

## Thousand Islands Central School District



# HIGH SCHOOL

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**A Message from the Principal: Mr. Gilfus**

**November 2009**

I would like to take a moment and wish our families a safe and enjoyable upcoming holiday. Also, thank you to the many parents that visited with our teachers last Thursday for Parent Teacher Conferences – your support and partnership are essential as we do all we can for the benefit of all students. Following break the high school will mail home parent surveys for the purpose of gathering parent-teacher conference feedback. As you are aware, we piloted a parent-teacher conference schedule that did not coordinate with the K-8 buildings with the hope of meeting our needs and gaining instructional time. We will meet in December to discuss the results of our efforts and make recommendations for next school year. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at your convenience at 686-5594 x 5000.

**Guidance:** Mrs. Bobbi Nevala – 11 & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Mrs. Debbie Eldridge-Block – 9 & 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Mrs. Eldridge-Block visited 9<sup>th</sup> grade English classes to help students complete the Career Connections Interest Profiler. Career Connections is a unique online college and career planning tool designed exclusively for school counselors and students in New York State. With the Career Connections website, students and parents can access comprehensive college and career planning tools from school and home. Students were given a school ID and password by their counselor, which they can bring home and share with their parents. The interest profiler is an online interest inventory that helps students explore careers that might be right for them. Students simply answer questions about their interest in some common work activities, and the Interest Profiler identifies their matching work related interest areas and suggests occupations for them to explore.

Seniors have now completed their school to work internships and should make sure that all paperwork is completed and turned into Mr. Eppolito when due. The senior internship is a graduation requirement. Seniors should also make sure they are aware of college application deadlines and scholarship opportunities. Seniors are encouraged to visit the Guidance office frequently. Our next event is Financial Aid Night which will be held in the High School library on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. All seniors and their parents should try to attend.

### Events:

- Dec 2: DLT Mtg
- Dec 4: SNHS Blood Drive
- Dec 5: Christmas Parade  
CV, 1pm, Clayton, 6pm
- Dec 12: HS Holiday Ball, 8pm
- Dec 13: Community Concert
- Dec 14: Financial Aid Night, HS  
6:30pm
- Dec 15: MS Holiday Concert, 7pm
- Dec 16: CV Holiday Concert, 7pm
- Dec 17: Senior Citizen Dinner &  
Concert; 5:30 & 7pm
- Dec 17: SNHS Induction, 7:35am
- Dec 22: Student Progress Reports
- Dec 23: Alumni Day
- Dec 24 – Jan 1: Christmas Break

### Follow the links:

- [High School WebPage](#)
- [Teachers WebPages'](#)
- [Past Newsletters](#)
- [Lunch Menu](#)
- [December Calendar](#)
- [Sports Calendar](#)

**Mathematics:** Mr. Steve DeMay  
Department Coordinator

The students in the Advanced Placement Math class are preparing for the national exam administered by the College Board. The exam, which is given in May, affords the students the opportunity to earn credit and/or advanced standing at whatever institution they may attend after finishing their work at Thousand Islands.

Having completed the mechanics of differentiation, the students are now proceeding to develop their skills in applying derivatives to real world scenarios. Applications include curve-sketching, related rate problems and extreme value problems.

**Science:** Mrs. Pamela Gore  
Department Coordinator

On Saturday Nov.7, Mr. Oliver and 11 high school students traveled to SUNY Potsdam to participate in a HS Science Lab Day. The students conducted hands-on lab activities at the college in the areas of earth science, biology, chemistry and physics. Some of the activities included identification of fossils, rocks and minerals, separation of DNA, microscope work, green chemistry (recycling copper in chemical reactions), a planetarium show and chemically analyzing the sugar content of soft drinks. The event ended with a chemistry “magic” show that wowed the students with numerous eye-catching demonstrations and explosions. To learn more about this fun trip, ask Dana Flanders, Angel Phillips, Cynthia Bryan, Sarah Wolf, Michael Baird, Maria Cipullo, Kevin O’Connor, Kristina Dine, Kaila Babcock, Johnathon Stetson or Dillan Badi about their experiences.

**English:** Mrs. Irene Brooks  
Department Coordinator

Mr. Shippee’s 10<sup>th</sup> Grade English Class is just finishing up Part One of *To Kill a Mockingbird* as the students head in to Thanksgiving Break. Student interest in the novel continues to grow steadily and Mr. Shippee expects that to continue as the plot of the novel “heats up” and the various themes present in the story concerning “true courage,” “inequality” and “injustice,” begin to clearly emerge. *“It is always a pleasure to hear a student speak highly of the literature we read in class, and just this week I had a student tell me that she thought the novel was getting really good and that her older sibling at home commented to her about how To Kill a Mockingbird was by far the best book she would ever read in school.”* When the students return next week, we will continue our current reading pace of the novel and the students will be exposed to another NYS Regents Essay called the Critical Lens Task. It is my favorite essay to teach and the kids will have a chance to begin writing about the characters in the novel that they are connecting with on a personal level.

**Social Studies:** Mr. John Blodgett  
Department Coordinator

Fresh from the experience of their school-to-work internships, students in the Senior Social Studies classes are now plunging headlong into their Research Projects -- one of the culminating experiences of their high school career here at Thousand Islands. The effort, though daunting, should prove well worthwhile. Once completed, the research papers will become inclusions in their Senior Portfolios, to be presented early in June before a committee of faculty and community members as a graduation requirement.

Global Studies 10 students, having negotiated their way through the causes of the First World War, are now studying its odious aftermath. Peacemaking at Versailles is the focus of the moment, as Mr. Putnam lays the groundwork for their exposure to the trials, tribulations and triumphs of the inter-war period.

**Technology: Mr. Craig Freitag**  
Department Coordinator

Imagine you could build a better world.

Would you work with doctors to make better tools to help sick people? Would you use your artistic talents to make beautiful and safe buildings and bridges? Would you find a way to make computers even faster, smaller, and easier to use? Would you travel to the moon, Mars, or beyond?

PLTW is about more than just science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. It's about learning real skills, solving real problems, and making real discoveries about the world. By working with your classmates, teachers, and parents, you can help create a learning experience unlike any other.

In PLTW classes, students work hands-on with technology that other students only read about. Instead of listening to a lecture about scientific principles and theories, you get to put them to the test in fun, exciting ways. Students build contraptions, learn about drafting and graphic design on the computer, use real lab equipment, and have fun while they are doing it.

For more info: [freitagc@1000islandsschools.org](mailto:freitagc@1000islandsschools.org)



**Foreign Language: Mrs. Mary Ann Reff**  
Department Coordinator

Foreign Language classes are in full swing at this point. Some classes are working to integrate proper grammar into their speech, while others are presenting food preparation projects in the target languages. Our advanced level JCC classes are operating entirely in French or Spanish and are looking closely at cultural patterns through writings and dialogues. Whether in Level 1 or 5, students are engaged and making great strides toward proficiency.

Our International Club continues to support Lansana Kamara, a fifteen year old from the war-torn African nation of Sierra Leone. As sponsors through Christian Children's Fund, our monthly donations help Lansana to receive some very basic necessities, such as immunizations, food, clothing and school supplies. Club members are learning much about the history and daily life in Lansana's country.

**Music: Mrs. Kathryn Ingerson**  
Department Coordinator

-The Music Department has once again had a very busy month! Congratulations to our NYSSMA Area All-State participants: Nick Brizee, Carissa Clark, Elizabeth Reff, Natalie Reff, Cayla Haycock, and Morgan Hays. They represented TIHS brilliantly over the festival weekend which was held 11/20/09-11/21/09.

-Also Congratulations to the TI Marching Band which participated in the Syracuse Veterans Day Parade on 11/7/09. They played and marched extremely well!

-This years musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, is in the opening stages of production. The cast list has been announced and posted; great job to all who auditioned.

-Also upcoming are Bi-County Jazz Band Auditions. If you are interested please speak to Mr. Goloski for information on applications and auditions.

Upcoming Events:

- Dec. 5-Cape Vincent X-Mas Parade @ 1:00pm
- Dec. 5-Clayton Parade X-Mas @ 6pm
- Dec. 13-Select Vocal Ensemble and Jazz Band@  
Cape Vincent United Church @ 2:00pm
- Dec. 13-Select Vocal Ensemble @ Densmore  
Church, Wellesley Island @ 7:00pm
- Dec. 17-HS Holiday Concert @ 7:00pm

**Art:** Mrs. Nicky Badour  
Department Coordinator

**What's Coming Up in Art...**

The studio art class recently learned how to enlarge drawings using the grid method while maintaining accurate proportions. All images were "shattered" and broken up into shapes of various sizes, similar to the Cubist style. Students incorporated a value scale into each shape, creating an unusual "puzzle" of a drawing.

Ceramic Students will be starting a new project when they return from Fall Break. Students will be working with the wheel. They will be learning how to "throw."

The Crafts class is finishing up their Artist Trading Cards. These miniature works of art only measure 2.5 by 3.5 inches. Students have been incorporating a variety of both 2d and 3d mixed media techniques.

Photography students are full speed in the darkroom. Students are working on developing their posed vs. candid pictures.

**Special Ed.:** Mrs. Darlene VanWie  
Department Coordinator

The Special Education staff hosted Mr. Steve Radford from VESID on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. He visited with senior students. The students completed applications and had mini interview sessions. All were professional and courteous throughout the process.

The VESID website is: [www.vesid.nysed.gov](http://www.vesid.nysed.gov).

Any resource student that is interested in taking college entrance exams, the ACT or SAT should contact Mrs. Van Wie or Mrs. Jetty. There is a separate application that needs to be completed to ensure all testing modifications are followed. Sophomores and juniors are eligible for the testing.

Senior students should be completing college applications and scheduling college visits!

**Student Council:** Mrs. Nevela



This is a busy time of year for student council! The Clayton Holiday Parade will be on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Funds from the concession stand will go towards the 2010 After Prom lock-in. Call the HS if you would like to help! Students are once again sponsoring Rachel's Tree (Angel Tree). If you are interested in helping a family you can sign up in the HS office. Gifts are due to the school by Wednesday, 12/16. Any and all help is appreciated!

Also in December, there will be a homeroom door decorating contest and school spirit week!

**FEA: Mrs. Thomas**

**SAFE: Mrs. Thomas**

**Future Educators Association (FEA) Club:**

If your child is thinking of attending college for a career in education, counseling, coaching, or daycare, participation in this club would be of great value. Leadership training, exploration of careers, lesson planning, shadowing, teaching practice, and mini-internships are all possibilities. These all would be viewed favorably for admission into National Honor Society, and for college applications and resumes. Encourage your child to attend the next meeting - Thursday, Dec. 3! For further information, contact Mrs. Eleanor Thomas, advisor, at school email or extension X5205.

**Student Activists For the Environment (SAFE) Club News:**

We are currently working on researching recycling opportunities for electronics such as cell phones, and learning how to write letters to political representatives regarding environmental issue. Skeeda bags will be in soon. Next meeting is Dec. 2. For further information, contact Mrs. Eleanor Thomas, advisor, at school email or extension X5205.

**Athletic News: Ms. Tracy Harding  
Athletic Director**

For future Athletic Competition dates, follow this link: [Sports Calendar](#)

**Congratulations**

**Award Winners from the Fall Season!**

BV Soccer – Victory Chain Recipients  
V FB – Sam Millich Sportsmanship Award Recipients  
Coach Gilfus –Section III Class “D” Coach of the Year  
Frontier League and Section III All-Stars:

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Dan Ascough    | Jay Knapp            |
| Evan Bach      | John Korcz           |
| Kevin Bachmann | Derek Larkin         |
| Anthony Becker | Mike Maphey          |
| Dustin Cooley  | Sadie Mackenzie      |
| Ethan Whitton  | Amber Dibble         |
| Megan Docteur  | Scott McKain         |
| Mike Donnelly  | Schuyler Merchant    |
| Storm Fulmer   | Dylan O’Connor       |
| Paige Garnsey  | Taylor Price-Kellogg |
| Nicole Griffin | Julianne Rhinebeck   |
| Bit Hall       | Trevor Robbins       |
| Ethan Hathaway | Anola Stage          |
| Kyle Healy     | Erica Sullivan       |
| Ben Henry      | Justin Vrooman       |
| Heidi Hess     | Brittin Van Osdel    |
| Andrew Kellogg | Brittany Ward        |

**Congratulations to the NYSPHSAA Scholar Teams:**

- V Football – 88.231
- BV Soccer – 90.904
- V Swimming – 94.150
- GV Soccer – 94.318

**Teams with 90+ Averages**

**Good Luck to all Fall Senior Athletes**

**Football:** Dan Ascough, Kevin Bachmann II, Mike Donnelly, Ethan Hathaway, Jay Knapp, John Korcz, Mike Maphey, Dylan O’Connor, Zach Parker, Matt Schreck, Justin Vrooman  
**Boys Soccer:** Anthony Becker, Dan Bowman, Andrew Gregware, Eric Heins-White, Dylan Hornback, Pat Mahoney, JT Moore, Trevor Robbins, Jacob Waterman, Mark Wolf  
**Girls Soccer:** Jillian Cipullo, Sam Dano, Megan Docteur, Courtney Gould, Nicole Griffin, Bit Hall, Erycka Phelps, Siarra Sherako, Tessa Sullivan, Brittany Ward  
**Swimming:** Paige Garnsey, Heidi Hess, Julianne Rhinebeck, Brittin Van Osdel  
**Cheering:** Carissa Clark, Megan Frikken, Michelle O’Brien