VIKING VIEWS

Monday, February 11, 2019 | EDUCATE•ENCOURAGE•EMPOWER | www.tricountyschools.com

CUMINGS'S CORNER

Thoughts from the Superintendent

What an unprecedented week of snow, blowing snow, ice and freezing temperatures we had in late January. We truly hope everyone was able to stay safe and warm during the major winter storms.

We'd like you to know that as of today, February 4, 2019, we have cancelled ten days of school and had two, two-hour delays. The State of Michigan forgives the first six days, which means we have exceeded the allotted days by four. Due to the unprecedented situation, Tri County will be applying for a State flexibility waiver for the maximum amount, an additional three days. We will continue to update parents and the community on our end of the year calendar as soon as we have more information.

The district is finalizing work to have a new well installed at the Middle School. The new well will provide safe drinking water to the building. Our goal is to have proposals out in February and the new well put in over spring break. After the new well is in place we will need to go through State required water testing prior to its use. We are excited to get this project complete and hope to have up and running in early April.

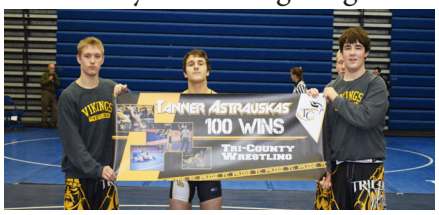
We want to thank our community for the response to our bond survey mailed out in January. The Board of Education will be meeting to review the survey responses and comments from the community. After reviewing the responses, our goal will be to create a bond proposal that aligns with the feedback received. We appreciate the overwhelming response rate as it will help guide Tri County toward a preferred future with our buildings and infrastructure.

Thank you for the continued collaboration to help Educate, Encourage and Empower each of our students.

Go Vikings!!!
Allen Cumings

Astrauskas leads Vikings on the Mat

After being away a year from Tri County, Tanner Astrauskas came back this year with a goal of heading to the Individual State Finals in wrestling. Tanner has had a successful season and is well on his way to meeting his goal.



He secured his 100th win at the Sparta Invitational on January 12th. Tanner wrestles in the 140 pound weight class and has only been defeated once this season. He has worked hard this season and he was able to secure his ticket to State after winning first place at the CSAA Tournament on February 2nd.

Tanner is not alone in finding success this season. Congratulations to the other wrestlers who placed at the CSAA tournament:

Nathan Smits 3rd - 112 pounds
Tommy Nelson 3rd - 160 pounds
Diontae Givens 1st - 215 pounds
Nick Prater 4th - 285 pounds

In addition to the success of our male wrestlers in the league meet, Tri County has a successful female wrestler as well. Congratulations go out to Lexy Porter as she took 3rd place at the MHSAA girl's state wrestling tournament.

Jesse White is Headed to State

On January 5th, five eighth grade students, Jesse White, Ava Longcore, Alexis Johnson, Madalynn Laskey, and Mackenna Duchemin from Tri County Middle School were invited to compete at the regional level in the Patriot's Pen competition held in St. Louis, Michigan. Patriot's Pen is a nationwide essay competition hosted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and our local Howard City VFW had already graciously awarded these top five writers $75. Out of the six counties represented in St. Louis, Jesse White won first place with his writing! His award is $200 and the chance to move on to the state finals. It also means that his essay is one of the top 12 essays in the entire state. The award for winning at state finals is a trip to Washington, D.C. Congratulations Jesse, you have made Tri County proud and good luck at the state finals!

Snowcoming Rescheduled for February 18-23

Every Winter the high school Student Council plans Snowcoming and just like the name, the snow always comes. There is usually snow and some kind of snow day cancellations. This year, however, with the snow also came record low temperatures and a week of snow days and activity cancellations. The Snowcoming game and dance were both cancelled disappointing the high school students who were eagerly awaiting these events.

The Student Council looked at a series of options and possibilities and came up with a new date for the Snowcoming game and dance. As it stands right now and with the cooperation of Mother Nature, the Snowcoming Game will be on Tuesday, February 19 and the dance will be on Saturday, February 23. The theme for the week is Fiesta and the spirit days are as follows:

Monday, February 18:
Mismatch Day
Tuesday, February 19:
College Sports Team Day
Wednesday, February 20:
Celebrity Day
Thursday, February 21:
Day of the Dead
Friday, February 22:
Black and Gold Day (Go TC!!!)

The dance will be from 7:00-11:00 on Saturday with tickets being sold during both lunches the week before ($5.00/lunch and $7.00/door). If you have any questions, please check with a Student Council member or Mrs. Gerard.

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New Faces in New Places, February Edition

New to the district in 2018, we are happy to welcome **Serena Johnson** to the staff at MacNaughton Elementary. Joining us as a second grade teacher, Serena is a graduate of nearby Lakeview High School and earned her degree from Michigan State University. A mom to a yellow lab named Mason and a cat called Millie, Ms. Johnson is a big fan of being active in the outdoors, as she participates in various activities such as running, biking, kayaking, skiing, working out, and swimming. She also serves the community by acting as a youth soccer coach in the Lakeview area and also helps the Montcalm County 4-H group in their activities. And in what should be no surprise, reading is something Serena also enjoys doing. Though not always drawn to the teaching occupation, Serena has always known she has wanted to work with kids in some capacity. She has an older cousin, who is also a teacher, to thank for bringing her into the world of education.

Not a new face to Tri County but new to MacNaughton Elementary is **Deanna Smith**. Starting her career with Tri County Area Schools four years ago as a preschool teacher, Mrs. Smith is now educating the curious young minds of some of our first graders. A native of Fremont and a proud Western Michigan Bronco, Mrs. Smith is the mother of two young girls and has surpassed the ten year mark of her marriage. When asked about why she went into teaching, Deanna told us that she really enjoys working with the students as well as interacting with the families of the kids. In her free time she continues interacting with children by serving as an AYSO soccer coach and is looking into additional coaching opportunities. When not engaged with other children of the community, Deanna enjoys camping with her family all over the Great Lakes state.

Upcoming Tri County Music Program Dates

Our Music program would like you to know all the great events they have planned!

The Broadway Music Fundraiser will be Friday, February 22nd at 6pm at the High School. Admission is $3.00 at the door. Students and community singers will be performing the music of Broadway in order to raise funds for our upcoming production of "High School Musical" on May 10th & 11th.

The Annual Jazz Dinner will be Saturday, March 9th at 6:30pm at the High School. A delicious catered dinner and a night of live jazz will be $30 per person/ $50 per couple. The Tri County HS Jazz Band will be joined by Allison Petriella and Doug Reed's jazz combo. Please contact LuAnn Ebenhoh at lebenhoh@tricountyschools.com or the music directors for dinner reservations by Friday, March 1st.

The Choir Showcase: "Earth and Sky" will be Friday, March 15th at 7pm at the High School. Admission is $3.00 at the door. The 7th grade, 8th grade and High School Choirs will come together to perform solos, duets and full ensemble pieces reflecting the theme of earth and sky.

The Tri County Alumni & Friends Concert will be Sunday, April 7th at 3pm at the High School. Audience admission will be $2.00. Community musicians and Tri County Band Alumni will perform with the current High School Concert Band directed by Ryan Schultz and Allison Petriella along with guest conductors Howard Wilson and Jennifer Arnold. Band Alumni can contact Allison Petriella at apetriella@tricountyschools.com for participation information.

BOARD BRIEFS

Jill Fennessey, Lana Ford, Jennifer Gould, Janet Powell, MaDonna Princer, Janice Dewey, Brian Campbell

Burr It's cold. Welcome winter!

As we enter the second month of the year, we continue to reflect on the years that have gone by. It is important to remember all of the accomplishments and improvements made at Tri County with the help of the community through the Sinking Fund Projects.

As a parent, I am confident in my children's safety now that entrances at all buildings are secure. New entrances were built at the High School, Middle school and MacNaughton so visitor traffic goes through the main offices.

Together we gave the Middle school, a 50 year old building, a functional new look by accomplishing much needed maintenance: making modifications to the parking lot, repairs to the windows, roof replacement, new brick, metal panels, and roofing edge to the exterior to stop water infiltration. All of this is topped off with the most recent addition of a TC logo on the building seen from the road which brings a sense of pride in the school. These highlights are a few of many small changes that have happened.

We are entering into Phase 4 of the Sinking Fund this summer as we continue to focus on safety and traffic control.

Educate, Encourage and Empower

Jennifer Gould, Trustee
Board of Education
Tri County Area Schools

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Mark Your Calendar

February 13
Count Day

February 14
Valentine's Day

February 19
Snowcoming Bball Game

February 22
Broadway Music Fundraiser

February 23
Snowcoming Dance

February 27
Early Release Day

You are invited to our 8th Grade Scheduling Night @ Tri County High School

The Class of 2023 will begin to get ready for the High School setting on March 4th (7:00 pm) or 5th (7:00 pm) for our 8th Grade Scheduling Night. This is a perfect way for parents and their soon-to-be high school student to learn about all that TCHS has to offer.

Highlights include:

- Review Graduation Requirements
- Learn about courses offered
- Discuss World Language Requirement
- MCC Early College opportunity
- Dual Enrollment
- Launch U
- Kent Career Technical Center & Newaygo County Career Technical Center
- College Board Information
- Athletic Requirements & Sports offered
- Student Organizations & Clubs

We ask that you plan to attend one of these nights in the TCHS cafeteria. Please email any questions to wkik@tricountyschools.com or arenner@tricountyschools.com