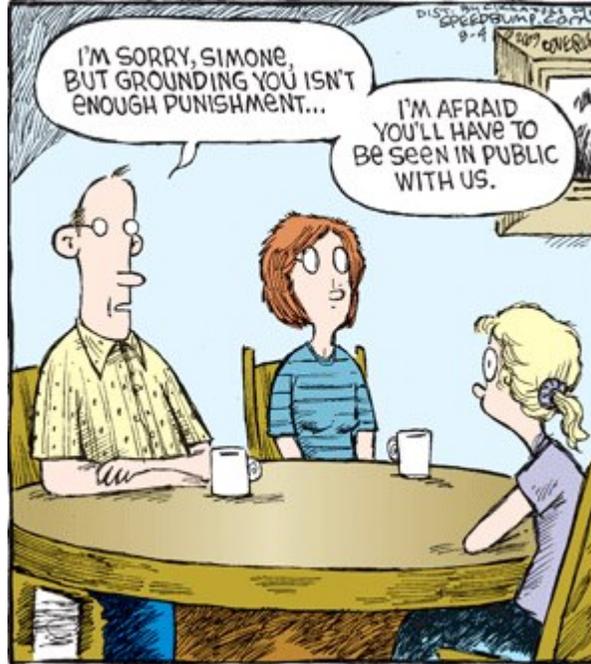


TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

Here for you 860-335-2455



UPDATE FOR 1/30/2017

JUMP TO SCHOOL UPDATES:

Please CLICK BELOW to get the DIGITAL BACKPACK information for the listed school:

[BG](#)
[TIS](#)
[TMS](#)
[THS](#)

Re-Scheduled Date

Come meet the new Principal of Tolland Middle School

February 1, 2017

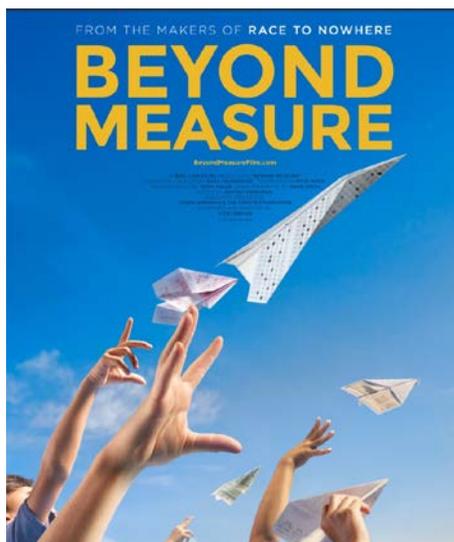
5:30 PM

IN THE STAFF LOUNGE AT TOLLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

**Come for our February 1st, 2017 showing
from the makers of *Race to Nowhere*:
BEYOND MEASURE
7:00 PM in the Tolland High School Auditorium.**



**Come for our February 1st, 2017 showing
from the makers of *Race to Nowhere*:
BEYOND MEASURE
7:00 PM in the Tolland High School Auditorium.**

See this educational review in [Edutopia](#) as well as from [The New York Times review](#).

In *Race to Nowhere*, director Vicki Abeles unveiled the dark side of America's achievement culture. In her follow up documentary, *Beyond Measure*, Abeles travels to public schools across the country as they embark on a journey to transcend the limits of our outmoded, test-driven education system and create a more equitable, empowering, student-centered education culture from the ground up. By putting research and innovative models into practice, groundbreaking school communities are transforming how and what they teach. In chorus with experts including Sir Ken Robinson, Linda Darling-Hammond, Yong Zhao, Alison Gopnik, Jo Boaler and Daniel Pink, the change makers in *Beyond Measure* prove that both a new vision and a higher purpose are within reach for American education.

The movie will be followed by a short discussion about the topic of testing, innovation, magnets/charters, and public school practices. Food and beverages will be provided.

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

Opioid Epidemic Workshop

Our Communities, Our Concern' Forum, Feb. 8, 2017-
Tolland High School

Please see the flyer:

[The Opioid Epidemic. Our Communities, Our Concern](#)



Mark them in your calendar!

Breakfast with the Superintendent 2016-2017:

February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, and June 5. Breakfast is at 9:00 am at
the Board of Education Office.

I hope to see you there!

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

January 31 Meeting **Demographics, Housing Needs and Future Planning**

The Town Council, Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Education are holding a joint meeting on January 31 to learn about trends in housing and demographics and begin discussing approaches for updating the town's long-range land use plan.

Katy Shafer from the Partnership for Strong Communities will provide an overview of who lives in Tolland today and how state and national trends may influence our future demographics and housing demand. Town staff will then provide an overview on the purpose of a "Plan of Conservation and Development". The plan, required by the state, charts the course for both development and conservation efforts in town. The current plan was adopted in 2009 and will be due for an update in the next two years. The meeting is intended to bring local officials and residents up to speed on what the plan is for and to have a general discussion of how to engage the community when it is updated.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held Tuesday, January 31 at 7 p.m. at the Fire Training Center at 191 Merrow Road. The snow date is the following Tuesday.

For more information about this meeting, contact the Department of Planning and Development at 860-871-3601.



CHECK OUT THIS AWESOME COMMUNITY EVENT!
TOWN OF TOLLAND EAGLE FREEZE

[Click here](#)

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN



2017 KINDERGARTEN PARENT MEETING

Birch Grove Primary School in Tolland, CT will host the 2017-2018 Kindergarten Parent Meeting on March 9, 2017. This informational meeting is for parents of students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2017, and will be held at 7:00 pm in the Birch Grove Primary School gymnasium. The meeting is for parents only.

The 2017-2018 Kindergarten registration process will begin the week of March 13 - March 17, 2017. Packets may be dropped off in the Birch Grove Primary School main office each day from 9:30 am -2:30 pm. In addition, the front office will be open for registration from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 16, 2017. Families who return their registration packet during this week, will receive a "Class of 2030" Birch Grove Primary School t-shirt for their child

[Preschool Learning Center](#)
[Birch Grove Primary School](#)
[Application Process Timeline](#)

Please adhere to the following:

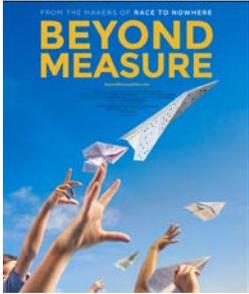
1. Pick up an application and sign up for a screening date between January 10, 2017 and March 10, 2017 in the Birch Grove Primary School office.
2. Complete the application.
3. Return completed application to the Birch Grove Primary School office. The application must be returned to us by March 10, 2017. Forms received after March 10, 2017 will not be accepted.
4. Attend the screening session you signed up for. Screening dates are March 17 and March 24, 2017.

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

5. You will be notified by mail regarding the screening results.

**Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the
Parent Information Night
Thursday, February 23, 2017
5:00-6:00 p.m.
Parents only
Preschool Classroom A5
Birch Grove Primary School
Please come in through the front entrance of the building**

COMMUNITY AND BUDGET WORKSHOPS

BUDGET WORKSHOPS-THS Library – 7:00 PM	COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS
<p>February 15, 2017-7:00 pm THS Library Come see the final BOE budget submitted to the Town</p>	<p><u>BEYOND MEASURE FILM</u> February 1, 2017 7:00 pm – Tolland High School</p>  <p>https://youtu.be/m4LTV8jat2o</p> <p>In Race to Nowhere, director Vicki Abeles unveiled the dark side of America’s achievement culture. In her follow up documentary, Beyond Measure, Abeles travels to public schools across the country as they embark on a journey to transcend the limits of our outmoded, test-driven education system and create a more equitable, empowering, student-</p>

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

	<p>centered education culture from the ground up. By putting research and innovative models into practice, groundbreaking school communities are transforming how and what they teach. In chorus with experts including Sir Ken Robinson, Linda Darling-Hammond, Yong Zhao, Alison Gopnik, Jo Boaler and Daniel Pink, the change makers in Beyond Measure prove that both a new vision and a higher purpose are within reach for American education.</p>
--	--

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

- How do school systems and DDS work together?
- How to we plan at age 21?
- Who are the adult service agencies in your area?
- How is DMR funding established for your son or daughter?
- How Does DDS and the Department of Rehabilitation Services work together?

PLEASE RSVP to: Patti Hess, Director of Pupil Services
860.870.6818x6

Early Identification and Treatment of Childhood Anxiety Disorders



April 5, 2017 – 7:00 pm- THS Library.

Dr. Elizabeth Davis is a licensed clinical psychologist at the Anxiety Disorders Center at the Institute of Living. Dr. Davis specializes in working with children and adolescents with anxiety disorders. She has particular expertise in incorporating elements of mindfulness and acceptance-based treatments into Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy. Dr. Davis has presented at numerous professional conferences, schools, and academic medical settings on the topic of childhood anxiety disorders.

Talk title: “Early Identification and Treatment of Childhood Anxiety Disorders”.

Learning objectives:

- Identifying early warning signs of childhood anxiety disorders
- Understanding evidence-based, gold-standard treatments that are available
- Discussing strategies families can use at home to effectively address anxiety symptoms

Collaborating with school system to address symptoms across environments

Topic to be Announced!

- June 7, 2017 –7:00 pm-

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

APRIL 5, 2017-WORKSHOP ON CHILDHOOD ANXIETY DISORDERS

Dr. Elizabeth Davis is a licensed clinical psychologist at the Anxiety Disorders Center at the Institute of Living. Dr. Davis specializes in working with children and adolescents with anxiety disorders. She has particular expertise in incorporating elements of mindfulness and acceptance-based treatments into Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy. Dr. Davis has presented at numerous professional conferences, schools, and academic medical settings on the topic of childhood anxiety disorders.

Talk title: "Early Identification and Treatment of Childhood Anxiety Disorders".

Learning objectives:

- Identifying early warning signs of childhood anxiety disorders
- Understanding evidence-based, gold-standard treatments that are available
- Discussing strategies families can use at home to effectively address anxiety symptoms
- Collaborating with school system to address symptoms across environments

TOLLAND HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Mark your calendar:

February 9, 2017 – 6:30 pm

Recent Education News

National Superintendent's Roundtable

"an education system flush with cash, but which leaves our young and beautiful students deprived of all knowledge"

President Donald Trump's assertions about schools during his inaugural address **left some educators "speechless"** and many incensed, according to Louis Freedberg, writing in *EdSource*. "It's hard to know what to say," about Mr. Trump's claim that schools "are flush with cash" while our "young and beautiful children are deprived of all knowledge," said Stanford's Linda Darling-Hammond, recently cited as the nation's most influential education policy scholar.



Berkeley's Bruce Fuller insisted that the U.S. now spends less on education than most

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

East Asian and European societies and cited impressive improvements on NAEP scores for nine- and 13-year-olds as evidence that school performance is higher today than it was 40 years ago.

By chance, the [Education Law Center](#) (click link) issued it's

ELC's Molly Hunter at
2015 NSR meeting

Sixth Annual National Report on school funding fairness within days of the inauguration. The report contends public schools are woefully underfunded in state after state and that the school finance system

is badly broken and in need of reform and investment, according to ELC.

Are PISA results rigged?

Forbes, one of the bibles of the business world is not where one would expect to find criticisms of PISA results, the widely cited metric from OECD purporting to gauge nations' school quality based on assessments of 15-year-olds. But Vietnam-based U.S. businessman Gary Sands recently cast a skeptical eye on [PISA results reported from Asia](#).(click link) Sands points to nations being represented by cities, cherry-picking of the best schools, the possible exclusion of weaker students, and the "complicit cover-up of the huge disparities in education among Asian provinces," which allow "countries to potentially rig the test." He calls for an independent audit of PISA results.



Psychometricians David and Leslie Rutkowski presented [a more scholarly critique](#) of PISA's methodology in an issue of AERA's *Educational Researcher* last May. Formerly associated

with Indiana University, the Rutkowskis are now with the Centre for Educational Measurement at the University of Oslo. Among their concerns: PISA samples represent 15-year-olds in school, not 15-year-olds in the population; many participating jurisdictions do not meet PISA's sampling standards; PISA's estimation models assume test items are equally meaningful in different cultures; and trend reports are likely to be questionable. A very brief, non-technical explanation of their concerns is contained in [this video](#) developed at the University of Oslo.

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

Charter schools prime school-to-prison pipeline, says new study

Also see [US NEWS and WORLD REPORT](#)



The Civil Rights Project
Proyecto Derechos Civiles

Renewing the civil rights movement by bridging the worlds of ideas and action

A new analysis from UCLA's Civil Rights Project concludes that charter schools suspend students at much higher rates than traditional public schools and that black students are four times as likely as white students to be disciplined in this way.

Meanwhile students with disabilities are twice as likely to be suspended as those without. Several hundred charter schools suspend 50% or more of their students with disabilities.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Please see this document: [An act concerning counterfeit and nonfunctional airbags and unlawful parking in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities](#) – Those parking in spaces marked for handicap and disabled individuals will now result in certain required actions by law enforcement.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK AT:



www.facebook.com/tollandpublicschools

TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

FOLLOW SUPERINTENDENT WILLETT ON TWITTER @:



Search for:

[TPS_Sup_Willett](#)

Or

[Superint. Willett](#)

LINKS AND OTHER ARTICLES OF POTENTIAL INTEREST

[Tolland Middle School-Yearbook Sales](#)

[Friends of Tolland Music-T-Shirt Fundraiser](#)