



Panther Pride

December, 2023

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From The Desk Of The Superintendent

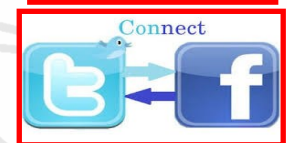
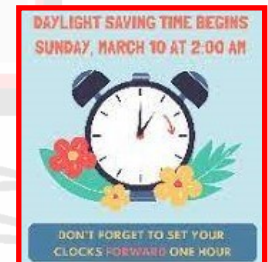
As we wind down the year and enjoy the holiday season. I would like to thank the Tri-County North Community for supporting the renewal of our existing one percent earned income tax levy this past November. The funds collected from this levy support operating expenses and allow us to continue to offer the programs and experiences that we have been able to offer to our students. The original levy was passed back in 2014 and this was the second renewal for this levy. When it was originally passed, we told our community that if it passed we would hopefully not have to go back to our tax payers and ask for additional new money for at least ten years. I am proud to report that not only have we exceeded the ten year expectation, but with the passage of this renewal, we should be good for the duration of the levy and hopefully several years beyond. I know that it was a very close contest but we do, again, thank you for your support in all of the things that we try to do to make TCN a great school for our students.

I am also proud to inform you that with dollars from the Governor's Safety Grant, we have been able to complete many upgrades which will improve our facilities tremendously. We have added several LED lights to the outside of our building and our parking lots to provide a much safer environment after dark. We have also added an additional 48 security cameras, including cameras at our bus garage, in the stairwells, in our gymnasiums, and down at the athletic stadium. We now have approximately 100 cameras in and around our facilities allowing us to record events internally and externally on our school campus. We have also replaced several of our HVAC units that were very old using this grant money. Lastly, we were able to upgrade some areas that needed new fencing and we also installed power gates at the bus garage and down at the stadium. All of these improvements will make our school and facilities a much safer place.

So far it has been a mild winter and we have once again made it through the first semester without using any calamity days. As most of you know, we utilize the "One Call" notification system in the event of an emergency, a two hour delay or a school closing. We have also added "Parent Square" to help us with these important notifications. If you have not provided a phone number for our database or if you experience any other issues or problems please contact Noelle Rhoades at the District Office at 937-962-2671 and she can assist with your issue. Our goal is to try to provide you with the best communication possible when these situations occur. We will still place most information on the local TV and radio stations as well for those who have family and friends that may not be in our system.

We hope that you enjoy this newsletter and that it helps to not only inform you of upcoming events, but that it provides you with a "snapshot" of some of the wonderful things that are happening here at Tri-County North. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As always, I want to thank you for your support! I can be reached at 937-962-2671 if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

William Derringer



TCN Honors Veterans

On November 10, Tri-County North honored all Veterans for their service from all branches of the military at our annual Veterans Day Program. There were musical performances by the TCN High School Band and the second through fourth grade students. NHS students conducted a presentation of war statistics. Special music was performed by Curtis Duncan and Erin Cress. This year's guest speaker was Spec 5 Richard Arthur. Veterans were honored by branch with the playing of the "Armed Forces Salute—The Pride of America". The Preble County Honor Guard performed the POW/MIA Remembrance Table Ceremony, the flag folding ceremony and the 21-Gun Salute. Students Colten Laux and Xavier Throop performed Taps. The program ended with the high school band performing the closing music. A reception to honor all of our Veterans and their families was held in the high school cafeteria following the program. A HUGE thank you to all of our staff and students who helped make this program a success! We couldn't hold such a wonderful program without you!



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Elementary School News

Joe Finkbine

The elementary school will be hosting a Family Literacy Night on Thursday, March 7th from 5:30pm - 7:00pm. Our theme this year will be based around the solar eclipse scheduled for our area on April 8, 2024. Please mark your calendars to attend as we will have a meal and several fun activities for you and your child to participate in while here. We would like to share some of the reasons for the importance of literacy. Literacy is the ability to read and write. 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 a 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 the reading levels has been made up in a 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 for 20 minutes a day have working vocabularies of 40,000 words before entering kindergarten. They have heard over 3 million words. Children who've barely been read to or none at all have 10,000 word vocabulary. They've heard just 750,000 words. So if you haven't read to your child prior to entering kindergarten doesn't mean that you failed and are at the point of no return. What this does mean is that it is critically important to start reading to your child to help improve their reading skills no matter 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 he/she is 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. Respect his/her privacy to read alone. 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. This helps your child build his/her confidence. A child can build so much confidence by reading to his/her baby brother or sister. Everyone wins! 4) Let your child see you struggle with words. I understand that 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 now to your child will have a lifelong effect, please take time to read to your child.

Middle School News

Tom Misenko

TCN Middle School hopes everyone is well and filled with the joy and warmth of the holiday season! Your unwavering support allows us to foster an environment where students thrive and succeed. The Middle School continues to encourage students' growth socially, emotionally, and academically. It is through this approach that we support both the District Vision of "Preparing for Tomorrow by Expecting Excellence Today!" and the MS mantra to stretch students to be "High School Ready." Mr. Schmidt's Social Studies lessons came alive as our 8th grade students visited National Landmarks in Washington D.C. Thank you to the multiple community donations that allowed several more students to attend. Ms. Miller's 6th graders visited virtually with park rangers in both Denali and Yellowstone National Parks. Her students learned about the biology, geology, and beauty preserved in these national treasures. Four MS staff members presented to an overflow crowd at the Ohio Middle Level Association conference on "Reading Strategies that Work." At the same conference, Nurse Harris received the Regional Award for Support Staff Person of the Year. MS & HS drama students combined to put on the play "Deadline," a murder mystery comedy written by Don Zolidis. 7th and 8th graders were privileged to hear Vietnam Veteran Spec 5 Richard Arthur speak about his experiences in the war. His sharing was extremely valuable for students' understanding of history during that era. Preble County Local Emergency Planning Committee members presented "Shelter in Place" to 5th graders, educating them about hazardous material emergency procedures. MS boys and girls basketball programs are fielding both 7th and 8th grade teams this season as we continue to grow our athletic participation. MS Quiz Team season is in full swing as our students flex their academic muscle with friendly rival schools. The Hope Squad continues its crusade in support of the emotional well-being of our students and received training at Sinclair. The MS also administered a Social/Emotional Learning survey that supplies data on the needs of our students. This allows us to better understand and serve them effectively. 8th graders visited the MVCTC and the Preble County ESC Job Fair as they evaluated their school/training/career paths. Staff members received professional development on Artificial Intelligence and its proper use in educational settings. The Kroger's Community Rewards program is up and running for the MS. Anyone can sign-up and designate Tri-County North Middle School as their organization of preference at www.krogerscommunityrewards. It does not take away any personal reward points.

High School News

Kristen Mills

Happy 2024!!! I would like to take this time to say I hope all of you had a happy holiday and are enjoying this season with your loved ones. Family makes the holidays special and each of our Panthers makes North such a magical place. We are so proud of them!!! What a great first semester we finished! I am incredibly thankful for our amazing staff who continue to go above and beyond for ALL Panthers. We will continue that momentum right into the second semester. Our Panthers have been living up to our theme this year: 100% Giving 100%. More students are volunteering around the village, at the Quarter Horse, Brown Memorial Library, helping around the school, and giving blood. If you could come to watch our student-athletes, you would notice students supporting each other and giving 100%. More students in CCP classes are giving it their all to earn college credits and their Associate's degree. Did you make it to the Panther Band Bash or halftime show? Our bandies give 100% at every performance. We invite everyone to come and support our Panthers!! If your Panther hasn't found something to get involved in, please have them stop by the office. We have numerous clubs and organizations from SADD, Student Council, Spanish Club, FFA, Drama, Hope Squad, Science Club, E-Sports, to all of our athletics and band opportunities. We hope you will encourage your Panther to get involved Second Semester. This semester is also very important inside the classroom. Juniors will take the ACT on February 28th. Students will be taking end-of-course exams in the Spring. Seniors are rounding third and heading home! Please be sure to stay up-to-date on all announcements! Finally, everyone here at Tri-County North is very thankful for the opportunity to educate your son/daughter to help prepare them to become productive citizens and lifelong learners. It is truly an honor, and we take it very seriously. Please know that we at TCN are here to help your son/daughter have the best school year possible. Thank you for your constant support, and as always...GO, NORTH!



Tri-County North Winter Athletics ** subject to change*

January

- 2: JHGB vs. Bradford—5:30 pm
JHBB @ Bradford—5:30 pm
- 4: HSGB vs. Bradford—6:00 pm
- 5: Freshman BB vs. Preble Shawnee—4:45 pm
HSBB vs. Preble Shawnee—6:00 pm
- 6: Varsity Wrestling @ Valley View—9:00 am
JHGB @ Preble Shawnee—10:00 am
JHBB vs. Preble Shawnee—10:00 am
HSGB @ Preble Shawnee—12:00 pm
HSBB @ Miami Valley—5:30 pm
- 8: JHGB vs. Franklin Monroe—5:30 pm
JHBB @ Franklin Monroe—5:30 pm
- 9: HSGB vs. Troy Christian—6:00 pm
- 11: HSGB vs. Franklin Monroe—6:00 pm
- 12: HSBB @ Franklin Monroe—6:00 pm
- 13: JHGB vs. Dixie—10:00 am
JHBB @ Dixie—10:00 am
Freshman BB vs. Emmanuel Christian—4:45 pm
HSBB vs. Emmanuel Christian—6:00 pm
- 16: JHGB @ Newton—5:30 pm
JHBB vs. Newton—5:30 pm
- 18: HSGB vs. Dixie—7:00 pm
- 19: Freshman BB @ Dixie—4:45 pm
HSBB @ Dixie—6:00 pm
- 20: Varsity Wrestling @ Brookville—9:00 am
Freshman BB vs. Brookville—4:45 pm
HSBB vs. Brookville—6:00 pm
- 22: JHGB vs. Mississinawa (8th only) - 5:30 pm
- 23: HSGB vs. TVS—6:00 pm
- 25: JHGB vs. Ansonia—5:30 pm
JHBB @ Mississinawa—5:30 pm
HSGB @ Newton—6:00 pm
- 26: Varsity Wrestling @ Eaton—4:30 pm
Freshman BB vs. Newton—4:45 pm
HSBB vs. Newton—6:00 pm
- 27: Varsity Wrestling @ Eaton—9:00 am
JHGB @ Brookville—10:00 am
JHBB vs. Brookville—10:00 am
HSGB @ Belmont (Varsity only) - 10:00 am
- 29: JHGB @ Arcanum—5:30 pm
JHBB vs. Arcanum—5:30 pm
- 30: HSGB @ Northridge—6:00 pm

February

- 1: HSGB vs. Mississinawa—6:00 pm
- 2: Freshman BB @ Mississinawa—4:45 pm
HSBB @ Mississinawa—6:00 pm
- 3: Freshman BB vs. Covington—4:45 pm
HSBB vs. Covington—6:00 pm
- 5: JHBB @ Ansonia—5:30 pm
HSGB @ Brookville—6:00 pm
- 8: HSGB @ Arcanum—6:00 pm
HSBB @ Greenon—6:00 pm
- 9: Freshman BB vs. Arcanum—4:45 pm
HSBB vs. Arcanum—6:00 pm
- 10: Varsity Wrestling @ Dixie—9:00 am
- 16: HSBB @ Ansonia—6:00 pm
- 17: Varsity Wrestling @ Preble Shawnee—9:00 am
HSBB @ National Trail—6:00 pm

March

- 12: Varsity BB Scrimmage @ Versailles—5:00 pm
- 14: Varsity BB Scrimmage @ Covington—5:00 pm
Varsity SB Scrimmage @ Butler—5:00 pm
- 19: Varsity BB Scrimmage @ Eaton—5:00 pm
Varsity SB Scrimmage vs. Houston—5:00 pm
- 21: Varsity BB Scrimmage vs. National Trail—5:00 pm
Varsity SB Scrimmage @ Wayne—5:00 pm
- 23: Varsity BB @ Lehman Catholic—12:00 pm
Varsity SB DH vs. Brookville—12:00 pm & 2:00 pm
- 26: Varsity BB vs. Brookville—5:00 pm
- 28: Varsity BB & SB @ National Trail—5:00 pm

April

- 1: Varsity BB @ Yellow Springs—5:30 pm
- 2: Varsity BB & SB vs. Tri-Village—5:00 pm
- 4: Varsity BB & SB @ TVS—5:00 pm
- 5: Varsity SB @ Talawanda—5:00 pm
Varsity Track @ Dixie—4:30 pm
- 6: Varsity SB DH vs. Tecumseh—11:00 am & 1:00 pm
- 9: JH Track @ Arcanum—4:30 pm
Varsity BB & SB vs. Bradford—5:00 pm
- 10: Varsity BB @ Northridge—5:00 pm
Varsity SB @ Madison—5:00 pm
- 11: Varsity BB & SB @ Preble Shawnee—5:00 pm
- 12: Varsity Track @ TVS—4:30 pm
Varsity SB @ Botkins—5:00 pm
- 13: JH Track @ National Trail—10:00 am
Varsity BB DH @ New Miami—11:00 am & 1:00 pm
Varsity SB DH vs. Bethel—11:00 am & 1:00 pm
- 15: JH & Varsity Track @ home—4:30 pm
Varsity BB vs. Milton Union—5:00 pm
- 16: Varsity BB & SB vs. Franklin Monroe—5:00 pm
- 18: JH Track @ Dixie—4:30 pm
Varsity BB & SB vs. Dixie—5:00 pm
- 20: Varsity Track @ Eaton—9:00 am
Varsity BB @ Greenon—10:00 am
Varsity SB DH @ Versailles—11:00 am & 1:00 pm
- 22: Varsity BB & SB vs. Mississinawa—5:00 pm
- 23: Varsity Track @ National Trail—4:30 pm
Varsity BB & SB @ Newton—5:00 pm
- 26: Varsity Track @ Arcanum—4:30 pm
Varsity BB @ Emmanuel Christian—5:00 pm
Varsity SB DH @ Centerville—5:00 pm & 7:00 pm
- 27: JH Track @ Tri-Village—9:00 am
- 29: Varsity BB @ Madison—5:00 pm
- 30: JH Track @ home—4:30 pm (Preble County Meet)
Varsity BB & SB @ Arcanum—5:00 pm

May

- 2: Varsity BB & SB vs. Ansonia—5:00 pm
- 3: Varsity Track @ Madison—4:30 pm
Varsity BB & SB vs. Eaton—5:00 pm
- 4: JH Track @ Arcanum—10:00 am (WOAC Meet)
- 8: Varsity Track @ TVS—4:30 pm (WOAC Prelims)
- 10: Varsity Track @ TVS—4:30 pm (WOAC Finals)

Happy Summer!

HOPE Squad

Tri-County North Middle and High School HOPE Squad members participated in the regional HOPE Squad Conference on November 7th at Sinclair Community College in Dayton. Students attended workshops and sessions that focused on Social Resilience Model, Promoting the Benefits of Positive Thinking and the Science of Prevention. HOPE Squad members are peer nominated by their respective grade levels as individuals who are concerned about others, good listener/easy to talk with, someone you could turn to if you needed a friend. HOPE Squad members support suicide prevention and mental health awareness efforts for the district.



2024-2025 Preschool Registration Announced

Registration for the 2024-2025 Tri-County North Wee Panthers Preschool will be held February 26—March 1, 2023. Beginning February 26 (not before), go to www.tcnschools.com and then to the Student Registration tab. You will begin your registration by clicking on the blue link for FinalForms. All forms will turn GREEN once complete. After the online portion is completed in full, you will receive an email through FinalForms asking you to call and set up an appointment to bring in your child's required documentation. Incoming preschoolers will also be required to have a physical prior to the start of school. The Child Medical Statement form can be found in FinalForms on the "Preschool Registration Information" tab. Please print this off, have the physician fill it out and turn it into the District Office prior to the start of school. Children must be 4 years old and up by August 1, 2024. More information about TCN Wee Panthers Preschool can be found on our website under 'District News' and then 'Our Schools'.

A Note From The Nurse



The School Smiles program offers cleaning, fluoride, x-rays, crowns, sealants, restorations, and extractions. Did you know that oral health can affect your students overall health and well being? If uncontrolled, bacteria in the mouth can multiply and eventually enter the bloodstream, affecting all parts of the body, making your student feel very ill. Also, oral health issues such as cavities can impact your students ability to learn by causing a decreased appetite, depression, and inability to focus attention- all of which can lead to a risk of lower school attendance and learning performance. Studies have shown that children who have limited preventive care will miss three times as many school days due to oral health problems. Many oral health conditions are preventable with early treatment. Tri- County North is excited to provide the opportunity for students to receive oral health care right here in the comfort of their own school! The School Smiles program is scheduled to be at Tri- County North on **March 11 & 12 2024**. If you would like to have your child seen during this event, please contact me for more information!

According to the American Optometric Association "Failure to address significant eye and vision conditions early may have long-term consequences not only on eye health, but also on educational attainment, professional opportunities and quality of life". Unfortunately children are not always aware that they are unable to see exactly how they are supposed to. The American Optometric Association recommends that children ages 6-17 years of age have a comprehensive eye exam done before entering 1st grade and then annually after that, unless otherwise recommended by the eye doctor. Tri- County North has partnered with the Ohio Optometric Foundation and Eye Docs of Brookville to provide Eye Exams and glasses to students who have not had an eye exam in the past 12 months, have failed their school vision screening, have recently been placed on an IEP OR are suspected of having a vision disorder by a parent/guardian or member of the school staff. The vision exams will take place on **2/29/2023** and if needed **3/7/2023**. If you would like to have your child see during this event, please contact me for more information!

Elementary Families: Please make sure to keep an extra change of clothes in your child's backpack in case of spills or bathroom accidents. As the weather is changing please make sure that the extra clothes are weather appropriate.

Just a reminder for the current 6th grade and 11th grade families. Your student will need updated vaccinations before the beginning of next school year, so if you are visiting your family doctor between now and the beginning of the school year please ask them about what vaccinations are needed. Please turn documentation in for these vaccinations once they are received.

News From The Band Room

The TCN Marching Band had an amazing season giving over 20 performances including performing at the University of Cincinnati football game. The season wrapped up with our second Annual TCN Panther Band Bash. The event was a huge success, which hosted 6 bands and gave a wonderful evening of performances despite the weather. Thank you to all those in the community who helped support this event, the TCN Staff that volunteered their time to help, the amazing band parents of the TCN Band, and most of all, the TCN Band Students.



Congratulations to the following students for participating in the Bowling Green Honor Band on Nov. 16-18; Emma Cole, Caitlin Caudill, and Carly Krisher. These students had participated in master classes, had two days of rehearsal, and performed an amazing concert with young musicians from all across the state. Congratulations to Kyle Burckhard for participating in Saxophone Day at Wright State on Dec. 3rd. Congratulations to the following students for their acceptance into the District 13 Honor band: Barret Rust (7th), Lillian Haney (7th), Anna Talley (8th), Olivia Ricketts (9th), Caitlin Caudill (9th), and Carly Krisher (10th). These students will be performing in January at Mason HS, which is a very prestigious honor band that students have to audition to get accepted.

To begin our concert band season, the HS band gave an outstanding performance at the Annual Veteran's Day Program. Due to personal injury, our Winter Concert has been rescheduled to January 10th at 7PM in the HS Gym. Below are the other dates for the band program this year.

Jan. 10—Winter Concert (grades 6-12)
Jan. 27—HS Solo & Ensemble @ Blanchester HS
Mar. 12—Concert (Grades 6-12), 7:00 pm
Mar. 15/16—District Contest, TBA
Mar. 18/19—Preble County All County Band
Apr. 6—JH Solo & Ensemble @ Clinton Massie HS
May 9—Concert (Grades 5-12)
May 11—Kings Island Music in the Park
(JH and HS concert bands)

TCN High School Graduation Requirements



Total credits required for graduation: 23

Required Credits:

English Language Arts	4 credits
Health	1/2 credit
Fine Arts	1 credit
Personal Finance	1/2 credit
Mathematics	4 credits (including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II)
Physical Education	1/2 credit
Science	3 credits *
Social Studies	3 credits (including American History and American Government)
Electives	6 1/2 credits *

Students will take the following required Ohio State Tests —End of Course Examinations (EOC)

Algebra and ELA II—must be at least Competent with a 684 to graduate

American History and Government—earn a 700 or above or a B or higher in class for both to earn Seal

Biology—earn a 700 or above or a B or higher in an upper-level Science to earn a Seal

Geometry—must take

End of Course Exams

Students must also earn two seals - One Must be State Defined

State-Defined Seals: Citizenship, College-ready, Honors Diploma, Industry-recognized Credential, Military enlistment, OhioMeansJobs Readiness, Science, Seal of Biliteracy, or Technology

Locally-Defined Seals: Community Service, Fine and Performing Arts, or Student Engagement



Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon

On December 8, TCN held their annual Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon, open to any senior citizen in our district. At the event, seniors enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by our cafeteria staff, entertainment by our MS/HS band students and our 1st & 4th grade music students, and a door prize giveaway donated by area businesses and TCN vendors.

We would like to extend a special thanks to the Lewisburg Area Chamber of Commerce for a monetary donation to help with the cost of the event. We would also like to thank all of the wonderful local area businesses and our vendors who graciously donated a door prizes for the event. Donations were given by the following: Sarah's Pizza, Dayton Dragons, Loudy's Office Machines, ACE Hardware, Livin' On Dreams Boutique, Hip-Stirs, Meijer, Lawn Plus, Yankee Clover Mercantile, Amy St. John, Brick Rhoad Antiques & Bistro, Brookville Grille, 1893 Storehouse Co., J. Hobbs Excavating, Wendy's, CHW Mechanical Services, Bloom Market, Batteries + Bulbs, Ed Rike Plumbing, Heating & Air, ToP Flour & Confectionery Shoppe, C&T Desgins, Friends Office Supplies, Pratt Industries—Corrugating Division, I-Supply, JJ Gun Supply, Wagner Paving, and Chardon Laboratories, Inc.

Finally, thank you to everyone involved in putting the event on. We are already looking forward to hosting it again next year!





Tri-County North Schools Kindergarten Registration



**Kindergarten Online Registration
for the 2024-2025
school year will be held
February 26—March 8, 2024**

**Kindergarten is open to
all students who are
5 years old on or before
August 1, 2024.**

How Do You Register?

1. Beginning February 26th, go to the Tri-County North website at www.tcnschools.com
2. Click on the Student Registration tab and thoroughly read the instructions.
3. Create a Final Forms account by clicking on the blue link and then fill out and sign off on all online forms (forms will turn **GREEN** once complete).
4. The week of March 11th, you will receive an email from FinalForms to sign up for an appointment to bring in your required documentation. Document drop off will be the week of **March 18-22, 2024**. At this appointment, you will also register for Kindergarten Screening, which will be held in August.



*** PLEASE DO NOT BEGIN YOUR REGISTRATION BEFORE February 26, 2024 ***

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:

- **Certified Birth Certificate from the Health Department**
- **Immunization Records**
- **THREE Current Proof of Residencies in Parent's/Guardian's Name (see website for acceptable proofs)**
- **Original Custody Paperwork from the Courts (if applicable)**
- **IEP/504 (if applicable)**

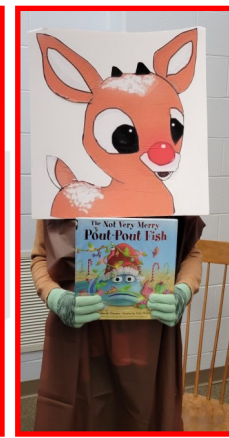
Please contact Noelle Rhoades at noelle.rhoades@tcnschools.org or 937-962-2671, ext. 1001, with any questions.

YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE FULLY ENROLLED UNTIL ALL ONLINE FORMS ARE SUBMITTED AND YOU HAVE SUBMITTED COPIES OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.

****PARTIAL ENROLLMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED****

Can You Guess The Mystery Reader?

Mrs. Davidson, along with 15 elementary staff members, dressed as a holiday character. Each day with a disguised voice, one holiday character read a festive book to students. The students had to guess from 3 clues given, who the mystery reader was. Students tried their best to guess who the mystery reader was by asking all the staff questions. "Are you the mystery reader, you are wearing boots?" "What is your favorite food?" "What is your favorite color?" The last day before winter break, students were gathered in the multipurpose room to reveal who the characters were. This was a fun activity while listening to some classic and newer Christmas stories leading up to the break. Thank you to the staff that participated. They are: Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Holzapfel, Mrs. Goglein, Mrs. Tobias, Ms. Neanen, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Hicks, Mrs. Filbrun, Mrs. Caraway, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Finkbine, Mrs. Heltsley, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Corder, and Officer West.



Panther P.A.L.S. (Positivity and Leadership Squad)

Panther PALS are in their second year at TCN elementary. This group is made up of 4th grade students who must apply and be selected to become a member. The chosen students must be kind, respectful, and serve as positive role models in our school. This year, there are 23 members who are excited to make an impact in our school and community.

Each PALS member comes up with a list of possible project ideas and then the group votes on which ones they will complete throughout the school year. Some of the past projects include: Clean out of the flower beds behind the school, helping at the grandparents lunch and book fair, "chalk the walk" of positive quotes and pictures, Christmas treats for teachers and staff, an affirmation station where students could write positive notes to teachers and other adults in our building, making sensory bottles for classroom calm baskets, and a sock drive collection to donate to a local homeless shelter.

Be on the lookout for this group to continue to make our school, community, and world a better place!



Second Graders Make Floats

The week before Thanksgiving, second grade students learned about the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. They read stories about how the parade balloons are made and the route the parade takes through New York City. They also looked at various pictures of floats from previous parades. As a final activity, the students made their own float out of cereal boxes. Miss Steger then made a video that showed the floats as if they were in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The students voted on their favorite float and Sponge-Bob was the overall winner!



Swink Wins Design Contest

Congratulations to Makayla Swink, TCN senior, for winning the Charley's Chops logo design contest. The Digital Design classes, taught by Ms. Carmean, were given the opportunity to design a logo for a local food trailer, utilizing their creativity and Photoshop skills. High school English teacher, Mrs. Audrey Bowlin and her husband, Ean, started the food trailer with the support and guidance of Preble County staple, Porkchop Charley, serving up unforgettable recipes once again. The business is a mobile food truck offering pop up events and catering services, located in New Paris, Ohio.



Congratulations to the elementary spelling bee champions, Maddox Cherry, 2nd grade, and Lillian Heltsley, 4th grade. Maddox and Lillian will compete in the Preble County Spelling Bee on January 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Eaton Performing Arts Center. Good luck, Maddox and Lillian!

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Upcoming Events



* subject to change

January

- 1: New Year's Day—**NO SCHOOL**
- 2: Winter Break—**NO SCHOOL**
- 3: School Resumes
- 5: Report Cards Sent Home With Students
- 10: MS/HS Band Concert—7:00 pm
- 15: MLK Day—**NO SCHOOL**
- 19: ES PC Spelling Bee @ Eaton PA Center—7:00 pm
- 21: Spirit Day (Cheer Competition) @ Preble Shawnee—1:00 pm

February

- 9: Interims Sent Home With Students
- 12: ES Parent/Teacher Conferences: 3:30 pm—6:30 pm
- 15: ES Parent/Teacher Conferences: 3:30 pm—6:30 pm
MS/HS Parent/Teacher Conferences: 2:30—8:30 pm
- 16: NO SCHOOL in Lieu of Conferences
- 19: President's Day—**NO SCHOOL**
- 20: Waiver Day—**NO SCHOOL**
ES PC Geography Bee @ National Trail—6:30 pm
- 28: ACT for Juniors

March

- 7: ES Family Literacy Night—5:30—7:00 pm
- 8: End of Third Quarter
- 10: Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 11-12: School Smiles
- 12: Band Concert—Grades 6-12—7:00 pm
- 11-22: ES MAP Testing
- 15: Report Cards Sent Home With Students
- 19: Shoes For The Shoeless
- 25-29: Spring Break—**NO SCHOOL**

April

- 1: Classes Resume
- 6: Jr. High Solo & Ensemble Contest
- 8: Recess Day (Solar Eclipse)—**NO SCHOOL**
- 16-17: 3rd & 4th Grade ELA State Assessment
- 16 & 18: HS ELA State Assessment —Parts I and II
- 17: PC Art Show @ Eagle's Point—3:00-5:00 pm
- 18: PC Art Show @ Eagle's Point—4:00-7:00 pm
- 22-23: HS Algebra State Test—Parts I & II
- 24: ES Spring Pictures
- 24 & 26: HS Geometry State Assessment —Parts I & II
- 27: Jr. & Sr. Prom @ Meadowbrook
- 29: HS American History State Assessment—Parts I & II
- 30- May 1: 3rd & 4th Grade Math State Assessment

May

- 1: HS Government State Assessment—Parts I & II
- 2: ES Spring Music Program—7:00 pm
HS Biology State Assessment—Parts I & II
- 9: ES Muffins With Moms—8:15 am
Band Concert—Grades 5-12
- 11: Music In The Park Competition (JH & HS concert bands)
- 12: Mother's Day
- 14: 4th Grade Career Day @ PC Fairgrounds
- 15-17: 4th Grade Camp @ Wilderness Ridge
- 22: ES Field Day
- 23: Last Student Day
Report Cards Sent Home With Students
Graduation—7:00 pm
- 24: Teacher In-Service Day
- 27: Memorial Day