



Bear Truth



Tellico Plains High School
“Where Opportunity Meets Excellence!”

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Principal Notes. . .

Mr. Russell Harris

Trevor Hunt has been involved in the football program at TPHS for many years and have been extremely fortunate over the past five years to call Trevor our head football coach! He is a man who has dedicated his time and knowledge to our young people and worked to build a program with much effort and sacrifice. Coach Hunt, we appreciate your integrity and commitment to our football program.

TPHS is now in the process of searching for a new head football coach. We will be accepting applications until the end of December, even though there are currently no open teaching positions.

This is a very busy time for all of

us here at TPHS! Some students will be taking end-of-course exams from December 6 until December 15. Tennessee has end-of-course exams in English I, English II, English III, Biology I, Algebra I, Algebra II, and U.S. history. If your child is taking a test, he or she has already been informed and should be preparing for the exam. The end-of-course exams account for 25% of the semester average. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the guidance department.

Our Christmas Break will begin on December 20, after we are dismissed at 10:00 a.m. Students will return to school on January 4.

Personal incomes often change from the start of the school year. Free or reduced lunch can be applied for at

any time throughout the school year if your family’s income changes. Free and reduced lunch forms can be picked up in the office at any time. Currently two-thirds of our students are on free or reduced lunches.

Class scheduling information will be sent home with students before Christmas break. Students will have the opportunity to request to drop or add classes.

Please come support our Bears’ and Lady Bears’ basketball teams. We wish both our teams the best of luck this season. Your support for our athletic teams has allowed us not to increase ticket prices in several years.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. May each of you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

From the Assistant Principal. . .

Mrs. Sharon McKinnon

What a great first semester this has been at TPHS. I would like to say thanks to our students for their EXTREMELY good attendance; also, to each parent, we thank you for supporting the administration and faculty at TPHS as we work diligently towards educating your child for his/her future. We owe you our deepest gratitude for your support and backing. Students, let me encourage you to work even harder to maintain your progress as we plunge into next semester!

Semester exams will be held on December 16, for periods 1,3,5,7, November 19 for periods 2,4,6, and November 20, we will dismiss at 10:00. Remember, if a student is not a maroon/white card holder, he/she can only miss one excused day in order to be eligible for exemption. If a student has had any unexcused day(s), been suspended, is failing a class, and/or had in-school suspension, that student is NOT exempt from semester exams. I want everyone that has to take semester exams to do his/her best!

Also, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Messages from Guidance

Mrs. Rachel Roberts

The ACT will be given at TPHS on December 10. Students should arrive no later than 7:45 a.m. Testing will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. Those testing should bring number “2” pencils and a calculator.

Seniors who have not applied to college or technical school should do so as soon as possible. If you need assistance finding or filling out applications, come to the guidance office.

The deadline for the February ACT administration is January 13. Come to guidance to pick up instructions on how to register online. ACT only provides mail in packets for students who do not have access to a computer or who are not able to pay with a credit card.

There will be a financial aid workshop at TPHS on January 26, at 6:00 p.m. in the library. If you need help filling out the FAFSA please come that night or call the guidance office to make an appointment.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Academics



Graduation Coach's News Release

Mr. James Gilbert

Please take a moment with your child and analyze just "where he/she is" in his/her progress toward graduation! Were all subjects passed the first semester? Have you, as a parent, contacted the school to schedule a meeting with the Graduation Coach to find out why or why not? Do you and your child know whether or not his/her schedule will change next semester? If so, how? If you have concerns, have you contacted the Graduation Coach or the Guidance Counselor to express your concerns? Parents of seniors, do you have any questions concerning your child's graduation?

This is a difficult time of year. The end of the Fall Semester and the beginning of the Spring Semester can be confusing to students and parents alike, especially now with all the changes in requirements that are engulfing us all. I hope that your child has passed all courses and is looking forward to the Spring Semester. However, if that is not the case in your home, please realize that we are here to help your child and to help you help your child reach his goals.

Some students awakened too late to pass the semester, but are anxious to bring grades up with the realization of the consequences. Patience with a sense of urgency is something we must all practice. When I coached T-ball many years ago at Rural Vale and again this year at Tellico, I realized that repetition and patience were keys that led to success. If I said, "When you hit the ball, run to first base!" once, I said it a thousand times. Working with teenagers on good study habits is something like coaching T-ball. Since planning, organizing, and prioritizing are

Math Department

Happy Holidays from the Math Department. We hope all students end 2011 on a good note. Remember: The Big Guy is watching!!! In December, we will have End of Course Exams and semester exams to endure, while January springs up new classes and schedules. The new year will no doubt be a fun-filled, packed second semester. :)

Try our little brain-teaser!!!

A New Year's Eve Predicament: Five couples decided that their children were old enough to stay up on New Year's Eve to watch the ball fall and celebrate the coming of the New Year. The kids were very excited and fully enjoyed the special treat, especially the delayed bedtime! Determine the name and age (11 or 12 years old) of each child, and the names of their parents. 1. Patricia had a daughter but she wasn't married to Bill. Frank wasn't Jack's father. 2. David was Michael's son but his mother wasn't Anne. 3. The two 11-year-olds were Eric's child and Ryan. 4. Robert, whose wife wasn't Heidi, had a son but he wasn't 11 years old. 5. Melissa was 12 years old but she wasn't the child of the couple, Eric and Cindy. 6. One couple, Michael and Sara, didn't have a child named Brenda.

not the strong points of many teens and the social world outside of school offers many distractions and temptations, we as school personnel and parents must be ready to remind students time and time again, like the little T-ball players, to study hard, organize or budget time, understand consequences (good or bad) of actions, and realize that progress toward graduation must be foremost on their minds. We cannot get tired of asking, "Do you have your homework done?" or "What did you do in English today?" or "How's math going?" Then if the answers are not reassuring, we must find out why. That's why the position of Graduation Coach was established, to help parents find out the "why"!

I really appreciate all the parents I talked and met with during the Fall Semester. But the job is not finished! We still have another semester. There will still be phone calls and meetings; there will still be Progress Reports and Nine-Week Grade Cards; there will still be the need to set boundaries and establish consequences; but most of all, there will still be the need to encourage, encourage, ENCOURAGE!!!!

Most of all, I would like to thank all the students for their hard work! Please remember that you must continue to work and study diligently until the end of the year. To the seniors, graduation will be here before you realize it. Keep your grades up!

Let's all plan to have a happy and successful 2012! If I can be of any help, please contact me at the school.



	Bill	Eric	Frank	Michael	Robert	Anne	Cindy	Heidi	Patricia	Sara	12	12	12	11	11
Brenda															
David															
Jack															
Melissa															
Ryan															
12															
12															
12															
11															
11															
Anne															
Cindy															
Heidi															
Patricia															
Sara															

Solution on page 4

Child's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Child's Age
Brenda			
David			
Jack			
Melissa			
Ryan			



Academics



English Department

Coach Tucker's English IV classes are studying Shakespearean sonnets and the tragedy of *Macbeth*. Seniors will complete a sonnet notebook and a PowerPoint presentation on William Shakespeare.

Mr. Hollinghead's English III classes continue to prepare for the TCAP Writing Assessment, which is February 1!

Mrs. McDaniel's English II classes will be finishing *Julius Caesar* and presenting Shakespeare projects to their class in December. In January students will be reading a unit of short stories and studying figurative language.

Mrs. Childress's English I classes continue reading a selection of short stories and studying literary terms necessary for EOC testing. Daily Oral language and sustained silent reading continue weekly. In January students will begin reading William Shakespeare's tragedy *Romeo and Juliet*.

Vocational Department

As always, things are busy in the agriculture department. Mrs. Massengill's agriscience classes are studying the classification systems and the animal reproductive systems. The horse science class is working on the systems of the body. Small animal care is wrapping up the unit on rats and will soon begin mice.

Mr. Hamilton's forestry classes are finishing up tree harvesting and starting biomass and bioenergy. The advanced principles' classes are finishing up the livestock unit. The agricultural power and equipment are working on metal trades.

Seven freshmen (Marlee Akins, Amber Best, Kyra Williams, Hank Powers, John Jones, Matthew Millsaps, and Todd Gooch) competed in the Cherokee District FFA Ceremonies competition at Sweetwater High School, Monday, November 21. Out of the six teams competing, our team came in 2nd! They will advance to the regional competition Thursday, December 1, at Walter State Community College. Congratulations and Good Luck!!

Our nutrition class assisted in preparing and serving the Veterans' Day breakfast - thanks girls for a great job! The housing class has been learning how to draw floorplans. Merry Christmas!

Fine Arts Department

Our annual department-wide Christmas concert will be Thursday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. As always, this will include performances by the TPHS Band and Choir as well as the combined beginning bands from our area feeder schools. There may also be a new addition to that this year, but at this writing that has not yet been determined.

The choir will also be caroling at the Candlelight Walk on town square on Saturday, December 3, and the band will lead the Tellico Christmas Parade later in the month. We should be starting winter guard rehearsals in either December or January, with plans to compete in March. Please make plans to come out and support our young musicians as they perform.

Social Studies Department

Students have just started a unit on the Renaissance and its beginnings in Western Europe. They will examine its beginnings and its impact on the cultural, scientific, artistic, and economic developments around the world. In conjunction with this unit they will examine the beginnings of the Protestant Reformation, its causes and the changes it made in our perceptions of religion.

Finally, before the break students will explore the Age of Exploration and the development of a global economy.

American government classes will wrap up the semester with the duties and activities of the judicial branch. In January, the new senior classes will focus on the origins of government.

World geography students will be studying Western Europe the month of December and preparing for semester exams. In January, the focus will be Russia and the republics, which include several map tests.

Psychology students will finish their studies on consciousness, sleep, and drugs that affect consciousness. In January, the class will look at the physical and social development of adolescents and how they form their identities, as well as describe the challenges of adolescence.

Ms. Martin wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a happy new year. She also encourages parents and students to check her website on the school's page to keep current on weekly agendas in her classes.



Academics



Special Education Department

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Special Education Department. Our students have been working hard on making various hands-on projects that have been provided by Ms. Amanda Vance, our outstanding Special Education Director. CDC students have been and are currently involved in reading *The Christmas Carol*.

Also, we are continuing to work from the materials that provide the students with real life problem solving so that it enhances those skills when they leave Tellico High. They work in math, reading, and language arts with real life applications that help them understand the world around them. They work using hands-on-materials and various computer applications that help them attain the necessary skills they will need to take with them into the work force or what ever they choose do in life.

Mrs. Wood's students have been working just as hard in the classroom and in the inclusion classes that we offer here as well. To all of our teacher aides, we could not do what we do without you. Thanks for all you do, and I hope each one of you and your families has a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Science Department

As first semester comes to an end, one huge event will be taking place - Biology I End-of-Course Exam! This test will be given to all Biology I students on December 8. This non-timed comprehensive test will count 25% of each student's semester grade. Each student will need to get plenty of sleep the night before the test and eat a good breakfast before taking the exam.

Other science classes are also ending with the semester's end, except for physical science. We encourage all students to finish strong and come back in January refreshed and renewed!

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



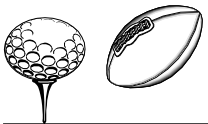
The faculty and staff of Tellico Plains High School would like to wish everyone a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!**



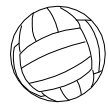
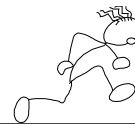
Grade Cards
Go Out On
January 9, 2012

Solution to Math Problem

Child's Name	Child's Age	Father's Name	Mother's Name
Brenda	Eric	Cindy	11
David	Michael	Sara	12
Jack	Robert	Anne	12
Melissa	Frank	Patricia	12
Ryan	Bill	Heidi	11



Sports News



Athletic/Alumni Center Updates

Mr. Shawn Yates

Once again, it is basketball season! I would like to encourage all basketball fans to come out and support the Bears' and Lady Bears' Basketball Teams as they try to make some noise in District 3A this year! The schedule is posted on the school's website, or anyone can pick up a copy in the front office.