Each week, individuals will be recognized for their contributions to the school. Staff members are encouraged to submit accolades that are worthy of the General’s Star.

Our staff and students strive for excellence on a daily basis. The comments listed below represent some of the recognition for our staff and students.

★ STARS to **M. Chen** for using his EMT skills to help a student in distress in the hallway. (Sent in by Ms. Travis)

★ STARS to the following students for new Personal Records from the Montgomery Invitational Indoor Track & Field meet: **H. Thomas**—5:32.06 in the boys 1600m run; **J. Kavanagh**—2:13.98 in the boys 800m run; **K. Okeke**—7:70 in the girls 55m dash; and **G. Melanson**—47.73 in the girls 300m dash. (Sent in by Mr. Stange)

★ STARS to the following students for Season Records: **C. Ryan**—5:39.94 in the girls 1600m run; **S. Jones, I. Chestney, C. Della Santina, and E. Eastman**—10:56.73 in the girls 4x800m relay; **H. Prem, E. Eastman, K. Okeke, and G. Melanson**—58.87 in the girls 4x200m relay; **L. Smith, G. Melanson, K. Okeke, and E. Eastman**—4:34.68 in the girls 4x400 relay; **D. Lovely, W. Stange, J. Kastner, and J. Bolster**—9:38.58, in the boys 4x800m relay; **M. Duzhikhin, A. Wright, N. Chung, and M. Stroman**—1:45.38 in the boys 4x200m relay; and **J. Kavanagh**—3:54.64 in the boys 4x400m relay. (Sent in by Mr. Stange)

★ STARS to **Ms. Petras and the Guidance Department** for all of their work with the registration process thus far! (Sent in by Ms. Travis)

★ STARS to **Ms. Meehan and Towson’s Academic Team, It’s Academic**, for their victory! Our Generals (Ed, Geoff, and Walter) were truly impressive and the parental support for the school filled a large portion of the stands!!

★ STARS to **Ms. Mathena and Ms. Brown** for attending the *It’s Academic* event and to **Ms. Meehan** for her efforts and time. (Sent in by Mrs. Dimino)

★ STARS to **S. Harris**, grade 12 LPP student, for being aware, involved and caring about others!! (Sent in by Ms. Mathena)

★ STARS to **Ms. Fast** for her consistent display of consideration for others. (Sent in by Mrs. DiMino)

★ STARS to **Mr. Hyman** for his expertise in reference to preparation for The Professional Development Day. (Sent in by Mrs. DiMino)

★ STARS to **Ms. Brown and the members of her department** in preparation for our Professional Development Day. (Sent in by Mrs. DiMino)
As we close out the first semester, we are looking forward to so many wonderful things: several dances, Music Honors assessments, athletic events, more spirit events, A Musical Theater Production and a graduation (Yeah, 2014!) We are also moving ahead to emphasize all the great things that are in place to keep our school a safe and orderly place in which all students can learn. It seems a very appropriate time to share some of the highlights of our year, thus far – and let’s put it in the perspective of the mission of Towson High School.

We ARE…a community fostering SCHOLARSHIP: Our students engage in various opportunities to stretch themselves academically and challenge their thinking in ways that lead to enlightened perspectives and crucial critical thinking. One such experience was the week-long visit from the Bio Lab, coordinated by Science Teacher Ms. Beth Drake, which provided our students with hands-on experiments to engage and excite them. Our scholarship is also in the competitive arena: Our It’s Academic Team, coached by English Teacher Ms. Jen Meehan, defeated Parkville High School and Archbishop Spaulding, moving forward in the competition. Looking forward to the March airdate of that match – we’ll let you know!

We ARE…a community that fosters LEADERSHIP: Our students seek to be the movers and the shakers in many arenas, from participating in Baltimore County Student Council to participating on committees at the request of the superintendent. In December, Five Generals represented us at the Superintendent’s Town Hall, asking Dr. Dance relevant and important questions about next year’s schedule and the digital conversion.

We ARE…a community that fosters CITIZENSHIP: Towson Generals work hard to make a difference everywhere they go – and they even make sure that they share their time, efforts and this facility, with those around them. Our National Honor Society, under the direction of English Teacher Ms. Emily Berman, hosted 25 students from Sandy Plains Elementary School for a Holiday Party—complete with gifts, games, sharing and Santa. Also, our Student Government Association (Ms. ME White and Mr. Tom Blair, advisors) was honored by The Baltimore Ravens for its work with the community, including an incredibly successful canned foods drive that provided food for the Maryland Food Bank. The annual Red Cross Blood Drive is in February, so look for announcements and reminders!

We ARE…a community that fosters INTEGRITY: These items are just a glimpse into the greatness that IS the hallmark of Towson High Generals. Their fortitude and integrity shows in each of their deeds.

The first half is obviously just the beginning.

Are you ready for the second half?

Submitted by Traci Johnson Mathena
Now’s the time to order your copy of the first ever Towson Cookbook.

Please complete the order form and turn in to your child’s homeroom teacher.

*Sponsored by SADD, Students Against Destructive Decisions*
Senior News

The representative from the Cap and Gown company will be here during all lunch shifts on Thursday, January 23 and Friday, January 24. Please order your cap and gown at these times in order to get the early order price of $9.95. If you misplaced your order form, we should have more available before January 23rd. Listen to the morning announcements for more details. The rep will also be taking orders for graduation announcements and other commemorative products at this time.

This year’s Senior Talent Show will be held the evening of February 26 in the auditorium. Auditions for the talent show will be held at the end of this month. Listen to the morning announcements and look for future articles in the newsletter for more details.

2014 All Honors Jazz Band

2014 All Honors Jazz Band – Towson HS musicians auditioned for the most recent All Honors Jazz Band and Chorus. There were 36 positions available and 11 of our instrumentalists & 3 of our vocalists were chosen! Their names are listed below:

**1st Alto Saxophone**
- G. Palo

**1st Tenor Saxophone**
- B. Seyler

**2nd Tenor Saxophone**
- C. J. LaCasse

**Baritone Saxophone**
- M. Janello

**1st Trumpet**
- L. Powers

**3rd Trumpet**
- T. Papadopoulos

**4th Trumpet**
- Z. Jablow

**3rd Trombone**
- R. Foretich

**Piano**
- H. Colombat

**Guitar**
- Z. Bulmer

**Drum Set/Aux. Percussion**
- C. Silverwood

**CHORUS**

- A. Ready
- R. Weeks
- G. Davis

*Congratulations!*
UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

20 **Schools Closed** - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday
21 **Schools Closed** - Professional Day
22 Beginning of Third Quarter
23-24 Cap & Gown Ordering - Main Cafeteria -10:30 am - 1:30 pm
29 Tri-M Coffee House - Cafeteria - 4:00 pm

FEBRUARY

3 Report Cards Distributed
13 Tri-M Recital - 7:00 pm
14 African American Parent Involvement Day
17 **Schools Closed**—Presidents Day
18 Edible Art - Cafeteria - 6:00 pm
21 Music Booster Basket Bingo - Tall Cedars of Lebanon
25 Winter Athletics Awards Night - Auditorium - 6:30 pm
26 Blood Drive - Gym - All Day
27 Senior Talent Show - Auditorium - 7:00 pm
TOWSON HIGH SCHOOL
SPORTS BOOSTERS ANNUAL

SPRING GALA 2014

ON APRIL 5, 2014
7:00PM -11:00PM

THE COUNTRY CLUB OF MARYLAND
1101 STEVENSON LANE
TOWSON, MD 21286

* BUFFET DINNER * WINE + BEER * WHEELS * SILENT AUCTION
* MYSTERY WINE TABLE

TICKETS $65 PER PERSON- $125/COUPE

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE BEFORE THEY SELL OUT !!!

towsonhighsportsboosters.com

OR

CONTACT Tracy Amos - TICKET SALES- TAMOS@GRABERCPA.COM
FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Jenny Schneidereith  Co CHAIR  jennyschneidereith@verizon.net
Kelly Chesser  Co CHAIR  kchesser22@gmail.com

PROPER ATTIRE REQUIRED- NO JEANS PERMITTED
It’s Academic!

Towson’s *It’s Academic* Team is comprised of: E. Fullerton; G. Palo; and, W. Young. The team competed Saturday, January 12th against Parkville and Archbishop Spalding. The match will air on March 15th at 10 am on WJZ.

“It was a real nail biter!” said Ms. Meehan. It was a really exciting match and all of the teams competed very well. The final results were: Parkville - 330, Archbishop Spalding - 525 and Towson - 535!! Towson’s team will return for their playoff round on April 5th.

Congratulations to our *It’s Academic* Team!!

Become A Towson Volunteer!

At Towson High School, we love to see our parents come in and volunteer! Volunteering your time, knowledge, and skills contributes to our students’ academic progress in so many ways.

If you would like to volunteer on a regular basis or just get everything set up so that you can come in and volunteer whenever you’re needed, you will need to fill out a volunteer application (a new one each year) and participate in a brief orientation. This orientation covers topics such as volunteer expectations and guidelines, school safety and security as well as important information regarding BCPS policies and procedures.

BCPS, through a partnership between the BCPS Office of Family and Community Engagement and SafeSchool.com has developed an online training that makes the orientation sessions available year-round at a potential volunteer’s convenience. At the end of the online orientation, certificates can be printed to document completion.

For more information about the BCPS volunteer program, please visit the website at: www.bcps.org/community/volunteer_info.
Top 10 Things Parents Need to Know about Testing in Maryland

This school year, Maryland implemented new, higher standards for student learning in all schools across the State. The Maryland College and Career Ready Standards are based on the Common Core State Standards, which have been adopted by Maryland and over 40 other states, and provide students with the relevant, real world knowledge and skills needed for success in college and careers. In order to measure student mastery of the new standards, next year Maryland will implement new statewide tests – the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments – which will replace the current statewide tests, the Maryland School Assessment (MSA). The MSA in reading/English Language Arts (ELA) and math will be given for the last time this spring and, as we begin the transition to the PARCC assessments, the Maryland State Department of Education has compiled a list of the ten most important things parents need to know about testing.

1. The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) will be given in reading/ELA and math in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 in March 2014.

Students in grades 5 and 8 will also take the MSA in science in late March or early April of this year. The 2013-14 school year is the last year that the MSA in reading/English Language Arts (ELA) and math will be given. It will be replaced next year by the new PARCC assessments in those subject areas.

2. A small number of students in every school (at least one class in one subject) will take the field test of Maryland’s new Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments.

Next year, Maryland will implement new statewide assessments that are aligned to the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards. To prepare for these new tests, at least one class in every school will be randomly selected to take the field test of the PARCC assessments in either reading/ELA or math. The field test is an opportunity to “test the test” - to see how well the test works, determine the quality of test questions, and make any necessary adjustments before it is given to all students in school year 2014-15.

3. Students who take the PARCC field test in one subject area (either reading/ELA or math) will take the MSA in the other tested area.

All students in grades 3-8 must be tested every year in reading and math by federal law. Children who take the PARCC field test in math are not required by the State to take the MSA in math. However, they will still be required to take the MSA in reading/ELA. Local school systems may also require additional testing.

4. Parents will continue to receive individual student reports on their child’s MSA scores.

You will receive your child’s MSA scores from your local school system, most likely over the summer. The score reports show each student’s performance on the MSA as well as overall test results for the school, the local school system, and the State.

MarylandPublicSchools.org

The contents of this flyer were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.
#5 Parents will not receive individual scores on their child’s performance on the PARCC field test.

Field tests are not formal tests. Students’ responses will be used to evaluate the quality of the test questions and will not be scored or reported. However, parents will continue to receive reports on the MSA subject(s) their child takes.

#6 Federal law requires that all Maryland students take an annual statewide assessment or the State risks losing millions of dollars in funding.

Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), all students in grades 3-8 must be tested every year in reading and math. Annual testing is important to help ensure that all students are making progress.

#7 Next year (school year 2014-15), all Maryland students in grades 3-8 will take the PARCC assessments in reading/ELA and math.

The PARCC assessments are aligned to Maryland’s College and Career Ready Standards and will measure the essential critical thinking and problem-solving skills that students need to be successful in college and careers. The computer-based tests will provide accurate and timely information about what individual students are learning and whether they are on track or need extra help.

#8 Although new academic standards have been implemented this year, the MSA continues to provide teachers, parents, and students with valuable information.

Annual assessments show where students are academically and the progress they are making each year. Teachers can also continue using MSA results to help inform their teaching practices and tailor instruction to the needs of their students.

#9 Information from the PARCC field test will be used to refine and improve the assessments before they are given to all students next year.

Test-makers will specifically look at whether test questions actually measure the knowledge and skills that they were designed to measure and if the questions are valid, reliable, and fair. The field test will also provide an opportunity for students, schools, and local school systems to become familiar with the new assessments before they are fully implemented in school year 2014-15.

#10 If you have additional questions about testing, ask your child’s teacher or principal.

These educators and administrators will have the most accurate information about what is happening in your child’s classroom and school. They can also share ideas on what you can do at home to help your child succeed.

For additional information and resources, please visit:

The Maryland State Department of Education: www.marylandpublicschools.org
General MSA Information: www.marylandpublicschools.org/msde/testing/msa
Maryland School, District, and State Scores: www.mdreportcard.org

Information About the PARCC Field Test: www.parcconline.org/field-test
PARCC Website: www.parcconline.org
PARCC Sample Test Questions: www.parcconline.org/samples/item-task-prototypes
You’re a Good Man
Charlie Brown

March 20, 21, and 22
7:00 PM
School Auditorium

Tickets available at the school and at the door

We hope to see everyone there!
## Bingo!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Save the Date!</th>
<th>Live Music!</th>
<th>Come With family!</th>
<th>Towson High School Music Boosters</th>
<th>Music begins 6:15 pm, Bingo starts 7:00 pm.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 21, 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Delicious Cheap eats!</td>
<td>Come with friends!</td>
<td>Basket Bingo!</td>
<td>Discounted tickets available if paid before 1/30/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Longaberger Baskets filled with valuable prizes For Bingo Winners!</td>
<td>Free parking space!</td>
<td>Tall Cedars of Lebanon, 2501 Putty hill avenue Parkville</td>
<td>Each ticket buys a seat for a night of great company, live music and a 18-game packet of bingo cards!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Lots of Fun!</td>
<td>Support a Great Cause!</td>
<td>Net proceeds benefit towson High musical ensembles! Thank you!</td>
<td>Questions? contact <a href="mailto:thsmusic-boosters@gmail.com">thsmusic-boosters@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Doors open 6:00 pm; Tickets $20 each at the door</td>
<td>JOIN US! February 21, 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please mark your family calendar now! Exciting Raffles, Including Vera Bradley and 50/50! Net proceeds benefit towson High musical ensembles! Thank you!
***UPDATE TO CALENDAR***

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the basketball games with Eastern Tech, originally scheduled for Friday, January 31st, has been moved to Monday, February 10th.

**Updated Schedule**

Monday, February 10, 2014 - Towson vs. Eastern Tech

4:00 pm—Girls JV Basketball @ Towson
5:30 pm—Girls Varsity Basketball @ Towson

4:00 pm—Boys JV Basketball @ Eastern Tech
5:30 pm—Boys Varsity Basketball @ Eastern Tech