

TORRANCE NEWS TORCH

Lighting the Way to Torrance High School Since 1922

THIS IGNORES DARK WINTER, EMBRACES GRATITUDE IN TRYING TIMES

CLASS SPIRIT STANDINGS

BY: VERONICA GARZA
Editor-in-Chief



CURRENT SPIRIT POINTS

seniors: 550
freshmen: 525
sophomore: 450
junior: 400

The race for the Champion of Class Spirit has begun as ASB tallies Spirit Week’s total points. The results of the Halloween trivia Kahoot, Red Ribbon Week Pumpkin Contest, and October 28th’s Pink-Out are all accounted for. Freshmen took the crown for Kahoot, winning 150 points. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors follow with 100, 75, and 50, respectively.

Seniors flipped the script with their pumpkin-carving triumph, as they earned first place and 300 points in the Red Ribbon Week Pumpkin Contest. Sophomores, freshmen, and juniors trailed behind, earning 250, 200, and 175, respectively. Following the inclusion of participation on Pink-Out Day, the current spirit point standings are: seniors with 550 points, freshmen with 525 points, sophomores with 450 points, and juniors with 400 points.

Tartars were given another opportunity to catch

up or increase their lead on November 16, as ASB is hosting a can competition as they collect cans for the Canned Food Drive. Cans may be donated from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. ASB asks that participants include a single note with their name, grade, and total number of cans.

Additionally, students must specify whether they will be donating the cans as extra credit for a class or as service hours for a club. Donations for extra credit must include: the names of the class and teacher, the period, and the number of cans being donated. Donations for service hours must include: the name of the club and the number of cans being donated.

ASB sends a great thank you to those who donated and volunteered to make this year’s Canned Food Drive possible, as well as those who have participated in Spirit Week and prioritized class pride.

THANK YOU, COVID

BY: ASHLEY MERCURIO
Club Writer

Thank you COVID for all you’ve done for me. I can’t imagine how you managed to make nine months seem like yesterday. Time is not a constant for you.

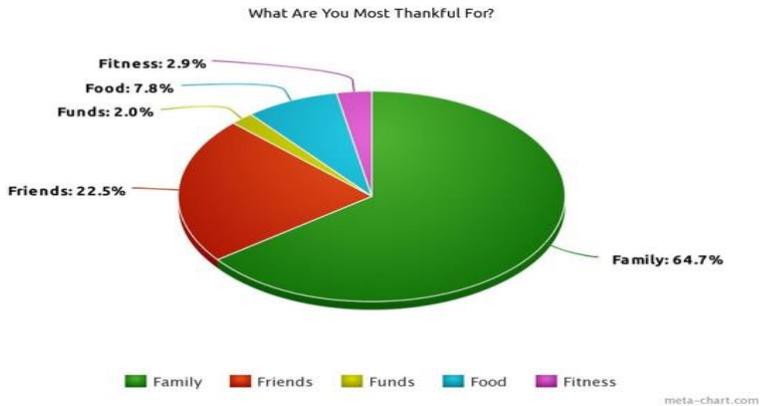
Do you remember how I got to miss out on Summer? Or how you came and dunked us into no contact with our friends? How about those goodbyes we never got to do? Or the graduation we never got to attend? Do you remember?

Being online is so fun, though! Classes seem optional and homework does, too! Meeting my new teachers and peers feels awkward and detached! How did

You manage to do that?

And you made me feel that way for three months straight! Thanks so much! And asking for help is harder than ever with the whole class being silent!

Honestly, thank you, COVID, for all you’ve done. You’ve made me realize that maybe all I am is a little square in the corner hiding among my classmates, ignoring my homework, and getting senioritis, just a few months or maybe years early! Thanks again! How can we ever repay you, COVID?



THANKSGIVING SURVEY

BY: VERONICA GARZA
Editor-in-Chief

In spirit of the upcoming Thanksgiving break, the News Torch staff conducted a survey to determine what students felt most thankful for. The pie chart below displays their preferences. The options were family, friends, food, fitness, and funds. 64.7% of participants chose family, 22.5% chose friends, 7.8% chose food, 2.9% chose fitness, and 2% chose funds.

THE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING

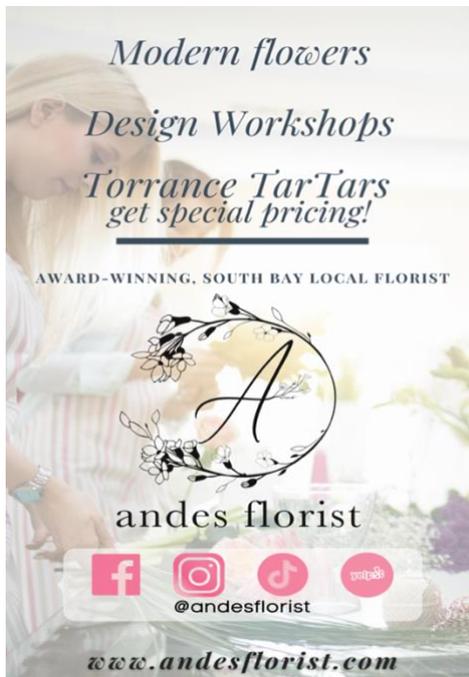
BY: PHOEBE LIN
Club Writer

As November comes to a close, the annual turkey dinner awaits on the last Thursday of the month. Since President Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863, Thanksgiving has been celebrated by many Americans for nearly two centuries. While the meaning of Thanksgiving and dishes served at the feast have slowly changed throughout the years, the holiday remains an iconic one for many generations. To trace, the first Thanksgiving feast was held in 1621 by the Pilgrims and Native Americans.

In search for a new life, the Pilgrims emigrated from England to Plymouth, Massachusetts on the *Mayflower* ship in 1620. Upon their arrival, they were faced with disease and starvation from their journey, with only half of the passengers surviving to see the following year. The survivors were visited by the local Wampanoag tribe, who taught the Pilgrims to

survive on the land, to grow and catch their own food. In November of 1621, there was finally a successful harvest, and a feast was held to celebrate to give gratitude to both the abundance of food and kind Native American allies.

The exact menu of the first Thanksgiving is unknown, but historians believe that it was most likely composed of wild turkey, venison, seasonal fruits and vegetables from their harvest, and seafood from the bay. Pumpkin is also a likely possibility, but the potatoes and pies commonly seen in today’s feasts were absent from the first Thanksgiving meal. Today, a classic Thanksgiving dinner consists of turkey, ham, potatoes, stuffing, green beans, corn, and pumpkin pie. However, while the original menu of Thanksgiving has long changed, there is one thing that has remained the same throughout—gathering with loved ones to give thanks for the year.



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