VIKING VIEWS

Monday, April 4, 2016 ACADEMICS • ARTS • ATHLETICS • ACHIEVEMENT www.tricountyschools.com

CUMINGS'S CORNER

Thoughts from the Superintendent's desk

Dear Parents and Community,

Spring brings a time of new life as we watch trees bud, grass turn green, and the flowers grow and begin to bloom bright colors. The spring of 2016 will be a time of new beginnings at Tri County. On April 14, Phase 1 of our Sinking Fund projects will begin, which will create safe and secure entrances, as well as updates to our building entrances.

In Phase 1, a new High School office will be built just to the south of the current entrance. The new office will house the administrator's offices, a much needed conference room, and counseling offices. The Middle School will receive a new vestibule, a new set of entrance doors, and renovations that will open up the office to make it feel more welcoming to our students, parents and community. MacNaughton Elementary's front office will be moved to the center of the building, and a vestibule will be added in order to clearly identify where the main entrance is located. After these renovations, all three buildings will have a secure entrance where visitors will need to pass through the office to gain entrance to the rest of the building.

We feel the work of Phase 1 will support the community's desire for more safe and secure entrances to our buildings. We've also worked to provide high quality workmanship that will improve our building aesthetics, and for MacNaughton identify where the office/entry is located. It will be exciting to see our buildings begin the transformation this spring, and we look forward to opening the 2016-2017 school year with the new updates.

After construction begins, we will begin a blog to update the community on the progress of the building projects. The blog will have pictures and information so the community can stay informed on how construction is going. We will have a link to the blog on our website at www.tricountyschools.com.

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Odyssey of the Mind goes to State

OM season has come to an end . . . but a very happy ending it was! Tri County's 6th grade team competed in the State competition on March 19th, after placing 2nd at the regional competition on February 27th. This is the second year this team has competed together, and over that time they have experienced so much as a group. This year proved to be a little tougher on these OM members. For the past two years the team has taken on a vehicle problem. Last year the team made it through to the World Finals at MSU, placing 26th in the World for their problem. This year, the team made it to the State competition, even after a device on their vehicle broke, which led to the team not being able to finish their problem the way it was intended. They took advantage of the three weeks between Regionals and the State competition to fix the problem and headed off to State, where they performed everything perfectly! It was a tough and tight competition where the team placed 5th out of 10 teams in their problem area. Congratulations on a great job! We would like to congratulate Corunna Middle School who placed first and Traverse City West Middle School for placing second. They will both be going to the World Finals in Iowa!! Good luck teams!

Going Wild for Reading

By Julene Butler

MacNaughton Elementary has been roaring with excitement for reading during 'March is Reading Month'! We've been going on imaginary safaris through the jungle with our "Go Wild for Reading" theme. Students have enjoyed fun assemblies, a spirit week, book swaps, the WildMac Radio Talk Show, and incentives for reading. The grade levels competed in a coin drive to raise money to rescue a section of rainforest from being cut down. The end of the month will be celebrated with a "Breakfast with Books" parent morning where they can spend time with their child and books. John Ball Zoo will be here to present the Traveling Zoo Show as a grand finale for the month! All this jungle fun and excitement has turned into some great motivation to read!

My Favorite Teacher

Congratulations to the high school's Mr. Bagin for being selected as WZZM 13's Favorite Teacher of the Month for March. One his student's, Janaye Dotson, nominated him for the award and wrote a short essay stating why Mr. Bagin should be considered for the honor. In her letter, Janaye stated "Mr. Bagin made learning fun. Who would have thought, right? Learning? Fun? …… We actually enjoyed what we were learning, we were discussing the lessons outside of class and it was just bizarre. Bizarre in a great, fantastic way". Her letter prompted WZZM to pay a surprise visit to Mr. Bagin's class on March 28 and reporter Steve Zagman, along with a cameraman, were there to present the award to a surprised and tongue-tied US History teacher. Mr. Bagin was very moved by the award and extremely thankful for Janaye's recognition of his teaching. A segment of the award presentation was shown during the 5:00 evening news the next day. Congratulations to Janaye and Mr. Bagin for showing TC Pride to the whole of West Michigan!

Mr. John Bagin and Student, Janaye Dotson with the WZZM Crew.

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P.R.E.P. Students of the Month

By Zack Bosley

Tri County High School Media Student

Representing the males as this month's PREP Student of the Month is senior Hunter Alexander. Hunter is one of the schools most recognizable faces and that's for many good reasons. He's the president of the National Honor Society, which is an impressive achievement considering what a challenge it is to even get into the organization. His officer role already consumes large amounts of his time yet he still finds a way to be prominent member of both the soccer and golf teams. As if balancing NHS and athletics wasn't enough, he's also a major player in this year's student-led play, which is a Star Wars themed parody.

All this is impressive, but if your were to ask someone about him, the first thing they'd mention would be what a great friend he is to have. It seems that Hunter puts his heart and soul into every aspect of his life, and what more could you ask for in a PREP Student of the Month?

Moving on to the female PREP Student of the Month, we have another senior, Hannah Drouin. Coincidentally, nearly everything that was just said about Hunter also applies to her. She's the vice president of public relations for the National Honor Society, is a member of the soccer team, she is assisting in the production of the student-led play, and is known for

being the best kind of friend that a person could have. In addition to all of this, Hannah has taken several college classes this year as well. Hannah's character, work ethic and achievements are all apparent from the moment someone meets her, and her being named the female PREP Student of the Month couldn't be more appropriate.

Adopt-A-Reader

By Julene Butler

We the staff and students at MacNaughton Elementary would like to send out a huge THANK YOU to our community volunteers who so graciously give their time each week to help our students in the Adopt-a-Reader program. The Adopt-a-Reader program is new this year and is designed to be a mentoring program to help instill the love of reading in our students. These volunteers enjoy reading books to students and having students read to them while building important relationships that connect kids with good role models.

Special thank you for our partners from Reynold's Township Friends of the Library for volunteering their time.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

Thanks to all of the parents and students who made our Middle School "Feelin' Groovy" Book Fair a great success! We would also like to thank the following businesses for appearing on our "Donation Wall of Fame" for their generous donations: Scott Wemmer D.D.S., Lakeview Family Chiropractors, Tri County Family Chiropractors, Independent Bank, Paulen Farms, Community First Credit Union, Sandyland Farms, Select Care Physical Therapy, Pease Insurance, White's Bargain House, and McKay's Towing. All proceeds will be used to purchase new books for our Middle School Library.

BOARD BRIEFS

Jill Fennessy · Keven Hoisington · Brian Campbell · Jan Dewey
Janet Powell · Sharon Schwalbach · Bill Baker

Dear Tri County Community,

I would like to share with you the many different activities that are happening at our Edgerton building in Howard City. Surprisingly, many people are still under the impression that the building is no longer in use.

Currently, the Edgerton building houses several different programs. Our Tri County programs include: 80 young people involved in the 4 year old Great Start Readiness Program preschool, 32 students in our 3-year old preschool program, who attend Tuesday/Thursday or Wednesday/Friday, 18 students in our TC Developmental Preschool program, and 22 high school students attending our Alternative Education program. The Edgerton building is also home to one of the Montcalm County Head Start programs, who serve 32 students, and the Success Academy Virtual program, which currently serves 70 students at different times throughout the week. Needless to say, the Edgerton building is a busy place with 254 total students, plus all the staff required to supply our young people with the leadership and instruction needed for their growth and success.

The building's gym is also used throughout the year for various activities, including Varsity and JV Competitive Cheer practice, which runs from November through March, Tae Kwon Do, which is held on Monday evenings in the fall and spring/summer months, and various other sports practices when the gym is available. The gym is also used throughout the year for Preschool and Head Start holiday concerts, family night activities, and their end of year programs. We also work with our local community to set aside the gym during the Howard City Harvest Festival for various activities in case of rain.

So, as you can see, there is a lot of activity at the Edgerton building throughout the week, school year, and summer, and it is a very important part of our school system. We are proud of the history of this building that started as Howard City School and became part of Tri County Area Schools in 1962. It has a rich history and continues to help make many memories every year. I just wanted to share with you the life and importance of this building to our TC family, because we are TC.

Yours in Education,
Bill Baker

2016-2017 Tri County Area Schools Kindergarten Registration

Call Now To Register!

Planning is underway for our next group of incoming kindergartners! If you have a child who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2016 they are eligible to attend Kindergarten in the fall. Information will be mailed (in March) regarding enrollment to all who pre-register by calling our office at 231-937-4380 or by emailing to Marsha at myoung@tricountyschools.com or Amber at ahunt@tricountyschools.com. You will need to provide the following information when you call/email:

Child's name, sex, birth date, parent (s) name, mailing and street address, and phone number.

Important note: If your child currently attends the Great Start Readiness Program or Head Start at the Edgerton Building, you will not need to call/email. We will get your mailing information from Edgerton.

We are looking forward to meeting each of you and welcome the opportunity to assist you in completing the requirements for kindergarten registration. Tradition, Character, Achievement, Success. We are TC!

2016-2017 Tri County Area Schools Pre- Kindergarten Registration

Preschool applications for the 2016-2017 school year are available at Edgerton, MacNaughton Elementary, and Sand Lake Elementary. You may also print off the application from the school website at http://www.tricountyschools.com/ourschools/edgerton/tricounty-preschool/ and turn it in to Edgerton to be processed. The application and instructions are at the bottom of the page. If you have any questions, please contact Pamela Ingles at 231-937-4391 x248 or pingles@tricountyschools.com.