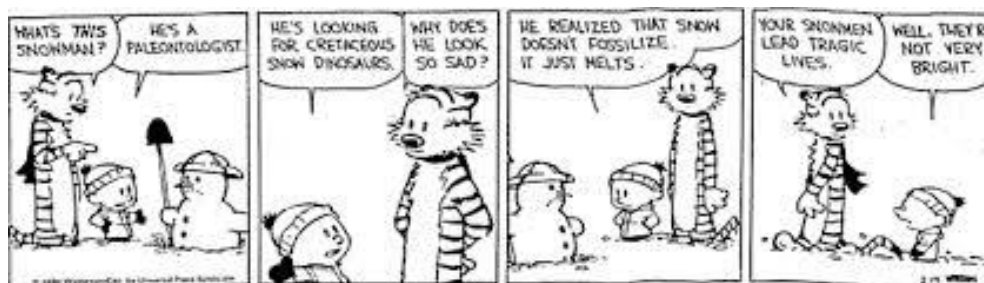


TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN



UPDATE FOR February 28, 2015

JUMP TO SCHOOL UPDATES:

[Birch Grove](#)

[TIS](#)

[TMS](#)

[THS](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES FOR THE WEEK

- Please come to the next Superintendent's Breakfast, March 18th from 9:00 – 10:00 AM! This would be a great place to ask questions, offer opinions and get answers about emergency plans, budget, testing or anything else. I look forward to seeing you there! Upcoming breakfasts are available at: http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_891568/File/breakfast%20with%20superintendent%20flyer%202014.pdf
- Tuesday, March 3rd - The Town Manager convenes a joint meeting between the Town Council and the Board of Education in the Council Room @ 7:00 PM. The budget will be discussed by the TC and BOE, questions asked and answers given. Come on out!
- K-8 students are currently taking the 2nd round of NWEA MAP assessments. Two, or possibly three times during a school year students take two roughly 60- to 70-minute assessments, one in Math and one in Reading, that total up to 2.5 hours together with a break or classes in between. Many students finish in less time. The assessments are similar to benchmark and unit tests in that they are used as *one* of many considerations in reviewing students' academic progress. This assessment system was acquired by Tolland to provide a "standardized" measurement tool for assessing student performance and teacher evaluation, and to provide a universal screen that is designed by an outside entity and thereby has less chance of an internal bias. It is a way of reviewing potential discrepancies in classroom grade distributions, and provides teachers additional pieces of the data puzzle from which remediation and enrichment can be planned, and some school goals can be formed. More information on NWEA MAP assessments, and how the company

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

states the assessments relate to the Common Core Standards and SBAC is available at:

<https://www.nwea.org/assessments/standards-alignment/connecticut/> - Still want to know more, talk about it, or to let me know what *you* think? Come to the Superintendent's Breakfast, March 18th 9:00 – 10:00 AM at the Central Office, 51 Tolland Green.

- **Take part in the Tolland Public Library Foundation's Fourth Annual Poetry Slam: March 5 * 6:30 PM. Conference Room A * Tolland Town Hall** Teen poets needed, aged 12 to 18 and in middle or high school. To register or for an entry form, call the Tolland Public Library at 860-871-3620.
- Not sure how you feel about the **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium** (SBAC) test, or testing in general? A recent article in TIME magazine grappled with the topic:
<http://time.com/3696882/leaving-standardized-testing-behind/>

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- **Children with a history of depression appear to be at increased risk of showing signs of heart disease as early as their teens**, according to research led by a University of South Florida psychologist. The study compared heart disease risk factors — such as smoking, obesity, physical activity level and parental history — among 210 adolescents with histories of clinical depression and 195 of their siblings who never had depression. The researchers also gathered information from 161 unrelated adolescents with no history of depression. The increased risk of heart disease held true even for participants who were no longer experiencing depressive symptoms (*Psychosomatic Medicine*, February-March).
- **Single-sex education does not educate girls and boys any better than co-ed schools**, suggests a meta-analysis of 184 studies of more than 1.6 million students around the world, led by a University of Wisconsin-Madison psychology professor. The analysis, which included studies of K–12 schools published from 1968 to 2013, examined students' performance in math and science, as well as their attitudes about school, gender stereotyping, aggression, victimization and body image. The researchers did not find sufficient evidence for any significant differences in performance or attitudes for boys or girls in single-sex versus co-ed classrooms (*Psychological Bulletin*, online Feb. 3).
- **Treating depression early may decrease the risk of future heart attacks and strokes by almost half**, finds a study led by a psychologist at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Researchers followed 235 clinically depressed patients age 60 or older who were randomly assigned to standard care, which typically included a prescription for antidepressants from their primary care provider, or to a collaborative care program, which typically involved antidepressants and/or brief psychotherapy and was coordinated by a care manager. Of the 168 patients who had no cardiovascular disease at the start of the study, those who received collaborative care to treat their depression had a 48 percent lower risk of heart attack or stroke over the next eight years than patients who received standard care for their depression. In contrast, collaborative care was not associated with a lower risk of a heart attack or stroke among the 67 patients with pre-existing cardiovascular disease (*Psychosomatic Medicine*, January).
- **Parents accidentally confuse children's names more often when names sound alike**, according to a study led by University of Texas at Austin psychologists. Researchers conducted online surveys with 334 respondents with one or more siblings, asking participants to rate similarities in appearance and personality with their siblings, as well as the frequency of their parents' accidentally transposing their names. Participants whose names shared initial (Jamie/Jason) or final (Amanda/Samantha) sounds with a sibling's reported that their parents accidentally called them by the wrong

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

name more often than those without such name overlap. This was especially prevalent among younger siblings who were close in age to and of the same gender as their siblings (*PLOS One*, Dec. 31).

- **The better minority youth feel about their ethnicity or race, the fewer symptoms of depression and behavior problems they have**, suggests a meta-analysis of 46 studies, led by a Brown University psychologist. The studies looked at African-American, Latino, Asian-American, Pacific Islander and American Indian youth in the United States, primarily middle and high school students. The scientists also found that youths with positive feelings about their racial or ethnic identities had better social interactions and self-esteem, did better in school and had fewer problems with drugs or alcohol (*Child Development*, online Feb. 3).
- **Teens with a history of concussions are more than three times more likely to suffer from depression than those who have never had one**, according to research out of Seattle Children's Hospital. The study examined data from the 2007–08 National Survey of Children's Health, which included health information from more than 36,000 adolescents ages 12 to 17. Researchers found that 2.7 percent of the sample had had a concussion and 3.4 percent had a current depression diagnosis. Teens age 15 or older who lived in poverty or had a parent with mental health problems were also more likely to be depressed than other teens, but these factors didn't affect the association between depression and a history of concussion (*Journal of Adolescent Health*, online Dec. 17).
- **Creating a positive school climate appears to deter teenagers from smoking marijuana more than school drug testing**, according to a study at the University of Pennsylvania. Researchers interviewed 361 students about their school environments and drug and alcohol use and followed up with them a year later. They found that students who said their schools had drug testing policies were no less likely than other students to try marijuana, cigarettes or alcohol. However, students who considered their schools to have positive climates — characterized by having clear rules and students and teachers who treat each other with respect — were about 20 percent less likely to try marijuana and 15 percent less likely to try smoking (*Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, January).
- **Children who are bullied in gym class are less likely to pursue and enjoy physical activity**, according to research led by a Brigham Young University psychology professor. Researchers polled fourth- and fifth-grade students from six Midwestern elementary schools about health, emotional well-being, cooperation with others and academics. A year later, researchers asked students the same questions. They found that children of all weights who were bullied in gym classes or during other physical activities still had an aversion to exercise a year later (*Journal of Pediatric Psychology*, January/February).

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

Tolland High School Weekly Bulletin **2-27-15**

2015 DECA State Competition Winners

At the Connecticut State DECA Competition on Thursday, February 25, over 1000 students from across the state competed in 30 different business categories. Tolland High School was represented by 53 outstanding business students. The following 11 students placed in the TOP 6 in their category:

Individuals:

Evan Riesbeck
Corey Jalbert
Josh Hickey

Teams:

Kevin Fiddler and Thomas Landolina
Joseph Garabedian and Bryant Sauter
Corey Jenkins and Jordan Lyonnais
Peter Mayer and Kayleigh McManaman

In addition, the following 10 students placed in the TOP 3 in their category and will be headed to Orlando, FL for the International DECA competition in April.

Matt Schoen – 3rd place – Business Services Marketing

Hunter Muhlhauser – 2nd place – Quick Serve Restaurant Management

Matt Holyst – 2nd place – Marketing Management

Jack Yates – 2nd place – Business Finance

Brandon Antil, Devan Carmody, Emily Warrington – 2nd place – Community Service Project Chapter Event

Liam Barry and Stavros Evripidou – 1st place – Buying and Merchandising Team Event

Joshua Walls – 1st place – Food Marketing

And special recognition also goes out to **Matt Holyst** who was elected the State President for Connecticut DECA.

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

Girls Indoor Track – State Open Champs

The girls track team competed at the State Open last weekend. For the first time in school history, they left the meet as Champions! It was a very competitive track meet, with the outcome not determined until the last event. Below is a list of the events, the girls who competed, and their overall finish in parentheses:

4x800 Relay - **Julia Sprout, Kat DeLoreto, Brooke Bonadies, and Kelsey Swanson** (3rd)

Sprint Medley Relay - **Karissa Laramie, Marissa Airoidi, Julia Sprout, and Kelsey Swanson** (1st)

1600m - **Caitlin Swanson** (4th), **Kat DeLoreto** (7th)

3200m - **Caitlin Swanson** (2nd), **Courtney Akerley** (5th), and **Hayley Collins** (8th)

4x400 Relay - **Julia Sprout, Karissa Laramie, Jenny Jacobs, and Karissa Laramie** (3rd)

Long Jump - **Jenny Jacobs** (3rd)

Needing at least a third place finish in the final event to stay ahead of their nearest competitor, the girls did just that. Tolland won 42-40 over last year's champion, Wilbur Cross High School. Tolland's next competition will be on Friday night, February 27, at the New England Championships in Boston. Best of luck girls!!!!

Tolland Triumphs Over Hunger

The Tolland High School DECA club is sponsoring a large-scale community service event called Tolland Triumphs Over Hunger. The project empowers students, staff, and community members to work together to positively affect change in the lives of others. Guided by the charity organization, Feeding Children Everywhere, more than 900 Tolland students, staff and community members will participate when we host our meal packing event on Thursday, March 12 at Tolland High School. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 in order to package 40,000 meals. To date, we have raised approximately \$7,400 towards our goal and we need your help to reach it. To make your donation, please click on the link below. The deadline for all donations is March 1st. Thank you.

[FEEDING CHILDREN EVERYWHERE DONATION PAGE](#)

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

IMPORTANT DATES

February 27 – Dance – THS Gymnasium - **CANCELLED**
March 2 – Community Advisory Council – 7:30 a.m. THS Conference Room
March 2 – Donation Deadline for Feeding Children Everywhere
March 3 – Progress Reports
March 4 – 8th Grade Orientation & Course Fair – 6:30 p.m.
March 5 – Half-Day Session In-Service (**note: this is a THURSDAY**)
March 6 – Dodgeball Tournament – THS Gymnasium
March 7 – Coffee House – 7:00 p.m. THS Cafeteria
March 9 – 11 – Scholarship Phone-A-Thon
March 11 – Half-Day Session In-Service
March 12 – Feeding Children Everywhere
March 13-14 – School Musical

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The next Community Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2nd at 7:30 a.m. in the THS main office conference room. If you are interested in attending, please email Dominique Fox at dfox@tolland.k12.ct.us.

Tolland High School is fortunate to have a dedicated and enthusiastic group of parents and local community members who support our school and many of the programs within it. In light of that, we are committed to increasing parent and community engagement in our school. A few years ago, a Community Advisory Council was established as a means to encourage parents and community members to become active partners in educating our children. Through this council, both groups of stakeholders are able to maintain an organized voice at Tolland High School, become involved in the decision making processes and procedures, where appropriate, voice their concerns, communicate their needs, and ask questions. To date, it has provided a forum for parents to discuss school-related issues such as leveling, grade weighting, teen drug and alcohol use, and safety concerns, among others.

COFFEE HOUSE

Tolland Youth Services Community Theater will hold its coffee house on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the THS cafeteria.

CLASS OF 2015 NEWS

If you have any pictures from pre-school through current day of you and your friends that you would like published in the 2015 yearbook, please submit them to Aziz Sandhu or Shannon Kelly by Friday, February 27th.

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

BOOSTER CLUB

The next meeting is scheduled for March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the THS main office conference room.

Please join us to learn about what we do and how you can help in raising funds for our students at THS.

We are looking for a treasurer and a new president for next year.