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# RITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

March 8, 2019

## Searching Student's Searches

Principal and IT Team Up to Monitor Student's Internet Browsing

By Kiefer Callewaert  
Staff Writer

Recent events in Triton High School have drawn the school administration's attention to monitoring student web searches while in school.

Several students at Triton over the past few weeks were confronted by Principal Kathryn Dawe about specific searches they made while on the school WiFi.

"I looked up something (on a school computer) and minutes later she came down to my class and started asking me questions about it," said one student. "It was kinda ridiculous... I didn't think it (what I looked up) was objectively offensive."

While conducting interviews, many students asked whether their rights were being violated with this kind of a search. However, according to *connectsafely.org*, when in school, students have fewer rights than they would have in the "real world." Among the rights that students forfeit when on school grounds is the right to privacy.

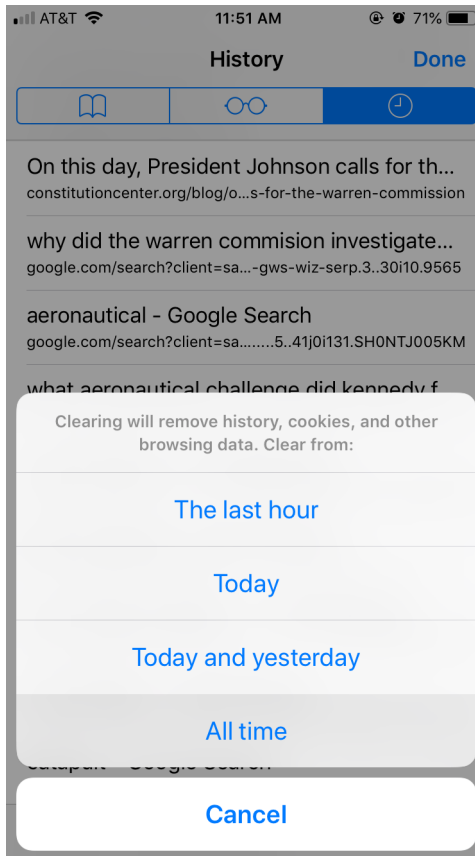
Many students in Triton are unaware of the fact that Dawe has the right to monitor student's search histories as long as they are on a school network. Triton junior Bridget Tucker voiced her opinion on the school tracking search history.

"To me, I think it's okay to monitor what we're doing while we're on the school computers," said Tucker. "However, I think that while we're on our phones we should be able to do whatever we want. Our privacy is none of the school's business."

Whether students like it or not, administrators have the right, and the ability, to regulate student's behavior in school however they see fit.

One major aspect of punishing students based on their search histories is understanding the context of what is being searched. If the principal sees a student has looked up a certain keyword, an administrator has to be sure the student was using it negatively. A reporter for the *Triton Voice* interviewed Ms. Dawe to inquire about how she plans to consider context of searches. "When we receive an alert, we open the sited document and check on the

See **SEARCH** on page 2



When students are on the Triton Guest or Triton Student Networks (or any Triton network), their search histories can legally be monitored by TRSD administrators and tech specialists, whether students are aware of it or not (**Image by Callewaert**).

## Swim Team Soars

Swimmers Make Splash at CALs

By Samuel Bell  
Staff Writer

On the bus home from the CAL championship, co-ed swimmers for Triton celebrated their latest victory.

"Everyone worked really hard and we had a really good season," said sophomore Alexandra Flodman.

Triton's swim team just capped off their undefeated season by winning the Cape Ann League Championship. This is the first championship win since the team started competing in 2013. In 2018, the team won CAL open, but not the full CAL Champ title. After winning, many swimmers on the team will be moving on to States and/or Sectionals.

After going a whole season undefeated, some wonder, what is the secret to the swim team's success? *Triton Voice* investigated by interviewing coaches and swimmers, as well as looking back on the team's earlier records.

"When the program started when I was in seventh grade, we had twenty-five people on the team," said Maggie Summit, a team captain and star swimmer for Triton.

In Triton's first season in 2013, they did not win a single meet. In the six years since, they have been able to completely reverse their record to undefeated, and more than double the size of their team.

"Over the years, [with] becoming so successful, I think it really has to do with our team dynamic," said Summit. "We're all really close even though we're coming from four different schools, and some of them are rivals."

The team is comprised of 53 boys and girls from Triton, Newburyport, Pentucket and Georgetown. Despite the mixed team, they all swim for Triton. This interesting dynamic makes the swim team unique when compared to other high school teams. "There's an unspoken rule that during swim season, no matter where you're from, you bleed blue," said captain Rylee Lucia.

Some swimmers attribute this mixed team's success to their strong sense of community and family.

"Someone's always there to support you," said Lucia. "You always know you have support from someone on that team, so that's a really big motivator for everybody."

"Swim season just brings everyone together," said Summit. "As a team, even from different schools, we all come together as one big family," said Lucia.

See **SWIM** on page 2



## Creativity Overlooked

Should Creativity be Embraced More in the Real World?

By Lydia Crowley  
Staff Writer

Ali Heil has been drawing since she was in kindergarten. She started to get into the art field when she was 7 years old, consistently drawing and making art. As she got older she started to notice more how she could include shadows and textures.

"I think critiques are a good learning aspect and I think that's why I take them so well is just because it's learning."

Heil is mature and understands how to take critiques well, but she is also a prime example of someone who embraces creativity. Heil doesn't let societal standards get in the way of her, and she plans to do something creative for a career.

In today's society, creativity is undervalued and overlooked. Too often, society puts it in a box and shoves it into a dark closet as it is seen as "unrealistic" in the real world to actually use and pursue artistic creativity except as a hobby.

Many students at Triton have been taking business classes more than art classes as they seem to be more drawn to the societal standards of the real world, rather than peering into their creativity. To really look into this creativity block more, the *Triton Voice* decided to talk to three creative personas and one business student in Triton High School.

Ethan Tougas, in the second half of his freshman year, started making guitars. He got into creating them after watching an interview with Brian May from Queen, who made and used his own guitar. Tougas also got inspired to start creating them by his great uncle Jimmy who also made guitars and also owned a repair shop.

"It's very gratifying to see a big chunk of wood turn into something nice and being able to turn it into whatever I want." Tougas plans on going to necco for business classes and expanding upon his guitar creations and hopefully one day creating his own guitar shop. Turning creative passions into a



Senior Ethan Tougas makes his own guitars, including this one, in his garage. Photo: Tougas

career is quite an inspiring thing to do now a days and Ethan is determined to make his passion of creating guitars a full time job. To see more of Ethan's creations go to @tougasguitars on Instagram.

Raja Heflin started getting serious about drawing in middle school. She really favored drawing people and enjoyed using watercolors and markers. "It comes easier to me and it's a lot more fun for me to do, people have so many different variations." Heflin eventually wants to either become an animator or a tattoo artist, both of which are highly creative careers. Heflin is also

See **CREATIVITY** on Page 2

## Compete in the 2019 Viking Combine

Can you run faster than your friends? Jump higher and farther? Are you stronger than your peers?

If you think you can answer yes to any or all of these, you should come to the First Annual Viking Combine and prove it!

All Vikings are invited to come and be tested in the following events:

- The 40-yard dash
- Bench press
- Vertical jump
- Standing long jump
- Cone drill

The Viking Combine is open to all Vikings, male or female, middle school and high school

Where: Triton Middle/High School Gym & Weight Room  
When: Female Vikings: Wednesday, March 13, 2:30 p.m.

Male Vikings: Thursday, March 14, 2:30 p.m.

All participants must register online at [trsd.athletics.net](http://trsd.athletics.net) or <http://assn.la/Reg/?r=1:259978>

A free Viking Combine t-shirt will be given to all participants

Results of all drills will be shared with all Triton High School coaches — come show your coach what you've got!

Triton Regional School District is committed to maintaining a learning environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, political affiliation, disability, or any other factor as defined and required by state and federal laws.

# Is your phone listening?

A Triton Voice Investigation into Phones and Devices Listening to Your Conversations

By Karoline Jacobs  
Staff Writer

What would you do if you found out that your phone was listening to or watching everything you do?

"It really makes me wonder what Apple is really doing with their phones," said junior Emily Howe.

For several years, there have been conspiracy theories being thrown around that your phone is listening and watching you all the time. Companies such as Apple, have run into problems with people claiming that their phones were listening to what they were saying. The Triton Voice interviews students and people in the tech world on their opinions of these conspiracies.

There are several students in Triton who are familiar with the Youtuber, Shane Dawson, who is infamous for debunking and coming up with conspiracy theories.

One of the theories that stood out to Emily Howe was when Dawson showed how before you pick up the phone, that if you speak before answering, the person on the other end can hear what you had said a couple seconds before.

"I believe his conspiracies about the phone are true," said Howe. "Because Shane had his friend Garret Watts test his conspiracies with the iPhone, and his other conspiracies he has real life evidence and events that support his claims."

According to Howe, after seeing and hearing about these conspiracies with the phone, it made her question where she takes her phone.

"When I take out my camera, is the live video still recording after I am finished with it?" asked Howe.

There are phones that can be triggered to open or wake-up with a certain sentence. To trigger the phone to wake-up, the phone is always listening and recording for that sentence. Apple products allow users to say, "Hey Siri" to activate Siri when doing research or if you need to look up something on the spot. With the microphone always on, some apps, like Facebook, are claimed to be listening as well. A journalist for Vice.com did an experiment with Facebook.

For five days, twice a day, the journalist, Sam Nichols, tried saying a bunch of phrases that could be used as triggers to the phone and the app. He carefully monitored the sponsored posts on Facebook for any changes.

The changes came overnight. Suddenly, Nichols was getting ads about clothing brands and something that popped up about a private con-

versation him and a friend were having. To Nichols, it was eye-opening and utterly terrifying.

The Triton Voice tried out the same experiment to see if the outcome would have similar results.

Junior Kaylyn Pesaturo started talking into her phone about cats to see if Facebook would pick up on what she was saying. The phrases she used varied from, "cat food," "kittens," "cat toys," "meow," and even "the opposite of bark".

She then opened up Facebook and the results were scary. The first thing that popped up on her feed, was a meme with a cat on it.

The same test was produced, but later on in the evening. About an hour after the same phrases were said, there were yet again, more posts that involved cats.

Lisa Lovely is an IT examiner for the FDIC and her job is to look at the technology deployed in banks and the security they have implemented around that technology.

She explained that devices like Echo and Apple use a "wake word" to await instructions.



This article has been selected by School Newspapers Online as one of the best in the country for this week.

"The Amazon Echo is always listening-but it's not, it is recording everything," said Lovely. "Alexa will record some of the talk after the wake word." She said that voice recognition is not perfect and sometimes wakes when there is background noise.

"Facebook is very invested in making sure the content are of interest to you," she said. "So when you're on the internet or using various apps, there are little remnants of where you were, what you were doing-cookies, history, etc."

"That stuff gets shared and everything is basically interconnected," said Lovely.

Lovely said that these big corporations, like Facebook, are not specifically spying on you and they really don't care about who you are or what you do, they care about the "collective you".

"They want content to be relevant so that we all will continue using their technology and buying stuff from ads we click on." Lovely is personally not worried about the conspiracy theories revolving around technology listening to what you say, but she says that, "we should always keep security in mind. It is true



Triton junior Kaylyn Pesaturo (pictured) helped our reporter test the conspiracy theory of whether our phone was listening in on our conversation. Results showed that, after a conversation about cats, the phone apps displayed content related to the conversation (Jacobs photo).

## CREATIVITY from page 1

extremely supportive to the creative world and creative careers and openly shows her passion for what she does.

Eric Desprez isn't like everyone else in this article, Desprez wants to be a paralegal and has taken business classes at Triton. Being a paralegal wasn't always what he

wanted to do, he had it suggested to him in his business class. Curious on what his thoughts were on the creative world the Triton Voice asked him what his thoughts were on creative careers and how society views them now a days. In Response he said "I think it's expanding more for certain talents and there are so many talented people. These people need to do what they love and not force themselves to go into a field they don't want to do just so they can feel safe financially. Do what you love to do, I hope the job market expands a lot more for the creative people."

Overall, creativity should be embraced more in the real world and within schools, everyone should have a comfortable environment to do what they love. Never put off your dreams and passions over society's standards; break the standards of the world and do what you love to do, not what other people want you to do.



Name Mean  
Sept. 25-



Heil

Right: Ali Heil, Media used: Graphite, Pen. Bottom: Raja Heflin, Media Used: Graphite, Pen, Marker (Crowley photos).

## SWIM from page 1

Leading that "family" is Head Coach Diane Sagaser. Sagaser has been coaching swim on and off for ten years, and has been coaching Triton for six. "Strategy [contributed to our win at CALs]," Sagaser said "Typically swimming is an individualized sport. But high school swimming is a total team sport since winning is determined by points earned in each event."

As explained by Lucia, "You're not only swimming for yourself you're swimming for other people."

"Our head coach does such a great job of making practices that are challenging and push people to do their best," said Summit.

Sagaser said she coaches in two styles: "Democratic" and "Autocratic". The "Democratic" style takes in athlete input and allows them to contribute to decisions. Sagaser's "Autocratic" style involves outlining a goal she thinks is necessary, and helping the athletes to complete it.

Preceding their win at CALs, the swim team hadn't lost a meet. This boost in confidence was also a great motivator for them to win CALs as well. "Once we realized we had gone undefeated everyone went 'Oh we can win at CALs'," said Flodman. "So, everyone really pushed hard at practices and it definitely paid off at the meet."

"This year, we were undefeated in all of our individual meets, but it still is such a great feeling to win," said Summit.

In the Voice's findings, the overall trend in interviews was that it was the support of the team and the hard work they put in that was the 'secret' to their success.

"This year was absolutely insane," said Lucia. "You know how hard everyone has worked for it. There's been so much love and empowerment on the team as a whole."

"Their dedication, determination and desire is what lead to this year's success," said Sagaser.

Although their season is over, tryouts will be open to join the team next winter. "Even if you don't think you're going to be the best swimmer, you should just go out and try," said Summit. "You get the opportunity to meet people from so many different schools and you make lifelong friends that you'll keep in touch with."

"Join swim," said Flodman. "Do it. It's so fun, even if you're not a really good swimmer[...] it's a really good time."



## SEARCH from page 1

origin and the purpose of the material. We often find that students are doing research for a class," said Dawe.

By cross checking the material students use online, administration can ensure no one is falsely accused of looking up inappropriate things, while also guaranteeing that those guilty of misusing the Web are recognized.

Dawe also spoke about potential punishment for the select students that misuse the internet. "There has been no punishment. This is about educating everyone what you post can be seen by others."

The overall message the school wishes to send by keeping track of student searches is that what you say on the internet matters and can affect you. It's important for students to understand that the internet can quite easily be dangerous and should not be misused.

Finally, all students should know that VPN and Incognito Mode on Google Chrome do close to nothing. Don't count on using these tools to get away with inappropriate in-school searches.

A reporter for the Triton Voice did research throughout Triton to determine why we need oversight of Web Searches. Several students were interviewed, as well as staff and administration members, in order to figure out the purpose of search history monitoring.

"The web filter we have in place blocks things like Facebook and Instagram and games and other stuff that might be inappropriate for a school environment... It's intended not to make your lives miserable and get you in trouble with Mr. (Scott) Brennan and Ms. Dawe, but it's sort of a decision the district has made to increase the safety in our schools," said Triton's Network Information Systems Manager, Matthew Liacos.

Liacos stated that the overall objective of a lot of activity in school is for student safety. The school is fully permitted to track and monitor any cellular activity, so long as a student is in school and using a school network.

"Using technology for safety purposes is important for online safety. We've added that onto our Web Filter so we can flag specific or dangerous search activity," said Liacos.

The Web Filter functions on a keyword basis; meaning if it detects an inappropriate word being searched, it'll mail Ms. Dawe or Mr. Scott Brennan and inform them of the dangerous search activity. This way, administration can reduce cyber bullying, by prohibiting students from using derogatory terms while on the Internet.