

TEA AREA SCHOOL TITAN TRIBUNE

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TEA AREA SCHOOL, POBox 488, TEA, SD 57064 – 605-498-2700

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From the Superintendent's Desk



Dr. Jennifer Lowery
Superintendent

Although winter is not officially here, the friendly fall air has definitely decided to change into a crisp winter wind. South Dakota winters last a few more months than I would prefer and too often cause issues with road conditions and school start times. Making decisions on school during winter weather are decisions that I do not take lightly. Student and staff safety is the top priority for all of us. Part of living in South Dakota is “managing” the weather. When a school decision needs to be made road conditions, temperature and wind chill, day light, visibility, and continuation of conditions are all taken into consideration. There is a tremendous amount of communication occurring between the transportation department, custodial department, and myself. The main source of information is from the national weather service website. I utilize www.weather.gov quite frequently throughout the extended South Dakota winter. A lot of communication also occurs between area superintendents.

Once a weather decision has been made to either cancel or delay the start of school, I immediately notify the transportation department, send an all staff email including board members, and make the School Reach call. Please do not depend solely on the School Reach phone call as the phone call goes to a central call location and the phone lines are often full. Within minutes of the decision, an email is sent to those who have signed up to receive district emails, Keloland Closeline is contacted, and other media outlets such as KSFY/KDLT/KELO AM/KTTW/WNAX/KNWC/KSOO, to name a few, are contacted. If you are interested in signing up for District emails, please go to the District’s homepage and on the left column click: Subscribe to TASD Email Notifications. Thank you in advance for your patience with late starts and school cancelations. Please consider making alternative plans for your family now in case of a two hour late start or a cancelation. I hope we do not have to deal with inclement weather, but in South Dakota it is inevitable.

Upcoming Library Events



Santa is going to be making another appearance at the Tea Community Library. He is looking forward to visiting with all the kids and hearing their wish list for Christmas! He will be at the Library December 6 at 10:00 a.m. Kids will be able to take pictures with him and Mrs. Claus. We will also have face painting and coloring books for the kids while they wait to see Santa. Hope to see you then!!

December 7, we will be holding a book fair at Barnes and Noble in Sioux Falls. This would be a great time to purchase some great Christmas gifts. Books are one of those gifts that can last a lifetime. The store opens at 10:00am and closes at 9:00pm. We will get 20% of the sales for that day-BUT you must tell them you are from Tea in order for us to get the sale! So tell your family and friends to come and help the school earn some books!!

So mark your calendars for these to fun filled days. Hope to see you all that weekend! Happy Reading!



Character Stars of Respect

Each month one student from each classroom is selected by their teacher for being a good role model based on the designated Character Counts! pillar of that month. For October, we focused on the pillar of respect. Students who are respectful follow the golden rule; treat others how you want to be treated. The following students were selected as Character Stars of Respect. Congratulations to you all. We are so proud of the example you set for our school.



Respect – Kindergarten



Respect – Second Grade



Respect – First Grade

Kindergarten: Easton Schelske, Devon Krueger, Noah Korver, Catelyn Giles, Blake Gabbert, Drake Wilkison
First Grade: Brayden Witzcek, Kaitlyn McCallum, Carter Brown, Gracie Kramer, Max Kees, Daschle Lowery
Second Grade: Brayden Wilkison, Bennett Miller, Kya Haynes, Natalia Madrigal, Ramsey Stansbury, Lilly Kaiser

Intermediate Student Council

Student Council Elections were held at Tea Intermediate School on November, 4. Mrs. Nelson, the school principal wanted to start a student council as a new program for the school year. It is a great way for students to learn about running a meeting and the parli pro process. This year 34 kids were candidates for student council. To be a candidate, students had to fill out an application on why they would like to be part of student council as well as ideas for projects for student council. In addition to this, students will also give a 2-3 minute speech to the student body prior to Election Day and may make up to 5 campaign posters to display throughout the school. Sixth graders can run for either president or secretary and 5th graders can run for either vice president or reporter. The elected student council members will hold monthly meetings during the school day and plan service projects for the school and community. 3rd and 4th graders will also have the opportunity to be included in the student council process but no elections will be held for them at this time. Mrs. Jill Thompson is the Student Council advisor and Deb Svanda is the parent volunteer for student council. The first meeting will be held the first week of December.



President~Megan Statfeld, Vice President~Mayce Larson,
Secretary~Eli Frank, and Reporter~Isaac Hansen

Pumpkin Contest at Middle School/High School

The Library Wheel classes at Tea Area MS/HS held a pumpkin decorating contest the week of Halloween. The students divided up into partners and some brought props from home. The kids were told that some of their creations would be shared with the residents of Morgan Lane. One team was chosen as the winner from each class and they received a prize. The top 5 pumpkins were then chosen to go over to Morgan Lane. Our Life skills department graciously delivered the pumpkins for us that next week. I was told that all the residents there loved the clever designs the students came up with and put them on display for all to enjoy. I shared with my students the response their pumpkins had for the residents. The smiles on their faces, told me they were happy to be able to give someone else joy.



“Into the Woods, Jr.”

The sounds of singing and dancing filled the gym during the Tea Area Middle School’s performances of the musical “Into the Woods, Jr.” There were three performances- a matinee for the 5th and 6th grades, and two evening shows on Friday, November 7th and Saturday, November 8th.

“Into the Woods, Jr.” is about a baker and his wife who want to have a child, but the only way they can do that is to fulfill a series of requests given to them by a wicked witch. Interwoven into the plot are the stories of Rapunzel, Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, the Big Bad Wolf, princes, evil step sisters and a step mother, a magical tree, a Mysterious Man, a hen, and a cow.

The members of the cast and crew enjoyed their experiences. Several students said that their favorite song to sing was the finale at the end. Tyra Medicine Horn (the baker) said that her favorite part was when she got to wear her wig.

“One of my favorite parts was making people laugh when I was singing,” said Dayshon Adams (Rapunzel’s Prince.)

“I really liked it when Jacob [who played “Jack”] sang “Giants in the Sky” and spread his hands out. That was cool,” said Liv Michalek, who played Cinderella’s stepmother.

Paige Hansen (the Wicked Witch) said, “I guess that the whole experience gave me the opportunity to meet a lot of people, especially seventh graders that I wouldn’t have met before. It took a lot of time but it was definitely worth it in the end”

The cast included Anna Klocke, Jacob Hyland, Bailey Hagedorn, Paige Hansen, Tyra Medicine Horn, Jaelyn Morehead, Gabrielle Warwick, Melissa Graue, Jacquelynn McKnight, Melissa Erickson, Destiny Karpinen, Jarret Johnson, Dayshon Adams, Max Peterson, Joey Headrick, Olivia Michalek, Meghan McDaniel, and Anna Eikmeier. The crew included Mya Haupt, Leonard Stewart, Brendon Hone, PJ Parmelee, Cullen MacPhee, Caitlyn Doescher, Megan Ganschow, Diane Dykes, Emily Christensen, Mikayla Wevik, Alex Kraus, Aubrey Fodness, Sami Pies, Sami Burrows, Alexis McCarvel, Keyanna Smith, Dianne Anderson, and Kara Dick.

“Into the Woods, Jr.” cast and crew would like to give a special “thank-you” to JP Custom Graphics for donating T-Shirts for the production.

“Into the Woods, Jr.” was directed by Janice Gilbert; the assistant director was Tamera Adkins, and the student director was Coleman Peterson.



Thank You

Thank you to the Tea Lions Club and the Trinity Over 55 Club for the very helpful donations of clothing to the Elementary School. They have donated sweat pants, hats, gloves, and other very useful articles of clothing. They are wonderful organizations that provide many needs for our community. We greatly appreciate their help.



Two Titans Qualify for State Oral Interpretation Meet

Two Titans qualified for the State Oral Interpretation Meet by placing first at the Region Meet on November 18th in Vermillion. Senior Haylee DeVaney and Junior Coleman Peterson earned 1st place honors in their Duet Interpretation of “The 1st Annual Achadamee Awards.” Coleman also placed first in Humorous Reading with his performance of “Breaking News.” Haylee and Coleman will be performing at the State Oral Interpretation Meet in Huron on Saturday, December 6th.

Throughout the Oral Interpretation season, students have competed at meets in Sioux Falls, Brookings, Madison, Watertown, and Vermillion. Team members include Haylee DeVaney, Brooke Fossum, Coleman Peterson, Nate Smit, Lauren Dan, Cady Munce, Natalie Walnofer, and KeyAnna Smith.



Brookings' Oral Interpretation Meet
Natalie Walnofer, Nate Smit, KeyAnna Smith, Coleman Peterson, Haylee DeVaney