



# The *Bear Truth*



Tellico Plains High School  
"Where Opportunity Meets Excellence"

Vol. 20 No. 6 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Accredited March 2015

## Principal Notes....

Mr. Russell Harris

This month saw our Bears and Lady Bears basketball teams make a strong appearance in district play. Both squads have had an excellent year and have shown the spirit and pride that has become a hallmark of TPHS. Congratulations and thanks to both teams and their coaches Mr. Donald Balcom and Mr. Gary Tucker. Also, thanks to our community for supporting our athletes at every game along the way!

As March rolls around, spring sports are underway. We encourage our fans to come out to support our baseball, softball, track, and boys soccer teams. Schedules for each team are available in the office or online at [monroe.k12.tn.us/tphs](http://monroe.k12.tn.us/tphs).

All seniors are encouraged weekly to come by the guidance department and fill out scholarship applications. If your senior student has not completed FASFA applications, he/she must do so immediately in order to receive any college funds.

This month students will be receive their first grade card for this semester. Two progress reports have been sent home, informing parents of each student's successes and weaknesses. If a student is not succeeding in a class, TPHS faculty and staff make phone calls to parents, send letters home, or meet with each student in order to examine the problem and help bring the student's grade up in the particular class. Feel free to contact our school anytime if you have concerns about your student's progress at TPHS.

Most juniors will be taking the ACT on March 3 during school hours at no charge to the student. Good luck to each one of you!

Do not forget that Spring Break will be held on March 30-April 3. Our faculty and staff wishes everyone a safe and exciting time off.

Many great things continue to happen at TPHS. Our faculty and staff are diligently working to ensure that students receive the best education that will help them to succeed in life. Finally, a word of encouragement - as the year starts to wind down, I would like to urge students to continue to work hard and stay focused. Every success you will have starts here at TPHS, and there is, after all, no better place to be.

## From the Assistant Principal...

Mrs. Sharon McKinnon

Parents, please continue to encourage your child to come to school every day. It is difficult for everyone, students, teachers, and administration, if your child is not at school. Students, when you are absent, be sure to get an admit between 7:30 and 8:00 in the cafeteria on the day you return. Let me remind everyone that a student only has three parent notes per semester. If a student gets five unexcused absences in the course of the school year, he/she will receive a truancy letter warning. After the student and parents receive a truancy letter, on the next unexcused absence, they will be required to attend a First Initial Meeting (FIM) at Central Office. This meeting will determine if the student and parents appear before the MCOBE Truancy Board or receive a petition to appear in juvenile court. Truancy can also cause a student to lose his/her driver's license if excessive absences occur. There is no substitute for being present at school when it comes to receiving the best education possible and getting the most out of the learning process.

Spring is here and so is TPHS girls' softball. I want to encourage all students to come out to the games and support the Lady Bears as they get down to business in District 3A. It really helps to have our stands full of fans to cheer us on during games.

## *Guidance Office Announcements*

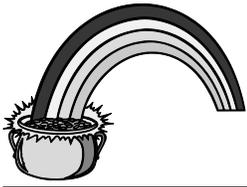
Mrs. Sarah Brown

On March 3, juniors took the ACT at TPHS. Most scholarships are based on a student's performance on this exam. These scores also determine whether juniors are eligible to take dual enrollment classes in the fall and spring of their senior year.

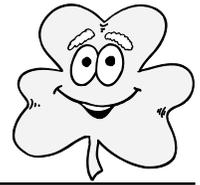
The next mandatory Tennessee Promise Meeting will occur on March 26 at 5:30 p.m. in the TPHS cafeteria. Remember seniors, to remain eligible, you must attend.

Mrs. Kim Harris from Cleveland State Community College will be at TPHS on Wednesday, March 4, in order to assist our seniors that will be attending there in the fall with scholarships and course schedules.

Seniors who need assistance with college applications, scholarships, and financial aid can stop by the guidance office anytime.



# Academics



## English Department

Coach Gary Tucker's English IV classes will finish studying *Macbeth* and begin working on a research paper during the month of March. Each student will write about his or her choice of career.

Mrs. Lisa McDaniel's English IV students will be studying the metaphysical poets and reading the novel *Lord of the Flies*. English II classes will read the novel *Night* and then finish the month with third Thinklink test and a PowerPoint presentation over their author from first semester.

English III students will read *The Great Gatsby* and continue to prepare for the EOC exam. English II students are finishing their novel *Lord of the Flies* and completing their research papers.

English I classes completed their first online PARCC writing assessment and are now engaged in their study of *Romeo and Juliet*. Students will also continue to prepare for the fast approaching EOC exam scheduled for the end of April.

## Library News

Mrs. Denice Watson

Welcome Spring! We have had a cold, snowy winter, and I know students are ready for some warm sunshine! During this time, I always look forward to senior research on careers. New career books and pamphlets are purchased each year so that our seniors have the most up-to-date information on salaries, benefits, and educational requirements. Have fun researching, seniors!

The BETA Club will be hosting its annual Penny Drive for St. Jude's during the month of March. We asked each student to bring one dollar in change; our goal is to send \$500 each year in order to support this institution and its research.

The BETA Club will also be taking a field trip to Dollywood this spring in order to celebrate the Festival of Nations. Students learn about different cultures and traditions from around the world.

## Fine Arts Department

Spanish I classes are learning how to tell time and improve their conversation skills in the target language. The students this semester are doing very well. First and second periods are a good time of day to learn Spanish. They appear to be excited and eager to learn. I am pleased with their interest and motivation.

Spanish II classes are reviewing preterit tense with irregular verbs and brushing up on their communication skills as well. Students will be learning about the Spanish cuisine this spring, so a fiesta will definitely be in order. We are happy to be in the same part of the school as the fashion classes. Several of the Spanish students are involved in this year's production, so we get updates on how fantastic the show is going to be. We are excited for them!

TPHS Presents

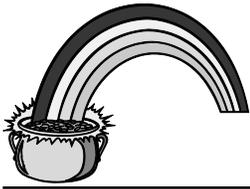
# The Fashion

April 7, 2015  
at 7:00 p.m.

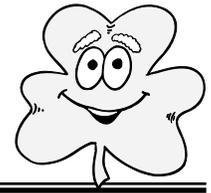
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Spring Break.....March 30 - April 3



# Academics



## Science Department

Students in all the sciences are participating in labs and covering material that will be seen on the EOC. It is essential that all of your students keep up and not miss days. If they have to miss, then they need to make up work as quickly as possible.

Chemistry class are continuing to learn about reactions and doing labs each week. Biology I classes are covering cells, cell division and genetics. Many of these will be accompanied by labs. Physical science students are learning the basics that will help them in later science classes.

Biology II students are in the midst of anatomy and physiology topics. This will help them in other college classes they have to take and many of them are taking this class for college credit through Hiwassee College. We thank Hiwassee College for the personal help they have given many of our students in registration activities. Our students often score in the top echelons of students in the county. Much of that success has to do with parents who will push their students. Thank you for your help.

## Social Studies Department

Senior government students will be wrapping up a study of the history of the U.S. Constitution and will be focusing on the duties and powers of the executive branch this month.

Psychology classes will examine how motivation and emotions work together in the human life. The theories behind emotions will be explored. This will lead to a study on stress and its causes.

World geography classes will finalize their focus on Southeast Asian countries and will begin studying the southern Asian countries of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal, as well as Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

In U.S. history the students are studying the Progressive Era in America, American Imperialism, World War I, and the Roaring 20s.

In ancient history students are wrapping up our unit over medieval Europe and are studying the Byzantine Empire and Muslim Civilizations.

PLEASE continue to keep a watchful eye on your child's progress in ALL of his/her classes. Thank you so much for your involvement as parents and dedication to your child's education. We cannot effectively do our job as teachers without your participation in your child's life.



# Sports News



## Athletic/Alumni Center Update

### Mr. Shawn Yates

Congratulations to our Bears' and Lady Bears' Basketball Teams on their success in both district and regional tournaments. Each one of these players has worked hard all season and have accomplished both individual and team goals. Good job, ladies and gentlemen!

Baseball, track, softball, and boys soccer teams will begin practicing the first week of February to prepare for their upcoming seasons. All of them will begin playing games in early March. Hopefully, spring will be beautiful and sunny;

therefore, come out and enjoy a wonderful afternoon and support our high school athletes!

The Athletic Department will be hosting the Annual Donkey Basketball Game on March 28. Be sure to get signed up for this outrageous event!

The annual Tim Kelley Memorial 5K will be on April 25, so pick up your entry form and register early. If you don't run, you can walk the 5k!

In May, TPHS will be hosting its annual golf tournament. Stay tuned next month for more details!