

TRITT TIGER TALK

Tritt Tiger Talk provides a glimpse into part of your child's experience at Tritt.
Click [here](#) to learn more about the TTF.

WELCOME BACK!

- Over 30 FAST classes have begun! [Click here to view the FAST Track dismissal process.](#)
- Thank you to Tritt parents, teachers, families and staff for contributing to the TTF annual donation drive. Read on to learn how your donations are making a difference. Still want to contribute? [Click here - it's easy!](#)

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

A Message from Mrs. Carstens

Dear Tiger Family,

Irina Bokova said, "Literacy is much more than an educational priority – it is the ultimate investment in the future and the first step towards all the new forms of literacy required in the twenty-first century." I couldn't agree more.

To support the continued professional development of our teachers, I have created partnerships with two innovative and research-based educational literacy organizations. **Reading is Essential for All People (REAP)** will provide **Orton-Gillingham** coursework for all our Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade and selected special education teachers for the 2019-2020 school year. While Orton-Gillingham instruction is closely associated with dramatic academic gains for dyslexic students, strategies taught through the program provide a solid reading foundation for all students. Our teachers will complete 35 hours of coursework, have opportunities to watch model lessons, and receive individualized coaching from the REAP instructors throughout the school year. The second organization is the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project from Columbia University. This project was founded by **Lucy Calkins**, the innovative, research-based educator who wrote The Units of Study curriculum used around the world for writing instruction. Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teachers spent a week this summer immersed in the methodology, instructional strategies, and formalized structures of our current writing curriculum.

The business of school is student learning. What better way to ensure the success of our Tigers than to invest in the continued professional development of our teachers? From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your support of these training programs funded by our TTF.

With HEART,
Karen Carstens, Principal

TEACHERS GET SCHOOLED

Workshops Spotlight Innovative Writing and Reading Programs



*Think learning to write means papers riddled with teachers' red ink? Think again! **Tara Rich, Tritt 4th grade teacher,** shares her perspective on the Lucy Calkins training she received this summer.*

Tara Rich, 4th Grade Teacher

Q: What is the benefit of the Lucy Calkins training?

This training benefits your child because it provides teachers with the guidance, support, and resources necessary to teach ALL students to be great writers. Not only will this curriculum benefit their writing in elementary school, but the skills acquired will continue to follow them in the higher grades.

Q: How were Tritt teachers trained?

The training consisted of four, six-hour days during summer break. As educators, we are committed to teaching students about what good writers do and how to write. The program itself focuses on three writing units of study: informational, opinion, and narrative. Within each of the units, teachers and students work through the writing process together as writers.

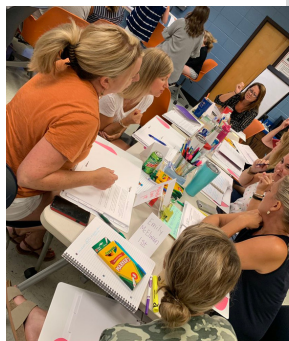
Q: Anything you would like to share with TTF donors?

I was thrilled to learn Mrs. Carstens and the TTF had chosen to invest in this training! Thanks to this investment, our stakeholders should feel confident our students will be well-prepared with writing skills which will continue to help them become strong readers, writers, and well-rounded scholars in the years to come.

[Take a look at this video to learn more.](#)

"As a former teacher, I had the privilege of having The Teacher's College work with me many times. I also spent a week at Columbia University's Writing Institute Training. I know how powerful this program is and am thrilled for my son, and eventually my daughters, to be taught in this way!"

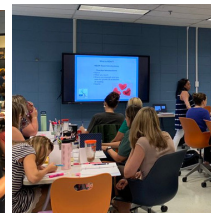
- Meghan Bradshaw, Tritt parent



Heather Garrett,
Kindergarten Teacher

“Tritt teachers in grades K-2 are excited to gain a greater understanding of best practices for teaching phonemic awareness to our students. The Orton-Gillingham multi-sensory approach equips us to provide students with a stronger foundation in reading and writing. As students learn phonics rules, they understand how they read versus merely memorizing words from a list. As a result, their spelling abilities increase.

Currently, we dedicate 60 minutes a day toward ELA, reading, and phonics instruction and application. As a teacher and as a parent, I am confident the Orton-Gillingham Training will serve students well as they learn to read, spell, and decode both in Kindergarten and throughout the higher grade levels.”



**ARE YOU
INVESTED?**

100%
Tritt Teachers &
Staff invested

49%
Tritt families
invested

**Click here to
donate!**

The TTF strives to invest your tax-deductible donations in ways that impact EVERY Tritt student's STEAM education.