

# ***Tolland High School Weekly Bulletin***

## **8-29-16**

### **Operation Gratitude Email Responses**

On Tuesday, May 24, 2016, Tolland High School students and staff came together for a common purpose to show our support for our military personnel. During an advisory session, students worked together to pack 1,014 care packages and make 910 paracord bracelets. The school-wide event was orchestrated by Tolland DECA students and benefited Operation Gratitude, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Care packages consisted of hygiene products and other small items. As shown in the picture below, a business card was placed in the care packages and we received several responses over the summer months from active duty personnel who are deployed.



Below are four the emails we have received:

*Tolland High School students and faculty,*

*Good evening to you all back in the states(as I am writing this it is 8pm EST)! My name is Philip Caruso and I'm a Petty Officer First Class currently assigned to Commander Carrier Strike Group Ten, home ported in Norfolk, VA. My unit and I are currently deployed onboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. Unfortunately I am unable to tell you where we are at this time for security reasons but I'm sure you could google it and figure it out...lol.*

*Thank you very much for the bag of supplies you sent to Operation Gratitude that made its way to me (wherever I am in the world)! We have been deployed for just about two months and I have yet to receive any other mail yet. So, this was an awesome surprise! In the Navy the mail is extremely slow as you can imagine, but my wife says she mailed me a package last month, it should be getting here this week (crossing my fingers).*

*Thank you all again!*  
*Very Respectfully,*  
*OS1(SW) Philip Caruso, USN*

***To whom it may concern,***

***I am writing in response to a care package I received while serving overseas on board USS SPRUANCE DDG111. It included a business card with this email address on it requesting for an email. I would like to thank the individual(s) who took the time to participate in such a program. It brings a lot of morale and happiness to receive even a letter from a stranger. Words of encouragement and small snacks or hygiene products were just a bonus. I wanted to let you know your efforts of support didn't go unnoticed and your support is valued.***

***A little bit about myself, I am 20 years old and I grew up in Indiana. I am now serving for the United States Navy and joined when I was 18 and two weeks out of high school. I joined to give my time and talent to the country. I am a third class petty officer cryptologic technician. I love my job and have two years left on my contract. I recognize that the email includes DECA; I am familiar with the program and am glad you are investing your time while in high school to learn such valuable topics.***

***Thanks,***  
***CTR3 Rebecca Lennex***

*Thank you,*

*I am FC2 (SW) Crowley; I wanted to thank all of you for putting together and sending the care packages that came to my ship not long after we deployed. I've been in the Navy for 5 years now, on my second ship and my third deployment. I am about to re-enlist for another 6 years near the end of this one. As one without much familial support it means a lot to get a package or letters while we are gone. The internet is not all that great, phone calls are possible but only when certain equipment is up even when you do get to call home it's dead obvious people are listening and monitoring your calls. It's almost like back when there was a switchboard actually manned by people that patched you through to the person you want to talk to. The connection isn't the greatest and it's rather hard to hear anyone on the other side. We only get the one phone for all several hundred of us to use, until we pull-in and are able to find and connect to the local internet.*

*My whole work center got one of your packages we are all grateful for your support; I loved all the letters, the new guy liked the stuffed animal he got. Getting those packages broke a lot of the building tension between us, consistently living and working with people with no break makes one irritable. I hope to hear back from you all.*

*V/R,*

*FC2(SW) Crowley*  
***Good morning Tolland High School,***

*My name is William Blythe and I am a United States Marine. I am currently deployed on the 22D MEU. I just want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for the care package that I have received the other day. You truly don't know how much spir(i)t and happiness you bring to troops that are currently deployed when they received packages. I just want to let you know that by doing that you are doing a tremendous thing for us overseas and while from our families. Some Marines don't have families so when they get packages like that they tend to appreciate it more than the next person. So once again from me and the Marines of 1st Battalion, 6th Marines we want to thank you for taking the time out of your day to make our days more enjoyable while deployed. God bless.*

*Very Respectfully,  
William S Blythe & the Marines of 1st Battalion, 6th Marines*

### **Day 1 Advisory - Important Documents**

Students will begin their first day of school in their advisory. Each student will be given an agenda planner as well as a school calendar. **Several important documents will be provided which must be returned to Block 1 teachers by Thursday, September 8.** These include the Student Handbook Awareness Statement located on Page 5 of the Student Handbook and the Student Emergency Procedures Information Form. Please ask your student for the information when they return home after the first day of school. Take the time to read through the handbook carefully to familiarize yourself with our school policies and procedures. To ensure we have accurate information on file in PowerSchool and with the school nurse, please update the demographic information and complete the health information on the Student Emergency Procedures Information Form. Other documents, such as the Free and Reduced Lunch and the Parking Permit Application (11th and 12th graders only), should also be submitted to 1st Block teachers as needed. Insurance forms are available on the district's main webpage or they may be picked up in the Tolland High School main office.

---

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

August 30 – Freshmen Orientation 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.  
August 31 – First Day of School  
September 5 – Labor Day – No School  
September 6 - Student & Staff I.D.s - 7:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
September 6 – 8 – Senior Portraits - 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
September 9 – Welcome Back Dance - 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
September 10 – Project Graduation Bottle Drive – Birch Grove  
September 13 – Open House – 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

September 19 – Booster Club Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

September 20 – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Program - 7:30 a.m. THS

---

### **FRESHMEN ORIENTATION**

All freshmen were mailed home an invitation to the orientation that will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. in the gymnasium. **Please plan on dropping off your student by 9:20 to ensure we start promptly.** It will end with a BBQ lunch. Students can be picked up at 12:15 p.m.

### **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

This is a full day of school. Students should report to their Advisory classroom (Block 5) to begin their day.

### **STUDENT AND STAFF I.D.s**

Underclassmen yearbook photos, along with student IDs, will be taken on Tuesday, September 6th.

Seniors who were **NOT** photographed over the summer have only a few more opportunities to have their senior portrait taken for the yearbook. The photographer will be in the auditorium from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on September 6 through 8 and then again on October 17 through 20. No purchase is necessary, however, there is a sitting fee. Seniors should have received a notice with the date and time of the portrait session. If you have any questions, please feel free to send an email to Sue Fontaine at [sfontaine@tolland.k12.ct.us](mailto:sfontaine@tolland.k12.ct.us).

### **OPEN HOUSE**

Our first Parent Open House for the 2016-2017 school year is scheduled for TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2016 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. On that evening, we run an abbreviated schedule of your child's classes from 7:00 p.m. to 7:55 p.m. At Parent Open House, you will have an opportunity to meet each of your child's teachers, gain an understanding of the curricula, and hear the teacher's' expectations.

Since the event is usually well attended, we encourage parents/guardians to arrive early. Student volunteers from both our Student Council and National Honor Society will be available at 6:15 p.m. in the cafeteria to distribute students' schedules. In the auditorium at 6:30 p.m., there will be a brief presentation regarding important

information about Tolland High School. Representatives from the Tolland High School Booster Club and Project Graduation will be present for both sign-ups and questions.

### **BOOSTER CLUB**

The first meeting of the year will be held on Monday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the THS main office conference room. Please join us and learn more about the exciting events planned for the year. If you have any questions, ideas, or comments, please contact Co-Presidents Diane Clokey at [dbclokey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dbclokey@sbcglobal.net) or Jenn Dineen at [jneccidineen@yahoo.com](mailto:jneccidineen@yahoo.com).

### **TOLLAND PROJECT GRADUATION**

Tolland Project Graduation Bottle/Clothing Drive will be held September 10, accepting items from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Drop-offs can be made at Birch Grove Primary at 147 Rhodes Road in Tolland. Community service hours are available for students and help from adults is appreciated 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., give an hour, two, or more. New this year in conjunction with our spring and fall bottle drives, we will collect gently used clothing, linen, shoes, sports apparel (uniforms, cleats, etc.). This is in conjunction with Charities of Hope. Thank you for your continued support of Tolland Project Graduation! Please email [tpg.bottledrive@gmail.com](mailto:tpg.bottledrive@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

### **TOPS SOCCER**

We are recruiting volunteer buddies (middle school and high school age) to work with our TOPS Soccer Division players. Soccer experience is not required; just a big heart, and strong desire to help other children achieve their dreams. We would love to have you join us as a volunteer buddy this fall. Please register with Lisa Bowden at 860-729-8466 or send an email at [lisabowden@comcast.net](mailto:lisabowden@comcast.net). TOPS takes place on Tuesdays from 5:45-7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:45-10:00 a.m.