

MARCH



Tri-Center Newsletter 2016

High School 485-2257

Middle School 485-2211

Elementary 485-2271

www.tri-center.k12.ia.us



Superintendent's News and Comments

...Dr. Tony Weers, Ed.D.

Professional Development EARLY DISMISSALS

Friday, March 18, Early Dismissal (End of Quarter)

Easter Vacation

Wednesday, March 23, 1:30 Dismissal for Easter Break

NO SCHOOL Thursday, March 24

NO SCHOOL Friday, March 25

No School Monday, March 28

Budget Time 2016-2017 (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 FY17 has not been set. The House is currently proposing 2% while the Senate is proposing 4%, and the Governor is proposing 2.45%. State government has ignored their own law to set Modified Supplemental Amount in a timely fashion for several years, again this year, has failed to meet the legal deadline for setting Modified Supplemental Amount. It's important to remember for Tri-Center to receive "new money" or more revenue than received for the current year, Modified Supplemental Amount would need to be more than 5%.

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.

Enrollment of a school district has a large impact on funding. A school with declining or even steady enrollment will realize very little if any allowable growth dollars. A school that increases enrollment will see the largest gain in dollars to build their budget. 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). 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 was retired after 2014-2015 school year, 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 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.

It should be noted that the revenue flows directly into each fund 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.

Spending Authority. As important as cash balance is in each fund; the concept of spending authority is equally, if not more important. Spending authority is the limit on General Fund expenditures calculated by the state. Exceeding this legal limit in spending authority is a violation of Iowa law and results in a negative unspent balance. The negative unspent balance Tri-Center has worked to overcome in the last three school years refers to spending authority. Tri-Center has lowered spending below the legally authorized amount and is on track to have a positive unspent balance at the conclusion of the current fiscal year for the first time in three years.

Preliminary budget information for 2016-2017 will be shared at the March board meeting, with the actual presentation/adoption of the budget taking place at the April board meeting.

**“Children must be taught how to think,
now what to think”
--Margaret Mead**



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”.

Lately, the rise of websites and apps that allow the user to post whatever they like anonymously have become popular. I talk with students about this, and from the majority of them, I hear that they are not meant to be offensive. I tell them even if the person that put it up thought they were being funny, if the person reading it does not, it is not funny. I talk with students a lot about their character, and how if one posts anonymously, most time that is cowardice. If you can not say something to someone’s face, there is no need to say it at all. In the first article, Michael Josephson talks about The Power of Words. 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.

The Power of Words

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me.” Really? Insults, teasing, gossip, and verbal abuse can inflict deeper and more enduring pain than guns and knives.

Ask anyone who as a kid was fat, skinny, short, tall, flat-chested, big-busted, acne-faced, uncoordinated, slow-witted, or exceptionally smart. In schoolrooms and playgrounds across the country, weight, height, looks, and intelligence are the subject of more taunting and ridicule than race or religion.

And it doesn’t get better. Unkind words, tasteless jokes, criticism, and ridicule don’t lose their sting when we become adults.

There’s nothing new about this. But if we trivialize how damaging words can be, especially to youngsters, the ethical significance of verbal assaults can be lost. When we say words can’t hurt anyone, we negate the feelings of those who are genuinely hurt.

Instead of minimizing the importance of words, we should encourage parents and teachers to demand a higher level of respect and greater sensitivity precisely because words can be so powerful.

Yes, we should try to fortify our children’s sense of self-worth so they can bear insults and sarcasm better. And we should urge them not to take what others say too seriously. But it’s just as important to teach them that words have the power of grenades and must be used carefully.

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 9th with a registration deadline of March 4th and the last test date is June 11th with a May 6th 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 9th Test, they need to sign up for the Baylor Test Prep with Mrs. Harman.

The **Sophomores** will be attending a Career Fair on Tuesday, March 22nd at Iowa Western Community College from 8:30 - 1:00. All sophomores will be attending.

Freshmen Orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22nd at 7:30 p.m. in the High School Cafetorium. All incoming Freshmen are invited and

encouraged to attend to assist with the middle school to high school transition.

6th grade Orientation will be held on Tuesday, March 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School Gym. All incoming 6th graders are invited and encouraged to attend.

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 has ranked those applications based on their Leadership, Character and Service. After those rankings were gathered, the selection committee met to make selections and students were notified of their application status. There will be 23 new inductees this year. Congratulations to those students and their families. The induction ceremony is scheduled for Monday, March 14rd at 7:00 p.m. in the cafetorium.

Blood Drive:

The annual Blood Drive was held on Tuesday, February 23th at Tri-Center. The goal was 71 units and we collected 57 units. Those units have the potential to save several patients in need. Thanks to all the high school students and community members that donated. Thanks again to all!!



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 8th, from 8:30 am - 11:30 am. Please call the elementary office at 485-2271 to reserve a spot in a classroom.



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

March Highlights

- March 3 – 4th Grade trip to Omaha Symphony
- March 4 – No PK today
- March 7 – Student Council Mtg. 3:30
- March 11 – PK & Kdg Assembly 2:00
- March 13 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 14 – No PK today
- March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day
- March 18 – End of 3rd Quarter – 1:30 Dismissal
- March 20 – First Day of Spring
- March 23 - 1:30 Dismissal for Spring Break**
- March 24-28 – No School**
- March 27 – Happy Easter!

Mark your calendar:

- April 1 - Preschool Screening Day – Please call for an appointment.
- April 1 - No PK today
- April 5 - PK to IWCC for Health Fair
- April 7 - Jump Rope for Heart
- April 8 - Kindergarten Roundup Day (If your child did not attend Tri-Center Preschool, please call us @ 485-2271 for info.)
- April 15 - 1:30 Dismissal for InService
- April 20 - No PK today
- April 18 - Spring Music Program Grades K-1 2:00 and 7:00 PM
- April 29 - No School – InService Day



**Drama Department
... Casey Ring**

“Crazytown” comes to Tri-Center!

Tri-Center’s school play is March 15 and 17 at 7 pm!

Come and visit *Crazytown*, the most messed up town in America, from the police interrogation room where the nicest guy in town is issued a strange ultimatum, to the elementary school for a heated political debate on critical issues like tater tots. Welcome to Crazytown, where our motto is: Welcome to Crazytown.

Actors and crew have been preparing to entertain would love to see you there! The content of *Crazytown* is for an older audience, most suitable for ages 13 and up in order to understand and enjoy the hilarity that ensues!

Tickets: \$3 for students, \$5 for adults.



**Julie Theulen
Special Education**

The Special Olympic team competed in basketball skills at IWCC on Thursday, January 21. Results are - Kaleigh Gillespie 1st place eligible to compete at State March 12 in Iowa City - Joslyn Puntaney 2nd place - Elijah Bearley 3rd place - Cole Osbahr 6th place - Matthew Killpack 6th place. The team represented TC with pride!

Kaleigh Gillespie will be competing in basketball skills in Iowa City on March 12. She qualified to compete at state by placing 1st at district competition in January at IWCC. Good luck, Kaleigh!



Yearbook News and Information

Sarah Elliott

2015-2016 Publications Staff Members:

Seniors: Hannah Larsen, Editor Whitney Matthews;
Juniors: Alyssa Baatz, Tori Masker; **Sophomores:** Callie Eckmann, Danielle Elliott, Kaleb Harrison, Tillie Heim, Jaika Horne, Braxton Larsen, Pete Turner; and **Freshmen** Brooklyn Hundt, Olivia Maassen, Chaeli Moir, and Jordan Ring.

2016 YEARBOOK SALES!!! Sales of the **2016 Trojan Yearbook (#WeAreTC)** have begun, and we are doing on-line sales in addition to traditional sales from staff members. Some specials and discounts will be offered to those purchasing their books at events throughout the year. **BUY EARLY AND SAVE!** The 2016 books are \$50, with the namestamps, icons and/or itags \$6 each or \$10 for a namestamp and icon combo. We do except a \$25 non-refundable deposit if you wish to make payments.

2015 YEARBOOKS! The **2015 Trojan Yearbook, Trojan Survival Guide: Tips and Rules of 2015**, arrived in early November. We appreciate your patience with both the Publications staff and the publisher (Walsworth Publishing). We have just 2 extras left which may be purchased for \$60 each or \$50 each with the purchase of the 2016 book for \$50 (\$100 for the two). See/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 2015 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: \$30 for 2014 and 2013, \$20 for the 2011 and 2010, \$10 for the 2009 and 2008 and just \$5 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.**

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 (\$25 with the purchase of a 2016 yearbook) and includes 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 ads were due Friday, March 4, however, we have extended our due date to Friday, March 25th. Parent and personal ads can be purchased from Publications Adviser Sarah Elliott or Yearbook Editor Whitney Matthews 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 for scanning and returned ASAP. We will also be getting the Community Upload set up soon. The staff is currently for more pictures of student sections, fun/candid pictures for all grades 9-12, student individual and/or group selfies, and photo remakes.

SPONSORSHIP/AD 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 and/or advertise, contact Adviser Sarah Elliott at 485-2257, ext. 100. Sponsors/Advertisers 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. The sponsorships/ads are \$50 and we are still in need. We would of course, accept tax-deductible donations in any amount if you would like to donate less or even more than \$50.00.



Tri-Center Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

Taking reservations now!!!! Tri-Center Scholarship Foundation's annual theme luncheon will be held on April 2, 2016 in the Tri-Center High School gym. Make plans to attend as you won't want to miss this annual fundraiser for Tri-Center High School 2016 graduates.

The doors will open at 10:00 a.m. for viewing of the theme decorated tables. Hosts and hostesses decorate their table with a theme of their choosing and invite guests to sit at their table. Don't know anyone hosting a table? Don't worry, just call any of the board members listed below for a reservation. Or if you are interested in hosting a table of your own, let one of the board members know!

There has been a change to the start time of the luncheon this year. Lunch will be served promptly at 11:30 a.m. The cost to attend the luncheon (including viewing of tables) is \$10.00 and is by reservation only. Payment can be made at the door the day of the luncheon.

Lunch consists of turkey salad sandwich, lettuce salad, fruit salad, ice cream, cupcakes and of course iced tea, coffee or water. Entertainment will follow lunch and will be provided by Tri-Center High School music students. A raffle will also be held during the luncheon.

Tri-Center Scholarship Foundation, Inc. is the non-profit corporation that was formed in July of 2013 to award scholarships to qualifying Tri-Center graduating seniors for post-secondary education.

If you would like to attend the luncheon, please contact Kathy Mark – 712-485-2423, Abbie Benning – 402-312-4502, Roger Hall – 712-485-2245, or Heather Turner – 712-310-3214 for a reservation.



School Nurse Jen McGee, RN

This winter Strep throat was the main illness circulating in various grades causing students to miss school. As a friendly reminder, please keep your kids at home until he or she has been on antibiotics for 24 hours and is without fever. This helps decrease the spread of illness to classmates, team members, family members, the community and staff members. More importantly the child needs time to rest.

We had a handful of Influenza and the stomach flu hit late February. Overall, it was not too bad of a 'sick' season!

As we roll into Spring and Summer months keep the needed paperwork in mind as you make wellness doctor's appointments. This is required to enter the following grades:

9th Grade: Dental form.

7th Grade: Updated immunization form reflecting tetanus booster after age 11.

3rd Grade: Vision screening form.

Kindergarten: Dental and vision screening form, immunization form reflecting '5 year vaccines'. A physical form is required if it was not submitted to enter preschool.

Preschool: The whole packet is required.

Preschool Screening for the Tri-Center School District 2016



Screening 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 2016-2017

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

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:

Friday, April 1st, 2016
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.

