

Welcome to Highland! The next edition of the Eagle News will be Monday, October 31st. Please submit information for the newsletter (in text format) to hms-pta@live.com by Sunday, October 30th at noon. (If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please unsubscribe at the bottom.)

Important Dates

October-December

10/18 - PTSA General Membership Meeting, 7 pm (Library)
10/18-21 - 6th Grade Camp, Camp Orkila
10/25 - Highland Fall Concert, 7:00-8:00 pm, Gym
10/26 - Skate King, 6:00-8:00 pm
10/27 - Arena Conferences (M-Z), 4:00-8:00, Gym
11/2 - International Festival, 5:30pm to 7:30pm
11/10 - Professional/Conference Day, no school
11/11 - Veterans Day - No School
11/15 - PTSA General Membership Meeting, 7 pm (Library)
11/24-25 - Thanksgiving Holiday, no school
12/1 - Band Concert, 7:00-8:00, Gym
12/3 - Highland Auction
12/6 - Orchestra Concert, 7:00-8:00, Cafeteria
12/9 - Band/Orchestra Community Performance, 10:00-12:30, Crossroads Mall
12/15 - Music Department School Assembly, 1:00-2:00, Gym
12/20-1/2 - Winter Break, no school

PTSA News

Presidents Message

Greetings Highland Parents!

I had the great privilege of enjoying a couple of evenings at Highland the last couple of weeks. I hope you did too. Thank you, Debra Miller for all your efforts in putting together another great Parent Education night and I don't know about you but I had a great time having face to face interactions with my son's teachers at the arena conferences. I so enjoy hearing from the teachers about my son's progress. Another great way to hear from the staff is at our next PTSA meeting which is on Tuesday, October 18th at 7pm in the library. Please come join us and hear some updates from our principal and teacher liaison as well as how the PTSA is supporting your students here at Highland.

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Alison Hinojosa House
Highland PTSA President

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PTSA Sponsored Programs Needs Your Help

International Festival and Multicultural Potluck

The HMS PTSA would like to support the International Festival by providing a potluck during this fun event. This event is scheduled for November 3, 2011. If you are interested in coordinating the potluck and volunteers please contact Alison House at alihouse@comcast.net .

Walkabout Program

Would you consider spending breakfast or lunch at Highland one day a month or more? The Walkabout program is key to preventing small issues from escalating into larger ones, stopping bullying and harassment. Having additional adult chaperones during lunches also provides the students with opportunities to play group sports. A group of parent/community volunteers is forming and would love to have you participate!

If interested, please contact Eric [Ferguson at FergusonE@bsd405.org](mailto:FergusonE@bsd405.org).

PTSA sponsored awards

The Highland PTSA is seeking an individual or individuals, who would be so kind to solicit applications, review the applicants and fairly assign the PTSA award at the end of the school year. If interested please contact Alison House at alihouse@comcast.net.

Auction

SAVE THE DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2011

Your backstage pass is reserved for the Highland Auction on December 3rd...more information to come!

If interested in planning this fun event please contact Alison House at alihouse@comcast.net

Advocacy Corner

Update from the Legislative Assembly this Weekend

Hi all,

There were some good discussions at Legislative Assembly this weekend -- in the education sessions, caucus sessions and the general sessions. There was a lot to learn and talk about.

The results:

Charter schools narrowly made it onto the supported issues list - it was very close.

Early learning, achievement/opportunity gap, highly capable, juvenile justice and school signage were all added to the supported issues list.

After thoughtful discussion there was an amendment to the proposed amendment for the teacher compensation issue. The new amendment was adopted to replace the original amendment. However, the new amendment narrowly failed so the compensation issue remains in the original wording.

Kristen Edelhertz

h: 425.455.0240 | c: 425.241.9093 | edelhertz@msn.com

Jen Lubanski will be sharing more information about this platform at the Tuesday night PTA meeting. Anyone with questions or concerns is welcome to come and learn more.

School News

Highland Music News

There will be a Fall Concert for all the orchestras and bands, including the jazz band, on Tuesday, October 25, in the Highland gym. Please come and enjoy the music produced by our hard-working students.

In keeping with our annual tradition for this first concert of the year, we will have a dessert potluck. Bring something sweet to share with others. Coffee will be provided.

Also, please check out the new Highland Music website at:

<http://highlandptsa.org/MusicProgram.aspx>

The site currently just has the schedule for the whole year, but will soon contain additional useful information about the program.

Math Olympiads

I am going to be starting a **Math Olympiad Group at Highland** in November. I'll meet with interested students **Thursday November 3rd** during tutorial in my room (206). At the meeting, we'll decide that best day and time to meet as a group- 1 or 2 days a week, either before school at 7am or during 1st lunch.

To learn more about the program, check out the website:

<http://www.moems.org/>

Andria Quarry
Math Teacher
Highland Middle School

Attendance

Parents did you know that the Attendance Office phone number has been changed? Call 425-456-6401 to report your students absence. Voice mail has been set up on this new number so you can leave messages weekends, late night or early morning.

Our prearranged absence form has been revised and no longer requires teacher signatures. If your student is going to be out of school for 2 or more days make sure the prearranged form is turned in before student departure if you want an excused code for the absence. Have your student pick up the form now for the upcoming Holidays. If your student will be gone only one day, just call the new Attendance number and leave a message. Always leave your child's first and last name and reason for absence. Thank you!

Lydia Judge
HMS Attendance Specialist
425-456-6401

Community News

Bellevue School District Update

Record Number of National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

The newly-released National Merit Scholarship semifinalist list for 2012 includes a record 45 students from Bellevue schools. In addition, Interlake High School has more students on the prestigious list than any other public high school in Washington State. The 45 semifinalists are eligible to compete for a \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship. An additional 82 students received Letters of Commendation in recognition of their academic promise. [Read more about this year's National Merit Scholarship semifinalist list.](#)

Save the Date for the First Superintendent Coffee

Please mark the night of **Tuesday, November 8 at 6:30 pm at Sammamish High School** for the first in the series of Superintendent Coffees of the year. For the past two years, these coffee forums have been a relaxed popular opportunity for parents to chat with Superintendent Amalia Cudeiro about issues in the District and ask questions. Join Amalia in the Sammamish High School library to relax with a cup of coffee, hear about the latest District updates and ask questions.

Bellevue School District Web Site

The Bellevue School District web site is overdue for an update. The site has not had a significant update in more than a decade. Parent feedback has helped guide a number of upcoming changes, including improving the site navigation and aesthetics. The changes coming in the next several weeks is the next step in the ongoing evolution of the site. Watch for a new update to the site coming soon.

Bellevue Schools Foundation

Shopping on Amazon? If you enter the site through the Bellevue Schools Foundation website <http://bsfdn.org/default.aspx> your purchases will cost YOU the same, and 7% will be donated to the Foundation to benefit ALL Bellevue Schools!

Parenting

Julie Metzger RN, MN & Rob Lehman M.D.

November 17, 2011 * 7pm * Islander Middle School , 8225 SE 72nd Street, Mercer Island* Library

Staying Close While Standing Back: Parenting Adolescents

- Support independent decision making & know when to step in
- Build mutual trust & resilient connections
- Spot risk taking behavior & learn how to talk about it
- Differences in girl/boy thoughts & reactions to peer pressure
- Myths/Truths about teen decision making

Free for Mercer Island and St. Monica PTA members or \$5 at the door. <http://www.miparentedge.org/>

For parents with middle and high school aged kids

Community Event

Improving Washington's Public Schools: *How do we stack up to the rest of the country?*

Bill Daggett, Ed.D * Friday, November 18th, 2011 * 4 pm to 7 pm * Sammamish High School Performing Arts Center * 100 - 140th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA

Nationally recognized educator, speaker, and CEO of the International Center for Leadership in Education, Dr. Daggett knows our state's education system, federal education mandates, current issues and trends - -as he shares best practices and what all students need to succeed.

Free: advance reservation required by November 1st. Email your reservation to marcie@marciemaxwell.com. Please include attendee name, email and title and/or organization.

For all people who care about education

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE EAGLE NEWS!

The Eagle News is the Highland PTSA e-mailed newsletter which is sent bi-weekly on Mondays (except holidays) during the school year. Make sure your friends are receiving it. To subscribe, send your name, student name and grade level, and e-mail address to: hms-ptsal@live.com.

SUBMISSIONS: Please submit information for the newsletter to hms-ptsal@live.com by Sunday at noon before the next deadline. Thank you for your articles! Submissions should be in plain text in the body of your email message.