

Highland School

Lower School Hawktalk

Hank Berg, Head of School

January 6, 2012, Issue 6



From...

Lise Hicklin
Lower School Director

Dear Lower School Parents,

As always, it is good being back at school after a long, relaxing break with family and friends. We have already resumed our daily routines and are finishing up the last few days of study for the first semester. Probably the best way to communicate our feelings about the first semester in Lower School is to share some words spoken by fourth grader Luke Warfield. For those of you unable to attend this morning's All-School Gathering and for those of you who did, let me share Luke's speech:

Happy New Year! My name is Luke Warfield and I am in the fourth grade. Service Learning is a real important part of what we do here at Highland School. Today, I'd like to share with you my experiences with this in the Lower School.

During the last two years, I've served on the Director's Council. Everyone in the 3rd and 4th grade gets a turn to be on the Council for one grading period each year. We meet in the Lower School Conference room which is awesome. The chairs are great. In our first meeting with Mrs. Hicklin, we brainstorm about projects we could do to help our school or community. Some things we've talked about to make our school better are cleaning up trash on the playground and recycling more.

Each council also leads the Lower School through a big community project. In my turns on the Council, I was part of the Thanksgiving Food Drives. Other projects we've done are the Holiday Book Drive and Mitten Tree collections for Head Start and Bright Stars students, gathering items for the Fauquier Family Emergency Shelter, and food collection for the Children's Summer Meals program. For each project, the Director's Council announces the plan in assembly and asks everyone in the Lower School to help with the mission. After we collect the items we need, we get on the bus and take the goods where they need to go.

We also help with Mitchell Kannon's idea to donate Backpacks and Lunchboxes to kids in DC and we support our sister school in Kenya on special dress down days.

My favorite project is the Book Drive because I love reading and I want others to have that opportunity. I think it's a good thing to be aware of other people's needs and it's a privilege to help them.

Thanks for both years on the Director's Council.

Thank you for sharing your children with us. Happy New Year.Lise Hicklin



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

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

Thursday, January 12—End of first semester.

Thursday, January 12—Second grade presents assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Chilton Commons.

Friday, January 13—NO SCHOOL for students. Faculty work day.

Monday, January 16—NO SCHOOL. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday.

Wednesday, January 18—Parent Resource and Outreach Program on “Developmental Readiness/Gesell Screening,” at 9:00 a.m. in the Lower School library.

Thursday, January 19—First grade presents assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Chilton Commons.

Saturday, January 21 & 28, February 4, 11 & 18—University of Virginia Saturday Enrichment Program at Highland.

Monday, January 23—Friday, January 27—International Week.

Thursday, January 26—Third & fourth grades present assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Chilton Commons.

Friday, January 27—First ski/winter activity day.

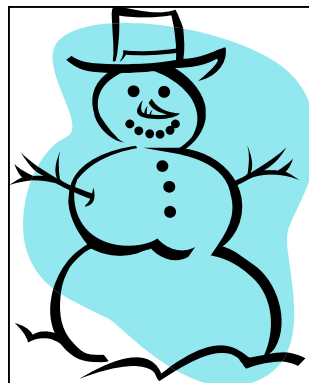
Thursday, February 2—Kindergarten presents assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Chilton Commons.

Friday, February 3—Second ski/winter activity day.

Wednesday, February 8—Second grade play at 1:30 p.m. in the Arundel Gym.

Inclement Weather Reminder

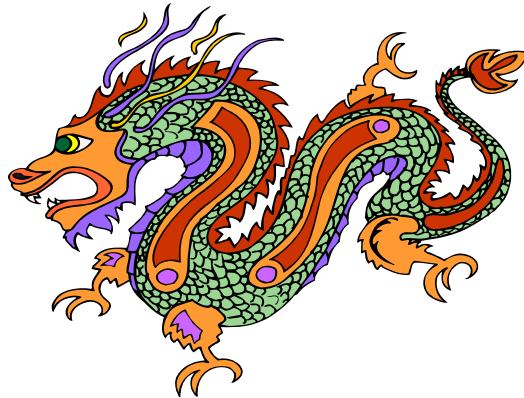
Highland School does not follow the Fauquier County School System closing or delay schedule. Please note that if inclement weather is an issue, you may check the school web site, call the main number (540-878-2700, option #6) and listen to the recording (both updated by 6 a.m.), or check the following 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

It's hard to believe the holidays are already behind us, but we want to shout out a big 'THANK YOU' to our Highland families for supporting the many philanthropy projects again this season. Your generosity made the holidays bright for so many area children and families. Also, your assistance in the classrooms as volunteers and with many holiday-related activities made a huge difference to our own students. We are so grateful to our homeroom parents, lunch ladies, parent buddy readers, library helpers, art and science volunteers.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK! CHINA!



Lower School students will be celebrating International Week from January 23-27. As we wind up our division-wide project on China, classes will be displaying and sharing their exciting endeavors about this country during the week. We will also hear guest speakers and have a delicious feast. All Lower Schoolers will be given t-shirts to decorate using the design below. More details about this exciting week coming soon.

