7th - 1:30 dismissal, Staff Professional  
Development
- February 16th - No Preschool
- February 21st - Parent Teacher Conferences, 1:30  
dismissal
- February 22nd - Parent Teacher Conferences, 1:30  
dismissal
- February 23rd - No School
- February 26th - No School, Staff Professional  
Development



.... Julie Theulen

On November 18 the special Olympic team competed at State bowling at Thunder Bowl in Council Bluffs. Miles Lee came home with a gold medal. Kaleigh Gillespie came home with a gold medal. Call Osbahr placed sixth. The team represented Tri Center with pride! Miles Lee got the first strike of his career during his championship game.

