



Newburyport Daily News

Triton digital projector project pushes to meet goal

March 31, 2011

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BYFIELD — If you were to sit in teacher James Allen's high school English class, you would think that digital technology had always been a part of his lessons, seeing how fluid the information from the Web melds into the classroom lesson and holds the students' attention.

But this latest technology tool that is spreading through the classrooms at Triton Regional Middle and High schools was virtually unseen in the classrooms less than six months ago.

In an effort that has been dubbed "Connect Triton," the Triton Educational Fund has embraced the goal of outfitting, by the end of this school year, all 72 classrooms in the middle and high schools with digital projection technology, bringing the expansive resources of the World Wide Web into all the classrooms.

So far, TEF has funded 20 projectors, thanks to grants and donations from parents, teachers and local businesses, from whom the group is seeking to raise the nearly \$120,000 needed to complete this ambitious endeavor.

"Digital projectors not only enable a whole class to access Web-based materials in real time, they enable teachers to present their slides, videos and source materials — perhaps historical documents or a view down a microscope — in a way that enables the whole class to be fully engaged," Triton Superintendent Christopher Farmer said.

"The Triton Education Foundation is making an effort that is key to providing teachers with a powerful instructional tool. I am very grateful for their vision and determination," he said.

The cost of bringing one projector, which includes purchase and installation by an outside vendor, to a classroom is approximately \$1,600, and installations are done as money is received to get as many projectors up and running as soon as possible. Once digital projectors are installed at the middle and high schools, the initiative to bring this technology to the Newbury and Salisbury elementary schools will begin.

At Pine Grove School in Rowley, projectors have already been installed in the second through sixth grade, as well as in the art, music and library rooms and the science and technology labs. The project was made possible, thanks to parents' efforts in grant writing, fundraising events and building community business sponsorships. Alternative technology needs at that school will be evaluated for funding as a part of this Connect Triton project.

"We have to give our teachers the power to teach students using every possible learning avenue," said Joann Anderson, Triton Connect chairwoman. "And in this day and age, access to technology and the Internet is where the information is. This is a tremendous teaching tool for every subject of learning."

The success of Connect Triton relies heavily on the support of the community through raffles, donations and fundraising events. An upcoming Trivia Night on Saturday, April 9, from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Newburyport Elks Club is being held by TEF.

"This has always been a popular event that is low cost to host, yet usually yields thousands of dollars of profit that we can put directly into projector purchases," Anderson said.

Those interested in attending this evening of fun where teams battle for the right answer to disc jockey Mr. Ed's challenging trivia questions should contact Kate Scalley at 978-948-8646 or kscalley@comcast.net for more details. Tickets are \$25 a person, and teams of eight players are recommended.

The group is also sponsoring a raffle of a Celtics team basketball signed by the entire Celtics team. The \$5 raffle tickets, or 3 for \$13, are available in the offices of the middle and high schools. The winner's name will be drawn at the Trivia Night event.

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