



TRUMBULL HI LITES

Education
Achievement
Growth
Life-long learning
Ethical conduct
Social awareness

February

2010

Principal's Message

Dear THS Community Members,

As we enter both a new year and a new decade, the continual challenges which face public education continue to mount. Among all of these is the very underpinning for our youth, their social/emotional welfare.

As we all know, when life is more balanced than not, people are more likely to be able to adapt, adjust, and cope with uncertainties. Students in secondary schools are no exception to this "rule of thumb". Consequently, we constantly look for new and improved ways and vehicles to reach our students and help them retain balance in their own lives.

One such program, recently delivered by our guidance and students support staff, which should be noted is the "Parents As Partners" initiative. This is a cooperatively developed approach (by counselors, psychologists, social workers and the intervention specialist) which is geared to meet the needs of students struggling to overcome disappointment in their lives. Building on the resource base found on our campus, the program stresses acknowledgement, caring, and telling as the initial steps for developing a prevention protocol at overcoming depression and negative manifestations.

I applaud our guidance and student support service team and invite you to utilize these types of services if you feel it would be an advantage for your family needs.

We all wish you the best of health and satisfaction in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert C. Tremaglio
Headmaster/Principal

Congratulations!

CAPT Schedule

March 2, 7:30-9:20

March 3, 7:30-10:20

March 4, 7:30-9:55

March 9, 7:30-9:55

March 10, 7:30-9:15

March 11, 7:30-9:15

March 12, 7:30-9:15

Reasons to Celebrate!

Senior Khushboo Dhingra
awarded an \$8000 DECA
Scholarship

Peter Horton named one
of the 50 Band Directors
in the country who make a
difference

Vic Sesto nominated for
National Coach of the Year
-Girls'Tennis

WORLD LANGUAGE

The World Language Honor Societies sponsored and organized the annual International dinner on Dec. 16, 2009. Students prepared foods from their language or native culture to share with others in a “pot-luck” format. The Senior Lounge was transformed into an International venue with cultural music and decorations. Students experienced various types of food and participated in organized games.

The French Honor Society ran a foosball tournament to raise funds for Partners in Health in Haiti. The French Club also donated to the same organization by selling cookie dough. The French and Spanish Clubs held a joint “Three Kings” celebration on January 6. Students ate the traditional cakes to find the bean. The lucky winners earned the honor of being the King for the day and a prize.

The Italian club had a study for midterms peer review session in C2. Students from all levels of Italian classes came together to study for their Italian midterms. A successful endeavor !

Spanish IV classes took a trip to the Metropolitan Museum in NYC. Forty-nine Spanish IV students participated in a guided tour of the Met’s Spanish art collection. Students then explored the museum on their own. One student commented, “I enjoyed the trip and really made connections with the art we studied and learned about.”

The World Language Department is participating in the COLT Poetry Contest in April. A preliminary recitation contest was held Jan. 14 to have one student per level as the final candidate. All students were well-prepared and deserve high marks for their effort and achievement. The ACE Foundation is funding the April competition. THS is sending twenty-two students to this event reflecting all languages taught as well as Hindi, Portuguese and Chinese.

TECHNOLOGY

The technology department is happy to welcome **Matthew Brodeur** to its teaching staff. Matthew is a graduate from Central Connecticut State University and holds a teaching degree in Technology Education. A certified ASE mechanic, Matthew will be teaching the automotive and metal classes for the remainder of the school year.

Technology education teacher, Joe Amaturio, is volunteering his time to the Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (ACE) program. This after-school program helps students explore career opportunities in architecture, construction and engineering. Joe is a mentor to students from THS as well as other area high schools.

BUSINESS

The Advanced Video Production class had a wonderful opportunity to tour the Channel 8 Newsroom and sit in on a taping of the noon news program. The students were greeted by morning traffic reporter, Desiree Fontaine who willingly answered questions and posed for photos with the class. The students were also able to speak with legendary meteorologist, Dr. Mel Goldstein and news anchor Darren Krammer. The trip was organized by THS graduate, Sandy Reichman, who is currently employed by Channel 8.

Students in the Marketing and Entrepreneurship classes will be competing in two state competitions in March. The THS DECA club (students in the THS Marketing program) will be sending 11 students to their state DECA competition on Tuesday, March 9, and the FBLA club (Entrepreneurship students) will be sending four students to their state competition on March 29. We wish both groups much success!

NUMBERS

ABSENTEE LINES

A House: 452-4507

B House: 452-4513

C House: 452-4518

Believe it or not the school year is half way over. It's been a busy year and we'd like to take this time to update you on some of the PTSA events happening around school.

After-school snacks: Thank you again to our chairs, Barbara Kapell and Rachelle Rousso, for doing such a wonderful job of organizing this program yet again. Thank you as well to the many volunteers who keep our students well fed each afternoon.

THS Spirit Wear: A big thank you to our 1st VP, Linda Kliczewski, and co-chairs, Vicki Tesoro and Pam Ginis. SPIRITWEAR CAN BE ORDERED AT ANY TIME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. Please download the order form from the PTSA webpage or go directly to itownstore.com to order online.

Membership: Our membership chair, Debbie Schmidt, has done an incredible job of getting the word out about the importance of joining the PTSA. It is never too late to join. By doing so you will show your support for this organization and also have the opportunity to receive important school information through our email network. Membership is \$6.00/person and the sign-up form is available on the PTSA webpage.

Publicity: Hopefully, you have all noticed that Trumbull High School students and events are now consistently featured in the Trumbull Times. Thank you so much to Theresa Diaz for her perseverance in making sure that the community gets to hear about the great things that happen here.

Underage Drinking Forum: Thank you to all our volunteers that helped out with this 9th grade program, "Choices Have Consequences", that was held on November 10th. Approximately 900 attendees heard important information from our panel of speakers.
A special thank you to Chairperson Vicki Tesoro for her dedication to this program.

Powder Puff: Our annual Senior Girls Powder Puff Football game was a success. Thank you to all our students, faculty and parents that came out to support our Senior Class.

Reflections: This year's theme was "Beauty is ...". Thank you to Cathy Gerardi for once again chairing this committee. All submissions have been judged and we're eagerly awaiting word about our THS entries.

Fashion Show: The annual Senior Class Fashion Show, "A Night on the Town", will be held on **Friday, March 12th**. Sign-ups for seniors will be held in the Senior Lounge during the first two weeks of February. This is a great event for both guys and girls and a great way to show school spirit. Please join us for this entertaining evening. All proceeds of this event will benefit the 2010 Post Prom. Visit our Facebook page -Trumbull High School Senior Class Fashion Show. Thank you to Linda Kliczewski for chairing this event again this year.

Practice SAT/ACT: The Practice SAT, sponsored by the Princeton Review, was held on January 30th. Over 300 students took advantage of this special practice test. On Thursday, February 11th at 7:00 pm, the Princeton Review will have a follow up "scores back" session where an expert instructor will discuss the students' scores and explain strategies and tips to succeed on the actual exam. The PTSA will also, for the first time, be offering a practice ACT on **Saturday, March 20th** at 8:00 am. Information will be sent out in the next few weeks. Thank you to Myra Connolly and Amy Rich for chairing this committee and to the many parents that acted as proctors.

Variety Show: This year's Variety Show has been tentatively rescheduled for **Thursday, April 29th** at 7:30 pm in the THS auditorium. This event has always been a fun way for the students to show off their talent in singing, dancing, drama, instrumental, etc., to their families and friends. Information about audition and rehearsal dates will be posted soon. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Isaac at mfict@aol.com.

Teacher Appreciation: Teacher Appreciation week will be **May 3rd – May 7th**. Look for more information soon on how you can help to recognize our great staff.

Post Prom: It's that time of year again! The Post Prom, which will be held on **Saturday, June 5th** takes months of planning and hours and hours (and hours!) of work from many volunteers. Look for more information about upcoming meetings and volunteer opportunities soon. We'd like to thank Brenda Fraser for the many years of time and effort she has put in chairing this huge event. If you would like to contact Brenda, her email is brenfras59@aol.com.

PTSA Meetings: Please join us! Meetings can be very informative and are a great way to stay connected to your child's school. Thank you to our **Hospitality** chairs, Ingrid Cerone and Cherie Reardon, for supplying our evening snacks! Our next meeting is **Monday, March 9th** followed by our final meeting on **Monday, May 11th**. All PTSA meetings are held in the Senior Lounge at 7:00pm and are open to the public.

If you would still like to get involved with any of our many committees, it's not too late. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Angeliki Georgakopoulos at kageorg11@hotmail.com or feel free to contact the committee chair directly. This list of committees/chairs can be found on the PTSA webpage.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Tri-Presidents:

Dawn Cantafio – dwcant@charter.net

Lori Hayes-O'Brien – HayesOB@aol.com

Mary Isaac – mfict@aol.com



Reading Center teacher Stephanie Jalowiec recently had a guest speaker visit her 10th grade Reading Center classes. They read *Thick* by Media Center specialist Colin Neenan. Students were very excited with the visit, and were able to ask all the questions they were wondering about the characters, writing process, and plot.

New State Initiative:SRBI

Nine members of the THS staff attended a four-day workshop through SERC regarding the intersection of EIT and SRBI. The diverse team, consisting of teachers, counselors, and administrators, diligently participated in the activities at the workshop to learn more details about the early intervention process and to evaluate, improve, and adjust the early intervention process at THS. In addition, the team also focused on how to incorporate the "THS Triangle", which includes a list of scientific, research-based interventions in each of the three tiers, into its early intervention process. The team will be meeting regularly throughout the second semester and will receive a day of on-site training from a member at SERC to continue ongoing improvements to the early intervention team at THS.



SCIENCE

CAPT Science: The Pathway to Success

Building on the K-8 science sequence, the CAPT Science Exam will assess five units of study and related lab experiences that are reinforced in the grades 9 and 10 science courses. The details of those units are described below.

Grade 9 Physical Science

Strand I- Topic: Energy Transformations

- *Students discuss alternative energy sources and build a solar cooker to explore solar energy. Students explore CT energy data by constructing graphs and analyzing energy use trends in CT.*

Strand II- Topic: Chemical Structures and Properties

- *Students explore the properties of polymers through labs such as testing the puncture resistance of different types of plastic bags.*

Strand III- Topic: Global Interdependence

- *The environmental and man-made impacts of acid rain are discussed to explore their effects on building materials, water pollution, and Brownfield sites. All of the students complete the “Crisis in Chemville” lab to investigate a ground water contamination scenario as well as an experiment exploring the effects of acid rain on different types of stone building materials.*

10th Grade Biology

Strand IV- Topic: Cell Chemistry and Biotechnology

- *Students will investigate historical and current technologies and the local and global implications of genetically modified organisms. The students will also develop positions on the use of genetically modified organisms in food. Finally, students complete a lab to study the effect of enzymes.*

Strand V-Topic: Genetics, Evolution and Biodiversity

- *Students discuss human population dynamics, complete a lab to investigate yeast populations and create a power point presentation to compare and contrast the population dynamics of developing and highly developed countries.*

The Science CAPT Test

The Science CAPT exam contains 60 multiple choice questions and 5 open-ended questions. The multiple choice questions may refer to graphs, experimental data or direct content-based issues. The 5 open-ended questions refer directly to each of the five strands. Historically, the questions asked, rely heavily on the students’ ability to synthesize information and draw conclusions based on evidence and inference.

How to prepare...

The units of study mentioned above are embedded in their respective curricula across all sections. Therefore, the study and necessary assured experiences are part of every student’s 9-10 science sequence. Along with studying units connected to content standards, each unit has an expected lab experience and “STS” component (Science and Technology in Society). The STS portion is intended to connect the scientific studies to societal concerns.

In grade 9 students take a Science Practice CAPT. The test is structured in the same way as the actual CAPT but assesses strands I and II only. Student performance data on the multiple choice portion is used primarily to drive curriculum decisions. The open-ended responses are student-scored using common rubrics and scored sample responses for calibration.

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SCIENCE continued from page 5

In grade10, along with the continuation of studies of strands IV and V, the students begin their review of the entire sequence. This is facilitated by a folder that contains their strand-based lab work along with their open-ended practice CAPT problems.

The formal review: A formal comprehensive review of all five strands occurs in the weeks prior to CAPT, including the following: (See below regarding access to the CAPT Science Review materials.)

- 1) A strand by strand review of essential content. (Topics and essential ideas)
- 2) A strand by strand review of embedded lab work and related STS issues. Included are released CAPT Science questions, as well as open-ended questions with student-scoring guides. Sample student responses are also provided.

New for 2010!

The THS Science Department website! *This is currently under construction, but will be officially on line by February 2010.* <http://sites.google.com/site/trumbullhighscience/>

What can be found there?

- CAPT Science review materials
- Links to CAPT Science review tutorial videos. (Yes, on line tutorial videos!)
- Links to tutorial videos on topics pertaining to scientific skills essential to secondary science study.
- And over time, much more!



The CAPT prep course started on Tuesday January 5th and will run for 6 weeks. It is being offered through the office of Continuing Education. There are two math sections being taught by Mrs. Horton and Ms. DelGreco.

Forty of the top mathematics students at Trumbull High School will be participating in the American Mathematics Competition. Students are being recommended by the math teachers at the school and span grades nine through twelve. The contest is being held during the first two periods of school on February 24th.

The exam consists of a 25 multiple-choice questions and students are not allowed to use calculators. The test for juniors and seniors covers the high school mathematics curriculum, excluding calculus. The test for freshman and sophomores covers subject matter normally associated with those grades, such as Algebra and Geometry. To challenge students at all grade levels, and with varying mathematical skills, the problems range from fairly easy to extremely difficult. Approximately twelve questions are common to both exams.

The Mathematical Association of America wants to increase interest in mathematics and to develop problem solving through a friendly, and fun competition. They believe that one way to meet this goal is to identify, recognize, and reward excellence in mathematics through a series of national contests. Special honors and awards are given for the best in each school and the best in the state. The association also publishes an honor roll featuring all high-scoring students.

In 2009, over 220,000 students, from 4,200 schools, including Trumbull High School, competed for school, regional and national awards.

The Social Studies department was involved in numerous community service projects as 2009 came to an end. Ms Kremzar's class continued their Veterans' Day tradition of writing "Thank You" notes to our troops overseas. The class received an award and thank you package from the 101st Cavalry at Camp Victory in Iraq for their actions.

In addition the classes had many visitors. Mr. Margonis' We the People class was visited by a former We the People contestant and THS graduate, Chad Ciocci. Mr. Ciocci spoke to the class about faith and the economy and led an intriguing discussion on our current economic condition's effect on our lifestyles.

Ms. Trzaski's Justice and Law class was visited by Dr. William Cook, Jr. Ph.D, a professor of Criminal Justice. Dr. Cook shared with the students an overview of career opportunities available to them in the Criminal Justice field. The students and Dr. Cook also enjoyed a thought provoking discourse on the role of constitutional rights in public schools.

As we head into the new year, 2010, many exciting events lay ahead. Beth Gilman's Model United Nations club is attending a high school conference at Yale University the weekend of January 22nd. While at Yale the students will debate issues representing their assigned nations. This year the team will be representing Afghanistan, Israel and India focusing on topics ranging from the Afghan drug trade to food security in developing nations. We also have the special honor of having two students - Gulrukh Haroon and Ryan McEniry - assigned to the specialized committee the International Court of Justice. These two students completed an application process to be a part of this respected committee where they will be focusing on the status of Kosovo as an independent state.

Mr. August and the Mock Trial team continue to prepare for their upcoming competition as do Mr. Basbagill and the revitalized Fed Challenge Team. Good Luck to all of our teams!