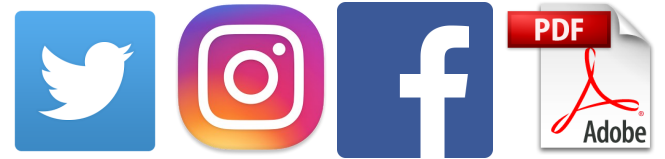




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RITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

May 3, 2019

Student Body Budget Questions Superintendent Forget Offers Answers

By **Bridget Tucker & Kaylyn Pesaturo**
Staff Writers

As the school year wraps up, the student body is asking questions that nobody seems to have an answer to. The *Triton Voice* has decided to take those questions and bring them to the superintendent of schools, Mr. Brian Forget, in hopes of finding out answers.

One of the most talked about issues here at Triton is a lack of money. It seems as though every month, there's a new budget issue. If you can't tell from the mumbles in the hall "The ceilings are leaking again," or "I'd die for AC," the student body is sometimes frustrated by where the budget money goes.

"Where is all the budget money going?" asked junior Alyssa Stone. "That's my question."

"Yes, indeed it does seem that we are short on money, as we are," said Forget. "The problem boils down to the state not 'living up' to its promise to fund public education in Massachusetts. We are receiving less money today than the year you were born! I think you would agree that things have gotten more expensive over your lifetime, and that is true for education. Those new costs haven't been supported by the state, so the local towns have to 'pick up' those bills, which is very difficult, and why they are always struggling to fund our budget!"

Another question on students' minds is how we are preparing for a potential school attack.

"I don't know what good this will cause by me asking since I'm leaving, but my question is why haven't we done any lockdown drills?" said senior Maggie Oliver "Last year they mentioned we'd have ALICE training, but we haven't done anything this year and it's the fourth quarter."

"We have spent the year training all faculty and staff in the ALICE Protocol," answered Forget. "We had a community meeting back on April 9th, and are planning a full school drill the first week of June."



Superintendent Brian Forget holds his ALICE certification diploma (**Rachel Miller photo**).

Between now and then, schools will be rolling out processes and protocols to students, in a developmentally appropriate way depending on the school and grade level. As of next year, these will become more routine."

Another question, asked by junior Erin Power was, "When do you think we will need to completely reconstruct our school?"

To this question, Forget responded saying, "I See **QUESTIONS** on page 2

PROM PREVIEW

Prom Expectations Vs. Reality

By **Caitlin White**
Staff Writer

Junior Kaylyn Pesaturo has a distinct vision for her junior prom. "Overall I expect prom to be just as magical as they make it seem in all of the movies. I expect to have a great time with all of my friends. For a lot of us, this is our first prom so one can only hope it will be an amazing experience," said Pesaturo.

Prom season is in full swing as students across the country are dressing up and celebrating their high school career almost being over and in the process developing stronger social skills. In movies like *High School Musical*, high school dances seem almost too perfect to be true, complete with extraordinary decorations, a perfect venue, cool music, and a school-wide musical flash mob. Yes, movies are scripted, but is there any truth behind the experiences one goes through on prom night? This year's junior prom is on Friday, May 10th at the Ipswich Country Club. So with prom being only days away, there has been some talk among first-time prom goers about what they expect prom to be like.

"I think it (prom) will be fun! I think the class officers will do a great job in preparing a fun night," said junior Rylee Lucia. Arguably, a significant portion of prom is spent on the dance floor. The junior class officers have hired a professional company based out of the Boston, Massachusetts, area called *The Beantown Sound* to DJ this year's junior prom. The references located on their website compliment The Beantown Sounds DJs with common sayings such as "professional, talented, and organized."

"I hope the dance floor is big enough to fit everybody (laughing) and I hope that they play good music like songs that are popular today See **EXPECTATIONS** on page 2

Tips and Tricks to the SAT

How to do well on the most important test of your high school career

By **Josh Lind**
Staff Writer

The end of the school year is near, and with that comes the SAT. You might be incredibly nervous about the most important test you will take in high school. Triton students who got a high score on the SAT share their tips.

In order to do well and or improve when taking the SAT, you have to study. However, you have to study efficiently. You can't just re-teach yourself old topics. You have to practice. Using the following resources, I improved my SAT score from 1390 to 1530 in less than a month:

Resources:

- uworld.com - used to be free but now costs \$49 for 1800+ practice SAT questions. It's worth it. The math problems are a lot harder than the ones on the SAT. If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball. They have a practice section for the reading analysis section, however I felt that the questions asked were awkward and didn't really seem to mirror actual SAT problems well. Finally, it has a fantastic grammar-section. After every problem you do, it gives you an explanation that not only shows you how the answer was the answer, but it also shows why the other answers are wrong.

- Khan Academy - Good resource for refreshing your math. They also offer all 8 practice tests on their website. You can take them in your browser



Justin Szymanski tutors Gillian Nichols, helping her with her SAT's (**Lind photo**).

and get a score immediately.

- 1600.io - provides a walkthrough of all 8 practice tests. The creator, a perfect scorer, goes over every single question. Very helpful resource after taking the practice tests

- Erica Meltzer's "The Critical Reader" - helped reframe my approach to the reading questions. I went from 19 wrong to 7 wrong on the next test, 1 month later. The book explains what the questions are actually asking and how to approach each question.

See **SAT** on page 2

Prom Expens\$: Girls' Vs. Guys'

By **Sophia Agrella & Eric Desprez**
Staff Writers

Are you caught up in the craziness of prom preparation? Have you found the dress or tux you've been looking for? Are we totally stressing you out?

For girls and boys at Triton High School, shopping for prom is two totally different, yet equally stressful, experiences. Some guys rely on their date to pick a dress, then just base their decision off the color. This is a simple way to match your date, but some also really care about their tux and want to put on a show. Only rarely is it stress free for a girl to prepare for prom. From formal events to dates, girls always seem to have the most stressful time picking what to wear.

Our sources asked Triton's boys questions on how they go about their prom shopping. "My mom pretty much does everything for me," said senior Jeremy Duford, "She just orders things and I try them on."

For guys, the main places to shop are Men's Wearhouse, Giblee's, Farley's or online to find good deals. For gents it would be seemingly easier than for girls but that is not the case. The shopping experience is centered around what the date is wearing, the color scheme is usually up to her and the style of the tux needs to be picked out carefully so that both outfits compliment each other.

"It's all about her [what the girl wants] bro, like you can't just pick a tux and try to match the dress, it's her first then we just clean up," said Mitchell Hopkinson.

For some guys it doesn't matter as much, shopping is more of a one and done situation where they come out with a generic black tux and just a certain color tie. Senior Justin Dolloff is of that mindset. He takes almost no time to get ready and he doesn't really think it should take any longer.

"I don't know, it takes me like 15 minutes to get ready for work so I don't really see why it would take me longer for prom, maybe an hour to pick out a tux," said senior Justin Dolloff.

"Last year for junior prom, I had my heart set on wanting a pretty sparkly dress," said senior Gracie Burnim. "It was way more expensive See **EXPENSE** on page 2

Save Me a Slice!

Eyeing The Chuck E. Cheese Pizza Conspiracy

By Grace Poster
Staff Writer

Picture this: It is your birthday. You are turning 7 years old, and your parents decided to hold your party at Chuck E. Cheese this year. After a day of jumping off the walls with your closest friends from first grade, everyone sits down to eat some pizza for lunch. You're starving, and you can barely wait to bite into the crunchy crust, bubbly cheese, and ooey-goey sauce that awaits. You notice something odd about these pizzas, though. The slices are misshapen, the pepperonis unaligned, and everything seems to be mismatched. What has happened?

If you are aware of the Chuck E. Cheese pizza conspiracy theory, you will not be surprised by the situation presented prior. For years, Chuck E. Cheese has faced and denied online conspiracies that their pizzas are made from leftover slices. Images, threads, and videos have been uploaded to Instagram, TripAdvisor, Yelp, Yahoo, and Youtube discussing the hodgepodge pizzas from the establishment.

"I really believe Shane's video," said senior Mackenna Faucher. Faucher claims she has followed Dawson's conspiracy series, and the Chuck E. Cheese conspiracy stuck out to her as true.

"If you look up pictures of their pizza online, you can see they're like obviously put together," Faucher stated.

Senior Lydia Crowley held different beliefs, however.

"I just don't know if I believe it," said Crowley. "I guess I should really hold Chuck E. Cheese to any, like, standard, but they're serving food to kids.



Chuck E. Cheese denies it recycles its pizza slices as some have alleged (Shane Dawson image).

That just seems sort of like a big health code violation or something."

"I agree with Lydia," said fellow senior Allie Hawkes. "I mean, I think they do it, but it definitely is wrong. I think the FDA or something should look into this."

The *Triton Voice* felt it necessary to further investigate and truly see if the worst rated American pizza parlor on Yelp truly lives up to its name.

The pizza presented to *Triton Voice* at the chain's Danvers, Massachusetts establishment, although tasty, was obviously misshapen. Certain pieces were longer than others, and the outer crust did not form the near-perfect circle one would expect from a proper pizza. It is not a guarantee the slices were recycled from old pizzas, however it is apparent online speculation must hold some truth, at least in this case, about the spliced pizzas.

When shown a picture of the pizza *Triton Voice* was served at Chuck E. Cheese, Triton students were grossed out, to say the least.

"Again, I'm not surprised at all," said Hawkes. "I've been working at Rowley Pizza Factory for over two years now. I have never seen one of our pizzas come out of the oven like that, so it's just really concerning that's what they're serving their customers."

QUESTIONS from page 1

do not think we'll need to completely reconstruct our school for decades. The structure is solid. That said, the renovation in 2000 did not remedy all the issues

"Where is all the budget money going?" asks junior Alyssa Stone. "That's my question."

of the original 1969 building, so we continue to have leaky windows as an example.

"We are in the process of selecting an engineering firm to do a facilities assessment to identify all the needs. We should have that report by the fall. We will then establish a 10 year plan for capital improvements, and that could range to fixing issues one at a time, or doing it all at once and applying to the Mass School Building Authority for funding, as they would likely pay for about half of the cost of a large project. Any remedy would likely keep the building/structure, and replace the roof, windows/doors, flooring, ceilings, etc. so it's a same layout, but updated aesthetics and infrastructure to meet 21st century learning needs!"

"Even though I'm graduating," said senior Jonathan Woodbury. "I still want to ask him for the kids staying here 'why don't we do anything for the arts kids?'"

A frequent complaint, many kids in the arts department believe there's a certain preference of student athletes to student artists.

To this question, Mr. Brian Forget responded "I will have to defer that question to the High School, whether that is Principal Dawe or others in those departments."

If anyone has any questions to ask administration, don't be shy, as they're only one email away.

SAT from page 1

The SAT seems daunting, but the questions and their styles are repetitive. As you practice more and more, the approach to each question becomes more intuitive. Students worry about working with the numbers, but the SAT math section only goes up to the end of Algebra 2. By the end of your junior year, you should be familiar with or at least recognize the content.

I can't remember exactly how many practice math questions I did, but it was in the hundreds. I just grabbed a notebook and did sessions of about 100 questions. It was a grind but it paid off massively. If I got a question wrong, I made sure to know exactly why I did so. To improve you must work on your mistakes. You *cannot ignore them*.

Some other Triton students also scored well on the SAT. Seniors Ainsley Marsh and Zack Benesh both had scores above 1450.

Benesh, who scored a 1510, said that "the test prep books work, but only because they have a bunch practice tests in them... The trick is to figure out what your weaknesses are and work on those. So, for instance, my worst scoring part of the test by far was the ELA comprehension questions. So what I did was do a lot of that specific part of the test and then checked my answers... you'll learn the test even if you don't know the content. Additionally, if you can explain why one of the answers is wrong, cross it off immediately. A 50/50 chance on a question is a lot better than a 25/75 one."

Marsh, who scored in the high 1400's, gave her take.

"I participated in the SAT night class Triton provided for both English and math. I also programmed a lot of stuff into my calculator which saved me time on test day," she said. "I didn't do much online prep like the Khan academy classes, although I definitely would suggest those. I also watched some YouTube videos in preparation."

Words from the Wise

College Advice from THS Teachers and Staff

By Glory Trelfa
Staff Writer

Some people say they know what career they want to pursue from a young age. Others aren't as

lucky. The idea of attending a college or university without knowing the first thing about choosing majors, minors, or even a career path can be scary. Luckily, Triton's teachers seem to know how to help.

Middle school music teacher Mr. Todd Roberts said the best college advice he can give is: "When you're choosing a major, try to think about what you want your life to be like after you graduate. You may end up spending a lot of time working while other people are relaxing. Factor that in."

As the seniors of Triton start to receive their acceptance and rejection letters from colleges and universities of all shapes and sizes, it becomes clear that there are many more things to think about. Roommates, majors, minors, best food around campus, transportation, living on or off campus; the list goes on. The reality is that seniors are about to venture into unknown territory with many questions. With all of the different components that make up the college experience, it is known to be stressful on many counts.

Teachers in the district have been preparing high school and middle school students for college. Having been there themselves, of course, they know the application process and what to look for in a potential college. Another perk of talking to teachers is learning where they went wrong or what they could have thought about more and how to avoid these problems.

High school English teacher Mrs. Sarah Scruton said that there were a few things she advises her students to do while prepar-

ing for college.

"Doing the college search now with my own kids, I wish I had paid more attention to the options that you have for college," said Scruton. "Things like taking advantage of overseas opportunities and looking for schools that have really good internship programs [...] just things that are going to prepare you for the years after college, not just focusing solely on the four or so years you spend at the college."

Nowadays, it seems like there are more and more opportunities for students to take part in a trip overseas or an internship program at their dream job. These options are continuously encouraged for students planning on attending college. Some people may not be able to help but think, "I already have to pour my money into college. Why should I spend more?"

Mr. Scott Brennan encourages students not to worry too much about the cost of colleges or experiences offered to them too much. "A lot of colleges give out merit money, so there may be a college you think is too expensive but may not be [as expensive] with the merits. Do something that makes you happy, it's not always about the money!"

Attending college brings a different experience for every student regardless of majors or campuses. Overall, the teachers and administrators of Triton all want the high schoolers to be successful, and take as many steps necessary to lead the lives they truly want.

"Your major doesn't necessarily determine what you're going to do later," said Scruton, "It's important to remember that when looking for your job.

"Someone that may be your friend now isn't always the best person to make your roommate. You guys may have completely different living styles to get used to and sometimes that's harder than you think."
— English teacher Mrs. Sarah Scruton

"Your major doesn't necessarily determine what you're going to do later" — Asst. Principal Scott Brennan

EXPECTATIONS from page 1

said junior Sydney Johnson.

Before one can spend the night dancing away, they need some fuel. According to the junior class officers, the menu for prom will be an Italian buffet that includes chicken parmesan, pasta, salad, and, of course, bread. There will also be a stir fry available for those with allergies who cannot eat the from the buffet. The venue is a country club, so the food expectations may be high, but junior Aidan Gay-Killeen thinks otherwise.

"I honestly have pretty mediocre expectations, I think it (the food) will be okay," said Gay-Killeen.

pictures to remember the special night. According to the junior class officers, there will be a professional photographer available to take photos at prom.

"I'm hoping the professional pictures are really good quality. I hope they get to every couple and every table and capture the night in photos. I hope the photo booth can fit a lot of people because everyone is going to be going to it," said junior Kaylyn Pesaturo.

The venue, Ipswich Country Club, is a good-sized building with a beautiful golf course behind it.

"I am excited for the place we are going too. Everyone said it's amazing. So I hope I feel like I'm walking into a ball or something," said junior Kerry Power.

Even if prom is nothing like the movies, it is meant to be a fun time and to create memories with one's high school friends.

"Overall I expect prom to be just as magical as they make it seem in all of the movies. I expect to have a great time with all of my friends. For a lot of us, this is our first prom so one can only hope it will be an amazing experience," said junior Kaylyn Pesaturo.

Be sure to keep an eye out for the second part to this article after junior prom, where the *Triton Voice* will re-interview the students and ask them about the reality of their prom experience.



(Photo courtesy THSjuniorclassprom instagram account) Junior class officer Paige Volpone and class advisor Theresa Carol pose with prom tickets reminding students to get their tickets before the deadline.

EXPENSE from page 1

I'm happy with the dress I got, but for this year, I'm definitely going on the cheaper side, but I'll still have just as good of a time."

Girls have a variety of places to choose from for prom dresses: Glitterati, The Ultimate, David's Bridal, Tammy's Closet, Macy's, Lulu's, Windsor, and more. Costs vary from very low to very high, but you can almost always find the right dress for you.

It's said that girls have a lot more to worry about than guys involving prom. While guys' main priority is tux shopping, girls find themselves paying for not only dresses, but jewelry, hair, makeup, spray tans, manicures, shoes, sometimes even more. "The shopping is stressful and the expenses are even more stressful," said Senior Kelly Kozlowski.