

TORRANCE NEWS TORCH

Lighting the Way to Torrance High School Since 1922

STRENGTH FOR TODAY, BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW



Mr. Kushi's third period Calculus AB class participating in Spirit Week on Holiday Hat Day, December 16. Photo courtesy of @thstartars

UPDATED SPIRIT POINTS

1ST: SENIORS (1975 PTS)
 2ND: JUNIORS (1905 PTS)
 3RD: SOPH. (1650 PTS)
 4TH: FRESHMEN (1645 PTS)

Spirit point standings as of December 13, 2020. Photo courtesy of @thstartars

HOLIDAY SPIRIT WEEK

BY VERONICA GARZA
Editor-in-Chief

Tartars kicked off the winter season with a festive Spirit Week filled with holiday inspired activities and dress-up days. Monday, December 14 was Snooze Day; Tuesday, December 15 was Ugly Sweater Day; Wednesday, December 16 was Holiday Hat Day; Thursday, December 17 was Maroon and Grey Day; and Friday, December 18 was Class Color Day.

Prior to Spirit Week, the spirit point standings were as follows: seniors in first place with 1975 points, juniors in second with 1905, sophomores in third with 1650 points, and freshmen last with 1645 points.

ASB's first activity was a Holiday Wrap-Off, a relay race between the classes for spirit points. The class with the fastest, neatest wrapping was given the most points. Seniors were awarded first place with 150 points, juniors second with 130 points, freshmen third with 120 points, and sophomores last with 100 points. A recording of the game was posted on the Torrance High School ASB YouTube channel on December 4.

Additionally, ASB hosted a Skribblio game on December 10. Class representatives were challenged to

accurately draw and guess holiday items. A recording of the game was posted on the THS ASB YouTube channel on December 14. Spirit point standings are yet to be released.

For Ugly Sweater Day on December 15, staff members and teachers participated in an Ugly Sweater Fashion Show. Photos of all 10 participants were posted to the THS Instagram page later that day. On the following day, Holiday Hat Day, students strapped on reindeer antlers and Santa hats for a chance to advance their class. Points were accounted for in third period classes. Juniors led with 57 points, seniors followed with 42, freshmen were next with 31 points, and sophomores trailed with 28 points.

In place of rallies, the Hip Hop Club and Cheer and Song filmed performances for Tartars to view on the THS Instagram page. The Hip Hop Club video-performance was posted on December 16. The Cheer and Song video-performance is yet to be posted.

ASB wishes students, teachers, and staff a healthy and happy holiday season. Though unable to celebrate in person, the holiday spirit was apparent in this Spirit Week's participation. Have a restful break, Tartars!

OPERATION GIFT 2.0

BY VERONICA GARZA
Editor-in-Chief

This year's Operation Gift project looked a bit different from previous years, as events such as Teacher Talentless Shows, "Are You Smarter Than A High Schooler?", and "Family Feud" were replaced with holiday/thank you cards for students to send to their teachers. ASB sold cards in the student parking lot from December 11 to December 14 from 3PM to 5PM.

Activities Director Mr. Nathan Jones called upon teachers to "possibly sacrifice the gifts [they] receive from the students" and ask them to "use those funds to donate to Operation Gift." Cards were sold for \$5 each, and students were given the option to park their vehicle and write their cards for immediate return, or drop them off in the business office the following day.

All proceeds contributed to aiding some of the 125 foster or homeless families within the Torrance Unified School District. Last year, Torrance High School was successful in assisting 19 of those families. ASB President Arman Baglioni commented, "Thank you so much to everyone who came out and bought cards for their teachers/staff. We were able to raise a total of \$1,890 for our families in need."

During such unprecedented times, one thing remains constant: Tartars' sense of compassion. ASB thanks teachers and staff for their willingness to forgo their usual gift cards and seasonal treats in efforts to help the less fortunate, and students for their generous donations.

OPERATION GIFT

holiday card sale days!

12/10, 3-5pm
 12/11, 3-5pm
 12/14, 3-5pm

come to the student parking lot to buy cards for your teachers at a minimum of \$5/card. All proceeds going to THS families in need!

Operation Gift donation dates and times. Photo courtesy of @thstartars

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ASB THANKS TARTARS FOR THEIR CAN-DO ATTITUDE

BY VERONICA GARZA
Editor-in-Chief

A Tartar's sense of charity proved to have no bounds as 14,969 cans were donated during the Canned Food Drive. Though 31 cans short of their goal of 15,000, ASB thanks Torrance High School staff and students for their participation despite the unprecedented limitations presented by this school year.

The Canned Food Drive was held in the student parking lot from November 4 to November 20. On November 9 and November 16, Tartars were given the opportunity to donate cans to help their grade advance in the class competition. Spirit points were awarded as follows: juniors with 1000 points for their 5,223 can donation, seniors with 900 points for their 4,242 can donation, sophomores with 800 points for their 3,113 can donation, and freshmen

with 750 points for their 2,391 can donation. Jenna Irasusta, Senior Class President and head of this year's Canned Food Drive Committee, commented, "I thought it went really well even though this year was different from any other year." Additionally, she felt the drop-off process to be "really fast and easy which made the boxing process easy, too." She thanks teachers, clubs, ASB, class councils, Tartar Ladies, and Tartar Knights for their volunteer service and donations.

THS takes great pride in providing for less fortunate families within the community and is grateful for the efforts put forth by Tartars to continue the tradition of the Canned Food Drive, regardless of 2020's restrictions.