

May 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

... Tony Weers

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2016!

COMMENCEMENT ... May 22nd, 2016

Graduation is a time of excitement, celebration, and for many families, a little nervousness. The Tri-Center graduating class of 2016 will be making their first steps into the "real world." I am confident the lessons of hard work, perseverance, kindness, and respect from the Tri-Center community will serve them well. Congratulations, thank you, and best wishes T-C 2016 graduates!

The school year is ending but learning should continue...

As the school year winds down students and families will begin planning and participating in the usual summer activities. Ball games, camping, hiking, swimming, family trips, and many other fun activities will certainly fill our calendars. As we rest and take a break from the normal school routine it is important to find fun and creative ways to incorporate learning into our time away from school. I recently ran into this list of learning activities from Patti Ghezzi on the PBS website. This list provides some great activities families can do together to have fun and maybe even learn a few things:

1. Try simple science experiments. An oldie, but a goodie, the [baking-soda volcano](#) is a

tried and true way to spark fun and creativity during the summer months. When I looked up the instructions, I was shocked at how easy it is. To my surprise, there are countless fun and simple experiments that families can do at home, even without a background in science.

2. Create a family newsletter. Enlist your kids to choose a template from your computer's office suite. Older kids will be able to quickly learn their way around the program. Younger kids can help take photos and write stories about family adventures, vacations and fun times at home. They can dictate their summer memories to a parent or older sibling. Include a favorite summer recipe. Send your newsletter to family members and friends.

3. Find a pen pal. Celia wants a pen pal so badly she can't stand it. Her school friend is moving to another state, so we'll try to arrange a correspondence with her. Celia also has cousins scattered about, but she wants a new friend, preferably in her favorite country, France, so I'm planning to check out pen pal programs such as [International Pen Friends](#). Yes, I'll monitor her pen pal friendships closely!

4. Make up silly stories. Remember [Mad Libs](#)? You can create your own fill-in-the-blank stories. Don't overthink, just start writing. "Every time we pass by the big house on the corner, we think about the time our pet (animal), (name of favorite teacher), got loose in the neighborhood and ended up eating (favorite food) out of (favorite neighbor)'s refrigerator."

5. Record your own audiobooks. Let your child read her favorite book while you record it. Save the recording on your computer, and let her listen to her story when she craves down time. If you have several kids, assign each a character.

6. Create your own book series. Start by brainstorming ideas for a character and setting. Then think about what will make your character special. Maybe he or she is an amateur detective or obsessed with baking cupcakes. Older kids can write their stories on the computer, and younger kids can dictate to a parent or an older sibling.

7. Experiment with different art media. Play with different types of paint, from watercolor to oil-based (wear a smock!). Make your own [paint](#). Check out pastels, colored pencils, charcoal and other art supplies. Help your kids discover their favorite ways to express their creativity. Encourage them to make mixed-media masterpieces.

8. Play restaurant. Gather some takeout menus and a play cash register. One child places an order, and the other tallies up the bill. Make your own menu, featuring your kitchen specialties. When a parent returns home from work, let the parent order off the menu.

9. Use word magnets to make sentences. Write words on magnetic tape, or get premade magnetic words. Let your child use a cookie sheet to rearrange the words to make sentences. Challenge your child to make longer and longer sentences.

10. Do laundry together. Crazy but true, laundry is educational! Preschoolers can help you sort laundry by color, find matching socks and count towels and washcloths.

11. Study a foreign language. A whiteboard is as much a summer essential as a beach towel. Every morning, write a word of the day in a favorite language – my child is crazy about French – and use the word all day long.

Try working your word of the day into regular conversation and making up silly sentences.

12. Make a reading scrapbook. After reading a fantastic book, encourage your child to draw pictures about the story. Your child can also make up an alternate ending, write a sequel and create a timeline. Keep the book notes in a folder and turn them into a reading scrapbook at the end of the summer.

13. Do jigsaw puzzles together. It may seem old school, but jigsaw puzzles are a great activity for summer downtime. We take puzzles on vacation and work on them in the afternoon when it's too hot to go to the beach. The best puzzles have crisp, detailed pictures without swaths of solid colors.

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 Community Schools staff and school community. 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 youth of our school district.

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL'S
DAY . . . April 27th**

**TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK . . .
May 2nd through 6th**

**SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION
WEEK . . . May 9th through 13th**

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 and supervisors are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the district.

When you are considering taking a concern/request/comment to a school board member, ask yourself if the school board is the proper place for this 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/A.D., 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 your 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 FOR SENIORS
Tuesday, May 17th

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR
STUDENTS K-11 . . . Thursday, May 26th
(1:30 Dismissal)

RETIREES 2016

This school year will be the final year of service for elementary teacher Eileen Kuhnle. Mrs. Kuhnle is completing her 19th year teaching at Tri-Center. We are sad to see Mrs. Kuhnle leave, but excited for all of her new opportunities.



From the Principal's Desk
... Angela Huseman

Just a few thoughts to end the year and plant a few seeds that I hope you and your student think about during the summer:

1. The 2015-16 school year is NOT YET OVER! Too often, students think it is okay to coast through to the end of the year. They think they have built up enough of a grade that not doing an assignment, or not taking a test seriously will be okay. I believe many would be amazed at the number of times that by taking school too lightly the last couple of weeks has cost the student a credit (and maybe earned them an additional class to take in summer school). Every year, there are seniors that rely on a good final test or paper to get them to a passing grade and thus, allow them to walk across the stage with their class. This is amazing to me.

2. There are many opportunities a summer can bring a student. She can explore a career interest through a summer job. He can start reading some of the novels that might be covered during the next school year. He can start exploring college entrance requirements and see what types of scholarships can be gained. She can do a community service project that will enable her application to a particular college, or for a particular scholarship to rise to the top.
3. Finally, consider the following verse:
 Watch your thoughts; they lead to attitudes.
 Watch your attitudes; they lead to words.
 Watch your words; they lead to actions.
 Watch your actions; they lead to habits.
 Watch your habits; they form your character.
 Watch your character; it determines your destiny.

Driver’s Education Classes:

I have met with the students who have signed up for Driver’s Education Class this summer. I have told them that they need to pay their \$275 for the class by May 10th; they will need to have their permit by the first day of class which is June 3rd. If you have questions regarding Driver’s Education classes, please call me at 485-2257 or Mr. Schuler, the instructor, during the evening. His number is on the information packet given to your student.

The following is a short excerpt from a Parent’s newsletter that I think is especially appropriate if you have a teenage driver:

Driver’s Education Doesn’t End When Teens Get a License

Your teen just got her driver’s license. You want her to enjoy this new privilege. (And to tell the truth, you’d love it if she

would go to the store once in awhile.) But you want to keep your teen safe, too. Here are some things you can do:

- **Keep riding with your teen.** Your teen is still inexperienced. Learning to drive takes a long time.
- **Restrict night driving.** Most fatal car crashes happen between 9:00 p.m. and midnight. Don’t let your young driver stay on the road too late at night. Think about limiting the number of other riders who can be in the car, too. They tend to take the driver’s focus off the road.
- **Be a good role model.** If you speed and drive aggressively, odds are your teen will, too.
- **Require safety belts.** Make a rule that everyone in the car wears a safety belt.

Important upcoming dates:

Tuesday, May 10: 10:00 a.m. Awards Day—usually goes until 5th hour

Wednesday, May 11: 7:00 p.m. Baccalaureate

Thursday, May 12: FFA Banquet

Wednesday, May 18: Senior Trip to Worlds of Fun

Thursday, May 19: 7:30 a.m. Senior/Faculty Appreciation Breakfast sponsored by ASTRA/Student Council
 8:30 a.m.: Practice Walking for Graduation

Sunday, May 22: 2:00 p.m. Graduation

Thursday, May 26: 1:30 Dismissal Last Day of School



Counseling Comments

...Tami Harman

Registration packets have been handed out to students and it is time for them to make plans for their course work next year. They should be planning their schedules according to their specific career goals. All Tri-Center students have formulated a 4 year plan based on their career choice through IHAVEAPLANIOWA. This is a great guide to assist them in making their schedule throughout high school.

The last ACT test date for 2015-2016 is June 11, 2016 with registration due May 6th.

The test dates for 2016-2017 are as follows:

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
September 10, 2016	August 5, 2016
October 22, 2016	September 16, 2016
December 10, 2016	November 4, 2016
February 11, 2017	January 13, 2017
April 8, 2017	March 3, 2017
June 10, 2017	May 5, 2017

Tri-Center plans to provide a John Baylor ACT Test Prep before the October 22nd test date, mainly for seniors and another prep before the February or April 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.



**Special Olympics
... Julie Theulen**

On April 12 the Special Olympic team travel to IWCC to compete in track & field events. Cole Osbahr - 1st in 800 m race - 6th in softball throw
Kaleigh Gillespie - 4th in softball throw - 3rd in 100 m dash
Elijah Bearley - 2nd 200 m race - 3rd softball throw
Joslyn Puntaney - 2nd softball throw - 2nd 100 m dash

Cole Osbahr qualifies to compete at State games on May 20 in Ames for the 800 meter race.



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

May Highlights

- May1-7 Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 1 May Day
- May 3 National Teacher's Day
- May 3 1st Grade to The Rose Theatre
- May 3 1:30 Dismissal due to WIC Track at TC**
- May 5 PK to Children's Museum
- May 6 3rd Grade to Westfair Farm Safety Day
- May 8 Mother's Day
- May 11 School Nurse Day
- May 13 Kdg to the Zoo
- May 13 No Preschool
- May 18 3rd Grade to Atlantic Dairy Farm
- May 19 4th & 5th Grade Music/Band Program
2:00p.m. & 7:00p.m.
- May 24 Track & Field Day
- May 26 Last Day of School 1:30 Dismissal**