

New Faces At TCN!



With several staff members retiring last year, we have quite a few new faces at TCN! Please join TCN in welcoming Andrew Jackson, Middle School Intervention Specialist, Bradley Koopman, Middle School Language Arts, Charles Hoce, Middle School Math, Kelly McGhee, High School Language Arts, Lisa Galpin, Middle School Science, Shelly Frank, MS/HS Family & Consumer Science, Dana Morgan, MS/HS Music & Choir, Joanele Hoce, Intervention Support and Literacy Specialist, and Mike Akers, Athletic Director. We welcome and wish everyone a very successful year at TCN! (Dana Morgan not available for picture.)



November 7, 2010

TRI-COUNTY NORTH LOCAL SCHOOLS

Panther Pride



From The Desk Of The Superintendent William Derringer



This summer we made many improvements to our facilities, none more obvious than the parking lot project which went on most of the month of July. The end product really turned out nice and the parking lots look great! As part of this project we also added a new catch basin and some additional drainage in front of the elementary entrance in an attempt to solve the water problem that we had in the past that many of you may have noticed as you picked up or dropped off your students during heavy rain storms. We also removed all the old asphalt and added a firm sub base for the lot on the south side of the building and resurfaced or resealed all other areas. The finishing touches of striping and painting the curbs really made the lot look nice.

In order to do a project of this magnitude, we utilized permanent improvement dollars. These dollars can only be spent for improvements to the facilities or for purchases that will last five years or longer. We also use permanent improvement money for projects such as replacing roofs, replacing heat pumps, boilers or chillers, painting the walls and many other updates that keep our building well maintained and functioning. I also wanted to mention that permanent improvement dollars cannot be used for operating expenses, salaries or benefits, or other supplies or equipment that does not last five years or longer. I want to thank the community for always supporting and providing the permanent improvement funds that allow us to maintain such a nice school facility, which, I might add, was paid off last December.

There were many other projects that took place over the summer: the middle school gym was repainted for the first time in twenty years, the high school and middle school office complex was repainted, new soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers we added into all bathrooms and new kindergarten tables were added to the outdoor area so that our students have an outdoor lab area for studies and activities, just to name a few.

We are off to a great start again this year and it is hard to believe that we have all ready completed five weeks of school. At this time, all parents should have received your child's interim reports and hopefully have discussed their progress with them. I also want to remind parents that you have the ability to log on to progress book from any computer and access your child's grades and attendance. If you do not have a log in or password to access progress book, please contact the building principals' office and they can provide this information to you. Please remember, that your child will experience more success in school if you, as their parent, check on their progress and discuss their progress with them on a regular basis.

I also want to remind everyone that the week of October 4th-8th is considered count week for the schools in the state of Ohio. Please, if at all possible, have your child ride the bus and be in attendance each day as this does impact the amount of state funding that we receive for our school.

Thank you, again, for all of your support and for making TCN a wonderful place for our students. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments or concerns. I can be reached at the Tri-County North District Office at 937-962-2671.

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TCNES is off to another great start this year! We welcomed 23 new students this year in grades 1-4, as well as 68 new kindergarten students. Our entire staff does a great job in assisting students who are new to our school. Please feel free to call us if you or your child needs any kind of help in these types of situations.

We are collecting Boxtops and Campbell's soup labels once again. We are working very hard to top last year's record-setting total of 40,000 boxtops! This total was the 24th most of any school in the state of Ohio and our goal this year is to be the top school in Ohio and in the top 10 nationwide. We have started collecting already and are over 3,000 so far, so keep them coming! We were able to finance our Field Day in late May and hope to do the same again this year!

Third graders will be taking the Ohio Achievement Reading Test on October 5th from 9 am to 12 noon. Please be sure you scheduled appointments and vacations around this date, as we only have a couple of days to administer the test. **ALL THIRD GRADERS MUST TAKE THE ASSESSMENT!** Please be sure students get a good night's rest, eat a good breakfast, are here on time and give their very best effort on the test. In addition, ALL 3rd and 4th graders will be taking the Ohio Reading and Math achievement tests the week of April 25-29, 2011. PLEASE mark those days on your calendars and please avoid vacations and/or appointments,

especially early in the week. ALL tests missed must be made up in a short window of time and the testing week is the week just after our spring break. Please plan accordingly.

During the month of October, we will be having our picture day, several field trips and our annual Halloween celebration. Please look over the calendar for specific dates and watch for more information and guidelines on our school webpage, the new sign in our lobby and notes home from staff. In addition, there is another Waiver Day in October on October 12th, which is utilized for staff development and students are not in attendance that day. Please note that students are not in session on Monday, October 11th, in honor of Columbus Day. This will give students and families a four day weekend. We will also be having additional Waiver Days on January 18th and February 22, 2011. These dates also follow Mondays in which school is not in session, creating more long weekends for our families.

Please be sure that you access our webpage at www.tcnschools.com for up-to-date information on the "Calendar of Events" and "Parent Memo" sections, as we try to update that site every month.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Elementary office at 937-962-2673. Let's have another great year!

Middle School



Joe Finkbine

The school year has gotten off to a great start and is going by fast. Interim reports have already come home. If you have any questions regarding your child's education, please feel free to contact the teacher via email listed on www.tcnschools.com or by phone 937-962-2631. You are all a critical part of your son/daughter's education. Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled on November 11th from 2:30-8:30 p.m. This gives you, the parent, another time to come in and see your child's progress; don't hesitate to call and schedule an appointment.

Each spring our 6th Grade students get to go on a wonderful 2 day, 1 night trip to Dearborn, Michigan. The trip includes visiting Ford's Museum, Rouge Truck Plant and Greenfield Village. This trip costs the students approximately \$250 to attend. To help students and parents defray the cost each year, students have the opportunity to sell Panther Cards. The Panther Cards are supported by 18 local businesses by providing discounts to patrons who use the card with purchases. The cards cost \$10.00 each and students get to put \$9.00 of that towards the

cost of the trip. Students in the past have paid for their entire trip just by selling the Panther Cards! Cards will be sold starting September 24th through October 14th. If you would like one of these cards, please contact a sixth grade student or stop by the Middle School office and we can sell one to you. We hope to have a great sale this year!



High School



Jeff Parker

Tri-County North High School offers a wonderful advisor-advisee program (S.T.E.P.S.) for each of the students in the building. The program, which focuses on each student's future, is part of an initiative that TCN HS entered into nine years ago entitled High Schools That Work (HSTW).

Incoming freshmen are assigned a S.T.E.P.S. advisor for their four years of high school and each advisor is responsible for approximately 14-20 students. The 5-6 advisors for each grade level work and plan together in order to create S.T.E.P.S. activities for the students. The activities include, but are not limited to resume skills, sample job applications, career assessments, career exploration, career passports, goal setting (short and long term), post-secondary education exploration, area employers and professionals' presentations. The sessions are held on Fridays, approximately 13-15 times

throughout the year.

If you have any questions regarding S.T.E.P.S., please do not hesitate to contact your child's advisor for more details.

Twelve TCN HS students will be attending the annual Anthony Munoz Leadership Seminar on the campus of Xavier University. The students were nominated by their teachers earlier in the school year. The twelve students are Cole Gunder, Magaret Myers, Jesse Cavendish, Megan Johnson, Kelly Schriever, J.J. MacPherson, Tyler Gallaher, Katie Gingery, Brandi Dryden, Aaron Patrick, Makayla Conley and Robbie Plsek. Previous years' themes have included G.E.T M.A.D. (Get Everyone To Make A Difference); Strive for Excellence; Get Ready for Life, etc. The 2010 theme is "Impact for Eternity".



October

- 1: Varsity Football @ Miami East—7:30 pm
- 2: HS & JH Cross Country @ St. Xavier—8:30 am
JV Football @ home vs. Miami East—10:00 am
HS Volleyball @ home vs. Brookville—10:00 am
- 4: Boys Varsity Soccer @ Belmont—5:00 pm
HS Volleyball @ home vs. Waynesville—5:30 pm
- 5: JH Football @ home vs. TVS—5:00 pm
JH Volleyball @ home vs. Tri-Village—5:00 pm
HS Volleyball @ Tri-Village—5:30 pm
- 6: JH Volleyball @ West Carrollton—5:00 pm
- 7: JH Volleyball @ Newton—5:00 pm
HS Volleyball @ home vs. Newton—5:30 pm
Girls Varsity Soccer @ home vs. TVS—5:30 pm
Boys Varsity Soccer @ home vs. TVS—7:15 pm
- 8: Varsity Football @ home vs. TVS—7:30 pm
- 9: HS & JH Cross Country @ Centerville—9:30 am
JH Volleyball Tournament @ Covington—TBA
JV Football @ TVS—10:00 am
- 11: HS Volleyball @ Preble Shawnee—5:30 pm
- 12: HS Volleyball @ Mississinawa—5:30 pm
JH Football @ National Trail—5:00 pm
- 14: HS Volleyball @ home vs. Franklin-Monroe—5:30 pm
Girls Varsity Soccer @ home vs. Bethel—5:30 pm
Boys Varsity Soccer @ Bethel—7:00 pm
- 15: Varsity Football @ National Trail—7:30 pm
- 16: HS & JH Cross Country CCC Tourney @ Tri-Village—TBA
JV Football @ home vs. National Trail—10:00 am



- 19: JH Football @ home vs. Ansonia—5:00 pm
- 22: Varsity Football @ home vs. Ansonia—7:30 pm
- 23: JV Football @ Ansonia—10:00 am
- 29: Varsity Football @ Arcanum—7:30 pm

November

- 30: JH Girls BB @ Ansonia—5:00 pm

December

- 3: HS Boys BB @ home vs. Miami East—6:30 pm
- 4: Varsity Wrestling @ Brookville—10:00 am
JH Girls BB @ home vs. Bethel—10:00 am
HS Boys BB @ home vs. Madison—6:00 pm
- 6: JH Boys BB @ TVS—5:00 pm
- 7: JH Girls BB @ home vs. Covington—5:00 pm
- 9: JH Boys BB @ home vs. Arcanum—5:00 pm
- 10: HS Boys BB @ Covington—6:30 pm
- 11: Varsity Wrestling @ Edgewood (Trenton) - 10:00 am
JH Girls BB @ Miami East—10:00 am
- 14: JH Girls BB @ National Trail—5:00 pm
- 16: JH Boys BB @ Bradford—5:00 pm
- 17: HS Boys BB @ Bethel—6:30 pm
- 18: Varsity Wrestling @ Versailles—TBA
JH Boys BB @ Franklin-Monroe—10:00 am
HS Boys BB @ home vs. Dixie—6:00 pm
- 21: HS Boys BB @ home vs. Ansonia—6:00 pm
- 23: JH Boys BB @ Mississinawa—5:00 pm
- 29: HS Boys BB Holiday Tourney @ Preble Shawnee—TBA
- 30: HS Boys BB Holiday Tourney @ Preble Shawnee—TBA



Mobile Dentist Coming To TCN



2010 Homecoming



On November 8th, Mobile Dentists will set up a mini-dental clinic at TCN and can provide dental examinations, cleanings, fluoride treatments, x-rays, and sealants (if necessary) for children who return completed forms. This program is offered in partnership with a non-profit foundation and is at no cost to the Tri-County North School District. Forms were sent home with elementary students on September 24th. MS/HS students can pick up forms in the MS/HS offices. If parents are interested in their child participating in this preventative program, completed forms should be returned to the school by October 5th. Prompt return is important because Mobile Dentists will be sending parents requesting financial assistance a grant application. Call the school nurse if you have any questions.

The Tri-County North High School Student Council would like to announce the 2010 Homecoming theme, "UNMASKED". The football game will be held on Friday, October 8th, against Twin Valley South. The homecoming dance will be held in the high school gym on Saturday, October 9th, from 7:30—10:30 p.m. Doors will open promptly at 7:00 p.m. **No student is permitted to leave the dance and return for any reason.** Ticket prices are \$10.00 for single and \$20.00 per couple and will be on sale September 20th—October 8th at various times of the day.

PRIDE—Panthers Respectful, Responsible & Safe!

This year our character education program at TCN Elementary will focus on our three school-wide rules (see above) of **Panther Pride**. The monthly character theme will fall under the area of Respect, Responsibility or Safety. Mrs. Haman (elementary guidance counselor) will present a monthly program to the students during library time. The program will include possible activities of a story, group discussion, role playing, puppetry, and educational games.

In early September, our elementary students enjoyed our first school assembly on “RESPECT” presented by America’s #1 Children’s Ventriloquist, Mark Wade from Grove City, Ohio. Everyone, staff and students alike, were reminded of what RESPECT looks like in a captivating, entertaining manner!

Students will also have an opportunity to receive our Panther Spirit Character Award Certificate as they are “caught being

good” by our school staff. The student certificates are entered into a monthly drawing. If the student’s name is drawn, that student receives a prize from Mrs. Haman.



Abbie Campbell, a prevention educator from The Marie Dwyer Recovery Center in Eaton will also visit our school this year to involve students in the following programs: Tobacco Education, Life Skills, and Bully Prevention. These programs are provided free of cost to the school through funding from the Mental Health and Recovery Board in Preble County.

To round out our fall character education program, our school will recognize Red Ribbon Week in late October with different school activities each day. Red Ribbon

Week is a national event which focuses on educating students about making healthy choices including “saying NO to Drugs”.

Attendance Q and A

Why call your child in? Answer: You will not receive phone calls later that day.

If my child has a Dr. appointment or is going to leave early, what should I do? Answer: You can send in a note ahead of time for planned appointments. If your child will be leaving early you can send a note in with the time and date prior to or the day of.

We planned a family vacation when school is in session. What do I need to do? Answer: Send in a note/letter/email stating you are going on vacation and include the dates you will be gone. These requests should be done at least (2) two weeks ahead of time. The principal will sign this for approval then your child will take a paper around to their teachers to sign so they can prepare work for your student. A parent copy of the vacation will be sent home.

What do we need to do for a college visit? Answer: Send in a note/letter/email stating: child’s name, college attending, and date going for the visit. Your child will receive a college visit form to take around for their teachers to sign. Mr. Parker will sign the form once all teachers have signed. When they return to school a letter/card with the college name on it stating that you did take a tour of the college needs to be taken to the attendance office. (With this paper from the college, it will be counted as school related and not counted as a day of absence.)

Why should I send a note in if I called in? Answer: It provides paper work for the school in case we get audited and also is a good way to double check that the absence has been marked the correct way.

What is the difference between a parent note and a doctor note? Answer: There is a limit of 10 parent notes per student. After that, doctor notes are required. Doctor notes are unlimited.

If you have any other questions, please contact Debbie Fullmer at 962-2631 x 233.

Outdoor Classroom Added



Some students in Mrs. Falldorf’s kindergarten class enjoyed an afternoon snack the first day of school on the new outdoor tables outside the kindergarten classrooms. The old kindergarten playground was recently renovated into an outdoor classroom with colorful tables and a large open space for learning activities



Just A Reminder!
If you’re not receiving One Call messages from TCN, please contact Noelle Murray at the TCN District Office at 962-2671.

HIGH SCHOOLS THAT WORK/OIP Initiatives Update

TCN High School has been a *High Schools That Work (HSTW)* site for many years. During our last site visit in 2009, recommendations were made to improve the quality of education for our students. Our staff has been working diligently to devise an action plan which specifies goals toward improving our instruction and student achievement. These goals were also incorporated into the High Schools Ohio Improvement Plan (OIP). Below is a brief summary of what we have accomplished during the 2009-2010 school year. One goal was to improve and continue to provide solid, beneficial Professional Development based in part on results of teacher surveys. Our three

waiver day in-services last year focused on formative and summative assessment, which several teachers in our building began to implement in their classes during the 2009-2010 school year. During the August in-service, teachers attended sessions on using the SmartBoards. This in-service also addressed another goal, which was to provide professional development for our teachers on classroom use of technology. Attendance is an important issue in the workplace, so it was included in our list of goals for improvement. One group of teachers collected attendance policies from various schools and businesses, and will be analyzing these policies this year and making recommendations later this year. Offer-

ing more Dual Enrollment courses here at TCN High School has also been an ongoing goal. This year, three dual enrollment courses, one in Science and the other two in Language Arts, will be offered through IU East. In addition, students will have the opportunity to take online courses through Sinclair here at our building. Finally, we will be publicizing information to parents and the community about ongoing and/or new school improvement initiatives TCN is implementing. Look for more updates as we continue to seek ways to better prepare our students for the world beyond high school.



The Muse Machine



The Muse Machine is nationally recognized arts education organization serving over 70,000 students annually in 13 counties in southwestern Ohio and northern Kentucky. The Muse Machine works with students in grades K-12 to provide them with opportunities to learn in and through the arts. This is done through in-school assemblies, field trips and out of school performances. It offers students countless opportunities to explore a variety of art forms—from ballet, instrumental music and theatre to contemporary dance and the visual arts. More importantly, it is through exposure to the arts that students are introduced to ideas and beliefs that may be different from their own.

When students join Muse at Tri-County North, they will have the opportunity to attend four in-school performances:

1. **The Human Race Theatre Company:** "Shakespeare Comes to Life: Belch, Bottom, and the Boys", a crash course through Shakespearean comedy (October 5th).
2. **Internationally-acclaimed Dancer and Choreographer**

Lula Elzy: Choreographing a song from Motown, Broadway or Inspired by Glee (November 10th).

3. **Zoot Theatre Company:** Masks and puppets tell the story in a visually stunning and hauntingly beautiful brand new show entitled "Aesop's Fables: Laws of Man as Beast" (February 15th).
4. **Dayton Contemporary Dance Company:** "African Americans in American Life," an expressive picture of the artistic influences of African Americans (April 12th).

Students will also have the opportunity to attend at least one field trip to see a professional performance or visit an exhibit for a minimal fee.

How do students join? Fill out a membership form (available in room 112) and return it with the \$30.00 membership fee to Mrs. Hamblin by October 13th. The first in-school performance is scheduled for October 15, 2010! Don't miss out on a great organization and wonderful experience!

First Graders Hold Grandparents Day

TCN First Graders hosted their first ever Grandparents Day on Friday, September 10th. We welcomed over 80 guests for the morning. Grandparents got to spend some time in the classroom, stayed for lunch with their grandchildren and enjoyed seeing what their grandchild does at TCN. Thank you to our food service team who provided a great meal for all! The day went so well that we hope to expand the day to other grades in the spring or next school year!



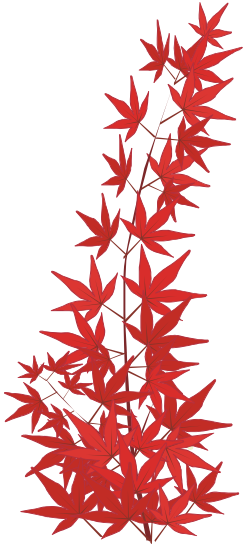
**TRI-COUNTY NORTH LOCAL
SCHOOLS**

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

District: 937-962-2671
High School: 937-962-2675
Middle School: 937962-2631
Elementary School: 937-962-2673

www.tcnschools.com

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Upcoming Events



October

- 1: MS Fall Fling—6:00 pm
- 4-8: Spirit Week
- 6: Homecoming Parade & Bonfire—7:00 pm
- 5 & 6: 3rd Grade—Ohio Achievement Reading Test
- 7: 3rd Grade Field Trip to Victoria Theater
- 8: 5th Grade Field Trip to Air Force Museum
- 9: Homecoming Dance—7:00—10:30 pm
- 11: Columbus Day—NO SCHOOL
- 12: Teacher In-Service Day—NO SCHOOL
- 18: TCN Board of Education Meeting—7:30 pm
- 22: 4th Grade Field Trip to Piqua Historical Society
End of 1st Quarter
- 26: Elementary Picture Day
- 27-29: FFA National Convention in Indianapolis
- 28: Financial Aid Information Night—6:30 pm
- 29: Elementary Halloween Celebration
Grade Cards Sent Home With Students



- 1 & 4: Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences—3:30-6:30 pm
- 2-5: 8th Grade Trip to Washington D.C.
- 8: Mobile Dentist
- 11: MS Parent / Teacher Conferences—2:30-8:30 pm
- 12: Veterans Day Assembly—12:30 pm
- 15: TCN Board of Education Meeting—7:30 pm
- 19: 1st Grade Field Trip to Richmond Civic Center
- 23: Interims Sent Home With Students
- 24-26: Thanksgiving Break—NO SCHOOL
- 30: 4th Grade Parent Meeting (Woodland Altars) - 5:30 pm



December

- 2 & 3: 8th Grade to MVCTC
- 3: Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon—12:30 pm
- 8: TCN HS Science Fair—3:30 pm
- 13: 1st & 3rd Grade Music Program—6:30 pm (HS Gym)
- 15: MS/HS Band & Choir Concert—7:00 pm
- 20: TCN Board of Education Meeting—7:30 pm
- 22: End of 2nd Quarter
- 23—Jan. 2: Winter Break—NO SCHOOL



November

- 1: 5th Grade Field Trip to Victoria Theater