

MARCH



Tri-Center Newsletter 2015

High School 485-2257

Middle School 485-2211

Elementary 485-2271

www.tri-center.k12.ia.us



Superintendent's News and Comments

... Tony Weers

Professional Development EARLY DISMISSALS

Friday, March 13, No School (End of Quarter)

Easter Vacation

Thursday, April 2, 1:30 Dismissal for Easter Break

NO SCHOOL Friday, April 3

NO SCHOOL Monday, April 6

Budget Time 2015-2016 (The General Fund)

The General Fund (GF) represents the largest portion of the budget for Tri-Center Community Schools. The GF budget revenues are driven by two variables: enrollment and Modified Supplemental Amount (previously referred to as allowable growth). The certified enrollment (state equation) is determined each year in mid-October. That number is then multiplied times the regular program district cost per pupil to yield the total regular program district cost for the next fiscal year.

The Modified Supplemental Amount (allowable growth) rate is determined by the legislature, and it represents a percentage of growth

that is added on to the previous year's program district cost per pupil to give schools more funding for the upcoming year. The allowable growth rate for FY16 has not been set. The House is currently proposing 1.25% while the Senate is proposing 4%. 1.25% will create a deficit for many schools in Iowa, 4% would be better, but will still leave some schools struggling to make ends meet.

The budget capacity of the GF consists of local property tax dollars, state foundation aid, miscellaneous income from state and federal programs, special education funding, allowable growth dollars, and the previous year's unspent balance. The General Fund is responsible for the payment of all salaries and benefits, materials and supplies, transportation costs, equipment, repairs, and purchased services. Schools are financially responsible for maintaining the budget that is proposed and adopted each year in the month of April. Every facet of the budget must be looked at closely to determine what the estimated expenditures will be for the upcoming year. In budget crunch years the general fund is the fund that absorbs and takes the hits financially.

Enrollment of a school district has a large impact on funding. Many schools in the state of Iowa are experiencing declining enrollment, which means that they realize very little if any allowable growth dollars. In many situations, schools are forced to operate the school on the same budget capacity as was used the previous year. This is extremely tough because the expenses of running a school rarely, if ever, go down (i.e. transportation, technology, pre-school, student information systems, textbooks, supplies). These were the primary reasons for implementing the Instructional Support Levy (5 Years) which everyone has now

seen in the form a tax during income tax season. The Board can make the decision as to how much of this tax will be income tax or property tax for each fiscal period. Each school in the Western Iowa Conference now has implemented the ISL and all but a few schools in the state have adopted it. As we move forward, this revenue stream will be vital to the quality of our transportation, technology, and early childhood programs.

Budget Time . . . 2015-2016 (The Special Revenue Funds)

The Special Revenue Funds that are a part of the Tri-Center Community Schools budget consist of: The Capital Projects Fund, The Debt Service Fund, The Management Fund, and The PPEL (Physical Plant and Equipment) Fund.

The Capital Projects Fund is used exclusively for the purpose of infrastructure. Our present source of income is the amount of revenue realized from the Local Option Sales Tax in Harrison, Pottawattamie, and Shelby Counties. The Harrison County Sales Tax was voted upon in such a way that it can be used to purchase buses also.

The Debt Service Fund is a tax that is levied to pay off the long-term debt that was incurred by the construction of the middle school and the renovation of the high school in 1995-96. Another feature of the county sales tax/statewide penny is that of being able to pay down debt from pre-existing bond issues. The DEBT SERVICE FUND will be retired after 2014-2015, as the debt for the middle school will have been completely paid off.

The Management Fund levy provides the district with the monies to pay for the annual property, auto, liability, and workers' compensation insurance costs. Much like other insurance premiums, the cost of this coverage continues to escalate. The Management Fund may also be used to pay for early retirement packages that are periodically offered by the Board.

The PPEL Fund is levied to enable the district to purchase buses or equipment vital to the operation of the physical plant. This money is presently earmarked for the purchase/lease of new

buses every other year in an effort to maintain a solid, up-to-date transportation system, but we will also use it to pay for such things as a new roof, cooling tower, technology or any other sizeable plant and facility need that arises.

The Voter PPEL Fund was just recently voted upon and passed by the Tri-Center Community to become effective during FY15 as a .67 property tax levy. The funds generated by this tax will be used to pay for technology costs incurred by the district each year. It should be noted that the state of Iowa does not contribute any funding towards technology expenditures. Thus, it is an expense that is taken on by each individual school district in its entirety.

It should be noted that the revenue flows directly into these funds and cannot be redirected into the school's General Fund. Special Funds in school finance can be thought of as separate checking accounts. They are maintained and operated according to Iowa Code.

Preliminary budget information for 2015-2016 will be shared at the March board meeting, with the actual presentation/adoption of the budget taking place at the April board meeting.

“I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university.”

--Albert Einstein



Tri-Center High School ...Angie Huseman

“Character is power.” Booker T. Washington

*Honesty. Responsibility. Integrity. These are traits we all want our children to possess. Unfortunately, there are many times they act irresponsibly and without honesty and integrity. Even more frightening, we can see negative examples everyday; examples of people who lie, cheat and steal---and get away with it. Our kids see this. Terrifying. It is at these young ages when our children are becoming who they are going to be as adults. They are forming ideas about right and wrong. They are seeing “what flies” and what does not. Also unfortunately, as children age, irresponsible and dishonest behavior tends to have a longer lasting negative effect. The first article below is from Michael Josephson’s newsletter, “What Will Matter”. I thought the statistics Dr. Josephson cited were sobering, to say the least. I pride myself on being a positive person, so the ramifications of living in a world with an increasing number of cynical people are worrisome. I do not tweet much, but this is one article I felt compelled to share through my Twitter feed (if you are interested in following me, @ahuseman). The second article is from Michael Josephson and speaks to the “moral compass” we need to work to instill in our children. Finally, I found the last article in the Parents January 2005 newsletter that gives some practical advice in helping your child cultivate responsible decision-making.

Are Cynics Right? Is Lying Really Necessary?

What do you think? In today’s society, does a person have to lie or cheat at least occasionally to succeed? The question isn’t whether occasional liars and cheats sometimes get away with dishonesty; we all have to agree with this. The question is whether you believe people can succeed if they are not willing to lie or cheat.

Those who believe lying and cheating have become necessities are cynics. [A recent study](#) of more than 10,000 people by the Josephson Institute of Ethics shows that the younger you are, the more likely you are to be cynical. This is important because cynics, regardless of their age, are far more likely to lie and cheat in both their personal and work lives.

The correlation between cynicism and age is striking. Only 11% of people over 40 are cynics compared to 47% of youngsters 17 and under and 35% of those 18-24 (19% of those 25-40 are cynics). This turns out to be a big deal because cynicism is a powerful predictor of conduct. People who believe lying and cheating are a necessary part of success are nearly four times as likely to deceive their boss (31% v. 8%), three times more likely to inflate an insurance (6% vs. 2%) or expense claim (13% v. 4%), or lie to a customer (22% vs. 7%). They are also one-and-a-half-times more likely to cheat on their taxes (20% vs. 13%). Cynicism is a toxic condition, but the antidote isn’t just hopeful optimism; it’s hard truth. Sometimes cheaters do prosper and sometimes it’s harder to succeed with integrity, but the latter is always possible. In fact, lots of honest people are highly successful. I’ll bet if you try you can name a few.

We All Need an Old Fashioned Moral Compass

For years, a foundation assumption in my presentations is that most people know right from wrong and that those who get into trouble simply lack the character or moral courage to do what is right. Viewing the continuing parade of very smart, rich and prominent people who have destroyed their reputations, dishonored their families, damaged their institutions and forfeited their freedom has caused me to doubt my assumption. It seems that simply notions of right and wrong have become so shrouded by self-serving rationalizations, legalistic manipulations and gamesmanship tactics that many people really don’t have the moral clarity to know that lying, deception, hypocrisy and cheating are wrong.

In just the last few weeks: the number-two executive at Wal-Mart pled guilty to misappropriation of funds through the improper use of corporate gift cards and expense accounts, a well-connected Republican lobbyist entered a guilty plea to a long list of crimes promising to implicate members of Congress who took his bribes, a world

famous South Korean scientist was caught fabricating evidence to support his research, and a high school football coach was banned for cheating by surreptitiously moving the first-down marker during a game.

Either considerations of right and wrong never even entered the picture for most of these fallen heroes or their conceptions of wrong were distorted by arrogance or their belief in false principles like “it’s only wrong if you get caught” and if it’s permissible, it’s proper.” The fact is, we can’t lock our conscience in the closet when we go to work (or school). More than ever, we need a good old-fashioned moral compass. Clever schemes that depend on deception or concealment or that result in unfair exploitation are generally wrong and, in the end, they won’t be tolerated.

Teens with Inner Strength Overcome Life’s Problems

Two teens live in the same neighborhood. One ends up in trouble, but the other one goes on to college. What made the difference? Studies show that some teens develop an inner strength to face life’s problems. These teens:

- **Have an adult who cares about them.** Teens need adults who believe in them, who provide guidelines and who act as role models.
- **Help others.** Volunteering helps teens see that they can change things for other people—and themselves.
- **Can read.** Teens who can read can always escape to another world. Reading shows them a world they can hope to enter one day.
- **Know where to find answers.** All teens have lots of questions. But teens who are successful know where to find answers. It may be from a coach or teacher, or in a house of worship.
- **Participate in activities.** Teens who take part in scouts, sports or other activities make friends and feel good about themselves.
- **Have career goals.** Studies show that achieving career or job success is the highest priority of successful teens.

Talk with Your Teen about the Qualities of True Friends

“I didn’t want to do it, but my friends insisted, so I went along with it.” This is a

typical response from a teen who has given into negative peer pressure and is now in trouble.

As your teen: “Why would a real friend want you to do something that would get you into trouble?” It may give him something to think about, because the truth is that real friends do not want to get each other into trouble.

Here are some qualities of true friends to discuss with your teen. Do his friends measure up? True friends:

- **Can be trusted.** They don’t tell your secrets or make fun of you in front of others.
- **Are supportive.** They are happy for you when something good happens. They are ready with a “shoulder to cry on” when something bad happens.
- **Are helpful when you need help.** In turn, when they need help, they look to you.
- **Are honest and caring.** They tell you the truth, but they also think of your feelings. If it’s a hard truth, they tell you in private, and they are gentle about it.
- **Want what is best for you.** They would never put you in danger.
- **Accept you.** You never have to “put on an act” for them.

“There are those who travel and those who are going somewhere. They are different and yet the same. The success has this over his rivals: He knows where he is going.”
Mark Caine

*In the interest of honesty, I recycled this newsletter article. I believe it is worth pondering again (if you happened to read it the first time).





Counseling Comments ...Tami Harman

Seniors should be in their final process of college visits, college applications, and should be working on college scholarships. Most of the seniors have made their selection in regards to post secondary plans. The FAFSA applications can and should be completed and sent in as soon as possible. This must be submitted in order for any financial aid packages to be submitted for the fall term of college. The website is www.FAFSA.ed.gov. If you need assistance call Tami Harman at the high school, 712-485-2257.

The **juniors** took the ASVAB (Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery) test here at Tri-Center. The assessment is given to assist students in career exploration and to gain knowledge of their strengths and weaknesses in relation to different careers. It also helps students to begin exploring future educational and career plans. We will be going over those results with juniors in the next couple weeks.

There are 2 test dates available for ACT testing this school year. They are April 18th with a registration deadline of March 13th and the last test date is June 13th with a May 8th registration deadline. Juniors should try to test at least once their junior year and then again starting right away their senior year. The website to sign up for ACT testing is www.actstudent.org.

There will be a John Baylor Test Prep offered here at Tri-Center before the April 18th ACT Test. If you son/daughter is registered to take the April 18th Test, they need to sign up for the Baylor Test Prep with Mrs. Harman.

The **juniors** will be attending a College Fair on Tuesday, March 24th in Logan from 12:30 - 2:30. All juniors will be attending.

Freshmen Orientation is scheduled for Thursday, March 26th in the High School Cafetorium. All incoming Freshmen are invited and encouraged to attend to assist with the middle school to high school transition.

Tri-Center Foundation Scholarships (formerly called Dollars for Scholars) will be available to seniors beginning April 1st.

National Honor Society:

The applications for National Honor Society have been returned and staff is in the process of ranking those applications based on their Leadership, Character and Service. After those rankings are gathered, the selection committee will make selections and students will be notified of their application status. The induction ceremony is scheduled for Monday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. but may have to be rescheduled.

Blood Drive:

The annual Blood Drive was held on Tuesday, February 24th at Tri-Center. The goal was 77 units and we collected 56 units. Those units have the potential to save up to 168 patients in need. Thanks to all the high school students and community members that donated. Thanks again to all!



Tri-Center Middle School ...Brian Wedemeyer

MS students will be taking the NWEA test March 23- April 3rd. NWEA tests are computerized assessments that measure the student's growth in the area of Math, Science and Reading.

NWEA results will be sent home with report cards at the end of the 4th Quarter.

We have not set a date for the MS Academic Field trip yet but it should be sometime in May. This trip is for students who were never on the D/F list and who have had no more than two discipline referrals.

Kindergarten Roundup!

If you have a child who will be ready for kindergarten this fall and **IS NOT** enrolled in our preschool program this year, they are invited to join us for a half day of kindergarten on Friday, April 17th, from 8:30 am - 11:30 am. Please call the elementary office at 485-2271 to reserve a spot in a classroom.



Yearbook News and Information

.... Sarah Elliott

2014-2015 Semester 2 Publications Staff

Members: **Senior:** Stephanie Nelson; **Juniors:** Hannah Larsen, Meghan Marsh, Editor Whitney Matthews; and **Sophomores:** Allison Eikenberry, Christine Fisher, and Karly Smith.

2014 YEARBOOKS! The **2014 Trojan Yearbook, In Color: The Playlist of Us**, arrived just after Christmas Break. We appreciate your patience with both the Publications staff and the publisher (Walsworth Publishing). We have extras which may be purchased, while supplies last, for \$50 each. Contact Adviser Mrs. Sarah Elliott at the high school at 485-2257, ext. 100 or selliott@tctrojans.org

PAST YEARBOOKS! In addition to any extra 2014 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: \$40 for 2013, \$30 for the 2011 and 2010, \$25 for the 2009 and 2008 and just \$20 for the 2003. Sorry, we are completely out of 2012 books. **We need to clean out the closet and fund the printing of the current book; so get your yearbooks today.**

2015 YEARBOOK SELLS!!! Sells of the **2015 Trojan Yearbook (Trojan Survival Guide: Tips and Rules of 2015)** began the week of P-T Conferences, and we will also be doing on-line sales this year. Books are \$50, while name stamps and icons are \$6 each. A current special/discount is the \$10 name and icon stamp combo – buy both and save \$2. **BUY EARLY AND SAVE!** Also, we do except a \$25 deposit if you wish to make payments. A yearbook could make **A GREAT GRADUATION GIFT.** The staff is looking to sell enough books, approximately 125 or 135 or more, so Mrs. Elliott will have to shave her head bald. Support the yearbook while also supporting the staff in achieving the goal.

SENIOR PICTURES: Seniors and senior parents, pictures were due to the yearbook the end of February. These could have been in color or black and white, but they should have been wallet-sized, and head and shoulder shots work or look best. Don't assume your photographer sent them in to us. If the photo is not received soon, 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 deadlines. **GET PICTURES IN NOW and/or SPEAK WITH MRS. ELLIOTT ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS!**

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 full-color ads will be \$35 (\$25 with the purchase of a 2015 yearbook) and include the honored person's name, a small photo or two, and a message limited to approximately 25 words. Senior parents should have received a letter, and the ads are now due by the end of March. Parent and personal ads can be purchased from Publications Adviser Sarah Elliott 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 (selliott@tctrojans.org) or brought in to be scanned and returned ASAP. The staff is still currently in need of baseball and football and fun/candid pictures for all grades 9-12.

SPONSORSHIP CAMPAIGN: We will be finishing our sponsorship/ad campaign soon. If you are or know of someone and/or 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 have the opportunity to support an educational program that teaches students valuable skills in writing, design, photography, computer use, and business. The sponsorships are \$50 and we are still in need of a handful. We would of course, accept tax deductible donations in any amount if you would like to donate less or even more than the \$50.



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

March Highlights

- March 2 – Reading Night at the HS Cafetorium
6:30-8:00
- March 8 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 11 – No PK today
- March 11 – Student Council Mtg. 3:30
- March 12 – School Improvement Advisory
Committee 6 PM HS Library
- March 13 – End of 3rd Quarter – No School
- March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day
- March 17 - Spring Music Program Grades K, 1st &
4th 2:00 and 7:00 PM
- March 19 – 4th Grade Simple Machine Show 3:30-
6:30
- March 20 – First Day of Spring
- March 20 – Report Cards will be sent home
- March 20 – No PK today
- March 23 - Preschool Screening Day – Please call
for an appointment.
- March 31 – Pott. Co. School Night at the Children’s
Museum in Omaha.

Mark your calendar:

- April 2 - 1:30 Dismissal for Spring Break
- April 3 - No School – Spring Break
- April 6 - No School – Spring Break
- April 7 - Jump Rope for Heart
- April 8 - No PK today
- April 17 - No PK today
- April 17 - Kindergarten Roundup Day (If
your child did not attend Tri-Center
Preschool, please call us @ 485-2271 for
info.)
- April 24 No School – In Service Day



**Elementary Art News
...Elizabeth Lyons**

Six students from TC had their art chosen for a juried art show held by the Art Educators of Iowa at the State Historical Museum in Des Moines. The show will be on display during the Month of March for Youth Art Month. Each Teacher can submit 10 pieces per district. This year 56 teachers submitted over 500 pieces of art to be juried. 181 were selected for YAM, with 15 pulled from that group for the Governor's show to be exhibited at the state capital, one each from HS, MS, and Elem. for Sargent Art winners who will receive prizes from Sargent Art, and 5 to Send for display at the National Art Educator's Convention in New Orleans. Tri Center elementary students are taught by Liz Lyons. YAM artworks will be published on artsonia.com to share with parents and community members who would like to see them.



Photo: back row left to right: Revin Bruck (4th), Jaden Franke (4th) also Governor's show, Marissa Ring (5th)
front row left to right: Lucy Elsener (1st), Jasmine Saathoff (2nd), Hannah Wulff (4th)

**Joslyn Art Museum Association Southwest Iowa
Youth Art Month Contest**

Twenty pieces of artwork were submitted from Tri Center. All submitted artwork will be on display at the Council Bluffs Library during the month of March. The winner, Rachel Hundtofte, will have her artwork displayed on a billboard at 21st and West Broadway from March 3- March 29. She will also receive a framed certificate from the Joslyn and a family membership to the Joslyn Art Museum.

Other participants whose artwork will be on display includes:

Kindergarten: Michael Shelton, Aletha Chessmore

First: Harlie Leaders, Aiden Osbahr

Third: Mikenzie Brewer, Rachel Gross, Taylor Kenkel

Fourth: Josiah Satterlee, Kim Carlson

Fifth: Tatum Carlson, Miranda Ring, Riley Martenson, Justin Osbahr, Marissa Ring,



Group picture:

Back row: Cassidy Cunningham (3), Honorable Mention, Breanna Allmon (5) HM, Cora Christenson (4) HM, Brandon Crozier ((5) HM

Front row: Rachel Hundtofte (4) First Place, Haley Stangl (2) HM



Individual Picture: Rachel Hundtofte and art teacher Liz Lyons with her painting and certificate at the awards ceremony.

Preschool Screening for the Tri-Center School District 2015



Who:

Children ages Birth to 5 who live in the Tri-Center Community School District and are ***not*** presently in Kindergarten.

What:

A developmental screening which gives you the opportunity to see if your child is playing, moving, thinking and talking at his/her age level. Screenings include: vision, hearing, speech-language, overall development, and a growth assessment.

Why:

The Preschool Screening can give your child a better educational start when they enter school and your child must attend the screening as a part of the preschool application process.

When:

Monday, March 23, 2015

8:30 a.m. To 2:30 p.m.

Must call for an appointment!

Where:

Tri-Center Preschool Room
Tri-Center Elementary

For Appointment:

Please contact the Tri-Center Elementary Office at 485-2271. Please bring your child's Immunization records, Birth Certificate and Social Security card to your appointment.

Cost:

It's ***FREE*** for all children, fun for all children and reassuring to parents.

All Day Preschool Programs

If you are interested in signing your child up for the 4 year old Tri-Center Preschool Program, you should attend the Preschool Screening. This screening is also used to qualify children for the All Day Preschool Program

Kindergarten 2015-2016

If you have a 5 year old not attending our preschool program, please call and make an appointment to come to screening.



Julie Theulen Special Education

The Special Education Athletes will be having a fundraiser on April 18 at the Minden Legion Building from 4 to 7 PM. The event will include a spaghetti supper (free will donation) and a silent auction. Karen Cooper has been able to get a signed football for the silent auction. The ball includes a certificate of authenticity and is signed by Brandon Scherff who was a 1st round draft pick, Outland trophy winner, played for Denison High School, and an Iowa Hawkeye football player. Must be at the auction to bid or send someone to bid for you with cash in hand! Hope to see you there!

