

Triton Times

March/April/May
2015



Superintendent's Comments

Hello and thanks for reading this issue of the *Triton Times*! It is hard to believe that we are already into the second half of the school year. There have been many exciting things happening at Triton.

The Triton District is working very hard on implementation of its newly created strategic plan that was approved by the Triton Board of Education. This work was done by a district-wide committee that represented all of the stakeholders of our district. The result is a plan which contains our vision, mission and core values. These are the big guiding statements that will steer us into the future! There is research to support that having strong vision, mission and core values help to ensure a high quality and functioning organization.

Vision

Developing Lifelong Learners

Mission

Inspiring and preparing learners for life by providing educational opportunities in a safe, caring and respectful environment

Core Values

We build relationships where everyone is welcomed, has a sense of belonging and is valued.

We are committed to student achievement by honoring interests, individuality and high quality education.

We encourage and celebrate innovation and creativity.

We are committed to high standards, expectations and accountability.

The district administrative team will be working on implementation of SMART goals in order to achieve success for all of our students. This is something that will help us guide our instructional goals and measure our success. There is a strong systemic effort going on this year K-12 in the area of literacy. All staff are working hard to improve our students' abilities in this area of learning. Literacy is a key building-block to all learning and something that we see as a critical area of knowledge for all of our students.

Governor Dayton has proposed an increase in public school funding this year given the billion dollar surplus. He again is focusing on early childhood education as a possible place for any new money. I will be watching close to see what develops. As we all know, it is too early to make any prediction regarding what will happen in St. Paul. There is also a bill I am watching that would allow local districts to control their own calendars. This would allow us to have school before Labor Day, which is not allowed presently under current law. Next year provides an excellent example, as Labor Day falls on September 7th, which means the first day of school would be September 8th. This late date pushes the student calendar into June fairly deep. I will bring two calendars for approval at the February Board meeting. This will allow us to be ready if the State permits us to begin before Labor Day.

Congratulations to the Triton One-Act play! Mr. John Schreiber returns to the *MSHSL State Tournament* with a very talented cast and crew. "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" was written by three English actors/comedians, Daniel Singer, Adam Long, and Jess Winfield, and was first produced in 1987. It has since become one of the world's most popular comedies. Mr. Schreiber received permission to edit it into a 35 minute cutting, taking what he felt were the funniest and/or most entertaining parts.

I am pleased so far with the *nice* Minnesota winter, but it is still too early to celebrate spring! I hope that you can get out and see some of winter activities and spring events yet to come. Go and see our students compete and perform!

Our website continues to offer more and more up-to-date information, so please go to www.triton.k12.mn.us and find out all that is happening in Cobra Country! Follow me on Twitter @CobraSuper2125 for educational information and Cobra news! Another way that I like to use to communicate is my blog. You can find educational information and other news about Triton Public Schools on it at <http://tritoncobras.blogspot.com>. Thanks for taking the time to read this issue of the Triton Times! Go Cobras!

Educationally yours,
Brett L. Joyce

Upcoming Events

8th Grade Parent Night
March 12

Early Childhood Screening
March 13

Concerts:
2nd and 3rd Grade April 16
K and 1st Grade May 21
Bands May 14

Senior Citizen's Matinee
April 8

THS Spring Musical
April 9, 10 and 11

Prom
April 25

Kindergarten Registration
May 12

Fine Arts & Academic Awards
May 13

Senior Boards and
Baccalaureate
May 27

Graduation
May 31

COBRA COMMUNICATIONS TES News



At the beginning of the year I shared with the students that this year we are going to READ, READ, READ, READ, READ, AND READ SOME MORE! Students are certainly taking that goal seriously! As a staff we are learning to use our data more effectively and be more specific in identifying the interventions that need to be implemented to meet our students' reading needs and promote success.

Progress is being made with

students **learning to read** as well as **learning to love to read**. As we move forward throughout the rest of the school year and into the summer months, I want to stress the importance of students continuing to read every single day. Research indicates that children who read for 20 minutes a day perform better at school. Please take the time to encourage and to read to your child. Parents are teachers, both by example and by conversation.

Our "HERO" program, which stands for 'Here Everyone Respects Others', is in its second year of implementation. We are continuing with our class meetings where students discuss concerns as well as develop a sense of community with each other. Our monthly heroes are being recognized. Students are helping others be respectful. One of our goals for this year is to inform our parents of the program and how they can help and support us. One of the ways that you can help us is to report any situations that your child shares with you to the teacher. We want our students to feel safe. We want our students to be respectful to one another. Sometimes situations may occur in school that your child would rather share with you than with us. We would like to know so that we can strengthen our program to meet the needs of everyone involved. It is also important for everyone to know that not every situation at school can be classified bullying. The definition of bullying is that it has to be repeated, over time, and a sense of power by the person committing the action. The support that has been demonstrated for our HERO program has been wonderful and greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher or myself if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support.

As we move into the month of April we will be organizing schedules for our students to take the statewide Minnesota Comprehension Assessments. Students in grades 3-5 will be taking a reading and math assessment on the computer unless other accommodations have been made. A science assessment covering key concepts in our science curriculum in grades 3-5 will be taken by our fifth graders. The purpose of these assessments is to chart the progress of schools and districts over time. They also help indicate the effectiveness of our existing programs, and the results can be used as a tool to make decisions that will improve achievement. As a district we are rated not only on the academic performance of our students, but we must ensure that

all students participate in some manner. Therefore, if doctor and dentist appointments could occur at a time other than the days of testing, it would be greatly appreciated. Testing dates will be sent home the beginning of April. Please check with your child's teacher as to how you may support them in this upcoming endeavor.

Although it is only March, we are beginning to prepare for the **2015-2016** school year. In April you will be receiving an e-mail from your child's classroom teacher about Parent Interviews in September. As we did last year, we will be having K-5 Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews the first two days of school, dates unknown at the present time due to the legislature. During this time you will be able to share information with your child's teacher and they will be able to share what your child will be learning, the behavior plan, homework expectations and other pertinent information. Teachers may assess your child on math and reading outcomes while you complete the paperwork in the room. These interviews will be scheduled and we will be gathering input from you regarding a day and times that would work best for you. On the day of your scheduled interview, we will also be screening students for vision and hearing as well as taking their individual school pictures. Food service and transportation will be available during the day as well. We hope you find this time beneficial.

As indicated in our present policy, if parents want to provide input into the placement of their child for the following year, they are welcome to complete a Parent Input Form. This form asks the parents their perception of their child as well as learning characteristics. We ask that a specific teacher's name is not identified. If you are interested in providing input, you may pick up a form in the Elementary Office or call the office and ask that one be sent home with your child. These forms are due on April 24.

Throughout the next three months please be watching for many activities that will be occurring at the elementary. The fourth and fifth grade Science Fair will be held on Thursday, March 12th. The second and third grade will have their music concert on Thursday, April 16th with the kindergarten and first grade having their concert on Thursday, May 21st. As mentioned earlier statewide testing will occur throughout the month of April with building-wide assessments (AIMS Web and STAR Reading/Math) being held during the month of May. Please also note that spring break occurs in April with no school on April 2, 3, and 6. It's hard to believe that we are already sharing end of the year events.

On behalf of the staff I would like to thank you for your support, your gifts, and your special talents that you have shared with us! They are all deeply appreciated! Have a relaxing, save summer and we will see you next school year!

Nancy Stucky
Triton Elementary Principal

TES COUNSELOR'S CORNER



Classroom Lessons

Every month I visit the classrooms for a character education lesson. This winter we discussed Kindness, Conflict Resolution and Honesty. In March I will be teaching a lesson on Health and Prevention. During April we will discuss Courtesy, and in May Self-Esteem. In the spring I will also focus on Career Readiness.

Healthy Choices Week

During the week of February 17th through the 20th the Elementary School celebrated Healthy Choices Week. The purpose of this week was to encourage and promote making healthy choices about our physical, mental and emotional well-being. A variety of activities were planned for each day.

SADD Lock-In

On March 20th the Triton High School SADD Chapter (Students Against Destructive Decisions) will be hosting a Lock-In for Triton 4th and 5th grade students. The purpose of the Lock-In is for students to learn more about making the right decisions, and making connections with other students. A parent permission letter with more information will be provided at the beginning of March.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns!

Katie Berg

633-1202 or kberg@triton.k12.mn.us

Minnesota Kindergarteners Benefit From Alternative Program Outreach

Robertson County Alternative Program students are having an impact on kindergarten students in southeastern Minnesota through an innovative cooperative between RCAP teacher Eric Turner and Triton Elementary teacher Kory Graham.

Through Google Hang-Outs technology, Turner's students are able to be seen by, and read to an audience of kindergarten students 750 miles away in real time, helping to both educate and motivate the young learners. Graham has utilized others to read to her children, but the RCAP connection is the only one that plugs students in to reading to students.

The connection between RCS and Triton Public Schools began last summer when the two teachers connected through an educational forum and had it's first online application in the fall of 2014 when the first RCAP students began reading. Since then, Turner says he's had about a half dozen of his students participating in the outreach.

On Thursday, Jan. 22, Kallie Bagwell became the first middle school student to read to the MN classroom, holding their attention for approximately a quarter of an hour. Turner says the opportunities and advantages of this program are on both ends of the connection.

"One thing this program does is show our students that they matter," he said. "It has given our students a chance to reach out to others in a meaningful way. We hope to show them that they can make a positive contribution and an impact on others.

"As far as the students they are reading to; those students get to interact with older students doing good things and get read to, which increases their literacy. The program also helps them with geography because they find out about the area where the person is from who is reading to them."

Turner sums the program by noting the win-win it provides. "I've seen huge smiles on our students' faces after they read and you can see the impact it makes on them. They've done something fun and helped others. They've given to others and got something out of it in return."

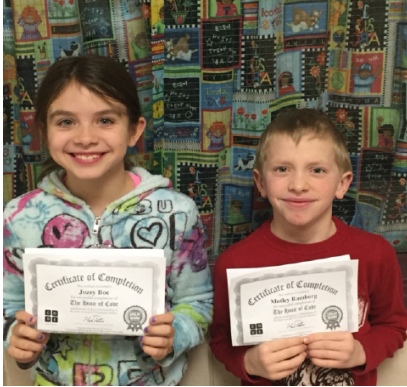
Here is the link to see the student reading to Mrs. Graham's class. <http://youtu.be/sjKpcmOn5f0>



The Hour of Code

For two weeks in December, 3rd and 4th grade students in Mr. Rath's technology classes had the opportunity to dabble in the world of Computer Science to get a taste of how computer programs actually work. A web based site called CODE.ORG introduces young students to computer programming by having them attempt to complete "The Hour of Code."

Using popular characters such as the *Angry Birds* and Anna and Elsa from the movie *Frozen*, students are in charge of providing a script (code) of instructions to make the characters do certain things. Each level they pass, they learn a new vocabulary of commands associated with computer programming. Once they have completed all of their courses, they are given a certificate of their accomplishment. Mr. Rath states, "Following directions, persistence, and team work are just a few of the many valuable lessons that come from this activity. Technology is such an integral part of today's society, therefore introducing our students to something like this at an early age might just spark a lifetime of interest." Want to give it a try? Go to Code.org/learn for more information. You will be amazed what your kid can do!



Jozey Boe and Motley Ramberg pose with their "Hour of Code" certificate. More than thirty 3rd and 4th students completed their "Hour of Code" in December.

March is Music in Our Schools Month!

For the month of March, schools all across the country recognize and celebrate the value of quality music education. We are thankful that the students of Triton Elementary all receive two 25-minute music classes each week. To celebrate MIOSM students will be creating an "I SPY" music wall to show the many different ways music is a part of our learning, our culture, and our lives.

On Tuesday, March 10 we will host Minnesota folk musician and storyteller Jack Pearson as part of our MIOSM celebration. He will perform during the school day for the elementary students sharing the importance of music and bringing joy, laughter, and fun to all our kids. This performance has been generously funded through the SELCO Legacy Vetted Program and Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Choirchimes for Kids!

The Triton Elementary Music Program would like to thank the Triton Booster Club for their donation toward new choirchimes! Choirchimes are hand-held bells that can be easily played by children, engage all types of learners, and quickly create beautiful music! If you'd like to contribute or have a conversation about the choirchimes please contact Mrs. Zillgitt directly at mzillgitt@triton.k12.mn or [\(507\) 374-2258 ext. 1168](tel:(507)374-2258).

Elementary Music Concerts and Events

Thursday, April 16, 2015

2nd Grade Concert - 6:00 p.m.

3rd Grade Concert - 7:00 p.m.

Triton Performing Arts Center

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Kindergarten Concert - 6:00 p.m.

1st Grade Concert - 7:00 p.m.

Triton Performing Arts Center

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Elementary Variety Show

South Elementary Gymnasium

If you would like additional resources for music at home or would like to learn more about your child's experience in the music classroom visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/a/triton.k12.mn.us/elementarymusic>

Kindergarten Fun

The school year is half over and in Kindergarten we are working hard, but having so much fun while we learn. Each month brings special days to get excited about and look forward to. We celebrated Gingerbread House Day with the Dads in December. In January we gathered our "good stuff" from home and created our own snowmen. Also in January our wonderful Phy. Ed. teachers (Mrs. Jensch, Mr. Haala and Mrs. Andrews) led a roller skating unit so all our students could try out their wheels. They loved it! To the right: Marshall and Kain Tennermann build a gingerbread house.



We have several more celebration days ahead in the coming months. Now, we wouldn't be able to do these special events without the help of our great Triton parents. Each year we ask so much of you parents: read with and listen to your child read to you, help them with their homework, send "this and that" to school for projects. Each month there's a calendar full of things to look for and keep track of. Thank you so much for taking the time to help out at home so our days at school can go more smoothly! Parents, teachers, children.....we're a team and together we're working this school year to make it the best for your child. Thanks again for all you do for us! We appreciate you so much!



Calling all 3 and 4 years olds it's Early Childhood Screening time!

Is your child 3 or 4 year olds? Have they done their Early Childhood Screening? Why should they do it?

Early Childhood Screening is a free screening, designed for children three and four year old. This screening includes height and weight, hearing and vision, speech and developmental screening and immunizations are reviewed. The developmental screening is a series of "games" your child will play to help determine if your child has normal learning processes for thinking, communication, language, large and small muscle use and social/ emotional development. This screening is free and required by the state of Minnesota before your child can enter kindergarten.

Why do it when your child is 3?

The screening is designed for children once they turn 3. Earlier is better! Waiting until your child is about to start Kindergarten is too late! The purpose of the screening is to identify any areas your child may need additional time and experience to be ready for school.

Screening is being held again on Friday, March 13, 2015 in Dodge Center at the Faith Lutheran Church. Screenings take about an hour and are for all three and four year old children that plan to attend any public, private or home school in the state of Minnesota. Please call the Triton School at 507-374-2258 or email deipers@triton.k12.mn.us to schedule an appointment.





As spring approaches, so does State and National testing for our students. This year the eighth grade was selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) testing. First administered in 1969, NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know and can do in various subject areas. It is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is different from state assessments because it provides a common measure of student achievement across the country. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public. In addition to the NAEP

test, all student in the middle school will be participating in MCA testing in math and reading, the eighth grade also take a MCA test in science.

Plans for the 2015 6th Grade Whitewater State Park Camping Trip are in Gear!

This February the Triton Middle School 6th grade teaching team of Mrs. Fredricksen, Mrs. Kleinwort, Mrs. Knutson, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Kruger along with long time Whitewater veteran, Jim Jensen will be enlisting the help of 6th grade parents to help make plans for the upcoming 2015 Triton 6th Grade overnight camping trip to Whitewater State Park on May 6-8. Whitewater State Park, located near St. Charles, MN, has been the sight of this annual 6th grade camping adventure since the spring of 1992.

The trip has been a very successful and popular educational program for Triton 6th graders over the many years of its existence. Many community groups, parents and businesses have supported the program through generous donations of cash and supplies to help keep the cost of the program at a minimum for the students. Many parent volunteers are also needed make this trip a success and the TMS Whitewater teaching staff are always so grateful for those volunteers each year. Without the parental support this trip would never be a reality for our 6th graders.

The focus of the campout is on the environment by integrating science, history, arts and crafts, music, performing arts, physical fitness, and recreation. Another very important goal of the trip each year is to help students develop problem solving strategies and to improve interpersonal relations with each other through cooperative learning activities. Students and staff members alike are really looking forward to Whitewater 2015!



Spring conferences will be held on March 9th and 12th. Please make an effort to attend.

Mark Raymond, TMS Principal

The Buzz at the Triton Middle School Spelling Bee!

Marcaisia Mlenar, Triton Middle School 6th grader, was named the Triton School District Champion Speller at the annual school district Spelling Bee in the Middle School media center on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 27th by spelling the word “hibachi” correctly in the final championship round. She competed against 11 other top spellers from grades 6, 7 and 8.

Coming in second place overall was 7th grader, Parker Boe. 8th graders, Mariah Posey and Evelyn Terpstra took 3rd and 4th place respectively. Besides earning ribbons for her fine performance at the Bee, Marcaisia was awarded a \$20.00 Barnes & Noble gift card, a *Webster’s New World Pocket Dictionary* and the book, *100 Words Every Middle School Student Should Know* as prizes for her first place finish. Parker received a \$15.00 Barnes & Noble gift card and a pocket dictionary for earning 2nd place honors. The 3rd and 4th place spellers, each received \$10.00 Barnes and Noble gift cards and a pocket dictionaries for their efforts. Monies from the Triton Middle School fundraiser were used to purchase the prizes for this worthy academic enrichment activity.

The other 8 students who competed as district finalists in the local spelling bee were **6th graders:** Emily DeVetter, Anna Ridenour and Makenna Jensen **7th graders:** Claire Maixner, Joshua Crofton, and Abbi Liudahl **8th graders:** Rhylan Peterson and Hannah Henrichs.

The pronouncer for the event this year was TMS Language Arts teacher, Ms. Nacia Olson. TMS Language Arts teachers: Ms. Judy Lewis, Mrs. Karen Kleinwort, and Mrs. Lori Knutson served as judges for the event. The Spelling Bee Coordinator for this annual event is 6th grade teacher, Mrs. Becky Fredricksen.

Both Marcaisia and Parker will represent Triton Public Schools at the Southeast MN Regional Spelling Bee being held at the Southeast Service Cooperative in Rochester on Tuesday, February 10. Mariah and Evelyn will serve as alternates. We know these students will be “busy as bees” preparing for the next level of competition. GOOD LUCK!



TMS Penny Wars

The Middle School held a “Penny War” during the last two weeks in December. During the Penny War, students and staff could put pennies into a jar labeled with their House name to earn positive points for their House, one point for each penny. They could also put other coins or bills in a different House jar to give that House negative points. For example, a quarter was -25 points! This friendly House competition raised \$1,270 for the Santa Anonymous Program!!!



Come on Down and be the next contestant on the Price Is Right!

Saturday, April 18th

Registration is from 5:30-6:30, check out the Ice Cream Bar and Silent Auction!

\$10 per ticket
Tickets available in March from the TMS office
Only 400 tickets available!

Last year we gave away over \$7,000 in cash and prizes!

For more information, please go to our website:

www.tmsprice.info



ZED Creative Writing Contest Results Are In



The 21th annual ZED (Zumbro Education District) Creative Writing Contest has recently been completed resulting with 7 Triton Public School students earning Honorable Mention status. This year the students were asked to write a poem or a prose composition of 300 words or less with the topic, “The Never Ending...”.

Nearly 400 students, grades 5-12, from all seven ZED schools including Triton submitted written entries this year. The writing competition divisions were grades 5-6, grades 7-8 and grades 9-12 respectively. Each submitted piece was read and judged by 3 separate judges individually and the three scores were then averaged for an overall score. One top exemplary poem and one top exemplary piece of prose from each grade level division were awarded. Compositions with a combined score of 80% or higher were given Honorable Mention status.



Earning Honorable Mention status from Triton Elementary was 5th grader, Grace Weber. The Triton Middle School students awarded the honor this year were 6th graders: Hannah Stark, and Chloe Staub and 7th grader : Kathleen Wood. 8th graders earning Honorable Mention status were: Noah Woxland and Martha Moenning Triton High School student, Jacelyn Schley, also received Honorable Mention status this year.

Each of these students was presented with a journal and a pen, as well as, a special certificate from ZED for their fine writing efforts. Their compositions will be published in the 21th Annual ZED Creative Writing booklet later in February or early March. This booklet will also contain all of the other Honorable Mention and Exemplary pieces from the six other ZED schools.



These Honorable Mention contest winners, as well as, all of the other Triton students who submitted contest entries this year are to be commended for demonstrating extra effort by taking part in a worthy academic enrichment program such as this. This annual event offers great opportunities for students to grow and learn more about what they can personally achieve through writing.

Healthy Choices Week was February 17 - 20

The middle school students participated in many events that promote healthy choices in their life.

- 6th grade = Stress management lessons from the 8th grade WEB Leaders
- 7th grade = Watched the documentary “Bully”
- 8th grade = Victim Services presented a Sexual Assault prevention program



Triton Middle School Very Important Dates

- March 6th – No School – Teacher Workday
- March 9th & 12th – **Conferences** – 3:30 to 7:30
- March 26th – Last day of Quarter 3
- March 27th – No School – Teacher Workday
- April 2nd, 3rd, & 4th – No School

April & May – MCA testing Schedule

- Reading – Grades 6, 7, & 8 – April 8th, 9th, & 10th
- Math – Grades 6, 7, & 8 – April 28th, 29th & 30th
- Science – 8th Grade Only – May 5th & 6th

- April 30th – Pan Picture of Middle School kids
- May 6th, 7th & 8th – 6th Whitewater Trip
- May 1st – Midquarter for Quarter 4
- May 25th – No School – Memorial Day
- May 27th – Early Out
- June 2nd – 8th Grade Recognition – 1:30
- June 4th – Early Out – Last Day of Classes

“Fifteen Two, Fifteen Four and a Pair Makes Six...”

Yes, the Triton Middle School Cribbage Club completed their annual Cribbage Tournament on the morning of Thursday, February 5. The tournament actually began four weeks ago on Thursday, January 15th with 14 students competing. The competition started after these students had spent time honing and sharpening their cribbage playing skills early each Thursday morning from September to December. These cribbage playing card sharks as well as several others arrived faithfully each week, actually 50 minutes before school started in Mrs. Fredricksen’s 6th grade classroom to play.



This year’s champion cribbage player is Triton 8th grader, Shelby Maloney, who had won the honor as a sixth grader two years before. She won the honor by defeating, fellow 8th grader, Dylan Mass. In a very close competitive game, Triton 7th grader, Connor Kleinwort narrowly defeated 6th grader, Claire Graham to take third place honors.

The other participating middle school cribbage players who competed in this year’s tournament include: 8th graders: Last year’s champion, Hunter Iverson-Himle, Noah Woxland, Kaleb Strom, Mikala Courteau, 7th graders: Jacob Anderson, Josh Crofton, and Isaiah Freyholtz. 6th graders that also played were: Shane Crofton, Evan Tapp and Sean Strom.

Cribbage Club is done for the school year, however, the middle school students can now look forward to another great challenging game by participating in the Triton Middle School Chess Club which will begin at 7:10 AM on Thursday, February 26 in Mrs. Fredricksen’s classroom. All students grades 6,7 & 8 are welcome and encouraged to come learn and play the highly strategic and problem solving game of chess. As always there is no cost for this program. Juice and donuts are provided. If there are questions about Chess Club, please contact Mrs. Fredricksen at the Middle School

TMS Students Compete in the Geography Bee

Tori Winter, an 8th grade student at TMS, won the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee on January 22, 2015. The school-level Bee, at which students answered oral questions about geography was the first round in the 27th annual National Geographic Bee.

Tanner Hellevik, an 8th grade student was this year’s runner-up. Other participants in the Geography Bee were 8th graders Isaac Barbosa and Darien Jensen. 7th graders Devon Henrichs, Colton Majerus, Yanexie Murrietta, and Bennet Ruhland. 6th graders Claire Graham and Alex Kruckeberg. All students did a wonderful job with the Bee.



USAT Teams Heading to State Tournament!

Both Triton Middle School 8th grade U.S. Academic Triathlon (USAT) teams earned state berths for the MN State Academic Triathlon Tournament being held Saturday, February 28th at Cottage Grove Middle School. They accomplished this by earning first place honors at the Regional USAT Tournament held here at Triton Public Schools on the evening of February 6th. The TMS 8th graders taking first place in the Blue *Crosstrainer* division with a perfect score of 300 points out of 300 possible were: Kylie Franko, Olivia Kruger, Shelby Maloney, Parker Andrist and Rhylan Peterson. This same group of students also competed in the MN State USAT competition as 6th graders in 2013 and they are very excited to go back to state. The other TMS 8th grade team’s final score was not too shabby either. They took first place honors by earning 280 out of 300 points possible in the Green *Crosstrainer* division and will be heading to state. The TMS students on this team were: Olivia Anderson, Noah Woxland, Tori Winter, Andrew Head and Darien Jensen.

The results of the other two Triton USAT Regional teams are as follows: The 7th grade team of Samantha Hallaway, Bennet Ruhland, Connor Kleinwort, Emma Amundson, and Caroline Gosse placed 3rd overall in the Purple *Crosstrainer* meet and the 6th grade team of Gunnar Ramberg, Natalie Robinson, Mariel Faber, Nick Adamson and Brenna Essig placed 5th overall in the Yellow *Challenger* Meet.

6th graders, Anna Ridenour and Claire Graham were the *Challenger* team alternates. Nell Graham, Elle Myer and Kaleb Strom served as *Crosstrainer* team alternates that evening, Although the alternates did not compete at the meet, their assistance helping to set up and take down event materials was greatly appreciated.

Triton staff members, Judy Lewis, Nacia Olson, Emily Fischenich, and Nan Babcock with her husband Bill served as judges for the event. Triton High School students, Maddison Boe, Wyatt Wirth, Morgan Franko and Brianna Stebbins also assisted at the evening’s competition.



COBRA CORNER THS News



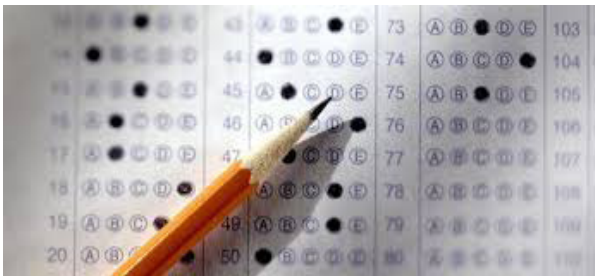
This edition of the Triton Times covers a busy time of year. March, April and May. Before I get started with a list of things that are going on, I would like to mention some of the outstanding accomplishments of some of our students at Triton High School. Our One Act Play has “starred” at the State Competition! They have worked hard to get to this point and it will be exciting to see how they do at the State Competition.

In our FFA program we also have some great accomplishments. We have the first ever Star Farmer Region winner in FFA. Makaila Klejeski will be one of 8 competing for the State Title. Mary Moenning also took first place in the Region for Prepared Public Speaking and Sam Moenning has been elected to serve as a Regional Officer. We had many other FFA members that placed in their Regional Competition their hard work and effort are really paying off.

The second semester teachers at the high school are using Schoology to keep track of student progress. They will only use JMC to enter mid-term, end of quarter and semester grades. You can still use JMC to view attendance, but the day-to-day assignments will only be viewable on Schoology. We have some information posted on our high school website, if you still have questions or need your access code please contact the high school office and we will be happy to help you.



An **important date** to put on your calendar is **April 28th**. **All Juniors** will be taking the **ACT Exam**. This exam will be provided at **no cost to the students**, it is being provided by the State of Minnesota. All other students will have a **Digital Learning Day**. The students will be assigned work that they can do at home on their iPads.



The spring months also bring the testing season. Tenth grade students will be taking the MCA Reading exam and the juniors will be taking the MCA Math exam. These state mandated exams will take place in April.

Think Spring, and please contact the office with any questions or concerns you may have that we can try to help with!

Craig Schlichting, THS Principal

8th GRADE PARENT NIGHT
Thursday, March 12th
6:00pm in the Performing Arts Center (PAC)
(during MS conferences)

Parents...

Join Ms. Kreigh (Counselor) & Mr. Schlichting (Principal) for information on registration for 9th grade classes, high school credits, graduation requirements, 4 year plans, ipads, etc.

A great way to get all of your questions about your student's high school transition answered!

State Bound for Business Students

26 Triton Business Professionals of America (BPA) students are State bound after competing against nine other regional schools and 200 other students on Wednesday, January 14.

“It was kind of a weird competition year for us,” said BPA Adviser Rebecca Sandager. “Our regional competition was cancelled twice due to a snow storm, so the students had to take their tests at the home school and video-tape their project presentations to be judged remotely rather than in-person.”

Those setbacks did not stop the Triton students. Of the 33 members who competed from Triton, 26 won state trips.

“It’s amazing to see what our kids are capable of,” said Sandager. “They were thrown a curve ball, and they took it, adapted to it, and still knocked it out of the park. They have a lot to be proud of.”

Students competed individually and in teams by demonstrating their skills and abilities through tests or projects in a variety of areas including accounting, banking and finance, computer applications, graphic design, video editing, office administration, information technology, human resources, interview skills, and public speaking. The top five individuals and top two teams from each event earned trips to the State BPA Contest. Local business owners and community members with real life experience judge the contest events.

“The goal of BPA is to help prepare our students for the workplace by learning and having to demonstrate real-life skills,” said Sandager. “Our students continue to excel in these areas, which is a great reflection of their abilities, as well as Triton and our community.”

The State BPA Contest will be March 12-14 in Minneapolis against roughly 1,000 other students from schools across the state of Minnesota.

Winning Teams

Website Design Team- 1st Place
Blazer Blake
Joe Hernandez
Logan Maas
Ley Ortiz

Website Design Team- 2nd Place
Morgan Franko
Laila Hernandez

Video Production Team- 1st Place
Garrett Dahms
Charles Groll
Ethan Otterbein
Jaden Thiemann

Broadcast News Team- 1st Place
Taylor Abbott
Jacob Knutson
Mary Moenning
Preston Pflaum

Broadcast News Team- 2nd Place
Kylo Courteau
Alex Finne
Kali Kispert
Karissa Wright

Administrative Support Team- 2nd Place
Kayla Dostal
McKenna Siem
Candi Utech

Triton BPA State Trip Winners

Taylor Abbott-	1 st Fundamental Word Processing, 3 rd Integrated Office Applications
Izach Berg-	3 rd PC Servicing & Troubleshooting
Alex Finne-	2 nd Advanced Interview
Charles Groll-	3 rd Advanced Interview, 3 rd Extemporaneous Speech
Max Henderson-	1 st Human Resource Management
Jacob Knutson-	1 st Visual Basic Programming, 4 th Payroll Accounting
Logan Maas-	4 th Medical Office Procedures
Mary Moenning-	1 st Prepared Speech
Haley Redican-	3 rd Graphic Design
Jacelyn Schley-	2 nd Computer Security
Taylor Stroebel-	5 th Medical Office Procedures



Counselor's Corner

Christi Kreigh, High School Counselor

Semester 1 has quickly come to an end and we are already well into semester 2! If your student did not do as well as you would like to see and/or failed a class this past semester, please feel free to contact me to learn more about your student's options for credit recovery and/or develop a plan for your student's success in the future semesters. It's also a great time to start using Schoology to keep track of your student's classes, assignments and grades!

In February THS helped me to celebrate **National School Counseling Week** and **Healthy Choices Week**. This year, each grade level had a special presentation on a topic ranging from safe texting to drug and alcohol abuse prevention.

As always if you have questions, concerns or I can help in any way, please don't hesitate to call (374-6305) or email me (ckreigh@triton.k12.mn.us)! Please also check out the resources on my webpage at: www.triton.k12.mn.us, click on High School>Office>Counselor's Office.

****Below is a list of important dates & information for the remaining months of school.****

● SENIORS!

- **Local Scholarship Packets are due to Ms. Kreigh by 3:04pm on Tuesday, March 31st, absolutely no exceptions.** Don't miss this opportunity to apply for FREE MONEY! Remember to keep applying for all other scholarships! Be sure to stop in the Career Center to check out the scholarship binder and search online at websites like www.fastweb.com and www.scholarships.com too! Check out your & parents' employers, religious affiliations, club/volunteer organizations, colleges you will be attending, etc! Local scholarship winners will be announced at **Senior Awards Night on Wednesday, May 13th at 7pm in the PAC.**
- **Final Transcript Orders...BY LAW,** we cannot release your final transcript without your permission. All universities, community colleges, technical schools, etc. require your final transcript (with graduation date) in order for you to attend their school. Ms. Kreigh will pass out request forms during Senior Seminar the week of May 11th! All final transcript requests must be **turned in to Ms. Kreigh by Friday, May 22nd!**



● JUNIORS!

- **Remember that you will be taking a free REAL ACT + Writing test at Triton High School on Tuesday, April 28th!** **Plan to send your scores to 4 colleges that you are interested in.** This is FREE, later on you will have to pay \$12 for every school you apply to. This is a required test for graduation that you will need to make up if you miss school that day. If you don't like your score and want to retake it, plan to register online at www.actstudent.org to take the June or September test. You will need to pay for the re-take or ask Ms. Kreigh for a waiver if you qualify for free/reduced lunch. Remember to take advantage of the free practice tests available at www.mncis.intocareers.org by logging into your account (see note below), use the practice app on your ipad or view the practice questions on the official ACT website listed above.
- **Go on college visits this spring and summer!** To count as an excused absence parents still need to call in and students need to obtain an orange college visit form from the Career Center BEFORE going on the visit. Now is the time for students to create their initial lists of possible post-secondary schools so that next fall they can narrow down options (and reduce anxiety about their future)!



Counselor's Corner (continued)

- **SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS!**

- **Post-Secondary Enrollment Options**--PSEO is a state program for public high school juniors and seniors that gives them an opportunity to complete some high school requirements by taking courses at a participating college. Students can take advanced level courses or courses that may not be offered at Triton and earn high school and college credit. *Remember that a student must have their own transportation to/from the PSEO institution.* If a student is interested in participating, he/she should speak with Ms. Kreigh as soon as possible—parents are also welcome to this meeting if they would like. Application materials will be available beginning March 1st. There are entrance GPA and testing requirements set up by the colleges. **Students must let Ms. Kreigh know by March 30 if they intend on participating the next year.**
- Interested in helping other students, adding a great activity to your resume and having a lot of fun?? Apply to be a **Link Leader** for the 2015-2016 school year!! Applications and interview schedules will become available in late March!

In other news:

- **8th GRADE PARENT NIGHT (Orientation to High School)** will take place on **Thursday, March 12th at 6:00pm in the Performing Arts Center.**
- **CLASS REGISTRATION** for the 2014-15 school year will be done with all students grades 8-11 in March-April. This is a great opportunity to talk to your student about their future plans and career ideas.
- **SUMMER SCHOOL**...is offered through our Alternative Learning Center (ALC) in Byron from the middle of June through the middle of July. *If your student failed any core classes (English, Science, Social Studies, Math), summer school is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED in order to ensure graduation with their class.* Please see Ms. Kreigh for registration information in late April. **Students will need to provide their own transportation to and from Byron.**
- **Minnesota Career Information System** is a fantastic resource for students and parents! Log on to www.mncis.intocareers.org for career, college, and scholarship searches as well as practice ACTs, SATs, and Accuplacers. Our Username is: **triton** and our Password is: **cobras**, but every student should have their own username and password.



Spring Blood Drive

Monday, May 11th

8am-2:30pm East Gym

***Sponsored by THS National Honor Society*

Parents...

Encourage your 16+ year old to help save a life! Note that 16 year olds can donate, but need a signed parent permission form. Students can sign up and get a permission form in the library.

FINE ARTS NEWS



Triton's one-act "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" starred at state with an "exemplary" rating from all three judges. The comments praised the cast for its great ensemble work, individuals for their excellent characterization, and the entire production for its seamless transitions. They also praised the production's pace, energy, and variety.

Congratulats Cast and Crew!

Jacob Knutson
Charles Kenneth Groll
Preston Pflaum
Kiana Komatsu
Emmily Wilson
Kasey Redman
JC Schley
Larissa Lumsden
Rhylan Peterson
Noah Woxland
Connor Kelley
Taylor Schandorff
Leah Pflaum
Matt Hoberg
Desirae Tangen
Grace Lumsden



Band Concerts Coming This Spring!

The Triton bands will present their annual Spring Concert on Thursday, May 14 in the Triton Performing Arts Center. The first concert, at 6:15 pm, will feature the 5th, 6th, and 7th grade bands under the direction of Mr. Markus Hahn and Mr. John Miller.

The second concert, at 7:30 pm, will feature the 8th grade and high school band, as well as the high school jazz band, all under the direction of Mr. Markus Hahn. The concerts are free and the public is welcome to attend.



The 8th grade Choir sang at the Middle School Choir Festival at Byron Middle School on Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015

Triton Senior Matinee Spring Musical

The high school students will present their spring musical, Fiddler on the Roof to the senior citizens on Wednesday, April 8. Dessert and refreshments will be served during a brief intermission. In order to be sure that everyone is accommodated, **all attendees must pre-register at Triton Community Education at 374-2808 by April 1. Suggested Cost: \$4**

Wednesday, April 8

Matinee starts at 1:30PM, please do not come earlier than 1:20PM

Location: Triton's Performing Arts Center

A QUARTER CENTURY OF GROWTH AND LEARNING

Kim Swanson

The 25th annual Triton Wolf Ridge trip is officially in the books, and what a great weekend it was! Though the snow was limited, the adventure and growth once again exceeded our expectations and students returned to school with lifelong memories, closer connections to their classmates, and increased self-confidence.

This year's crew of 89 members of the Triton community didn't get to try out cross country skiing, but they explored the frozen lake, walked thirty feet in the air on the ropes course, snowshoed and hiked to beautiful Lake Superior overlooks while learning about the natural history of the area, and engineered the most efficient wind turbines. They climbed rocks, got up close and personal with chickadees as they fed the birds from their hands and heads, and realized that sometimes experiences are most engaging when they weren't constantly connected to their cell phones and technology.



The Wolf Ridge experience provides all of our students with an opportunity to step out of their comfort zones. The students impressed all involved in the trip with their willingness to take risks and help each other find success. We look forward to seeing this growth (and more!) play out in the classroom now that we're back in the classroom.

A record number of students took advantage of warm winter temperatures and an opportunity to sleep outside in the gently falling snow. Forty-one members of our crew braved the cold, grabbed a tarp and some sleeping bags, and headed out on Saturday night in temperatures in the teens. They came back happy (though a little tired) on Sunday morning thanks to the leadership of Rod Marquardt and a crew of adventurous parents!

This trip continues to have an impact on our students because of the great people that help make it happen. Thank you to our financial supporters (the Triton Booster Club, Dodge Center Lions, McNeilus Steel, the Claremont Chamber of Commerce, Claremont Service Center, KM Telecom, and the Somers Family. Thank you to Taher Food Service for providing cookies for students to enjoy in the evening, and a special thanks to all the staff and parents that took time out of their busy schedules to spend the weekend with our kids (Brian Felten, Alli Horejsi, Denny Midthun, and Matt Jorgensen (THS science department, past and present), Brad Paulson, Craig Schlichting, and Rod Marquardt (bus drivers), and Michelle Yankowiak, Laurie Essig, Stacy Newman, Rich West, Bryce Kleinwort, Steve Yankowiak, and Travis Delzer (parents).

As the gear is put away and pictures are distributed to students, the countdown begins to next year's adventure. Over 2,000 members of our community have had a winter adventure at Wolf Ridge, and we look forward to continuing to grow that number in the future!

2015 Dodge County Business Expo "Grow Your Community - Shop Locally"

The Business Expo will still be located at Triton Public Schools, but will be based out of the **Activities Area**, located on the North Side of School. All vendors will be located in the **East and West Gyms**.

\$1 Breakfast: Large Cinnamon Roll, Fruit, Milk or Coffee
Seating for the breakfast will also be in the Activities Area.

Saturday, March 28, 8am-2pm
Triton Activities Area, Park in the North Lot and Enter through Door # 33

Community Ed News

Exploring South Dakota

Escort: Kristy Faber, Triton Community Ed and Sugar Loaf Charter Service

Join us on a 5 day, 4 night trip to South Dakota. This is your chance to have an expert charter bus service organize your adventure from top to bottom! Ride in comfort and enjoy the scenery as we make our way to historical and fascinating sites.

Day One: Join us for the fun of exploring highlights of South Dakota. We will leave Dodge Center early morning with stops for coffee and lunch, and a visit at the Corn Palace in Mitchell SD. We will stay overnight in Murdo, South Dakota, and tour the Pioneer Auto Museum.

Day Two: We will visit Badlands National Park, spending time in the visitors center as well as stopping along the way for pictures. No trip to South Dakota would be complete without a stop at Wall Drug, you'll find many things to explore there. Next, we will move on to Rapid City to check into the motel and attend the Fort Hays Chuckwagon Supper & Show.

Day Three: Mt Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial.

Day Four: We will travel to Deadwood to check out "Tatonka"--story of the buffalo. We will stop at several sight-seeing places this day, including a tour of the Minuteman Missile historic site. We will stay in Chamberlin, SD at Al's Oasis this evening.

Day 5: We will be on the way home with many great memories.

Pick up and drop off for the trip will be in the Triton West Lot, by the baseball field fence.

May 14-18, 2015:

5 Days, 4 nights: includes coach bus, hotels, admission tickets to sites, and dinner/show at Fort Hays.



**Cost: *\$570, double occupancy*\$770, single occupancy
\$545, triple occupancy\$535, quad occupancy**

**Sign up Deadline (and initial deposit of \$150/person) is March 2, 2015
Call Triton Community Ed at 507-374-2808 to register or ask questions**



View the Triton Community Ed Brochure on-line at www.triton.k12.mn.us, click on the Community Ed tab. Scroll down to the "Brochure" headline and open it.



We also now have on-line registration and payment options! Go to the Triton Public Schools Web site and look for the Community Ed Class Registration/Calendar quick link on the left side of the page.

For up to date information, check us out on Facebook! "Like" our page under "Triton Community Ed".



Adult ESL Class

This class provides help for non-English and limited English speaking adults who want to learn English as their second language. Classes are free. Classes run in 12 week sections, but students are welcome at any time.

****NO COST****

Tuesdays and Thursday evenings: 6-8 PM

Instructor: Jill Rheingans and Stacy Schlobohm

TES Room 410

GED Class

Exciting opportunities to get your GED!

Triton Community Ed offers 12 week classroom sections, as well as free online access to GED materials through MDE and MySkillsTutor. Stop by on a Monday night to get registered and then Nacia can help you get started. Classes meet Monday nights, so come in and get class room instruction, followed by virtual contact the rest of the week. **NOW there is no excuse for not completing your GED!**

****NO COST****

Mondays: 5-7 PM

Instructor: Nacia Olson

TES Room 410

Both GED and ESL programs run in 12 week sections, so please call our office to learn when these sessions are planned to be held. Triton Community Ed: 374-

Biddy Basketball Fun!



Amazing Rube Goldberg Machines with Kelly Wilkins from the U of MN Extension



Cobra Collision Youth Wrestling Tournament

Scenes From Prairie Fire Theatre's Alladin



SB= Softball
TF= Track and Field

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 6 PM Sports Eligibility Night East Gym	3	4	5	6 NO SCHOOL FFA (A) K-W	7 FFA(H) West Concord Am. Legion
8	9 TMS Conferences TMS Conferences	10 FFA (H)	11	12 6 PM 8th Grade Parent's Mtg. 4/5th Grade Science Fair TMS Conferences	13	14
15	16 6 PM School Board Mtg. TMS Media Center	17	18	19 6 PM Choir Concert 7:30 PM Band Concert	20 4/5th Grade SADD Lock-in	21 SB-V(A) St. Charles TF-V(A) Lewiston-Altura
22	23	24	25	26	27 NO SCHOOL	28 8AM-2PM Dodge County Business Expo
29	30 SB-7,8(A) K-M SB-JV,V(H) K-M	31 TF-V(H) Multiple Schools				

BB= Baseball SB= Softball

April 2015

G= Golf

TF= Track and Field

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 NO SCHOOL	3 NO SCHOOL	4
5	6 NO SCHOOL	7 BB-V,JV(A) Stewartville BB-7,8(H) Cannon Falls G-V(A) Stewartville SB-JV,V(H) Goodhue SB-7,8(A) Goodhue TF-JrH(A) K-M TF-V(A) Stewartville	8 1:30 PM Senior Citizen Matinee' Spring Musical	9 BB-7,8(A) Goodhue BB-JV,V(H) Goodhue SB-7,8(H) Hayfield SB-JV,V(A) Hayfield 7PM Spring Musical	10 FFA(A) U of MN BG-V(A) Shattuck St. Mary's TF-V(A) PEM 7 PM Spring Musical	11 7 PM Spring Musical
12	13 BB-V,JV(H) K-M BB-7,8(A) K-M FFA(A) Dover-Eyota G-JrH(A) Hayfield SB-7,8(A) Stewartville SB-JV,V(H) Stewartville	14 G-JV,V(A) NRHEG SB-JV,V(H) WEM TF-V(A) Stewartville TF-JrH(A) PEM	15 FFA (H)	16 6 PM 2/3rd Grade Concert BB-JV,V(H) Byron BB-7,8(A) Byron G-JV,V(A) Cannon Falls SB-JV,V(A) Rochester Lourdes SB-7,8(H) Rochester Lourdes TF-V(H) Multiple Schools	17	18 BB-7,8,JV(H) Hayfield BB-V(A) Hayfield SB-V(A) St.Clair
19	20 BB-JV,V(H) Dover-Eyota BB-7,8(A) Dover-Eyota G-JrH(A) ZM SB-V(H) Lyle-Pacelli SB-7,8(A) Lyle-Pacelli TF-JrH(H) Multiple Schools 6PM School Board Mtg THS Media Center	21 BB-JV,V(A) BP BB-7,8(H) BP G-JV,V(H) BP SB-JV,V(H) Pine Island SB-7,8(A) Pine Island TF-V(A) BP	22	23 BB-JV,V(A) Rochester Lourdes G-BV(A) Rochester Lourdes G-GV(A) Zumbrota-Mazeppa SB-JV,V(A) Zumbrota-Mazeppa SB-7,8(H) Zumbrota-Mazeppa TF-JrH(A) GMLOS TF-V(A) Lake City	24 SB-JV,V(H) Rochester Century	25 PROM SB-8(A) Zumbrota-Mazeppa Visual Arts (A) Rochester
26	27 BB-7,8(A) Lake City BB-JV,V(H) Lake City FFA(A) U of MN G-JrH(H) Multiple Schools SB-JV,V(H) Lake City SB-7,8(A) Lake City TF-JV(H) Multiple Schools	28 FFA (A) U of MN G-V(H) Multiple Schools	29	30 BB-7,8,JV,V(A) Pine Island G-JV,V(H) Multiple Schools TF-JrH(H) Hayfield		

BB= Baseball SB= Softball

May 2015

G= Golf

TF= Track and Field

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 SB-JV,V(A) Bethlehem Academy	2 BB-7(A) Stewartville SB-7(A) Stewartville
3	4 BB-7,8(A) KW BB-JV,V(H) KW G-V(H) Mult. Schools SB-JV,V(A) BP SB-7,8(H) BP	5 BB-7,8(H) Medford BB-JV,V(A) Medford G-JV,V(A) Cannon Falls TF-V(H) Mult. Schools	6 FFA(A) D-E Whitewater Trip	7 BB-JV,V(A) Goodhue BB-7,8(H) Goodhue G-JrH(A) Stewartville SB-JV,V(H) K-W SB-7,8(A) K-W TF-JrH(A) Hayfield Whitewater Trip	8 BB-7,8(A) Mazeppa G-V(A) Virginia Whitewater Trip	9 BB-8(A) Byron BB-JV,V(H) Z-M G-V(A) Virginia TF-V(A) Lake City
10	11 G-JV,V(A) Lake City SB-JV,V(H) Houston	12 BB-7,8(A) Pine Island BB-JV,V(H) Pine Island SB-7,8(H) Cannon Falls SB-JV,V(A) Cannon Falls TFV(A) Cotter	13 Fine Arts & Academics Awards	14 6 PM Band Concert 7:30 PM Band Concert G-V TBD TF-JrH(A) Stewartville	15 BB-JV,V (A) K-W BB-7,8(H) K-W SB-JV,V(A) Byron SB-7,8(H) Byron TF-V(H) Mult. Schools	16 SB-8(A) Stewartville
17	18 G-JV,J(A) Lake City 6PM School Board Mtg, THS Media Cnt	19 6:15 PM Choir Concert 7:30 PM Choir Concert	20	21 BB-7,8(H) Randolph SB-7,8(H) Randolph TF-V(A) Grand Meadow 6PM K/1st Concert	22 G-V(A) TBD	23
24	25 NO SCHOOL	26 TF-V(H) TBD	27 1PM Early Out 3 PM Senior Boards 8 PM Baccalaureate	28 TF-V(H) TBD	29	30
31 Graduation						

Triton Public Schools
813 West Highway Street
Dodge Center, MN 55927

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