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NOTICE: In the last newsletter, we reported the two (2) National Merit Semi-Finalists as Jacob Bannor and Youssef Tewala. The students are actually Jacob Fey and Youssef Tewala. We apologize for this error.

Please see the updated information on page 9

THE TOWSON PRIDE

On a bi-weekly basis, we acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our staff and students. We encourage our staff to submit accolades for recognizing the dedication of others. The accolades appear on the first pages of our newsletters. As contributing members to Towson High School, we represent 5 STAR Generals.

We appreciate our staff and students for demonstrating leadership, citizenship, scholarship, and integrity. If you would like to submit an accolade for one of our students/staff members for the great work that they do within our community, please submit the information to cdmino@bcps.org and cc dlauten@bcps.org. Help us recognize the outstanding efforts of our students and staff.

★ STARS to Ammoy Bring-er, Emma Blanco, Amiya Faulcon, Saniiya Furr, Mireya Guerrero, Meghan Scally, Lee Shaw, Marcus Von Briesen, Alex Carmichael, Rhys Conklin, Owen Hodes, Camrin Scott, Bliss Terceira, and Liv Zitko for putting amazing effort into their math class!

★ STARS to Mr. Skeels for taking initiative with cleaning out the old supplies!

★ STARS to Ms. Barton and Mr. Cheung for doing an awesome job hitting the ground running!!

★ STARS to Ms. Bridges for being so supportive!

★ STARS to Curt Alford for a great job with the website!

★ STARS to the THS Marching Band for an outstanding season with performances at all home football games, the Reisterstown Parade, the BCPS Showcase and the Pep Rally!

★ STARS to Senior Yiyun Li for being selected as a member of the 2021 NAfME All-National Concert Band, Clarinet 1! This is the 2nd year in a row she has qualified. Her selection reflects her hard work and dedication. The 2021 All-National honor Ensembles program will take place virtually January 22-24, 2022.

★ STARS to Mr. Briggs and Mr. Cohen for their extraordinary efforts to ensure a successful PSAT day.

★ STARS to Mr. Blair, Mr. Brotman, Mr. Eastham, Mr. Geckle, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Olson, and Ms. Szopo for their leadership for our seniors with the presence and interactions this morning.

★ STARS to Ms. McCusker and Mrs. Karsos for presenting Science Spotlight at a meeting.

★ STARS to Mr. Biddison for help with SNHS tutoring.

★ STARS to Ms. Toni Smith for helping a co-worker.

★ STARS to Arden Saul and Isaac Pittas for helping Mr. Buick straighten his classroom.

★ STARS to Mr. Cohen for helping a co-worker.

★ STARS to Ms. Kemper for helping with SNHS.

★ STARS to Mrs. Goldberg for jumping right into the THS Science Department?

★ STARS to Ms. Flynn and Ms. Taddeo for their completion of the Peer Advisory Training.

★ STARS to Ms. Lambert, Mr. Olson, and the members of the SGA for their planning for the Spirit Week Pep Rally. Your communication and flexibility is appreciated by our students and staff.

★ STARS to Mr. Nash and Ms. DiMino for their additional assistance with setting up for the Pep Rally.

★ STARS to Mr. Stange for his consideration of students.

★ STARS to Amelia Balkan, a member of Educators Rising and part of the TAM program, for placing #5 in the state of Maryland for the Educators Rising Moment competition.

★ STARS to Ms. MacKenzie and Ms. Carey for organizing a THS community clean-up.

★ STARS to Ms. Flynn and Ms. Taddeo on their dedication and leadership to serve as Peer Advisors.

★ STARS to Mr. Briggs and Mr. Cohen for their amazing efforts with the PSAT.

★ STARS to Ms. Jacobs and Ms. Lambert for their reflection and strength.

★ STARS to our teachers, administrators, and staff that dedicated time to complete recommendation letters for seniors.

★ STARS to Ms. Raley for sharing sunshine.

★ STARS to Ms. Kromsky for supporting students.

★ STARS to Mr. Hanford for expressing his enthusiasm regarding hands-on opportunities for students.

★ STARS to Ms. Sweet for her attention to detail.

★ STARS to Mr. Stange, Ms. McShane, and the members of the cross-country team - REGIONAL CHAMPS!!

★ STARS to the fall athletic teams for their sportsmanship and leadership during the 1st semester.

★ STARS to our families for their support of our students’ academic progress.

★ STARS to Ms. Alexander, Mr. Brotman, Ms. Goldberg, Ms. Jacobs, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Monacelli, Ms. Richmond, and Ms. Valsing for their leadership.
The Towson High School Theatre Program is proud to announce the opening of our first virtual production!

[Link to the THS Production of The Bullying Collection]

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Thank you so much for your continued support & enjoy the show!

The Towson High School Library is once again being used by teachers and students for research, instruction, checking books, holding club meetings and much more. This week, students in Mr. Alford’s English classes conducted research on banned books. The students will use their research to argue whether a novel should be banned for use in schools. This is a very timely topic as many school systems across the country are having discussions about curriculum and related materials.

Students in Ms. Fluharty’s classes used the library space for “literature circles” in which they discussed a work of literature chosen by their group. This activity helps prepare students for the Advanced Placement English test in the spring and gives the class insights into a larger independent research involving literary analysis later in the school year.

Library Continues to Add Resources

The THS Library recently purchased $1600 worth of new books as part of an initiative to replace books that were lost or not returned during virtual learning. Students and parents are reminded to look for THS library books and return them. Students and staff may check out books before and after school and dur-
ing lunch shifts. The library has over 12,000 print and eBooks on a wide va-
riety of topics and interests.

Student Help Desk

For the first time ever, the library and Towson High School has a student help desk run by THS students. Collin Poag and Ahmad Jamshaid, THS seniors, are volunteering their time in the library to assist students and Mr. Ickes by providing technology support. Under the supervision of Mr. Ickes, Collin and Ahmad have provided invaluable technology support since the first week of school by troubleshooting student and teacher device issues, providing technical support during the recent state and PSAT testing sessions, assisting in inventory updating and other technology support. Collin and Ahmad have helped hundreds of students in the first two months of school and their assistance is greatly appreciated.
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Did you know...

You can now complete a Discretionary Medication Consent Form ONLINE to provide permission for your child to receive approved medications in school. (Acetaminophen, Ibuprofen, antacid tablets, cough drops, Benadryl)

Use this link: https://forms.office.com/r/l18pmY2DQG

You can also find the form, and other health forms and information on our website, https://towsonhs.bcps.org/ under Faculty & Staff – Nurse – Nurse Information & Resources.

Please contact Ms. Russo if you have any questions.

410-827-4261 lrusso2@bcps.org

Our wonderful school nurse, Ms. Russo, made the most of Spirit Week by dressing up as a Covid test!
Please Stay Home

If you are sick (and talk to your doctor about whether you should be tested for COVID)

If you have a positive COVID test (and tell your school nurse or supervisor)

If you have had contact with a person with COVID (and tell your school nurse or supervisor)

If you have been tested for COVID (until the results come back)

Baltimore County Public Schools 7-27-2021
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THE TOWSON PRIDE

COVID-19 INFORMATION & UPDATES

Please review the reminders below so we can all do our best to keep the Towson High community safe and healthy!

**DO NOT** allow your child to attend school if they are not feeling well. Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever of 100°F or higher
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea or vomiting
- New onset of severe headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Any of these symptoms that are a *change* from child’s usually symptoms related to a chronic condition (such as seasonal allergies or asthma)

> Students will be excluded from school for at least 10 days if they have any of the above symptoms, **UNLESS**:

- They receive a negative COVID test and feel better, or
- They are diagnosed by a healthcare provider with another specific diagnosis (such as strep throat), or
- Healthcare provider documents that symptoms are related to a pre-existing condition.

All students should be feeling better and fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication prior to returning to school.
**DO NOT** send your child to school to be tested for COVID.

- We are not able to provide screening tests for students, and those with Covid-like symptoms should never report to school, as this potentially exposes other students and staff to illness.
- Testing resources:

**DO** always ensure your child has a mask before leaving for school, and an extra mask in case it is needed.

- Masks should always be worn on buses.
- We have extra masks in case a mask is broken or soiled while at school, or for the occasional forgotten mask.
- We do not have a supply of masks to provide to students or staff on a daily basis.

**DO** notify us of your child tests positive for COVID, has been exposed to a person with COVID, or with any questions regarding quarantine or isolation.

**DO** always feel free to contact the school nurse, Ms. Russo, at 443-809-4261, or lrusso2@bcps.org for any questions or concerns. Questions may also be directed to the Office of Health Services at 443-809-6368.
Winter Sports Information (2021-22)

First Day of Tryout/Practice: Monday, November 15th
BCPS Return to Play Plan for Winter Sports: Click Here to View Plan
Winter Sports Season Passes: 5-Member Family Pass, Adult Pass, Student Pass https://spicket.events/towson
Winter Coaching Directory: Click Here

Participation Requirements (must be completed by November 15th)
- Register online with Form Releaf: Click Here
- Have an Updated Physical: MPSSAA Physical Form (physicals are good for 14 months from the date of exam)
- Be academically eligible: Rule 6702/Athletic Eligibility Info
  - 1st quarter grades determine winter eligibility
  - Must have a 2.0 GPA or higher (not QPA)
  - No more than one failing/incomplete/medical grade on 1st quarter grades
- Vaccination status/information will be shared in late November with our student-athletes and parents. All winter student-athletes will be required to submit vaccination status through a google doc. Students who are unvaccinated will be required to participate in weekly testing.

Tryout/Practice Information
Wrestling-November 15th-19th (6:00-8:00)-Activity/Wrestling Room
Boys Basketball-November 15th, 16th, 17th (JV-5:00-7:00 and Varsity 7:00-9:00)-Gymnasium
Girls Basketball-November 15th, 16th, 17th (2:30-5:00)-Gymnasium
Indoor Track-November 15th-19th (2:45-5:00)-meet at the stadium bleachers
Cheerleading-November 15th, 16th, 17th (2:40-4:40)-Activity/Wrestling Room
Allied Bocce-TBD
Congratulations to Jacob Fey and Youssef Tewala for being recognized as Semi-Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program!

Youssef Tewala       Jacob Fey

we are so proud of you
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Public Defender Back In The House!

On Thursday, October 21 the ninth grade LPP Magnet students taking Introduction to Law had the opportunity to interact with our guest speaker, Towson High graduate and current Public Defender, Tiera Hawkes, class of 2007. Ms. Hawkes currently serves juvenile clients as their attorney, should they, or their parents, not be able to afford their own lawyer.

Ms. Hawkes began by asking students to introduce themselves and provide one concept regarding the law that they have learned so far this year. She then gave her biography from attending Towson High to the present and she shared her memories of the LPP program. Ms. Hawkes identified the similarities and differences between juveniles and adults who find themselves in court. She played several videos representing various aspects of the steps in a court case from opening statement to cross examination. She painted a very real picture of what it is like to be in a court of law.

After her presentation, she opened the floor to questions and this led to a very earnest discussion on whether or not juveniles should be charged and treated as adults. She was very impressed by both the questions students asked and the answers she received to the questions she posed to the classes. We will definitely invite her back!

---

Current THS Student Damola Ariyibi (l).
Along with Tiera Hawkes (r)
THS SCIENCE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES

MS. LEE!

Earth Systems
elee6@bcps.org
Office in Room 122
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Forensics students were putting their physics and trigonometry knowledge to good use determining where projectiles originated from to apprehend the suspects!
Students in Mrs. Kemper’s IPC class applied their knowledge of velocity and forces to complete a car challenge!
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**AP Bio Scientific Poster Symposium**
AP Bio Diffusion Lab
Science National Honor Society members welcomed Dr. Unguru from the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at The Herman and Walter Samuelson Children’s Hospital at Sinai at their last meeting.

They were able to ask insightful questions about his role in the clinic and his educational background!
Mr. Hanford’s Forensic Science students delved into their childhood toys today and applied their knowledge of trace evidence to conduct tire tread analysis.

CSI Teams used Matchbox cars in order to figure out which of the suspects’ cars left their tire impressions at the crime scenes. So cool!
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Students in Mrs. Schrader’s Living Systems class modeled the process of Photosynthesis using LEGOS in order to demonstrate the Law of Conservation of Mass!
Science NHS Tutoring

Tuesday/Thursday
Room 123
All Science Subjects!
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T H E   T O W S O N   P R I D E

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THS COVID Exclusion Tutoring

Tuesday-Thursday
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Meets Code: Towsontutoring

Schedule

Tuesday-Brotzman (English)/Roley (Organization)
Wednesday-Blair (Math)
Thursday-Social Studies/Science (Geilfuss/Schrader)

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TOWSON GENERALS
Go to this link for more information: https://marylandstemfestival.org/
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|$\text{SNHS GIVING SEASON FUNDRAISER}$

Donate today using the QR code below to support children with cancer!
Ms. Wright has created a “senior/junior college newsletter” on Smore with lots of links and info for seniors and juniors.

Welcome to the 2021-22 School Year!

Seniors and Juniors,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! I hope it is off to a good start. For those of you who do not know me yet, I am Mrs. Wright, and I am the College and Career Counselor at Towson High School. I am here as an extra support for you during the college application process in addition to your alpha counselor. I will be sending out these newsletters every month with reminders for you and scholarship information.

This is a great resource for the college application process and support. Check it out!

Here is the link: [https://www.smore.com/ym7sa](https://www.smore.com/ym7sa)
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Easy-to-understand guidance for parents of children with autism

Our engaging, tabbed guide provides parents with the information they need to understand their child’s situation, effectively support their child with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and support themselves and other family members.

**Your Guide To Your Child And Autism Spectrum Disorder** (CBC0164)

This guide provides essential information to support parents of a child diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Also offers advice on improving communication, medication, alternative treatments, and living with ASD. Easy-to-navigate sections:

- detail the signs of autism spectrum disorder
- outline the diagnostic process
- discuss possible causes
- describe treatment planning.

Features water- and tear-resistant pages plus colored subject tabs that let readers quickly access the content they need. 32 pages, 3 3/4” x 5 1/2”

***If interested, please contact Iris Piekarz for ordering information at ipiekarz@bcps.org.

Please use this website to access the *Hand In Hand* newsletter: https://www.smore.com/stgm5.

For the SERC Parent Webinars, please visit this link: https://files.constantcontact.com/obb37973601/2d383e36-825b-43ed-a14a-69cbe2bb8c30.pdf
### SECAC Meeting Schedule for the 2021-2022 School Year

Our areas of focus continue to be **education and advocacy**. Our voices will continue to be used in a positive, organized effort to help parents and professionals convey information and experiences to leadership, to support the Department of Special Education in their goals, and to advise the Board of Education and top-level decision makers in Baltimore County Public Schools.

We hope you will consider joining us for any or all the scheduled SECAC meetings below. Registration is **not** required. All meetings are open to the public.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 4, 2021</td>
<td>BCPS Department of Special Education Updates &amp; Initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1, 2021</td>
<td>SECAC Stakeholder Feedback &amp; Goal Setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6, 2021</td>
<td>Superintendent Dr. Darryl Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January, 2022</td>
<td>NO MEETING SCHEDULED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 7, 2022</td>
<td>Help My Child is Anxious! Dr. Tana Hope, The Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and Family Therapy Clinic, Kennedy Krieger Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 7, 2022</td>
<td>Autism</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2022 (TBD)</td>
<td>Joint Meeting with the GTCAC: Twice Exceptional (2E) Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2, 2022</td>
<td>Transition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 6, 2022</td>
<td>General Stakeholder Feedback: What worked this year? What are our</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>concerns for next year?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meetings are from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Initially meetings will be held virtually via Google Meets using the join code: [https://meet.google.com/fak-czat-dyl](https://meet.google.com/fak-czat-dyl). We hope to transition to in-person offerings. If you need to call in or have difficulty joining email [egalvez@bcps.org](mailto:egalvez@bcps.org).

**If Baltimore County Public Schools are closed, or close early for any reason the SECAC meeting will be cancelled.**

To join the SECAC email contact list for updates on meetings and events please complete our online form: [http://bit.ly/secnewsign-up](http://bit.ly/secnewsign-up)
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From the Principal

As we welcome the month of November and conclude the first marking quarter, it is the optimal time to reflect on our accomplishments and acknowledge areas for additional refinement. We are extremely proud of the efforts and dedication of our students, staff, and families. We have been challenged to adapt to routines that have been non-existent during the time of virtual instruction. We are appreciative of our staff members that have assumed additional leadership during this school year. Special thank you to Ms. Alexander, Mr. Brotman, Ms. Goldberg, Ms. Jacobs, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Monacelli, Ms. Richmond, and Ms. Valsing for their efforts with leading Communities of Practice that are focused on our school’s focus areas: Academics, Customization, Engagement, Personalization, and Social Emotional Support.

Each morning, we welcome our students with an attitude of gratitude. Our morning crew, comprised of instructional leaders, administration, and school resource officers, welcomes our students as they begin their day in the Life of a General. It has been an absolute pleasure to observe our students and interact with members of our staff that truly enter our space with a positive outlook.

We encourage our students to reflect on their academic progress, revisit goals, and commit to refining previous goals as needed. We are extremely proud of the efforts and dedication of our staff and students. We appreciate the efforts of our students and staff that commit to demonstrating leadership daily inside and outside the classroom. We thank our parents and students that recently devoted time to enhance our facility. Special thank you to the Makenzie and the Carey families for their organized efforts to beautify our premises.

As the new marking quarter begins, we remind our students that struggle can be overcome. The year is young, and every student possesses the potential for academic and social excellence.
UPCOMING EVENTS

November, 2021
15-19 American Education Week (AEW) - Virtual Offerings through BCPS
25-26 Thanksgiving Holiday - Schools and Offices Closed

December, 2021
23-31 Winter Break begins at the end of the school day.

January, 2022
3 Schools Reopen
17 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Schools and Offices CLOSED
21 Second Marking Period Ends—Schools Close 3 Hours Early for All Students
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Pep Rally
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The show will stream exclusively on *Broadway On Demand* Friday, January 29 through Sunday, January 31. You can stream the show for free at any point during that 72-hour period. Share the link with your friends and family! After this weekend, the show will no longer be available for viewing, so catch it while you can!

Thank you so much for your continued support & enjoy the show!

**Pep Rally**
Pep Rally
The Towson High School Theatre Program is proud to announce the opening of our first virtual production!

Link to the THS Production of The Bullying Collection

Friday, January 29 - Sunday, January 31

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