



# Panther Pride



## From The Desk Of The Superintendent William Derringer



Once again, it is difficult to believe that the second nine weeks will be coming to an end shortly after winter break. This marks the midpoint of the school year and the end of the first semester. I am very proud to announce that our elementary school recently received the "School of Promise" award from the Ohio Department of Education for the second year in a row. This is quite an honor and our students, staff and parents should be commended for this outstanding accomplishment.

We have currently missed three days of school due to snow and ice. I hope that all of our parents are getting the "One Call" information about school closures and delays. If you are not, please contact Noelle Murray in the District Office at 937-962-2671. We are also utilizing Facebook to post the most current information about cancellations and when events will be rescheduled. We have received many positive comments about our TCN Facebook page. If you have not seen the page yet, you may access it by going to <http://linky.com/tcnfacebook>. As always, we will continue to place school delays and closings on all three of the local news channels as soon as the decision has been made.

As many of you are aware, our levy for additional operating expenses did not pass in November. We have suspended most of our field trips and will be squeezing our budget in an attempt to close out this school year in the positive. We will be placing the levy back on the ballot in May, asking for the same 1% earned income tax for a period of five years. It is critical that we pass this levy to avoid the drastic cuts that will need to be made in order to have enough money for day to day operations. I will be providing more information to our community about the levy in the near future.

It is my wish that each of you has an enjoyable Christmas and a happy New Year! As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to give me a call at the District Office at 937-962-2671. Wishing you a joyous 2014!

### Inside this issue:

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Principal's Corner        | 2 |
| Winter Athletics          | 3 |
| Kindergarten Registration | 3 |
| All-CCC Teams Announced   | 4 |
| Music & Band News         | 4 |
| Grandparents Day          | 5 |
| Upcoming Events           | 6 |



*School resumes on Monday,  
January 6, 2014*



## TCN Salutes Veterans

On November 15th, TCN honored all Veterans for their service to our country with a Veterans Day program. The program saluted all branches of the military, including the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and the Navy. The TCN 4th grade class and High School band participated in the program. Also participating was the Scout Troop 511 and several individual high school students. The Preble County Honor Guard performed the 21 Gun Salute. A reception to honor the Veterans was held in the high school cafeteria immediately following the ceremony. It was a spectacular event and many thanks go out to Miss Jacque Mathias, Mrs. Terra Moniaci, Mrs. Diana Haman, Mr. Don Kring, and many other assistant coordinators for all of their efforts in coordinating the program.



## K-6 News

Joe Finkbine

On December 12th, the elementary hosted a Family Literacy Night and I want to give some reasons of the importance of literacy, the ability to read and write, for our students and families. As students enter kindergarten, they are on different levels of understanding letters, sounds, words, etc. Kindergarten teachers will start with students in their classrooms with as much as five year's difference in reading levels. Some kindergarten students may be able to read and write at the second grade level, while others may not recognize but a few letters and not understand that letters have sounds. This difference in reading levels has been made, up in large part, due to the amount of reading a student has heard prior to entering school and once in school. Students who've been read to 20 minutes a day have working vocabularies of 40,000 words before entering kindergarten. They have heard over 3 million words. Children who've been read to rarely or not at all have 10,000 word vocabularies. They've heard just 750,000 words. So if you haven't read to your child prior to entering kindergarten, it doesn't mean that you failed and are at the point of no return. What it means is it's critically important to start reading to your child to help improve their reading skills no matter the age, from a newborn to 4th grade.

Tips for helping your child improve their reading confidence are: 1) Don't push your child. When reading with your child, don't force him to read. Instead, make sure that you are next to each other and they are following along with you as you read. Trace your finger along the text as you read. 2) Give him/her privacy. Give them time alone to read without an audience. 3) Read to a different audience. Suggest that he/she read to a puppy, younger sibling or stuffed animal. None of these judge or know if a word was read correctly or not. 4) Let your child see you struggle with words. I understand some parents want to seem infallible, but showing your children that sometimes we have to work hard on a word or two is beneficial too. A parent struggling shows that sounding out words while reading isn't a sign of weakness, but a tool to use no matter how good of a reader you are. 5) Don't overcorrect. When your child is reading, do not correct him/her too much. Remember, the goal here is to build confidence. You will have lots of time to work on accuracy and fluency, but take it one step at a time. If your child asks for help with a word, go for it, but small mistakes or omissions should be overlooked in the name of confidence for now. The commitment you make to your child now will have a lifelong effect so please take the time to read to your child.



## 7-12 News

Doug Dunham

Tri-County North High School and Middle School have been very busy preparing for the end of the first semester of the 2013-2014 school year. The first semester will end on January 17, 2014. The high school students will have a semester exam in each of their classes on January 14-17, 2014. If a student did not miss a day of school and were not tardy a day to school, they will be allowed to exempt one semester exam. A student can't exempt a Dual Enrollment exam, though.

In the fall newsletter, we recognized the Tri-County North High School students who scored above a 30 on the ACT test. We sincerely apologize to senior Abigail Hough, who was inadvertently left off the list and scored a 30. Good work, Abigail!

In November, sixty-three 8th grade students, along with five chaperones, traveled to Washington D.C. for the annual 8th grade trip. The trip was outstanding and the students had a great time visiting all of the sites in Washington, D.C.

The Tri-County North sophomore class had a busy November and December. In November, all of the sophomores from Preble County spent one day touring a local manufacturing company. Our sophomore students visited Henny Penny and Lewisburg Container. They ate lunch at Sinclair's campus at the Preble County YMCA and learned more about manufacturing careers. The sophomores also visited Miami Valley Career Technology Center in De-

cember, where they visited two programs of their choice.

As we enter our second semester, we will have Parent / Teacher Conferences on February 13, 2014, from 2:30-8:30 p.m. Our sophomores will take the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT), along with any junior and senior students who have not passed a section of the test during the week of March 10-14, 2014.

Senior students should start finalizing their college applications and start completing the FAFSA forms online. You will need a PIN number to sign your FAFSA, and you will need your parent or guardian's 2013 tax information. If you need your high school transcript sent to a college/university, please contact Mrs. Norris. Once you are accepted, please let Mrs. Norris know.

If you have any questions regarding TCN, please feel free to call or email us at any time. For updated information, please check out our website and Facebook page.



8th Graders in Washington, D.C.

# Winter Athletics

## January

- 3: HSBB vs. Tri-Village—6:00 pm
- 4: JHGB @ TVS—10:00 am  
HSGB vs. TVS—1:00 pm
- 6: JHBB vs. Mississinawa—5:00 pm
- 7: Varsity Bowling vs. Franklin—4:30pm  
JHGB vs. Arcanum—5:00 pm
- 9: JHBB @ Newton—5:00 pm  
HSGB vs. Newton—5:30 pm
- 10: HSBB @ Newton—6:00 pm
- 11: Varsity Wrestling @ Panther Invitational—10:00 am  
JHBB @ Preble Shawnee—10:00 am  
HSGB @ Tri-Village—12:00 pm  
Freshman Basketball @ Carlisle—4:30 pm  
HSBB @ Carlisle—6:00 pm
- 13: JH Wrestling @ Valley View—5:00 pm  
JHGB @ Bradford—5:00 pm  
JHBB vs. Dixie—5:00 pm  
HSGB @ Preble Shawnee—6:00 pm
- 14: Freshman Basketball vs. Mississinawa—4:30 pm  
HSBB vs. Mississinawa—6:00 pm
- 15: Varsity Wrestling @ Dixie—6:00 pm
- 16: JHBB @ Ansonia—5:00 pm  
HSGB vs. Ansonia—5:30 pm
- 17: HSBB @ Franklin-Monroe—6:30 pm
- 18: JH Wrestling @ Garfield Junior (Hamilton) - 8:30 am  
Varsity Wrestling @ Triad—10:00 am  
JHGB vs. Franklin-Monroe—10:00 am  
Freshman Basketball vs. Brookville—1:30 pm  
HSBB vs. Brookville—3:00 pm  
HSGB vs. Brookville—6:00 pm
- 21: JHGB @ Mississinawa—5:00 pm  
JHBB vs. Tri-Village—5:00 pm
- 22: Varsity Wrestling @ Dixie—5:00 pm
- 23: JHBB vs. Bethel—5:00 pm  
HSGB @ Union County—6:00 pm
- 24: Varsity Bowling vs. Mississinawa—4:30 pm  
Varsity Wrestling @ Lima Central Catholic—5:30 pm  
HSBB vs. Bradford—6:00 pm
- 25: Varsity Wrestling @ Lima Central Catholic—9:30 am  
HSGB @ Covington—12:00 pm  
Freshman Basketball vs. Preble Shawnee—4:30 pm  
HSBB vs. Preble Shawnee—6:00 pm
- 27: Varsity Bowling @ Franklin—4:00 pm  
JHGB vs. Newton—5:00 pm

- HSGB @ Bethel—5:30 pm
- 28: JHBB vs. Covington—5:00 pm
- 29: Varsity Wrestling @ Dixie—5:00 pm
- 30: JHBB @ Miami East—5:00 pm  
HSGB vs. Miami East—5:30 pm
- 31: Freshman Basketball @ Arcanum—5:00 pm  
HSBB @ Arcanum—6:30 pm

## February

- 1: JHGB Tournament—TBA  
Freshman Basketball vs. Northridge—4:30 pm  
HSBB vs. Northridge—6:00 pm
- 3: JH Wrestling @ Arcanum—5:00 pm  
JHBB @ National Trail—5:00 pm
- 4: HSGB @ Stivers—5:30 pm
- 6: Varsity Bowling @ Ansonia—4:30 pm  
HSGB vs. National Trail—5:30 pm
- 7: Freshman Basketball vs. TVS—5:00 pm  
HSBB vs. TVS (Senior Night) —6:30 pm
- 8: JH & Varsity Wrestling @ Covington—9:00 am  
JHBB Tourney @ Ansonia—TBA  
Freshman Basketball Tourney @ Ansonia—TBA
- 11: Freshman Basketball @ Dixie—4:30 pm  
HSBB @ Dixie—6:00 pm



## Kindergarten Registration



The Tri-County North 2014-2015 Kindergarten Registration will be handled a little differently this year to coordinate with other schools in our county and in conjunction with Early Literacy Week.

This year, TCN will hold open kindergarten registration for next year's kindergarteners from **April 14–April 17, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the District Office**. Simply choose a day and stop in to register your child between that time frame, no appointment needed. 2014-2015 Kindergarteners must be five years old on or before August 1, 2014, and parents must provide the following:

1. Original Birth Certificate (NOT birth record from the hospital)
2. Physician's Immunization Records
3. Original copies of any child custody order, decrees or modifications of order relevant to the child
4. **THREE** current forms of proof of residency (please refer to [www.tcnschools.com](http://www.tcnschools.com) for acceptable forms of proof)

Kindergarten screening will be held in August in the Elementary building and will be discussed at registration.

Please feel free to contact the District Office at 937-962-2671 with any questions pertaining to kindergarten registration.



## Yearbook Sales

Place your order now for the 2013-2014 TCN High School Yearbook! Each yearbook cost \$50.00 (plus shipping/handling). To order, visit [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com). You can also save shipping/handling by ordering through Ms. Carmean. Checks can be written to TCN Yearbook. Hurry before the price goes up to \$55.00.

## School Breakfast Available!

The TCN cafeteria serves breakfast to K-12 students every school day! Breakfast times are as follows:

Middle & High School—7:00 a.m.—7:25 a.m.

Elementary School—8:15 a.m.—8:40 a.m.

Price per breakfast is \$1.75

\*\*\*Students who qualify for Free or Reduced Lunches also qualify for Free or Reduced Breakfast\*\*\*



## All-CCC Teams Announced

The Cross County Conference teams have been selected. Those receiving special recognition for fall sports are as follows:

**All-Conference Team (1st Team):** Kendra Vanover—Volleyball, Megan McClain—Soccer, Aaron Koenig—Golf, Austin Hutchins—Football, Austin Johnson—Football

**Special Mention Team (2nd Team):** Carly Whitaker—Volleyball, Paige Daugherty—Soccer, Brett Kearney—Golf, Blake Lawson—Football

**Honorable Mention Team:** Jackie Marshall—Volleyball, Megan Porter—Soccer, Zach Tincher—Golf, Colton Booth—Football, Garrett Woodyard—Football

Congratulations to all of our outstanding athletes!



## Elementary Music Program

On December 11th, the TCN Elementary students put on their Christmas program. Students from every grade level were involved. Kindergarten students showcased their singing ability and were able to play some instruments for the audience. The first grade students showed their love for singing. They also played hand drums and hand chimes for the audience during “Little Drummer Boy”. Second graders showed their ability to memorize by singing multiple verses of “Deck The Halls”, “Jolly Old St. Nicholas” and “Up on the Housetop”. The Third graders showed their versatility by singing in a round, in Spanish, and while playing multiple instruments. The Fourth Grade students showcased all the hard work they have put into playing their recorders.

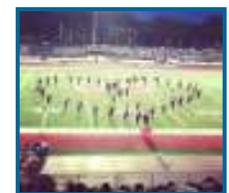
All of the students worked very hard to get ready for the performance. We want to thank all of the parents and friends that came to the performance. We appreciate your support and flexibility surrounding all the changes that took place.



## News From The Band Room

The TCN Instrumental Music Department has been keeping very busy this year! The TCN Marching Band had an amazing season, entertaining audiences from all over the state. They started rehearsals mid-July and continue to work hard to support our sports teams. They participated in many festivals and parades that showed off their amazing talent. This year was also the first ever alumni band and the turn out was great with over fifty alumni returning to perform at half time. The marching band also participated in UD Band Days, Half-Time USA, The Little Miami Band Festival, Piqua Invitational, Kenton Ridge Band Festival, Derby Days parade, Pork Festival parade, Bradford Pumpkin Fest, along with their outstanding Friday night performances. The high school band also performed at the Veterans Day program with a salute to all of the armed forces. Many students from grades 5-12 also volunteered their time to entertain the senior citizens at the annual Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon. Students from the new guitar classes also participated in this event.

Many students have represented TCN across the state. Alexa Harris, Megan McClain and Megan Porter were accepted into the Capital University Honor Band. They rehearsed at the university in November and participated in an amazing concert. The following students were also accepted into the OMEA District 13 Honor Band: Claudia Hawkins, Jacque Owens, Aidan Tomlin and Sean Tomlin. They will perform on January 17th.



TCN Marching Band



2013 TCN Alumni Band



## First Grade Holds Grandparents Day

TCN First Graders recently held their fourth annual Grandparents' Day on October 17th and 18th. There were over 150 grandparents in attendance. Grandparents and students enjoyed reading, writing and math activities followed by lunch in the school's cafeteria. This event was both fun and meaningful for all!



*A special THANK YOU to Joanele Hoce, our Curriculum Coordinator at TCN, for all you've done for our students & staff! Mrs. Hoce will be retiring on December 20, 2013. We wish you the very best in your retirement!*

## Robotics At TCN Middle School

Students in MECA and the 6th grade STEM classes are getting the unique opportunity to play with Lego NXT Mindstorms. What are Lego Mindstorms? Mindstorms combine the interchangeability of Lego products with motors and sensors that are used to create customizable and programmable robots. So far this year, students have learned to build and program their robots to do a variety of things like: navigate mazes and obstacle courses, follow a black line on the floor, respond to various sounds and play golf. Because the Mindstorms are interchangeable Lego pieces, the possibilities are endless for creating robots that are able to complete a given task. Students are being exposed to real-life problem solving, engineering by design practices, and 21st century technology...all of which are valuable for their futures. Thank you to Henny Penny for their generous donations; without their support, projects like this would not have been possible.



## Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon

On December 13th, TCN held their annual Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon, open to any senior citizen in the Tri-County North district. Approximately 80 seniors enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by the TCN Cafeteria staff, followed by musical performances by our MS and HS bands and the 2nd and 3rd grade music classes. The TCN FFA assisted in decorating, serving and clean up. Door prizes were also given away to the seniors throughout the event. TCN would like to thank all of the area businesses who graciously donated door prizes for the luncheon: Meijer, The Home Depot, Sarah's Pizza, Wholesome Country Goods, Marion's Piazza, Dayton Dragons, Loudy's Office Supplies, Subway, Rhonda Horn (Scentsy), LaRosa's Pizzeria, Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken, and ACE Hardware.



## Elementary Carnival

Once again, the elementary students were able to participate in the Family Fun Night Carnival. The carnival was held on October 18, 2013, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The students and their families came to play games, eat dinner and special treats, and win prizes. There were over 2,700 game tickets sold! The concessions, game ticket sales, and the auction raised over \$1,300 to go towards next year's carnival. A special thank you goes out to all of the families that participated, Mr. Finkbine, the elementary teachers, and Mrs. Frank and the FCCLA for volunteering their time to make this year's carnival a big success!



# TRI-COUNTY NORTH LOCAL SCHOOLS

*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

[www.tcnschools.com](http://www.tcnschools.com)



PRE-STD  
US POSTAGE  
PERMIT NUMBER 77  
BROOKVILLE, OH  
45309

## Upcoming Events



### January

- 1: New Year's Day
- 6: Return from Winter Break
- 7: TCN Board of Education Organizational Mtg—7:00 am
- 14-17: High School Semester Exams
- 17: End of 2nd Quarter / 1st Semester  
MS Dodge Ball/Winter Fling—6:00-8:00 pm
- 20: Martin Luther King Day—NO SCHOOL
- 21: Teacher In-Service Day—NO SCHOOL
- 24: Report Cards Sent Home With Students
- 25: Spirit Day at National Trail High School  
Preble County Science Fair @ TVS—9 am—12 noon
- 28: Preble County Spelling Bee @ Eaton—7:00 pm
- 28-31: Kindergarten-4th Grade Fundraiser
- 31: Panther Pride—7th & 8th Grade

### February

- 10: Preble County Geography Bee @ National Trail—7:00 pm
- 10-13: Sophomore Academy Intervention for OGT
- 13: MS/HS Conferences—2:30-8:30 pm  
ES Conferences—3:30-7:30 pm

- 14: NO SCHOOL in Lieu of Conferences  
Valentine's Day
- 17: President's Day—NO SCHOOL
- 18: Teacher In-Service Day—NO SCHOOL
- 21: Winter Fling (sponsored by 6th Grade) - 6:00-8:00 pm
- 28: Interims Sent Home With Students

### March

- 4: Music Concert—7:00 pm
- 6: FFA Banquet—6:00 pm
- 9: Daylight Savings Time Begins—spring FORWARD one hour!
- 10-14: OGT Test for Sophomores
- 17: St. Patrick's Day
- 21: End of 3rd Quarter
- 28: Report Cards Sent Home With Students
- 31-April 4: Spring Break—NO SCHOOL

