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## Middle School Students Excel

Our Middle School students have been busy participating in several local and county competitions lately and have represented TCNMS very well!

Trace Lipscomb, a 5th grader, recently took first place at the county Spelling Bee where he competed against other county students in grades 5-8. Trace will compete at the Regional level in late February.

Ashlynn Reynolds, a 7th grader, recently competed at the county Science Fair and won first place among all 7th graders and will now compete at the District level in Cincinnati.

Eli Davidson, an 8th grader, recently competed at the county Science Fair and won first place among all 8th graders in the county and will move on to District competition in Cincinnati.

Aaron Koenig, a 6th grader, recently placed second at the county Geography Bee amongst other county students in grades 6-8.

Congratulations to all students for their performance! We wish them all well as they move forward in their individual competitions!



Trace Lipscomb



Aaron Koenig



Eli Davidson and Ashlynn Reynolds



*Daylight-Savings Time  
Begins March 9, 2008!*

### **ATTENTION**

If you would prefer to receive the TCN quarterly newsletter via email versus regular mail, please contact Noelle Bruner at [tcsu\\_nb@swoca.net](mailto:tcsu_nb@swoca.net). Your request will then be recorded and future editions will come to you via email only.

Thank you!

## From The Desk of The Superintendent William Derringer

I would like to thank the Tri-County North Community for, once again, supporting our levy for operating expenses. The final count was approximately 62% in favor of the renewal. It is nice to know that we have a community that supports our efforts to provide the best education possible for our students. I would also like to thank the "Citizens of TCN" committee and everyone who allowed us to place signs in their yard or showed support in some other way. We will continually strive to make Tri-County North an excellent school for our children!

To date, we have used seven calamity days this winter. The state allows five days to be used before we are required to use make-up days. For this reason, we currently have two days that will need to be made up. We know that we are going to use Friday, May 23rd, as one of these days and are looking at Friday, March 21st, as the other. The March 21st date could change if we have more snow or ice, causing us to cancel school another day this winter. I want to assure you that the decision to delay or cancel school is always made with the safety of our students in mind. There have been some tough calls this year because of the timing when the snow has arrived and because of the amount of ice that we have

had. As always, we try to notify the parents as early as possible so that they can make arrangements for their children. I believe that the "One Call" system that we have been using this year has helped tremendously in this area. If you have not been receiving the "one calls", please contact the District Office immediately at 937-962-2671.

The next couple of weeks will be very important as many of our students will be taking state mandated achievement tests. This can often be a stressful time for our students, but we encourage them to try to relax and just do the best that they can. I know that our teachers have been working very hard to prepare each student for the tests that they will be taking.

I hope that you enjoy this newsletter and that you can see the many different types of activities and events that our students have the opportunity to participate in. Many of these activities could not be offered without your support. Once again, I would like to offer my thanks to the Tri-County North Community for all that you do to make our school a better place!

# Think Spring!

## Elementary School

Denny Dyer

- Students in grades 2-4 will be taking the Terra Nova tests March 3-7. The Ohio Achievement Tests (OAT) for grades 3 and 4 will be given April 28—May 2 in reading, math and writing. Both of these assessments are VERY important indicators of how students are progressing and they also give us a good overview of the building and grade level progress in those areas. We have carefully analyzed the data from these tests for the last five years to improve instruction, as well as providing intervention and enrichment to all of our students. The results of the Terra Nova tests are usually included in the grade card envelopes in May, while the OAT results come to us in July and are distributed to students the first week of school next year.
- The annual 4th grade Science Fair will be held on Tuesday, March 18th. The students have been working on their projects and they will be judged in one of four categories: Physical Science, Earth Science, Life Science or Consumer Science. The top three projects in each category will be recognized and the fair will be open to the public on the 18th from 5:30—7:00 P.M.
- Students who participated in our fall fundraiser and qualified for “Jump for George” will be doing that activity in March, as well as the limo ride for students who qualified. The fundraiser was very successful and many thanks goes out to the parents for your support and participation. The funds generated help us with our field trips and many other student related activities. Some of the upcoming field trips include our first graders going to the Indianapolis Zoo, our third graders going to Caesar’s Creek and our fourth graders going to Woodland Alters.
- Our Before and After School Program for grades 1-4 has been a big success! Grades 3 and 4 have been meeting twice a week from 7:30—8:40 A.M. and will continue to meet through the OAT tests in late April / early May. Grades 1 and 2 are meeting twice a week from 3:30—4:30 P.M. and will continue to meet until May 8th. Both programs are very beneficial and have been instrumental in improving student achievement and our building and grade level test scores.

## Middle School

Joe Finkbine

- Trace Lipscomb is the Preble County Spelling Bee Champion!
- Trace competed in the Bee on Tuesday, January 29th, at National Trail against other 5th-8th grade students. Trace will continue his spelling at the regional level on Saturday, February 23rd, at Sinclair Community College.
- Aaron Koenig placed second at the Preble County Geography Bee. Aaron, a 6th grader, competed on February 4th at TCN against other 6th-8th grade students from Preble County.
- Students had to answer questions about states, capitals, geographic regions and significant landmarks. Contestants had to answer both oral and written questions throughout the bee.
- The county Bee is sponsored by the Preble County Educational Service Center. Aaron also has a chance to win a \$25,000 college scholarship through The National Geographic Society.
- We had our Spirit Week from January 22nd-25th. During the week, students participated in Class Color Day, Twin Day, Panther Day and Crazy Hair Day. Many students participated and they enjoyed the atmosphere of the week. We also had a pep rally on Thursday for the North vs. South boys’ basketball game, which TCNMS won both 7th and 8th grade games. The week concluded with a Winter Fling for all grades on Friday night, which included a dance with a DJ, an open gym and food. Pictured below are the class winners from Twin Day.
- Finally, congratulations to our Preble County Science Fair participants who competed on January 26th at TVS. Eli Davidson, Casey Dearth, Wes Hart, Brooklyn Daugherty and Ashlynn Reynolds all received Superior Ratings. They have each qualified for the District Competition. Eli Davidson won the overall for 8th graders and Ashlynn Reynolds was the overall for the 7th graders. Great job of representing TCNMS!!! You can’t hide their Panther Pride!



## High School

Jeff Parker

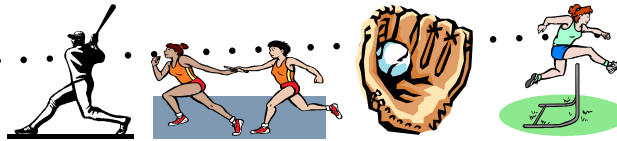
TCN Sophomores completed the “Sophomore Academy” the week of February 25 through February 29th. The “Academy”, which has become an annual ritual since its inception in 2005, is a series of daily intensive Ohio Graduation Test (OGT) prep sessions. The sessions are 70 minutes in length and are designed to cover such areas as testing strategies, reading and writing strategies and the core curricular topics. The Academy is meant to serve as one final, concentrated period of time in which students can prepare for the OGT. Student feedback and OGT results from the previous three school years indicate the “Sophomore Academy” has been a successful strategy that compliments the TCN core curriculum. The Sophomore Academy instructors are Anne Karns (social studies), Beth Hough (reading and writing), Teresa Lee (science) and Shari Ferguson (math). This year’s OGT

will be administered on March 10-14, 2008.

The Class of 2011 will be TCN’s first class to take an off-year OGT in 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 TCN students, teachers, parents and administrators to have consecutive data for students in grades 3 through 10. The results of the ninth grade test should also be able to aid the TCN faculty and administration in determining additional intervention strategies. The off-year test is scheduled for the week of March 10-14 and will be administered at the same time as the OGT.

*“Education is not the filling of a bucket, but the lighting of a fire”  
~ W. B. Yeats*

# Spring Athletics



## **MARCH**

- 31: Varsity Baseball & Softball vs. Trotwood Mad.—Home— 5:00 PM
- JV Baseball & Softball vs. Trotwood Mad.—Away—5:00 PM

## **APRIL**

- 1: Varsity Baseball & Softball vs. Milton Union—Away—5:00 PM
- JV Baseball & Softball vs. Milton Union—Home—5:00 PM
- JH Track Home Meet—4:30 PM
- 3: Varsity Baseball & Softball vs. Northridge—Away—5:00 PM
- JV Baseball & Softball vs. Northridge—Home—5:00 PM
- HS Track Home Meet—4:30 PM
- 4: HS Track at Preble Shawnee—4:30 PM
- 5: Varsity Baseball & Softball vs. Middletown Mad.—Home—11:00 AM
- JV Baseball & Softball vs. Middletown Mad.—Away—11:00 AM
- 7: Varsity Baseball vs. Whitley County—Home—5:00 PM
- HS Track at Franklin-Monroe—4:30 PM
- 8: Varsity Baseball & Softball vs. Tri-Village—Away—5:00 PM
- JV Baseball vs. Northmont—Away—5:00 PM
- JV Softball vs. Tri-Village—Home—5:00 PM
- JH Track at Covington—4:30 PM
- 10: Varsity Baseball & Softball vs. Ansonia—Home—5:00 PM
- 11: Varsity Baseball vs. Ft. Recovery—Away—5:00 PM
- Varsity Softball vs. Bethel—Away—5:00 PM
- HS Track at Ft. Recovery—4:30 PM
- 12: Varsity Baseball—Cody Holp Tourney—Home—TBA
- Varsity Softball vs. Brookville—Home—11:00 AM
- JV Softball vs. Brookville—Away—11:00 AM
- 14: JV Baseball vs. Tippecanoe—Home—5:00 PM
- 15: Varsity Baseball & Softball vs. Covington—Away—5:00 PM
- JV Baseball & Softball vs. Covington—Home—5:00 PM
- 16: Varsity Baseball vs. Nat'l Trail at 5/3 Field—7:30 PM
- 17: Varsity Baseball & Softball vs. Miami East—Home—5:00 PM
- JV Baseball & Softball vs. Miami East—Away—5:00 PM
- 18: Varsity Softball vs. Nat'l Trail—Home—5:00 PM
- JV Baseball & Softball vs. Nat'l Trail—Away—5:00 PM
- HS Track at TVS—4:30 PM
- JH Track at Preble Shawnee—4:30 PM

## **'08-'09 Kindergarten Registration**

TCN Elementary will be holding their Kindergarten Registration on:

Wednesday, February 13th from 3:30—7:30 PM

Thursday, March 20th from 10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Tuesday, April 22nd from 2:00—4:00 PM

All registration will take place in the TCN District Office.

2008-09 Kindergarteners must be five years old on or before August 1, 2008, and parents must provide the following:

1. Original birth certificate
2. Social Security Card
3. Original copies of any child custody orders, decree or modifications of order relevant to the child

- 19: Varsity Baseball vs. Eaton—Home—12:00 PM
- Varsity Softball in Diamond Classic at Dixie—TBA
- JV Baseball vs. Eaton—Away—12:00 PM
- JV Softball vs. Ft. Recovery—Away—11:00 AM
- 21: JH Track at Arcanum—4:30 PM
- 22: Varsity Baseball vs. Carlisle—Home—5:00 PM
- Varsity Softball vs. Preble Shawnee—Home—5:00 PM
- JV Baseball vs. Carlisle—Away—5:00 PM
- JV Softball vs. Preble Shawnee—Away—5:00 PM
- HS Track at Preble Cty. Meet at Preble Shawnee—4:30 PM
- 24: Varsity Baseball & Softball vs. TVS—Away—5:00 PM
- JV Baseball vs. Brookville—Home—5:00 PM
- 25: Varsity Baseball & Softball vs. Arcanum—Home—5:00 PM
- JV Baseball & Softball vs. Arcanum—Away—5:00 PM
- 26: JV Baseball vs. Fairmont—Away—11:00 AM
- JH Track at Franklin-Monroe—10:00 AM
- 29: Varsity Baseball & Softball vs. Bradford—Away—5:00 PM

## **MAY**

- 1: Varsity Baseball & Softball vs. FM—Home—5:00 PM
- JV Softball vs. FM—Away—5:00 pm
- JH Track at TVS—4:30 PM
- 2: Varsity Baseball & Softball vs. Miss. Valley—Away—5:00 PM
- 3: Varsity Baseball & Softball—Preble County Tournament in Eaton—TBA
- 5: Varsity Baseball vs. Bethel—Away—5:00 PM
- JV Baseball vs. Bethel—Home—5:00 PM
- HS Track at Dixie—4:30 PM
- 6: Varsity Baseball & Softball vs. Newton—Home—5:00 PM
- 7: JV Baseball vs. Tippecanoe—Away—5:00 PM
- 8: JV Baseball vs. Ft. Recovery—Home—5:00 PM
- 9: HS Track at Middletown Madison—4:30 PM
- 10: Varsity Baseball vs. Brookville—Away—11:00 AM
- JV Baseball vs. Brookville—Home—11:00 AM
- JH Track at Anna—9:00 AM
- 12: HS Track at Tri-Village—4:30 PM
- 13: JH Track at Tri-Village—4:30 PM
- 15: HS Track—CCC Meet—Away—4:30 PM (prelims)
- 16: JH Track—CCC Meet—Away—4:30 PM
- 17: HS Track—CCC Meet—Away—10:00 AM

4. Physician's immunization records

5. Proof of residency, which must be a current utility bill, lease or mortgage receipt with home address and parent's name (driver's license is not proof of residency)

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

*"The pathway to educational excellence lies within each school"*  
~ Terrance Deal

## Student-Led Conferences Held In MS

Student led conferences were held in November and February by the TCN Middle School Seventh Grade. This unique opportunity was a great success! Attendance rates were between 75% - 80% for both sessions.

Students, teachers and parents enjoyed the change in format. The students discussed and showed samples of their work to their parent(s). Goals that were set during November conferences were reviewed by the families that attended. An evaluation for each student was filled out by the teachers for the parents to review. Teachers were

available for questions and/or comments and to schedule individual conferences, if requested. Input was given by both parents and students through surveys completed at the close of each conference.

We appreciate all of the hard work our students put into preparing for the conferences. To the parents that attended, we thank you so much for the involvement in your child's academic career. The connection between school and home is crucial for success in the classroom.

## Jump Rope For Your



TCN Elementary students recently participated in Jump Rope For Your Heart during their specials time on February 14th. Students collected through family and friend donations a total of \$2,266.05 for the American Heart Association. Thank you for your support!

**March 18th**

**National Honor Society Induction**

**7:00 P.M.**

## High School TrigStar Exam

The third annual TrigStar exam will be held on Thursday, March 20th, from 7:30 am—8:30 am. The test is open to all high school students taking trigonometry/pre-calculus and calculus classes. The high score in the region will win a \$50 savings bond. Top scores are sent to the state level where they have the opportunity to win a \$250 scholarship and a chance to participate at the national level. If you are interested in participating, please see Mrs. Ferguson right away.

## National Honor Society To Sponsor Blood Drive

The National Honor Society will be hosting their annual TCN blood drive on Wednesday, March 12th from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm in the high school gym. If you would like to donate, walk-ins will be welcomed or you can contact Mrs. Lee at [teresa\\_lee@preblenet.k12.oh.us](mailto:teresa_lee@preblenet.k12.oh.us) to schedule an appointment.

## Middle School Students Study Colonial Times

Mrs. Walden's fifth grade citizenship classes have been learning about Colonial Williamsburg. Through their History Alive activities, the students explored how education was taught, their religious beliefs, how slaves were utilized and treated and some of the games children played during that time. Each student developed a better understanding of the time period and how history came about.



*"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss it, you will land amongst the stars"*  
~ Les Brown

## Local And County Science Fairs Held Recently

TCN's Local Science Fair was held on December 12, 2007. Those receiving a superior rating at the local level are as follows:

Middle School: Lauren Rushing, Scotty Buttker, Megan Johnson, Matthew Werner, Kayla Demorest, Megan Fridley, Darrin Jackson, Kelly Schriever, Leanna Wilson, Lizzy Flora, Hannah Hogg, Katie Anderson, Kelsey Bowman, Jesse Butcher, Bailey Cruse, Eli Davidson, Casey Dearth, Tyler Gallaher, Wes Hart, Hannah Krull, Allison Macy, Kindra Mullins, Jacob Schlater, Morgan Silvers, Adam Obringer, Samantha Ward, Jasmine Weaver and Cole Williams.

High School: Kaley Conley, Amber Eison, Makayla Conley, Alysha Hammaker, Dylan Hemmerich, Rachel Oda, Aaron Patrick, Abby Schlater, Carly Schriever, Christy Stonerock, David Tahmassebi, Danielle Thompson and Emily Broughton.

The County Science Fair was held on January 26, 2008 at Twin Valley South High School. Those receiving a superior rating at the county level are as follows:

Middle School: Ashlynn Reynolds (won 1st place overall for 7th grade), Brooklyn Daugherty, Eli Davidson (won 1st place overall for 8th grade), Casey Dearth and Wes Hart.

High School: Carly Schriever, David Tahmassebi, Dylan Hemmerich, Emily Broughton, Makayla Conley, Alysha Hammaker, Aaron Patrick (won 1st place overall for Freshmen) and Victoria Flora (won 1st place overall for Juniors).

Congratulations to all of the students who participated at the local and county levels! Good luck to all of those moving on to the district level competition!



## Sophomore Academy

During the week of February 25 through February 29, TCNHS held its annual Sophomore Academy where students reviewed and prepared for the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT). Throughout this week, students maintained a modified block schedule and attended block periods in each of the five OGT subjects: math, citizenship, science, reading and writing which was administered by Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Karns, Mrs. Lee and Ms. Hough respectively. For each core subject, a practice test was administered and content was reviewed. Students also reviewed math formulas, the reading of maps, charts, graphs and diagrams for each subject, as well as the scoring guidelines used to grade the short answer, extended response and writing essays for the test. It was a busy week, but well worth the effort given by the teachers and students. On past surveys given by Mr. Parker, students indicated they feel better prepared for the OGT's after attending Sophomore Academy.

## All-Conference Teams Announced

With basketball season coming to a close, the Cross County Conference Teams have been selected. Those receiving special recognition for their hard work and dedication to the game are:

### All-Conference Team

Rachel Heindl

### Special Mention

Sarah Whitaker and Cody Burnside

### Honorable Mention

Brittany Mullins and Clint Overholtz

Congratulations on being selected to the All-County Conference Teams!



## Used Cell Phone Drive Reminder

TCN is having an ongoing **used** cell phone drive to raise funds for the school. Unlike other fundraisers, there are no products to buy or distribute. All we ask is that you donate any used cell phones that you no longer use. And if you know of any businesses that provide cell phones to their employees, please ask them to donate them as well. We are NOT collecting chargers or accessories. Phones can be dropped off in the collection boxes located in the elementary, middle school, high school and district offices. This fundraiser will benefit our students as well as the environment by keeping the used phones out of landfills. Thank you for your participation!

## Choir And Band Notes

This time of year is a very busy time for TCN's Music Department! As you already know, the MS/HS Band and Choir concert that was to be held on March 4th was canceled due to inclement weather. The concert has been rescheduled to Thursday, March 6th at 7:00 P.M.

The High School Band will be participating in a District 13 Contest on March 14th at Middletown Madison. The MS and HS Band will also be holding their annual spring concert at TCN on Thursday, May 8th, at 7:00 P.M.

The Choir will be traveling to National Trail on April 19th to perform in a mass choir for a steel drum festival. The MS/HS Choir will be holding their annual spring concert on Tuesday, May 6th, at 7:00 P.M. They will also be going to LaComedia Dinner Theater on May 17th, which will give students the opportunity to see a professional musical performance.

Both the Band and the Choir will be traveling to Mason, Ohio in May to participate in various instrumental and vocal contests at area high schools. These performances will be judged and rated based on their performances. They will finish the day with a trip to Kings Island.

We want to wish all of the Band and Choir students the best of luck in all of their future competitions and concerts!

## Spirit Day

The Tri-County North Cheerleaders competed at Spirit Day on February 9th. The Varsity squad placed first in the cheer/chant dance and second in dance.

The Junior Varsity and Junior High cheerleaders had outstanding performances, but fell short of bringing home a trophy.

On March 2nd, the Varsity cheerleaders will be competing at the State competition held in Columbus. They were the only Preble County school to make it out of Regionals in both categories.

Congratulations and best of luck to the TCN Varsity Cheerleading Squad!



TCN Varsity Squad



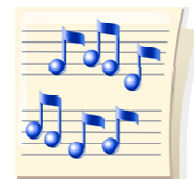
Junior Varsity Squad



Junior High Squad

**March 13th**  
**Winter Sports Banquet**  
**6:30 P.M.**

*"We cannot hold a torch to  
 light another's path without  
 brightening our own"*  
 ~ Ben Sweetland





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

District: 937-962-2671  
High School: 937-962-2675  
Middle School: 937-962-2631  
Elementary: 937-962-2673

## TRI-COUNTY NORTH LOCAL SCHOOLS

### We're On The Web!

[www.tcnschools.com](http://www.tcnschools.com)  
[www.tcnschools.org](http://www.tcnschools.org)  
[www.tcn.k12.oh.us](http://www.tcn.k12.oh.us)

Superintendent: William K. Derringer

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## Upcoming Events

### APRIL

- 2: Junior Class Parent Activity Committee Meeting—7:00 PM
- 2-4: 4th Graders to Woodland Alters
- 18: Spring Pictures in the Middle School Gym
- 21: TCN Board of Education Meeting—7:30 PM in Lecture Room
- 21-May 1: Ohio Achievement Testing—Grades 5-8
- 22: Kindergarten Registration—District Office—2:00-4:00 PM
- 24: PT Conferences—Elementary 3:30—5:30 PM  
MUSE Machine @ TCN—9:00 AM  
Preble County Honors Scholars Banquet—6:00 PM
- 26: Junior/Senior Prom—Meadowbrook—6:30 PM
- 28-May 2: Ohio Achievement Testing—Grades 3 & 4

### MAY

- 1: 1st Grade to Indianapolis Zoo (9AM—4:30 PM)
- 5: Washington DC trip parents meeting for next year's 8th grade students—7:00 PM
- 6: MS/HS Choir Concert—7:00 PM

- 5-9: Make-up testing for OAT
- 8: MS/HS Band Concert—7:00 PM
- 9: MVCTC Seniors Last Day of Classes
- 13: Senior Awards Night—6:30 PM
- 15: 2nd & 4th Grade Music Program—6:30 PM in HS Gym
- 15-16: Dearborn, MI trip for 6th grade students
- 15: Elementary Field Day
- 16: MVCTC Senior Recognition @ WSU Nutter Center—7:00 PM
- 16-20: Senior Finals
- 20: TCN Seniors Last Day of School  
Senior Picnic—11:05 AM
- 19: TCN Board of Education Meeting—7:30 PM in Lecture Room
- 21: Graduation Practice @ Salem Church of God—9:00 AM  
Senior Baccalaureate—TBA
- 22: Graduation @ Salem Church of God—7:00 PM
- 23: Last Day For Students (**calamity make-up day**)
- 26: Memorial Day

