

# November 2015 Tri-Center Newsletter

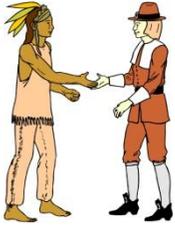


**High School 485-2257**

**Middle School 485-2211**

**Elementary 485-2271**

**www.tri-center.k12.ia.us**



## Superintendent's News and Comments

... Tony Weers



## Community Meetings...

We will be holding community meetings to share information on: enrollment trends, academic achievement, and the financial position of the district. Myself and at least one school board member will be in each of the following meetings:

November 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 7:00 PM	Trinity Lutheran Church, Persia
November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 7:00 PM	St. Pat's Hall, Neola
November 17 <sup>th</sup> , 7:00 PM	St. John's Lutheran Church, Honey Creek
December 7 <sup>th</sup> , 7:00 PM	United Church of Christ, Minden

## School Finance...

You have very likely read articles arguing the status of school finance in the state of Iowa. With the legislative session coming up, here are a few key facts related to Tri-Center, the legislators, and school finance:

- 5 of the last 6 years state approved increases in spending for schools have been 2% or less.
- The Governor vetoed 56 million in school funding this summer.
- The Governor's Veto cost Tri-Center approximately \$72,000.
- Iowa ranks 35<sup>th</sup> nationally for per pupil spending.
- The legislature has failed to follow their own law on setting state aid for schools in a timely fashion.

Money is tight everywhere, and every industry needs to, "tighten the belt," but there is no doubt the state of Iowa is woefully underfunding their schools. You can do something about this. Contact your elected officials and encourage them to set the spending increase or "allowable growth" at an acceptable rate, and early in the upcoming session. Email, call, or stop by the office any time if you have questions about this.

## Thanksgiving...

As we begin the Thanksgiving season, I wonder how often the average person hears the words, "thank you." The Gallup book, *How Full Is Your Bucket?* says, "65% of Americans received no recognition in the workplace last year." This makes me wonder, what about Tri-Center? What about the students, families, faculty, and staff we see every day? If the math mentioned here is correct 423 students, 75 staff members, and over 840 parents will not receive any type of recognition or thank you this school year. I think about these numbers every day...it is amazing to me that over 1,200

students, staff, and community members may go through this year without receiving any recognition.

As the Thanksgiving season begins, think about what you can do to change these statistics at Tri-Center? What can you do to show your appreciation to someone else? Who can you thank? Who can you recognize? Who can you celebrate success with? Help us work toward improving these numbers in the Tri-Center community. It is my hope that no student, parent, or community member will have to go an entire year without hearing the words, “thank you.”

### ***American Education Week November 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>***

Tri-Center Community Schools maintains an open invitation to all members of our community to visit the schools at any time during the year; and we would especially like to extend an invitation to the people of the district to stop by during American Education Week. This is just another opportunity to see how well public education is working and how our tax dollars are being utilized on a daily basis. We hope that by being at school while it is in session you will gain a better understanding of what really takes place and hopefully develop a greater appreciation for the students and staff that makes things happen. The administration, staff, and students will be involved in special activities throughout the week to celebrate American Education and we encourage your involvement, as this would be one way to show ownership in your school. If you choose to visit the campus, we would ask that you stop in one of the office areas, sign in, and obtain a visitor’s sticker simply as a security precaution.

### ***Tri-Center Transportation***

*... A Daily Task Well Done*



Transporting kids is a tremendously important aspect of the total school program, and one that we too often take for granted.

Each day twice a day and on most evenings and Saturdays, we entrust the well-being of our kids to

those who operate our school vehicles—most often the yellow school bus. Although the school bus is still cited as the safest vehicle on the road, it still demands the attention and skill of a driver on each and every trip. Each year, the month of October contains a week that is designated as National School Bus Safety Week, but every week should really be recognized as school bus safety week. Please keep your school bus driver in mind as he/she hauls your child to and from school, contests, or games; and be thankful that we have safe, caring people behind the wheel.

### ***Thanksgiving is Giving Thanks***

**“Thankfulness is the soil in which joy thrives.”**

**SCHOOL DISMISSED AT 1:30 on Wednesday,  
November 25<sup>th</sup>**

### ***Inclement Weather...***

As the seasons continue to progress, cold weather, and the chance for inclement weather are increasing. We will make every effort to make decisions related to school cancellation, late starts, or early dismissals as timely and effectively as possible. We will post announcements to our website, facebook page, twitter feed, the local tv and radio stations, in addition to sending automated e-mails and phone calls to families that have given us their contact information. Parents please remember the final decision is always yours. If you feel your student should stay home due to weather or other reasons please keep your student home and call your school office. If you believe you have not been receiving school messages please call one of the school offices to confirm your contact information.

**“...Negative emotions might cut more years off of life expectancy than smoking. There’s no surgeon general’s warning about toxic emotions, but perhaps there should be.” --How Full Is Your Bucket?**



## From the Principal's Desk ... Angie Huseman

**“Good intentions are like checks that men/women try to draw from a bank where they have no account.”**

### Reminder about Lesson Plan Links

This year, every teacher in the high school will be using [www.planbook.com](http://www.planbook.com) to organize and post their lesson plans. Many of the teachers have a link to these plans on their webpages, and the rest will be working to get that link working. However, you might find it more efficient to simply go to the [www.planbook.com](http://www.planbook.com) website, click on the **Student View** (under the log in information at the top right hand corner) and in the user name at the top, type in the teacher's email (first initial and last [name@tctrojans.org](mailto:name@tctrojans.org)), for example, [charris@tctrojans.org](mailto:charris@tctrojans.org) (for Cassie Harris) and in the **Student Key**, type trojan. You can follow the same steps for any teacher in the high school. On this site, you will also be able to see what Iowa Core Standards are being taught during any lesson.

If you have any questions regarding this process, make sure you ask a teacher or Mrs. Huseman.

### Positive Expectations

The following two articles are ones that I receive access to in a weekly newsletter from Jon Gordon (<http://www.jongordon.com/newsletter.html>). I have read several of Mr. Gordon's books, and they always remind me how important one's attitude is in daily life. I think the following articles are a good reminder that serves everyone, regardless of age.

## 5 WAYS TO THINK LIKE A CHAMPION

by Jon Gordon

I meet and learn from Champions every day. Not just in locker rooms but in classrooms, hospitals, homeless shelters, homes and office buildings. I've learned that to be a champion you must *Think Like a*

*Champion*. Champions think differently than everyone else. They approach their life and work with a different mindset and belief system that separates them from the pack.

**1. Champions Expect to Win** - When they walk on the court, on the field, into a meeting or in a classroom they expect to win. In fact they are surprised when they don't win. They expect success and their positive beliefs often lead to positive actions and outcomes. They win in their mind first, and then they win in the hearts and minds of their customers, students or fans.

**2. Champions Celebrate the Small Wins** - By celebrating the small wins, champions gain the confidence to go after the big wins. Big wins and big success happen through the accumulation of many small victories. This doesn't mean champions become complacent. Rather, with the right kind of celebration and reinforcement, champions work harder, practice more and believe they can do greater things.

**3. Champions Don't Make Excuses When They Don't Win** - They don't focus on the faults of others. They focus on what they can do better. They see their mistakes and defeats as opportunities for growth. As a result, they become stronger, wiser and better.

**4. Champions Focus on What They Get To Do, Not What They *Have To Do*** - They see their life and work as a gift not an obligation. They know that if they want to achieve a certain outcome they must commit to and appreciate the process. They may not love every minute of their journey, but their attitude and will helps them develop their skill.

**5. Champions Believe They Will Experience More Wins in the Future** - Their faith is greater than their fear. Their positive energy is greater than the chorus of negativity. Their certainty is greater than all the doubt. Their passion and purpose are greater than their challenges. In spite of their situation, champions believe their best days are ahead of them, not behind them.

If you don't think you have what it takes to be a champion, think again. Champions aren't born. They are shaped and molded. And as iron sharpens iron, you can develop your mindset and the mindset of your team with the right thinking, beliefs and expectations that lead to powerful actions.

## True Grit

<http://www.jongordon.com/positivetip-true-grit.html>

Angela Duckworth's research at the University of Pennsylvania demonstrates that the key predictor of success is not talent, title, wealth, or good looks. It is Grit: the ability to work hard for a long period of time toward a focused goal and keep moving forward in spite of challenges, obstacles and failures.

Duckworth says, "Grit is passion and perseverance for long term goals. It's a marathon not a sprint."

I would add that it's actually a marathon and a series of sprints combined with a boxing match. You are not just running but getting hit along the way. Grit keeps you moving forward through the sting of rejection, pain of failure and struggle with adversity. When life knocks you down you may want to stay down and give up but Grit won't let you quit.

This begs the question, why does Grit keep you moving forward? How does it work? If Grit drives you what drives Grit?

I believe True Grit starts with knowing what you truly want. When you know what you want and you can see it, you will work hard and persevere in order to achieve it.

True Grit is also driven by clarity of mind, purpose, passion, optimism, faith, love, hope and quite honestly... stubbornness. Knowing your why, refusing to give up, ignoring the critics, believing in the possible, loving what you do and showing up day in and day out keeps you on the path towards your vision.

I also believe that the desire to prove oneself is also a part of Grit. From my own experience, and having worked with many college and professional athletes I know there's something inside of each of us that wants to feel worthy and be someone of value. This desire fuels us to succeed but can also be unhealthy and sabotage us if it doesn't give way to humility and a bigger purpose.

We need to teach our children to do the right thing, even when no one is looking. That is the type of responsible person—the one who does not make excuses—who will always be sought after to be a part of a team, a friend, an employee and a leader. I believe we all want that for our children.

**“Success lies not in achieving what you aim at but in aiming at what you ought to achieve.”**



## Counseling Comments ...Tami Harman

November is a great month for seniors to really work on college material because we have a break between sporting events and the next sport practices. It is also a month that we give Iowa Assessments.

### **Seniors:**

There are still quite a few seniors and parents that I have not met with in regards to graduation requirements, scholarship materials, and post-secondary planning. Please call 712-485-2257 or email [tharman@tctrojans.org](mailto:tharman@tctrojans.org) to set up an appointment. My goal is to have 100% of the seniors with parents set up this meeting.

**Reminder:** Tri-Center's Guidance Counseling Department will be hosting a Financial Aid Meeting on November 11, 2015 at 7:00 at Tri-Center in the Cafetorium. This is a great meeting for senior parents and seniors to get information on the financial aid portion of college planning. Please mark your calendar and hope to see you there! Juniors and their parents are welcome and encouraged to attend as well

### **Juniors:**

It is time to look at your schedules and make plans to ACT test. My recommendation is to take the December 12th test to establish a baseline and then take the John Baylor Test Prep here at Tri-Center before the April 9th test date. The common recommendation is to take the ACT twice junior year and twice senior year. Depending on the score, then parents/students will need to determine if more testing is needed.

Juniors will be taking the ASVAB (Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery Test) on February 18<sup>th</sup> here at Tri-Center. This assessment gives them good career information

Iowa Assessment Testing will be during the week of November 16th. Please encourage your

son/daughter to do their best on these assessments. It is a great measurement tool for the student, parents and the school.

November College Representatives:

November 4 Wayne State College 8:15  
November 10 College of Saint Mary 8:15  
November 19 Iowa Central Comm. College 9:00

**Yearbook News and Information**

.....Sarah Elliott



**2015-2016 Publications Staff Members:**

**Seniors:** Hannah Larsen, Editor Whitney Matthews;  
**Juniors:** Alyssa Baatz, Allison Eikenberry; and  
**Sophomores:** Danielle Elliott, Braxton Larsen.

**2015 YEARBOOKS!** *Trojan Survival Guide: Tips and Rules of 2015*, the **2015 Trojan Yearbook**, are **NOW IN**. We appreciate your patience with both the Publications staff doing proofs and the publisher (Walsworth Publishing) printing it. We do have a handful of extras, which we will sell for \$55 each once we have all ordered and sold books distributed. See or call Adviser Mrs. Sarah Elliott at the high school at 485-2257, ext. 100. If you are/will be interested in purchasing those.

**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, \$15 for the 2009 and 2008 and just \$10 for the 2003. Sorry, we are completely out of 2012 books.

**2016 YEARBOOK!!!** We will begin selling **2015 Trojan Yearbook** in December and/or once the 2015 *Trojan* has been distributed, and we will 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!**

**SENIOR PICTURES:** Seniors and senior parents, pictures are due to the yearbook by Tuesday, December 22, 2015. 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 December 22, 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 in December or early next semester. 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 (sellott@tetrojans.org) or brought in for scanning and returned ASAP. The staff is currently in need of summer sports, fall sports, Homecoming, and fun/candid pictures for all grades 9-12.

**AD CAMPAIGN:** We will be starting our ad/sponsorship campaign sometime in the next week. 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**

**November Highlights**

- Nov. 1 Turn your clock back one hour.  
Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov. 2 Babysitting class 3:30 p.m.
- Nov. 3 Election Day
- Nov. 6 No Preschool today
- Nov. 6 & 7 Variety Show at the HS 7:00 p.m
- Nov. 9 Picture Retakes
- Nov. 9-13 Iowa Assessments Testing Gr. 1-5
- Nov. 11 Veteran's Day
- Nov. 11 Thanksgiving Dinner for Lunch
- Nov. 16-20 Iowa Assessments Testing MS/HS
- Nov. 16-20 American Education Week
- Nov. 20 No Preschool today
- Nov. 24 Soup 'n Shop w/Student Council at  
HS Cafetorium
- Nov. 25 1:30 Dismissal
- Nov. 25 Grandparents Day at Preschool
- Nov. 26 Happy Thanksgiving – No School
- Nov. 27 No School - Thanksgiving Vacation

**Grandparents & Special  
Relative Day!**



**...Paula Heck and Pam Schroder**

- Who:** Grandparents or Special Relative Day
- What:** A Thanksgiving Brunch
- When:** Wednesday morning, November 25  
(The day before Thanksgiving)
- Where:** In our preschool classrooms



**Student Council's Soup and Shop  
November 24, 2015  
5:30 – 8:00 PM**

Tri-Center's Student Council's (Elementary, Middle School, and High School) would like to invite you to our annual "Soup and Shop" on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:00 in the high school cafetorium. There will be a free will donation Soup Supper from the student council and local vendors for you to shop for all your Christmas needs. Tri-Center music students will provide you with some evening entertainment as well. Hope to see you there!