

# TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN



*UPDATE FOR 2/22/2015*

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## ***SUPERINTENDENT' NOTES FOR THE WEEK***

It has been an amazing week weather-wise. I want to thank the Tolland Fire Department who helped us with its ladder truck and support, the Tolland Public Works department whose Payloader(s) and other heavy equipment helped lighten our snow load (and continue to do so), and to the administration, staff, and 39 volunteers who helped dig us out. A special thanks to **COUNTRY BUTCHER** ([http://www.acountrycatering.com/tcb\\_home.php](http://www.acountrycatering.com/tcb_home.php)) for feeding the workers at all of our schools, and for **CNC Software of Tolland** for offering their people and equipment to help as well!

**Thank you for coming out for the Superintendent's Breakfast as well! The next one is: Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**

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## INFO TO KNOW:

- **SAFE KIDS CONNECTICUT T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST (SEE ATTACHED)**
- **United Bank Scholarship (new dates – see attached)**
- **Join the Girl Scouts: Girl Scouts of Tolland, March 1st, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Please join us for a sweet treat and support: 200 Merrow Road, Tolland, CT**
- The February 25, 2015 Board of Education agenda and attachments are available for viewing on the Board of Education website at this link:  
<http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=891651&pageId=961837>
- CERT Training Opportunity:  
[http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_891568/File/Superintendent/CERT%20news%20release%2002%2017%202015.doc](http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_891568/File/Superintendent/CERT%20news%20release%2002%2017%202015.doc) from Public Safety on a CERT Training opportunity.

## ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- **Personality appears to be a predictor of health**, according to research conducted at Duke University. Scientists examined data from a New Zealand health and development study involving 1,037 people born between April 1972 and March 1973 who were assessed every two years from birth until they were 38 years old. At age 26, the participants nominated a person who knew them well to describe them using the Big Five personality traits. Researchers also gathered participants' clinical health information and risk factors commonly recorded in primary-care offices. The researchers found that participants who were more conscientious when they were 26 years old tended to have better health at age 38 than those who were low in that personality trait (*Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, March).
- **Preschoolers appear to be better than university students when it comes to figuring out how unusual toys and gadgets work**, according to a study led by scientists at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Edinburgh. Researchers examined how 106 4- and 5-year-olds and 109 college undergraduates figured out which clay shapes — either as a combination or on their own — would cause a red-topped box to light up and play music. They found that the preschoolers solved the game more quickly, likely because they are more flexible and less biased than adults in thinking about cause and effect, the researchers say (*Cognition*, May).
- **Frequent Facebook use is associated with eating disorders among college women**, according to a study led by Florida State University psychologists. The researchers surveyed 960 college women and found that more time on Facebook was associated with higher levels of disordered eating. Those who browsed the social network for just 20 minutes reported more body dissatisfaction than those who used the Internet to research rainforest animals. In addition, women who placed greater importance on receiving comments and "likes" on their status updates and were more likely to untag photos of themselves and compare their own photos with friends' photos reported the highest levels of disordered eating (*International Journal of Eating Disorders*, online Jan. 24).
  - **Black boys are more likely to be mistaken as older and be perceived as guilty**, suggests research conducted by psychologists at the University of California, Los Angeles. In one experiment involving 264 mostly white, female undergraduates, researchers asked the students to rate the innocence of people ranging from infants to 25-year-olds

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who were black, white or an unidentified race. The students judged children up to age 9 as equally innocent regardless of race but considered black children significantly less innocent than other children in every age group beginning at age 10. Researchers also showed students photographs alongside descriptions of various crimes and asked them to assess the age and innocence of white, black or Latino boys ages 10 to 17. The students judged black boys to look older and be more culpable than whites or Latinos (*Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, online Feb. 24).

- **Classroom programs that focus on improving elementary school students' social and emotional skills can lead to academic gains**, according to research conducted at the University of Virginia. Researchers followed nearly 3,000 students from the end of the students' second-grade year until the end of their fifth-grade year. They then compared student math and reading achievement between 13 schools that used a Responsive Classroom approach — which guides teachers in fostering relationships in the classroom and encouraging children's self-control behaviors — and 11 schools that did not adopt this approach. They found that the use of the responsive classroom practice improved math and reading achievement, and that the benefit held true for students across a range of socioeconomic backgrounds (*American Educational Research Journal*, online March 5).
- **After committing a crime, guilt, shame and blaming others predict re-offense**, according to research conducted at George Mason University. Scientists interviewed more than 470 prison inmates, asking them about their feelings of guilt, shame and externalization of blame soon after they were incarcerated. They then followed up with 332 of the offenders a year after they had been released, this time asking them whether they had been arrested again and whether they had committed another crime without being caught. Comparing the self-reported data with official arrest records, the researchers found that inmates who felt guilt about their past behaviors were more likely to stay out of jail later on, as were those who felt shame and did not blame others for the crime. Those who felt shame but were also defensive and blamed others were more likely to commit another crime (*Psychological Science*, March).
- **Emotions expressed online can be contagious**, according to a study led by researchers at the University of California, San Diego. The scientists used an automated text-analysis system to sort Facebook status updates by their positive or negative language, reviewing posts by 100 million users in the 100 most populous U.S. cities over three years. The researchers found that rainy days directly influenced the emotional tone of a person's Facebook posts, increasing the number of negative posts by 1.16 percent and decreasing positive comments by 1.19 percent. That, in turn, affected the Facebook status of one or two friends in other cities where it wasn't raining. Each additional positive post resulted in a further 1.75 positive posts among friends, while each negative post yielded 1.29 more negative posts by friends, the researchers said (*PLOS ONE*, March 12).

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## GIRLS INDOOR TRACK – CLASS M STATE CHAMPIONS

The girls track team competed at the Class M state championship over the weekend. It was a complete team effort which led them to dominate Class M scoring a 102 points, 35 points more than their closest competitors, Windsor and Hillhouse. As a result of their strong performance, nine Tolland girls earned All-State, which can only be achieved by winning an event. The girls and their events are:

- **Alyssa Hurlbut, Sidney Perryman, Julia Sprout and Kelsey Swanson** - 4x800 relay,
- **Kat DeLoreto** - 1000m
- **Jenny Jacobs** - Long Jump (school record)
- **Caitlin Swanson** - 1600m and 3200m races, and
- **Marissa Airoidi, Karissa Laramie, Julia Sprout and Kelsey Swanson** - Sprint Medley Relay (Class M meet record).

The girls indoor track team's next meet will be at the State Open on Saturday, February 21. Congratulations and best of luck at the State Open.

## ***Tolland Triumphs Over Hunger***

The ***Tolland Triumphs Over Hunger*** project is our large scale community service event. The idea for this charity meal packing event was brought forward by two Tolland DECA students, **Jordan Lyonais** and **Kayleigh McManaman**. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to package 40,000 meals. The majority of these meals will first be delivered to local food shelters and then be distributed to further locales in need. A deadline for donations has been set as March 1, 2015 as the meal packing event will take place on Thursday, March 12, 2015. Donations can be made online on our school website or click the following link to donate:

[FEEDING CHILDREN EVERYWHERE DONATION PAGE](#)

## IMPORTANT DATES

February 23 – Spring Sports Online Registration and Physical Forms Due

February 23 - Booster Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. THS Conference Room

February 24 – NHS Blood Drive

February 25 – Half-Day Session – In-Service

February 27 – Dance – THS Gymnasium

March 2 – Community Advisory Council – 7:30 a.m. THS Conference Room

March 2 – Donation Deadline for Feeding Children Everywhere

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March 3 – Progress Reports

March 5 – Half-Day Session In-Service (note this is a THURSDAY)

March 6 – Dodgeball Tournament – THS Gymnasium

## **BOOSTER CLUB**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 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.

## **SPORTS PHYSICALS**

This is just a reminder that anyone playing a spring sport at Tolland High School must register online at [www.familyid.com/tolland-public-schools](http://www.familyid.com/tolland-public-schools) or by going to the athletics page on the Tolland High School website and clicking on "Athletic Participation Registration and Forms." Additionally, all updated physical forms must be turned in to the THS nurse.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The deadline to register online for spring sports and to turn in necessary medical documents to the nurse is **Monday, February 23.**

Anyone with questions regarding the registration process can email Athletic Director Patrick Cox at [pcox@tolland.k12.ct.us](mailto:pcox@tolland.k12.ct.us)

## **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY BLOOD DRIVE**

National Honor Society students will be hosting the **American Red Cross Blood Drive** on **Tuesday, February 24** at THS in the mini-gym. In preparation for this event, NHS members will be handing out permission slips and registering donors starting next week during all lunch waves. The registration process will last all week (Monday Feb.2 through Friday 2/6.)

## **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](mailto: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

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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.