



TROY HIGH SCHOOL WARRIOR WEEKLY



November 20, 2015

It is already Thanksgiving! Certainly we have much for which to be thankful, and I for one cannot believe we are already at the end of November. Not to stress anybody out, but when we return from our Thanksgiving holiday we have fifteen days until the end of the semester. I just thought this would be a good time to remind everyone to make the best use of the remaining time in the fall semester. 😊

Earlier this week, Assistant Principal, Ms. Laura Rubio put out an email to everyone welcoming our new LVN to Troy High School. Ms. Jessica Cowgill filled the position beginning on Monday when Mr. Mike Miller transferred full time to La Vista / La Sierra. Fortunately for us, Ms. Cowgill has an excellent educational background and work experience. She also has excellent references! If you get the chance, make sure you stop by the Main Office and introduce yourself as I am sure she would like to put faces with all the new names she is learning!

As we get into the full swing of the holidays, the Troy family takes part in various efforts to help those in need. As of Monday the ASB Troy Drive has already collected more than \$1500.00 for elementary children from our local feeder school districts. The ASB Troy Drive will pick up the collection cups from the classrooms again today. Additionally Counselor, Ms. Dionne Evans is also collecting gift cards in increments of \$5, \$10, or \$15 for members of our immediate Troy student family. While we live in an affluent area, approximately 19% of our students suffer economic hardship. This is not a large number, but it is almost 1 in 5 students and it is a certainty we know someone who has to deal with this, on top of their homework. I

love the holidays, and one of the most gratifying parts for me has always been doing for others, especially those in need.



In September, longtime custodian, 1976 Troy alum, and general great guy, Mr. Paul Hoffman, let me know of his intention to retire on November 19, 2015. Yesterday with Troy Staff, both present and retired, we held a small gathering in Paul's honor. For more than 30 years Paul has been a part of the Troy family both as a student and member of our staff. He is extremely visible, both working at school, or working and attending Troy athletic events. Five years ago Paul stated, "I go to three to five athletic contests a week, regardless of gender, because I know how important it is to our kids to see a familiar face in the crowd cheering for them." Paul is one of our core fans that travels to away games every chance he gets, and he knows our students appreciate him for taking additional time to support them.

In retirement, Paul plans to work more with the Special Olympics in which he has taken part both as a competitor and a spokesperson. He also has expressed an interest in working with elementary school children, something he has done in the past. However, in his immediate future, Paul plans on visiting his sister in New Orleans, catching up, and enjoying some fall /

winter weather in the Deep South. That being said, I don't think Paul will be gone for too long, and we will be seeing him regularly at our athletic events just like usual!



On Wednesday our Choir Director, Mr. Mark Henson, presided over the first Troy Women's Choir Festival. The festival was held at the Placentia Presbyterian Church and had both 9:00am and 1:00pm performances, albeit with different schools performing. Assistant Principal, Lance Bletscher and I were fortunate to attend part of the 1:00pm performance, and we were absolutely amazed at the quality of the choirs! More than fifteen high school choirs came to this event from throughout So Cal, and here is the list: Troy HS, Granada Hills Charter HS, Norco HS, Saugus HS, Rowland HS, Woodbridge HS, Irvine HS, Beckman HS, West Covina HS, Rosary Academy, Golden Vally HS, Segerstrom HS, Buena Park HS, Diamond Bar HS, Northwood HS, Walnut HS, and El Monte HS. Why did all these high schools show up to one of our first festivals? Because we have the legendary Mark Henson leading our choir and the Troy Women's Choir sounded fantastic! I strongly encourage everyone to attend the next choir performance. You will not be disappointed!

A couple of weeks ago, Math Teacher, Ms. Kasey Grant attended and gave a presentation at the CMC Math conference in Palm Springs. Along with a fellow teacher, Ms. Grant gave a presentation on Creating an Engaging and Dynamic Classroom. Ms. Grant's presentation was

interactive and the audience actually worked with some of the activities students would use. Of particular interest, the demonstrated lessons utilized components from all eight Mathematical Practice Standards. On a side note, I know her presentation was well done as an outside source, my brother Ray a math teacher at Arcadia High School, attended her session and enjoyed the presentation and the strategies therein.

In terms of additional support and training for our teachers, I hope everyone is taking advantage of the various Tech Support / Trainings we are offering during conference periods! On Wednesday, we offered more training on Google Site, and Google Classroom as we prepare to ultimately have 1:1 devices. The prospects for the new technology are exciting, but as we know electronic devices are only a tool. They do not replace outstanding instruction, but as we move further into the 21st century we have to know how to incorporate technology with how we interact with our students and our community. As a school with a strong technology backbone, I am very excited about the prospects, and I have seen glimpses of what our non-Computer Science classes are going to be able to do with technology in the future!

On Monday, English Teacher / Coach, Ms. Carrie-Anne Snipes tried out a new teaching strategy with her classes when she conducted a Socratic seminar in two classes on the novel, *Ethan Frome*. Our entire administrative team at some point made it down to her room to see her lesson, and it was impressive to see the level of discussion and discovery between the students. This strategy is also one that is touted by AVID as an effective strategy when guided by the expert in the classroom, the teacher. Does this strategy work for every lesson in every class? No. But there are no strategies that work for every lesson in every class. It is simply another effective strategy to help our kids learn. We have a great school and employ many great teaching strategies. If you have not tried out Socratic seminar, it is worth taking a look!

On Monday, by order of the President of the United States of America, Troy High School and the nation flew the flag at half staff as we took a stand with the people of France to reject the senseless violence from the terrorist attack on Paris last Friday. President Obama stated, "Friday's terror attacks were not just an attack on Paris; they were an attack on all humanity and the universal values we share, including the bonds of *liberté, égalité, and fraternité*. These values

will endure far beyond any terrorists or their hateful vision. The United States and our allies do not give in to fear, nor will we be divided, nor will anyone change our way of life. We will do whatever it takes, working with nations and peoples around the world, to bring the perpetrators of these attacks to justice, and to go after terrorists who threaten our people.”

As we begin our Thanksgiving holiday, know that we are fortunate to live in this country and have the opportunities we share. I am thankful to be an American, living, working, and contributing to a better world for everyone. We must reject extremism from all sides and recognize that incivility, intolerance, violence, and hate, are not values we desire to be instilled in our children. Thanksgiving is on Thursday. I plan on being thankful for so many blessings, but also recognize that I need to continue working for a better world, one devoid of actions such as those occurring in Paris a week ago.



Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Vacation! Enjoy the time off with family and friends! Don't eat too much, shop too much, or play/watch too much football! I will see everyone back here on November 30, 2015!

W. Mynster

