

Highland School

Lower School Hawktalk

Hank Berg, Head of School

February 2, 2012, Issue 7



From...

Lise Hicklin
Lower School Director

Dear Lower School Parents,

Ni hao! (Which means “hello” in Chinese.) What a fabulous time we had last week celebrating China for our International Week studies! It was our first attempt at a division-wide project-based learning experience and we are calling it a great success!

During a post school year session last June, teachers began the brainstorming sessions for the project. Librarian Maria Sogegian was at the helm, organizing and jotting down thoughts and ideas.



The plan began with the end in mind. We knew we wanted a feast (because we pretty much live for our next food party in Lower School) and we wanted venues to share the information the students learned throughout the project. Student research was guided by the essential questions: How is the Chinese culture similar to or different from our culture? How has Chinese culture impacted our culture?

Classes at each grade level collaborated to develop a focus for their studies and completed activities pertinent to their curriculum and the age of these students. In an assembly, fourth graders shared a Web

Quest about questions they had or that were posed to them about China. They also wrote to pen pals in China from Suji DeHart’s school. (Ms. DeHart is a former Highland librarian.)

The integration of activities in Special Area classes provided a cross-curricular approach to learning and support to classroom teachers throughout the project.



Special guests and trips to the Gallery delighted our students with additional insights to topics of interest. We were entertained with slides, costumes, songs, and even lessons in Tai Chi.

This was a week we will not soon forget.



Upper School teacher Elaine Patry

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

Saturday, February 4, 11, 18 & 25—University of Virginia Saturday Enrichment Program at Highland.

Friday, February 3—Ski/Winter Activity Day.



Tuesday, February 7—Parents Association General Meeting. “Where Does My Tuition Money Go?” An exciting interactive presentation by Highland School division directors and faculty. Rice Theater— 8:15 a.m. See page 3 for more information.

Wednesday, February 8—Second Grade Class Play—“Joust” Arundel Gym— 1:30 p.m. Families and friends are invited.

Thursday, February 9—Third grade presents assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Chilton Commons.

Friday, February 10—Ski/Winter Activity Day.



Monday, February 13-Thursday February 16—Students in third and fourth grades will take the Educational Records Bureau (ERB) CTOP IV standardized tests. Please be sure your child has a good night’s sleep and a nutritious breakfast each day. There will be no homework assigned that week for third and fourth grades.

Thursday, February 16—No Lower School assembly due to ERB testing.

Friday, February 17—Dress Down Day for Enkijape, our sister school in Kenya.

Monday, February 20—NO SCHOOL. Presidents' Day.

Wednesday, February 22—Parent Resource and Outreach Program— Looking Ahead in Lower School— Lower School Library— 8:15 a.m.

Thursday, February 23—No Lower School assembly.

Thursday, February 23—Lower School Open House for current and prospective families— 9 a.m. - noon

Friday, February 24—Make-up Ski/Winter Activity Day.



March is Music in our Schools Month!

The Highland School production of the musical “The Sound of Music” will be presented March 8-11.

Lower School Music Month Assemblies— See page 4 for more information.

Thursday, March 1—First and second grades present assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Chilton Commons.

Thursday, March 8—Third and fourth grades present assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Chilton Commons.

Thursday, March 15—PK and K students present assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Chilton Commons.

Thursday, March 15—First Grade Class Play—Arundel Gym— 1:30 p.m.

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.

Parking Lot and Crosswalk Reminders:

Please drive slowly and cautiously in the parking lots and in the drop off lanes. We almost had an accident one morning because of excess speed in the parking lot.

Also, when using the Chilton Commons entrance, please park in the second lot from the road and cross the driveway at the crosswalk. This will help us keep everyone safe and sound.

WHERE DOES MY TUITION MONEY GO?

Find out on Tuesday February 7, 8:15 AM
at an exciting interactive presentation
by Highland School division directors and faculty.

*Sponsored by the Highland School Parents Association.
Coffee and refreshments begin in the Rice Theater lobby at 8 AM.*

What will the **renovated Middle School** do for your child's education?

Matt Ormiston, Middle School Director

What are the "5 Cs" and "project-based learning"? Why are we using this approach and how is it **helping your child prepare** for college and beyond?

Lise Hicklin, Lower School Director
Maria Sogegian, Lower & Middle School Librarian

Harvard comes to Highland: How Highland's summer faculty studies are putting cutting edge technology and teaching in your child's classrooms.

John Harmon, Middle School Faculty

How Highland's **new Global Studies program** will give your student a deeper understanding of world cultures and issues.

John Scharfenberg, Upper School Faculty

Robotics students build **STEM knowledge** while having a blast! Highland's Lego and Robotics program is teaching our students **engineering, physics, math, teamwork, perseverance and strategic business planning.**

Claire Mello, Science Chair

Date: Tuesday, February 7
Time: Coffee and goodies at 8 am. Presentation at 8:15.
Place: Highland Center for the Arts (The Rice Theater)

Join the Highland School Parents Association for this second General Meeting of 2011-12, and afterward at our February Board Meeting.

Attention Music Students!

We are looking for K – 4th grade vocal or instrumental soloists to perform during special “Music in our Schools Month” 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 Friday, February 17. 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 Thursday, February 23 during lunch recess. All pieces must be practiced, appropriate for young audiences and approved by the student’s music teacher prior to the auditions.

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 23.

Parent’s Signature/Date