

TOWANDA JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER
2011



Message from the Principal

It is with great pride that I announce that the 2011/2012 school year at Towanda Jr/Sr High School has gotten off to an excellent start. The upcoming school year should prove to be an exciting one for our school and community.

I am very pleased to announce two new faces on the THS staff this year. Wendy Alderfer has been hired as a ½ time Reading teacher for the 2011/2012 school year. Wendy is a graduate of Troy High School and Mansfield University where she earned her Reading Specialist certificate. She is currently working to improve the reading skills of our 9-12th grade students. Also, Joanne Cuddy has been hired as our new Home Economics teacher. Mrs. Cuddy had taught previously at Canton High School. She is teaching Child Development, an elective Family and Consumer Science class, and an 8th grade Family and Consumer Science cycle class. Although we wish Mrs. Driscoll well with her retirement, we are glad to add Mrs. Cuddy and her 5 years of teaching experience to our staff. Finally, Amy Brown has been hired as our new math teacher. Amy earned her degree from Edinboro University. She has spent the past 3 ½ years teaching in the Sayre school district. We are happy to have all of these teachers as a part of our staff for the year.

We are also pleased that Gary Martell has been hired as our new Assistant Principal. Mr. Martell has served as our Math department chair and as our 7th grade Math teacher since 1997. Mr. Martell earned his Educational Leadership certificate from California University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Martell's exemplary teaching experience and ability to work in a positive manner with young people are important assets as he begins his career in administration.

On October 5th, we continued the tradition of

recognizing academic excellence with the fourth annual Academic Recognition Program. Students were honored for achieving honor roll status for the previous school year and/or scoring Proficient or Advanced on last year's Math and Reading PSSA tests. Students that were honored received a certificate and a \$5.00 voucher for the school store.

Our building was also the setting for the Outstanding Young Woman Competition which was held on Saturday, September 24th. Representing Towanda very well were Delaney Vanderpool (1st Runner Up), Hannah Primrose (2nd Runner Up and Performing Arts Award), Kyrstin Madigan, and MacKenzie Watkins (People's Choice Award). We are extremely proud of these four young ladies.

I would like to thank the students, staff, and parents for helping make the beginning of the year a success. I would also like to thank the students and parents for their patience and understanding during the unfortunate flooding that occurred in our community. We feel fortunate that we were able to get back into operation so quickly. If there is anything that we can do as a school to help you if you've been impacted by the flooding, or if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me at 268-2041. I would like to share some upcoming dates and events:

October 7 – Early Dismissal (students dismissed at 1:10)

October 10 – In Service day for teachers (no school for students)

November 1 – End of the First Marking Period

November 23 – Early Dismissal (students dismissed at 1:10)

November 24-29 – Thanksgiving Break

Sincerely, Dennis Peachey

**TOWANDA JUNIOR/SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS
PSAT TEST**

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit /Scholarship Qualifying Test will be administered in the cafeteria of Towanda Junior/Senior High School on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 from 8:00am. to 11:10 a.m. The test will be administered to those students **in grades 9, 10, and 11** who have registered for the examination. The test is intended to give students:

1. their rank among other sophomore and junior students in the U.S. in the verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities measured by the test.
2. an impartial assessment of ability to do college work. Scores will be helpful in discussing plans for further education and choice of college with school counselor and parents.
3. a 'trial run' for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).
4. an opportunity to enter scholarship competition administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.
5. the chance to participate in the Student Search Service of the College Board.

It is advisable for a student to sit for the PSAT if any type of post-secondary education is possible in his or her future, be it a four-year or two-year school. It is also suggested that for most students it is best to sit for the PSAT the fall of their junior year and the SAT in the late spring of the junior year, in addition to the fall of the senior year.

The cost of the exam is \$14.00 (to cover the expense of sending the answer sheets for scoring) payable by the student at the time of registration. Registration forms are available in the Towanda Junior/Senior High School Guidance Office. Questions regarding the PSAT may be directed to Mrs. LaFrance in the Guidance Office at 268-2059.

**TOWANDA HIGH SCHOOL
ASVAB TESTING**

The ASVAB, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, will be administered to interested students in grade 11 and 12 on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 from 8:10 – 11:30 a.m. in the Towanda Junior/Senior High School. The ASVAB is an excellent aptitude test that measures a person's potential for success in various vocational areas. It can be used to assist in the career decision-making process and post-secondary planning. For junior and senior students, the test is used as a qualifying instrument for enlistment into the armed services as well. Results and interpretative information are provided for all students who take the test.

Junior and senior students interested in taking this test may pick up a registration form in the Junior/Senior High School Guidance Office. Questions regarding this test may be directed to Mrs. Tara LaFrance, Guidance Counselor, at (570) 268-2059.

SAT to be Offered at TJSHS

The Towanda Guidance Office is proud to be administering the SAT tests this year on December 3rd, 2011 and March 10th, 2012 at the Towanda Jr. Sr. High School. Students may register for the test either online at www.sat.collegeboard.org/register or pick up a registration form in the guidance office to send by mail. Students or parents with questions may contact the guidance office at (570)268-2059.

Forensic Team Receives Important Recognition

The National Forensic League chose the Towanda Jr/Sr High School Forensic Team for membership in its prestigious **100 Club**. In a letter from NFL Executive Director Scott Wunn he stated that because the Towanda Chapter of the NFL achieved 100 degrees through points awarded to students for their competition and service, the chapter has placed in the top 10% of NFL chapters nationwide.

As in past years, the team will be competing in the Iroquois District of the National Forensic League. The season culminates with the NFL national qualifier in March 2012 where students will qualify for the NFL National Tournament in June.

In addition, the students will compete in the Pennsylvania High School Speech League region competitions to build points to compete in the PHSSL State Tournament also held in March.

Twenty students in grades 9-12 represent the senior high team. Membership is open to any student who wishes to participate. There is also a junior high team for students in seventh and eighth grades.

THS Drama Team

The Towanda Jr/Sr High School One-Act Play team will compete in the Pennsylvania High School Speech League regional one act play competition on November 19th. A performance will also be presented for an audience of peers as required by the PHSSL rules. This year's presentation will be "Imaginary Harry" by Bradley Hayward. Labeled a "problem child" at birth, Jason has never fit into this world. To cope with the alienation he has an imaginary friend Harry. Harry helps Jason discover that reality can be just as easy to navigate as any other world, if you use your imagination.



Annual Senior Class Play to be Presented in November

The annual senior class play will be presented at the Towanda High School Auditorium on Thursday, November 17th, Friday, November 18th, and Saturday, November 19th at 7:00 P.M. This year's show will be "Flapper" with the story by Tim Kelly and books and lyrics by Bill Francoeur. This is a map cap salute to the roaring twenties.

The Roaring Twenties was such a colorful decade that the unbeatable team of playwright Tim Kelly and musician Bill Francoeur couldn't resist it any longer! Come celebrate the era with them and meet Polly Pepper, a young flapper who really knows how to live in the time of Stutz Bearcat automobiles, Ziegfeld girls, raccoon coats, ukuleles, beauty contests, goldfish swallows and gangsters.

Polly's about to turn 18 and will inherit a fabulous diamond necklace called the "Ice Garden." She's planning a madcap birthday party and inviting all her pals. However, with a friend like Susan Stuyvesant-Fish, she doesn't need any enemies! Polly's new boyfriend, Buck Wayne, wouldn't miss the birthday bash for anything, even if he has to land his private plane on the lawn of the polo grounds.

But there's trouble ahead! Mobsters are planning to grab the necklace. Rounding out the cast of characters are Mona of the Crazy Cat Club, Monica Woodsquirrel of Radio Station WWW atop Hotel Times Square, crime fighter Lieutenant Fluke, mobsters trying to steal the necklace, and "Flagpole Sitter" Lenny Knickerbocker.

Come and support the Class of 2012 as they present this fun evening of entertainment that is sure to delight and is appropriate for all ages. Tickets may be obtained from member of the cast or at the box office one half hour prior to the show.

Just a note of information: If the Black Knights Football Team advances in post season play and is scheduled to play on Friday, November the 18th there will not be a presentation on that night.

HOMEcomings WEEK 2011

2011 Homecoming was a complete success! Black Knight Pride has obviously moved onward and upward from hall decorating to stellar performances of our Mr. Towanda participants. Proceeding spirit week the Primary, Elementary, and Jr. Sr. High School worked together and collected 2,818 cans of nonperishable food for T.A.C.O. Food Pantry. To add to this total, Student Council promoted "Fill the Bus" on the evening of Homecoming, resulting in a full stocked food pantry.

Spirit week was at an all-time high with participation not only from the students but also the faculty and staff as well. From surfers to cattle rustlers it was an eventful week.

The pep rally was one to be remembered, with great music, and outstanding performances. A special thank you to the poor piglets that had to endure a kiss not only from Mr. Farley and Mr. Pierson, but Mr. Peachey as well. The piglets squeaked with delight when senior Darien Lantz puckered up for one final kiss. Congratulations to Ty Blokzyl winner of the Mr. Towanda competition and Ben Lamphere first runner-up. Friday night's Homecoming game included the crowning of the 2011 Homecoming queen. The court included Juniors Danielle Zatkos, Olivia Powers, Morgan Dreisch, first runner up was Khabeera Calaman, and the 2011 Homecoming Queen - Hailey Innocenzo.

The week concluded with the Homecoming dance, sponsored by the senior class, "Knights in Space" that was out of this world!

The High School Student Council would like to thank all who helped to make 2011 Homecoming a success. Black Knight Pride!



TOWANDA CROSS COUNTRY

The Towanda Boys and Girls Cross Country teams are off to outstanding starts. The girls currently sport a 4-1 records while the boys are at 3-2. Most recently, the boys team finished 5th at the prestigious Northeast Pennsylvania invite out of 28 competing teams. Aaron Valoroso led the team with a 2nd place finish. Top team finishers are Simon Smith, Schuyler Smith, Kevin Blackman, Manny Borrero and Nick Secules. Aaron and Manny also serve as team captains. The girls finished 10th at the same invitational but more importantly were the 2nd highest District 4 AA team. An outside shot at running at states has definitely entered the picture. Destiny Foster led the Towanda finishers with a 9th place finish. Other top runners for the girls include: Katelin Purdy, Danielle Zatkos, Colleen Purdy and and Soleil Eagan. Destiny and Danielle serve as team Captains. We have one more home meet scheduled for Tuesday October 11 and would love to see you there. The upcoming League and District Championships will be highly competitive as we make a push for continued success. Success to all teams from the Black Knight Cross Country Teams.

Black Knight Pride!!

TOWANDA FOOTBALL 2011

The Towanda Black Knight football team is having another solid year. They are presently 4 – 0 after losing a game with EFA because of flooding this past September. The team has key matchups with Mifflinburg, Athens and Wyalusing to determine play-off ramifications. Senior captains Jordan Dawsey, Garrett Dinelli, Ed Fetterman, Mason Roof and Zach Ripic have been giving great leadership along with the entire senior football players. It will become very interesting as October fades into November to see how standings are affected. The Knights will continue to play hard and see what happens in the end of the season.

MARCHING BAND

The Towanda Black Knights' Marching Band was proud to host The BSCMEA Cavalcade of Bands this past Wednesday at Endless Mountain Sports Complex. This annual event featured six marching bands from Bradford County, as well as a finale performance by the Pride of Pennsylvania, Mansfield University Marching Band. There was much concern on where this event was going to take place due to the long stretch of wet weather we've been having in our area. Fortunately, with only a few soggy introductions, Cavalcades was a major success with everything completing just in time before a huge down-pour! Thanks for all the help from the main office and support staff for making this all happen.

2011-2012 Towanda Volleyball Defending N.T.L. and District IV Champions

The Volleyball Teams continue to achieve success and maintain their winning tradition. The varsity team is undefeated and strives to reach their goal of winning their 16th conference title and 20th District IV championship. They recently won the Tunkhannock Tournament remaining unbeaten. The varsity team is coached by Ms. Linda Messner. Towanda is the defending N.T.L. and District IV Volleyball Champions. The varsity roster includes: Captain Tori Welliver, Captain Taylor Williams, Taylor Coolbaugh, Chelsey Davis, MacKienze Evans, Tiffany Fleming, Kyrstin Madigan, Dallas Mosier, Riley Potter, Kelsey Smith, Liz Wilhelm, Vanessa Calaman, Alysha Grimes, Hailey Innocenzo, Alaina Wickwire and Alacia White.

The Junior Varsity Team is coached by Mrs. Judith Douglas. The roster includes: Rachel Dawsey, Macy Elliott, Emily Gorman, Chennandoah Jones, Lindsay Vincent, Kayla Brown, Kayla Grimes, Morgan Johnson, Kennedy Walsh, Kaitlyn West and Alisen Pepper. The team is very competitive and has only lost one match in the league.

The Junior High Volleyball Team is coached by Mrs. Kacie Tuttle and Mrs. Lyn Schultz. Due to a revised schedule, our team plays two matches on Saturdays alternating schools. Team players include: Kelsey Abrams, Kendra Abrams, Sierra Allen, Elizabeth Bartholomew, Veronica Black, Allison Cole, Mikailyn Cook, Alison Daum, Brittany Davis, Sarah Dawsey, Elizabeth Ennis, Anna Fink, Kaylee Fulmer, Sydnie Gowin, Victoria Gowin, Casey Hawley, Elaina Johnson, Kinslee Kriner, Jennifer McAdoo, Alexia McAllister, Kayla Miller, Elizabeth Mosier, Jensen Neilson, Jordan O'Connor, Jade Parsons, Samantha Peachey, Rylee Pepper, Elizabeth Schultz, Larisa Terry, Erikka Walker, Tara Welliver, Hannah Wheeler, Alivia Young and Annie Young.

GIRLS TENNIS

As with all the Spring Sports this year it has been difficult to get our matches in just because of all the rain and flooding. We have a very young team with little experience which has proven to be a challenge, however, this group of girls has come a long way since the beginning of the season. We are currently 5 - 6 for the season and still have 7 matches to get in before the end of our season on October 15. We will go into Districts this weekend with Kaitlin Hallabuk at the No. 1 position and Carly Chaffee at the No. 2. The rest of the team includes Melina Hoffman at No. 3, Elizabeth Vana at No. 4, Hannah Innocenzo at No. 5 with Erica Place, Kaylyn Forbes, Oceanna Valenzuela and Beanna Hollenback rounding out the remainder of the team. The girls are looking forward to ending the season on a strong note.

KNIGHT GOLF

Towanda Black Knight Golf is putting the finishing touches on an NTL-championship season this week, as the team currently stands undefeated in league play at 30-0 (30-1 overall), with two league matches remaining. Led by a consistent, “team-first” core of six lettermen – seniors Nick Spencer, Taylor Shattuck, Jacob Manchester and Dylan Bartholomew – plus sophomores David Rodenhizer and Hunter Gordon, the Knights are attempting to complete the first undefeated NTL season in golf in over a decade.

All six lettermen have qualified for the District IV tournament, to be held October 6 at Eagles Mere Country Club, five are ranked in the top ten in league scoring, and all 18 members of the team – varsity, JV and coaches alike – will celebrate a host of individual and team accomplishments after the business at hand has been completed.

Also qualifying for the District tournament is junior Jessica Heyer, by virtue of a third-place finish at the District IV Qualifying Tournament. Jessica is the first Towanda girl to advance to Districts in over two decades.

Knight Golf is honored to represent Towanda High School with BLACK KNIGHT PRIDE. We thank the membership of the Towanda Country Club for their continued support of the team. We are grateful for the presence of Coach Darlene Innocenzo, who has volunteered her time, experience and knowledge to develop our younger players into those capable of holding a “Top 6” spot next year – her efforts have not gone unrecognized.

Finally, Knight Golf wishes best of luck to all THS students who represent our town so well in the classrooms, on the playing fields and in the arts.

The following students were elected by their respective classes as officers for the 2011-12 school year.

9th Grade

Noah Huff - President
Mackenzie Roof - Vice President
Elizabeth Heeman - Secretary
Caroline Vana - Treasurer
Kennedy Walsh – Historian

10th Grade

Rachel Dawsey - President
Destinee Strickland – Vice President
Cory Schoonover - Secretary
Alaina Anderson - Treasurer
Alacia White - Historian

11th Grade

Khabeera Calaman – President
Hailey Innocenzo – Vice President
Matt McGee – Secretary
Cole Sexton – Treasurer
Morgan Dreisch – Historian

12th Grade

Jordan Dawsey - President
Michelle Aronson - Vice-President
Ashley Fleming - Secretary
Dallas Mosier - Treasurer
Laura Maryott – Historian

Student Council Officers

Zach Ripic – President
Hailey Innocenzo – President Elect
Mason Roof – Vice-President
Kyrstin Madigan-Secretary
Zack Johnson – Treasurer

