



# Technical High School

Pride, Respect, Responsibility

I can remember being a kid of about twelve trying to cross a stream by walking on a downed willow log. The May sun was reflecting off the running water as I made my way to the center of the stream. At that point, my confidence failed me and sent a message to the balance center of my inner ear. Of course, I slipped off the log into the clear water which was a lot colder than it looked when I was up there on the willow trunk.

This rather simplistic true metaphor about keeping balance illustrates most of my life. It has never been truer than my career as an educator. The balance between the hard cold facts of academic grades, tests and data in general and between the emotions and personalities of students is difficult to maintain. Handing back an Algebra test with an "F" on the top can cause tears to well up in the eyes of a fifteen-year-old girl. The same aged boy in the class with the same grade will usually slump down farther in his desk and act like it doesn't matter. Either way, there are strong emotional vibrations that are sent out from the students.

What should the teacher do? The teacher is in the business because he or she cares about kids and wants to prepare them for the challenges of life. The teacher knows how difficult things will get whether at a traditional college or a technical college. The teacher knows how important understanding Algebra concepts, reading well or knowing how to write be to the future life of the student.

The teacher cannot simply change the "F" to a passing grade, pat the kid on the shoulder and say "things will be OK" don't worry. The teacher needs to provide opportunities for the student to relearn the concept and change the instruction so the student does understand.

Over the past few years, along with grades and classroom tests, there has been a barrage of standardized tests that are given to students. Most of these tests are mandated by the state and/or federal government to determine if kids are fit to receive a diploma. Or, they are tests to determine if students are learning at the pace that an expert has determined is appropriate.

For each student at Tech, there is an electronic file of all the scores on standardized tests and grades the students have received. In addition to the scores on the standardized test, there is a breakdown of what particular areas in reading and math are weaker or stronger. The teacher can call up all of this information on their students with a keystroke.

So what am I trying to get at? Today, more than ever, students are becoming bits of data, numbers and points on graphs. Indeed, it is necessary to track student's progress in order to implement resources and teaching strategies that are necessary. But there are days that I worry about balance.

As we are crossing that classroom stream each day, we must remember that those electronic bits floating around in our student management systems represent a girl or a boy in a class that is a real flesh and blood child with sensitivities.

Our challenge as educators is to keep our balance and not fall off the log.

Submitted by: Roger Ziemann, Principal

On Friday, Oct. 31st, SADD held their annual "Ghost Out" Day. During period 1, SADD leaders went around to some classrooms and gave some students bright orange headstones attached to the headstones were stories about people who were killed by drunk drivers. Those students wearing headstones were not supposed to talk for the remainder of the day because they were "ghosts". This event shows our student body how the school may be affected by people who drink and drive and possibly kill or injure someone.

## TECH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 13 - 4:30 – 8:00 Conferences

Tech Gym

November 10 - Josten's – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Auditorium  
Class Ring Info.

November 13 - Josten's – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Auditorium  
Graduation items

November 18 - 4:30 – 8:00 Conferences

Tech Gym

Tech Students: Want to meet new people?  
Like to read? Interested in chatting with other  
Tech students about issues and topics that are  
important to you? See Ms. Decker (Room 351)  
or Ms. Pfeifer (Guidance Office) about joining  
Tech's Reading Club. We'll meet on Monday  
afternoons to read and talk about different topics  
that are important to *you!* First meeting is on  
Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:15 – 4:30.  
See us for more details & to sign up!

### From Her Heart A Mother Speaks to Teens

Last year our TARGET drug prevention team attended a youth conference that focused on leadership skills and substance abuse prevention. The students had an opportunity to hear a guest speaker talk about how her life was torn apart by shaken baby syndrome and drunk driving. After hearing her message students were so moved that they decided this was a message all their classmates needed to hear. The goal was to have this speaker empower students to make wise choices.

Students had the opportunity to hear Renae speak to them on October 21<sup>st</sup>. All 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students attended. Reaction forms were sent out to all Home Rooms afterward. The response of the students was overwhelmingly positive. Here are a few comments:

She really makes people who drink...think about if that beer is going to be worth it  
I broke up with my boyfriend after hearing Renae and I have become more aware of who my friends are  
It definitely had an impact on the kids in our school  
Her story is making me re-think my whole life and some of the decisions I've made

If you would like to learn more about Renae and her message, please google Renae Speaks. There you can find her story and contact information.

Written by: Chris Patterson, Chemical Health Consultant

## CONGRADULATIONS TO ALL OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Matt Aalbers - 10  
Aaron Adams - 11  
Rachel Bailey - 10  
Flannery Cunningham - 12  
Zach Hartung - 11  
Joe Holden - 12  
Katie Lahr - 12  
Justin Tadych - 10  
Arielle Thorson - 12

**Don't forget  
to vote  
November 4**

Tech's next site  
council meeting is  
November 24<sup>th</sup> from  
6:00 – 7:00.

## TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Thursday, November 13, 2008  
4:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 18, 2008  
4:30 – 8:00 p.m.

First Quarter Report Cards will be  
available at conferences.



Tech High School Gym  
Enter door 6, 9 or 10  
*Please join us!*

## Tech High School to Present *Bye Bye Birdie*

*Bye Bye Birdie*, a parody of Elvis Presley's induction into the Army in the 50s, will be presented by the St. Cloud Tech Drama Department November 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22. The story revolves around rock star and teen idol Conrad Birdie (Colin Motschke) and his agent, Albert Peterson (Jordan Nelson). Albert has gone deep into debt promoting Birdie's career and it's about to pay off handsomely – that is until Conrad gets drafted. Albert's secretary and love interest, Rose Alvarez (Corron Basken), comes up with a plan to save Albert's financial future, hoping it will allow him to give up the music business and settle down as a small town English teacher.

She randomly selects one teen-age girl, Kim MacAfee (Corliyn Wagner) of Sweet Apple, Ohio, to receive "One Last Kiss" from Conrad on the Ed Sullivan Show, much to the chagrin of Kim's boyfriend, Hugo Peabody (Zach Jansen). Albert's mother (Elly Jarvis) isn't thrilled about the idea either.

Conrad's triumphant arrival in Sweet Apple is met with less than bubbling enthusiasm by Kim's father, Harry MacAfee (Tanner Phillips) – that is until Albert informs him that he too will appear on the Ed Sullivan Show. Things get chaotic when a jealous Hugo (with a little help from a disgruntled Rosie) sabotages the plan.

We could tell you more, but suffice it to say that the story ends in "they live happily ever after" fashion. Join us **November 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22, in the Tech High Auditorium** to see how the story ends. Please join us for an evening of delightful song and dance with a little comedy thrown on for good measure.

## FLU FACTS

Linda Saupe, School Nurse

Last year in Minnesota, the influenza season peaked in late February, so it's not too late to be vaccinated for this flu season! The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is recommending that all children and adolescents age 6 months through 18 years be vaccinated this year. In addition, a flu vaccine is recommended for those who care for children, including parents and other household contacts.

Influenza is a contagious respiratory disease that can be prevented by immunization. It is not the "stomach flu". It is caused by a virus that attacks the nose, throat, and lungs.

Symptoms of influenza come on very suddenly in the form of sore throat, headache, fever, extreme tiredness, dry cough, nasal congestion, and body aches. These symptoms can be severe and put you in bed for a number of days. A "cold" generally stays up in the head and most people, including students, can keep up with normal activities if it's just a cold.

The most important thing one can do to prevent spread of influenza is stay home if you have flu-like symptoms. In addition, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue, or cough into your sleeve if you are out in public. Wash hands and clean commonly touched surfaces such as doorknobs, refrigerator handles, phones, and water faucets frequently.

If your school aged child has flu-like symptoms, keep him or her home. The best treatment is rest and plenty of fluids. Because influenza is caused by a virus and not by bacteria, antibiotics will not help. Call your clinic if you are concerned about the severity of the symptoms.

Most clinics in our community have good supplies of vaccine this year, so make an appointment to be immunized soon!

## TECH ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The fall activity season is wrapping up and we still have 2 teams competing. The girls' swim team has already clinched at least a tie for the CLC title. They will be competing October 30<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> at the CLC Conference meet in Willmar. Two weeks after that on November 15<sup>th</sup>, they will be in Elk River for the section finals. They will be looking to qualify athletes for the state tournament that weekend.

The football team is the other fall team still competing. They will be playing in the section final on November 1<sup>st</sup> at St. John's University against Buffalo. They will be looking to go to the state tournament for the second time in three years. The game will start at 11 a.m. If they win that game, they will play on November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at St. Cloud State University.

Just a quick recap on the other fall activities:

**Girls' Tennis-** went to the section semi-finals where they lost to eventual champion Bemidji. Parul Kapoor won the section singles title for the second year in a row and qualified for the state tournament for the third year in a row. Parul lost in the first round of the state tournament to the eventual state runner-up.

**Girls' Soccer-** made it to the section final where they lost to Brainerd 2-1.

**Cross Country-** went to Alexandria for sections. They did not qualify anyone for the state tournament, but many athletes improved their times throughout the season.

**Boys' Soccer-** won the CLC title this year. They were the 8AA Section Champions and for the first time in Tech boys' soccer history, they qualified for the state tournament. They lost to Coon Rapids 2-0, but played very well. Senior Nick Nugent made the State All-Tournament team.

**Volleyball-** made it to the section semi-final where they lost to Alexandria.

Congratulations to all our fall athletes for an outstanding fall season.

Winter activities are just around the corner. The dance team has already started the season and girls' hockey will start in early November. Other winter activities start later in November.

Other events:

November 3<sup>rd</sup>- Math team opens the season hosting an invite. It will begin at 4 p.m.

November 14, 15, 20-22- Tech will present the musical "Bye Bye Birdie" in the auditorium.

If you want to keep up-to-date on Tech activities there is a great website you can visit. It is at [www.centrallakesconference.org](http://www.centrallakesconference.org). This website will give you schedules, maps, results and standings. Please use this website, it is a wonderful resource.

## What do Tech 9<sup>th</sup> graders want to be when they grow up??

*What do you want to be when you grow up?* This is the question we start asking children as soon as they are able to talk! Deciding what you want to be is easy when you are still a child – most children pick jobs that their parents do, jobs that they see in the media like athletes or musicians, or prestigious jobs that are held in high regard like fire fighting or being a doctor.

The question starts to take on a different significance in high school as young adults start to near a time when this decision really will mean something important! Students in high school start to focus on all of the options available to them and suddenly it doesn't seem like such an easy decision!

During the first 2 months of the school year, I gathered information from our current 9<sup>th</sup> graders on careers they are interested in or want to learn more about. There were a variety of responses, of course, but there are a few careers that are very popular among the class of 2011. Here are the top careers and the number of students indicating interest in the career (students we able to indicate up to 3 careers they are interested in):

<u>Career</u>	<u># of Students</u>	<u>Career</u>	<u># of Students</u>
Teacher	44	Computer Programmer	17
Professional Athlete	39	Chef	16
Doctor	36	Engineer	15
Nurse	30	Photographer	15
Business Owner	26	Architect	13
Lawyer	26	Military Careers	13
Veterinarian	26	Interior Decorator	10
Musician	21	Physical Therapist	10
Mechanic	18		
Police Officer	18		
Writer / Author	18		

The class of 2011 will have an opportunity this year to think some more about the question “what do you want to be when you grown up?” Each 9<sup>th</sup> grader will complete a Career & Educational Planning Portfolio which will include: results from a variety of assessments, their conclusions from a cost of living activity, an interest inventory, a career comparison worksheet, their long and short term goals, and a 4 year high school plan. Students will have the opportunity to learn about various occupational and post-secondary options through a program called DISCOVER. They will be able to use this program over the next 4 years to gather information that will help them make informed decisions about their college and career plans. This years' career exploration will culminate with a 9<sup>th</sup> grade Career Fair in April where our students will hear from a variety of speakers about their careers –likes and dislikes about their job, their education, skills and traits necessary for the job, and more!

Rebecca Pfeifer  
9<sup>th</sup> grade transition counselor

If you would like to be included in this mailing, please e-mail your full name, child's name and e-mail address to: [tigernews@isd742.org](mailto:tigernews@isd742.org)

# Youth Jam: Challenge to Change

- What:** Confronts the issues of underage drinking and teen driver safety through powerful, exciting speakers and interactive workshops. Students will learn how to make positive, healthy decisions in their lives, their communities and their schools.
- Who:** High School Students and Their Advisors
- Where:** St. Cloud Civic Center
- When:** 8 a.m. – 3 p.m., Nov. 19, 2008
- Cost:** \$15 Per Student (please register by Nov. 3)
- Questions:** Call Julie at (651) 523-0802

Presented by:



