

The Trojan Update

— TRI-COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT —

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FAST ASSESSMENTS

By Jamie Schultz

Tri-County continues to use FAST reading assessments and weekly progress monitoring to check reading fluency in our students. This year Tri-County K-8 will use FAST math assessments as well. At this time we are testing students to see where they fall amongst students across the state and nation.

The screenshot shows a computer screen displaying the FAST reading assessment software. The top navigation bar includes 'Log In', 'Create A/C', 'View Directions', and 'Submit Test'. The main menu has sections for 'Administration', 'Test Types', 'Test Overview', 'Test Time', 'Time Elapsed', and 'Submit Test'. Below the menu, there's a 'Directions' section with tabs for 'Preparation', 'Test Items', 'Scoring', 'Timing and Deadlines', and 'Scoring Details'. The central content area contains a story titled 'Emma, Betty, and Dan'. The story is about Emma being invited to a birthday party and needing to earn money to buy lemonade and sugar. It details her efforts to earn money by washing windows, mowing lawns, and babysitting, but she doesn't have enough to buy both items. The story ends with a note that she eventually finds a way to get the items. To the right of the story, there's a 'Testing' sidebar with options like 'Take Test', 'Edit Test', 'Print Test', and 'Print Test Results'. At the bottom, there's a summary table showing 'Total Words Read', 'Words Read Correct WRC per minute', and 'Accuracy' (all at 0%).

CBMreading (Curriculum-Based Measurement for Reading) is an evidence-based, one-minute assessment used for universal screening in English (Grades 1-6), and for frequent progress monitoring (Grades 1-6). It is a simple and efficient procedure. FAST provides benchmark targets for performance to help identify students at-risk for academic failure. CBMreading assessments are predictive of risk, quick to administer, and sensitive to growth. Substantial research evidence demonstrates that CBMreading is a robust indicator of reading development and a useful predictor of student performance on state tests.

CBMreading is an index of word reading efficiency, which is an important ability that facilitates reading comprehension. Students who read a grade-level passage with efficiency are better able to use their cognitive resources to comprehend while reading.

CBMreading is used to screen students up to five times per year. Benchmark standards (i.e., "cut scores" or "targets") are built into the system to assist in determining which students are at-risk for academic failure versus those who are on track to be successful. Students with deficit achievement are quickly identified for additional intervention. The data also identify and inform instructional decisions for on-track and high-performers. The profiles of students' skill strengths and areas of difficulty can provide useful information to plan instruction. Each individual and group report within FAST is available instantly, expediting the process for teachers.

Kindergarten students are tested on early reading strategies as well. Things included are: letter names, letter sounds, parts of a book, beginning short words such as cat, map, can.

Progress Monitoring

CBMreading is uniquely designed to accommodate quick, easy, frequently delivered assessments (e.g., weekly, biweekly), which provide useful data to monitor student progress and evaluate response to instruction. Progress monitoring helps teachers evaluate instructional effects and determine if differentiated instruction and interventions are effective. Students that receive Title 1 or Special Education services will be progress monitored weekly.

If you have any questions about the FAST reading assessments feel free to contact me:
Jamie.schultz@tri-countyschools.com

FIT FAMILY FRIDAY

By Brooke Zittergreen

On August 30th TC Youth Sports hosted their 3rd annual Fit Family Friday event. It included 10 different booths where students visited to perform an activity. Once they visited all of the booths they received a goodie bag, a free item off of the prize table and were able to put their name in for one of the three grand prize. The grand prize winners of the Kindles (donated by Bayer) were Saige McKain and Owen Mather. The grand prize winner of the bike and helmet was Boston Roorda. We would like to thank all of the community members, students and families that attended and volunteered for this event. This event would not be possible



without the generosity of those listed below and everyone else that was involved. We look forward to hosting this exciting event again next year.

Iron Street Gym, Girl Scouts, Pound by Kimi Hernandez, T-STAC, MidwestOne, Black & Gold Club, Keokuk County Bowling, Keokuk County Extension Office, Sigourney Public Library, Tri-County FFA, Keokuk County Health Center, Hy-Vee and Fareway, Brothers Market, Subway, Wal-Mart, Mahaska Bottling Company, County Bank, Sheetz Chiropractic, Tri-County Athletic Boosters, Casey's, Compass Memorial Hospital and Bayer.



Dear TC Families, Students, and Community:

Welcome Fall! We have had a successful start to the school year. Our W.I.N. (What I Need) interventions have started for grades K-11th. During this time, students were placed into groups based on their assessment data from FAST. FAST screening periods are in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. This year, all students in K-11th grade were screened in mathematics, literacy, and social-emotional behavioral ratings. With this diagnostic screening, our educators are able to highlight the skill deficit and focus on skills needed to show growth in the area of need. The social-emotional piece focuses on items such as coping skills, behavioral modifications, bullying, making friends, handling stress, organizational skills, and other specific areas. We are looking forward to receiving our IASAP assessments from Iowa Assessments sometime in the late October.



Here are the important dates to remember:

October 2nd, 2019 2:00 out: PLC

October 7th, 2019: Fireman visit 9:00 a.m.

October 9th, 2019: 2:00 out: PLC

October 10th, 2019: Picture Day!

October 16th, 2019: 2:00 Out: PLC

October 18th, 2019: End of 1st quarter

October 21st, 2019: Hearing screens

October 22nd, 2019: 2:00 Out: Parent/Teacher Conferences: 3:45 p.m.-7:45 p.m.

October 23rd - PK/Kindergarten Field Trip

October 24th, 2019: 2:00 Out: Parent/Teacher Conferences: 3:45 p.m.-7:45 p.m.

October 25th, 2019: No School!

October 31st, 2019: Halloween Parties

The Fall season is upon us and with that being said, we will have cooler weather. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately as we will go outside for recess unless weather doesn't permit us to.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

~Ms. Berg



LOWER ELEMENTARY PBIS WINNERS

Preschool: Otley Van Patten,

Kindergarten: Natalie

Terwilliger, 1st Grade: Carter

Thomas (absent), 2nd Grade:

Waverly Shaunfield.



UPPER ELEMENTARY PBIS WINNERS

3rd Grade: Evelyn Snakenberg

4th Grade: Easton Mercer

5th Grade: Imara Colbert

6th Grade: Haley Thomas

INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS

MRS. VAN MANNEN

PK-12 Guidance Counselor

What did you do before you came to Tri-County?

I was a K-8 School Counselor in Des Moines.

What is your favorite movie?

Sweet Home Alabama

What is your favorite food?

Casey's Taco Pizza

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?

Vacuuming



What music would we find on your phone?
I like all different types, but I have mostly country music on my phone!

If you could meet anyone living, or dead, who would it be?
Jennifer Aniston.. Because I love the show Friends!

If you could learn to do anything what would it be?
How to be a better cook! I am really bad!

What's your greatest fear?
I am terrified of heights!

What's one thing you can't resist?
Buying candy at the store!

Where is the best place you've traveled too?
St. Lucia

What's your favorite thing about Tri-County?
All of the help and support I have received coming in as a new staff member.

MRS. ANDREWS

PK-6 Music Teacher

What did you do before you came to Tri-County?
I taught K6 Music at HLV in Victor—in fact, I still do! I am at Tri-County on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at HLV on Mondays and Fridays.



What is your favorite movie?
National Treasure

What is your favorite food?
Chocolate :o)

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?
Thankfully, I don't really hate any chore—but cleaning out the garage is very low on my list of likes.

What music would we find on your phone?
A little bit of everything—“Be Part of the Band” by Verve Pipe is a favorite right now, along with anything by Elliott Park, Sara Groves, Chris Tomlin, and Sovereign Grace.

If you could meet anyone living, or dead, who would it be?
A founding father of the United States.

If you could learn to do anything what would it be?
Make furniture or play the piano really well.

What's your greatest fear?
Snakes.

What's one thing you can't resist?
Pickle Wraps.

One thing that might surprise us about you is what?
As a teenager, I lived in Buenos Aires, Argentina for about 5 years total. I speak Spanish.

Where is the best place you've traveled too?
My husband took us to San Antonio for our 10th anniversary. Loved all the history and the beautiful downtown!

What's your favorite thing about Tri-County? The enthusiasm the students show me for Music!
Also, I am impressed by how dedicated the staff are here to the success of all students.

MRS. PORTILLA-BEDIA

7-12 Spanish Teacher

What did you do before you came to Tri-County?
I taught subjects in relation to agriculture at a vocational training school in Spain.

What is your favorite movie?
The Sting (1973)



What is your favorite food?
The quesadillas (they are mexican food).

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?
I hate ironing.

What music would we find on your phone?
None on my phone but I have rock and roll songs on my computer.

If you could meet anyone living, or dead, who would it be?
I don't want to meet any zombie (LOL), so I choose to meet someone alive: John Cusack.

If you could learn to do anything what would it be?
I would like to learn to dance. When I dance I move like a stick. So, I don't dance.

What's your greatest fear?

My greatest fear is the death of my family.

What's one thing you can't resist?
One thing that I can't resist is to plan trips.

One thing that might surprise us about you is what?
I have played rugby for 15 years.

Where is the best place you've traveled too?
Yellowstone.

What's your favorite thing about Tri-County?
It is like a big family.

MRS. MCDONALD

Secondary Paraeducator

What did you do before you came to Tri-County?
I was a cook at Hometown Market in Keswick, I worked there
for 4 years.

What is your favorite movie?
A League of Their Own

What is your favorite food?
Tacos!

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?
I HATE DISHES!

What music would we find on your phone?
A little bit of everything, I don't listen to a specific genre, but you would probably come across
some 2000's throwbacks first.

If you could meet anyone living, or dead, who would it be?
It would be neat to meet anyone famous!

If you could learn to do anything what would it be?
I would love to learn how to play the guitar!

What's your greatest fear?
Spiders or snakes! NOT A FAN!

What's one thing you can't resist?
Sweets, they are my weakness



One thing that might surprise us about you is what?

I have four kiddos! 12, 10, 9, and 8.

Where is the best place you've traveled too?

California or Tennessee, They were both georgeous!

What's your favorite thing about Tri-County?

I love how everyone looks out for and helps each other. The kids are great, and the staff is like one big family! :)

REAL LIFE FINANCIAL SKILLS

Submitted by Mrs. Snakenberg

In Personal Finance, 9-12 grade students have been working on real-world finance scenarios. Students have been researching different types of banks, looking for fees and interest rates.

After learning how debit cards work, students were asked to track financial transactions and balance their bank account registers. We have also been spending the past few weeks discussing taxes and the different ways Americans pay them, such as sales tax or property tax. Students have been figuring out retail prices for items by calculating the amount of sales tax they would owe, as well as any discounts a store would offer. From there, we moved on to payroll taxes. We discussed how Social Security and Medicare were funded, and then students calculated what their net pay would be in several different cases.

During the remainder of the semester, students will be dealing with creating budgets, researching occupations and their salaries, discussing how education levels relate to salaries, housing (including mortgages), insurance, different types of investment options, and credit cards.



This class is a good introduction to many different financial situations that students will be dealing with in their real life after high school. The overall goal is to teach students how to manage their money responsibly and in a way that will contribute to their overall well-being, both now and in the future.

THE ELEMENTARY CONCERT IS COMING!

submitted by: Renne Andrews

This year's PreK-6th Grade Winter Program will be Thursday, December 5th at 6 pm. While that is a long way off yet, we hope you will save the date on your calendar.

Mrs. Andrews, our new Music teacher, would like to respectfully request that all students and their families attend the entire concert. All students will perform—and will have practiced for—two songs at the end, and when not singing, grades will accompany other classes who are singing.

The whole evening should last no longer than an hour, so please plan to attend all of the concert. All students are expected to dress up for the occasion.

See you all in December!

OCTOBER MENUS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		Cereal Toast Apple Snack Juice	Pancake Sausage Orange Juice	Scrambled eggs & Ham Toast Pear Juice	Cereal Donut Juice Peaches	
7		Breakfast Wrap Egg Patty Apple Juice	Sausage Patty Cinnamon Roll Egg Patty Fruit Juice	Cereal Toast Banana Juice	Bagel omelet Strawberries Juice	Cereal Cinnamon Muffin Apple Juice
14		Sausage,Egg Toast Juice Pear	Egg Omelet Choc Chip Muffin Orange Juice	Waffles Bacon Banana Juice	Cereal Granola Bar Pineapple Juice	Cereal PopTart Apple Juice
21		Cereal Toast Juice Peaches	Ham,Egg,Chesse Muffin Hashbrown Juice Pears	Biscuits & Gravy Egg Patty Juice Fruit	Cereal Donut Juice Fruit	NO SCHOOL
28		Cereal Muffin Strawberries Juice	Breakfast Pizza Egg Patty Juice Fruit	Pancake Bites Sausage Patty Apple Juice	Egg Omelet Toast Juice Fruit	

October 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Pizza Cottage Cheese Carrots, Apple Cookie	2 Chicken Nuggets Baked Potato Sandwich, Green Beans Strawberries	3 Rotini Garden Salad Garlic Bread Peaches	4 Corn Dog Fries Peas Applesauce	5
7 Tater Tot Casserole Green Beans Sandwich Pineapple	8 Popcorn Chicken Mac & Corn casserole Roll Apple Slices	9 Pork Chops Mashed Potato Sandwich, Peas Mandarin Oranges	10 BBQ Rib Sandwich Baked Beans Tater Tots Pears	11 Ham Patty Potato Wedges Carrots Peaches	12	
14 Chicken Patty Sandwich Broccoli with cheese Fries Pears	15 Biscuits Casserole Green Beans Applesauce Ice Cream	16 Walking Tacos Spanish Rice Doritos Apple Slices	17 Salisbury Steak Mashed Potato Sandwich, Peas Pineapple	18 Pork Tenderloin Onion Rings Corn Mandarin Oranges	19	
21 Cheeseburger Fries Apple Peas	22 Chicken Noodles Mashed Potato Roll Corn, Pineapple	23 Chili Cheese/Crackers Cinnamon Roll Peaches	24 Pigs in a Blanket Tater Tots Garden Salad Applesauce	25 NO SCHOOL	26	
28 Bosco Sticks Garden Salad Grapes Cookies	29 Hot Ham & Cheese Chips Broccoli Mixed Fruit	30 Trick Or Treat Lunch	31 Biscuits & Gravy Egg Patty Corn Strawberries			

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