



Our Voice

Tri-Village Local Schools

We're on our way to building for tomorrow
A School of Excellence



November 2012

Message from the Superintendent

In a recent edition of an Our Voice publication we distributed a survey to receive feedback from the community. We listed eight items that citizens could check to indicate they were supportive of the idea. The purpose was to find ways to help the district remain fiscally solvent. These ideas were generated by listening to suggestions we had heard from people in the community. We also made available a space for other ideas. We received valuable feedback from the community and we will use this information to make decisions as we go forward. During the next few months I will write ongoing articles to address some of the ideas that were presented. I believe an informed citizenry is necessary in order for us to function properly. Thomas Jefferson once said, "No one more sincerely wishes the spread of information among mankind than I do, and none has greater confidence in it's effect towards supporting free & good government." I wholeheartedly agree with the words shared by one of our great founding fathers, so my goal is to better communicate what we have done at Tri-Village, what we are trying to do, and also what we will do in the future. Including everyone in this community is the only way to support an efficient and effective school.



We received very valuable ideas and we are doing our best to act on the ideas given to us through the survey. In fact, some of the ideas brought forward are things we have already done to run an efficient operation. For instance many people shared that we should rely more on volunteers. We are interested in more volunteers. We currently have some volunteers and they do a great job. We have more needs than volunteers, so if anyone is interested, then please contact me and we will find a way for you to contribute.

I will attempt to communicate federal and state laws that may hinder us and also why sometimes what seems obvious is not always so clear when one takes into account a more global perspective. For example, suggestions were made by local citizens completing our surveys to try a four day week during the school year as some other states have implemented in an attempt to save money. The idea is to extend the day and educate students the same number of hours allowing schools to save money by cutting transportation costs and reduce the number of days necessary to maintain the building. This is currently not allowed by state law, so it is not something the district is able to consider. Other folks suggested having staff work four day work weeks if they are year around employees who work during the summer. In other words employees would work extended days and therefore the same number of hours per week, but shut the building down in order to operate more efficiently. This is something we will consider for our year-around employees.

At this time, the district has received better than projected revenue from our income tax collections. This is a positive sign that the local economy is rebounding and as a result the district will not return to the voters to pass a levy this year. Please keep in mind that the district is operating on a thin margin, so we cannot guarantee that a levy will not be necessary. We are waiting to see how Governor Kasich's budget will impact us come July 1, 2013.

My biggest request to everyone living in the district is to please contact the school with any questions you may have. Especially if you hear something that you feel does not make sense. Please ask me to substantiate what is being said before passing it on as fact. In subsequent issues of the Our Voice publication I will continue to address ideas we received from our survey.

To be continued... :>)

Open Enrollment

There have been many changes in education over the last decade and one fundamental change that is not fully understood by many is the concept of open enrollment. The Ohio General Assembly passed a law that allows parents and students to choose a district of attendance other than the school where that student resides. There are some qualifications that deal with discipline, attendance, or if the receiving district has room to accept the requesting student. The benefit to the accepting school is that the state money that would have gone to the district of residence is transferred to the school educating the child. The result has been a shifting of dollars between school districts.

Tri-Village has benefitted from this practice, because more parents and students have decided to bring their out of district students to Tri-Village than parents living in the district deciding to take their child to another district. When students from Eldorado or Wayne Lakes choose to attend Tri-Village the state money from those respective school districts then flows to Tri-Village. The district has gained on average about \$200,000 annually due to a positive open enrollment flow of dollars.

The purpose of this article is not to show support or opposition to the concept of open enrollment, but rather to simply explain how the policy impacts Tri-Village and therefore the community. Please contact the school with any policy questions or concerns. Our objective is to keep the school community informed.

3rd Grade - Trick or Treat for UNCEF Campaign

Tri-Village third graders have been learning about sharing with others throughout the world to help those who may not be as blessed as we are in our community.



In October, they collected money for the Trick or Treat for UNCEF campaign. UNICEF is the United Nations Children's Fund. The money collected will help bring fresh water to communities in undeveloped countries and help to provide food, medical aid, and school supplies for many children who would not otherwise have these things. Third graders collected \$300.00 for this cause. Thanks to all those who may have donated as children were trick or treating.

In November, these amazing 3rd graders collected items to be put in shoeboxes that will become Christmas gifts for under privileged children all over the world. This is a project sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, an organization providing aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine.

Each year, this organization sponsors Operation Christmas Child for the holidays. People throughout our country and in other countries fill shoeboxes with small gifts and things children need - hygiene supplies, school supplies, toys, candy, and other things. Samaritan's Purse then delivers these boxes to needy children everywhere. For some of these children, this is the first gift they have ever received. This is an amazing way for our students to reach out beyond our community - and learn how it feels to help someone who cannot return your act of love.

Our third graders collected and filled 33 shoeboxes. Some, who paid shipping fees online, will find out by email where in the world their box was delivered.

We are proud of our students and hope they keep their giving spirits as they grow into adults.

Thermal Energy

Mr. Flatter's Physical Science students have dedicated themselves to understanding thermal energy. The students were given the challenge to create the ultimate coat. The rules of the competition were simple, the coat had to be in one piece and hold 300 milliliters of water. The challenge had a sense of urgency as students were only given 72 hours to a finished project. The students were given 300 milliliters of boiling water with the objective of keeping the water as close to the starting temperature as possible. The team with the coat that retained the highest temperature after 5 minutes was crowned the winner. Just like a winter coat the goal was to keep the heat inside the coat. Each of the 3 physical science classes named a winner.

Congratulations to the following students: Elijah Fourman, Hannah Tamplin, Kenzie Martin, Zach Bevins, Samantha Holzapfel, Sarah Witmer, Olivia Mt.Castle and Leigha Baker.

All of the physical science students showed initiative during this project and it will be very exciting to see how they progress armed with their 21st century skills they have obtained at Tri-Village.

