Principal’s Perspective

Don Metzler, Principal

*With every deed you are sowing a seed, though the harvest you may not see.* - Ella Wheeler Wilcox

We are late in the fall season, and it is almost time for Thanksgiving. It is a wonderful time here in Minnesota, when we can see the benefits of a great harvest. A few weeks ago, I had the chance to watch a plowing bee on my wife’s family farm. Her great-great-grandfather Wilhelm Panning established the farm in 1896. Her family farm has been recognized as a Century Farm here in Minnesota. The plowing bee consisted of antique tractors with plows of no more than three plowshares. It took ten tractors with plows a half a day to plow a forty acre field. With modern technology, one tractor and plow could plow the same field in a fraction of the time.

It was fascinating to see how technology has changed over time, but also, how technology has not really changed that much. The old tractors were open, and the plowshares were raised and lowered using a rope. On new tractors, there are enclosed cabs, and the plowshares are raised using hydraulics. Although the new tractors are larger, more comfortable for the farmer, and can produce a lot more work, the technology of using a tractor and plow has improved but has not really changed. The innovation in tractor design was built on previous technology.

When looking at creativity and innovation, the scientist, Stuart Kauffman, coined the term “the adjacent possible.” He talks about how ideas do not just come out of thin air but are built on putting together existing ideas and inventions to create something new and better. At Tatanka, we are working on developing the 4C’s of Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and innovation, and Critical Thinking and problem solving for our students. Through our engineering projects, the students are improving Play Dough, designing bridges, filtering water, cleaning up oil spills, and using the 4C’s to solve a variety of other problems. With these skills, Tatanka students will be able to use their problem-solving abilities to create the next innovations for our world.

Although I may not get the chance to see our students when they are great innovators, I hope the seeds sown here at Tatanka will be a small part of their success.

For more information on our 4C’s rubrics go to: [http://www.bhmschools.org/schools/tatanka/tatanka-stem-information/4cs-rubrics](http://www.bhmschools.org/schools/tatanka/tatanka-stem-information/4cs-rubrics)
Tatanka Family Fitness Nights

We are doing six Family Fitness Nights at Tatanka again this year, four evenings are left! Tatanka families are invited to join Mr. Turner, physical education teacher at TES, on the following dates:

- Tuesday, November 17, 2015
- Tuesday, December 15, 2015
- Tuesday, January 26, 2016
- Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Come join us for some family fun exercising from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Halloween Candy Buy Back Challenge Update

This year, Tatanka participated in Allina Health’s Halloween Candy Collection, an event that promotes healthy living, including candy in moderation, exercise and proper dental care. On November 2nd and November 3rd we had a collection box at Tatanka to collect candy donations (store-bought and individually-wrapped) from our students. The collected candy will be donated to programs that send gift boxes to troops overseas. For each pound of candy collected, Allina Health will donate $1 to local food shelves. Tatanka Elementary families collected and donated almost 190 pounds of candy!

This was an opportunity to talk with children about the importance of eating candy in moderation, and to help them get excited about donating their surplus candy in a way that would benefit others. Thank you for encouraging your children to participate in this program!
Physical Education Update
Joe Turner-Physical Education Instructor

In physical education we have been concentrating on body awareness and control and have started talking about, and using teamwork in grades K-2. We are using our new scooters to play teamwork activities and to build leg strength. As November begins we will start spatial awareness activities and begin volleying activities.

In grades 3-5 we went swimming. The students learned freestyle-the front crawl stroke, backstroke, elementary backstroke and breast stroke. We also did aquatic exercise as well as use the deep end for some jumping and diving fun! The students did an amazing job on their strokes. Thank you Buffalo Community Middle School and Mr. Metzler for this great opportunity!

In November we have started fitness testing. The fitness tests include the 15 meter PACER test, the Shoulder Stretch test, the Trunk lift test, the Curl Up test, the Push Up test and all of the classes have finished the mile run.
Notes From the Music Room

Barbara Jacobson—Music Teacher

Tatanka Musicians have been busy this fall. Kindergartners have had experiences playing instruments, learning new songs about being kind and respectful and many songs about fall. First grade have been learning about melody and steady beat. Second grade musicians have explored fall rhythms and have learned songs that encourage each of us to think about the difference each of us can make. Third, Fourth and fifth grade students will be playing guitars for four rotations now and then again later in the school year.

Thanks to our fantastic Tatanka PTO I was able to purchase 3 additional full size guitars last spring. In addition to learning how to strum and finger several chords our study of the guitar includes other learning objectives such as learning about history of the guitar, increasing coordination and finger dexterity and learning how to track a piece of music and understanding when to switch to a new chord. IT isn’t a quiet time in the music room but it sure is exciting to see and hear the progress!

I encourage you to ask your student about a favorite song or activity they have done in music class. One of the greatest joys can be in the sharing of our learning!

Family Engineering Night

Family Engineering Night is quickly approaching! Our engineering night will be on Thursday, November 12th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. We will have events located in both gyms as well as the media center. We are pleased to have the Science Museum of Minnesota joining us for the evening. They will be providing two events for us. The first is called Be Creative, Be an Engineer and the second is a Carnival of Engineering. Both of these events will allow your family to become engineers as you work together to solve problems and create technology! On top of the Science Museum helping us to make this night special, we will also highlight classrooms that have already started working in the world of engineering. In the Hall of Engineering, you will find projects that Tatanka students have created to help you better understand what an engineer is and what they do. We hope you can join us for this exciting night of innovation and creation!

Tatanka Bookfair and Pastries for Parents

- **Bookfair and Pastries for Parents** in the SMALL gym from 8-9 a.m. on Thursday, November 12th.
- Thursday, November 12th the **Bookfair** will be open again from 5-7:30 p.m. during Family Engineering Night in the Media Center.
Health Office News
Sue Thomson—District Nurse

It’s getting cold outside……. We have had a beautiful fall this year with the temperatures staying in the very comfortable range. But, November is here and it is getting cold outside. As a matter of fact, as I write this, the wind, rain and cold are keeping the students inside for recess.

It is time to dig out the cold weather gear and have the students come to school with jackets and hats if necessary. Please let the school know if you are not able to provide cold weather clothing for your child. There are resources available to help families in need.

Many of you may have heard in the news a few months ago that we could expect an increase in the incidence of head lice due to a “Super-louse.” Researchers have found that lice are becoming resistant to the chemicals used to treat head lice. These chemicals are often found in products like Nix and Rid. There are lice killing products available that do not use these chemicals and many are quite effective if used correctly.

We have seen a slight increase in the number of head lice cases throughout the district so far this school year. These numbers are by no means anywhere near epidemic proportion. We ask, however that you start or continue the practice of regularly checking your child’s hair for the presence of nits or live lice. Some things you can do to prevent the spread of lice are:

- Have individual hats and coats for every child in your home.
- Each child should have their own comb or hair brush.
- Check your child’s hair regularly (at least weekly) for the presence of nits or live lice.
- Use a fine toothed comb or nit comb and go through your child’s hair.
- Launder anything that has been worn over the past 2-3 days. Place item in the dryer first at the highest temp possible, for approximately 40 minutes, before putting them in the washer.
- Don’t forget to think about backpacks, head band, brushes, etc.
- Removing all of the nits is the only sure way to avoid a reinfestation of live lice. You should look for nits over several days time as it is difficult to do in one sitting.
- Alert the school, family and friends of anyone your child may have had close contact with.

Remember, lice do not fly. They are spread by direct contact. They can live off of the body up to 48 hours. Lice do not cause illness. Some children may develop a secondary infection of the scalp due to scratching.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Sue Thomson, RN at sthomson@bhmschools.org or 763-682-8514.

Title I Services
All classroom and title I teachers at Tatanka Elementary are highly qualified, which means they are licensed to teach in their area. However, since Tatanka receives Title I federal dollars to help fund supplemental reading and math programming for students, federal law states parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student’s classroom teachers and paraprofessionals.

Contact Don Metzler, Tatanka principal, with questions at 763.682.8600 OR dmetzler@bhmschools.org
Asbestos: Annual Notification of Availability of the Management Plan and Related Activities

ISD 877 has on file a complete and updated Management Plan dealing with Asbestos Containing Building Materials (ACBM) within the School District’s buildings. The Management Plan is available for viewing by interested parties, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Principal’s Office at each school site. Copies of the management plan are available from the District for nominal cost.

As required by Federal law, the condition of asbestos in our school is surveyed every six months as part of an ongoing operations and maintenance program. The most recent survey was completed in June 2011. A comprehensive inspection is conducted every three years. The latest three-year inspection was completed in December 2008. Concerns identified from these inspections are remedied by professional asbestos abatement contractors in a timely manner. Asbestos-containing floor tile and mastic were removed from Discovery, Parkside, Tatanka and Hanover elementary schools during the summer of 2011. There are no current plans to remove the remaining asbestos unless its condition deteriorates or it becomes necessary due to renovation. If you have any questions or concerns, please address them to the District “Designated Person” for asbestos management, John Heltunen, Director of Buildings and Grounds, at 763.682.8773.

Janet B. Johnson, Parents Right-To-Know Act, August 2003

A Minnesota state law went into effect in the year 2000 that requires schools to inform school employees and parents if they apply pesticides on school property.

Specifically, this law requires schools that apply these pesticides to maintain an estimated schedule of pesticide applications and to make the schedule available to employees and parents for review or copy at each school’s office. If you would like to be notified prior to pesticide applications made on days other than those specified in the estimated schedule (excluding emergency applications), please contact John Heltunen at 763.682.8773.

The long-term health effects on children from the application of such pesticides or the class of chemicals to which they belong may not be fully understood.

ISD 877 is continuing to work closely with its health and safety resources to comply with integrated pest management guidelines. If you have any questions or concerns, please address them to John Heltunen, Director of Buildings and Grounds.

Indoor Air Quality Management Plan

As an additional requirement by the Department of Education, ISD 877 has developed and implemented an Indoor Air Quality Management Plan that addresses indoor air quality issues throughout the District. Walkthroughs and inspections of the buildings are performed annually to detect current problems and prevent future problems from occurring. Information is also available from the Minnesota Department of Health at http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/indooralr/schools/index.html. If you have any questions or concerns regarding indoor air quality, please contact the District’s IAQ Coordinator, John Heltunen.