

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN



Update 1-16-2015

JUMP TO SCHOOL DIGITAL BACKPACKS & UPDATES:

[Update on Birch Grove](#)

[Update on TIS](#)

[Update on TMS](#)

[Update on THS](#)

SUPERINTENDENT' NOTES FOR THE WEEK

I want to thank everyone who came out for the Community Budget Workshop this Thursday. It was wonderful to see so much collaboration and dedication. Thank you for helping us overcome obstacles and achieve the best for the children in Tolland. I am putting together a report of the ideas, and input, that I will share on January 20th and 21st. even if you missed the 20th, please come on out on the 20th and 21st – there is still plenty of time to have your voice heard, and to impact my budget proposal!

This week I was able to visit Birch Grove. It was the highlight of my week (along with the Community Budget Workshop). Working with some students in math, visiting a Kindergarten meeting, reading with a group, and visiting lunch in the lunch room were my favorite parts. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to work with your precious children.

I reviewed the *Student Substance Abuse Use and Related Behavior Report 2014* results this week as well. It is a substance use and abuse anonymous survey given to students at the end of last year. I plan to provide a presentation of the results at the Community Learning Workshop on March 18th, but will also

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discuss them at the upcoming Superintendent's Breakfast (January 21st). The survey data indicated that 10% of our 7th graders and 11% of our 8th graders self-reported experimenting with e-cigarettes. Other information suggested that over 68.6% of 12th graders have used alcohol, and over 22% of the students self-reported that their source for alcohol is their parents.

COMING UP:

- **January 20 and 21 7:30 PM in the Tolland High School Library: Come to *round 2* of our TPS Community Budget Workshop. Even if you missed the January 15th workshop, this will be an awesome opportunity to hear a report on what your fellow community members came up with for ideas, suggestions, and contributions to move us forward! There will also be additional opportunities to share and help me in building my budget proposal to the Board of Education.**

Breakfast with the Superintendent

- January 21st is the first Breakfast with the Superintendent @ 9:00 to 10:00 AM at the Board of Education office (51 Tolland Green, Tolland). It is the old "bank" building. Please come and bring your ideas, questions, and conversation! I will provide coffee and donuts. Childcare can be provided upon request (860-870-6850 extension 1).

COMMUNITY LEARNING WORKSHOP

- Mark your calendars for **March 18th, (PLEASE NOTE THE NEW DATE)** at Tolland Middle School, our first Community Learning Workshop 5:45 PM - 8:45 PM.
 - This evening will start at 5:45 with refreshments, with programs starting at 6:00 PM, and will include presentations from Tolland Teachers on programs in the school (like Writer's Workshop), the Family Resource Center, Tolland Resident Troopers, Social Services, Tolland Business owners, and more.
 - There will be a "Q&A" Room with refreshments manned by school administrators and other community members where you can come between sessions and ask questions about the schools, the town, and the community
 - **If you would like to contribute a presentation, we are looking for 45 minute presentations from any interested party. Please contact me (Superintendent Willett) at 860-870-6850 extension 1.**

INFO TO KNOW:

- The 2015 Cider Mill Road Race
Registration is now available ONLINE! <http://www.lightboxreg.com/cider-mill-5k?mobile=0> (http://trk.cp20.com/Tracking/t.c?7sn5n-kygk4-7n38r08&_v=2)

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Register now and Save! Join us for a great race and a great cause. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please
share with all your friends and family!

The Cider Mill 5K & Family Fun Run is organized by a committee partnered by the Tolland Elementary PTO, Tolland Middle School PTO, Tolland High School Booster Club, and the Tolland Recreation Department. Proceeds benefit these organizations and their efforts to promote physical fitness within the Tolland Community.

ARTICLES OF INTREST

- <http://youtu.be/YshUDa10JYY> - Changing the World, One Word at a Time! Check this out – these girls are something else.
- **A low-cost, one-time intervention that teaches teens about personality traits may prevent depression among high school freshmen**, according to research by University of Texas at Austin psychologists. Scientists assigned 600 ninth-graders from three different high schools to participate in an intervention or a control activity. In the intervention, students read a passage that described how people's personalities are subject to change, and then wrote a narrative on the topic to be shared with future ninth graders. Students in the control group read a passage that focused on the changeable nature of athletic ability. Nine months later, a follow-up survey showed that rates of clinically significant depressive symptoms rose by 39 percent among students in the control group, while students who learned about the malleability of personality showed no such increase in depressive symptoms (*Clinical Psychological Science*, online Sept. 15).
- **Adolescents with cerebral palsy report a similar quality of life to their able-bodied peers**, according to a study conducted at Newcastle University in the United Kingdom. Researchers compared 431 adolescents with cerebral palsy with matched controls in the general population on their responses to a questionnaire asking about quality of life in the previous week across 10 areas of life, such as mood and emotions, self-perception, autonomy and school. They found that adolescents with cerebral palsy rated their quality of life as comparable to teens in the control group, and reported better quality of life in several areas, including moods and emotions, self-perception, autonomy, relationships with parents and school life. Only in the category of social support from friends and peers did adolescents with cerebral palsy report significantly lower life quality than their able-bodied peers (*The Lancet*, online Oct. 7).
- **When working moms are happy, their kids are, too**, suggests research led by a psychologist at Ball State University. In the study, 174 full-time working mothers and their children, ages 9 to 17, reported on their mood and physical health for eight consecutive evenings. The researchers found that the mothers' positive moods after work were directly related to their children's reporting more positive moods, better sleep quality and longer sleep duration (*Journal of Family Psychology*, online Sept. 22).
- **A classroom intervention may help shy children improve their math and critical thinking skills**, according to a study led by New York University scientists. Researchers followed nearly 350 children and their parents from 22 elementary schools during kindergarten and into first grade. Half of the schools participating were randomized to a 10-week "[INSIGHTS into Children's Temperament](#)" program, which trains parents and teachers how to recognize

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differences in children and support them in ways that are specific to their temperaments. Their children participated in INSIGHTS classroom activities, using puppets, flashcards, workbooks and videotapes to help them solve daily challenges — such as having a substitute teacher — and understand how people react differently to the same situations. A control group of schools participated in a supplemental afterschool reading program. Researchers found that while all children enrolled in INSIGHTS showed improvements in academic skills, the effects were substantially greater for shy children. They had significant growth in critical thinking skills and stability in math skills over the transition from kindergarten to first grade, compared with shy peers in the control group, who declined in both areas ([School Psychology Review](#), online Sept. 22).

- **By age 5, children are wary of information provided by people who make overly confident claims**, finds a study by psychologists at Concordia University and the University of British Columbia. Researchers showed 96 4- and 5-year-olds short videos of two adults talking about animals. The speakers would either make true statements about an animal in a hesitant voice, such as, "Hmm, I guess whales live in the water?" or false statements about the animal in a confident voice, such as, "Oh, I know! Whales live in the ground!" The children were then shown videos of the same two adults speaking about strange animals in the same roles. Researchers then asked the participants whom they believed. Children closer to age 4 were as likely to believe the confident liar as the hesitant truth-teller. But children closer to age 5 were more likely to believe the previously accurate but hesitant individual ([PLOS ONE](#), Sept. 25).
- **Sexting appears to be a precursor to sexual behavior among teens**, according to research conducted at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. Nearly 1,000 ethnically diverse adolescents completed anonymous surveys detailing their history of sexting, sexual activity and other behaviors as part of a six-year investigation. Researchers examined data from the second and third years of the study and found that the odds of being sexually active as a high school junior were slightly higher for youth who sent sexts the previous year, compared with teens who did not sext. The researchers did not find sexting to be linked with later risky sexual behaviors ([Pediatrics](#), online Oct. 6).
- **Children with good rhythm may have more advanced grammar skills**, according to a study by Vanderbilt University scientists. Researchers tested 25 6-year-olds on their ability to determine if several simple and complex musical rhythms were the same or different, and then tested their grammar skills in sentence production by asking them to describe photos. The researchers found that even after controlling for IQ, music experience and socio-economic status, children who were better at telling apart rhythms were also better at the grammar task ([Developmental Science](#), online Sept. 7).

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UPDATE ON BIRCH GROVE:

Birch Grove Digital Backpack

January 12, 2015

2015-16 Budget Timeline-[Click Here](#)

Breakfast with Superintendent Willett-[Click Here](#)

Dr. Willett Welcome Reception-[Click Here](#)

Principal's January Newsletter-[Click Here](#)

Birch Grove Concert Dates-[Click Here](#)

4H Camp Camp-[Click Here](#)

Tolland Food Services Sub Positions-[Click Here](#)

TBOE January 15 Special Meeting Agenda-[Click Here](#)

TBOE January 14 Agenda-[Click Here](#)

Lutz Children's Museum Schedule-[Click Here](#)

Tolland Tykes Preschool Open House-[Click Here](#)

St. Matthew Preschool Open House-[Click Here](#)

FRC Summer Camp Program-[Click Here](#)

FRC Early Childhood Programs-[Click Here](#)

FRC January Newsletter-[Click Here](#)

FRC Play Groups and Special Events-[Click Here](#)

FRC Parenting Workshops-[Click Here](#)

FRC The Kid and Me-[Click Here](#)

Tolland Little League Winter Clinics-UPDATED-[Click Here](#)

Free Girls Lacrosse Clinics-[Click Here](#)

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Tolland High School Weekly Bulletin *1-16-15*

It has been a quiet week at Tolland High School as students prepared for their 1st semester exams which begin on Friday, January 16. However, members of the THS Jazz Band still found time to play at the Tolland Public Library on Wednesday evening, January 14.



The seniors were recognized at their concert on January 8 and are pictured below from left to right: Tiffany Tran, Bisye Oyelola, Christina Wolff, Kathleen Moriarty, Mike Marandino, and Corey Jenkins



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Lastly, the Student Council sponsored a *Cookies and Cram* event on Tuesday, January 13. National Honor Society students were on hand to provide assistance to those students preparing for their upcoming exams. Approximately 50 students attended this new event. During the “study break”, students who attended were treated to a variety of cookies.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 19 - No School
 January 20 - Exams (tentative)
 January 21 - Mid-Semester Day No School (tentative)
 January 22 - Second Semester Begins (tentative)
 January 28 - Half-Day Session - Teacher In-service
 January 28 - Orientation and Course Fair for 8th Graders - 6:30 p.m. THS Auditorium
 January 29 - Meet & Greet with Superintendent Willet - THS Café - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY BUDGET WORKSHOPS

Tolland High School Library
 7:30 PM

January 20
January 21

What is a Community Budget Workshop? A Community Budget Workshop is where I (the Superintendent), the School Administration, and the BOE welcomes and encourages *citizen input* as it continues through the process of developing the education budget for the 2015-16 school year. During these workshops, discussions will include: goals, priorities, and opportunities for cost savings as it pertains to the budget details. Additional information may be requested as needed. This is an opportunity to impact the Superintendent’s Budget Request. Please mark these dates on your calendar, and please come out!

After completing the budget workshops, deliberating, and making modifications as needed, the Board of Education adopts a budget at the regularly scheduled meeting on **February 11, 2015** which will then become part of the Town Manager’s community conversation on **February 18, 2015** at the Fire Training Center at 7:00 pm.

Any questions regarding these workshops? Please contact the Superintendent’s office at 860-870-6850 extension 1.

BOOSTER CLUB

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The next meeting is scheduled for February 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the main office conference room.

TIMELINE FOR PREPARATION OF THE 2015-2016 BUDGET

To view the timeline for budget preparation, click [here](#).

WELCOME RECEPTION FOR SUPERINTENDENT WILLETT

There will be a meet and greet event with Dr. Willett on January 29th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Tolland High School Cafeteria. Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

BREAKFAST WITH SUPERINTENDENT WILLETT

Come enjoy coffee and donuts. Bring your questions, comments and conversation! 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Board of Education Offices, 51 Tolland Green.

January 21
February 18
March 18
April 15
May 20

RSVP only if childcare is requested to jpalumbo@tolland.k12.ct.us

PROJECT GRADUATION

Tolland Project Graduation needs 6 more people on 1/22 for the Men's Basketball game at Gampel.

The game starts at 7 p.m. Arrival time is between 4:30 and 5:00.

High School students can work! This is a great way for them to earn service hours.

Seniors: Each time you volunteer for any project graduation event, your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 cash prize to be awarded at the senior assembly in June. If you volunteer once, your name goes in once, if you volunteer 3 times, it goes in 3 times. The more you volunteer, the better your odds.

Please email Will and Kathryn Stackpole at tpg.basketball@gmail.com if you can help.

HELP WANTED

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Food & Nutrition Services is looking for substitute workers. Work only while your student is in school. Apply now for positions for the school year. Opportunities to move into permanent, part-time positions are available. Please contact Mary Layman at 860-870-6853 or m Layman@tolland.k12.ct.us.