

Panther Pride

Volume 2, Issue 2

December, 2008

Tri-County North Local Schools

Inside this issue:

Principal's Corner	2
Winter Athletics	3
VIP's	4
Family Science Night	4
Sr. Citizen Luncheon	5
7th Grade News	5
Upcoming Events	6



From The Desk Of The Superintendent William Derringer



What a busy time of year winter is for the staff and students here at Tri-County North. Our students have begun taking their first semester exams and our holiday break is just a few short days away. This winter we have added some new activities and events such as a Community Pep Assembly and for the first time in our school's history, a boys and girls bowling team. We have also been very busy with some of our annual events, such as the Senior Citizens Holiday Luncheon and the Veteran's Day Program. Both events are well attended every year. We feel very fortunate to have such a strong relationship with our community and we will continue to try to keep you up-to-date with our current issues and events.

that the community has currently been paying. This change will not increase the amount of money or taxes that you have been paying, but would allow us to utilize the money for operating expenses as our building debt would be paid off. In essence, we would be asking for you to continue to pay what you have been paying, nothing more; we would now use the money for operating expenses instead of paying for our building. We will be providing more information on this topic after the first of the year.

It is my hope that each of you has an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year! As always, if you have questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to give me a call at the District Office at 937-962-2671 at any time.



I am proud to say that our building will be paid off in December of 2009. It is hard to believe that our building is twenty years old already. This spring, it is our intention to ask our voters to approve a 2.8 mil operating levy to replace the 2.8 mil bond levy

TCN Honors Veterans



On Friday, November 7th, Tri-County North presented their annual Veterans' Day program honoring our veterans of the armed forces. Many veterans, speakers and other honored guests were in attendance.

Those in attendance enjoyed a variety of patriotic tributes by TCN students of all ages. Mr. Harold Reynolds was the guest speaker at the event, where he shared his words of wisdom and devoted a special moment to all of the POW's. Mr. Del Braund performed "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipe. The performance was followed by a 21-Gun Salute by the Preble County Honor Guard. Immediately following the program, a reception was held in the high school cafeteria to honor all veterans of the armed forces.

Thank you to all of the organizers of this event. And thank you to all of the men and women who have proudly served our country. We thank you for your service!



Elementary School



On December 5th, our 2nd and 4th graders entertained the senior citizens at the annual luncheon with their singing and music selections. Our 1st and 3rd graders had their music program on December 12th. The program is always a huge success and attended by many. The 2nd and 4th graders will be having their music program in the spring (May 14, 2009).

Our 3rd and 4th graders just completed fund raisers to help offset the cost of the Woodland Altars trip this year and next. Thanks to the PTO for allowing our students the opportunity to reduce the cost for students with the pie sales. Some students were able to sell enough pies to cover their entire cost of the trip. Our students sold a total of 614 pies for the PTO! We will also be having a larger fund raiser in the fall to help offset the costs of all of our field trips and other student re-

lated activities. Thanks for your continued support!

PTO is sponsoring its annual Santa Shop on December 16th and 17th (15th is a browsing day) and students will have the opportunity to purchase gifts for all of their family and friends.

The school is also collecting canned goods for the Cabbage Patch program through December 12th and we encourage parents to send in as much as you can spare to help replenish the food pantry for needy families. Last year, the elementary collected over 2,000 canned food items!

Our Character Education program is featuring the word "courage" this month and we are focusing on bullying with our student discussions.

We would like to wish everyone a happy & healthy new year!

Denny Dyer

Middle School



Tri-County North Middle School is part of the Making Grades Work school improvement process. One part of the school improvement process is gathering data from our 8th graders every other year called the Middle Grades Assessment. The assessment not only involves answering questions about reading, science and mathematics, but also asks about other areas such as availability of extra help, guidance and the students and their environment. It is a very comprehensive assessment of our school. Last year, our 8th graders took this assessment and we just recently got the results

back. Of the 309 schools that participated in Making Middle Grades Work in 19 states, Tri-County North Middle School scored 8th on the Science portion of the assessment. I want to congratulate the students and teachers who work so hard at Tri-County North to make this such a great place for students. Each student and staff member here at TCNMS takes a role in contributing to the positive environment, welcoming new students and promoting "Panther Pride". We are very fortunate to have such a great community of students, parents, grandparents and staff members!

Joe Finkbine

High School



TCNHS is scheduled to host their first High Schools That Work (HSTW) Technical Assistance Visit (TAV) since 2006 on January 21 and 22, 2009. An outside team of educators, HSTW leaders and community stakeholders will conduct a one and a half day visit with the purpose of reviewing and addressing TCNHS's goals as they align with the HSTW key practices. TCN joined the HSTW network in 2001.

HSTW is an effort-based school improvement initiative founded on the conviction that most students can master rigorous academic and career/technical studies if school leaders and teachers create an environment that motivates students to make the effort to succeed. HSTW is the nation's first large-scale effort to engage state, district and school leaders in partnerships with teachers, students, parents and the community to raise student achievement in high school and the middle grades. It is based on the simple belief that most students become "smarter" through effort and hard work. School leaders and teachers can motivate students to achieve at high levels when they:

- Expand students' opportunities to learn a **rigorous academic core** with either a career/technical or academic concentration that is taught in ways that enable students to see the usefulness of what they have been asked

to learn.

- Create supportive relationships between students and adults. These relationships involve providing students with the extra help needed to meet challenging course standards and with the support to make successful transitions from the middle grades to high school and from high school to post-secondary studies and career.
- Work as teacher advisors with parents and students to set goals and to help students take the right courses that prepare them for post-secondary studies and careers.
- Focus school leadership on supporting what and how teachers teach by providing common planning time and professional development aligned with school improvement plans.

In this environment, more students will recognize that high school matters to their future and more students will become independent learners able to set future educational and career goals and choose which courses to take to achieve those goals. In an era of rising workplace requirements, getting a good high school education that counts is more important now than ever before!

Jeff Parker

Winter Athletics



January

- 3: Boys Varsity Wrestling @ Greenview—TBA
Boys HS Basketball vs. Northridge @ home—6 pm
- 6: Girls 7/8 Basketball @ Arcanum—5 pm
Boys HS Basketball vs. Newton @ home—6 pm
- 7: B/G Varsity Bowling vs. Monroe @ home—4 pm
- 8: Boys 7/8 Basketball @ Tri-Village—5 pm
Girls HS Basketball vs. Tri-Village @ home—5:30 pm
- 9: B/G Varsity Bowling vs. Miss. Valley @ home—5 pm
Boys HS Basketball @ Miss. Valley—6:30 pm
- 10: Boys 7/8 Basketball vs. Ansonia @ home—10 am
Girls HS Basketball @ Ansonia—12 noon
Boys HS Basketball @ Lemon Monroe—6 pm
- 12: B/G Varsity Bowling @ Ansonia—3:30 pm
Girls HS Basketball vs. Preble-Shawnee @ home—5:30
- 13: Girls 7/8 Basketball vs. Bradford @ home—5 pm
- 14: Varsity Wrestling @ Dixie—5:30 pm
- 15: Boys 7/8 Basketball @ Bethel —5 pm
Girls HS Basketball vs. Bethel @ home —5:30 pm
- 16: Boys HS Basketball vs. FM @ home—6 pm
- 17: Varsity Wrestling Panther Invitational @ home—10 am
Girls 7/8 Basketball @ Franklin-Monroe—10 am
- 20: Girls 7/8 Basketball vs. Miss. Valley @ home—5 pm
- 22: Boys 7/8 Basketball @ Covington—5 pm
Girls HS Basketball vs. Covington @ home—5:30 pm
Varsity Wrestling @ Alter—6 pm
- 23: Boys HS Basketball @ Bradford—6 pm
- 24: Boys 7/8 Basketball vs. Miami East @ home—10 am
Girls HS Basketball @ Miami East—12 noon
- 26: Boys 7/8 Basketball @ West Carrollton—5 pm
- 27: Boys HS Basketball vs. Arcanum @ home—6 pm
Girls 7/8 Basketball @ Newton—5 pm
- 29: Boys 7/8 Basketball vs. Nat'l Trail @ home—5 pm
Girls HS Basketball @ Nat'l Trail—5:30 pm
- 30: Boys HS Basketball @ TVS—6:30 pm
Varsity Wrestling @ Lima Central Catholic—5:30 pm
- 31: Varsity Wrestling @ Lima Central Catholic—9:30 am
Girls 7/8 Basketball vs. Tri-Village @ home—10 am
Girls HS Basketball vs. Maderia @ home—12 noon

February

- 2: B/G Varsity Bowling @ Franklin Senior—4 pm
Girls 7/8 Basketball vs. Newton @ home—5 pm
- 3: Girls 7/8 Basketball @ Ansonia—5 pm
Girls HS Basketball vs. Stivers @ home—5:30 pm
- 5: Varsity Wrestling @ home (tri-meet) - 5:30 pm
- 6: Boys HS Basketball vs. Carlisle @ home—6 pm
- 7: Varsity Wrestling @ Triad—TBA
Boys 7/8 Basketball @ Miss. Valley—10 am
Girls HS Basketball @ Piqua—11:30 am
- 9: Boys 7/8 Basketball @ TVS—5 pm
Girls HS Basketball vs. Yellow Springs @ home—5:30 pm
- 13: Boys HS Basketball vs. Nat'l Trail @ home—6:30 pm
- 14: Varsity Wrestling @ Covington—TBA
Boys HS Basketball @ Brookville—6 pm
- 20: Boys HS Basketball vs. Miami East @ home—6:30 pm

March

- 31: JH Track @ home—4:30 pm
Varsity Baseball @ Milton-Union—5 pm
JV Baseball vs. M-U @ home—5 pm
JV Softball vs. M-U @ home—5 pm
Varsity Softball @ Milton-Union—5 pm



If you have not been receiving the One Call messages being sent out via telephone to all Tri-County North students and their parents, please contact the District Office at **937-962-2671** to get your number added immediately. With the winter season quickly approaching, bad weather is sure to follow and it is very important to have accurate contact numbers for all students in our One Call database. Please feel free to add a cell phone number, as well, in case there is a power outage.

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Senior Citizens enjoying the 2008 Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon at Tri-County North.



Middle School VIP's Go "Reverse" Trick-or-Treating

On Monday, October 27th, the V.I.P. students attended our annual reverse trick or treat visits to the area nursing homes. This year, forty-six students participated, all dressed up for the occasion. We made our visit to Brookhaven, Van Crest, Greenbriar and Heartland Nursing Homes and delighted the residents with our smiles and costumes. The students were traveling for four hours and gave chocolate delights to the many residents and employees at the homes. A good time was had by all. A special 'thank you' goes out to Mrs. Freisthler and Mrs. Walden who accompanied us this year and made it a pleasant memory for all!



Family Science Night At TCN Elementary



On Tuesday, November 18, TCN elementary teachers held a science night for third graders and their families. Over fifty people came and enjoyed ten different science activities that they did as a family. The National Honor Society and Science Club students, supervised by Mrs. Lee, helped set up the experiments and worked with the families. Students left with kooky pencils, paper helicopters, singing straws and many other toys. Most importantly, they found science fun and have a better understanding of some science concepts. Thank you to all who helped make this evening a success!



The Ohio Graduation Test



The Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) is scheduled for the week of March 16-20 in the areas of Math, Science, Writing, Reading and Social Studies. All students in the state of Ohio must pass all five sections in order to earn a high school diploma. Four years ago, TCN teachers and administration created the "Sophomore Academy" as a week-long preparation session designed to increase student success on the OGT. The "Academy" has been well received by the students and has contributed to TCN's success on the OGT. This year's Sophomore Academy will be held the week of February 9-12, 2009.

The Class of 2012 will be taking an off-year OGT in the areas of Math, Science, Writing, Reading and Social Studies. The reasons for administering an off-year test to 9th graders include providing additional student preparation and data in an OGT setting. The Terra-Nova off-year test will enable Tri-County North students, teachers, parents and administrators to have consecutive data for students in grades three through ten. The off-year test is scheduled for the week of March 16-20, 2009.



Students Recycle Phones

TCN elementary students Emma Harris (standing), Ellie Coppock and Walker Harris check the cell phone collection boxes. Our school collects used cell phones to recycle and save them from contaminating landfills. Additionally, we receive fund raising dollars by recycling them. Unlike other fundraising projects, there are no products to buy or distribute. Please donate all unwanted cell phones to our school! Drop boxes are located in the elementary, middle and high school offices, as well as the district office.



Senior Citizens Holiday Luncheon

TCN recently held their annual Senior Citizens Holiday Luncheon on December 5th. All senior citizens in our school district were invited to attend. Attendance was approximately 90 people.

Seniors enjoyed a great meal prepared by TCN's food service department, which was served by the TCN FFA students. They were also entertained by music selections from the high school and middle school choirs and the second and fourth grade classes, who provided lots of entertainment by singing some of their favorite holiday carols.

After the entertainment, door prizes were given away to those in attendance. Door prizes were generously donated by the following businesses: Village Florist & Gift Shop, Miller's Hardware, Sarah's Pizza & Subs, Brennan's Grocery Store, Subway, Wendy's, Rob's, Dayton Dragons Organization, Loudy's Office Supply, K's Restaurant and The Specialty Shop. Thank you to everyone for your generosity and time!



TCN 2nd Graders



TCN 4th Graders

Kid-Friendly Junk Food Alternatives

Instead of...

- French fries
- Ice cream
- Fried chicken
- Doughnuts or pastries
- Potato chips
- Chocolate chip cookies

Try...

- Baked fries (grilled in oven)
- Low-fat frozen yogurt; sorbet
- Baked or grilled chicken
- Bagels or English muffins
- Pretzels, unbuttered popcorn, baked potato chips, soy crisps
- Graham crackers, fig bars, vanilla wafers, fruit and caramel dip



TCNMS Choir



TCNHS Choir

Teachers Receive Grant



For the sixth year in a row, McDonald's(R) Restaurants have awarded a "Make Activities Count" Grant to area teachers. This grant is an exciting educational initiative to assist area teachers in the education young people. MAC Grants offer financial support to help teachers pay for extra materials for, recognizing that lessons often become more meaningful when demonstrated with hands-on experiences.

Two area teachers were awarded the MAC grant from Tri-County North Elementary. Pictured on the left is Dawn Grube, a 3rd year recipient, and Karen Olwine, a 1st year recipient. Both teachers accepted the award Monday, December 8th at the Nutter Center.

7th Grade Happenings

In October, the seventh grade went to the Victoria Theater to see Mayhem Poets. Students enjoyed the fast paced, hip-hop style poetry that covered topics such as family, the importance of writing and environmental concerns. The performance was entertaining and inspiring. Breakfast at Rob's was a treat too!

Student-led conferences were a success again! The seventh grade held student-led conferences

on November 6th. This is the second year for this popular method of conferencing. Nearly 80% of the students were in attendance with at least one of their parents. Students shared work samples, reviewed self/teacher evaluations and set goals with their parents.

The majority of the participants are planning on returning to the conferences in February. Thanks to all who attended!



Tri-County North Local Schools

PRE-STD
US POSTAGE
PERMIT NUMBER 77
LEWISBURG, OH
45338

District Office

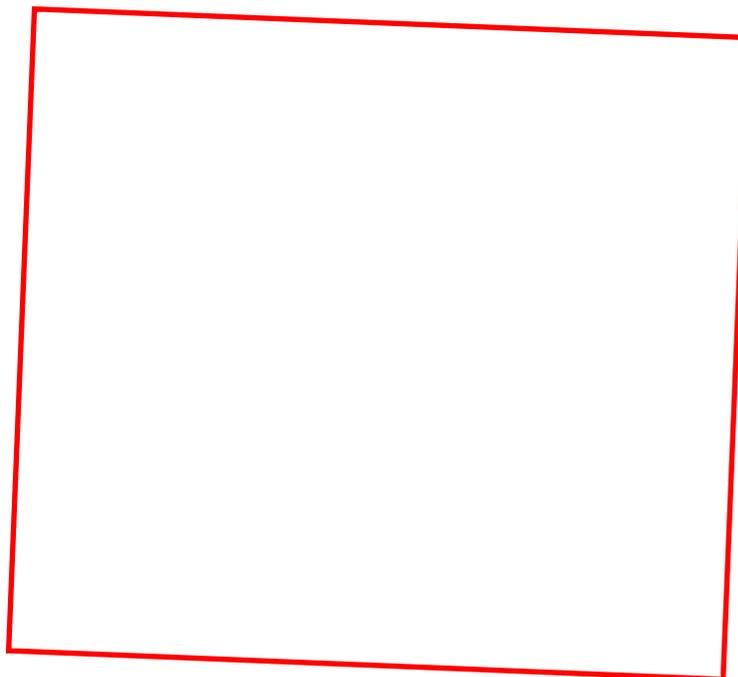
436 N. Commerce Street
PO Box 40
Lewisburg, OH 45338

District Office: 962-2671

High School: 962-2675

Middle School: 962-2631

Elementary School: 962-2673



Upcoming Events



JANUARY

- 1: New Year's Day—No School
- 5: Classes Resume
- 9: Sophomores to take the PLAN (Pre-ACT)
Juniors to take the ASVAB (career assessment)
TCN Geography Bee
Middle School New Year's Eve Bash—6:00-8:00 pm
Second Quarter Report Cards Sent Home

- 19: Martin Luther King Day—No School
- 20: Preble County Spelling Bee @ National Trail
- 21 & 22: HSTW Technical Assistance Visit (TAV)
- 27: MUSE Machine at TCN HS @ 1:30 pm
- 31: Preble County Science Fair @ TVS—8:30 am

FEBRUARY

- 3: 5th & 6th Grade Band to Dayton Philharmonic
- 6: Interim Reports Sent Home
- 9: Preble County Geography Bee @ National Trail
- 12: HS & MS P/T Conferences—2:30 to 8:30 pm
ES P/T Conferences—3:30 to 7:30 pm
ES Valentine's Day Parties—2 pm
8th Grade Parent HS Transition/Scheduling Mtg—7 pm

- 13: P/T Conferences—No School
- 16: President's Day—No School
- 19: PSEO Parent/Student Meeting—6:30 pm—HS library
FFA Banquet—6-9 pm
- 20: All-County Band Concert @ TVS—7 pm
- 25: Teacher In-Service Day—No School For Students

MARCH

- 2: VIP Roller Skating Party
- 2-6: Terra Nova Testing for grades 2-4 (each morning)
- 5: HS Band and Choir Concert
- 6: "College For A Day" @ IU East—Freshman
- 8: Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 11: National Honor Society Blood Drive
- 13: End of the 3rd Quarter
- 16-20: OGT—Sophomores, Terra Nova—Freshman
- 17: MS Winter Sports Awards—6:30 pm
- 19: HS Winter Sports Awards—6:30 pm
- 20: Third Quarter Report Cards Sent Home
- 23: Rotary 4 Way Speech Contest
- 24: ES P/T Conferences—3:30 to 5:30 pm
- 26: NHS Induction