

# Tiger Leaps

Progress Update from Tenafly High School

May 18, 2017

## English

The English Department congratulates student writers and their English teachers for a semester ripe with recognition. In addition to winning a Certificate of Recognition in the National Council of Teachers of English 2017 Achievement Awards in Writing and having poems published by the Canvas Literary Journal, junior Yuri Han was awarded a coveted seat to study poetry in the 2017 Adroit Journal Summer Mentorship Program where she will hone her writing skills during the development of a portfolio. Junior Lia Hwang received a Certificate of Recognition for her submission to the NCTE Achievement Awards.

Ms. Lauren Malanka's juniors, Dani Naidrich and Nadav Ziv, received honorable mentions in the 2017 *New York Times* Editorial Contest. These Tenafly students were 2 of 70 awarded nominees from the 7,895 applicants. Dani's op-ed, "The Picture of Education We Must Change," grapples with the exorbitant cost of college education. Nadav's op-ed piece, "Post-Democracy," discusses the threat of post-truth politics to our society. Congratulations to these incredibly talented students and their teacher.

This semester, English classes took their learning outside the halls of Tenafly High School. On Thursday, April 20, Ms. Dana Maloney took her *Echo* students

to the offices of *The Record* to meet with reporters and tour the facility. The students discussed the reporting and publishing of news and witnessed a snapshot of the life of a journalist. Humanities teacher, Ms. Amanda Oppedisano, and her social studied counterpart, Mr. Tom Hutchinson, traveled with students to the Metropolitan Museum of Art as did Ms. Dana Maloney and Ms. Moia Packer, who brought their World Literature II CPA students. Students viewed art that connected thematically and contextually to texts studied in class. On Friday, April 21, Ms. Lori Hampson, Ms. Lauren Malanka, and Ms. Alexandra Helmis visited the NJ Vietnam Veteran's Museum with their War and Literature seniors. Students were inspired by the personal, historical narratives they witnessed and enamored with the restored Huey helicopter. AP Literature and Composition students will soon attend a performance of *The Merchant of Venice* by The Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey to complete their study of the Bard.

Mr. Daniel Oppedisano's students in the senior Short Story English course explored the concept of the literary "cover song" by comparing classic short fiction and a series of contemporary texts inspired by the original. This analysis prompted in-depth discussions

about the nature of art, inspiration, originality, and marketing.

Last month, Mr. Gary Whitehead's Creative Writing students participated in a workshop with guest screenwriter Wally Marzano-Lesnevich. Students discussed the transformation of Marzano-Lesnevich's screenplay, *Almost Paris*, into film. In addition to providing the class with an insider's perspective of the film industry, the screenwriter shared advice with students on developing their own screenplays. Mr. Whitehead's budding screenwriters tapped into this instruction as they worked to adapt John Updike's short story "A&P" into screenplays.

## Social Studies

Ms. Cutrone's AP Government & Politics students are fully engaged in their mock presidential election project. Each of the two classes will represent competing campaigns who will face each other in a mock election to be held June 9th, beginning with a primary election in each class to choose a candidate. Each class will then organize itself as a campaign representing a hypothetical political party with a platform of their own creation. Students will assume a specific role in their respective campaign as each side attempts to garner the

support of voters by collecting polling data, creating political advertisements, and facing off in live debates.

Ms. Barker's Modern American Studies students and Mr. Barrett's American Mind students are both completing projects on the later decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. While slightly different, each will work in groups to research an assigned decade, particularly the cultural changes that occurred in each.

Students in Mr. Hegarty's AP United States History classes have begun their final projects on the American presidency. Students, working individually or in pairs, will be assigned a U.S. president who they will evaluate using a student-generated rubric of presidential success. Each student or pair will then need to present and defend their assessment of their assigned president.

Mr. Mirabito's Contemporary Issues & Leadership students attended a trip focused on environmental issues. First, they visited the Mahwah Environmental Volunteer Organization's community farm to learn about sustainable, community farming as well as the logistical challenges to initiating a policy change in concert with local government. bCont Issues Mahwah trip and project

## Mathematics

The Math Team competed in the Pi Division of the AMTNJ. For the third year in a row, the team has placed first in the Pi Division of the AMTNJ math contest held on December 7,

2016. Team members worked hard to bring the victory home.

The AMC 10/12 contests were administered on February 7, 2017 under the tutelage of Ms. Wissler and Dr. Yi. Thirty-one students participated in the contests. This contest is a prerequisite for the prestigious AIME contest. We are proud to say one of our students qualified for the AIME.

The Bergen Co Math League holds six meets from October to March each year. This year there were 27 schools from Bergen County with 270 students participating. Tenafly is in Group 3 of the six Bergen County groups. Tenafly had an outstanding year. Here are the results for Tenafly HS: 2<sup>nd</sup> in County – Simon Sun and Yunseo Choi (tied), 1<sup>st</sup> in Group 3 – Jin Suh, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Group 3 – Jincheol Jeong, 1<sup>st</sup> in School – Will Chi, 2<sup>nd</sup> in School – Sanghyeon Kim, Jin Ryu, Daniel Shin.

## In the Classroom

Technology: Mathematics classes are employing the Chromebook in a variety of ways. Google classroom is used for posting information and submitting work. Interactive labs, using apps and on-line tools, are integrated into various classes to explore mathematical concepts.

## World Languages

Several of our Tenafly High School language students ranked highly on the national language exams by scoring at the top of their categories. On

the National Italian Exam, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Italian (AATI), the following students were recognized for their high level of performance: **Level IV:** 2<sup>nd</sup> place--Michelle Schipilliti; Honorable mention--Jacob Janowski; **Level III:** Honorable mention—Claudia Sindoni, Alessandra Bontia, and Valerie Vengerov. On the National French Contest, many THS students scored highly as well. These students include: **Level I:** Giovanna De Castro, Luiza Kirichenko, Anna Pomerantz; **Level II:** Maya Considine, Charlotte Greenfield, Eunsoo Kim, Ito Koeda, Sabrina Li, Kasiani Mantziaris, Daniel Molinari, Jillian Pierce, Omer Raz, Christopher Shin, Tinomudashe Shumba, Grace Yin, and TehSeop Yoon; **Level III: 1<sup>st</sup> Place--Camille Lederer,** Maya Ben-Ari, Eleni Kalas, Hilary Kim, Alexa Miller, Kate Roglieri, Michelle Schipilliti, Priyanka Sinha, and Devon Wallman; **Level IV:** Marc Balderacchi, Kaitlyn Espiritu, Erena Inoue, Talia Krummerman, Mayumi Ohashi Chuapoco, Emily Press, Hailey Ryan, Ah Young Shin, Alison Zhitkov, Nadav Ziv; **Level V:** Miruna Baciuc, Joyce Chen, Susan Distler, Athena Dulot, Chelsea Glasser, Rebekah Hess, Gal Nissan, Emma Parish, Michelle Phillippi, Juli Hyatt, Divya Menon, High Patterson, and Akane Takebayashi. On the National Spanish Exam, many THS students achieved the "Oro" or "Gold" ranking nationally and several students placed at the top of their categories among all New Jersey High Schools. The winners on the National Spanish Exam are as follows:

**Level II:** Molly Egleston, Derek Kim, Emmanuel Kim, Maya Kominsky, Abigail Pomeranz, Cameron Sachs, Alexa Weiss, Kathryn Zheng

**Level III:** Alexios Avrassoglou, Omri Goldberg, Ryan Horowitz, Caroline Lee, Claudia Sindoni, Emma Singh, Olivia Westfield, Angela Youn, Rebeca Zapiach

**Level IV:** Benjamin Altschul, Kevin Chen, Sakura Eguchi, Zachary Friedman, Josh Gole, Danielle Twiss, Ines Greenway, Ben Tauber

**Level V:** Maya Amitai, Melissa Hoffmann, Vivian Kim, Una Rafferty, Benjamin Wenzelberg, Paul Greenway

**Level VI:** Camryn Bolkin—1<sup>st</sup> Place.

THS students also performed well at the annual William Paterson Poetry Contest held on May 18<sup>th</sup>. In advanced Chinese, Kangyi Liu placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and Yohan Shin took 1<sup>st</sup> place in advanced ELL. In French, Ito Koeda took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the intermediate category and Miruna Baciuc placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the advanced category. Hyun Seo Do earned Honorable Mention in the advanced Korean category and Emma Sindoni placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in intermediate Spanish.

As students prepare for the final weeks of school, many will engage in final assessment via traditional final exams or via the Integrated Performance Assessment model in their language class. This method of assessment allows students to demonstrate their ability to perform in the target language across the modes of communication. Teachers have developed these 3-part assessments that gauge

progress in their reading/listening comprehension, interpersonal speaking, and presentational writing skills.

### Special Education Fine and Practical Arts Department

The Staff of the Special Education Department are extremely proud of The Class of 2017 and look forward to learning of their future accomplishments. We will miss you! Students in our new elective course taught by Mrs. Haggerty, and others who were interested, attended a presentation on the use of public transportation through a partnership with Rutgers, coordinated by our SLE, Mr. Mullen. Students will apply their knowledge as they attend an upcoming field trip. In our final Department meeting of the year teachers participated in an EdCamp where they shared educational technology applications with one another, including Virtual Reality View Masters, Snap & Read, uPAR and Polleverywhere software.

### Arts Initiative

The goal of the Tenafly Public Schools Arts Initiative is to foster meaningful conversation



of relevant topics in today's society. Using Art and Music as the mediums for initiating the conversation, students will be able to discuss topics or themes

that relate to what's going on in our world today.

### The theme for this year's initiative is LOVE.

Since the concept of love is so broad and overarching, we feel it is a theme that can resonate with all of our students. By focusing on this theme, we feel that the positive message of love can overcome many of the negative things that students are exposed to on a daily basis.

### Music

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders came together to perform "Can you feel the love tonight?" by Elton John as the culminating music project for our Arts Initiative. This was the first time that Tenafly had



gathered these grades together (approximately 515 students!)



to do a performance. Special thanks goes to Mr. Jim



Millar for conducting the group, and to all of our district music teachers for making this historic event possible!

### **Visual Art**

On May 18<sup>th</sup> we held a district art exhibit based on the theme of "Love". Selected works from all of the schools were on display in the Library Media Center's 2<sup>nd</sup> floor exhibit space. Below are some pictures of the exhibit:



Thank you to all of our district art teachers for making this event possible!

### **Athletics**

#### **Boys Track**

Ben Stein – North 1 Group 3 Sectional Champion in the long jump.  
Ben Stein placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the triple jump.  
Matt Soffer placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the 400 M Hurdles.

#### **Girls Track**

Lexi Del Gizzo – North 1 Group 3 Sectional Champion – 800 m  
Group 3 Champion – 800 m  
Jordan Mayo – North 1 Group 3: 100 M – 4<sup>th</sup> place  
200 M – 6<sup>th</sup> place  
Emma Bergman – North 1 Group 3: 800 M – 8<sup>th</sup> place  
Colleen Aslami – North 1 Group 3: High Jump – 8<sup>th</sup> place

#### **Boys Tennis**

BNC National Division League Champs  
North 1 Group 2 Sectional Finals  
Led by Captains Ethan Schiffman, Max Gottlich, and Jay Choi

#### **Baseball**

Finished with a 12-9 record and qualified for the State and County Tournaments.  
Led by Seniors Jack DeSalvo, Aljo Sujak, Kento Fakuda, and Aaron Gally.  
Aljo Sujak selected 1<sup>st</sup> team all-county and state all star game.

#### **Softball**

Led by Seniors Kiana Lim and Stephanie Schiller.  
Sophia Gottdiener – 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-League Pitcher  
Samantha Lawrence – 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-League Outfielder  
Silvia Acosta – Honorable Mention All-League  
Stephanie Schiller – Honorable Mention All-League

#### **Girls Golf**

Led by Captain Ye Na Jeon

#### **Boys Golf**

Jacob Lim selected 2<sup>nd</sup> team all-county.

#### **Girls Lacrosse**

Completed their first season as a varsity team and finished with a league record of 2-5. The

young Tigers were led by Senior Evelyn Ha.

#### **Boys Lacrosse**

Completed their third varsity season and the first in the league finishing with a 5-3 league record and 8-9 overall. Tigers were led by 2<sup>nd</sup> team all-county Alon Berkowitz and honorable mention Zach Limbardo.

Go Tigers!!!!

### **School Counseling**

Congratulations to the class of 2017! Our seniors are getting ready to graduate and plan to attend college in 28 different states and 6 different countries! Some of our students will be serving in the military, while others pursue their dreams in sports, music and volunteering. We wish them all happiness and success in all their future endeavors.

Ms. Patterson, with the help of Ms. Thomas and Mrs. Weisfelner hosted our first College Case Study Night on Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup>. The evening was extremely well attended and was highly informative and enjoyable. Parents and students were randomly placed with one of the college admissions counselors-the admissions counselors came from Ohio State, George Washington University, Franklin and Marshall College, Dickinson College, Lehigh University and SUNY Binghamton. Each group read and discussed the same three case studies-groups were given an hour to decide which student to admit, deny or waitlist and then the groups

reconvened in the library to share their decisions. The evening was very enlightening for everyone involved and the insights garnered by everyone on how admissions counselors read a student file were invaluable.

Counselors are working with students on their schedules for next year. There is lots of buzz and excitement about the new rotate and drop modified block bell schedule. Students who are used to taking a non-traditional lunch will no longer have that option as there is one unit lunch for everyone. Finalized schedules will be available in late August via the Genesis parent portal.

Congratulations and best wishes to Joseph Santoro who is retiring at the end of June after 40 years in public education. He will be missed by everyone.

### **Support Services**

#### **TEENS AT THE WHEEL: TIPS FOR PARENTS**

Prom, graduation and summertime are fast approaching— a great time to review with your teen driver the rules of the road and to emphasize driving hazards to avoid. According to the National Safety Council, teen drivers who continue to review important driving safety practices and rehearse driving with their parents increase their chances of avoiding a crash. Driving for the first time opens up a whole new world for teens — one of freedom and independence, but also added responsibility. Auto accidents remain the leading cause of

death among teens in the U.S. Although a teen may have already earned his/her driver's license, parent conversations with him/her about safe driving should be ongoing.

Helping a teen driver to become both confident and competent on the road can be challenging and somewhat nerve-wracking for many parents. Driving schools may provide the basic skills needed to pass a driving test, but according to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) parents are the key to a teen's adopting safe, defensive driving practices. Parents should model safe driving practices for their teens, practice driving safely with them and frequently remind them of driving safety tips and what to do in the event of an accident or emergency on the road. The CDC additionally recommends that parents create a parent-teen safe driving contract which clearly outlines parent rules/boundaries for driving, underscores the hazards or distractions to avoid and includes expectations, limits and consequences for breaking the rules. Remember though that if rules are made, they should be enforced. Parents may also want to look at the CDC's website to view a sample Parent/Teen Safe Driving Contract and/or inquire with an auto insurance company about a teen "safe driver" program.

To further address the topic of driving safely, the pre-prom program at THS this year will focus on the dangers of driving while being distracted and/or under the influence. The senior students will experience a

DUI/Distracted Driving Re-enactment followed by a presentation led by the Bergen County Prosecutor's office and a special guest speaker.

In addition to high school driver's education classes and special programs/presentations on driving, listed below are several driving tips that are recommended for our senior student drivers which parents may want to review and reinforce with their teens:

- Adjust your seat, seatbelt, mirrors, etc. before setting the car in motion
- Always wear your seat belt and make sure your passengers are also properly buckled
- -Obey the speed limit and other traffic laws at all times — especially around school zones
- Abide by the New Jersey Graduated Driver License Program's restrictions (decal requirement, nighttime driving restrictions, limited number of passengers, etc.)
- Minimize distractions — do not talk on the phone or text while driving, turn the music down and/or minimize conversations with passengers if it is distracting to your driving
- Drive with caution in unfavorable conditions — rain, ice, snow, potholes, traffic
- Be alert at all times — do not drive if you are not well-rested
- Never use alcohol or drugs and drive and do not ride with anyone who has consumed alcohol or drugs

- Regularly maintain your vehicle; carry emergency kits and first aid kits
- Remember to have your license, car registration and updated insurance card with you
- EXERCISE CAUTION AT ALL TIMES!
- Driving is a privilege that can and should be withheld or revoked by parents wary of their teen's ability, preparedness or willingness to drive safely. Teens wishing to exercise that driving privilege should exhibit the appropriate level of maturity, sense of awareness, responsibility and self-regulation in order to be permitted to get behind the wheel. Parents should remember that they are the ones in charge.

Safe driving!

Have a happy, healthy and safe summer!

### **Library Media Services**

Tenaflly High School's library media center was pleased receive a substantial donation of equipment from NBC Universal. Earlier this year 9th grade parent Clarence Hau, an NBC Universal executive visited our library's broadcasting facility. A few weeks ago we received a correspondence from him stating that some equipment has become available. Subsequently we picked up the valuable equipment to include encoders, monitors, servers, audio equipment, converters, and even road cases from Saturday Night Live and microphone stands from the Jimmy Fallon

Show. Our plan is to integrate this equipment into our existing control room this August. Students will assist in this endeavor and learn about the function of the each piece and how to properly install and integrate them into our existing broadcast structure. Many thanks to parent Clarence Hau and NBC Universal for making this possible.

In the final days of the 2016-2017 school year a small group of seniors are busily at work completing the video yearbook under the direction of Mr. Steve Moger. Seniors Colin Colchamiro, Declan Farrell, Xander Trop, Rekah Hess, Ofek Nahar, Demi Yona, Jude Zeino placing the finishing touches on a work of art composed in the video medium. Each senior will receive a copy thanks to the Project Graduation Committee.