



Trojan Nation

December 2014

Letter from Administration

Welcome to this edition of Trojan Nation and hope you had Happy Holidays! There have been several starts to writing these “Words from Administration”; however, there are so many things to say, it’s difficult to know where to begin! First, this has been a terrific first semester! Is there one prominent aspect that can be used to define it? Probably not. However, the result is far greater than the sum of all the parts. Credit needs to be given to our students, who have shown on a day-to-day basis that getting to school, being on-time, and being responsible is critical to their success. Credit also needs to be extended to our teachers who care deeply about our students, care about the learning environment they help create, and maintain the belief and high standards in our students. Credit also needs to be extended to all of our resource staff who work so diligently to provide support and interventions to our students. Finally, credit goes to our parents who involve themselves with PTO and Site Council, and other activities who provide support. It’s all these parts working together that ultimately lead to overall success and achievement.

Congratulations to the 300+ students who were recognized for achieving the GOLD Standard and Silver Standards during the first semester. The GOLD Standard is defined as demonstrating excellent promptness (zero tardies), excellent attendance (zero unexcused absences), and excellent citizenship. The Silver Standard is defined as demonstrating very good promptness (zero tardy detentions), excellent attendance, and excellent citizenship. Frankly, these are very high standards and the number of students just outside these parameters would have more than tripled the number of students who qualified. Our recognition of these students is to say “Thanks!” and to promote positive attributes for future success in a college and/or career.

We look forward to continued success in the second semester. Please pay close attention to our website and our Facebook page for news and information.

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Newsletter designed and compiled
by Danielle Cottrell (Junior).

Department News

Math Department

With the winter break approaching, the math department is concentrating on finishing end of the semester requirements and beginning to prepare their students for the semester's culminating activity. It is during this time that students should remain focused and listen for hints from their teachers as to what to expect on their culminating activity. If your child is struggling, please remind them to visit with their teacher or visit the after-school tutoring program. During December, Topeka High will once again have two nights of Cocoa and Cram giving students another opportunity to receive some extra help on homework and other projects for their classes. In closing, the entire math department would like to wish all students and their families, as well as all staff and their families a very happy and safe holiday season.

English Department

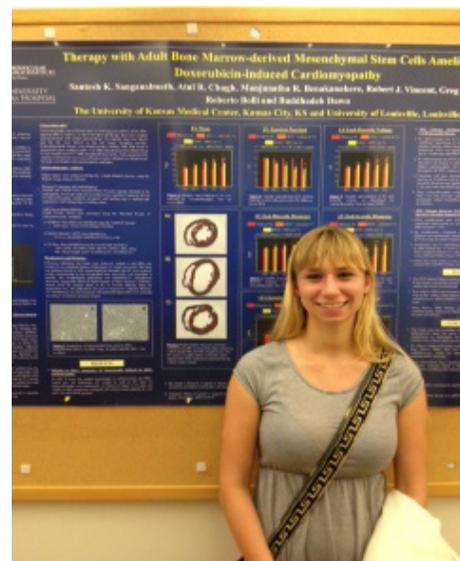
The THS AP Lit/Comp classes went on a field trip to Washburn on November 19th. They spent time learning about the library resources and hearing speakers connected to the books they are reading. Second hour, which is reading *Poisonwood Bible*, worked with Professor Karen Barron. Professor Barron spent time in Africa with the Peace Corps. Third hour, which is reading *Crime and Punishment*, heard from Dr. Gordon McQuere on the artistic context for the novel and from Dr. Sara Tucker on the history of Russia. Washburn also provided lunch for the students.

Science Department

Our goal across the science department is to increase each student's understanding of the world around them and give each student opportunities to see the "wonders" of nature. That's why our department mission is to "prepare all students for life with Science." Science is LIFE.

- L -- Live (Do)
- I -- Inquire (Ask why)
- F -- Find (Discover)
- E -- Engage (Learn)

On October 15th Chole Phillippe (Sr), Cheyenne Kahler (Sr), and Alexis Tibbits (Jr) participated in the KU Doctor for a Day program. For this year, program topics included a discussion/lecture on Sepsis, Rheumatology, Endocrinology, and how to matriculate to Medical School. Afternoon breakout sessions focused on Spirometry, Intubation, and Stem Cell Research. Also included in the events of the day were solving



medical mysteries, lunch with medical school students, and a faculty panel discussion revolving around career paths in medicine. Each younglady also received a KU Medical School shirt. All found the experience of great value and each wish to pursue a career as a doctor.

Computer Department

High Wage...High Demand...High Skill Wow! What a month!



Helen Crow – Parent volunteer (front, center) with female leaders in the computer classes who all got ChromeBooks (from left): Madison Sawyer, Teghan Beam, Destiny Emery, Kayleigh Arndt, Danielle Cottrell, Adrienne Cox, Abby Ostrander, Kaitlin Chestnut, Morgan Johnson



Danielle Cottrell, Mrs. Hageman,
Adrienne Cox (Washington D.C. trip recipient)

December 2

In an effort to expose more females to Coding computers, Google has put together a number of inspirational videos and coding projects for females to view and try. Google sponsored 6 schools across the nation to host a Made With Code Party. Topeka High parent, Helen Crow, spear-headed the event with help from a few girls. They picked up party decorations, packed snackies, blew up balloons and decorated the room. There were upwards of 75 females with about 20 male “hosts”, several administrators and media attending in Mrs. Hageman’s room. It was packed but was lots of fun!! The girls coded and learned about how coding can “change their world!” It was a smashing success! All girls received cool Google stickers, treats, and a canvas bag. The 9 girl leaders all got ChromeBooks compliments of Google!

December 4

Last fall, twelve female students participated in an all-girl international phone app coding project called Technovation (<http://www.technovationchallenge.org/home/>). That organization’s Program Director, Samantha Quist, nominated 3 girls to join 6 others from across the country to be ambassadors for the President’s Lighting of the Tree Event in Washington D.C. on December 4. Technovation chose Adrienne Cox as one of these girls for this honor! Google provided Adrienne an all-expenses paid trip to D.C.!!! They scheduled a full day of activities including meeting with high-powered young businesswomen who code. Adrienne got to take a tour of the Congress, meet Jerry Moran, Lynn Jenkins and John McCain. She was able to visit at Google’s D.C. office with Google programmers. And for the Lighting of the Tree event, she sat about 12 rows behind President Barack Obama and family for the entertainment portion of the event. After the Event, these Made With Code (<https://www.madewithcode.com/>) girls got to meet and get their pictures taken with some of the artists who performed there!

THS’s Web Site: ths.topekapublicschools.net

December 8-12

Hour of Code Week (<http://hourofcode.com/us>) is a nation-wide push for students to learn about coding. All of Mrs. Hageman's classes participated in this event, not just girls! There are a number of sites the students were able to explore to see how to do coding. There are easy sites geared toward novices and young children all the way up to quite challenging coding projects. Students learned programming concepts with Blockly or actually did programming in HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Ruby, Python, PHP and more! Students are encouraged to continue doing on-line programming as all the sites are free that were used.

December 16

Computer students learn skills with Adobe products in MultiMedia and Web Design classes, since many of these are industry-standard software packages. We also use these Adobe products extensively in our Professional Learning Experiences (internships). An Adobe Conference/Workshop was held in Topeka where there were people in the industry presenting cool features about Adobe products. Five students were able to go last year and 13 wanted to go this year so Mrs. Hageman asked local businesses and parents to see if they would be interested in helping the students go, financially. She was able to get funds for 10 students to attend plus one business provided us polo shirts to wear! THANKS to all who donated as this was a great learning experience for our students!

Chester Woodward Library

Library Open House – Wednesday, December 17

Food in the Library????Yes!!! Many marked their calendars and came to enjoy snacks and conversation in our very lovely AV room. There were treats and surprises for all who ventured to come in. We gladly accepted any little specialties and yummy goodies from those who wished to contribute, and we had lots of cookbooks if they needed ideas! Everyone was welcome from 7:30 to 2:30 on December 17th.

New AV materials this month (so far):

Nova – The Fabric of the Cosmos and

Nova – Fractals – Hunting the Hidden Dimension

We also have new ACT and SAT prep guides and other new books – ask about them!

Several of you have requested books or AV materials for use in your classrooms. We welcome these requests and order them as quickly as we can. It does take a while to get new materials, so plan ahead. Is there something you'll be wanting next semester? Don't wait – make your request know to us.

Check out this cool website for “The Best Science on the Web” www.sparticl.org

Another good one with hundreds of free educational videos is: www.watchknowlearn.org

Hope you had a great end of the semester and a wonderful Winter break!

The Topeka Public Schools, Unified School District No. 501 is committed to affirmative action and equal opportunity. No person shall, on the basis of age, race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, disability, national origin or ancestry be denied lawful access to any appropriate educational service, program or activity provided by the school district. The Title IX compliance coordinator is the executive director of administration. The Section 504 compliance coordinator is the general director of special services. For employment, the EEO/AA officer is the general director of human resources. All compliance coordinators may be contacted at 624 SW 24th Street, Topeka, KS 66611-1294, (785) 295-3000. The clerk of the Board of Education has been designated to receive and redirect or handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies, regulations and procedures. The clerk may be contacted by calling (785) 295-3045 or by writing to 624 SW 24th Street, Topeka, Kansas 66611-1294.