

Welcome to Highland! The next edition of the Eagle News will be Monday, October 17th. Please submit information for the newsletter (in text format) to hms-pta@live.com by Sunday, October 16th at noon. (If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please unsubscribe at the bottom.)

Important Dates

September-December

- 10/6** - Parent University
6:00-6:50 Dinner
6:50-8:30pm Classes
- 10/13** - Arena Conferences (A-L), 4:00-8:00, Gym
- 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
- 11/10** - Professional/Conference Day, no school
- 11/11** - Veterans Day - No School
- 11/15** - PTSA Board of Directors 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

Dear Highland Parents/Guardians:

I just wanted to share that over the last couple of months the HMS PTSA Executive Board has attended 2-3 trainings each. This September, I participated in an Outreach session for I am very interested in seeing HMS TSA reflect the population of Highland. During this session I had an epiphany - What does diversity mean? For Highland, not only does it mean different cultures (about 46% of HMS students speak a first language other than English), it also means economic status (47% are on the free and reduced lunch program) and then of course there is family structure (special need student, single-same sex -both parents or living with grandparents, etc) - you get the picture - diversity

In This Issue

Calendar

****PTSA News****

Presidents Message

PTSA Membership

Advocacy Corner

****School News****

Message from Principal & Vice Principal

Open House Night

Teacher's Show Commitment

6th Grade Camp

Attendance

****Community News****

Low Cost Internet for "free lunch" Students

The Saints Basketball Tryouts

Free Lacross Clinics

Quick Links

[PTSA Website](#)

[HMS School Website](#)

[Bellevue Schools Foundation](#)

[Washington State PTA](#)

[National PTA](#)

means so much more. Why do I share this with YOU? Because I hope you are aware that the HMS PTSA desires to mirror the awesome diverse population at HMS. Please join me in supporting our students at Highland Middle School by volunteering on a committee, attend a PTSA meeting (Oct 18th), and donate to our fundraisers. Come visit me during the Parent University this Thursday! I would love to meet you.

Alison Hinojosa House
Highland PTSA President

PTSA Sponsored Programs Needs Your Help

Reflections

The PTSA Reflections Program, a student competition of original arts, dance, poetry/spoken word, music, etc., is starting up at schools across the District. This year's theme is "Diversity Means . . ." HMS PTSA is looking for volunteers, in particular a parent or two to champion this program for Highland Students. ***If we do not hear from someone in the next week we will have to decline participating.*** Last year one of our students advanced to the state level and 2 were recognized by the Bellevue PTSA Council. Please help us ensure this program continues at Highland by contacting Alison House at alihouse@comcast.net.

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

HMS PTSA is looking forward to implement a WalkAbout Program at Highland Middle School. This 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. Please consider spending lunch at Highland one day a month or more. 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

[League of Education
Voters](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

interested please contact Alison House at alihouse@comcast.net.

Advocacy Corner

Common Core State Standards webinars in English language arts and mathematics

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction will be hosting a series of webinars in English language arts and mathematics that will address the transition to the Common Core State Standards in these subjects. These webinars are for all who are interested in developing and deepening their awareness of how the Common Core State Standards will impact student learning in Washington State.

In the first webinars, the Common Core State Standard documents in mathematics and English language arts will be introduced and their design and organization explained. Resources available to support implementation and the latest information available from the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium will be shared.

Registration is required to participate. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email and instructions to join the webinar. Questions will be accepted during the webinar via the Questions Box feature.

**Common Core State Standards Mathematics Webinar
September 20, 2011
3:30 PM-4:30 PM
REGISTER AT:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/725539976>**

**Common Core State Standards English Language Arts Webinar
September 22, 2011
3:30 PM-4:30 PM
REGISTER AT:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/877927512>**

Handouts for the webinars will be posted no later than 9AM on the day of the webinars on the OSPI Common Core State Standards website at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/Corestandards/default.aspx>.

Recorded versions of the webinars will also be posted on the OSPI Common Core State Standards website for those who are unable to participate in the webinars.

Technical questions relating to this webinar may be addressed by emailing Tony Brownell at tony.brownell@k12.wa.us by 3:00 p.m., Friday, September 16th. Please note the system requirements provided below.

System Requirements

PC-based attendees

Required: Windows® 7, Vista, XP, 2003 Server or 2000

Macintosh® based attendees

Required: Mac OS® X 10.4.11 (Tiger®) or newer®

Highland PTSA is still seeking an Advocacy Chair

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If you are interested please contact Alison House at alihouse@comcast.net.

Bellevue School District Test Results.

See <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us> View this past year's Bellevue School District test results data, just out. Click by schools function available. No info yet on when families will receive individual student results.

Coming Events---mark your calendar:

School Board Meetings this year will all be at 4:30pm, unless special topics on agenda.

10/4 Candidates Forum sponsored by Bellevue Downtown Association at Bellevue Hilton (time to be announced) Will include King County, Bellevue City Council and Bellevue School Board candidates.

Election day: November 8th Ballots mailed: October 21
Last day for voter registration or changes: October 10

info at: www.sos.wa.gov/elections
resource on candidates: Public Disclosure
Commission, www.pdc.wa.gov

**10/10 PTA Meeting Speaker Our 48th Legislative District
Senator Rodney Tom, chair of Senate Higher Ed committee**
to talk about issues related to college. Dependent on whether
there is a special budget session after this months revenue report
comes out.

11/18 7-9pm at Sammamish!! Repeat of FABULOUS
presentation by Bill Daggett--see www.leadered.com, sponsored
again this year by Marcie Maxwell Foundation and others. Watch
for more details. Space will likely be limited but well worth your
time.

League of Education Voters presentations on advocacy topics and
education trends finally coming to Eastside!!...watch for info as
events are scheduled. Earlier this week Michael Horn author of
Disruptive Innovation spoke at Bellevue College on opportunities,
trends, and issues surrounding on-line education---fascinating!!!
Upcoming September event in Kent on Juvenile Justice--interested
contact sharon.taubel@yahoo.com for more info.

Washington State Senate Page Program

Cut and paste this address:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Administration/PageProgram/Pages/>

The Washington State Legislature has one of the finest page
programs in the country. Hundreds of students throughout
Washington State have an opportunity each year to take part in
the legislative process and observe the Legislature and other
branches of state government in action.

This site provides basic information about the Senate Page
Program to assist you in submitting an application. In order to be
considered, you must complete the application and return it to the
senator who represents your legislative district. If you don't know
your Senator's name and address, here's how to find it:

- . Call the Legislative Information Center Hotline at 800-562-6000
- . Online at: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx>

School News

Message from Principal & Vice Principal

Greetings from Highland Middle School,

Highland students and staff have had an outstanding start to the school year! It's unanimous, the Highland staff is impressed with how hard students are working and their commitment to learning. During the first week of school, we worked together to learn about the importance of supporting a positive learning

environment, how to demonstrate respect and finally, discussed the correlation between student achievement and attendance.

As you know, students are learning how to take Cornell Notes in all of their classes. Cornell note-taking is a system that was created by a Cornell University professor. It systematically teaches students how to take notes from text and lecture, analyze information, summarize the new learning and use notes as a study tool. In fact, a key component of Cornell note-taking is for students to interact with their notes within 24 hours. This enables students to retain more information for a longer period of time. This week, our 6th grade students were introduced to Cornell note-taking, specifically, that they are learning how to take notes for learning and increasing academic performance. You will have an opportunity to learn more about Cornell note-taking and other AVID strategies students are learning at the Parent Education Night on October 6th.

A special thank you to PTSA for hosting Back to School Pizza Night. The weather was beautiful, the pizza was delicious and the turnout was large. It was such a pleasure to meet so many new families and connect with returning families.

Based on the first two weeks of school, it's going to be an outstanding year!

Sincerely,

Anissa Bereano Eric Ferguson
Principal Assistant Principal

Open House Night

Please join us for Open House on Thursday, September 22 from 6:30-8:35pm. The evening will begin in the cafeteria with a general meeting hosted by the administrators. Following the general meeting, you will follow your student's schedule. In each classroom, you'll meet the teacher and receive a brief overview of the class. The counselors and administrators will be available throughout the evening to answer any specific questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you at this event. Please call the Highland office at 425-456-6400 if you have any questions.

Teacher's Show Their Commitment to Highland!

[Click here](#) to view the dance that the Staff performed on the first day of school for the students! The students were impressed with their skills!

6th Grade Camp

Camp is fast approaching! Parents, please get camp forms in as soon as possible because it helps us to plan out our stay while at camp and our transportation to camp. Payment does not need to be included when forms are turned in, and payment does not all need to come in at once. If you have questions or concerns please contact your student's 6th grade teachers, a counselor or the main office to get further information or to have any questions answered. We have scholarships available and will leave no student behind due to lack of payment. If you do not want your student to attend, we need written notice of this decision, and we will be contacting you to make sure and answer any questions. Our goal is 100% attendance from our 6th grade students this year.

Sara Clarke
Highland Middle School

Attendance

Last week, students learned about the direct correlation between strong academic performance and good attendance. Our goal is to have students in class and limit the disruptions to the learning environment. We no longer call into classrooms to deliver messages or call students out of class. We will deliver messages to students during 4th and 7th periods if absolutely necessary. A staff member will also pick up students from class who need to leave early. Please help us support a positive learning environment and maximize learning by considering the following:

Call the attendance line at 425-456-6401 if your student is going to be late to school or absent.

Make an after school plan with your student the day before or in the morning. Encourage your student to write this plan in his/her planner.

Complete a prearranged attendance form if you know in advance that your students will be absent 2 or more days. Schedule appointments during lunch, after school or during vacations.

We are here to help-please let us know if there is anything we can do to support your student in arriving to school on time and every day.

NOTE: The Attendance Office phone number has been changed to 425-456-6401! Add it to your cell phone address book.

Thank you,
Lydia Judge,
HMS Attendance Specialist

Community News

Low Cost Internet for "free lunch" Students

How to qualify:

To qualify for \$9.95 a month Internet service and a low-cost computer, your household must meet all these criteria:

Be located where Comcast offers Internet service

Have at least one child receiving free school lunches through the National School Lunch Program

Have not subscribed to Comcast Internet service within the last 90 days

Not have an overdue Comcast bill or unreturned equipment

How to apply

Call 1-855-8-INTERNET (1-855-846-8376) to request an application

We will mail you an application. Complete and return it, along with lunch program documents from your child's school

We will notify you by mail about the status of your application.

Allow 7-10 days for a response

Visit <http://www.internetessentials.com/index.html> for more information.

The Saints Basketball Tryouts

Hello all,

The tryouts for the Saints basketball program will be next Wednesday and Friday (9/21 and 9/23)

5th grade 6-7:30 pm at Highland Middle School

6th grade 6-7:30 pm at Highland Middle School

7th grade 7:30-9 pm at Highland Middle School

8th grade 7:30-9 pm at Highland Middle School

Practices will begin after tryouts and all practices will be at Highland Middle School on Wednesday and Fridays through the end of the season.

There are fliers at Highland Middle School in the office.
Questions? Email: guygalland@hotmail.com and
coachterrytaylor@live.com

Thanks!
Julie Thomas
425-881-6185

Free Lacross Clinics!

Come and try the fastest growing sport in America. Sammamish Lacrosse Club is offering FREE CLINICS on Sundays, Oct. 9th - Nov. 13, for K - 8th graders. No equipment required. Please visit www.sammamishlacrosse.com to learn more and to register.

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.