

Tolland High School Weekly Bulletin

12-21-15

Madrigal Dinner

The Tolland High School Music Department presented its annual Madrigal Dinner on December 11 and 12, featuring the THS Madrigal Singers and Women's Chorus, directed by Linda Tracy. A student brass quintet played as the Women's Chorus escorted guests to their tables. A student flute trio also performed during the evening. The Madrigal Singers and Women's Chorus, dressed in Renaissance attire, entertained their guests, performing songs *a cappella* throughout the evening. The masque, a short comedic play performed during the evening, was written in rhyming couplets by Madrigal Singers Shaina Caplan, Olivia Cusson and Jenny Lindquist. Our king and queen of the royal court were Aaron Wilson and Jenny Lindquist. Our court jester was portrayed by Andrew Harger. The Women's Chorus served the beef pot roast dinner, prepared by Tolland Food Services. In all, 350 people attended the event over the course of the weekend.



Tolland High School Pajama Day

On Friday, December 11, Tolland High School (THS) students and staff participated in 5th Annual "PJ Day for the Kids", a benefit to support the Cancer Care Center at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford, Connecticut. In exchange for the privilege of wearing PJs, students were asked to considering making a \$1 or more donation. Altogether, the THS school community raised \$1,022 in proceeds to benefit the Division of Hematology and Oncology. Thanks to all who contributed!

SAT - Wednesday, March 2

On October 7, 2015, the Connecticut State Board of Education formally adopted the SAT as the statewide assessment in lieu of the Smarter Balanced Assessment for Grade 11 students. Endorsed by both Governor Malloy and the U.S. Department of Education as part of Connecticut's ESEA Flexibility Request, this change will have a positive impact for a variety of reasons. First, it will help reduce the testing burden for our students. Second, students will be able to use the state assessment results for college admission purposes. Lastly, using the SAT will provide for a quicker turnaround of results. As such, the SAT will be administered statewide during the school day to Grade 11 students on Wednesday, March 2, 2016. Only one make up date, Wednesday, April 27, 2016, is available for students who miss the March 2 administration. **As a result of this change, we are asking parents of our 11th graders to mark their calendars in an effort to ensure all students participate in the statewide testing administration on March 2.** For this reason, please consider scheduling any appointments or college visits at a later date.

Please also note there are three parts to the newly designed SAT - Reading, Writing and Language, and Mathematics. The essay portion of the SAT will not be administered as part of the Connecticut school-day SAT state assessment. Unlike the previous version, there will be four answer choices on multiple choice questions and there is no penalty for guessing. For those students who desire to become more familiar with the SAT format and the types of questions they will encounter, College Board offers a free practice site at <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>.

Changes to Exam Dates

As noted in the Fall 2015 edition of the *PRIDE Newsletter*, Ms. Fox asked members of the school community to be both patient and flexible as the school navigated their way through a variety of changes during the 2015-2016 school year. One of those changes, specifically replacing the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium's test for 11th graders with the SAT, was welcomed. Unfortunately, our school calendar was developed in May of last school year without knowledge of this change. That said, the number of days allotted for the second semester was six days more than the days allotted for the first semester primarily due to the number of days required to administer the SBAC test. As the Connecticut State Department of Education has now determined that the state-mandated test for 11th graders be administered on one day, March 2, this has created an imbalance in the number of days allotted per semester. To ensure that students are receiving similar experiences whether they are taking the same course in the first or second semester, the exam dates will be pushed by two days. Thus, the end

of the second quarter will now fall on Thursday, January 21. Final exams will be administered on Friday, January 22 and Monday, January 25 with the mid-semester day on Tuesday, January 26. For those students who are new to Tolland High School, students do not attend school on the mid-semester day. The second semester will begin on the scheduled half-day, Wednesday, January 27. Please understand that all this may be subject to change due to inclement weather.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 23 – Half Day Session

December 24, 25, 28 – 31, January 1 – School Closed

January 11 – Booster Club meeting 7:00 p.m. THS conference room

January 12 – Music Concert 7:00 p.m. THS Auditorium

January 21 – End of 2nd quarter

January 22 – Final Exams blocks 1 & 2

January 25 – Final Exams blocks 3 & 4

January 26 – Mid semester day – no school for students

January 27 – Second Semester Begins (Scheduled Half-Day)

BOOSTER CLUB

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m. in the THS conference room.

If you have any questions, ideas, or comments, please contact Co-Presidents Diane Clokey at dbclokey@sbcglobal.net or Heidi Gallicchio at heidih1970@sbcglobal.net.