

# TORRANCE NEWS TORCH

*Lighting the Way to Torrance High School Since 1922*

**THS GIVES THANKS TO WHAT THEY HAVE THIS FALL**

## It's in the Can at THS

BY JOSHUA FLORES

*Editor-in-Chief*

Torrance High School held its annual canned food drive again this year, which takes place in the first half of November so that the donated canned food can be given to people in need prior to Thanksgiving. The canned food drive is sort of a legacy for THS and it is an important part of giving back to the community during difficult times.

The canned food drive began on November 1 and ended on November 18. During the drive, students would arrive on campus at the beginning of school to drop off cans at one of the three handy drop off locations.

This year's goal was to raise a total of 15,000 cans for families in need. Hopefully when counting is done, THS will have raised enough cans and more than the desired amount.

Spirit points were also a part of the canned food drive, with each class being able to earn spirit points depending on the number of cans donated by students from each class, with each can being equal to one spirit point. Whichever class donates the most cans also get the most

spirit points with the runner ups also earning some as well for their efforts.

For cans to be counted for spirit points each can must have had the graduation year of the person who is donating in order for it to count towards your grades spirit point count. Students could have also donated five individual ramen packets which count as one can or donated two small cans which also equate to one can, which is about 10-15 ounces in size. Some teachers even offered extra credit to students for donating to the canned food drive.

However, the canned food drive isn't just an opportunity to earn spirit points, it reminds us that during this time there are many things that we all take for granted. Across our nation millions of people each year struggle to put food on the table. Donating these cans helps many families to be able to put food on their table this Thanksgiving which is something that I think we should all remember this Thanksgiving.

## Little Litter Litters the Lump

BY CALEB FENTON

*Staff Writer*

When students and teachers look at the beautiful structures on our campus, we sometimes fail to look down at our feet and see all the immense amount of waste that flutters in the wind. This litter is almost at every corner of the school and sometimes we even see seagulls trying to eat the excess trash left over by students. We as students and teachers must make a change to end this horrible habit that many people have.

I asked the dean Mrs. Kaloper a couple of questions about this plague on our campus. The first question I asked was, why does she think students are leaving trash on the ground and not in the trash can? Since we need to find the root of this problem. We must see that most times, "students are distracted by their friends and literally forget to deal with their trash; some students are lazy and lack responsibility." In addition, some students feel like throwing away trash is more of a chore rather than a responsibility.

The next appropriate question is how does this litter affect us and our campus? We see that the litter on our campus makes, "It look like students don't take pride in our campus." This problem which we have with litter on our campus not only ruins the image of THS but the Torrance community.

## Football Wins at THS

BY CALEB FENTON

*Staff Writer*

The Torrance High School Varsity Football Team was filled with determination and tenacity for victory, which made it able for them to reach the CIF SS playoffs. Their whole season was full of trouncing victories, but the playoffs proved much to be desired.

In the end, the THS football team never fell short of their team philosophy of always having a humble spirit and always finding room to improve themselves.

Our CIF playoffs started and ended with Vista Del Lago High School. They started off strong but knee injuries hindered their success. Our team is like a machine; all the parts must function properly.

One life lesson here: even the best fall down. But there is a fall, that means we were somewhere in the game. Falling to the bottom means

A good following question was, what would be an appropriate punishment for students who litter? The district has thought about making the students who do litter have an "After school detention to spend 45 minutes doing campus beautification" If this disciplinary punishment doesn't teach the student they would consider, "a Saturday School detention, which is four hours on a Saturday."

However, sometimes a punishment isn't the only way to spread a message, so I asked what would be another good way to stop students littering and how could we spread this message? One action the school is doing is telling them, "Custodial team to be strategic with trash can placement." This means the school will purchase more trash cans and will be placed in more areas.

We as students should take pride in our school's campus. Throwing trash in the trash can is the only appropriate place where our trash should be. We shouldn't walk outside and see seagulls eating pieces of trash left behind by inconsiderate students. We must do the right thing and throw away our trash in the rubbish bin.

coming from the top. Our team knows there's always a possibility for loss, but they should always focus on winning.

This year's season showed the team's spirit of progression. They changed the narrative about the THS football team. Even through all the hardships and setbacks caused from the damages of 2020, our team stood strong and made more than an effort to be victorious in every one of their games.

Falling down differs from staying down; that is the real failure. They should never take their minds off victory.



The THS Football Team huddled.  
Photo courtesy of @torrancefootball via Instagram



## Vaccines...for Kids

BY JOSHUA FLORES  
*Editor-in-Chief*



A child receiving a dose of the Covid vaccine.  
Photo Courtesy of Shawn Rocco

The CDC has decided to approve the use of COVID vaccines for children between the ages of five and eleven. It is estimated that 28 million children are within the age group and eligible to get the vaccine. This approval came four days after the Food and Drug Administration approved emergency use authorization of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for ages five through eleven.

According to the American Academy of Pediatricians, "Children ages 5-11 years will be vaccinated with two 10-microgram doses administered 21 days apart. The dosage is one-third of the adolescent and adult dose," making the doses determined by age and not size.

In a study conducted by Pfizer of 2,268 children found that the one-third vaccine dose for children was 91% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19. The FDA also examined 3,100 vaccinated children to conclude the vaccine was safe. The study was not large enough, however, to detect any rare side effects that may occur from getting the vaccine.

There have been more than 8,300 coronavirus-related hospitalizations of kids ages 5 to 11, with about one third requiring intensive care, according to Lauren Neergaard and Mike Stobbe of AP News. There have been at least 94 deaths from COVID in ages 5 to 11, according to the CDC. Both COVID-19

hospitalizations and deaths are lower in younger ages than older ages.

The CDC claims that for every 500,000 children vaccinated, an estimated 18,000 to 58,000 COVID-19 cases and 80 to 226 hospitalizations in ages 5 to 11 can be prevented, depending on how the pandemic progresses.

Pfizer is currently testing vaccines for those under the age of 5 and expects conclusive data to be available by the end of 2021. China also began administering vaccines to those under the age of 12, with vaccinations for 3 year olds beginning to take place.

Some cities, like San Francisco, will require children ages 5 to 11 to show proof of COVID vaccination for some indoor activities. According to Jean Lee of nbcnews.com, children ages 5 to 11 must show proof of vaccination to "access indoor activities,

like restaurants, gyms and sporting events," in order to push down cases.

It remains to be seen how many children will be vaccinated and how long it will take to vaccinate children in the US. Hopefully, getting the vaccine for children is a choice rather than something parents are forced to do in order for their children to do basic things like eating out at a restaurant. We can only wait and see what will happen as children get vaccinated.

## Marching into First Place

BY ANZU Ogawa  
*Staff Illustrator*

Congratulations to the Torrance High School Band and Colorguard for winning first place at their competition at Don Lugo High School. Our small and mighty band is better than ever, taking first place in all of the competitions. All THS sports, including band, were postponed last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so it is gratifying to see them performing again on the field.

At the competition at Don Lugo High School, students won three out of the five caption awards as well, which are given to the band with the highest score in specific criteria, such as music and visual performance.

In the competition at Vista Murrieta High School on October 30, they were able to win all of the caption awards, which is very impressive because it means they outperformed all the schools in all the categories for which they were judged.

School bands are put into certain divisions depending on the number of members. The THS Band and Colorguard are in Division

1A, which is the smallest out of all divisions and the largest is division 5A. The scores tend to be lower in the smaller divisions, but the band was able to beat three out of four bands in division 2A and two out of the six bands in division 3A. They are also ranked second in California for division 1A, which is the highest they have placed in years!

The THS Band and Colorguard's last tournament, Western Band Association Regional Championships, will be held at Trabuco Hills High School on November 13. The TUSD 2021 Marching Band Showcase, or Friends and Family Night, will be held on November 15 at Zamperini Stadium. Make sure to be there to see their last performance of DUEL and to participate in a tribute of their success so far, and it's only the beginning!



THS Colorguard posing for a photo.  
Photo Courtesy of Torrance High School Marching Band & Colorguard Facebook.



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## Vandalism on Campus

BY JOSHUA FLORES

Editor-in-Chief

Attending school is something that all of us have to do at one point or another. It may be enjoyable for some, but for others, not so much. Despite having different feelings about school, one thing I think we can all agree on is that there is no benefit to vandalism on campus for anyone ever, especially if it leads to a bathroom being closed.

Vandalism doesn't only tell us about the character of the person committing it but it also says something about our campus as a whole. Our campus should be a place where students can come to learn and acquire knowledge helpful to their future ambitions, instead of a place where you can't even go to the bathroom when you need to because they are closed.

Probably one of the most annoying things in school is when you have to go to the bathroom but the bathroom closest to you is closed. So you have to walk all the way to another part of campus just to relieve yourself, which wastes time that could be used to do more productive things.

In the rash of these dismal disasters, what is the school admin doing to prevent vandalism? "We are monitoring the restrooms as often as possible and shutting down restrooms, as

needed," Mrs. Kaloper opined. They will issue Saturday School detention as well as retribution to the school from the offender if caught for the damage caused.

There must be a reason for the uptick of offenses to the school property. "I think social media challenges have encouraged the vandalism and graffiti," Ms. Kaloper mentioned. "It seems to be a problem across the nation." Ms. Kaloper plans to close more restrooms so they can keep a better eye on the restrooms.

Students can anonymously report if they notice anything suspicious happening in the restrooms. If a student notices fresh graffiti, report it to the dean. Marker stench is a clear clue to vandalism.

"This is your school," Mrs. Kaloper finished. "The students should protect it and take pride in it." Here's a link: <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/say-something-tips/>

Regardless of what any authority figures have to say about the matter, vandalizing bathrooms at school should not be an issue. We as students should be telling our peers not to be vandalizing our school bathrooms for our own sake and for the sake of our prosperity.



"CLOSED DUE TO VANDALISM" sign outside the door of A Building Bathroom. Photo Courtesy of Joshua Flores

## Something Therapeutic

BY ANZU OGAWA

Staff Writer

Torrance High School has therapists on staff to give students social and emotional support. TUSD recently increased the number of clinicians and there are currently two full-time therapists and two social work interns at our school.

Joanna Frank, one of the full-time therapists on our campus, was very helpful in supplying information about this important practice.

"Therapy is a space for individuals to receive support, guidance, and a place for individuals to process their feelings and experiences," Ms. Frank explained.

Each session is tailored for the student's unique needs, and there is no set way an individual is treated. What is stated and expressed in therapy is private and confidential, and the therapists will not share private information with teachers or other staff.

Therapy is for everyone, but especially for those who are having difficulty. Ms. Frank mentioned that "a person does not have to be in a crisis or encounter a trauma in order for them to benefit from talking to a professional."

A student can go to therapy when the need arises. There are students who go to therapy once a month or so to monitor their mental health, just like going to a physician or dentist.

There are many ways to contact the therapists. Students can refer themselves or their friends, or they can come to the counseling office to make an appointment. Students can also email the therapists directly: [Frank.Joanna@tusd.org](mailto:Frank.Joanna@tusd.org) or [Angele.brianna@tusd.org](mailto:Angele.brianna@tusd.org).

There is help for those who are struggling or just want some clarity. It's best to remember there is support available and there are individuals that care about students and their well-being. And, as Ms. Frank said, "You are not alone."



The Therapy Room at THS. Photo Courtesy of Anzu Ogawa

## CCC at THS

BY LOVE INOUE

Staff Illustrator

What are some of the things you'll be able to do in high school? Driving your own car? Studying for exams? One of the most exciting things you can do is to get a part-time job after school. However, for many high school students, part-time jobs are an unknown world. With this in mind, I interviewed Ms. Jenna Mendoza, the Career Counseling Coordinator for Torrance High School, for those who are interested in finding a job or want to start early on a career path.

First of all, I asked her for an overview of part-time jobs for high school students. Students often look for jobs in the Job Bulletin, which is published through the California Community Colleges, or the CCC. Ms. Mendoza explained: "...many students find out about jobs through referrals from their friends." Ms. Mendoza also said high school students are more likely to be hired by fast food chains, retail stores, and various local stores such as Kings Hawaiian and McDonalds. In retail, many students can find work at the Del Amo Fashion Center clothing stores. Children's entertainment spots, such as Chuck-E-Cheese, John's Incredible Pizza, and South Play also often hire high school students.

When seeking employment, high school students need to consider balancing work with their studies. Ms. Mendoza said if students are able to balance the responsibility of having a job, then they should definitely try it. She recommends only part-time work. Once grades begin to decline, it may be best to

reduce hours or reconsider the job altogether. Our school is strict about failing classes, so it requires a GPA of 1.6 or above for a work permit.

Ms. Mendoza also talked about the time she was working while she was in high school. She used to work at a local breakfast spot; her shifts were weekends, mornings, and holidays. Her grades were not greatly impacted. She said, "I feel like it can be a hard adjustment at the very beginning, but having a job can teach you how to be organized, how to multitask, and learn valuable skills that you can carry into college, your next job, or your future career."

Ms. Mendoza gave advice for students who already have a job. "Work hard, advocate for yourself - especially when the work conditions are unfair. Speak up when you need help." And for students who are struggling with a difficult manager, she also advised them: "remember it is not always personal. It helps to pay attention to what they value - then you can get a better idea of 'how' to work with their personality."

If you are struggling with anything about your career, or any questions you have about college, especially for seniors, students can make an appointment to speak with Ms. Mendoza in the Counseling Office. The November Job Leads will also be sent to students through the College & Career Newsletter. Now, get to work!

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# 4 Special Interest

November 18, 2021

## Thanksgiving by the Letters

BY CALEB FENTON  
Staff Writer

November is one of the only months that people associate with food and thankfulness. Some even associate the whole season with Thanksgiving, and how we should be thankful if we have all or in want. But not everyone celebrates Thanksgiving in the same fashion, so there should be a variety of traditions and celebrations employed in America on the fourth Thursday of November.

Sophomore James Lopez reported one of his family's traditions is watching their first Christmas movie of the year together on that day. Then they enjoy a feast of roast duck, instead of the traditional turkey, which is a unique practice his family has done for 90 years!

Junior Grayson Failia has a different twist on the holiday which takes two days to celebrate. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving, his whole family comes together and

consumes their "appetizer," then they bed down for the night. On Thanksgiving Day, Grayson and his family usually play family games out of doors, such as volleyball or softball. After building up an appetite, they graze on a huge Turkey and Mashed potatoes dinner. Yummy!

Freshman Jacob Shmoogah has a family tradition where every Thanksgiving he and his family go to the beach to enjoy a Thanksgiving repast. His family stays on the beach from 1:00 PM until 11 o'clock at night! This is so unique because they cook the entire Thanksgiving meal right there on the beach! Talk about your sandy seasonings!

We should be thankful, at the very least, for the traditions we have that have been passed down for generations or will be instituted on this Thanksgiving Day.



Thanksgiving Display on a beach in North Carolina.  
Photo Courtesy of [ncbrunswick.com](http://ncbrunswick.com)

## Best Movies to Watch Thanksgiving Night

BY LOVE INOUE  
Staff Illustrator

Thanksgiving will soon be here. The most common way to enjoy it is to eat turkey and feast with family, but what do you do afterward? This time, I'm going to show you some movies to watch on Thanksgiving night! This article will make your holiday more exciting.

Let's start with "The Devil Wears Prada," a 2006 American comedy-drama film based on the novel of the same name by Lauren Weisberger.

Set in New York City, the story is about a girl who dreams of becoming a professional journalist and starts working as an office clerk at the fashion magazine Vogue.

At first, everyone treats her badly, but as she grows rapidly, so does her job at work. Some human dramas are going between her and her partner, and old friends. This film should be seen by students and their parents who are worried about their future.

The next movie is "WALL-E," a Pixar fiction film made in 2008. In the 29th century, the Earth has been abandoned by mankind and is filled with garbage. WALL-

E, who has been quietly disposing of garbage for 700 years, meets and falls in love with a girl robot named EVE. He is trying to get EVE's attention somehow but there is a struggle between humans and robots.

People who're looking for romance, but also children who can enjoy movies definitely should watch this!

Finally, I brought the Thanksgiving-themed film. "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving". Based on a popular comic strip Peanuts, by Charles M. Schulz.

On the day of Thanksgiving, Charlie Brown and his friends are getting ready for Thanksgiving dinner with his grandmother. The happy and funny day of Charlie Brown is fun to watch with your siblings, and parents after dinner.

There are other countless movies to watch on Thanksgiving night. Bring popcorn, and a cup of coffee, and enjoy your favorite night with your favorite people!

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Joshua Flores

**For Ad Inquiry:**  
[newstorch@gmail.com](mailto:newstorch@gmail.com)

**Torrance High School**  
2200 W. Carson St.  
Torrance, CA 90501

**Staff Writers**  
Caleb Fenton  
Joshua Flores  
Love Inoue

**Staff Illustrator**  
Love Inoue

**Advisor**  
Mr. J. Parker  
Bostwick

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