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 Towson High School Students!! During the Fire Drill Tuesday, there were at least 50 students who thanked the adults who were holding the doors for them!!

★ STARS to senior R. Wright for his recognition in the Baltimore Sun for football

★ STARS to M. Lynch and the members of our field hockey team for their recognition in the Baltimore Sun!

★ STARS to Mr. Weber for providing additional tech assistance during a classroom lesson.

★ STARS to T. Stone for sharing a special bargain for our community to use at Stoneleigh Lanes.

★ STARS to Renee Baylin, resource teacher from the Office of Social Studies, for presenting to the members of our Social Studies department!

★ STARS to Tami Evanosky, STAT teacher, for providing assistance to the Science Department at their monthly Department Meeting.

★ STARS to the Girls Varsity Soccer team and Coach Matt Clifford for for an outstanding show of class and good sportsmanship after a hotly contested match at home v. #9 Catonsville on 9/23. Records will fade but good character lasts a lifetime.
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

What’s happening in English classrooms at THS?

HONORS 9: Honors 9 students just finished studying the Critical Approaches to Literature while reading *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. They concluded this mini-unit by composing personal vignettes imitating Cisneros’ style. This week they began *Kindred* by Octavia Butler and are currently discussing how the setting of a literary work impacts characters’ thoughts, emotions, and actions.

GT 9: Students are reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and examining the historical and biographical connections to the novel in preparation for a research paper. They are also looking at the larger issue of social justice in the novel and other sources.

HONORS 10: Students began the school year reading Cinderella stories from a variety of different cultures. They are currently completing pre-reading activities for *Oedipus Rex* in preparation for an argumentative assignment focusing on literary tragic heroes.

GT 10: Students in GT10 began this school year with a diagnostic SAT essay on culture after viewing “The Dangers of a Single Story” and discussing the importance of seeing different viewpoints.

HONORS 11: The Honors English 11 students are discovering the intrigue and suspense of the Salem Witch Trials while studying *The Crucible*. After enjoying the play, they will rhetorically analyze Miller’s purpose for writing and will explore its connection to McCarthyism and the Red Scare.

AP 11:

Ms. Zava: Students began the year exploring the format of the AP exam, writing several practice essays and reading several essays on the art of rhetoric. We are now beginning an exciting mini-unit called “My America” where students will view and analyze several monologues created for Baltimore’s *Center Stage*, which explore what it means to be an American.

Mr. Alford: Students are reviewing the critical approaches with Hawthorne’s “Young Goodman Brown” and collecting editorials on a controversial topic of their choosing. At the end of the unit, students will write a synthesis essay.

Mr. Busselman: Students began the year analyzing and learning to apply the written advice of Paul Roberts in his essay “How to Say Nothing in 500 Words.” After working through a practice
rhetorical analysis essay, peer review, and a multiple choice exam, the students are now entering into a focused study of the rhetorical modes and strategies beginning with Description and Narration.

HONORS 12: Students began the year by focusing on college essays and the interview process. They have recently begun to read the epic poem *Beowulf* and will complete several analytical activities and projects connected to this text.

AP 12:

Ms. Meehan: Students are working on college essays and interviewing skills, and have just finished taking a practice AP exam. We also have finished reading *Beowulf*, and are beginning a survey of *The Canterbury Tales* as a foundation for study of Western literature.

Ms. Fluharty: Students are working on college essays and interviewing skills, and have taken a practice AP exam. We are working on an overview of poetic devices and styles, moving towards the Romantic Poets in order to begin studying *Frankenstein*.

Mr. Freeburger: Students began the year with an introduction to literary analysis. Students were introduced to poetic devices and practiced annotating and discussing complex meanings found in the text. Several practice exams were taken and students are beginning to familiarize themselves with the types of questions and expectations on the AP exam. Students read poetry from Billy Collins, William Carlos Williams, A.E. Housman, William Shakespeare, Yusef Komunyakaa, Li-Young Lee, John Keats, William Wordsworth, and Emily Dickinson. Next week, we will begin a mini-unit workshopping college entrance essays.
Last Saturday morning, members of the Environmental Club and the Key Club teamed up to clean up the Towson High campus and its stream. Each September, the Ocean Conservancy organizes thousands of sites around the world for its International Coastal Cleanup. This massive volunteer effort involves the collection of trash from the coastlines as well as from watersheds, streams and rivers. If not collected and disposed of properly, the inland trash could eventually make its way to the nearest bay or ocean. Our THS Green Dream Clean Up Team collected over 1750 pieces of trash! The haul included one car tire, three metal poles, five bags of trash, and three bags of recyclable items. Thanks so much to everyone who participated, including Mr. Geckle who assisted the Dream Stream Team. Each of you made a difference and your efforts are greatly appreciated.

The following students received a Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program for outstanding performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in 2013. This means they placed among the top 5% of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2015 competition.


Semi-Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

Congratulations to G. Andreou, S. Cai, S. Hullinger, S. Palo, W. Young!

National Achievement Scholarship Program

Congratulations to A. Kahn!!
He is a Semi-Finalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program.
FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT
Towson High School is very excited to use Naviance. Naviance is a program that enables students to access a lot of information about colleges and careers. Our school counselors are meeting with students to register them for Naviance. Students can access the Naviance website by clicking here: http://connection.naviance.com/towson
Please contact Mr. Briggs in the school counseling office if you have questions.

COMMUNITY NEWS
In observance of Good Neighbor Day, Stoneleigh Lanes will be offering 1 1/2 hours of bowling, four (4) pairs of shoes, 16” cheese pizza, and a pitcher of soda for $49.99 This is a $77.10 value. The offer is good from 10:00 am until 8:00 pm on Sunday, September 28th.
UPCOMING EVENTS

October

4  First Quarter Interims Distributed in Homeroom
8  PTSA Meeting - 7:15 pm - Library
6-9 HSA Exams
7  Magnet Open House - 6:30 pm
9  Parent Teacher Conferences - 2:15 pm - 4:00 pm
10 HSA Exams Make-Ups
13 Freshman Magnet Breakfast - 7:50 am - Senior Cafeteria
14 Freshman/Sophomore Planning Night - 6:30 pm - Guidance
15 PSAT Test, Grades 9-11 Only
15 Senior Assembly / Senior Panoramic Photo
17 Professional Day - NO SCHOOL
24 Pep Rally
24 Senior Portrait Make-Ups
Show your Class Spirit!

Purchase Class of 2015 Spirit Wear Today!

Don’t miss out!

FRONT

2015
In Maroon/Black

BACK

Maroon & black
SEN1OR5 with the names of
all seniors (multiple rows).

*Special note: Keep it plain or join us for purple n teal tye-dye festivities.

Name ____________________________________________

Homeroom Teacher and Room Number: ______________________

White Short Sleeve heavy weight cotton t-shirt _______ ($14.00)
with front pocket

Size: S  M  L  XL  2X or larger _____ (+ $3)

White Long Sleeve heavy weight cotton t-shirt ______ ($14.00)
No front pocket

Size: S  M  L  XL  2X or larger _____  (+ $3)

All forms and money are due to Mrs. Kromsky (rm 109) or Mrs. Krochta (Tr 3) by October 10th.

**Cash or checks payable to THS

Total ___________

Total Enclosed $_______

Orders will be taken 9/29/14
through 10/10/14. Don’t Delay!!

Show your Class Spirit!

 Purchase Class of 2015 Spirit Wear Today!

Don’t miss out!
TOWSON HIGH SCHOOL
ID#01245

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the start of a new school year and a year of A+ School Rewards. Starting October 3, 2014 through March 19, 2015, TOWSON HIGH SCHOOL will have the opportunity to earn cash through Giant A+ School Rewards Program.

All you have to do is:

- Log on to www.giantfood.com/aplus select CUSTOMER REGISTRATION to register online using your Giant Card

NEW THIS YEAR: If you registered your card last year, you DO NOT need to re-register this year. You can visit the website to verify correct school assignment. Also, don’t forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean more Cash for our school.

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Giant using your Giant Card earns CASH for our school. Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Giant website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at www.giantfood.com. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school’s educational needs.

*Phone numbers may not be used to designate.
Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) has implemented standard procedures to prevent, monitor and respond to the spread of contagious diseases. Each year, a variety of illnesses are seen in students in our schools, including the colds and flu which are caused by viruses, bacterial infections caused by streptococcal and staphylococcal germs, and viral gastrointestinal illnesses. This fall, the media has been full of reports about ebola disease in Africa and enterovirus D68 that was first seen in the mid-west.

BCPS has full time school nurses in each school who take the lead in preventing and monitoring contagious illnesses.

**What does BCPS do to prevent illnesses?**

The best way to prevent the spread of contagious illnesses is regular and thorough hand washing. Beginning in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, students are taught the correct methods and times to wash their hands. Teachers regularly remind students to wash their hands. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers kill many, but not all germs. Students are encouraged to use hand sanitizer when water for hand washing is not available. However, washing hands with soap and water is the single most effective way to prevent someone from becoming sick.

Cough and sneeze etiquette is also important. Students are taught to “sneeze into their sleeve,” and properly use and dispose of tissues.

Students with signs of contagious illnesses (i.e. fever, rash, vomiting and/or diarrhea) are excluded from the classroom and sent home. Students must be free from symptoms and/or cleared by a health care provider to return to school.

School nurses also provide screening programs for students who are at high risk for certain illnesses. For example, school nurses collaborate with the Baltimore County Department of Health (BCDH) to provide a tuberculosis screening program. This fall, nurses are using guidance from the Centers for Disease Control to screen students from certain countries to identify risk for ebola infection.

**How does BCPS monitor contagious illnesses?**

BCPS participates in the ESSENCE absence monitoring system. Each day, the Coordinator of Health Services and the epidemiologist at the Baltimore County Department of Health receive a report about absence rates in all schools and notes schools that have higher than normal absenteeism.

School nurses keep statistics on student illnesses and report situations that are out of the ordinary to the Baltimore County Department of Health.

If a school nurse notes an abnormal/increased number or cluster of illnesses, the nurse immediately reports this information to the BCDH.
In addition, state law requires a school nurse to report a single case of certain illnesses (e.g., enterovirus D68, ebola, meningitis) to the local health department.

The Baltimore County Department of Health collaborates with the state health department and BCPS to provide guidance to parents and school staff on the response to unusual illnesses or clusters of illness.

In general, parents are not notified of routine illnesses that do not require special prevention, response or monitoring. Exceptions are sometimes made when the illness is creating concern in the media or is extremely widespread (e.g., H1N1.) Parents are immediately notified by letter, the media and phone calls if their child may have been exposed to an illness that would require them to take the child to a health care provider, keep the child home from school, or take any other special precautions.

What Should Parents Do?
Parents can support the school system efforts in several ways:

- Keep children home if they have a fever, vomiting or diarrhea. Do not send the child back to school until the symptoms have been gone for 24 hours.
- Report any unusual illnesses to the school nurse.
- If your child has a condition that requires special monitoring or care (e.g., your child is on medication that affects his or her immune system), notify the school nurse so the nurse can work with you and your child’s health care providers on special steps to keep your child safe at school.
- Reinforce and model good health habits like hand washing and cough/sneeze etiquette.
- Be sure to keep your child up-to-date on immunizations, including annual flu shots and boosters for pertussis.

We write this to reassure you that our school system is well-prepared to prevent and respond to any illness that may arise during the school year. If you have concerns about your child’s health, please call your school nurse or the Office of Health Services at 410-887-6368.