

# THE BULL PEN

Tocoi Creek High School Weekly Newsletter

## OUR TRADITION STARTS HERE!

### Toro Nation,

Another fantastic week for the Toro Nation ends with our TC Chorus, under the direction of Mr. Cook, performing the national anthem for the opening of Speed Week at the Daytona Raceway. Our students took center stage in a nationally televised performance that was nothing short of spectacular. Scheduling continues to progress forward for the 2023-24 school year with our counselors finishing the rising senior/junior classes. Over the next few weeks Toro guidance members will be visiting Pacetti Bay and Mill Creek Academy.

We hope you enjoy the long 3 day weekend!

Horns UP!

Mr. Willets

Please let this communication also serve as your OFFICIAL notice to join our community OneToro Athletics fundraiser: Toro Fest. Mark your calendars on February 25th from 1pm-7pm at the World Golf Village Hall of Fame. Food, fun and entertainment for the whole family...come one...come all!

[Click Here for 2023 Toro Fest Information!](#)

Calling all golfers! The 2nd Annual Toro Fest Golf Tournament is Saturday, 2/25 at Slammer and Squire! All proceeds go to supporting Tocoi Creek High School Athletics. Sign up for golf at <https://www.onetoroathletics.com/toro-fest> Local businesses can also choose to be a hole sponsor! #HornsUp

Our planning for the 2023-24 school year is in full swing! Please see the attached documents for updates on PARKING 23-24.

Have a wonderful weekend and GO TOROS!



### NEWSWORTHY EVENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TCHS YEARBOOK! THE 2022-2023 TCHS YEARBOOK HAS BEEN SELECTED AS PICTAVO'S NATIONAL YEARBOOK OF THE YEAR. OUR YEARBOOK WAS SELECTED FROM OVER 500 ENTRIES AND WILL MOVE ON TO COMPETE FOR THE NATIONAL JOURNALISM ASSOCIATION'S YEARBOOK OF THE YEAR THIS SPRING. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING THE 2022-2023 YEARBOOK, WE HAVE LIMITED COPIES AVAILABLE OF THIS AWARD-WINNING BOOK AT [WWW.BUYTHEYEARBOOK.COM](http://WWW.BUYTHEYEARBOOK.COM)

# IMPORTANT DATES

## TORO WEEK

*at a Glance*

Mon., Feb. 20th-	No School (President's Day)
Tues., Feb. 21st-	Valdosta State Visit 8:45AM
Wed., Feb. 22nd-	Winter Athletics Award Night
Thurs., Feb. 23rd-	Queens University Visit 8:45 AM
Fri., Feb. 24th-	Senior Parking Deadline
Sat., Feb. 25th-	Toro Fest 1-7 PM

## SAVE THE DATE

- **MARCH 3-4TH:** SENIOR CAMPOUT
- **MARCH 29TH:** TECHNICAL COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR
- **APRIL 21ST:** SENIOR/JUNIOR PROM @ THE RIVERHOUSE IN ST. AUGUSTINE
- **APRIL 22ND:** SENIOR GRAD BASH @ UNIVERSAL STUDIOS
- **MAY 23RD:** GRADUATION @ THE AMP (ST. AUGUSTINE AMPHITHEATER) 7:00PM

## TORO ATHLETICS

*at a Glance*

- Monday, 2/20/23 @ 4:30PM Baseball (JV) vs Fleming Island @ Fleming Island HS
- Tuesday, 2/21/23 @ 4:15PM Tennis vs Episcopal @ Episcopal HS
- Tuesday, 2/21/23 @ 5:30PM Lacrosse-Girls vs Mandendez @ TCHS
- Tuesday, 2/21/23 @ 6:30PM Baseball (Varsity) vs Fleming Island @ Fleming Island HS
- Tuesday, 2/21/23 @ 7PM Softball (Varsity) vs Atlantic Coast @ Atlantic Coast HS
- Tuesday, 2/21/23 @ 7:15PM Lacrosse-Boys vs Episcopal @ TCHS
- Wednesday, 2/22/23 @ 3:30PM Weightlifting- Boys vs St. Augustine @ SAHS
- Wednesday, 2/22/23 @ 5:30PM Track & Field Beachside JV Meet @ BHS
- Wednesday, 2/22/23 @ 6:00PM Baseball (JV) vs Bartram Trail @ BTHS
- Thursday, 2/23/23 @ 3PM Tennis vs Fleming Island @ Eagle Harbor Tennis Club
- Thursday, 2/23/23 @ 6PM Softball(Varsity) vs Bishop Kenny @ TCHS
- Thursday, 2/23/23 @ 6:15PM Lacrosse- Girls vs Bolles @ TCHS
- Thursday, 2/23/23 @ 7PM Lacrosse- Boys vs Fletcher @ Fletcher HS
- Friday, 2/24/23 @ 6/7:30PM Softball vs Orange Park @ TCHS
- Friday, 2/24/23 @ 6:30PM Baseball (Varsity) vs Beachside @ TCHS
- Saturday, 2/25/23 @ 8AM Track & Field (Varsity) -Mandarin Meet @ Mandarin HS

# GUIDANCE INFORMATION

ADVICE  
ASSISTANCE  
GUIDANCE  
HELP

## Technical College and Career Fair:

Tocoi Creek High School is hosting our first **Technical College and Career Fair on March 29th from 9:20-2:50**, and we are hoping that you are interested in participating. Our goal is to showcase careers for our traditionally non-college bound students. We would like to highlight Associate Degrees, Technical Certificates, Workforce Certificates, Apprenticeship Programs, careers that do not require a college degree, etc. We will run large groups of targeted students through the fair to meet with you and make it worth your while.

If you are a parent who is part of a program that would be interested in coming, please complete this survey link so that we can plan for you: [Registration Link](#)

As we get closer to the event, we will send out additional details for those that would like to attend the event as participants and vendors. Please make sure that any vendors who needs this information gets on the mailing list by completing the link above. St. Johns County School District requires that anyone on our campus during school hours complete a background check for the safety and security of our students. Anyone that plans to attend our Technical College and Career Fair should complete an [application](#)

Students who participate in the free and/or reduced lunch program are eligible for a standardized test waiver. Please see your school counselor for additional information.

## Upcoming College Visits:

- Tuesday, Feb. 21st @ 8:45am - Valdosta State University
- Tuesday, Feb. 21st @ 10am - Nova Southeastern University
- Thursday, Feb. 23rd @ 8:45am - Queens University of Charlotte
- Wednesday, March 8th @ 8:45am - Saint Leo University

**If interested in any of these visits, sign up in the Guidance office**

**Please use the following contact points for your scheduling or registration needs:**

**Registration, Schedule Questions, Schedule a Date/Time with a Counselor:**

o [Kim Tabala](#) - (904) 547 - 4278

**Home Access Center (HAC), Registration Questions**

o [Marvin Jenkins](#) - (904) 547 - 4275

## Who is my counselor?

[Elizabeth Wright](#) - 9th and 10th last names A-L

[Rachel Blount](#) - 9th and 10th last names M-Z

[D'Erica Gibbs](#) - 11th and 12th last names A-L

[Linda Smith](#) - 11th and 12th last names M-Z

# COLLEGE PLANNING INFO

## SENIOR CHECKLIST:



*It's an exciting time for seniors! Applications should be submitted and decisions rolling in. Now is the time to enjoy the fruits of your labor and make sure all of the boxes are checked before graduation.*

- College Admissions
  - Set up school based portal and confirm that all documents were received.
  - Receive admissions decision.
  - Follow enrollment steps (pay admissions deposit, submit residency documentation, sign up for housing, meal plans, orientation, etc.)
- Apply for Financial Aid
  - Complete the FAFSA
- Apply for Bright Futures
  - Confirm that community service hours have been turned in to school counselor.
  - Send SAT/ACT scores to a Florida State University

*Links*  
**HELPFUL**

### Seniors:

- [Bright Futures](#)
- [FAFSA](#) (Financial Aid)
- [Naviance Help](#)

### Juniors:

- [ACT Test Prep](#)
- [ACT Practice Test](#)
- [ACT Phone App](#)
- [SAT Practice](#)
- [ACT/SAT Practice](#)

## JUNIORS:

*The spring of junior year is one of the most critical in the college application process. Here are some things that you should be checking off your list:*

- Take the ACT and/or SAT (All juniors will automatically be registered to take the ACT on March 28th at TCHS)
- Complete the "Find your Fit" activity in Naviance to narrow down your college list.
- Schedule college visits at schools that you are interested in.
- Finish junior year strong and select rigorous courses for senior year.

## ALL GRADES:

Make your plans with our helpful step by step [Academic Handbook](#)

How to choose ACT or SAT?  
How to Register?  
Information on pages 11 & 12 of the [Academic Handbook](#)

### Appointment with Guidance Links:

[Rachel Blount](#)

[D'Erica Gibbs](#)

[Linda Smith](#)

[Elizabeth Wright](#)

# STUDENT LIFE



**2023 TORO FEST**

Closest To The Pin  
Face Painting  
Bounce Houses  
DJ Alvarez

Laser Tag  
Game Truck  
Sheriff K9 Demonstration  
Food & Drinks

**Toro Fest Golf Outing**

Sponsored By **BOZARD**  
Bozard Ford

*DRIVEN TO inspire.*

1 World Golf Place, St. Augustine, FL 32092

**Saturday**  
**February 25**  
**1 - 7 PM**

<https://www.onetoroathletics.com/toro-fest>



**Toro Band**  
TOCOI CREEK HIGH SCHOOL



**Tocoi Creek HS Tumblers**  
Tocoi Creek HS Band Fundraiser  
Scan the QR code to order online




## 23-24 PARKING

PARKING FOR THE 23-24 SCHOOL YEAR IS LIVE FOR RISING SENIORS UNTIL FEB. 24TH AND RISING JUNIORS FEB. 27TH-MARCH 9TH!  
[CLICK HERE](#) FOR MORE INFO ON POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

## TUTORING

WEDNESDAYS DURING TORO TIME IN THE CAFETERIA

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR INDIVIDUAL TUTORING BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL



TUTORING PROVIDED BY NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS

## ORDER A YEARBOOK!

THERE ARE LESS THAN 50 COPIES OF THE 2022-2023 TCHS YEARBOOK LEFT! [CLICK HERE](#) TO PURCHASE FOR \$100.

# SENIOR INFORMATION

## Important Senior Dates:

3/1- FINAL GRAD BASH PAYMENT DUE- SCHOOLPAY  
3/3-3/4- SENIOR CAMP OUT  
3/31- ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GRAD ITEMS  
DISTRIBUTED DURING LUNCH  
4/21- PROM  
4/22-4/23 GRAD BASH  
5/12- SENIOR SUNSET  
5/16- GRADUATION REHEARSAL 4-7PM @THE AMP  
5/17- CAP AND GOWN PICK UP AND DEBT DAY-  
AUDITORIUM 9AM-12PM  
5/17- SENIOR AWARDS- TIMES TBD  
5/23- GRADUATION

## GradBash

- The second payment for GradBash is open for students that made the first payment. The second payment is due no later than 3/1. The cost of the 2nd payment is \$100, which accounts for rising transportation and inflation costs. The total cost for the event is \$175.00 which is lower than the usual \$250.00 thanks to a generous donation from one of our community members. Pay your 2nd payment [here](#).
- If you wish to cancel your Grad Bash reservation, please [click here](#).
- All GradBash spots have been reserved, but we do offer a waiting list if spaces open up or a student who planned to go would like to sell their ticket. If we reach you on the waiting list, a senior sponsor will contact you with information on making a deposit, paying in full, or completing a transfer with another senior. You will have a limited amount of time to respond before we remove you from the waiting list and go to the next person on the list. You MUST have paid your senior dues to keep your spot in line on the waiting list. [Click Here](#) to join the Waiting List.

## Helpful Links for Seniors:

[FAFSA \(Financial Aid\)](#)

[Naviance Help](#)

[Senior Guidance Page](#)

[Senior Info on TCHS Webpage](#)

[Senior Dates/Deadlines](#)

# TCHS CAREER ACADEMIES



## Upcoming Events:

- Feb. 24th- Nemours Field Trip
- March 1st- Construction and Career Days Field Trip (Built Environment and Emerging Tech)

Be sure to check out the new February edition of the [Academy Newsletter](#) to see everything your students are working on in the career academies. Important dates for joining a career academy (current and rising 9th graders) are included.



## YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Young Scholars Program (YSP) is a six week residential science and mathematics summer program for Florida high school students with significant potential for STEM careers. The program was developed in 1983 and is administered by the Office of STEM Teaching Activities in the College of Arts and Sciences at Florida State University.

YSP continues to be accessible to all qualified students who meet the eligibility requirements. As in the past, room, board, and tuition are provided for every admitted student, funded by Florida State University. Students with significant financial need may also apply for a supplemental program stipend to cover the cost of travel and books.

### To be considered for acceptance, applicants must:

- Have completed 11<sup>th</sup> grade in a Florida public or private high school
- Have scored in the 90th percentile or better in Math on a nationally standardized exam
- Be able to commit for the entire six weeks of the program (no exceptions will be made for travel to other summer internship opportunities, camps, Mu Alpha Theta, etc.)
- Maintain a permanent residence in the State of Florida
- Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA (unweighted)
- Be enrolled in or have completed Pre-Calculus

### Important Deadlines:

- January 1: Application available online (on or before this day)
- February 15: Application and Recommendations deadline
- May 15: Admission decisions finalized (on or before this day)

### Program Dates for 2023:

YSP will run from **June 11-July 22, 2023.**



For complete program details & application visit  
<https://ysp.osta.fsu.edu/>

## TCHS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

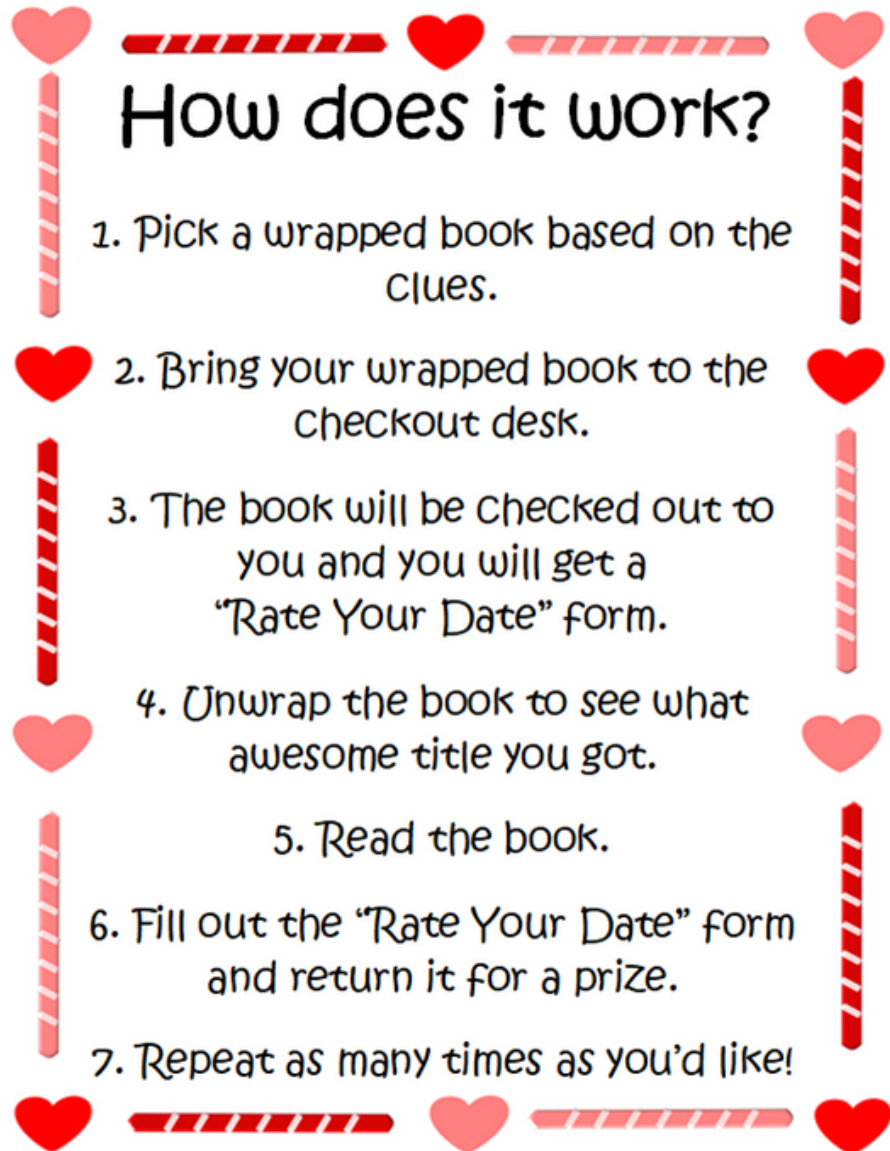
TCHS IS LOOKING FOR SOME OUTSTANDING STAFF MEMBERS TO WORK WITH OUR TOROS!

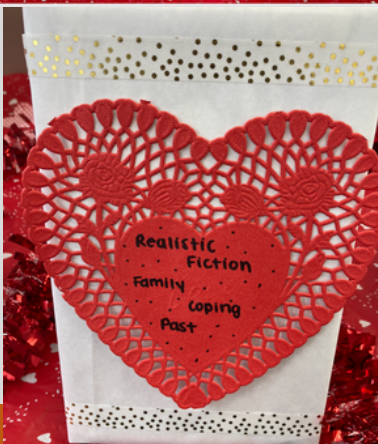
PLEASE EMAIL MR. WILLETS DIRECTLY AT [JAY.WILLETS@STJOHNS.K12.FL.US](mailto:JAY.WILLETS@STJOHNS.K12.FL.US) FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- **SCIENCE TEACHER - MARINE SCIENCE**
- **GEOMETRY TEACHER**
- **ATHLETIC SECRETARY (12 MONTH)**

# happenings at THE HUB

We have a new motivational reading activity taking place for the next few weeks in The Hub called "Blind Date with a Book." All students and staff are encouraged to participate!

- 
- ## How does it work?
1. Pick a wrapped book based on the clues.
  2. Bring your wrapped book to the checkout desk.
  3. The book will be checked out to you and you will get a "Rate Your Date" form.
  4. Unwrap the book to see what awesome title you got.
  5. Read the book.
  6. Fill out the "Rate Your Date" form and return it for a prize.
  7. Repeat as many times as you'd like!







# TCHS SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

“This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.”  
THEODORE ROOSEVELT




**LEN MATTIACE FOUNDATION**

---

Lend a Hand, Make a Difference

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!**

Service hours counted!  
We need help setting up, taking pictures, welcoming guests, and handling small tasks.

Event: Bentley Players Party  
Date: March 10, 2023  
Address: Private Residence in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082. Available upon request.

Text @lenmat to 81010 with any questions or to sign up!

1841 Ocean Grove Drive  
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233  
904.610.7604 • [www.lenmattiace.com](http://www.lenmattiace.com) • [len@lenmattiace.com](mailto:len@lenmattiace.com)

---

Stop the Bullying CAMPAIGN




Looking for information on how to document community service hours?  
How about existing opportunities available for all students? Please [click here](#) for the most up to date information from our Student Services Department.  
**Horns Up!**

# GENERAL SCHOOL INFO

## UPCOMING TESTING DATES:

- 3/22: SAT-NCR for registered 12th graders only
- 3/28: ACT School Day for all 11th graders

For more testing dates [click here!](#)

For more info on FAST Testing [Click Here!](#)



**College Reportable ACT School Day**   
-11th Grade Students ONLY-

**When:** *Tuesday, March 28th.*  
*Testing will begin at 9:20a.m.*

**Where:** *Students will be testing in classrooms at*  
*Tocoi Creek High School.*  
*Specific testing locations TBD*

**Who:** *Current juniors enrolled at*  
*Tocoi Creek High School*

**NO REGISTRATION NEEDED**

## Helpful Links:

[TCHS Yearbook](#)

[Lunch Applications](#)

[SJCSD Dress Code](#)

[TCHS Clubs](#)

[Absences and Early Dismissal](#)

[Athletic Games Pass](#)

[Cafeteria](#)

[Schoology](#)



## SAC MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 9TH @ 8:10AM IN  
MR. CABRERA'S ROOM, BUILDING 2

Want to get involved?  
Contact Mr. Joany Cabrera, SAC President,  
at [Joany.cabrera@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Joany.cabrera@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or  
904-547-4260 ext. 8244

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT



**TOCOI CREEK**  
HIGH SCHOOL  
**PTSO**

Interested in joining  
or donating to PTSO?

- [Our Website](#)
- [Our FB Group](#)
- [Our FB Page](#)
- [Our Email](#)

Join the Athletics Booster to  
help with:

- Facility improvement  
Projects
- Fundraising
- Concession Stand
- Promoting the School

If interested, contact:

[jeff.holland@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:jeff.holland@stjohns.k12.fl.us)



Please join us in supporting the fine arts at Toci Creek High School. The vision of the One Toro Arts Booster Organization is to ensure that ALL students at Toci Creek High School benefit from the collaborative support of our parent, community, and booster organization.

Membership benefits includes two tickets to the All-Arts Showcase, two tickets to one theatre production of your choice and a TC arts car decal. It's worth it to join just for those benefits! You can join the [One Toro Arts Booster Organization](#) and follow us on Facebook @OneToroArtsBoosters



# FORTIFYFL

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

#FORTIFYFL

GETFORTIFYFL.COM



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org

