

Highland School

Lower School Hawk talk

Hank Berg, Head of School

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From...

Lise Hicklin
Lower School Director



First grade teachers Donna Loba and Polly Roehr admire the recently installed Smart Boards in the Lower School Building.

Dear Parents,

As colorful tile is being grouted in the hallways, bright sinks and countertops are being installed in the classrooms and library furniture is delivered to our new Lower School building, I can envision our young students meeting in the common areas outside their classrooms in September to unpack their book bags and socialize while they prepare for their school day. As completion of our new home draws near, it is exciting to think of Parent Buddy Readers or classroom assistants working with children in the self-contained grade level common areas. I can picture these shared spaces as hubs for grade level activities that extend well beyond the classroom.

Students will walk into classrooms splashed with color, where sunlight streams in through numerous large windows. The spacious classrooms, equipped with the latest in technology including Smart Boards and computers, are warm and inviting. At points throughout the day, our Lower Schoolers may visit the library with its panoramic views or create music in the expansive music room with its up-to-date acoustical installations and special room for strings instruction. When they attend science, students will benefit from the Smart Board in the instructional area or will spread out in their new lab for hands-on science. Perhaps their studies will lead them through the science room door to the outdoors for environmental studies. Our young artists will marvel when they enter their beautiful new art room for each class. How could they not be inspired to be creative in the bright, motivating space?

The new Learning Center is a suite comprised of four rooms surrounding a central spot designed for test-taking or completing class work. The Center allows for both support of learning accommodations and enrichment. The new layout offers expanded opportunities for reaching more students.

Next year we will gather as a Lower School for our weekly assemblies in the circular area that lies between the PK and K wing and the larger body of the building. This space, fondly named the Chilton Commons, with its enormously high ceiling and small stage (which is reminiscent of the Chilton Building) will also serve as a “break out” room on bad weather days where students can mingle when the weather is too inclement to be outside.

The Commons will also be the spot where students will be contained for our new dismissal plan in the fall. Students in grades K-2 will officially dismiss at 3:00 p.m. next year. At that time, the children may go home, go to one of many after-school enrichment classes that will be offered or they may hold over for the 3:30 p.m. dismissal, at no extra charge, with their older siblings or to catch the school bus home. The after care program will be re-vamped, which is great news for K-2 families. Because it will be a fuller school day, the current 2:30-3:30 p.m. extended day program will be eliminated. The early and after care for PK students will remain the same. Extended day and study hall will begin at 3:30 p.m. for the other grades.

The PK-K wing allows us to offer expanded opportunities for our youngest students. Next year, PK 3/4 will be available for five-day, three-day and two-day programs. Until now, our space restrictions have prohibited us from being able to serve the many needs of those parents.

As you can see, I am busting with pride and excitement as we get ready to embark on program expansions, and as we look forward to being in our new spaces. Beginning today we are inviting our students and their parents to specially-designed tours of our soon-to-be-completed Lower School. First graders made the maiden journey after this morning’s assembly. The giggles from the little ones, the oohs and aahs and looks of excitement on their faces as we all look toward next year was indescribable. We have so many new spaces, smiling faces and fun places!

Please look for your upcoming grade level invitation and join your child and experience the enthusiasm for yourself.

Sincerely,
Lise Hicklin
Lower School Director

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




Friday, February 19—Lower School students enrolled in the Kids Mountain Camp may use their passes at Whitetail. Participants should check-in between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at KMC. **It is a regular school day for all other students who choose not to attend the Kids Mountain Camp.**

Friday, February 19—Special PK field trip to the new Lower School building at 9:00 a.m. Parents are encouraged to join the fun for this very special outing!

Monday, February 22-Thursday, February 25—Third and fourth graders will take the ERBs. Please be sure your child has a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast each day. There will be no homework assigned next week for third and fourth grades.

Wednesday, February 24—Parent Resource and Outreach Program for Lower School parents at 8:15 a.m. in the Loeb Library. Lise Hicklin will be "Looking Ahead in Lower School," with parents.

Wednesday, February 24—Soloist auditions for students interested in performing during special "Music in Our Schools Month" assemblies in March. A permission form is attached  to this newsletter and should be returned by Wednesday, February 22.

Thursday, February 25—Kindergarten presents assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Arundel Gym. After the assembly, K students and their parents will tour the Lower School building and visit next year's classrooms.

Thursday, February 25—Parent Resource and Outreach Program for fourth grade parents. Matt Ormiston, Director of the Middle School, will be "Looking Ahead in the Middle School," with parents of students in grades 4-8.


Friday, February 26—Re-enrollment contracts due.

Friday, February 26—Make-up ski and winter activity day. Non-skiers will travel to the House of Bounce in the morning.

Thursday, March 4—First and second graders perform at "Music in Our Schools Month" assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Arundel Gym. Afterward, second graders and their families are invited to a Move Up Day tour of the new Lower School building.

Thursday, March 11—Third and fourth graders will perform at the "Music in Our Schools Month" assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Arundel Gym. Immediately after assembly, third and fourth graders and their families are invited to a special "Move Up Day" tour of the new Lower School building.

Wednesday, March 31—

First grade play at 1:30 p.m. in the Arundel Gym. All families  are invited. A cast party will follow immediately after the play. Please note this is a re-scheduled date.

Student/Parent Tours

Throughout the next several weeks parents are invited to join their children for special grade level tours of the new Lower School building. As you can imagine, students are excited to finally see their new spaces for next year. Please watch for invitations for your child's grade.



Sneak Preview



Attention Music Students

We are looking for K – 4 vocal or instrumental soloists to perform during special “Music in Our Schools Month” Lower School assemblies in March. If you are interested in being a soloist this year, please complete the following form and return it to Mr. Krumich or Mrs. Daniel-Shenk by Monday, February 22. All soloists will be required to audition for Mr. Krumich, Mrs. Daniel-Shenk and Mrs. Hicklin prior to inclusion in the assembly program. Soloists will audition on Wednesday, February 24 during lunch recess. All pieces must be practiced and suitable for performance.

Sincerely,
Michele Daniel-Shenk
John Krumich

My child, _____

has my permission to perform the following piece for assembly.

(please include title of piece and composer)

I understand my child must be present for the audition on February 24.

Parent’s Signature/Date