As the “dog days” of August seem to be passing us by, activity at TD has been bustling by. Just to give you a preview of what September’s delights will be.

**Lower School:** New Student Orientation is Wednesday September 9th at 10:00 a.m. Individual teachers will be available to explain expectations and goals for the school year. Of course, as always, “T-D’s seasoned parents” are always welcomed to come as well.

**Middle School:** New Student Orientation for new students will be held in the Bern’s Memorial Library at 11:30. The school’s handbook will be reviewed as well as a few select teachers will explain their goals and expectations for the year.

In Lower School we will starting our salute to “old blue eyes” himself by taking a virtual trip of “his kind of town”, Chicago in preparation for TD’s trip in November. Grades 6, 7 and 8 will be joining their elder classmates on a visit to where it all started, on the Frank Sinatra full day exclusion of, “Hoboken to Hollywood” on September 18th.

In honor of Frank Sinatra, Lower School will be having music twice a week to fully incorporate the music man. In speaking of scheduling, students in grades 6 through 8 will take music and art as these are mandatory subjects as well as two foreign languages. These classes are not optional and are in addition to the curriculum.

Supply lists can be found on the school’s website @ www.td.edu.

I am looking forward to celebrating Frank’s 100th Birthday with all of you...So come fly with T-D, let’s fly, let’s fly away

See you in September
Ms. Virginia Keating
K-8 Director
keatingteach@aol.com
ALMOST PERFECTLY POLY
ANGELA TUDISCO

Many of those in the T-D faculty are at home speaking more than English. A few are truly polyglots and collectively the faculty brings lots of life into T-D by embracing several different world languages.

Sabine Hellge
GERMAN

Assunta Pugliese
ITALIAN

Mary Arbisi
FRENCH

Almira Bubesi
ITALIAN

Nat Kornell
SPANISH

Olena Vasendin
RUSSIAN

Albanian
French

Angela Tudisco
SPANISH

Benoit Van
Dutch

Sandy Pilla
ITALIAN

Lesberghe
French


Now T-D has one more teacher who is a language lover — Angela Tudisco. Angela navigates from Norwalk each day to T-D.

Actually Angela’s official name is Dr. Angela Tudisco as she holds an ABD degree. Angela has taught Spanish for over ten years. In addition to her finely tuned skills in Spanish acquired through her course work at Fairfield University.

She is equally adept in Italian after her studying at the University of Bologna.

Dr. Tudisco has lots of interest in Frank Sinatra, T-D’s ’15-’16 academic theme. She’ll also be looking aggressively for a sister school in Spain and while I have only known her for a short time I am confident she’ll find one. Not all Spanish majors chase windmills.
In a school that bills itself as quietly excellent sits a T-D senior, John Ventresca, who for all his K-12 years best embodies quiet excellence. John will be graduating as a T-D senior in June 2016. John began T-D in Kindergarten and he, along with two other graduating seniors, Michael Fanelli and Stephanie Ryzyk, will be wearing a T-D Lifer stole at the commencement.

I spoke with John while he sat in my office wearing camp garb. He was dressed like that each day for the Summer Challenge. John was a counselor and T-D lifeguard. Whether John was a lifer, lifeguard or live saver, he performed all his chores, duties, and assignments with dignity and respect. John never made his presence known, but whenever he wasn’t here, one automatically felt it. It’s what John was doing and continued to do so quietly and excellently that drew people and friends to him.

Looking back, John attributes his penmanship and good spelling habits to Michelle Colangelo, his Kindergarten teacher. He also spoke fondly about Andrew Chapin and how he made learning easy for John, stressing that understanding subject matter was more important than memorizing it.

John and Dr. K seem like a good fit. Both have enjoyed each other in class for five years straight. Sometimes it has been just John and Dr. Kernell doing Greek each day. John just doesn’t respect the good doctor, because of Greek, he admires Kernell’s beautiful mind. He still remembers being pulled out of class to walk the Brooklyn Bridge with the Nat Man and has no trouble today remembering Nat Man’s most informative narrative from a few years ago. There are some things you just don’t forget when Dr. K implants them.

In his most recent past John spoke fondly about T-D’s Sports Banquet. He believed it affected all T-D players in basketball, volleyball, baseball and soccer. Sports and sports teams help strengthen friendships and create bonding outside of the academic circle. The banquet made me feel better about T-D.

John spoke quietly, yet quite proudly, about beating Soundview and a few critical buckets he made to give T-D a W. He also felt pretty darn good having his Dad in the stands cheering for him and T-D.

John lauded Coach Steven Schlitten and liked gaining his respect. Players have to work hard to please the Coach and Mr. Schlitten gets a lot of his athletes. Coach made Chris Miles sharper and Michael Fanelli more aggressive on the court. John loved all the bus rides to and from the games – the sportsmanship, camaraderie, conversation and the spirit. It made T-D more alive.

On June 17, 2016 John will graduate. He’s been a 90 student throughout his whole T-D life. His SAT scores put him in the top ten percent of America. For 13 years John has been giving the T-D family lots to cheer about and applaud. Maybe at graduation he’ll dance for us as a White Buffalo in the Indian Prayer Circle as he did in Kindergarten 12 years ago.

No one will have to amp it up at graduation and no matter how noisy he says his sister Sophia is (Grade 8), she’ll be drowned by the din as everyone will be cheering for the approaching life saver — Johnny on the Spot.
It is hard to believe that I am back in America, and it's funny looking back on all my experiences and how it all began. The principal of my school Mr. David Selfe had been going around the globe in order to make connections with other unique schools. At one such gathering of schools he met Mr. Baum, and then the exchange plan was in motion, after several months of application, selection and waiting, my sister Jessica, friend Astrid and myself were in America visiting the Thornton Donovan school. And I am glad to say that we made connections that would stick, we all had fun during those three weeks, experiencing not only the atmosphere and culture of America, but also the kind and welcoming staff and students of your school.

I found my first stay in America different yet familiar at the same time. I found that our two schools were similar in personality but different in focus. Our schools being small enough that the teachers get to know the students, and vice versa. And I also found that both Thornton Donovan and Corelli were unique and different from all the schools you see in movies and television, Corelli’s focus on the Arts (Music, Visual Art, Dance and Drama) and Thornton Donovan’s focus on different countries and cultures of the world, provide a unique experience for all who attend, that is hard to find in the world.

Even after a year after first contact, the experience has not ended, I have stayed in contract with the loving host families and I was able to return the favour by hosting the three Thornton Donovan students at my house several months ago. It was great exposing them to the culture and beauty of my home country New Zealand, and I like to think that they took a little bit of NZ back home with them.

I am currently back in America having just worked at a boy’s summer camp for two months (Camp Hale), and the first thing that I wanted to do when the camp was over was to see all my New York friends again, before my flight back across the Pacific.

I find that both times that I have been in America, I have made friendships that I hope will last the rest of my life. The world has become a smaller place because of communication and transportation, I find that I can continue to have great conversations within American friends, despite the time difference. I can truly appreciate the value of the relationships I have made here, as my wanting to catch up and see them all again, has given me reason to stay in America for as long as I can.

And even start me planning my next trip to the states.

— Benjamin Selfe

On 3/08/2015 1:31 PM, “Doug Fleming” <headmaster@td.edu> wrote:

BS... rumor got to me that you will be bedding with Breazna. Great !!!! A beautiful story that only you can scribe. I do need it now. The topic: Why I am returning to America? Where is Judy and the Pineapple? How are Mr. and Mrs. S.? Reflections about connections in tech and life...the value of exchanges and their lifetime dividends — let your veins bleed... 98
Perfectly Presidential Warm Reception

Dear Mr. Fleming,

The President of Iceland Olafur Ragnar Grimsson is willing to meet the group from Thornton Donoval School Friday April 10 at 2:00pm, providing he will be in the country at that time.

The meeting will take place at the Presidential Residence Bessastadir which is approx. 10 minute drive from the Viking Hotel in Hafnarfjordur. The dress code is casual smart. Please send me the itinerary for your trip to Iceland when it is ready.

Sincerely,

Ragna Thorhallsdottir
Chief of Division

Ragna Thorhallsdottir
Chief of Division
Office of the President of Iceland
Tivisulmal: ERI2014110064

Dear Ms. Thorhallsdottir:

Thank you very much for your e-mail. Everyone in New York is extremely excited. Our group will be between 40-50 people, a few of whom have yet to commit and will follow later when they do. I hope this is ok.

Our school is staying in the Viking Hotel and I'm confident you know it. For your convenience it is situated at Strandgata 55, 220 Hafnarfoi (354-565-1213).

All our rooms are booked through Globus Tours under Thornton-Donovan School.

The names and descriptions with students date of birth is attached.

Very truly yours,

Douglas E. Fleming, Jr.
Headmaster

T-D on April 10, 2015
Very Few American artists drew more horses than Lumen Martin Winter, a T-D artist-in-residence in 1979 and recipient of the school’s Service Award at graduation a year later.

From the age of three, Winter lived near Larned, Kansas. His family ranch was located near the Santa Fe Trail and at his earlier years Winter would gaze at the ruts made from years of passage on the trail. The history of the trail would impact Winter’s entire life and play an important role in his art work. It’s no wonder that in Winter’s mosaics, paintings, sculptures, and murals that horses were prominently featured.

Before moving to New Rochelle, Winter lived in Santa Fe, New Mexico on the Old Pecos Trail. He did a considerable amount of art in his studio home before he relocated to New Rochelle and 144 Overlook Circle. Winter was one of two families to reside at 144 Overlook Circle. The other was the original owners, Donald and Muriel Battey. The Battey family was given their new Overlook Circle home by the Crawfords, owners of 100 Overlook. It was a wedding gift for their daughter, Muriel.

Of all the horses Winter focused on in his art, and there were without exaggeration, thousands of them, Winters’ “Steeds of Apollo” received worldwide attention and acclaim. The horses racing to the sun became the official logo for the Apollo 13 space mission. Winter’s horses were now out of this world.

Lumen Martin Winter died way too early in 1982. Since then and until today, no museum has featured or exhibited his art. Thanks to the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame, Winter’s horses came back to life. The museum is located in Goshen, New York and is about a one and one-half hour ride from T-D. His exhibit can be seen daily.

With the help of Alexander Katlan, an art conservator and Winter enthusiast, the Harness Racing Museum received several Winter art pieces showcasing his horses. Katlan also contacted T-D to rediscover Winter and invited T-D’s Headmaster Doug Fleming to the opening art exhibit at the Goshen Museum. While the Headmaster was unable to attend, T-D was mentioned in the opening program guide. Anytime T-D and Winter’s name are in the same sentence everyone here becomes Totally Delighted.
Where in the world was Miss Emily?

It’s always been difficult explaining Thornton-Donovan’s past. Once and originally named the New Rochelle and Kindergarten, T-D’s birth date was about 1900.

I always looked for information on T-D from that date until 1968 when I became its steward. With the help of Jim King from Nottingham, England, some information floated across the Atlantic about Miss Emily. I did know she went to school at the University of Nottingham and Jim King confirmed it.

Based on what I recently received after much more snooping, there are some specific differences. My source is now David S. Stewart.

Not so long ago Jim King passed. He was a faithful school friend and many T-D faculty and alums remember him, as an Honorary Alumna, with great fondness and respect.

His bride Hilary still lives in Carlton and still has ties to the University of Nottingham.

No one will ever read Dave Stewart’s e-mail with more interest than Hilary. Almost as interested will be John Frustaglio’98 who went from Thornton-Donovan to the University of Nottingham and stayed many a night at Oak Cottage, the King’s home.

Rediscovering Miss Emily would be a great project. Should there be any takers, contact Douglas E. Fleming, Jr.

Hi Doug

Thank you so much for getting back so promptly. Interesting about link to DH Lawrence. When I first came to Nottingham in 1972 I stayed with a family called Morel. His aunt had been a neighbour of DH. No love lost!

Address is Oak Field School, Wigman Rd. Nottingham NG8 3HW

When the city advertised the post in 1893, they were looking for someone with kindergarten experience. Emily clearly fitted the bill. I will ask our Alumni dept. if they have any info.

Thank you once again. You might tell your pupils that the Sheriff often visits our school! These days they generally join in the fun!

Best Wishes

David S Stewart