



# HawkSquawk

A HIGHLAND UPPER SCHOOL PUBLICATION

January 13, 2010 Issue #6

From...Mary Fahning, Upper School Director



Dear Upper School Parents,

Welcome to a new calendar year and to a new semester. Last week students received their second semester schedules in advisory and a copy was sent home through email. A number of students have used this information to make adjustments to their elective courses. All students should use their schedule to make sure that they have the necessary textbooks to begin the new semester on January 19<sup>th</sup> with a strong start. Even in year long classes students have the opportunity to begin with a clean slate as the recording of grades begins anew with the second semester. The grades on the semester report card that you will receive in approximately two and a half weeks



will include exam information and the culmination of all work for the semester. Second semester grades are collected separately; the two semesters are averaged together in June to determine the overall grade which will appear on the transcript.

What do Che Guevara, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Idi Amin, and Kirby Meade have in common? **Revolution!** We are very fortunate to have Mr. Meade join Highland School in the second semester to teach an elective course entitled "Revolutionaries." This course focuses on the people and ideas throughout modern history that have stirred the hearts of millions and caused radical change (both productive and destructive) in societies around the world. Mr. Meade previously taught a wide variety of 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade history and social science classes at Flint Hill in Oakton in addition to managing the yearbook. He is currently a professor of history and government at the University of Maryland University College. His other background reads like a spy novel. For example he served as a Russian interpreter for both Russian and American diplomats and military staff, instructed Saudi nationals in intelligence gathering methods, and assisted in mapping Panamanian defense communications networks. Mr. Meade holds a B.A. in History and Russian, from Excelsior College/University, New York and an M.A in International Relations/Strategic Studies from Boston University. There is still room in this exciting class for students with interests in politics, society, and ideas.

Highland's newly formed 2010 FIRST Robotics team, Team #3373, attended two separate kick off events this past weekend. Caitlin Bryan, Donny Rogers, Gilannie Sarai, Taylor Wills, Vivien Rendleman, and Sarah Henry attended the official Kickoff at VCU in Richmond with Mrs. Mello. The team received their the Kit of Parts, had an opportunity to see the playing field, met with other teams to com-

pare notes, and participated in a question and answer session. Other members of the team and their mentors attended a KitBot Build Workshop at McKinley Technology High School in Washington, DC. During the workshop Richard Vann and Mr. Bruce Hundley focused on Electrical Assembly, Garrett Hundley and Fabian von Feilitzsch on Frame Assembly, Zach Dennis and James Minyard on Transmission Assembly, while Will and Anthony Elswick attended the session on Programming.

FIRST Robotics is a fantastic learning experience for our students and an excellent opportunity for Highland to move fully into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in math and science. It's an expensive program and we are thankful to our parents who have already provided \$6500 in seed money to cover the registration fees. Team #3373 will need additional help from parents and friends in order to raise funds, learn the technical skills necessary to build the robot, learn the rules, and come up with a game winning strategy. Adult mentors are allowed and encouraged to help the robotics team with many aspects of the competition. It will take effort and teamwork to successfully compete in our rookie year. If you are willing to volunteer your time or expertise please contact Claire Mello [cmello@highlandschool.org](mailto:cmello@highlandschool.org).

We have implemented a new attendance process in the Upper School. In the interest of student safety Reginald Ryder, Director of Guidance, is now calling home to check on any student who is not in school at 8:00 AM and who misses Advisory. Please call Mr. Ryder directly, office:540-878-2779 or cell: 540-219-4622, if you are running late and encourage your child to do the same if they drive to school. As we enter a new flu season it is important for everyone to be aware of our attendance policy. Please review the Attendance Policy and Academic Guidelines for Absences in the student handbook.

Wishing You a Peaceful 2010,

*Mary Fahning*

Robotics in the Upper School is new but US students have been enjoying being involved in the Lego's program in the LS & MS for some time. The Lego's program is considered a great foundation for the Robotics program.



## School of Engineering and Applied Science Engineering

**Open House  
Saturday  
Feb. 20, 2010  
9:00AM - 3:00PM**

***Mrs. Scheffel is taking a bus to this event. Please sign up with her now!***

You are invited to attend the U.Va. School of Engineering and Applied Science Open House—an annual, free event open to the public that provides an opportunity for visitors to meet faculty and staff, interact with current students, take tours of state-of-the-art facilities, and attend interesting exhibits, presentations and demonstrations. Bring friends, family members and others who have always wanted to know the answer to the question: “What do Engineers do?”

This year, there will be several special presentations: former astronaut and Associate Dean for Graduate Programs Kathy Thornton described the *Sights and Sounds of Space Flight*, Ryan Hargraves of the U.Va. Admissions Office and Engineering School Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs Ed Berger will discuss admissions and curriculum matters and Professor Larry Richards will highlight some *Engineering Greats*.

If you are thinking about engineering as a career or want your students to gain a more comprehensive idea of the opportunities available to engineers, mark your calendars. The SEAS Open House is of particular interest to prospective students and school groups of all grade levels. Please see the information below for a sample of activities that will be planned for the day. No pre-registration is necessary. Schedules and maps will be distributed from the registration table in the lobby of Thornton Hall on the day of the event. <http://www.seas.virginia.edu/openhouse/>

**The SCA Winter Dance is scheduled!**

### **Techno 10 Dance**

**January 22, 2010**

**8 pm -12 am**

**Fauquier Fair Grounds**

**\$25/couple**

**\$15/single**

**Tickets may be purchased at the Main Office**

### **Lunch Update**

**Monday and Friday** continue to be provided by the Parents Association. Forms are available online and in the Main Office.

**Tuesday**—No lunch is served at this time, please be sure you have your child pack a lunch!

**Wednesday**— Prefect Pizza— no order form necessary.

**Thursday**— The sophomore class sponsors Chinese Lunch. Order forms are online and in the Main Office.

*From the Parent Resource and  
Outreach Program Calendar:*

## **Upper School 101**

A program for current 8th grade students and their parents

**January 27, 2010**

**The Rice Theater**

**7:00 p.m.**

Presented by Mary Fahning,  
Upper School Director

RSVP please to

Wendy Safren, Assistant to Upper School Director  
[wsafren@highlandschool.org](mailto:wsafren@highlandschool.org) or 540-878-2720

## Attention SAT takers!

Attention SAT takers! Veteran teacher Sally Pont and her husband, math-whiz Steve Lawrence will conduct four SAT prep sessions in the winter to prepare students for the March 13 SAT test. The scheduled dates are: January 30, February 13, February 20, and March 6. We will reserve February 27 as an alternate date in case an earlier date is snowed out.

(Note: we will not have class on February 6 as it is an ACT test date.) The class will take place on Saturday mornings from 9:00-12:00. Cost is 350 dollars. Please email Sally Pont at [spont@highlandschool.org](mailto:spont@highlandschool.org) to register.

To Highland School faculty, student body and parents,

On behalf of the entire Bray/Allen family we would like to offer our profound gratitude for your love and support during our ordeal. A special thanks to Mr. Berg and Ms. Fahning for allowing time and arranging transportation to attend Emily's memorial ceremony. Thank you all.

John and Sean Bray

*From Reginald Ryder, Director of Guidance– Office: 540-878-2779 Cell: 540-540-219-4622*

*From the Student Handbook please be reminded of the following regarding tardiness to school and absences:* Students must be in their advisory by 8:00 a.m. Repeated tardiness causes the students and his/her teachers problems and is to be avoided. **Students who arrive late must check in with the Upper School Office to avoid being marked absent for the day.**

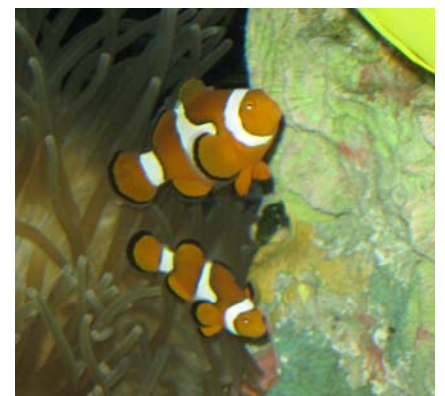
### Notification of Absences

When a student is absent from school due to illness or unforeseen circumstances, a parent **MUST NOTIFY** the **Director of Guidance** before 8:00 a.m. on the day of the absence at 540-878-2779 or 540-219-4622.



Not exactly a tropical paradise but the Baltimore Aquarium offered students of Marine Biology a reprieve from the cold weather last week.

To the left, Margot Laimbeer visits with her new friend, Joseph, the Hissing Cockroach.



## Experiential Education and YOU!

*From the Office of Director of Service and Experiential Learning:*

**Are you willing to share your expertise and time with a young person?  
Could you use some youthful energy to help with an important project?**

Highland has developed two important experiential learning programs to help our students learn about career interests and the professional work world. We depend on partnerships with business and parent sponsors to ensure successful placements for our students. Past sponsors consistently report how pleased they are with our students' performance, and often identify a part-time, summer or future employee. Most importantly, sponsors provide a perspective-changing, inspirational experience for our students. Contact Megan Catalfamo at [mcatalfamo@highlandschool.org](mailto:mcatalfamo@highlandschool.org) to learn more or to discuss a potential placement.

### **Senior Projects**

The Senior Project allows students to experience a meaningful closure to their Upper School years. During the last weeks of school, seniors are given the opportunity to explore a career, academic, or service interest by developing an internship or pursuing an independent project. Projects culminate in an evaluation by the sponsor and a presentation to Highland students and faculty. Past projects have included internships with various professionals, such as doctors and educators, service learning opportunities with community agencies, and special interest pursuits that include working for political organizations and attending professional development workshops.

**Sponsor Responsibilities:** Host student for 75 hours during the month of May for a meaningful and active project experience. Student will work with sponsor to set up a mutually agreeable schedule based on the AP Exams and spring sports commitments. (Occasionally, some students may develop a project where they split time between 2 sponsors in related fields.) Complete an evaluation of the student's performance.

### **Junior Internships**

The Junior Internship Program provides students the opportunity to explore and clarify potential career interests, discover what skills and education are essential for success, and develop maturity and responsibility. This experience will help students as they embark on the college and academic program selection process, and will allow them to refine their interests before choosing their three week-long Senior Project. Students will also have the opportunity to develop contacts that may lead to a longer internship experience, or summer or part-time employment. Highland students have interned in numerous fields including business, medicine, education, law, filmmaking, psychology and marine biology.

**Sponsor Responsibilities:** Host student for four days (May 17-20, 2010) in a meaningful and active project experience. Students are expected to spend the equivalent of a school day (8-3) on the project site. Complete an evaluation of the student's performance.

## Senior Project Planning Update

Information about the Senior Project was included in the Senior College Night packet and has been emailed this week to all senior parents. Seniors have been meeting with their senior project advisors to discuss interest areas and potential leads. The Senior Project Information Form, complete with student and parent signatures is **due Monday, February 1.**

Your Upper School Parent Representatives			
9th Grade	Cathy Treuting	treuting@verizon.net	540-349-9032
10th Grade	Connie Rogers	connie@silentpartner.biz	540-364-1108
11th Grade	Kathy Smith	kksdukebse@aol.com	540-349-9208
12th Grade	Valerie Cummins	cumminsvalerie@aol.com	540-347-1524

## Don't Hesitate!

January 15th is the **LAST DAY** to pre-order a **YEAR-BOOK**. This Award winning book will provide you with a lifetime of memories! Books can be ordered through the school (payment by billing the Highland account or by check) using the order form available on the school's website. Please send a hard copy of your order from to Laura DeBoer. Or, visit [Jostens.com](http://Jostens.com) to order online and pay by credit card. Cost is \$90.

You're Invited To Highland's

## Coffee House

The Black Box Theater  
7-10 p.m.  
on the following Friday's:

January 22  
February 12  
February 26  
(more dates will follow)

An informal gathering started by Upper School students where all are welcome to showcase their musical talents.

## Mark Your Calendars

13	Wednesday	US Open House 7:00 PM – Parents Association Meeting (8:15 AM The Black Box)
14	Thursday	End of First Semester Founder's Scholar Information Session (8:15 AM – Hazel Library)
15	Friday	Faculty Work Day– NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
16	Saturday	SSAT at Highland 9:00 AM (Arundel Gym)
18	Monday	Martin Luther King Day – NO SCHOOL
22	Friday	Techno Ten Winter Dance -8pm-12am- The Fauquier Fair Grounds Coffee House (7:00 PM – The Black Box)
23	Saturday	SSAT Test (Snow Date) 9:00 AM (Arundel Gym)
25 – 29	Mon – Fri	International Week – Expect Special Schedules
27	Wednesday	International Week US 101 for Grade 8 students & parents (7:00 PM – The Rice Theater) Department Chairs will be in attendance. Anticipated mail date for Semester 1 report cards
29	Friday	International Week Application/Financial Aid Deadline
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
1	Monday	Upper School First Semester Honor Roll Assembly
1-5	Mon. – Fri.	Gesell Screening– <i>This will take place in the US Library all week.</i>
4	Thursday	Re-enrollment Contracts Mailed
5	Friday	Last Day of Drop-Add for US students Boosters Meeting (8:30 AM – Center for the Arts)
6	Saturday	ACT Test
8	Monday	Math Contest at lunch. Required for all HPC, Calculus, AP Calc & AP Stats students
10	Wednesday	Parents Association Meeting (8:15 AM The Black Box)
12	Friday	Coffee House (7:00 PM – The Black Box)
15	Monday	Presidents' Day – NO SCHOOL

