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# TRITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

March 11, 2020

## Triton Sings About Love!

Triton Theater Showcases Classic Broadway Musical, *Godspell*

By Timothy Timmons  
Staff Writer

Gather 'round brothers and sisters! For yesterday, the Triton Theater program performed their own take on *Godspell* for the spring musical.

*Godspell*, which originally opened Off-Broadway on May 17th, 1971, takes an exciting, funny, and entertaining spin on the gospel according to St. Matthew.

Though, you don't have to be religious to appreciate the silly comedic parables put on during the show. Sharon Riordan, the director of the show, commented on the show's religious affiliation.

"Is *Godspell* a religious play? On its surface, yes," Riordan said, "Dialogue and lyrics come directly from the New Testament's Gospel according to St. Matthew. The story line roughly follows the life of Jesus from 29 A.D. and his encounter with John the Baptist, through his teaching ministry and ultimate crucifixion. Go just below the surface, however, and we discover that this is a story about people searching for meaning and purpose and finding it in the hopeful and loving message of a strong leader."

Triton's take on *Godspell* takes place in the



Triton Theater's cast of *Godspell* perform the number "All For the Best" (Timmons photo).

present day, in a theater where a company of actors are preparing to rehearse an old script. They are interrupted by the arrival of The Playwright, or John the Baptist played by senior Cole Erhard, who bestows on them a new script full of fresh ideas and exciting concepts, and lead by their Director, Jesus played by junior Anthony Mariniello, they embark on a journey of discovery and spiritual renewal.

"The role of Jesus is to teach his disciples how to love one another and how to make the world a better place," said Mariniello, "Judas, though, is very skeptical of what's going on and so it becomes Jesus' job to teach Judas all of these lessons along with the disciples."

Judas Iscariot, or the Stage Manager, who is played by senior

Brayden Toth, is an interesting character throughout the show. He faces his own moral dilemmas as he listens to Jesus' teachings but struggles to accept them. He follows along with Jesus through the stories and musical numbers, and even helps in teaching the disciples, but be ready for a twist.

Most of the fables are followed by a corresponding song number. Fellow cast members Cole Erhard, Sammie Mariniello, Bailey Gardella, Savannah Sweeney, Adrianna Deeb, Claudia Umanita, and Xander Heckman all have their own feature songs in the show.

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## Seniors Strive (and Stress) for Success with Scholarships

By Marcella Hubbard-Brucher  
Staff Writer

The smiling face of Mrs. Rebecca Pieciewicz is one of the first things students see when they walk into the Triton guidance office. She is always ready to help students here at Triton. Right now, she is especially ready to help Triton seniors navigate and complete their scholarship applications.

"The first step is to not freak out," said Pieciewicz. "Just read the instructions and then relax."

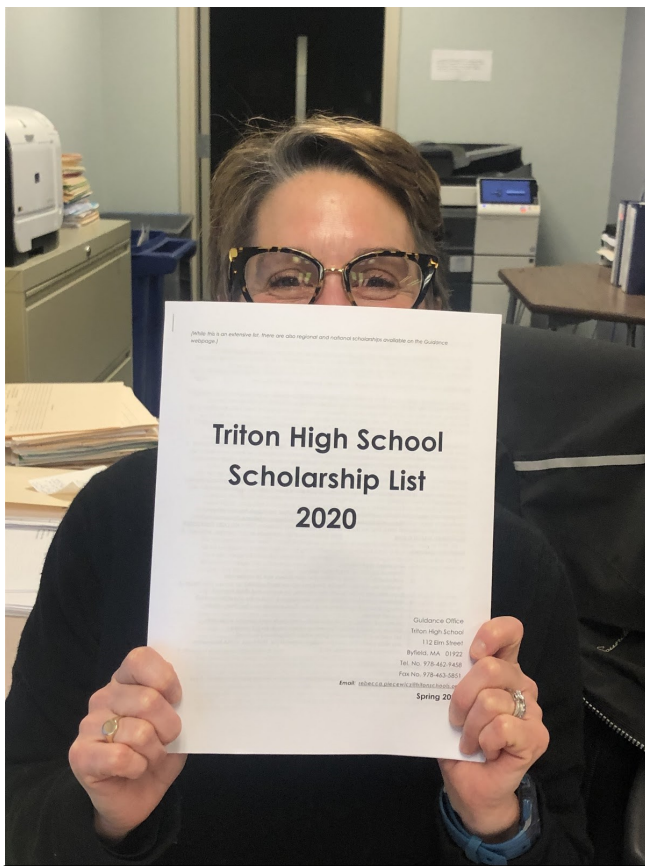
Students often become intimidated by the 40-plus scholarship packet they are given. Some also require extra things like essays along with the standard recommendations and high school transcript.

Many seniors are in the midst of applying and getting accepted to college. But with the rising costs of attending a four year college or university, many students have to seek financial aid from other places besides their school of choice. Luckily many places locally offer scholarships to Triton students.

Head of Guidance Mrs. Meghan Ober recently gave a presentation about the many scholarships available to students — including 39 which do not require essays. There are some related to sports, others that are only offered to students in a specific town, and others based on the area of study the student wants to go into.

"The scholarship I am most interested in is the Massachusetts Shellfish Officers Association (M.S.O.A) 2020," said senior Mackenzi Kimball. "It caters to the exact major I

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Mrs. Rebecca Pieciewicz holds up the 2020 Scholarship Packet (Hubbard-Brucher photo).

## Coronavirus Decisions Likely Today

### Masco, Ipswich, Port Schools Close

By Sophia Mailhoit & Staff Contributors

Triton administrators are preparing this morning for a conference call with state government officials about the next steps schools should take concerning the coronavirus outbreak.

Superintendent Brian Forget said in an email yesterday that today's call with the Massachusetts Department of Education and Department of Public Health should provide schools with "very clear guidance from the state on protocols for potential school closures."

"Right now nothing is cancelled," Forget said in an interview yesterday. However, he stressed that the situation is fluid and changing rapidly. "I fully expect things to change in the coming days. Our plan is that conference call is happening first thing in the morning, and then our whole leadership team, which is all the principals, are getting together right after that to make some decisions about what is and what isn't happening, from parent teacher conferences, to budget meetings happening in the towns, to student events like the prom."

Massachusetts law states that students must attend 180 days of school, with some exceptions. Usually, any school day missed between the start of the year and April 1st must be made up, until the last day of June. Any day missed after April 1st only has to be made up until the set 185 day of school. However, after declaring a state of emergency, Gov. Charlie Baker made an exception due to the coronavirus.

"As of Monday if we have to close we would only have to make up two days, but that collective 'we' does not include seniors," said Forget.

Communication about the outbreak of the virus has been heavy, though not always clear, Forget said.

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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.



# OPINION: Why Having A Technology Teacher Is Important

By Christina Varsamis  
Staff Writer

Over the past few months, Triton High School has considered hiring a new teacher for next year who would specialize in technology. However, the proposal has since been rejected by the school committee due to a lack of budget funds. Therefore, the idea is not being moved forward.

Some might question the need for a technology teacher in the first place, asking why would Triton need a technology teacher anyways? However, having a technology teacher, whether it be a teacher who helps individual students one-on-one, or one who teaches an entire class, would have many benefits for the students.

In this day and age, lots of school work and homework is online-based, such as homework being posted on Google Classroom as opposed to handing out sheets of paper to every student. With a technology teacher, students could become more skilled with using the technology and software that they do their online work on. Someone who specializes in teaching this material would benefit not only students, but other teachers as well. The teachers would have someone else that would help the students instead of having to do it themselves. Also, some teachers who happen to be a bit older might not know how to use certain technology or websites. Hiring someone who knows how to do that would be very helpful for the teachers.



Image courtesy EdTech Magazine

The world is a changing place, Technology such as Google Docs, Smart phones, and educational apps have changed education. Having a technology teacher in schools would not only help students in terms of their online school work, it would also teach them valuable skills for when they graduate high school and go out in the world. In the 21st century, younger people are expected to know how to utilize these tools. What better way to prepare these future adults for using technology in their everyday lives than by having a special technology teacher to guide them in this area?

One might argue that a technology teacher is not needed at Triton. Plenty of students here have more or less grown up with using technology, both in and out of school. Why hire a teacher that will teach kids stuff that they already know? While students might be knowledgeable with using their phones and social media, they might not quite know how to use other websites and software on regular computers, such as Microsoft Excel, something some jobs utilize a lot. By having a technology teacher at Triton, there would overall be more benefits for the students. They could teach students how to access and become experts in technology, and in general, prepare students for the ever-changing world that they will soon be a part of.

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would like to pursue.” Kimball wants to be a marine biologist. Scholarships aren’t just given to the kids who attend prestigious private schools either. As explained in the article from the *Washington Post* “Get Real on Scholarships,” by Michelle Singletary, “As for banking that a private school education will catapult your kid into the front line of scholarship money, don’t count on it making that much of a difference. Students from private high schools win just slightly more scholarships and other merit-based aid than students attending public high schools.” Since Triton is a public school, many students may not find the worth in applying for certain scholarships however, anyone can get a scholarship as long as they are qualified, so worrying about people from private schools snatching them all up should not be of concern.

“I think it’s great that so many of the local businesses here have scholarships available for Triton students,” said senior Bridget Tucker. “It really makes me feel good to know that they want to give back to us.” Tucker will be attending Salem State University in the fall and although she is not applying for many scholarships, she is happy to hear about the abundance of scholarships that are available to her peers who may need them.

Some students might find that the idea of paying for college is impossible, but there are ways to get the money to get you where they want to go. All they have to do now is apply.

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“Since Monday, I have received 1,283 emails through midnight last night,” said Forget. “Everyone from other superintendents, to the Mass department of public health, to the CDC which is a great resource right now with great information being updated, Mass DPH has great information. There has been a little lack in clarity about very specific responses so I’m hoping we hear that [in the conference call].”

At press time, 140 of the state's 289 school districts had closed for Friday classes. Locally, Ipswich, Haverhill, and Masconomet closed. Newburyport schools closed Friday to students, though staff were asked to report to school, according to WCVB-TV.

On Wednesday night, the Triton School Committee canceled the eighth grade's trip to Washington, D.C., in April after noting that many of the attractions would be closed. The committee held off on cancelling the high school music trip to Disneyworld, however Disney parks did make a decision to close on Thursday night.

Nationally, the widest closings of public schools were concentrated in California, Florida, New York state, Washington state, and Washington, D.C.

## GODSPELL from page 1

“I really like my song [We Beseech Thee].” said Heckman, “It’s big and flamboyant and the most exciting and energetic part of the whole show. It’s when the whole cast finally come together and embrace Jesus’ message. The “Come sing about Love!” chants always get everyone so hyper and pumped up - and the audience will love it.”

Barring any cancellations due to the coronavirus, *Godspell* is due to hit Triton’s stage on March 12, 13, and 14 at 7 p.m., and March 15 with a 2 p.m. matinee show. Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for students.

# O’Neil v. Dube in Walk-a-Thon Battle

By Katherine Quigley  
Staff Writer

“Don't underestimate an old man,” says Triton math teacher, Mr. Richard Dube as he prepares for the walk of his life.

What started as a simple stroll during classes has become a battle between student Matthew O’Neil and Mr. Dube to see who can get in the most steps during one school day.

This feud started when Dube became amazed at how many times O’Neil would leave class to walk around the halls of Triton. “It started because I was in awe of how many steps O’Neil gets during the school day. In absolute awe,” said Dube.

That awe soon turned into competition between the two, however a recent discipline infraction has left O’Neil at a significant disadvantage. He is no longer supposed to be allowed unaccompanied in the hallways.

Prior to the infraction, the two had decided that to calculate how many steps they will take, each will be using smart phone trackers. Though Dube has an Android and O’Neil has an Apple phone, they will both be using the same health app to track their steps. “I just gotta do my thing, ya know,” said O’Neil. His strategy is to stick to his usual day to day walking habits, leaving class to go to the bathroom and coming back several minutes later. Many can argue that leaving class to walk around is ‘wasting time,’ but walking thousands of steps each day is a healthy habit.

“I believe in Matt,” says senior Kaelyn Scalley. “He’s been doing this for years now. He’s burning calories and doing what he loves.”

While O’Neil’s strategy is simple, Dube used his resources to attempt to defeat the competition. “My strategy is very simple,” says Dube, “I’m gonna call all his teachers, and have them not let him out of class during that day.” On the days leading up to the competition, you will find Dube on the track, getting in his steps and practicing for his big debut. Dube also plans to make the challenge on a day where he has a long block prep period so that he can walk around as much as possible.

In an anonymous vote, Triton students voted that O’Neil would dominate the competition. “You never know, we’ll have to wait and see, but I think I’m the crowd favorite,” said O’Neil confidently. The date of the competition will be March 11. Regardless of who wins, we can conclude that this challenge, when completed, will be fun and healthy. The winner of the competition will have to purchase the other lunch. The contestants both agreed that their opinions of each other, regardless of winning or losing, will not change. “I could not have a lower opinion of O’Neil,” says his opponent, “I’m okay with losing, and if O’Neil changes his opinion, a lot of people hate me, he’d have to get in line.” Both contestants wish each other luck and are looking forward to a good competition.



Mr. Richard Dube basks in the glory of his walking win against senior Matt O’Neil, who has been confined to the classroom (**Liam Murray photos**).

# Scibetta & Durante Win Second Annual Viking Combine

By Cam Dacy  
Staff Writer

This week Triton held its second viking combine in the gymnasium where students competed h to test who the strongest, fastest, and most advanced athletes really are.

“Last year's winner was Kyle Scibetta, so I know he's excited to come out this year and keep his winning streak,” Mr. Joseph Colbert said.

This year's winners were Kyle Scibetta and Bonnie Durante.

The Triton combine is a series of different events that both boys and girls were able to participate in. The events consisted of the 40 yard dash, bench press, vertical jump, standing broad jump, and the cone drill. The idea of the combine is to see who are strongest athletes are here at Triton and many students go to the gym and do their own things, so this is a way to test their athletics abilities against peers and compete to win. We have many hidden strong athletes, so this is a way for those to come through and shine.

This year Senior Bonnie Durante came to the viking combine to compete against her peers. Durnate was very intimidated to go against her fellow peers, Olivia Ritchie, and Emily Colby, two very strong athletes here at Triton. The results between the girls were very tight, but Senior Bonnie Durnate pulled through with the win and really surprised herself and others. Senior Olivia Ritchie had the same points as Durante, but Durante won just by one more event than Ritchie

“The girls winner was Bonnie Durante and she really came out of nowhere and I was pleasantly surprised to see her show up and she demonstrated that she is a really great athlete,” said Mr. Colbert.

“I was against two of the best athletes in the senior class, Olivia Ritchie and Emily Colby, so I felt very intimidated by them. They participate in many more sports than I do, so I was very shocked when the results came out and I had won,” Senior Bonnie Durante said.

“The boys winner was Kyle Scibetta and that was his second year in a row winning, so that was not really a surprise, and he was definitely a favorite going in,” said Mr. Colbert.

“I thought that the kids that showed up did great and it was fun to see and it was fun having coaches up there and helping out, but I wish more kids would do it and find it disappointing that so many kids are just afraid to compete,” Mr. Colbert. “I look forward to doing it again next year.”



Alden Lentz, junior, takes a leap as part of he Viking Combine Tuesday (**Dacy photo**) .