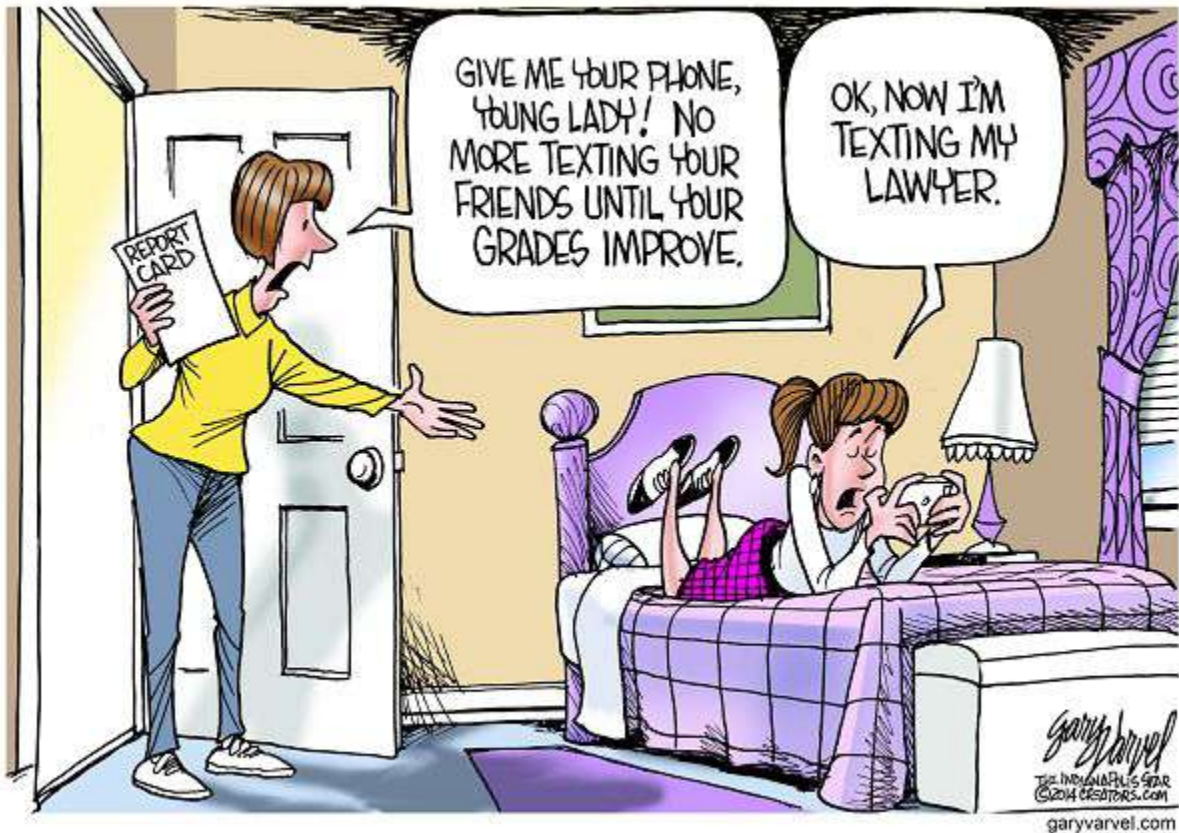


TPS SUPERINTENDENT BULLETIN

Here for you 860-335-2455



UPDATE FOR 5/8/2017

JUMP TO SCHOOL UPDATES:

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

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

Last week the program entitled “The Perfect Party, or so I thought” provided a lot of useful information for parents on the perils for students and the ‘party scene.’ As part of this presentation information was provided about the Opioid epidemic, including a movie called “Chasing the Dragon.” Parents can find information about this movie at: <http://cas.casciac.org/?p=12406>. The direct link to the YouTube video of Chasing the Dragon is: <https://youtu.be/lqdmWRExOkQ>

Coming May 17th at 6:30 PM: Courageous Conversations
"A Reputation Ruined: Cyberbullying and Sexting"
Tolland High School Auditorium



shutterstock · 201226466

We welcome you to join us for the second workshop of the series of Courageous Conversations entitled *A Reputation Ruined: Cyberbullying and Sexting*. Retired law enforcement officer, author and the owner of Internet Safety Concepts Scott Driscoll will share his firsthand knowledge of how use of social media can put youth and families at risk in today's ever-changing technology-based world. He will explore the positive aspects and safety concerns of many of the new social media sites that youth are using.

We hope you will join us for this very important discussion as it contains information that every parent didn't know they needed to know.

We had a great presentation on April 5, 2017 regarding childhood anxiety by Dr. Elizabeth Davis, a Clinical Psychologist at the Anxiety Disorder Center at the Institute of Living. Please see the presentation linked below. It was a well-attended and informational evening, thank you all for attending!

[Early Identification and Treatment of Childhood Anxiety Disorders](#)

FEATURING! - RAGE ROBOTICS



RAGE (Robotics And Gadget Engineering) is a robotics team based at Tolland High School. It is made up of high school students from Tolland, Ellington, Coventry, and surrounding towns; engineering mentors; nontechnical mentors; and parents. The team meets throughout the school year.

RAGE exists to encourage the development of students' interests in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). By doing so, the program prepares young minds to work and thrive in our increasingly technological world and global economy.

The team participates in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen in order to inspire more interest in STEM fields. In 2016, the 25th year of competition, 3128 teams with roughly 75,000 students and 19,000 mentors from 24 countries built robots.

Each January, a new challenge (or game) is announced. Teams then have six weeks to design, build, and program a new robot that can compete in that challenge. Each year, we participate in two District Competitions held all over New England. If we do well enough to qualify, we could also go on to the New England District Championship, and even the World Championship held in St. Louis.

The process of building and designing the robot is not an easy one. The journey from the initial kickoff and first blank white board to a finished robot capable participating in the competition is long and stressful, yet its value and benefits reach far beyond robotics and competing. Through the program, students gain a priceless opportunity to experiment with and explore their technological capabilities and gain exposure to several aspects of technology, including technical design, computer programming, and even business management. And using the concept of "gracious professionalism," teams step up to help each other to succeed even while competing against each other.

This season, the game uses a steampunk theme. Matches are played between two alliances, each made up of three teams (six robots on the field). In the middle of the 27' x 54' playing field are two "airships" containing two pilots (humans) each. In two corners of the field are "boilers" used to generate steam power to drive the airships. During the 2½-minute match, teams use their robots to shoot "fuel" (5" wiffle balls) into the boiler to build up pressure. Alliances that achieve a certain pressure earn extra points. The robots also transport gears from one end of the field to the airships. The pilots place the gears to start the airship rotors turning. Alliances who are able to get all four rotors turning also earn extra points. Finally, during the last 30 seconds of the match, ropes are dropped from the airships and the robots need to climb them so they can take off with the airships.

RAGE had a very successful season this year. At our first competition in Reading, Mass., the team won the Industrial Safety award. At our second competition in Hartford, we not only won the Gracious Professionalism award, but we were part of the alliance that won the entire event. We qualified to attend the District Championship in New Hampshire, where we did very well. We did not qualify for the World Championship, but there is always next year.

RAGE meets most Thursday evenings during the school year at Tolland High School. Go to ragerobotics.com for more information.

FROM THE ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT



PLEASE JOIN Athletic Director Pat Cox:

"All Things Athletic: Wrap up of 2016/17 and a look to the 2017/18 athletic seasons"

8:30am-9:30am at @THS on June 6th.

Next Generation Science Standards CMT Test

The Connecticut State Board of Education adopted new science standards (Next Generation Science Standards) in November 2015. These standards replace the standards that were previously measured on the Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Tests (CAPT) in grades 5, 8, and 11. Our district has been selected to participate in the pilot test for the new standards. Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will participate in the pilot test during the month of May. The testing will take approximately one hour and students will have an opportunity to provide feedback about the experience. The results of the pilot test will be used by the Connecticut State Department of Education to develop and improve science assessments as a part of the state accountability system. If you have questions regarding this pilot test, please contact the test coordinator for your child's school.

Tolland Middle School Students Named National Finalists in the Bright Schools Competition for a Second Consecutive Year, One Team Third Place National Winner

The Light Fighter, Sleep Best, Destination DreamLyte and Illuminate Blue were four of 50 National Finalist Teams in the Innovative STEM Competition for Students in Grades 6-8

Tolland—**May 8th, 2017**—Rebecca Fiddler, Kaia Joffray, Jacqueline Sterling, Allison Free, Sara Carey, Mary Singer, Andrew Singer, Jude Reagan, Molly Foy, Mollie Pacheco, Garrett Boutot and William Pater, along with coach Stephanie Cassidy, of the Tolland School District in Tolland, Connecticut were named national finalists in the 2nd annual Bright Schools Competition™. The competition is a collaborative effort of the [National Sleep Foundation](#) and the [National Science Teachers Association](#) that encourages students in grades 6-8 to explore the correlation between light and sleep and how it influences student health and performance. *The Light Fighter, Sleep Best, Destination Dream Lyte and Illuminate Blue were four of 50 national finalist teams, chosen among 150 teams, made up of nearly 500 students from 53 schools. These four TMS teams were the only finalist teams chosen from the state of Connecticut. Tolland's Sleep Best team was named the **third-place** winning team among all teams in the country. The complete list of the national finalists can be found at <http://brightschoolscompetition.org/>.*

Sixth graders, Rebecca Fiddler, Kaia Joffray and Jacqueline Sterling's winning project, entitled "**The Light Fighter**," was designed to teach students about how exposure to blue light impacts sleep, health, and performance in school. Rebecca, Kaia and Jacqueline created a prototype for school classrooms. After extensive research, they discovered that most teens and adolescents go on their electronics after school, which exposes them to excessive blue light. The girls learned that kids are exposed to a great deal of blue light during the school day, too, as many classrooms across the nation have SmartBoard projectors to show visual representations. They engineered an amber tinted plastic prototype to absorb the blue light before it projects onto classroom screens. The small prototype fit in front of the projector's lens. They inferred that students' health and performance is impacted by the blue light from the projectors during long school hours, just like on devices at home, so they hoped their SmartBoard Projector prototype would be the solution to this issue to help improve the health, sleep, and performance of all students.

The winning project by sixth graders Andrew Singer, Jude Reagan, Molly Foy and Mollie Pacheco, entitled "**Destination DreamLyte**," was a student-designed app to help people fall asleep more easily at bedtime. To accomplish this goal, they created an innovative app with multiple videos containing a stream of colors that goes through the spectrum and flows together from a stimulating purple, to help you stay awake and aware, to a relaxing red. Going through the spectrum helps wind down your brain for sleep. The colors change depending on what time you want to fall asleep. The user can select the video they want depending on their sleep routine. They also included pages on the app with tips to help promote

better sleep and about them. The information helps promote awareness in middle schoolers. They met with a sleep medication specialist, Dr. Singh, to review and help further advance the project. Lastly, they learned how to engineer a prototype on the library 3-D printer from a local school expert, library media specialist Celeste Estevez. The 3-D device, a mobile device holder, had the purpose of holding the device with the app to get to angles that a phone can't stand at by itself, to improve the app and get the proper light for a great night's sleep.

Seventh graders Garrett Boutot and William Pater's winning project, entitled "**Illuminate Blue**," was created to address the problem of kids always being ultra-tired, or falling asleep in a classroom. "White, fluorescent bulbs have negative effects," said William. Their solution was blue light to spark cognition and alertness. They discovered that covering the light covers with translucent spray paint is an easy, inexpensive solution to this problem. They found that filtering the blue light into the classroom can improve the child's learning in two ways: the student is alert, and the learner is cognitive. Garrett said, "So, filtering the blue light into classrooms can help the learner, which could improve the learner's life as a whole just because of their experience in the classroom. This can happen through **IlluminateBlue**."

Sixth grader Allison Free, and eighth graders, Sara Carey and Mary Singer's project, entitled "**Sleep Best**," was identified as a national finalist and Bright Schools' overall **THIRD PLACE** winner in the country. **Sleep Best** was created as a revolution against a technological world. Allison, Sara and Mary created an app for mobile devices to spread awareness of the effects of blue light. They figured that it was a great way to inform teens who spend lots of time on devices. Additionally, the girls coded a video game to teach people about blue light. They chose to focus on mobile devices instead of computers as the target for their "rebellion," and made a link for both the game and the app on the website they designed for the Bright Schools Competition in its inaugural year. Their innovative student-created app and game will inform students of how to sleep better, stay healthy, and perform well in school.

"The National Sleep Foundation would like to congratulate the finalists on their innovative projects. The Bright Schools Competition™ has shined a light on the importance of sleep and overall health, and we're encouraged to see so many students interested in how light directly affects their sleep and academic performance" said David Cloud, CEO of the National Sleep Foundation.

"The Bright Schools Competition is a celebration of the talent and ingenuity of our youth, providing students with a unique opportunity to think critically while exploring the connection between light and sleep," said NSTA Executive Director Dr. David Evans. "Congratulations to all of the national finalists for their hard work, enthusiasm, and imaginative ideas."

Under the mentorship of an adult coach/teacher, teams of two to four students identify, investigate, and research an issue related to light and sleep as it pertains to their community and/or young adolescents. Using scientific inquiry or engineering design concepts, teams develop a prototype, create an awareness campaign, or write a research proposal for the competition. Each team then submits a written report detailing their project along with a three-minute video showcasing their investigation. Projects are evaluated on the basis of several criteria, including scientific accuracy, innovativeness, and potential impact.

All students who enter the competition will receive a certificate of participation. Students on the first-place national winning team will each receive a cash prize of \$5,000; second place students will receive \$2,500; and third-place students will receive \$1,500. The coach/teacher of the first place team will also receive a prize package, including Vernier Middle School Probeware, an all-expense paid trip to an [NSTA conference](#), and membership to NSTA. The second-place coach/teacher will receive an all-expense paid

trip to an NSTA conference and membership to NSTA, and the third-place coach/teacher will receive membership to NSTA and a \$500 gift certificate to use in the [NSTA Science Store](#).

More information about the competition is available at <http://brightschoolscompetition.org/>.

About the National Sleep Foundation

The National Sleep Foundation is dedicated to improving health and well-being through sleep education and advocacy. Founded in 1990 by the leaders in sleep medicine, NSF is the trusted resource for sleep science, healthy sleep habits, and sleep disorders to medical professionals, patients and the public. For more information visit sleepfoundation.org or sleep.org. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About

NSTA

The Arlington, VA-based [National Science Teachers Association](#) is the largest professional organization in the world promoting excellence in science teaching and learning, preschool through college. NSTA's membership includes approximately 55,000 science teachers, science supervisors, administrators, scientists, business representatives, and others involved in science education.



National Finalists

Sixth graders: Andrew Singer, Mollie Pacheco, Molly Foy and Jude Reagan



National Finalists

Sixth graders: Kaia Joffray, Jacqueline Sterling and Rebecca Fiddler



National Finalists

Seventh graders: Garrett Boutot and William Pater



**THIRD PLACE National Bright Schools National Winners
Mary Singer (Grade 8), Allison Free (grade 6) and Sara Carey (Grade 8)**



**Tolland Middle School Bright Schools
National Finalists
2016 -2017**

**Back row: Garrett Boutot, Andrew Singer, Jude Reagan, Andrew Singer, Stephanie Cassidy
Second Row: Sara Carey, Rebecca Fiddler, Kaia Joffray, William Pater
Front row: Mollie Pacheco, Molly Foy, Jacqueline Sterling, Allison Free**



(Front row) Mollie Pacheco, Molly Foy, (back row) Andrew Singer, Jude Reagan and Celeste Estevez



For important Budget Information or to ask a question:

BOE Budget Information Page:

<http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=891651&pageId=27021803>

The BOE Budget FAQ and documents:

<http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=891651&pageId=27712561>



Please mark them in your calendar!

Last Breakfast with the Superintendent for the 2016-2017 School Year:

**June 5. Breakfast is at 9:00 am at the Board of Education Office.
I hope to see you there!**

TOLLAND HIGH SCHOOL CHEER TRYOUTS



MAY 15, 16, 17

6p-8p

THS Mini Gym

Registration is open until May 1st

Contact Coach Jeanine with any questions at

Tollandcheer@gmail.com

Charter Revision Commission

The Town of Tolland is seeking residents to serve on a Charter Revision Commission consisting of between 5 and 15 members. The Commission, initiated by the Town Council, will be charged with amending the Town Charter. No experience is required and the Commission will be supported by Town staff. The meetings will likely be in the evening. The Town Council is charged with appointing the Commission members. If you are interested in being considered by the Council or have questions about serving on the Commission, please submit a letter of interest to vacancies@tolland.org. Members must be Tolland residents and registered voters.

GREEK OLYMPICS

Last week the 6th Grade held their annual “Greek Olympic” games. Students came from their various “city-states” to compete. Rumor has it even Mr. Spangle threw his hat in the ring ☺. A great big thank you to the 6th grade teachers!







COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS:

Last in the series for this year:

The School to Prison Pipeline

Movie & Discussion

June 7, 2017 –7:00 pm



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Search for:

[TPS Sup Willett](#)

Or

[Superint. Willett](#)

LINKS AND OTHER ARTICLES OF INTEREST

[Spring Fling –Volunteers Needed](#)

[Blue Whale Game Responsible For Dozens of Suicides in Russia?](#)

[Acclaimed Capital Prep Magnet School Bypassed Normal Lottery Process For Athletes, Other Students](#)

[Courageous Conversations-What every parent needs to know](#)

[Tolland Public Library-Young Author's Night](#)

[Community Service Opportunity for 7th Graders - Seniors](#)

[A View from the Edge](#)

[PARCC Scores Lower For Students Who Took Exams On Computers](#)

[Performance of fourth-grade students in the 2012 NAEP computer-based writing pilot assessment](#)

[TMS Paint/Run Walk Information](#)

[TMS Paint/Run Walk Permission Slip](#)