

The Thorntonian

Remote Learning Edition

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The kitchen's still open!

By: Jade Henry

There are many people behind the scenes at T.F. North doing things for students that do not get recognized.

The new transition from in person schooling to online has been new to everyone. Students have been feeling this new transition and know the effects of it, and teachers have been experiencing it first hand as well. There are many people trying to help out with the new transition, such as teachers and parents, but who is behind the scenes doing what people do not see?

Throughout the school year, the cafeteria staff have been offering free lunches for families that need them. Some people rely on food from school every day and this opens up the chance to have that opportunity once again. Once the transition was in work, the cafeteria staff have been going out of their way to make lunches once again so students could be provided with food.

Cafeteria staff have been putting in their effort to prepare lunches every day, students have the chance to go to the school and grab lunches for them and their families. Mr. Rucinski, T.F. North's principal, notifies us of the cafeteria staff's duties writing "The cafeteria is staying busy preparing student lunches every day. We are able to provide lunches as "grab and go" pickup for any children, age 18 or younger, even if they aren't our students. With this option, the staff is still making hundreds of lunches a day, so they are staying busy. Additionally, we are delivering lunches to houses/apartments of families that sign up for delivery so a few of the cafeteria workers go out on buses to deliver the lunches



as well." Even with the work of making the lunches, some of the staff even deliver food to students' homes who can't come to grab it themselves. The staff travel on buses, giving food to households.

Mr. Rucinski comments that "They absolutely miss the students, and the building is extremely quiet, however they do still get to see some students as they come to pick up lunches or during the deliveries."

Next time when thinking about who helps students through these times and new adjustments, think about the cafeteria staff. They are not only helping students, but families all around, making sure that they don't have to worry about what's going to be put on the table for lunch, and even going the extra mile to give it to students who need it. Not all heroes wear capes, some wear aprons.

We be Clubin'!

By: Keishawn Craig

At T.F. North, clubs and activities are still in session even with the building closed. This has affected clubs in a multitude of ways--good and bad.

The transition has been hard for many groups, staff, and students throughout the building. How are the clubs doing? Starting with attendance and new members. According to Erik Perez of the Dreamers Club, "It has stayed constant. We wanted to grow the program this year but online has made it hard to accomplish that." Online learning has made expanding clubs to a bigger crowd difficult. According to Sabreena Ball of the Science and Environmental Club, "The number of members have not changed but attendance and participation have increased." In summary of the two responses it seems as if the number of members have not risen or fallen and because you can log in from home attendance and participation have increased, but since it's online it's been harder to branch out and lure new members in.

When introducing clubs this year virtually, many people wondered what would be the advantages and disadvantages. Erik Perez of the Dreamers comments that there is, "Definitely more negatives. It has made it harder to welcome and recruit new members. We are missing quality social interaction. Despite this, we have been able to plan a few successful events and have stayed on track to accomplish our goals for the year. The only positive is the flexibility that we have to have meetings at various times and days." It's been difficult but they've been prevailing through it and still getting efficient work done. Also Sabreena Ball said, "Both, a lot of

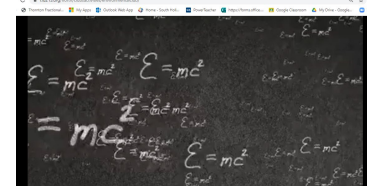
aspects of the club are a challenge such as science experiments and our SSC science competition, however I feel there is better attendance at my meetings because many club members are involved in a lot of activities and we changed our meeting time to the evening instead of right after school which means there are less conflicts." Her opinion shows the equity between negatives and positives as she states both good and bad to offset one another.



Since there has been a drastic change in the world itself, changes have to be made to keep clubs going. Erik Perez states that the Dreamers Club had to make changes by, "(...) add[ing] a google classroom for our club to keep everyone in the loop. We rely much more on social media and reminders to notify members and promote our club." The change from in person to online to be safer, but still work efficiently as a group." More changes are noticed by Sabreena Ball who states, "We are focusing on different aspects of the club instead of doing hands-on science experiments. We are now focusing on collecting data and submitting data to national databases and being present in national science projects. We are also working on UN sustainable development goals which focus on several different targets of improving the world." She gives great detail in how her club has changed their ways because of the new norms, but still perform their activities proficiently.

Although clubs and activities are held remotely and there are some modifications, they are still functioning and thriving. Erik Perez states, "It started off a bit rough but we have adjusted well and will continue to do what needs to be done to help immigrants and undocumented students." This bluntly states that things haven't been easy all the way through but they will continue to strive towards their goal. Sabreena Ball's opinion on how things are functioning says, "Science/Environmental Club has made every possible effort to keep true to the nature and purpose of our club and be as active as possible in the remote setting. Our club members have done some amazing projects and work while being remote and although we cannot do everything we did in person I feel it is functioning very well in the remote setting." Things are running smoothly and efficiently and that the right changes have been made for better functionality.

Overall, there have been many bumps in the road and twists and turns. Through all of this, things have been changed and altered for the better of the clubs. Even though the pandemic makes school difficult, clubs are still strong, striving, and adapting to the change.



For more information about clubs and activities, use the link below [Athletics/Activities](#)

Helpless and Homeless

By: Tre’Vontae Gartrell

The homeless community is in need of support; it is difficult for them to find a secure place to be safe during this pandemic.

The homeless were struggling to survive on the streets before the pandemic but COVID-19 made it much harder for them to survive. Some hospitals tried to build a bridge to help the homeless to get medical treatment during this time, but the homeless weren’t sick enough to go to the hospital or stay in one. Steven Ross is the author of the article, “Medical respite, also known as recuperative care, has served as a bridge to help homeless individuals recover from illness when they are too sick to be on the street but not sick enough to go to or remain at a hospital.” The CEO of the Boulevard of Chicago, Jennifer Nelson-Seals, responded, "We know there is a strong need for more medical respite beds," Jennifer knew it was going to be a problem when the lock-down first started on May 20, 2020. The homeless are struggling and they need help to find shelter to be safe.

People are trying to find a way to help the homeless. The only way they



could think is by building a shelter for those who are sick and can quarantine themselves. Steven Ross states that, “Across the country, organizations serving the homeless faced the same dilemma: ensuring homeless residents' safety. Their response was designating locations where those with the virus could be quarantined and those at higher risk could be isolated.” Megan Cunningham, managing deputy commissioner at the Chicago Public Health Department. Have a response for that, "People who live in congregate shelters can't just close their doors to avoid all contact with others."

In Chicago, the city is being partnered with a couple of dictated healthcare apartments to help take care of homeless people. Steven Ross wrote, “In Chicago, the city partnered with providers with experience delivering healthcare to the homeless. Local hospital networks, including UI Health, Cook County Health, and Rush University System for Health, joined the initiative to operate clinical services at emergency sites.” Megan had a response for that and she says this, "They understand that this is different from delivering care to someone who is stably housed who has a pretty straightforward and mild case of COVID," Megan is thinking about how to secure the homeless who were sick and contain the virus.

Many people are trying to be safe during this pandemic but there are also people who can help those who aren’t fortunate enough to have basic necessities.

To Be an Eco-Ambassador

By: Tiara Bullock

The Eco-Ambassador Program is a paid internship program to which teens from across the state of Illinois learn ways to advocate for environmental and social justice in their communities.

Eco-Ambassadors are advocates for the environment. Under the leadership of youth coordinator, Cesar Almada, youth across Chicago have learned what the connection between environmental and social justice is as well as the tools to advocate for it. They believe Environmental Justice is Social Justice. According to Eco-Ambassador, Troy Dotson, “To me being an Eco-Ambassador is having the responsibility to advocate and standing up for my space while educating others.” As Eco-Ambassadors, the goal is to construct ways to impact their communities now through the building of micro-solutions. Micro-solutions are solutions to today's problem that can be done now rather than years in the future.

Within the past Eco-Ambassador Program, youth would typically go on volunteer trips in other communities throughout Illinois as well as have impactful members of society join them

for days of education and micro-solution experimentation. But, this year's switch to a new world of online learning due to the Covid outbreak forced the 2020 Eco-Ambassadors to retreat to a completely virtual platform.

Despite the drastic change, the entire Faith In Place community continued to provide educational and engaging opportunities to get people involved with their environment. This year, Eco-Ambassadors were virtually met with Chetna Mehta for a compassion workshop, Johari Cole to learn about farming, Veronica Kyle to discuss Monarch Migration and so many others! At the end of the program, every eco-Ambassador completed and presented their micro-solution to a live zoom audience. Microsolutions ranged from construction to dancing to singing. Youth used their own skills in interest to spread advocacy for themselves and their communities.

Eco-Ambassador, Savone Otero, said, “I loved being an Eco-Ambassador. It really taught me how to protect the environment and I felt like I could make a big difference in my community.”

Every teen involved in the Eco-Ambassador Program leaves with more networking skills, increased connections to outstanding people eager to offer opportunities in making a difference, and enhanced skills

in leadership and public speaking.

“Being an Eco is very refreshing and it has really changed my mindset and my personal life and made me an all around better person.”, Troy Dotson said.

Being a certified Eco-Ambassador does not require having to complete the Eco-Ambassador Program. Anyone with a desire to enact Environmental Justice in their communities are free to claim the title as well. Those looking for ways to get involved for all age groups can go to the Faith In Place homepage and browse through the many programs available to the public. Further information on the Eco-Ambassador Program can also be found as well as an introduction to this year's Eco-Ambassadors. The application for the program is also on the website but for more information on the interactive things Eco-Ambassadors have done so far, those interested can follow the program on Instagram [@EcoEmbassador2k](#) and follow [@FaithInPlace](#) to find ways other people are impacting their communities through Environmental Justice too.

According to Sebrya Aubert, “Being an Eco-Ambassador to me feels amazing. It makes me feel as if I can really make a difference.” This is what it means to be an Eco-Ambassador.



Climate change— it's time to change

By: Erica Goodman

Ever since the mid 20th century, climate change has become a pressing issue around the world. Glaciers have shrunk, ice on rivers and lakes are melting, plant and animal ranges have shifted, and trees are flowering sooner.

According to recent studies by NASA.com, “ Global sea level has risen by about 8 inches since reliable record keeping began in 1880. It is projected to rise another 1 to 8 feet by 2100. This is the result of added water from melting land ice and the expansion of seawater as it warms. In the next several decades, storm surges and high tides could combine with sea level rise and land subsidence to further increase flooding in many regions. Sea level rise will continue past 2100 because the oceans take a very long time to respond to warmer conditions at the Earth’s surface.” This study shows that the global sea level has risen a lot because of climate change and that sea levels will continue to rise unless something is done to help combat climate change.

The Earth's climate has changed a lot throughout the course of history. According to NASA “Just in the last 650,000

years, there have been seven cycles of glacial advance and



retreat, with the abrupt end of the last ice age about 7,000 years ago marking the beginning of the modern climate era — and of human civilization. Most of these climate changes are attributed to very small variations in Earth’s orbit that change the amount of solar energy our planet receives. The current warming trend is one to be alarmed about; the probability that this issue is related to human activity since the mid-20th-century is greater than 95%. Data has been collected over many years to reveal the signals of a changing climate. The evidence includes the global temperature rise, the planet’s average surface temperature has risen about 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit since the late 19th century, a change driven largely by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions into the atmosphere.

The scientific changes shows the importance of climate change and how it has affected

the planet and ultimately effects you as well and everyone else on the planet as of may 2020, The concentration of carbon dioxide (CO2) in our atmosphere is the highest it has been in human history. A change has to be made to try and slow down or reverse the effects of climate change before it is too late.



Some things that can be done to help climate

change such as turning up the thermostat on the air conditioning when it's hot, using fans if it is still hot, using less power, turning down the thermostat on the heating when it's cold. Sweaters, blankets, and socks are good for you and better for the planet. Walk or ride your bike instead of taking a car everywhere. Even a 2-mile car trip puts 2 pounds of CO2 into the atmosphere and If you must ride, carpool. Stay out of the drive thru! When you go to a fast-food place, ask your driver to park the car and let you walk inside, rather than sitting in a line of cars with the engine running and polluting.

Election Season

By: Victor Herrera

After an intense election season unlike any other with issues ranging from COVID to police reform one party gained with an unlikely voter base, the other lost traction with that same base--2020 was truly a unique election season.

With a chaotic presidential election that lasted weeks, Senate and House races were thrown into the spotlight after weeks of lawsuits and mediocre vote counting in states like Nevada that took days. Many incumbent politicians kept control of their seats. Including Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell and Democrat/Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. Many new faces were added to the House of Representatives such as Republican Madison Cawthorn of North Carolina's 11th Congressional District beating out Democrat Morris Davis.

The state of Georgia, which had both



senate seats up for grabs, had both races too close to call which led to a runoff race which was held on January 5th 2021. After a tight race between Republican Kelly Loeffler and Democrat Raphael Warnock, Raphael Warnock would win with 51% of the vote. In the other runoff race between Republican David Perdue and Democrat Jon Ossoff, Jon Ossoff would win with a really small margin of 50.6% compared to David Perdue's 49.4% of the vote according to the Associated Press.

While Democrats gained the Senate and the White House and kept control of the House of Representatives, Republicans gained ground with not only women but also minorities and the

LGBT community. For example NBC and Hornet report 45% of gay men favored Trump over Biden. President Trump also gained ground in places like Austin and Los Angeles with him gaining hundreds of thousands more votes in these major metropolitan areas compared to his 2016 run as the Washington Post reports.

These gains in voter blocs suggest Republicans can come back stronger just through gaining more of these votes they did in Urban, Latino, Black, and LGBT communities. Many in these communities feel the Democrat Party has gone too left with many in the party preaching socialism like AOC. This election was truly a special one, not just because of Covid but also due to the fact that Republicans gained in voter blocs that they never appealed to until now which suggests that future races will be even closer than they are now.

Just how safe was the 2020 election

By: Joseph Dunem

During the 2020 election, Trump challenged democracy with endless complaints and lawsuits due to the fact that the election was won by Joe Biden, a fact he feels is only possible through voting fraud.

There has been a lot of talk about the election being rigged from the start against Trump, but the only way to find out for sure is to talk to the people who are in charge of protecting the election.



According to Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency also known as the CISA, who is in charge of protecting the election from fraud and corruption, they said “There is no evidence that any voting system deleted or lost

votes, changed votes, or was in any way compromised” This agency was in charge of protecting the election, and they say it was safe. It is also important to know Trump was the one that made the CISA in 2018 during his presidency. Even former chief Christopher Krebs, head of the CISA and cyber security said “the election was the most secure in American history” It is also important to know that the Director of the FBI, Christopher Warly testified to Congress saying there was “No evidence of national voter fraud efforts”. PBS.org reported that William Barr stated “the

Justice department has not uncovered evidence of widespread voter fraud”. Three different government agencies found zero evidence of voter fraud. Trump did take legal action to prove there was voter fraud, but with little to no success.

Trump and his allies went to court to



prove the fraud with several court cases. As stated by The New York Times , “After bringing some 60 lawsuits, and even offering financial incentive for information about fraud, Mr. Trump and his allies have failed to definitively prove any case of illegal voting on behalf of their opponent in court”.

According to an audio obtained by CBS news, “On an hour-long phone call with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger on Saturday, President Trump pressured him and other officials to “find” enough votes in the state's presidential election to make him the winner”.

The phone call between Trump and Georgia is now public and anyone can



listen to it and decide for themselves. But despite Trump's claims of voter fraud, he and his team have failed to provide any evidence of it and many of his supporters aren't happy with the results.

With Joe Biden becoming the president and Trump's efforts to overturn the election results failing, Trump supporters are becoming more and more upset, and on January 6, 2020 far right Trump supporters stormed the

capital in an attempt to take control of the capital and over turn the results by force. USAtoday.com announced “ As a shocked nation watched on twitter and TV, a pro-Trump mob battled police, broke into

the U.S. Capitol, and sent members of congress fleeing as lawmakers were counting electoral college votes to confirm the presidential democratic victory of Joe Biden.” In the end the police took back control of the capital with 5 people dying, over a hundred arrested, and dozens injured.

No evidence supported the allegation of voter fraud. America has gone through a really difficult year but it is great to see that our democracy is holding strong and is still intact.