

Highland School

Lower School Hawktalk

Hank Berg, Head of School

December 1, 2011, Issue 5



From...

Lise Hicklin
Lower School Director

Dear Lower School Parents,

December is here! Thanksgiving is behind us and winter holidays are coming soon. This is the time of year when we think about giving gifts to each other and those in need. It's so important to instill in our students the significance of helping others. At Highland, we begin our service learning journey in the Lower School by guiding students through several community projects. Service activities in our division are led by the Director's Council, which is comprised of third and fourth grade students. All students in those grade levels will take a turn on the Council at some point during the school year.

The first grading period Lower School Director's Council just finished their mission of presenting information, encouraging participation and collecting and delivering food to the Food Bank. Students donated 507 pounds of canned veggies to the food center.

The second grading period Director's Council members met earlier in the week to excitedly plan our next endeavor. In today's assembly, Council members will ask all Lower Schoolers to assist Head Start and Bright Stars students by donating mittens, hats and socks to keep our young friends warm. These items will hang on our Mitten Tree in the Chilton Commons until Council members deliver the goods to the Head Start center before the holiday break. As you know the School is also collecting books for our buddies at Head Start. We will present them with these book gifts when they come to Highland for the PK-2 Holiday program dress rehearsal later this month.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming holiday celebrations at school. I wish you peace and joy throughout the season.

Sincerely,

Lise Hicklin



The Council at Work



The Smiles of Satisfaction of Helping



Serious About Work!



The Cans Keep on Coming!

Highland School Mission Statement: *To provide a demanding academic and co-curricular program that develops the skills and character essential for students to meet the challenges of college and leadership in the twenty-first century.*

Mark Your Calendars

Bright Stars/Head Start Holiday Book Drive

This year the Parent Association's goal is to provide 157 preschool Bright Stars and Head Start students with 2-3 books each for the holiday season. Collection boxes for students to fill are located in the Chilton Commons and throughout the Middle School. Books should be non-denominational and the subject matter should be appropriate for ages 3-6.

After the collection, PA volunteers will wrap the books in holiday gift wrap and will distribute them to the young guests at the dress rehearsal for the holiday program at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 15. If you can spare some time to help wrap, please e-mail Kathy Morehouse, Program Chair, at maxwm01@hotmail.com

Book Drive : Nov. 30-Dec. 12
Wrapping: Dec. 12-14 after drop-off
In the Chilton Commons



Friday, December 2—Second graders travel to Oak Shade Farm to select this year's perfect Lower School Mitten Tree, which will be located in the Chilton Commons. (See page 3 for details about the tree).

Friday, December 2—Ski forms due.

Thursday, December 8—Third grade presents assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Chilton Commons.



Friday, December 9—Lower School "Elf Day." Students may dress down to finish elf business in their comfortable clothes.

Thursday, December 15—NO regular Thursday morning assembly. Dress Rehearsal for the Holiday Program at 10 a.m. Head Start students will be the guests at the rehearsal.

Thursday, December 15—End of collection for the Mitten Tree. The second marking period Director's Council will deliver mittens, socks and hats to Head Start. (See page 3 for more details).

Friday, December 16—PK-6 Winter Program. The PK-2 program will begin at 9:00 a.m.; the grades 3-6 program will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, December 16—Students will be dismissed from classrooms following their program.

Saturday, December 17—Highland Boosters' annual family bingo event from Noon to 2 p.m. in the Arundel Gym. An email with all the details was sent earlier in the week.

Sunday, January 1, 2012—Happy New Year!

Tuesday, January 3—Classes resume.

Wednesday, January 4—Parent Resource and Outreach program at 8:15 a.m. in the Loeb Library. Please join Lise Hicklin, Matt Ormiston and LeeAnn McVane for a cup of coffee and an informative discussion about "Understanding ERBs."

Thursday, January 5—NO Lower School assembly this week.

Friday, January 6—All School Gathering at 9 a.m. in the Upper School gym. All families and friends are invited.

Sunday, January 8—Admission Open House for grades PK—12, at 2 p.m. in the Center for the Arts.

Inclement Weather Reminder

Highland School does not follow the Fauquier County School System closing or delay schedule. Please note that if inclement weather is an issue, you may check the school web site, call the main number (540-878-2700, option #6) and listen to the recording (both updated by 6 a.m.), or check the following TV and radio stations: WUSA 9, WRC-TV 4, WJLA 7, FOX 5 News, WINC 92.5 FM, and WTOP 103.5 FM. While every effort is made to ensure that travel is safe when there is inclement weather and school is open, it is the parents' responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for their children to come to school, arrive late or leave early.

Special Thanks

A sincere thank you is extended to the Highland families for the generous support of this year's FCAC Thanksgiving food drive. Each school division contributed large quantities of food items to help feed the county's needy. We collected over 507 pounds of food in the Lower School. Highland consistently is one of the largest contributors and gives more than all other area schools combined. What a testament to the generosity of our families!





**Lower School Director's Council
Sponsors
Mitten, Hat and Sock Tree**

Mittens,
hats and socks will be
collected over the next few
weeks to adorn the Highland Holiday
Tree. Before the winter break, Council
members will deliver these winter items to
the local Head Start center. We ask stu-
dents in grades PK-2 to contribute one pair
of new mittens for our Head Start tree.
Students in grades 3 & 4 may bring in socks
and/or hats for the project. The children
who will receive these cozy gifts are
pre-school size and age.

Please help us fill up the tree!

Sincerely,

2nd grading period Director's Council

Lower School Assembly Schedule 2012

The new year brings forth the need for a new assembly schedule. Lower School assemblies will continue on Thursday mornings at 8:10 a.m. and will rotate in the following fashion:

January 5- NO ASSEMBLY

Friday, January 6- All School Gathering- 9:00 a.m.

January 12- 2nd grade

January 19- 1st grade

January 26- 3rd and 4th grade (International Week)

February 2- Kindergarten

February 9- 1st grade

February 16- NO ASSEMBLY (ERBs for 3rd and 4th graders)

February 23- NO ASSEMBLY (Short Week)

MUSIC MONTH PRESENTATIONS

March 1- 1st and 2nd grades

March 8- 3rd and 4th grades

March 15- PK and K

March 29- TBA

April 5- 4th grade

April 12- 3rd grade

April 19- 2nd grade- Famous People Day

April 26- NO ASSEMBLY (Grandparents Day practice)

Thursday, April 27- Grandparents Day

May 3- 1st grade

May 10- Kindergarten

May 17- NO ASSEMBLY- Barbara Wilkes Field Day Rain Date

Wednesday, May 23- Thank You to Volunteers Assembly! 8:30 a.m.

PK-2 Field Day and LS Picnic 10:00 a.m.

Friday, May 25- All School Gathering- US Gym- 1:30 p.m.

Friday, June 1- Fourth grade breakfast- Chilton Commons- 9:00 a.m.

(Jamestown Review)

LS Closing Day Assembly- Rice Theater- 11:00 a.m.