



March, 2012



# Panther Pride

TRI-COUNTY NORTH LOCAL SCHOOLS



Volume 5, Issue 3

## From The Desk Of The Superintendent

William Derringer



*Daylight-Savings Time  
Begins March 11, 2012!*

For the first time in several years, it appears as though we may get through the winter without utilizing any calamity days. I know that the kids wish that we had more snow but personally I have enjoyed the mild winter that we have had thus far.

Unfortunately, like many other schools in the state of Ohio, Tri-County North is being forced to cut back financially in many areas as we try to maintain the current level of programs and opportunities for our students. We have another renewal levy that we will place on the ballot this coming November that will maintain the level of funding that we currently have. The issue that we are facing is that even with the passage of this renewal, the forecast indicates that we be in a deficit at the close of the 2013 school year. There are many reasons for this deficit, such as loss of state funding, loss of business and industry in our community, lower district valuation as a whole and an overall increased cost of doing business just to name a few. For these reasons and more, Tri-County North will be reducing our staff by five teachers, two educational aides and one bus driver for next school year. Other employees, such as secretaries, counselors, administrators, district office employees and custodians, will be taking reductions in pay for next school year as well. The state of Ohio and our local Board of Education have approved a reduction plan that will eliminate \$567,780.00 from our budget to help keep our district from entering into the state status of fiscal caution. Although we wish that we did not have to make these cuts, we realize that we are not alone in this endeavor as most other schools in our area are in the same position due to reduced state funding.

In the near future, I will be scheduling some evening community forums, to better inform you of where we stand and also answer any questions that you might have about the financial status of our district. Our number one goal is, and always has been, to provide the best education that we can for the students of Tri-County North. As always, I welcome your questions, comments or concerns and can be reached at the District Office at 937-962-2671.

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### ATTENTION PROM GOERS!

This year's prom, "Enchanted Knight" and presented by the Class of 2013, will be held April 14th from 7-11 p.m. Once again, the location will be Meadowbrook Country Club. Doors will open at 6:30. Ticket sales will take place March 19th-30th. Single tickets can be purchased for \$35, couples \$60. After Prom is being held at the Vandalia Rec Center (more information to follow soon).



## Note From The Nurse



Attention all parents of current sixth graders! Students are required to have a Tdap booster (DPT series booster) before entering seventh grade. As with other immunization requirements, students who do not provide documentation of this immunization are subject to exclusion from school. To avoid exclusion, we encourage you to contact your family physician or the Preble County Health Department now to arrange a time to get the Tdap booster and turn in your documentation to the Middle School office before school starts in the Fall. Documentation may also be turned into the District Office during the summer. If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse, Mrs. Stupp, RN, at 937-962-2631.



## Elementary School



Denny Dyer

Grades 2, 3 and 4 are all busy preparing for the upcoming state and national tests that are given each year to those grade levels. Grade 2 will be taking the Terra Nova test during the week of March 5th. Grades 3 & 4 will be taking the social studies and science sections of the test on March 6th & 7th. In addition, Grades 3 & 4 will be taking the state Ohio Achievement Assessments in reading and math the week of April 23—April 30th. Most of the testing for both tests will take place from 9 am—11:45 am each day. It is VERY important that all students are here for testing (all tests missed must be made up the next day), are on time (students who arrive after the testing starts will need to return home until the testing time is complete that day), get a good night's rest, eat a good breakfast and give their best effort possible. Results of the tests are not usually returned to the school until June or early July.

We have already begun the process for registering kindergarten students for next year and have two more dates coming up

## Middle School



Joe Finkbine

Even though our winter has not been as harsh as some in the past, I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring and warm weather. While warm weather feels good, with spring comes state testing for the middle school and a great opportunity for students to show what they know. TCNMS will be conducting the Ohio Achievement Assessment from April 23—May 4. The fifth and eighth grade students will be taking the Reading, Math and Science tests while the sixth and seventh grade students will be taking Reading and Math tests. Parents, you can help your child(ren) by making sure they get plenty of rest and a good breakfast during the testing. We will test students first thing in the morning so students need to have their brains ready to go! The TCNMS staff has worked diligently to prepare students for these tests and anticipate great results.

I am very pleased to report how well the TCNMS students have represented us in the Preble County competitions this year. Congratulations to our Geography Bee Champion, Ethan Wallen. Ethan is a 7th grader and has become the second county Geography Bee champion in the last three years. The Preble County Science Fair winners were Kevin Tomlin, Morgan Helman, Hailey Thies, and Tucker Rother. We have several students who will be participating in the district science fair at the University of Cincinnati in March. Great job to the students on showing Preble County the PRIDE of TCNMS!

### *Did You Know?*

*If you plug your nose, you can't hum (must keep your mouth closed too).*

## High School



Doug Dunham

TCNHS is in the process of registering students for classes for the 2012-2013 school year. The class registration booklets will be sent home soon and we will be meeting with students to complete their schedule requests. We want to let you know of some of the outstanding course offerings that TCN can offer your son or daughter:

**Dual Enrollment in partnership with Indiana University:** high school classes offered where you can obtain college credit through Indiana University by successfully completing the courses. The courses are taught by TCNHS staff who are certified by Indiana University.

**Advance Placement English 11:** for students who have shown success in the language arts and are willing to read extensively over the summer months. The AP test is administered in May and depending on the results and the standards of the college the student decides to attend, the student may

to register in the District Office. Those dates are March 13th—3:30-6:30 pm, and April 11th—1:00-4:00 pm. Parents need to bring: birth certificates, three proofs of residency, immunization records and custody paperwork, if applicable. You may contact Noelle Murray at the District Office at 962-2671 for more information. Please register now as they must be registered in order to participate in screening in August.

The end of the school year is always very busy! Several field trips are scheduled, as well as two of our bigger events, the 2nd & 4th grade music program and our annual Field Day. Our Field Day is possible through the collection of box tops and our students have done an outstanding job of collecting these over the past few years. Thank you to all who have helped support our Field Day through the collection of box tops and please continue to do so. It is deeply appreciated!

Continue to check our website as it is updated frequently!

earn college credit.

**Foreign Language Proficiency Exam:** Spanish and French students may take a proficiency exam through Sinclair and earn up to 12 credits, which are transferrable to any public university or college in Ohio.

**Post-Secondary Educational Option Program:** students may choose to attend a local college during part or all of the school day and earn college credits while in high school. Must have a minimum GPA of 3.0.

TCN is also expanding their elective course offerings in 2012-2013! Students can enroll in Psychology and Sociology. We will also be offering a Project MORE semester elective class where older students serve as mentors to younger students with the purpose of improving reading skills. For more information, please contact Cathy Norris, HS Guidance Counselor.

# Spring Athletics

## March

- 19: Varsity BB scrimmage vs. Valley View—4:30 pm
- 24: Varsity BB @ Carlisle—11:00 am & 1:00 pm  
JV BB vs. Carlisle—11:00 am & 1:00 pm
- 27: JH Track @ Eaton—4:30 pm
- 29: HS & JH Track vs. Newton—4:30 pm
- 30: Varsity BB @ Greenville—4:30 pm  
JV BB vs. Greenville—4:30 pm
- 31: Varsity BB vs. Preble Shawnee—10:00 am & 12 noon  
JV BB @ Northmont—10:00 am & 12 noon

## April

- 2: Varsity BB & SB @ Dixie—5:00 pm  
JV BB vs. Dixie—5:00 pm
- 3: Varsity BB & SB @ Mississinawa—5:30 pm  
JV BB & SB vs. Mississinawa—5:00 pm  
HS Track @ National Trail—4:30 pm
- 5: Varsity SB vs. Newton—5:00 pm  
JV SB @ Newton—5:00 pm
- 7: Varsity SB vs. Preble Shawnee—10:00 am & 12 noon  
JV SB @ Preble Shawnee—10:00 am & 12 noon
- 10: Varsity Track @ Valley View (Quad) - 4:30 pm  
Varsity BB & SB @ Tri-Village—5:00 pm  
JV BB & SB vs. Tri-Village—5:00 pm
- 12: Varsity BB & SB vs. Ansonia—5:00 pm  
JV BB & SB @ Ansonia—5:00 pm
- 13: Varsity BB & SB @ Bethel—5:00 pm  
JV BB & SB vs. Bethel—5:00 pm  
Varsity Track @ TVS—TBA
- 14: Varsity BB vs. Anna—11:00 am

## Breakfast Is Served!



Did you know that Tri-County North offers students a good, hearty breakfast every school day? Well, we do! Breakfast is served in the cafeteria to all students in grades K-12 for \$1.75 per breakfast. High School and Middle School students eat breakfast from 7:00-7:30 a.m. while Elementary students eat breakfast from 8:30-9:00 a.m. Students that qualify for free or reduced lunches also qualify for free or reduced breakfast. If you have any questions regarding school breakfast, please contact Brenda Lawson at 937-962-2671 or 937-833-2974. School breakfast....the FUEL for school!

- 14: JV BB @ Anna—11:00 am & 1:00 pm
- 16: Varsity SB @ Stivers—5:00 pm  
JH Track @ Arcanum—TBA
- 17: Varsity BB & SB @ Covington—5:00 pm  
JV BB & SB vs. Covington—5:00 pm
- 19: Varsity BB & SB vs. Miami East—5:00 pm  
JV BB & SB @ Miami East—5:00 pm
- 20: Varsity BB & SB vs. National Trail—5:00 pm  
JV BB & SB @ National Trail—5:00 pm
- 21: Varsity Track @ Eaton—9:30 am  
Varsity BB & SB @ Carlisle—11:00 am & 1:00 pm  
JV BB vs. Carlisle—11:00 am & 1:00 pm
- 23: JH Track @ Arcanum—TBA  
Varsity BB & SB @ TVS—5:00 pm  
JV BB vs. TVS—5:00 pm
- 24: Varsity Track @ TVS—TBA
- 26: JH Track @ TVS—4:30 pm
- 27: Varsity BB & SB vs. Arcanum—5:00 pm  
JV BB & SB @ Arcanum—5:00 pm
- 28: Varsity Track @ Arcanum—9:00 am  
Varsity BB vs. Brookville—10:00 am & 12 noon  
JV BB @ Brookville—10:00 am & 12 noon

## May

- 1: JH Track @ home (Preble County Meet) - 4:00 pm  
Varsity BB & SB @ Bradford—5:00 pm
- 3: JH Track @ TVS—4:30 pm
- 4: Varsity BB vs. Newton—5:00 pm  
JV BB @ Newton—5:00 pm
- 5: Varsity BB & SB @ Preble Shawnee—TBA
- 7: Varsity Track @ Tri-Village—4:30 pm
- 8: JH Track @ Tri-Village—4:00 pm
- 10: Varsity Track @ CCC Meet @ TVS—4:30 pm (semi-finals)
- 11: JH Track @ CCC Meet @ TVS—4:30 pm
- 12: Varsity Track @ CCC Meet @ TVS—11:00 am (finals)



## Fifth Grade Science Fun!



In January, fifth grade science students had the opportunity to dissect owl pellets. They first learned what an owl pellet is made of. Next, they worked with a partner to carefully pick bones out of the pellet. The students used a bone chart to identify unknown bones and sorted the bones by body parts. Often, there were more than one skeleton (or parts of) to piece together. Afterwards, the students shared their identification of the different prey and predicted the habitat in which the owl lived and preyed. The students also utilized an interactive owl pellet website on the Smartboard. Through the use of owl pellets, the fifth grade students used process and inquiry skills to investigate the interactions within an ecosystem.



## Elementary Family Fun Night



Tri-County North's Elementary Family Fun Night is scheduled for Friday, April 13th, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Come join us for games, food and prizes! We will also have the auction and 50/50 raffle to participate in. If you are an individual or a business that would like to donate to our auction, please contact Heather Means at 962-2673. It is a great way to get involved with the school and free advertisement. More information about the evening will be sent home with your student in the near future.

## Yearbooks Available



Yearbooks for the 2011-2012 school year are on sale now! Students and/or parents need to go to [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com), where you can pay by credit card.

Also, a limited number of old yearbooks can be purchased from the High School office by calling 937-962-2675. Feel free to leave a message and someone will return your call. Yearbooks range from 1998 to current year. You may also stop in to purchase a yearbook.

### *Did You Know?*

*The average person will spend two weeks over their lifetime waiting for traffic lights to change.*



FCCLA Cares Project: TCN FCCLA has been planning, preparing and delivering healthy meals to older adults in the Lewisburg Community



Wesley Morrow and Ashton Purcell work on their Computer Application II game box design

## All-CCC Teams Announced



The Cross County Conference Teams have been selected. Those receiving special recognition for their hard work and dedication to basketball are:

### All-Conference First Team

Megan Johnson

### All-Conference Second Team

Kindra Mullins

Austin Hutchins

### Special Mention

Kelly Schriever

Billy Derringer

Congratulations to all of the TCN athletes for being selected to the All-County Conference Teams!



## Story Time In French

A group of high school French students recently visited Ms. Florkey's second grade class to read them "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" in French. They drew pictures of some of the vocabulary they were using in the story. They worked for two weeks preparing the vocabulary pictures, practicing their pronunciation of the French words and practicing using inflection to represent their characters. The cast consisted of Goldilocks—Brandy Dryden, Papa Bear—Gonzalo Naya Pita, Mama Bear—Maggie Cornaire, and Baby Bear—Chassidy McKinney. Our narrator, Cody Hobbs, was unfortunately ill the day of the performance, but did a lot of work preparing for it. The second grade students, as well as the high school students, seemed to enjoy the experience.



## Students Compete In Geography Bee Science Carnival Held For 3rd Grade

Four students from Tri-County North competed at the Preble County Geography Bee on January 31st at Twin Valley South. Students in grades 4-8 from across the county got a chance to test their geography skills against one another. In the 4th and 5th grade division, Billy Croucher, Delaney Shively and Brandon Smeltzer represented Tri-County North. In the 6th-8th grade division, Ethan Wallen represented Tri-County North. Students were asked a variety of questions from states and capital questions to the identification of state license plates. Their favorite part of the competition came when they were asked to identify states that were the top producers of certain items like: cherries, apples, pecans and chocolate. In the end, Ethan Wallen tied for first with two other students. Great job Ethan, Billy, Delaney and Brandon!



Meca 4th graders staged an interactive science carnival for all 3rd grade classes. Booths featured “hands-on” activities such as domino chain reactions, electrical nerve testers, density goo tubes, light periscopes, and other physics toys.



TCN 3rd Grade Students

Meanwhile, Meca 3rd graders have been using the scientific method to investigate chemical reactions.

### Did You Know?

*You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching TV.*

## 7th Grade Student-Led Conferences Still Successful!

TCNMS seventh graders have participated in student-led conferences for five years with attendance rates from 50-80%. The format differs from traditional conferences in many ways. Students gather and share work compiled from their core classes with the option of including work from other classes. Flexible timing allows families to attend at their convenience, and stay as long as they like. For some families, the student-led conference is the first one they have attended in their child’s academic career, as traditional conferences focus primarily on struggling students. The casual atmosphere in the cafeteria allows families to relax, but also have privacy if they choose. Teachers enjoy watching students interact with their parents regarding class work. If a parent needs a teacher, he/she is available. The seventh grade team of teachers agree that the student-led format allows for more parent/teacher contact than traditional conferences. Never before have the teachers been able to see as many parents. Overall, the student-led conferences are a positive experience that gives families greater insight to their child’s academic accomplishments and areas for improvement. We are proud to be a part of a successful communication connection.



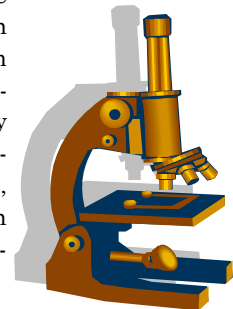
## Students Excel At County Science Fair

On February 4th, some of our local Science “Shining Stars” went to Twin Valley South to compete at the county level. They all did very well, leaving with high marks and trophies at each level where they competed. Some of our brilliant students are now off to compete at the district science fair held at the University of Cincinnati. Congratulations and good luck at the next level!

Those who participated at Twin Valley South are as follows:

Destiny Lane—Sink or Swim, Kerstin Armstrong—Blood Spatter (trophy winner), Laura Edgar—Removing Soap, Devin Shiverdecker—Attracting Critters, Katie Jones—How Osmosis Works in Plants, Gonzalo Naya Pita—Franken Grass (trophy winner), Cole Salisbury—Concentration Dependent Antibodies (trophy winner), Logan Goines—The World of

Ants, Luke Thies—Bacterial Reaction to Cleaners, Tucker Rother—Not That Simple (trophy winner), Kasidi Meyers—Diaper Absorbency, Andrea Combs—Veggie Power, Savanna Singleton—How Different Amounts of Sugar Effects Plant Growth, Paige Daugherty—Does Light Effect the Rate at Which Food Spoils?, Kaila McGee—The Effect of Age on Test Scores, Kevin Tomlin—Temperature and Magnetism (trophy winner), Anna Norris—Are Permanent Markers Really Permanent? (trophy winner), Lauren Koenig—Egg Substitutes, Cody Clark—Nothing To Sneeze At, and partners Hailey Thies and Morgan Helman—Vinegar Bubbles (trophy winners).



## Tri-County North Local Schools

### 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 School: 937-962-2673

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## Upcoming Events



### April

- 2-6: Spring Break—No School
- 8: Easter
- 11: Kindergarten Registration—District Office—1:00-4:00 pm
- 13: Spring Picture Day  
ES Family Fun Night—4:30-6:30 pm
- 14: Junior/Senior Prom @ Meadowbrook—6:30-11:30 pm  
After Prom @ Vandalia Rec Center—11:30 pm-3:00 am
- 16: TCN Board of Education Meeting—7:30 pm
- 19: ES Parent/Teacher Conferences—3:30-5:30 pm  
National Honor Society Induction—7:00 pm
- 20: Interims Sent Home With Students  
TCN National Honor Society Blood Drive—7:00-11:00 am
- 23-30: 3rd-8th Grade Ohio Achievement Testing—9-11:45 am
- 26: Preble County Honors Scholars Banquet—6:00 pm
- 8-11: 5th-8th Grade Terra Nova Testing
- 10: Band Concert—7:00 pm
- 10-11: 6th Grade—Dearborn, Michigan Field Trip
- 13: Mother's Day
- 14: Senior Awards—6:30 pm in High School Cafeteria
- 16: STARS
- 17: 2nd & 4th Grade Music Program—6:30 pm
- 18: 3rd Grade Field Trip to Caesar's Creek  
MVCTC Senior Recognition @ Wright State—7:00 pm
- 21: Elementary Field Day  
TCN Board of Education Meeting—7:30 pm
- 22: Last Day For Students  
Grade Cards Sent Home With Students
- 23: Baccalaureate Ceremony @ TBA—6:00 pm
- 24: Graduation @ Salem Church of God—7:00 pm
- 28: Memorial Day

### May

- 2-4: 4th Grade to Woodland Altars
- 3: 1st Grade Field Trip to Indianapolis Zoo—9am-5pm
- 7: Recess Day—No School

### June

- 17: Father's Day
- 25: TCN Board of Education Meeting—7:30 pm