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 Mr. Rhen and the Towson High School Jazz Sextet.
They were invited to perform at BCPS’ Business/Leadership Advance Meeting at the North Baltimore Plaza Hotel.

★ STARS to the Math Department for having a ROCKSTAR after school help calendar!

★ STARS to Ms. Mary Williams for doing a phenomenal job for keeping up with all of the college visits and passes!

★ STARS to Mr. Briggs for being a wonderful school counseling superstar!!

★ STARS to Ms. Kromsky, Mr. Blair, Ms. Travis, and Ms. Evanosky for sharing valuable committee information with the members of our School Improvement Team.

★ STARS to Ms. Mathena for planning, organizing, and implementing an awesome Towson High Building tour for the Class of 1964’s 50th reunion, last Saturday, October 4, 2014.

★ STARS to the following students: Jordan Hunt; Kiele Owens; Jabriah Stevens; Samantha Seibert; Hakhem Farmer; Kate Conway; Melody MacInnis; and, Jonathan Howard for taking their Saturday morning on October 4th to showcase our school for the Class of 1964’s 50th reunion. They were thorough, well informed, friendly and engaging with the Alumni. They were excellent “General Ambassadors.”

★ STARS to the students of the LPP Program for greeting parents and sharing valuable information with interested students at the Magnet Open House.

★ STARS to Mr. Ridgely, Ms. White, and Mr. Stange for sharing valuable information specific to LPP at the Magnet Open House.

★ STARS to Mr. Galluzzo, representative from the Magnet Office, for attending our Magnet Open House.

★ STARS to Mr. Mike Schuh. He is a parent who works for WJZ. He visited us this week to give us some pointers for our morning show.

★ STARS to Mr. Ridgely, Mr. Stange, Mr. Weber, and Ms. Gray for all of their help with the Magnet Showcase.

★ STARS to Brooke Henderson and Lilly Henneghen for finding and returning a students’ credit card.

★ STARS to Mr. Bill Weber/Technical Support, Ms. Bonnie Gray/Interns, Mr. Jamie Ridgely/Trial Advocacy and Ms. Travis and Ms. DiMino for their assistance with the 2014 LPP Showcase.

Continued on page 12
Most importantly, what is happening in our mathematics classes?

**Algebra 1:** Students have discovered characteristics of function families: constant, linear, quadratic, exponential, absolute value, and piecewise. We will continue to investigate these functions throughout the year. Students are currently learning about linear functions and how to write their equations in various forms. They are learning how to graph linear equations, identify intercepts, find slopes, and analyze information given from a table. We will be studying inequalities in the very near future.

**Geometry:** Students have completed a study of the building blocks of geometry (points, lines, and planes) that also integrated applications to linear algebra. Students will be studying the transformations of figures.

**Honors Geometry:** Students have completed a study of the building blocks of geometry (points, lines, and planes) that also integrated applications to linear algebra. We are now concluding a unit on transformations in the coordinate plane.

**GT Geometry:** Students have completed a study of the building blocks of geometry (points, lines, and planes) that also integrated applications to linear algebra. We have also recently concluded a unit on transformations in the coordinate plane; our next unit will introduce mathematical logic and proof techniques.

**Algebra 2:** Students studied linear functions in the first unit focusing on absolute value and inequalities. During the second unit we have been analyzing and solving systems of linear equations. Students are working on solving systems of linear equations. Given a system of equations, students will be able to choose one of three methods for solving the systems. Real-world scenarios will be given throughout the unit, which will challenge students with solving systems with three equations of three variables. Students will also have fun graphing two systems of inequalities. Our next unit will be all about matrices. Students should bring their graphing calculators to class during this unit.

**Algebra 2 Honors:** Let’s maximize your profit! This week all classes begin their Linear Programming Projects. Students will select one of five problems they will work on throughout the week. Projects will be graded on a 20-point rubric and will count as a Test grade. Students will graph their results on a small poster board which will have various requirements; e.g., variables being de-
fined, constraints listed, objective quantity evaluated, solution summarized in a sentence, and neatness among other things.

**College Algebra:** We completed the review of the different methods of solving quadratic equations: Zero-Factor Property, Square Root Property, Completing the Square, Quadratic Formula, & Graphically. We also watched a couple of short videos in order to help students memorize the quadratic formula with the help of a song and a rap. The rap was courtesy of younger Jacob Langer, a current college algebra student. Check it out on youtube! [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4olo1P1OJY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4olo1P1OJY).

**TWA:** The first unit focused on reviewing right triangles and trigonometric ratios - a review from Geometry. We also introduced the recurring concepts of triangle inequalities and co functions. The second unit has students applying reference angles to understand the unit circle and angles in all four quadrants. Additionally, applications in the second unit have focused on angular velocity, linear velocity, and areas of sectors. The third unit will be an intensive review of non-linear functions and their graphs leading up to unit four - the graphs of trigonometric functions.

**HTAG:** In the first unit, students were introduced to six trig functions and applied their uses in the form of angle of elevation and depression questions as well as navigational bearings. They learned that degrees can be split into 60 minutes and that each minute can be split into 60 seconds. In unit 2, they have now learned to measure angles with radians and recently applied this knowledge to gear applications.

**Pre-Calc GT:** Students began the school year reviewing trigonometry topics from Geometry. Students are currently using the Unit Circle to help them graph sine and cosine functions. We will then move on to sinusoidal regression problems which will culminate in a project where students will create sinusoidal models to predict temperatures in various parts of the world.

**Honors Calculus:** We just completed our chapter on Limits. Next we will be learning the definition of the derivative and its relation to the tangent line of a continuous function at a specific location.

**AP Calculus AB:** Students are moving through the beginning of differentiation with the chain rule, product rule, and quotient rule the focus of the week. In coming weeks we will begin to explore applications of differentiation.

**AP Calculus BC:** In AP Calculus BC the course is directly related to the AB course. Nearly 60% of the material on the AP Calculus BC exam is shared with the AB exam, for this reason we have focused on fine tuning the vast amount of material covered in the previous course. We will be looking at extending on knowledge on calculus topics as well as learning com-
pletely new material. Our first extension will be the addition of carrying capacity of logistical growth problems as they relate to differential equations. This extension will allow us to factor in the realistic constraints of a growth/decay scenario.

**AP Statistics:** Students began the school year studying the first theme of Statistics which is *Exploring Data*. This includes graphing and describing data sets. We are now moving on to the second theme of Statistics which is *Planning a Study*. The students will be completing a project on survey bias over the next few weeks, where they will create surveys both with and without bias present, and compare the results.

**AP Computer Science:** Students have been introduced to the idea of object oriented programming via Java. We recently wrote code that simulates how a minimum number of coins are determined when dispensing change back to a customer. We have also simulated the connection between an ATM machine and bank account. Finally, we just started the process of how to store and keep track of songs on an MP3 player.

**SAT Prep (Math):** SAT Prep for Math has already cycled through one group of Juniors during September and will be working with the current group until the end of October at which point we switch back. SAT Math topics have included time management, problem solving strategies, and analyzing “The Heart of Algebra” - basic linear relationships, functions, absolute values, and inequalities. Additionally, students have taken a baseline SAT Math simulation which will be used with Benchmark results at the end of the month to focus on content where students still need practice. Students will also be using the resources on CollegeBoard.org, the official website of the College Board - the organization which administers the SAT, PSAT, and AP tests. Information from the website was used to assist students in beginning to create their list of possible colleges as they begin, or continue the college search process. Additionally, Mr. Briggs will have all students in SAT Prep signed into Naviance where they can complete other activities to prepare for applying to colleges.

**Pre-College Math:** Students continue to extend their knowledge of arithmetic sequences and linear systems. Real-world problems using data and trends will show correlations that students will graph and discover lines of regression. Sample problems include topics like number of hours infants under one year old sleep per day, average annual salary for US manufacturing workers, and federal government spending throughout a given decade. Students are learning how they can use given data to make educated predictions.
What about testing (HSA, PARCC, AP, PSAT, SAT)?

The PSAT will be WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15! It is just around the corner. Students should plan to bring their own graphing calculator for the test administration. Information was provided through math classes to students about this expectation and the use of calculators if one is not available.

We continue to work to prepare students for the SAT. We offer both a SAT Prep class as well as optional SAT blitz sessions immediately before each SAT administration. Students can see Ms. Bissell (Rm. 113) or Mr. Blair (Trailer 6) with any questions. Good luck to any students taking the SAT on Saturday (October 11).

This will be the first year of PARCC testing for all of Baltimore County. Students in Algebra I and Algebra II will be taking the PARCC exams. For Algebra I, this will be the new graduation requirement students entering as 9th graders in Algebra I will take this assessment instead of the Algebra HSA. The HSA remains the graduation requirement for all who have already taken and passed the Algebra I course prior to the 2014-2015 school year. For Algebra II, this test will measure College and Career Readiness. See this site for additional information: http://www.parcconline.org/maryland.

AP Testing will be in May as always. AP Calculus AB is the morning of May 5. AP Calculus BC is the morning of May 5. AP Computer science is the morning of May 7. AP Statistics is the afternoon of May 13. See this site for additional test dates: http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/ap/about/dates.

Any materials to utilize at home?

Questions about the PSAT: https://www.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt/preparation/practice-for-the-test
Want some tips about the SAT: http://sat.collegeboard.org/practice/sat-practice-questions/math-tips
Stuck on a skill and looking for a video to explain: https://www.khanacademy.org/
Need to practice for the Algebra HAS: http://hsaexam.org/support/practice.html
Curious about AP Courses: https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse
SADD News
Thanks to a grant applied for by Nurse Hardesty and SADD of THS, we will be presenting a Distracted Driving Awareness Program to our juniors and seniors on October 29th. Letters will be going out to the parents of these students with more information.

From the Theater Department
Auditions are completed and production is underway for THS’s fall production of *You Can’t Take It with You*. Our cast is hard at work and our crew has already begun assembling the set. This classic comedy will be sure to bring a smile to everyone’s face, so we hope to see everyone there. Performances will be November 20, 21 and 22 at 7pm. Put it on your calendar now so you don’t forget.

From LPP and CRD
Ms. Gray, CRD Coordinator, and Towson High School senior, Autumn Grant recently attended the Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast. This event is designed to make contacts for mock interviews and work-based learning placements. It’s also a great way to network. Autumn is currently working for Anthony Brown’s campaign as well as interning at the County Executives’ office daily. Her goal is to become a page in Annapolis.

In an email, Alicia Fales of The Office of Career and Technology Educations, wrote, “I was impressed by the professionalism and poise of Autumn Grant. I would not have known she is a student if you had not told me! She was comfortable interacting with the elected officials who were in attendance, and she certainly represented the LPP program well!!”

Thanks Autumn. You are a great ambassador for Towson High School and the LPP program!!
Around Towson

AVID CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

OCTOBER 2, 2014

Magnet Open House

Feedback

The Magnet Open House, held Tuesday, October 7, 2014, was a huge success due to the efforts of staff, administrators and students. Especially the LPP program! Below are some comments made by parents who attended.

“My husband could not stop talking about how impressive he found the students. They were so friendly and helpful in the halls. They demonstrated strong social skills... they all showed confidence to look him in the eye and speak to him and several shook his hand.”

“...most impressed by Autumn Grant who presented on internships. My husband complimented her on her confidence, poise, clarity, and comfort in speaking to the group of parents.”

“The students and staff represented THS well!”
Awards and Acknowledgements

Towson Senior, Sebastian Amberger, was honored recently as an Eagle Scout. Sebastian is a member of Troup 742. Congratulations!!!

National Achievement Scholarship Program

Seniors Benjamin Francis and Victoria Eardley have been named among some 3,100 Outstanding Participants in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. These students scored in the top 3 percent. Congratulations!!!

Towson High School Jazz Sextet

Towson High School’s Jazz Sextet was invited to perform at the BCPS’ Business/Leadership Advance Meeting held at the North Baltimore Plaza Hotel Thursday, October 9, 2014.

Student of the Month

The THS Student Recognition Committee has started a Student of the Month campaign. Each month, teachers will nominate deserving students based on a particular character trait. September’s character trait was responsibility. A council of teachers on the committee read the nominations and chose the winners! Winners will receive a THS t-shirt and a certificate.

And the Winners Are.... (drum roll please)

9th Grade - Mohammed Abduljalil, nominated by Ms. Dugovich, for showing great responsibility in prioritizing his personal and school life while maintaining a positive outlook and work ethic.

10th Grade - Daniel Zipin, nominated by Mr. Ridgely and Ms. White, for taking responsibility to replace a gavel in the courtroom that was accidently broken. He replaced it without being asked.

Grade 11 - Everst Brooks, nominated by Mr. Weber, for working hard after school on the morning announcements both on and off camera.

Grade 12 - Mirando Janello, nominated by Mr. Rhen, for her role as the drum major for the Marching Generals this year. She attended leadership training and has exhibited responsibility for leading, rehearsing, and administrating band protocol and procedures.
UPCOMING EVENTS

October

11  Community Clean-Up at THS - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
   *This event will only be cancelled in the event of pouring rain or storms with thunder and lightning.*

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  Homecoming Pep Rally

24  Senior Portrait Make-Ups

24  Music Boosters Fall Dance - 7:00 pm - Towson Sheraton

25  Homecoming Day

25  Homecoming Dance - 7:00 pm - Cafeteria

27  Freshmen Elections

27  Senior Portrait Make-ups

31  1st Marking Period Ends
Please take the flyer so that the class can get credit for this fundraiser.

The class of 2016 thanks you for your support!!

SCHOOL SPIRIT TASTES GREAT

Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support Towson High School Class of 2016. Just come into the Towson Chipotle on 801 Goucher Blvd on Monday, October 13th from 4:00pm to 9:00pm. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to Towson High School Class of 2016.
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.
More STARS!!

**STARS to Mary-Elizabeth White**, LPP Coordinator, and **Mr. Gus Galluzzo** from the Office of Magnet Programs for putting the “A” in Q&A.

**STARS to Mr. Jimmy Esbrandt and his staff** for helping with the setup/cleanup for the **2014 LPP Showcase** and who help make Towson shine for our visitors, students, and staff every day.

**STARS to the LPP students** who participated in the **2014 LPP Showcase** as LPP representatives, hall guides, club reps, THS Interns, and Trial Advocacy presenters. You are LPP and your involvement in helping us spread the word about LPP and THS to prospective families is another way you help Towson continue the Tradition of Excellence.

**STARS to Mr. Collins, Ms. West, Ms. White, and Ms. Zava** for their time and efforts with preparing for the HSA exams.