

February 3, 2017

By now everyone has been informed of the situation that was reported by the news media beginning Wednesday evening. I think I can speak for all of us when I say I was shocked, saddened, disappointed, and concerned for the safety of our students and staff when news of Troy students overheard planning a school shooting was initially reported to me on Wednesday.

I am very grateful for the parent and students that saw and heard something, and reported the incident to the police and school. This is exactly what is supposed to happen, and because this parent and students did the right thing, the police, our school and our community were able to respond quickly and decisively, to alleviate this threat. By responding so quickly and decisively, we as a community are able to deal with the situation and able to maintain the confidence that our school, Troy High School, remains the outstanding place we know and love.

How do we move forward? We do so by recognizing that all of us share a common humanity. All of us share this community. Nobody is less than another, and all of us are important. Reach out to your fellow student, teacher, parent, community member. Know what is going on in their lives and show empathy, kindness, love, and care. We are all in this life together, and we all love our family, friends, school and community. I am proud to be a Warrior and have never been more proud of our community! Thank you all for doing what is best for all kids and our society. Thank you, thank you, thank you...



Last Saturday our Science Bowl team returned to JPL to defend their 2016 Regional Title in the National Science Bowl competition. I am happy to report that Troy successfully defended their Regional Championship! Troy teacher and Science Bowl coach, Ms. Nga Ngo provided some blow by blow accounts of the competition:

"They started competing at 8am and managed to go undefeated for the first round Robins against 5 other teams all the while knowing the big guns were coming for them in the afternoon round Robins. After lunch, our team went up against a team they already won (score 40 to our 106) and I believe they were slightly over confident and the score ended up 78 to our 48. It was a humbling moment and a good learning experience. Due to that loss, we had to go to the one loss bracket (basically the fight your way back up bracket) and that was a huge challenge. In the end it came down to Santa Monica, Arcadia, and finally UNI, all powerhouses in this competition. Our team rallied and remained calm as hundreds looked on. They took one question at a time and represented our school with pride. Next stop Nationals! We will be heading to Washington D. C. in April and try to bring home the national trophy. Please give them a high five if you run into them around campus."



Troy's 2017 Regional Science Bowl Champions!

Last weekend our Cyber Defense team was busy in a significant competition when they travelled to Cal Poly Pomona to participate in the Western Regional <u>*Collegiate*</u> Cyber Defense Competition. Cyber Defense coach, Allen Stubblefield wrote:

"Troy was the only high school invited to compete against 13 college teams from California and Arizona, including Stanford, Berkeley, Cal Poly Pomona and UC Riverside. Troy's team was a combination of our #1 JROTC and #1 open teams; they fought hard against a very intrusive red hacking team while trying to complete numerous "business requests" and maintaining 15 critical computer services on their virtual network. In the end, the college teams were better prepared and Troy came away very impressed at the high level of skill needed at the college level. It was good to see that Troy prepared our grads well for the college game. Cal Poly qualified that day for their regional competition in March - we wish them well!"



In additional Cyber Defense news, this week our NJROTC and Open Cyber teams both finished 2nd in California competition. By doing so they have earned a CP-IX AFA State Award by placing among the top three Cyber Defense teams in the State of California! They will be competing again this weekend and they are going for a shot at the National! Best of luck to these two wonderful teams and the additional ten teams that will be competing this weekend!

This Wednesday was *National Signing Day* for athletes destined to play sports at the next level in college! As you can tell from the photo on the next page, we have many students that have signed this winter to play in collegiate athletics next year! Congratulations to all these Troy student athletes that have not only excelled in the classroom, but on the playing field / courts as well! It is another part of being a great college candidate when the schools know that you are able to compete at a high level outside of the classroom. That you are able to manage your time to get the schoolwork done, but also represent the school in athletic competition is a huge plus!

For many of our students, athletics in college will also pay part or all of their tuition which will ultimately make them and their parents very happy!



National Signing Day Troy & Future College Scholar/Athletes!

On Thursday during break a special ceremony was held for first time ever at Troy High School! Troy Girls' Basketball player, Kianna Smith was recognized as a 2017 McDonald's All American Hometown Hero and named to the 2017 McDonald's All American Girls' Basketball Team. Congratulations to Kianna for being the first player at Troy High School to ever receive this prestigious recognition!



Kianna Smith and her basketball coach, Roger Anderson.



This morning at Raymond Elementary School I was honored to attend a surprise ceremony to honor our very own, Ms. Amy Jensen! As you can see from the photo, Ms. Jensen was honored at the 2018 North ROP Teacher of the Year for her work with the Principles of Teaching and Learning program at Troy High School. These Troy students that are in this class and pictured with Ms. Jensen are some of the future teachers of our children. Currently, our students in Ms. Jensen's class go to Raymond Elementary and work with the elementary students in the classroom. Ms. Jensen and our students are dedicated to their work, and the kids at Raymond really enjoy working with them! It was a really fun ceremony and congratulations Ms. Amy Jensen on a wonderful program and for this wonderful recognition!

Last but most certainly not least, we held our official Troy High School Aquatics Ground Breaking Ceremony at 10:00am. I do not yet have any pictures, they will be coming next week, but suffice to say the weather did not cooperate. That being said, it was a wonderful ceremony attended by our Board of Education, superintendent, Aquatics Boosters, many Troy parents, students, teachers, and community members. We also had a number of city, state, and national politicians or their representatives on hand to witness this important occasion. We are very excited for this new facility and we are very grateful to the members of our community for passing the bond which enables this project. The estimated completion date is this August, so while I appreciate the rain, we need Mother Nature to help out with the pool construction!



If you have not yet seen the Troy Theatre Production of *It Was a Dark and Stormy Night*, you have one more chance tonight! I had the opportunity to watch this wonderful production last night and it was terrific! The performances, the lighting, sound, and set design were the best I have seen in my three years here at Troy! They did a wonderful job and it is worth the price of admission! Tonight's performance and the last performance for this play begins at 7:00pm, so don't miss it!

Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy Super Bowl Sunday! Hopefully you will have the opportunity to watch the game and celebrate with family and friends. I always enjoy the commercials if not the actual game, although I think it will be a pretty close contest this year. Go Patriots! Take some time to rest, relax, count your blessings, then repeat. I will see everyone back here on Monday, February 6th! Have a great weekend, and don't forget Monday, is a late start day!

W.V. Mynster