

Ruby Garcia

North hosts SSC Chess Awards

The SSC Chess Awards Night occurred on January 23, 2024 in the cafeteria of Thornton Fractional North. All 14 teams from the South Suburban Conference attended. It included cross-divisional matches between the Blue Division and the Red Division. The matches were determined by a team's respective divisional ranking. The JV team ended up 4th in the Blue Division and beat Oak Lawn 18-10. The varsity team ended up 5th in the Red Division and beat Richards 50-18. Awards also were given that night. Freshman Allister Tinajero was honored for finishing 2nd Place on Board 7. "I was surprised...I never thought I would get an award, and I have only been doing this for a year. I'm still looking to see if in the next 3 years I will be a part of chess, but overall I was happy and excited," said Tinajero. "It wasn't the best season we've had, but we have a young team with a lot of promise. Allister Tinajero is an example of that young talent. Jorge Zavala also stepped up and played Board 6 for us on varsity all year. I'm excited to see how my juniors (Diego Torrez, Luis Carrera, Emella Sedicol, Matthew Jones, and Diego Pantoja) do next year. They've worked hard for all 3 years, and it's been great to see them grow," said Coach Weber. "We have a lot to build on for next year with four juniors taking the upper boards and a lot of freshmen to add in the remaining slots."



Freshman Allister Tinajero was recognized for finishing in 2nd place on Board 7 at the SSC Chess Awards. Photo credit Ruby Garcia



T.F. North Theatre Troop #1672 went to ISU. Photo from T.F. North Theatre's Instagram account.

Tianna Bowen

Theatre Dept. advances to national competition John McBeth III performed in IHSA all-state production

T.F. North's Theatre Department went to Theatre Fest on January 11th-14th at Illinois State University in Normal. On Friday, January 12th, T.F. North Theatre Troupe #1672 qualified for the International Thespian Society National Competition in 6 events. Senior Moyo Oluwole was the only tech student in the state to make it to nationals for Light Design. "It feels unbelievable to make it to nationals. I still wait for someone to tell me it's a mistake, but at the same time, it's exciting and scary all rolled into one. I had to do a lot of things I have never done or heard of before like making a light plot and magic sheets. I prepared by working with the director on what I was going to say and [how to] meet each and every criteria," said Oluwole. Freshman Ike Grace Apata and senior Joi Terrell made it to nationals in Duet Musical. "I felt grateful to have the opportunity to work with someone as talented as Jaytee to create a national-worthy piece. Preparation for the performance wouldn't have been possible without our directors who put in the effort to help us in every way we needed," said Apata. Sophomore Keniyah Stephenson

made the Illinois All-State Improv Team. "I was ecstatic when I saw that I made the all-state improv team. It was a wonderful experience to be able to work with other hilariously talented kids! Before auditions, I went to an Intro to Improv class, played a lot of games, and did skit building exercises. After that I was ready and auditions were a cake walk for me. Most people are scared of improv, but I'm here to say, after doing it for 5 hours and making the team, all you have to do is be silly," said Stephenson. Furthermore, the entire team qualified for nationals in Group Musical with a perfect score. Drama Club President John McBeth III also performed in the IHSA All-State Production of "She Kills Monsters" as the Narrator and an ensemble member. McBeth said, "It was amazing. I loved being around different people that act in unusual and original ways." Overall the students walked away with over 70 college offers for theatre programs. They also will compete at the International Thespian Society National Competition at Indiana University in Bloomington from June 23-28 against other theatre students from across the country.

Webb added to admin. Mia Romo

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Remembering Mr. Dust Mia Romo

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Mia Romo

North names Mr. Webb as assistant principal

Former math teacher is ready to help students succeed

District 215 named Mr. Mychael Webb as T.F. North's new assistant principal of curriculum and instruction. Webb took over the role for Ms. Gair. Webb has been a part of the district for twenty years inside and outside the classroom. Before accepting this position, Webb taught math at North. He also was the assistant principal of building control at South. His prior experience in teaching earned him the trust of his students. "They came to me because they trusted me and wanted my help," said Webb. His bond with students and work at South helped him earn the position at North. In his new role, Webb intends to build a bridge of communication between students and teachers. Webb intends to complete his doctorate in curriculum and instruction to work towards a higher position in the administration. Webb encourages students to express their ideas to improve the current curriculum. "I believe in student voice, and I believe that students should have a say in what is being taught in the classroom."



Former math teacher, Mr. Webb takes on his new position as the assistant principal of curriculum and instruction. Photo credit Mia Romo

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor can be sent to our social media handles or thorntonian@tfd215.org.

Dear fellow journalists,

I'm writing to let you know that news of your work is spreading, and to send you congratulations and a reminder.

The Homewood-Flossmoor Chronicle is a similar newspaper to The Lansing Journal. They publish a daily online version, and I receive their email every morning. In this morning's email I noticed a reference to "a newspaper saved," so I clicked on that headline:

<https://www.hfchronicle.com/2023/12/03/the-weeks-dec-3-holiday-events-vision-zero-approach-to-traffic-safety-bad-drivers-in-local-history-a-newspaper-saved/>

Included in the story's roundup of Homewood Flossmoor happenings is a mention of (and link to) the story the Journal did about the Thorntonian. So now the readers of the Chronicle are becoming aware of the work you are doing.

Congratulations on being part of a story that people are interested in and eager to share! But let me also take this opportunity to remind you that your audience may include

people you don't know, people outside of your normal networks. This makes it even more important to be accurate and clear. Not all of your readers will have the context that your fellow students and teachers have — but you're writing for them too. Not all your readers will know you, or your school, or your city — but you're writing for them too.

You are documenting news that happens at TF North, but people anywhere in the world might choose to read it and believe it. That's a huge responsibility, and I am encouraged that you are part of a journalistic tradition that takes this responsibility seriously. Whether or not you decide to pursue this calling professionally, you are learning valuable skills that help minimize confusion, overcome division, and build community. Thank you.

Keep up the good work!

Melanie Jongsma
The Lansing Journal

2023-2024

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Editor-in-Chief:

Ruby Garcia

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Mr. Joseph Stephan

Established in 1925, the Thorntonian is produced by the Advanced Journalism students of T.F. North High School. It seeks to provide an open forum for all members of the D. 215 community. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of D. 215 unless otherwise noted.

WE are PROUD to SUPPORT TFN!



Dine in or Carry Out

Thursday, February 15th, 2024

Simply, present this flyer or mention TFN Junior Board/Visual Arts Club & Don Pedro will DONATE 15% of your food sales!



Spread the word ~ tell everyone you know!

316 Torrence Avenue, Calumet City

Call 708.862.7747 to place a Carry out order or Dine in

NO DELIVERY ORDERS/UBER Eats/Doordash apply to this event

Donation is on FOOD sales only. Present this flyer upon ordering. No credit cards taken over the phone.



Tianna Bowen

Crush for your crush

Be on the lookout for Freshman Board's "Crush for Your Crush." Crush cans will be sold throughout the school with optional add-on messages for your loved ones and the choice to send one as a secret admirer. The Freshman Board intends to send them out on Valentine's Day, Wednesday, February 14th during 1st period. The group's purpose is to help raise money for the freshmen class.

Aidan Jordan

Inaugural short film festival to debut at North

Have you ever wanted to create a film? If so, show your talent by entering a video into the inaugural TFD215 Community Short Film Contest presented by the Meteor Productions Club. The theme for this contest is "Legacy." The contest is open to 6th to 8th graders from Schrum, Wentworth, Lincoln, and Burnham and 9th to 12th graders from T.F. North and T.F. South. The entries must be no more than 5 minutes long and fit the school guidelines. Submissions will be open until February 1st.

The top 5 videos will be showcased in the inaugural TFD215 Community Short Film Festival on March 28, 2024 at 6:00 pm in

the A.C. Jaacks Auditorium. The film festival is being organized by senior Mia Romo, Mr. Speski, and Meteor Productions. The goals for this film festival are to showcase local talent, increase inclusion of the community, and make the entertainment industry a more accessible and accepting place. "My goal is to at least have a winner from North, South, and one of the middle school kids. I want at least 30 people showing up to the event. To me that's a success because then at least 30 people know about it," said Romo. Winners of the film festival will receive a gift card and trophy. If you have any questions you can scan the QR code for additional information.



Rogelio Romero

Best ways to prepare for the SAT

Juniors, doomsday is coming up soon so here are the best ways to prepare for the SAT. For many of us, it's our worst nightmare. But in reality, it's actually not the end of the world. Ms. Passarelli is the Assistant Principal of Pupil Personnel Services and the one who knows the most about this year's SAT. Here is her advice. Khan Academy is a great way to help you practice since it can be linked up to students' college board accounts. This allows Khan Academy to look at students' old PSAT scores then Khan Academy uses it to determine which areas students need help in. Another great way to prepare is to sign up for an SAT Bootcamp. There are many boot camps out there, but luckily T.F. North offers an SAT Bootcamp. Students can sign up through their counselors. If you can't make it to the boot camp, there is always BlueBook which is on students' Chromebooks, "Start playing around with that so you know how to use it," said Passarelli. "Know how to use the Desmos calculator because it is in the program." The new SAT is all digital so knowing how to use Desmos can really come in handy. Students shouldn't sweat about the SAT because the new digital SATs are shorter. "It will allow students a longer amount of time to work on each question," said Passarelli. Lastly, students should know that the written portion at the end of the SAT is where a lot of the college scholarships are coming from. "Take that writing portion seriously," said Passarelli. So juniors try your best but remember to take your time, read the questions carefully, and good luck.

Cormora Williams

Second semester survival timeline for seniors

Attention seniors, there isn't that much time left until prom and graduation. Here are some of the upcoming events that are set so far. First, make sure you get your cap and gown before the price goes up on January 31st. You can purchase them here: www.chicagobalfour.com. There will be senior portrait retakes on February 15th. This is your last chance, so don't miss it! Prestige Photography will be located in the cafeteria and will be there from 9:00-2:00 pm. This day is the same day as the parent-teacher conference, so there will be no school. (See the information below.) Prom will take place on May 18th, and the tickets will be \$95. Tickets will be sold in the bookstore. They will go on sale from March 1st through the 26th. If you plan on taking someone from another school, make sure to

do it early and get it approved by the Deans Office. You can start filling out the Prom Guest Request Form in late February/early March. When the juniors take their SAT in March, seniors might have a Naviance lesson or they can stay home. The 6 Flags Lock-in on May 11th will be \$79 and will be from 10:00 pm - 4:00 am. Seniors will leave around 7:30 pm. The money is due April 10th and is cash only. There will be more events planned for seniors as the year goes on. Senior final exams are on May 14th and 15th! The last day of school as well as the FAFSA deadline is May 15th. Graduation is scheduled for May 22nd. Senior year is going by very fast and will be over before you know it!

Class of 2024 seniors!

Prestige Photography has been chosen as your senior photographer

 Prestige Photography will be returning to Thornton Fractional North High School one last time this year for senior portraits! February 15, 2024, is the last chance to be in the senior section of the yearbook.

 No appointment is necessary. Just stop by and check in with the Prestige staff to have your yearbook photo taken.

 If you have questions, please contact Prestige Photography at 800-736-4775



*In order to be included in the yearbook, you must be photographed by Prestige Photography.

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Mia Romo

TFD 215 mourns the passing of Mr. Dust

It is with sincerest regards we share the passing of long-time member of TFD 215, Mr. Richard Dust. Dust, a graduate of T.F. South, served on the board of education for 14 years. He passed away on January 26th peacefully in his home surrounded by family at the age of 77 due to complications of Kahler's disease, a rare form of blood cancer. Dust valued college preparatory and job training curriculum for all schools in the district and was an active member of the Lansing community. He was a caring man who was dedicated to the improvement of the district and its students. "He touched the lives of thousands of students and staff members throughout his life," said TFN's

Principal, Mr. Rucinski. Although he spent his 37-year career as a teacher and coach at T.F. South, Dust made an effort to promote the Meteor spirit at every T.F. North event he attended. He also was behind the initiative to bring girls' sports to District 215. His patience, integrity, humility, compassion, and sense of humor will be long remembered. We ask students to please keep Mr. Dust and his family in your thoughts and prayers as his legacy will be felt within this district for a long time to come.



Photo provided by
the Chronoscope

Diamond Adams

District hosts Girls Empowerment Conference

The Girls Empowerment Conference took place on January 20, 2024 at T.F. North in the auditorium. This event was planned by Ms. Like and Ms. Lindsay. The purpose of this event was to persuade girls to get involved in clubs, to provide support, and to work on self-esteem. As the ladies walked through the door they signed in and were given goodie bags. At 8:00 am breakfast was served in the gold gym. At around 9 am everyone headed to the auditorium. During this event, there was a keynote speaker, Ms. Davis, who gave a kickoff message encouraging ladies to be queens who take up space. "You have to give your dreams space to grow and change, but you can't do that if you don't have any space." Senior Amber Philips-Brooks said, "The conference was very encouraging, and I really enjoyed being there. There were multiple classrooms that you could choose from each session. There were sessions for the mothers and daughters or just for high school and middle schoolers. Senior Alex Thomas said, "I like going to the rooms to listen to different people talk and learn about people's experiences, and it encouraged me." A Session that I really enjoyed was the...session with Ms. Marcotte. This session was about grief and how to manage our emotions. Marcotte said, "We do tend to react based on emotions without thinking first." After the three sessions were over around 11:40 am, everyone headed to the gold gym for lunch and was served Jimmy John's sandwiches. At noon, the final speaker, Ms. Tamika Louis, kicked off the final speech with a Maya Angelou poem "Still I Rise." Louis also spoke about being unique and asked the crowd of ladies what makes them unique. At the end of the event, all of the ladies stood up to recite the Maya Angelou poem "Still I Rise."

Emily Sanchez

CTE Department showcases programs offered

On January 19, 2024, the Career & Technical Education (CTE) Department held its annual showcase in Thornton Fractional North's purple gym for freshmen and sophomores during 1st and 2nd period. The showcase allowed students to learn about every career development program they might be interested in. Not only that but it gave students the knowledge and training necessary to succeed in future careers. There were a variety of courses that might interest students like construction, cosmetology, barbering, childcare, and more. The purpose of the showcase was to captivate students and motivate them to have a good start to whatever career they want to pursue. Teachers were enthusiastic about the CTE Showcase. "I like the opportunity to share the educator pathway program with students. A lot of people don't know about it because this is only our third year having the program. And so people

don't know all the opportunities that there are. I think it's great that students see that we have so much for everyone. So even if the educator pathway is not what they like, there should be something that interests our students," said Ms. Schuldes. The purple gym was filled with students wandering around to see different programs. Current students from the programs were behind tables assisting and persuading new students to give any program a try. Most of the programs in the CTE Showcase give opportunities to students who may have difficulties choosing what they want to do after graduating. "For me, the CTE Showcase got me interested in barbering. I honestly didn't know what I wanted to do after high school, but the reason I chose barbering was because I liked the environment and passion everyone had for it," said Krystal Covarrubias.



Ms. Briggs and her students promoted the new childcare program at the CTE Department Showcase.
Photo credit Ruby Garcia

Jaela Westbrook

TFN's Black History Month plans

Black History Month is coming soon. There are many different activities and events planned for the month. On February 1st there will be a Black History Month Read-in inside the LRC from 3:30 to 5 pm. There will also be a spirit week dedicated to Black History Month sponsored by The Student Equity & Leadership Club. The spirit week will take place from February 5th - February 9th. That Monday will be "Woke Up Like This Day." Students should wear their favorite pajamas to school. Tuesday will be "Seeing Double Day." Students should come to school in matching attire with a friend. Wednesday will be "Take Me To Church Day." Students should come to school

wearing their best Sunday outfit. Thursday will be "It's The Inspiration For Me Day." Students should wear an outfit they feel will inspire greatness in others or a shirt with an artist that inspires them. Friday will be "In My Royalty Era Day." Students should dress like the King or Queen they are. The African American book talks will be held on February 12th in the LRC. The Visual Arts Club will be having a Black History Month Artwork Contest. The artwork is due on February 13th. The Student Equity & Leadership Club will also be hosting a door decorating contest. On February 20th the judging of the door dees will take place. In the upper cafeteria, there are activities

planned for the 23rd and the 24th. On the 23rd there's an open mic at 3:45 pm being sponsored by the choir. On the following day, the 24th, there's the Cupid Shuffle Dance being sponsored by Student Council. The Black History Month Assembly will be held on February 27th for 2 periods of the school day in the auditorium. The TFN music showcase for Black History Month will be on the 29th of February at 5 pm also in the auditorium. As you can see there are a lot of fun events happening for Black History Month, you should come and attend all of them.

Taliah Robinson

Why MLK

matters today

Though we don't attend school on MLK Day, it doesn't mean we shouldn't learn things about him. Here are some important things to know about King if you didn't already know them. On January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia, a man was born. That man's name was Martin Luther King, Jr. As a boy, King lived his years in a middle-class home. He received a great education by attending and graduating from Booker T. Washington High School and Morehouse College. But even though young King lived an educational life with a loving family, he also had to deal with racist and prejudiced people. King was living in a segregated world. He was being discriminated against every time he walked out of the door. Very sick and tired of being treated unfairly, King decided to do something about it. After Rosa Parks fought against segregation in December 1955, activists decided to form the Montgomery Improvement Association to boycott the transit system, and King was chosen to be their leader. The boycott was a success. A year later, on June 5, 1956, the buses were desegregated. King and his supporters had police dogs and fire hoses turned on them. They were also arrested and sent to jail because the police knew King was trying to make a change, and they used their power to hurt him and his supporters. On August 28, 1963, during the March on Washington, King delivered a speech that changed the world in a way. He spoke on how African Americans were free but they weren't "free". He spoke on how African Americans are being treated unfairly and how they're not looked at as equals. A huge part of his "I Have A Dream" speech was him saying, "I have a dream that...one day right there in Alabama, little Black boys and Black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers." His speech sparked a movement of equality, which helped create the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Unfortunately, 5 years later on April 4th, 1968, King was assassinated.

