

Highland School

Lower School Hawk talk

Hank Berg, Head of School

November 4, 2009, Issue 3



From...

Lise Hicklin
Lower School Director

Dear Lower School Parents,

Those of you, who are able to attend tomorrow evening's (November 5) FIRST Lego League (FLL) Exhibition Night at 6:30 p.m. in the Arundel Gym, are in for an amazing treat. Students in grades 3-8 will be showing off their inventive creations to their first official audience before heading to Harrisonburg this weekend to compete against other public and private schools. Each group's masterpieces will be unveiled—until now the projects have been “top secret” and kept under wraps from inquiring passersby. Tonight's exhibition will impress you not only with the “robots” students will reveal, but also with the amount of time, research and creativity they have exhausted on their inventive masterpieces.

“What is FLL?” you might ask. FIRST is an acronym for “**F**or **I**nspiration and **R**ecognition of **S**cience and **T**echnology.” In 1988, LEGO Group partnered with FIRST to create a program that combines play with learning. FLL teams compete in tournaments and present their solutions to panels of judges. Although many schools have competed for years, this is a first for Highland and I am proud of their maiden voyage! Science Chair Claire Mello organized the Highland program last year, but the students on our four teams didn't get involved until September as a part of the after school enrichment program.

Students learn FIRST values as part of their participation. “Gracious Professionalism” is part of the ethos of FIRST and instills a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. The organization has also found that the second value of “Coopertition” produces innovation by displaying kindness and respect in the face of fierce competition. FIRST maintains “Coopertition” is founded on the concept and philosophy that teams can and should help and cooperate with each other even as they compete. “Coopertition” involves learning from teammates, teaching teammates, learning from mentors, managing and being managed, and competing, but always assisting and enabling others when they can.

Students who participate in an FLL team use the LEGO Mindstorms technology to design, build and program robots; research real-world engineering challenges facing today's scientists, and

learn teamwork and presentation skills. For the 2009 FLL season, students have taken on the challenge called “Smart Move,” which is about the future of transportation. Each team's project is comprised of four basic steps.

At first students were challenged to look at their communities and discover how people, animals, information and things travel. Each team chose one main mode of transportation and researched what kinds of problems keep people and things from getting where they go safely. The students had to examine what kept people and things from moving efficiently and quickly while expending the least amount of energy. Each team was asked to solve one of the problems they identified.

Each team began its project by describing and defining its community. Would it be Highland, Warrenton, their neighborhoods, a city or a village? Next, the teams created a list of how people, animals, information and things moved around within that defined community. Once their lists were complete, they researched every detail about the problems of transportation facing their chosen subjects. Team members read books on the subject, browsed websites, examined reports, consulted experts in the field and conducted surveys.

Finally, students chose what they viewed as major problems in their community and suggested solutions. You will marvel at the solutions and fixes. Students have been challenged to muster all of their imaginations and have fun as they made “Smart Moves.”

An important element of the program is to have the teams present their research and solutions to the Highland community. You will have an opportunity to see these incredible minds at work tomorrow evening. Please plan to join us in supporting these wonderful young people.

Sincerely,
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

Tuesday, November 3—Wednesday, November 18—Fauquier County Action Coalition Food Drive. The Lower School Director's Council invites Lower School students to support the Fauquier Community Action Coalition Thanksgiving Food Drive to provide dinner for 1,000 local families this year. Lower School is asked to contribute canned corn and green beans. See page 4 of this newsletter for more details.

Thursday, November 5—Second grade presents assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Arundel Gym. Families are invited to attend.

Thursday, November 5—FIRST Lego League Exhibition Night at 6:30 p.m. in the Arundel Gym.

Friday, November 6—Parents Association first Box-tops/Labels collection of the year.

Saturday, November 7—FIRST Lego League Tournaments. Mello's Rock'n Robots and Wakeman's Mindstorm Marauders will be at competitions.

Tuesday, November 10—Fourth grade field studies to the Museum of the American Indian to learn more about the Native Americans of Virginia.

Thursday, November 12—First grade presents assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Arundel Gym. Families invited to attend.

Friday, November 13—Third grade play at 1:30 p.m. in the Arundel Gym, followed by a cast party for the cast and their families.

Friday, November 13—First and fourth grade party for parents only at Chateau O'Brien (for wine tasting and appetizers) in Markham, VA. The party is a fun way for Highland parents to get together and meet each other. The party is sponsored by the Parent Association Board, not the School. Invitations were mailed to all parents. If you did not receive one, please contact Cindy Ellis, fourth grade representative.

Saturday, November 14—FIRST Lego League Tournaments.

Sunday, November 15—PK-12 Open House at 2:00 p.m. beginning in the Center for the Arts.

Monday, November 16—Parent/Teacher Conference Day. NO SCHOOL. Parents may call the Lower School Office to schedule appointments.

Wednesday, November 18—Third grade field studies to Stratford Hall, home of the Robert E. Lee family, as part of social studies unit on the Southeast Region. The class will depart Highland by school bus at 7:30 a.m., sharp, and will return at 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 19—Kindergarteners present their annual Thanksgiving story at assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Arundel Gym. Families are invited to attend.

Friday, November 20—Members of the First Grading Period Director's Council will deliver the Thanksgiving food drive collection to the Food Bank during lunchtime.

Saturday, November 21—Highland Auction, "A Night to Bond" at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 24—Lower School Thanksgiving celebrations and feasts. PK-2 will enjoy traditional feasts; grades 3 & 4 will enjoy pies as part of their observance.

Wednesday, November 25-29—Thanksgiving Break.

Thursday, December 3—PK 4/5 and Kindergarten travel to Fauquier High School to see a Theatre IV production of "'Twas the Night."

Whitetail Ski/ Snowboard Program

Highland School is pleased to partner with Whitetail Resort again this year to offer skiing and snowboarding instruction. The Ski Program is open to all students Grades PK-8 and their parents or guardians. Snowboarding is an option for students in Grades 3 – 8. The Ski/ Snowboard Program will take place on the Winter Activities days scheduled for January 29, February 5, and February 15, 2010. Sign-ups will take place November 3-20, 2009. Informational packets will be sent home with each student and should be returned to the Lower and Middle School Office. Please contact Ginny Boyd (vboyd@highlandschool.org) with any questions. Watch for Winter Activities Program highlights for non-skiers in the next few weeks.



University of Virginia's 2010 Saturday Enrichment

*Engaging & Authentic Classes Offered at
Warrenton, VA
Highland School*

For gifted or high ability/high interest students in grades K-5

New this year: **Online Application
Now Available**

<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/sep>

Application Deadline is December 1, 2009

CLASSES FOR K/1

UNDERSEA EXPLORERS ❧ *DOMO ARIGATO, MR. ROBOTO-JAPAN* ❧ *SURVIVAL OF THE ADAPTABLE* ❧ *JOURNEY INTO THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK*

CLASSES FOR 2/3

SOLVING MATH AND SCIENCE ❧ *WRITE NOW!* ❧ *EXPLORING THE ORIGINS OF FOOD*

Classes held on 5 consecutive Saturdays: January 23, 2010 – February 20, 2010

Fauquier County – **Highland School**

(9:00 – 11:00)

Tuition: \$175



Need-based scholarships available

Call for additional details: 434-924-3182



The Lower School Director's Council
invites all Lower School students
to help support the
Fauquier Community Action Coalition
Thanksgiving Food Drive
to provide dinner for 1,000 local families.
Students are asked to bring
canned corn and green beans
to the boxes in the hall outside the Arundel Gym
November 3-18.

Our first grading period
Director's Council will collect the vegetables
and board a bus to deliver them to the
Fauquier Community Food Bank
on November 20 during lunch.

Bring on the veggies!!