Santa, We Been Good!

It’s been an excellent first quarter. Inside see all the reasons why Santa is going to be nice to THS.

See The THS Calender for other events too numerous to list here.
In Class & Out,

THS EXCELS!

Fall Quarter GPAs:
- 43% of all THS students have a B average or better! Nearly 75% have at least a C average.
- 84 students scored a 4.0 GPA!

Science:
The THS science clubs, The Bug Club and Outdoor Club, have had a busy fall with multiple field trips and studies. This year’s Bug Club consists of about 10 students learning proper collection techniques, and identification and photography of aquatic macroinvertebrates. Students also spent the day with a variety of volunteers observing salmon spawn, doing water chemistry tests, riparian mapping, and macroinvertebrate collection in the first-ever Thurston Salmon Watch. Finally, a group of sophomore biology students participated in the annual field trip to HJ Andrews Experimental Forest doing a variety of activities designed to measure ecosystem health.

All three football teams were winners this year and finished in the upper half of the league. The Varsity went 5 - 4, JV was 6 - 3, and the Freshman team was 8 - 1. It was a great year and the future looks very bright!
FOODS: The Cultural Foods students visited the Woodside Assisted Living facility to do a foods demonstration for the residents. They prepared Macadamia Nut Cookies and gave a short cultural presentation on the Hawaiian Islands. The students, pictured left, attending were Beth Teigland, Ken Knight, and Shyla Hardwick. Photo by THS Publications.

GERMAN: Last year, Thurston hosted 25 students from Neckartenzlingen, Germany. We are still looking for one or two host families this year. The Thurston/Springfield GAP Program is one of the Northwest's oldest exchanges between the same two countries - 17 years!

Each year, the German Club fulfills an ancient German tradition and helps homeless at the same time by making gingerbread houses and then donating them to Brethren Housing, Springfield’s homeless shelter for families. If you would like to help, we could use colorful candy or $1 towards the purchase of materials.

The German III-IV classes went to the zoo to celebrate completion of a unit on animals and nature. In addition, they translated a brochure for the Portland Zoo into German, the language most often used by their foreign visitors.

FRENCH: Hats off to Noelle Vaccio and the National French Week committee. They planned and launched their first celebration this year. Noelle was amazed at how wonderful the French students and club members filled in where needed and volunteered to help at every turn.
THEATRE:

The theatre department restaged William Mastrosimone’s newest play TAKE DOWN, BREAK DOWN in October after a successful run at the Very Little Theatre in Eugene over the summer.

In early November, the Acting Ensemble presented the annual Act 1 Festival, a collection of seven one act plays over two weekends. This year’s Festival featured over 50 students on and off stage and played to sold out houses four of the six nights.

Coming in January, QUILTERS, a rollicking musical blending a series of interrelated scenes into a rich mosaic which captures the sweep and beauty, the terror and joy of frontier life. Tickets will be available after winter break.

HOSA:
The "helping hands" of HOSA are alive and well at Thurston this year! Health Occupations students are showing their sharing and caring spirit in many ways this fall--from volunteering at Scream in the Dark and Festival of Trees to hosting a blood drive at THS and coordinating "The Gift of Love" for the residents at Marquis Care in Springfield. On Friday, Dec. 21, twenty to thirty HOSA students will spend an afternoon at Marquis, bearing specially chosen gifts and holiday wishes for the 70-plus residents of the nursing home. The students will also get to develop their leadership skills in the coming months, as Thurston hosts the Oregon HOSA southern regional showcase on January 19. In the spirit of fun, the helping hands of HOSA were visible on the streets of Springfield at the Springfield Christmas Parade December 8.

BAND:
The band picked up several awards this fall: Grants Pass Marching Championships - 2nd place overall. Top drum major award (Corey Lanini) University of Oregon Festival of Bands - 3rd place division A Northwest Marching
**CHOIR:**

The 13th annual "Ye Olde Christmas Feaste", will be Friday and Saturday, Dec. 14 and 15. Tickets are $14 for the catered dinner and show and are available in the main office, or from any THS choir member. There will be no tickets available at the door.

Madrigal dinners are basically Dinner Theater, with costumed cast members working from a script, portraying lords and ladies, knights, jesters, wizards, etc. This year's Feaste features a surprise visit from the Royale Jester's country bumpkin cousins - who think they're going to join their famous cousin in show biz!

After the scripted part of the feast, around 8:30 pm, all choirs will perform in a short seasonal concert. At that point, audience members may enter the cafeteria free of charge.

Jennifer Marks, Brandy Edwards & Julie Parr from last year's Feaste.

**SPEECH:**

Two of Thurston's seniors took home prize money in the recent Voice of Democracy Speech contest--speaking on "My Voice in America's Future." Krista Mickalson placed second, earning a $75 cash prize, and Angel Eiler placed 3rd, taking home $50.

**SPANISH:**

Seven THS students are going to Costa Rica this summer to work with Giant Sea Turtle preservation. We will be cleaning up beaches and recovering eggs so they can develop in a protected area away from poachers. Also, Spanish Club is doing an annual cookie drive. We seek donations of cookies for the Children's Fiesta, which is held at Jefferson Middle School on Saturday, Dec. 22 from 1-3. There is a Spanish speaking Santa Claus and gifts are given to children who are in need.

On the morning of November 14, over sixty-five students and their parents/guardians were our guests at a continental breakfast. This "Breakfast of Champions" honored some of Thurston's "Silent Champions." Sponsored in part by Pat Cummings of the Josten's Corporation, and in part by the administration of Thurston High, this event gave staff members an opportunity to honor one of their students for exemplary performance and/or attitude. We look forward to repeating the event in the winter and in the spring.

A selfless champion, Danielle Anderson grew her hair long so she could have it cut to donate for wigs for cancer patients. She was honored by Catherine Spencer & Merrie Olson.

A Ski Champion, Leland Broom has been selected for the 2002 National Junior Development Water Ski Team in the spring. He is ranked 2nd on the West Coast, 11th in the nation, and 23rd in the world.

Basketball Champions, Jenna and Shea Washington have signed at Division I schools to play Basketball. Jenna at Portland State University, and Shea at Montana State University.

by Dale Bachman, THS Asst. Principal.
The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC), located in Eugene, administers over 200 different private scholarships for Oregon residents seeking financial assistance for post-secondary education. Students can attend college in-state or out-of-state. Applicants can begin applying as a graduating high school senior and continue to apply each year throughout their college life.

If you did not attend Thurston's Financial Aid Night on December 4, the OSAC application booklet was distributed at that time. It provides directions and descriptions for each scholarship available. Students can also apply online after January 1st. OSAC's website is http://www.osac.state.or.us. Students need to include a copy of their 7th semester transcript (they must include the cumulative GPA through the first semester of the senior year), two short, one-page essays, and an activity chart (similar to a resume). The application deadline is March 1, 2002.

In addition to the OSAC scholarships, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) was also distributed at Financial Aid Night. There is a website for this application as well at http://www.fafsa.ed.gov.

The Thurston Career Center provides assistance to parents and students on many other scholarships, awards, and college admissions. Please contact Gail Lang, Career Center Coordinator, for more information at 744-5157.

Oregon’s financial aid experts will team up for Oregon Public Broadcasting TV's annual hour-long special, "Financial Aid For College." The program will offer crucial loan, grant, scholarship and savings plan information for college-bound students on December 11th at 8:00 pm on OPB TV. The program will repeat on Sunday, December 16th.

A panel of experts from the Oregon Student Assistance Commission and the Oregon Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators will answer toll-free calls from viewers from 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm. The information will be of interest to high school juniors and seniors, currently enrolled college students, Oregonians considering career changes, and parents and families of college-students-to-be. Spanish speakers will be available to take calls and answer questions.

"For most people, financial aid for college is a very confusing subject," said Gene J. Evans, OSAC Public Information Director. "Our long-time partnership with Oregon's financial aid directors and Oregon Public Broadcasting helps us deliver clear, accurate and timely information to the people who need it."

This year, the Oregon Student Assistance Commission will award $8.5 million to students through privately funded scholarships and $18 million to students under the Oregon Opportunity Grant program. The agency can be reached at (800) 452-8807 or online at www.osac.state.or.us.

Girl’s soccer finished a good season with a 9-3-4 record. Four players made league honors starting with Courtney Proden, 1st team all league. She had a total of 15 goals on the season and a great senior year. Three players made honorable mention: Kelly Sutherland (soph), Jessica Cardwell (soph), and Katie Kisor (sen).