TBA ISD LEADING LIFETIME LEARNING

Check It Out

A newsletter for and about the staff of the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District

January 12, 2018

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A Shared Commitment

It's a new year, and for me it brings many new faces, new opportunities, and a renewal to my lifelong passion for education. I'm honored to be working with you as interim superintendent and I look forward to getting into programs and classrooms, meeting TBAISD staff and students, and working with local districts to support the needs of those we serve. It feels good to be back, engaging with others who share a commitment to students' needs first, service to our constituents, leadership and collaboration and I look forward to each new encounter in the months ahead.

By way of a quick introduction, I'm a retired general education and special education classroom teacher, building and district level administrator having worked in three Michigan school districts over a 33-year career. I served as superintendent of Ingham ISD the last ten years before my retirement. My husband and I moved to this area in 2010 from the greater Lansing area. He is a retired elementary principal, we have two daughters, two granddaughters (five and seven) and a grandson on the way in late February. In our spare time, we are avid pickleball fans.

January is School Board Recognition Month and I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the work of our TBAISD Board of Education and their personal commitment to students and educators in our area. Their work is often challenging and at times behind the scenes, but they clearly share the commitment to help ensure our focus on meeting the needs of students.

TBAISD is an outstanding organization to represent and that reputation exists because of the hard work and dedication of each of you on a daily basis. I'm continuously impressed by what I see as I tour various buildings, center programs and local school districts. I hope to meet as many of you as possible as I settle in and learn more about this organization and our work. Thank you to everyone for being so welcoming. Please feel free to reach out to me via e-mail (jjencka@tbaisd.org) or phone (231-922-6212).

Respectfully,

Jann Jencka, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent

Pictured L-R: Jason Tank, Jim Scherrer, Liz McKellar, Joe Fisher, Rachael Birgy, Robert McCall, Jim Carpenter.

MASB
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS

Thank you,
Board of Education members,
for your dedication and support!

Joseph Fisher, *President, Antrim County*
Jim Carpenter, *Vice President, Grand Traverse County*
Elizabeth McKellar, Secretary, *Grand Traverse County*
Jim Scherrer, *Treasurer, Leelanau County*
Robert McCall, *Trustee, Benzie County*
Rachael Birgy, *Trustee, Kalkaska County*
Jason Tank, *Trustee, Grand Traverse County*

Welcome our New Employees!

Molly Leach
Teacher Assistant, Oak Park

Natalie Gawlik
Teacher Assistant,
Traverse Heights

Stephanie Black
Paryoll Clerk

We Want to Know Your TBAISD Story!

The TBAISD Communication Services department would love to hear about important accomplishments and events occuring within TBAISD and in partnership with local school districts. Your stories are important to our employees and the community at large and we want to share them. Ideas include but aren't limited to:

- milestones achieved
- new resources developed
- student success
- teacher collaboration
- special event

Complete the new Communication Request form (also located on Staff Intranet Employee Forms & Resources) and send it to hjewell@tbaisd.org and hargue@tbaisd.org.

Your information will help generate good news and community awareness of the many valuable contributions made by TBAISD and its partners in education throughout the region. Thank you.

Board Of Education

TBAISD Board of Education agendas, meeting minutes, and meeting videos can be found on our website on the Board of Education web page.

LINKS: Board Meeting Videos
Board Meeting Agendas & Minutes

Next meeting: February 6, 2018

ACE Around Town

Top: ACE Students were awarded certificates of completion from the S.E.E.D. project of 2017. The students worked from September to December on various conservation projects around the Grand Traverse area.

Left: ACE student Alex Juhala joined the volunteer team at the Meadow Brook Senior Care Center in Bellaire.

Bottom: The ACE Cooking Club planned, shopped and prepared their first meal of the new year. The homemade veggie pizza and fresh pasta salad was fabulous!

CTC Program Gains National Accreditation

TBAISD Career-Tech Center recently achieved accreditation from the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) for meeting high quality educational training standards in the center's Precision Machining Technology program. CTC instructor Matt Teeter and his staff completed a rigorous application and on-site evaluation to prove his program measured up to national skill standards. Achieving the industry accreditation shows the commitment of TBAISD to provide the highest quality learning experience for students interested in pursuing a career in precision machining.

The precision machining technology industry produces highly engineered, precision components that help industries make their products. Students enrolled in the Precision Machining Technology (PMT) program at the Career-Tech Center gain technical knowledge and skills in the setup and operation of a wide variety of cutting-edge equipment such as vertical milling machines, drill press, Electrical Discharge Machining (EDM), and surface grinders. In addition, they obtain entry-level knowledge in the operation and programming of lathes, CNC (computer numerical controlled) machines, and milling machines, as well as shop safety, measuring, technical math, inspection, and metallurgy. Successful students often take these skills directly into the workplace through cooperative work experience, leading to apprenticeship and full time employment opportunities.

Part of NIMS accreditation means the CTC program is responsible for leading students to earn NIMS credentials, securing a competitive edge when students apply for jobs in the industry because they have the demonstrated skills in industry established standards.

Alexis Nichols is a Kalkaska High School graduate following a career path in Precision Machining Technology. Alexis chose to pursue machining from the get-go even though school counselors thought her first choice on her CTC application was highly unusual for a female and made in error. Truth be told, inspiration came from her father and grandfather who are also machinists. Showing an acute eye for quality and accuracy, Alexis won several regional and state awards for her skill over the course of the two-year CTC program, and earned three NIMS industry recognized national credentials prior to graduation. Alexis is working to complete her associate's degree from NMC in Machine Tool Technology. CTC instructor Matt Teeter notes "she was further along than any student to go through our program before her and we expect she will someday become a high level executive or company owner in the precision machining trade." Alexis plans to study mechanical engineering following her studies in the TBA Early College program.

Today, many manufacturers are facing the increasing reality of the skills gap in the US economy and most communities are experiencing severe shortages of skilled workers to fill the demand in the manufacturing sector. Training programs such as those offered by high school career and technical education centers and community colleges are working to tighten that gap by providing training that meets current cutting-edge industry skills standards.

Currently, TBAISD is expanding its tech center facility to include classroom and shop space for the PMT and Manufacturing Technology Academy (MTA) programs which will migrate from leased space at the Northwestern Michigan College Parsons-Stulen building to the CTC campus in August of this year.

Information Nights Planned

Career-Tech Center Manufacturing Technology Academy (MTA) invites current high school sophomores and juniors from Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties to attend its Student/Parent Information Nights from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Northwestern Michigan College Parsons-Stulen building located at 2600 Aero Park Drive in Traverse City on the following dates:

Thursday, February 8
Tuesday, February 20
Wednesday, March 7
Wednesday, March 21

Students interested in engineering, robotics, management, product design or other technology related professions are encouraged to attend to learn more about MTA's challenging and rigorous academic and technical curriculum.

The Inside Story

Darla Eimers
Secretary,
Instructional Services

For the Love of Deep Diving

Darla Eimers joined TBAISD's Instructional Services team four short months ago in September 2017; and anyone who crosses paths with her has quickly learned that she dives into the work without hesitation. If you're not already acquainted with her, trust that Darla will feel like a long-lost workplace pal in the blink of an eye.

Her willingness to get her feet wet as a new member of a very busy department is similar to her embracing scuba diving a year and a half ago. As an anthropology student, her interest in scuba began because of a nautical anthropology course she took at NMC, where she learned about archaeological processes and underwater surveying techniques. She jumped in headfirst, became certified in NAUI Scuba, and is now a frequent visitor to many underwater Traverse City sites. To Darla, diving is a fun hobby and brimming with academic discovery. She has published two academic monographs with the Nautical Archaeology Society with another article submitted. Her underwater research includes the remains of four piers in Sleeping Bear Bay, an unidentified farmer's barge off Old Mission Peninsula, and Franke Farm Powerhouse on Kids Creek.

In addition to academic discovery, Darla is also immersed in scuba for recreation… and she's not just a fair-weather diver either… Darla took part in Scuba North's New Year's Day dive, when the thermometer read a balmy 9 degrees. The frigid dive concluded with a splash of warm water to unfreeze her drysuit zippers. Her favorite nearby dive spots include West End Beach, Clinch Park, Elmwood Park, Haserot and Archie Parks on Old Mission Peninsula, and Crystal Lake in Benzie County. But so far, a trip to northwestern Ohio's Gilboa Quarry was her most memorable dive including opportunities to explore sunken attractions such as an airplane, helicopter, school bus, and tons of huge fish.

And what better way to perform community service than to combine fun with work? Darla says some surprisingly enjoyable dives have been with a service group tasked with marina clean-up. As she helps remove underwater trash and debris left behind by boaters, she's enjoying and improving her community while she's at it. One of her great diving wishes is to explore the submerged cities of the Mediterranean. But until she ticks the overseas trip off her bucket list, Darla will stay busy and keep studying the fabulous freshwater in her own backyard.

The "Inside Story" is a feature column written by TBAISD staff member Heidi Argue and showcases staff members who have extraordinary hobbies in addition to their dedicated work at TBAISD. If you or an employee that you know would like to share their story, please forward your suggestions to hargue@tbaisd.org for further investigation. The results may be shared in future editions of the Check It Out.

Community Event

Save the Date

Saturday, February 3 is the annual Michigan Law Enforcement Polar Plunge in Traverse City. This year, a few TBAISD staff members will make the splash to support Special Olympics of Michigan.

Consider helping them support Special Olympics by donating through official donation pages linked below.

Floyd Valentine, Oak Park Custodian
https://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/floyd-valentine/TCpolarplunge2018

Christopher Farr, Adaptive PE Teacher
https://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/christopher-farr/TCpolarplunge2018

Autumn Crumb, Life Skills Center Teacher
https://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/autumn-crumb/TCpolarplunge2018

MDE Office of Professional Preparation Services

Educator certificates expire on June 30 of the expiration year. If your provisional or professional certificate expires in 2018 or if you are progressing to the Advanced Professional Certificate, you can apply as early as January 1, 2018. Avoid the long application processing times of April-June and apply early.

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Recert_Reminder_608061_7.pdf