English Department

Four teachers from the English Department—Ms. Marlies Drahouzal, Ms. Lauren Haslach, Ms. Amanda Liu, and Ms. Dana Maloney—will accompany thirty THS students on a trip to the Dodge Poetry Festival at Waterloo Village in Stanhope, NJ, on September 25. The Dodge Festival, a bi-annual event, offers readings and workshops on poetry conducted by internationally acclaimed writers. September 25th has been scheduled by the Dodge Foundation as “student day,” while the program on September 26th will be devoted to professional development for teachers. Two of our teachers—Shelli Ballan and Gary Whitehead—will be attending on “teacher day.”

English Department Chair, Michael Cohen, is excited to announce that the department’s 2nd annual summer college essay course, offered on August 25, 26, and 28, received rave reviews from the students who attended. Students who filled out a course evaluation form offered the department an overwhelmingly positive response, noting the progress they made in the development of their admissions essays and applauding the teaching strategies used in the classroom. A special note of commendation is due to Ms. Lauren Haslach, Ms. Jessica Rosevear, and Mr. Gary Whitehead, who served as the instructors of this workshop, planning all class activities and providing students with effective feedback.

Ms. Jessica Rosevear, second-year teacher in the English department, has begun working toward her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at New School University in Manhattan. A frequent contributor of articles about education in Instructor Magazine (a scholastic publication), Ms. Rosevear published three articles in August and September, and she has a forthcoming piece in the November/December issue. Ms. Rosevear’s most recent article, “New Teachers and Mentors: Trade Secrets,” offers practical advice for mentor and novice teachers as they begin their working relationship in a teacher’s first year.

During the summer of 2008, Ms. Diana Ling began working toward her master’s degree in English at the Breadloaf School of English at Middlebury College in Vermont. Ms. Ling began her program with two courses: History and Memory and Acting Workshop. This master’s degree is designed for teachers to complete over the course of four summer sessions.

The English Department extends congratulations to Ms. Erin Schwartz, who recently earned her master’s degree in School Counseling at Hunter College in New York City. Her thesis focused on student transition from high school to college. This is Ms. Schwartz’s second master’s degree!

ELL Department

The ELL teachers met collaboratively to grade the W-APT writing samples. Since this is the first time the testing instrument is being used, a great deal of discussion needed to take place. Extensive professional dialogues on scoring transpired. Once all four subtests had been collated, another professional discussion ensued on student placement. Based on the test results, several students needed class changes to a different ability level. Now that all students have been properly placed according to the proficiency reflected on the exam, all classes are more homogeneous allowing more effective instruction to take place.

Last week, the THS Club Fair took place. Many of the ELL classes visited during their class period. The rationale behind this visit was to explain the THS club offerings for 2008-2009 to the students with examples of activities which would take place. This was done on a one-to-one basis and the intention was that the English language learner would feel less intimidated and interact more freely with club members. The goal was to get ELL students to become participants in the clubs. This would help to increase ELL involvement in the school community.

Guidance Department

Senior guidance counselors met with the 12th graders to finalize the college application process. Applications are now pouring into guidance. Senior rank was posted in Naviance, our new college software, which both juniors and seniors are accessing on a regular basis. Susan Patterson returned to
TMS to demonstrate how to use Naviance with the 7th grade counselor and counselees to survey learning styles. We had a very well attended mini-college fair last Tuesday; New York University admissions representative visited on Friday and spoke to a rapt audience in the auditorium.

**Lalor Library/Media Center**

Library/Media Center Orientations and Programs:
- Requested orientations have been provided for Ms. Lander’s 9th grade science classes and Mr. Kohler’s driver education sections. These students are working on specific assignments and will be mainly utilizing our on-line resources.
- Planning continues for the freshmen library education program for scheduled for October.

Equipment Donation Integration:
- Several Apple towers and professional scanners have been donated by the graphics department of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Carlos Garcia, our library media technician reloaded software and installed the scanner. As you will see in the section below, the equipment has already been useful.
- We are hoping to hear some good news from CBS regarding the donation of a video switcher for our TV control room. A fellow from town who works as an engineer at CBS has been working to make this happen.

Updates and Repairs:
- A valued filmstrip in the social studies department became unusable due to severe sprocket hole damage. With the timely donation of equipment by the Port of Authority and the efforts of library media technician, Carlos Garcia along with library aides Loretta Miller and Raychel Solomon, the filmstrip in question has been given a new digital life. Through scanning the images on the filmstrip and digitizing the audio cassette, all has been neatly transferred to PowerPoint for presentation to the students.

- Jean Rohrbeck is processing the PO for four new Bose speakers to replace the old ones in the library.
- A repair is being made to one of our satellite dishes so we once again will receive the French channel *TV5 Monde* and can include it on the channel lineup for the high school classrooms.

Just In:
An updated list of new acquisitions will soon be placed on line. New titles are constantly being ordered and cataloged by Jean Rohrbeck and we are always looking to prioritize requests from students and faculty.

**Enthusiastic Students:**
Steve Moger’s students have been eager and enthusiastic in recording sports events. So far, two football games and one soccer game has been recorded with play by play commentary by the students. Carlos Garcia has been invaluable in assisting in these productions – he is there for each event and has done extensive post production in editing and making them available for on demand viewing over the Internet.

**Making New Staff Welcome:**
June Johnston, library secretary, has been in charge of taking the pictures of new staff for their ID cards. We kept copies of these and placed them on the bulletin board in the Duplication Center. Each photo has their name and department. It is hoped that this “photo guide” will help in welcoming new staff by name.

**Library Full During Lunch:**
Loretta Miller and Raychel Solomon have been overseeing the pass system students use that enabling them to come to the library for any remaining time they have during their lunch period. They have reported that the library is running at full capacity during many of the lunch periods. Students can be observed working on assignments, reading magazines and newspapers, and using our electronic newspaper computers.

The Library/Media newsletter can be found at [http://www.librarymedia.net/Newsletter.html](http://www.librarymedia.net/Newsletter.html).

**Mathematics Department**

As part of the district-wide goal for articulation K-12, a 5 year review cycle was adopted by the Curriculum Committee in the spring of 2008. Mathematics was selected as the discipline to begin that review in 2008-09, followed by World Language, Language Arts/Art, Science/Physical Education and Social Studies/Fine and Practical Art in subsequent years. Much of this review will involve discussion among and across grade levels to determine how to deliver a rich and challenging curriculum to each and every student.

The initial steering committee will consist of: Ellen Nelson, Peter Curko, Terry Eisenberg, Lynn Trager, and 5 teachers representing Elementary K-2, Elementary 3-5, Middle School, High School, and Special Education.
The larger committee of inclusion will add Renee Eliscu, Brian Cory, Diane Schulthes, Ann Marie Desplat, Bill Belluzzi, one Elementary Principal and two teachers from the elementary schools not represented on the Steering Committee.

October 14, at 3:30 the Steering Committee will meet.

October 28, the larger Committee will work for half a professional day

November 4, (half professional day for the district), 5th and 6th grade teachers will meet together for transition work.

February 9, (half professional day for the district), 8th and 9th grade teachers will meet together for transition work.

Science Department

AP sciences made a strong showing on the May exams. Biology had 61% 4’s and 5’s, chemistry had 96% 4’s and 5’s and physics had 33% 4’s and 5’s. Our chemistry team, under the leadership of Mrs. Firnberg, earned second place at the Chemistry Olympics at NJIT.

On Merck State Science Day, our second year biology, chemistry, physics and integrated science teams, along with our first year integrated science team, placed first overall in Bergen County for the eighth straight year.

Science enrollment continues to rise, with many students in the upper grades doubling up with two courses this year. Our new laboratory technician, Mrs. Tari, is settling in nicely and has been of great support to the chemistry program, with almost 20 labs running each week and to the physical science program, with over 15 labs per week.

Social Studies Department

Students in Bill Schlavis’s World History West class conducted a two-day debate about the merits of the Athenian way of life vs. the Spartan way of life. The class was broken in half and then each city-state was subdivided into four groups: Social, Economic, Political, Cultural.

The teachers of juniors (US I) are planning a trip to the historic sights of Philadelphia.

The teachers of Humanities are planning their annual trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to look at the Greek and Roman exhibits.

Special Education Department

It is time for Mainstream Monitors! Mainstream Monitors are bi-quarterly progress reports exclusively for classified. The Mainstream Monitors are entered electronically by teachers on the G-Drive and saved into each student’s individual folder. In the past, the Mainstream Monitors have been mailed home but the department is in the process of obtaining email addresses from parents to send the reports electronically.

The Mainstream Monitors inform parent of their child’s academic progress. The reports include test/quiz grades, projects, homework, and daily classroom status and concerns. In addition, there is a section which highlights the collaborative interventions between the general education teachers and the student’s IEP Team. The Mainstream Monitors are unique to THS and have been a very valuable tool in fostering student success.

Finally, Brian Cory presented to the PASET group on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 to highlight the department’s launched CORE website (http://www.tenafly.k12.nj.us/~hsspecialed/) which is quickly becoming a tremendous resource for all students, parents and teachers.

Support Leader

Team/Attendance Office

The week of September 15 was a busy one in and around the student services office. Mr. Hommen and Mr. Elefante attended the Newcomers Group meeting which was held for 18 new students and run by Mrs. Gould and Ms. Cooperstock. The students discussed their experiences as they transition into Tenafly High School.

Student Support Leaders completed the administration of behavior plans for dozens of students who needed remediation for attendance and discipline issues. The students seemed eager to act with greater responsibility and work to regain their privileges. The swipe card system and student ID audit is complete and this element of our building security is working as designed.

Career Education, Consumer, Family and Life Skills, Vocational Education

In Technology Education, both the Tech Ed Center and the new Drafting Room are set up and bustling with activity. The students
and their teachers are excited about the new opportunities that these facilities present.

In Family and Consumer Science Ms. Acocella is prepared for the annual pre-school open house on Tuesday the 23rd. Parents will be coming in to sign up their toddlers for weekly pre-school sessions in the high school Child Psychology class.

**Athletics Department**

On Friday, September 26th – the Fall Pep Rally will take place in the Eugene “Red” Littler Gymnasium. BCSL American championship plaques from the 2007 – 2008 school year will be presented to Dr. Kontogiannis along with the BCSL American All-Sports Banner, symbolizing the overall achievement of the 2007-2008 THS Athletic program. Sportsmanship banners from the Football Official’s Organization, the New Jersey Interscholastic Hockey League and the NJSIAA will also be presented to the school for display. Captains from the fall sport teams will be reviewing their seasons, introducing their teammates and coaches and along with the cheerleaders, marching band and newly formed dance team creating some Tiger Spirit!!!

In what has become a nearly decade long tradition at THS, the annual Tri-Sport Breakfast will take place during Period One on Pep Rally Day. This gives the Athletic Department an opportunity to congratulate all sophomore, juniors and seniors who participated in three sport seasons last year. The tri-star T-shirts will be presented during the breakfast scheduled to take place in the cafeteria. Coach Barker will serve as the official photographer for the event and later in the fall the nearly 90 athletes will have their pictures on display on the window of the PITT for the remainder of the school year.