

# ***Tolland High School Weekly Bulletin***

## ***12-7-15***

### ***Boys' Soccer - State Champions***

On Saturday, November 20, Tolland High School boy's soccer team took on the #3 seed, Bacon Academy, in the CIAC Class M State Championship game. Nick Tantillo opened the scoring for the Eagles with approximately nine minutes left in the first half as he converted on Tommy Leahy's corner kick. In the first minute of the second half, Bacon Academy scored the equalizer off a loose ball. Senior co-captain Mike Zimmerman would go on to score the go ahead goal and eventual game winner with 6:46 left in the half. A tough Tolland defense and stellar goaltending by Kyle Boutot helped seal the victory. Great job boys!



*Boy's Soccer players enjoy their 2-1 Class M State Championship victory over Bacon Academy.*

### ***Distracted Driving***

On Friday, November 20, Tolland High School juniors and seniors attended the *Save A Life Tour Distracted Driving/Texting Awareness* program sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The program is designed to demonstrate the potential deadly consequences of distracted driving. As part of a 45-minute assembly, students viewed a video produced by AT&T which highlighted four different stories of individuals whose lives have been seriously impacted as a result of a distracted driver. Throughout the remainder of the day, each student had an opportunity to test their skills in a state-of-the-art interactive driving simulator that truly showed participants the very real and often fatal consequences of poor choices that are made while texting and driving.



*Senior Jessica Janton puts her driving skills to the test in one of two simulators as her classmates look on.*

### ***The Ultimate DECA Power Trip***

Three of Tolland High School's DECA business club leaders had the opportunity to attend the Ultimate DECA Power Trip in Austin, Texas from November 20-22. With over 1500 students in attendance, the conference was a vibrant and motivational trip showcasing leadership skills, chapter organization, college and career readiness, and business presentation skills. Topics such as the new "Lean Entrepreneurship Model", "Social Change and Making an Impact", "Current Business Trends Impacting Careers", and "The Branding of You" brought today's 21<sup>st</sup> century business skills to life. In addition, students were inspired by keynote speakers Josh Shipp (aka: The Teen Whisperer) and Johnny (Earle) Cupcakes who brought their unique stories to light emphasizing individual empowerment and success through creative entrepreneurship. **Matt Holyst**, Connecticut DECA state president, **Hannah McLain**, THS DECA president, and **Kevin Fiddler**, THS DECA vice-president participated in eight different Leadership Learning Labs hosted by a variety of industry professionals and successful DECA chapters. All three students are eager to share their new knowledge and skills with Tolland's 75 DECA members. On Saturday, students had the opportunity to compete in a Marketing Management role-play event. Students had 15 minutes to analyze a business case scenario and then pitch their ideas and solutions to a panel of judges. **Matt Holyst** was recognized on stage with a "Top Performer" award.



*From L to R: Kevin Fiddler, Hannah McLain, and Matt Holyst at the Ultimate DECA Power Trip in Austin, Texas.*

### **THS Musicians - Eastern Region Music Festival**

Thirty-one members of the Tolland High School Music Department will be performing in the CMEA Eastern Region High School Music Festival at Jorgensen Auditorium at the University of Connecticut on January 8 and 9. Students were selected through an

audition process which took place on November 14 at Killingly High School. Representing Tolland High School in the concert will be Camryn Florence, Ben Free, Jim Gifford, Mallory Goldsmith, and Sean Mathieu (band); Alicia Chiang (orchestra); Eric Gottier and Jack Murphy (jazz band); Emily Collins, Olivia Cusson, Sarah Gannon, Shannon Gorsky, Andrew Harger, Natalie Hurlbut, Parker Johns, Thomas Landolina, Jenny Lindquist, Nicholas Machuga, Charles Perosino, Felicity Roche, Greta Schmitz, Travis Tran, Chelsea Weaver, and Aaron Wilson (mixed chorus); and Sarah Alexander, Megan Benoit, Annabella DeFaria, Katherine Dos Santos, Kara Singleton, Amanda Steinhilber, and Natalie Wyse (treble chorus). These students now have the opportunity to audition for the All-State Music Festival on January 30. The festival will take place April 28 – 30 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.

### **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 7 – Community Advisory Council 7:30 a.m. THS Conference Room  
December 11 & 12 – Madrigal Dinner 6:00 p.m. THS Cafeteria  
December 23 – Half Day Session  
December 24, 25, 28 – 31, January 1 – School Closed

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### **SCHOOL MUSICAL AUDITIONS**

Calling all actors, singers, and dancers - this year's musical will be "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat". Auditions will be held on Tuesday, December 15th. Audition materials are now available in the Chorus Room. There's lots of material to be

performed for the audition so get started now. For more information, please see Mrs. Tracy in the Chorus Room.

### **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Tolland High School is fortunate to have a dedicated and enthusiastic group of parents and local community members who support our school and many of the programs within it. In light of that, we are committed to increasing parent and community engagement in our school. A few years ago, a Community Advisory Council was established as a means to encourage parents and community members to become active partners in educating our children. Through this council, both groups of stakeholders are able to maintain an organized voice at Tolland High School, become involved in the decision making processes and procedures, where appropriate, voice their concerns, communicate their needs, and ask questions. To date, it has provided a forum for parents to discuss school-related issues such as leveling, grade weighting, teen drug and alcohol use, and safety concerns, among others. The next Community Advisory Council meeting is Monday, December 7th at 7:30 a.m. in the THS main office conference room. Please email Ms. Dominique Fox at [dfox@tolland.k12.ct.us](mailto:dfox@tolland.k12.ct.us) if you plan on attending the meeting.

### **BOOSTER CLUB**

**The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:dbclokey@sbcglobal.net) or Heidi Gallicchio at [heidih1970@sbcglobal.net](mailto:heidih1970@sbcglobal.net).