

Highland School

Middle School Hawknotes

Hank Berg, Head of School

November 8, Issue 3



From...

Matthew Ormiston
Middle School Director

Dear Parents,

As we have reached the end of the first quarter I wanted to highlight a number of things that are coming up.

The Fauquier Community Action Coalitions annual food drive to provide Thanksgiving Dinner for need y families has begun. This year their list of families in their service database has grown from around 570 from last year to over 850 for this year. In the Middle School we will be collecting food by homerooms and advisory's with a goal of 7 cans per child. Each advisory or homeroom that reaches their goal will earn a dress down day. Service is a great way to help our students expand their vision and perspective beyond themselves and last year Highland contributed more than all other area schools combined. Thank you in advance for your support.

This Friday, November 11th we have our first **Parent/Teacher Conferences**. We have sent out the grades so that you will have a chance to review your child's performance before meeting with their teachers. We strongly encourage 7th and 8th graders to attend these conferences with their parents. As they get older and become more responsible for their learning and their success it is important that they begin to be directly involved in the conversations relating to their academic performance. As a teacher I always loved having students attend these conferences as it made sure that students, parents, and teachers were on the same page going forward and that everyone had a clear understanding of how best to help the students be successful.

Finally, this past week Eric Dudley, our Middle School Technology Coordinator, held a parent coffee to discuss Teens and Technology. It is a topic that I find of great interest, both as Middle School Director and as the parent of a soon to be middle schooler. Mr. Dudley was kind enough to pass along to me an outline of the coffee and his thoughts on how best to support parents as they discuss all the different social medias and technology with their teens. Here are his thoughts.

The discussion seemed to hinge around two themes:

1. What technical measures are there and how can we use the technology to protect our kids and families
2. What will our kids be exposed to and how to teach them to deal with it (ie. Behave, act, and respond appropriately)

Theme #1: There are a host of websites, software (netnanny), and tools available to parents that will allow them to restrict, filter, block and try to prevent any of this information from coming through as consumers of information. The problem is, there are always loopholes, glitches, costs, etc. not to mention the time and tech savvy to set it up the way you want it. Not only this but we (our kids) are also big producers of this media. The software doesn't prevent stuff from going out.

Theme #2: Just like in days gone by (our childhood) kids are faced with many things (many more) just like we were. Our parents had to teach us right from wrong and how to behave, act, and respond appropriately to these influences. Also important is to build a trusting relationship of communication with our kids so they feel comfortable coming to us when new things "pop up".

The website, commonsensemedia.org, is an all inclusive website that addresses these issues and more. Some of what we touched on today, from the website: Digital citizenship, Cyberbullying, & Sexting. The site has news, reviews, educational pieces, and other articles (some with video) that anyone can go to in order to get information on what these things are, what they mean to our kids, most importantly, parent tips on how to deal with them. I found it very comprehensive and resourceful. In fact, there is an educators section with curriculum guides that I will try to incorporate in my classes so that we can support/reinforce what is going on in the home."

All the best,

Matt Ormiston

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

Important Dates

Monday, November 7—Progress Reports mailed to Middle School families.

Tuesday, November 8—First Move-up Day for Grade 8 Students.

Wednesday, November 9—Second Move-up Day for Grade 8 Students.

Wednesday, November 9—The Parent Association invites you to attend a General Membership Meeting at 8:15 a.m. in The Rice Theater. The Founder of Mulford Mediation, Philip Mulford, will discuss “When You Speak, Listen: Improving Communication with Your Children.”

Thursday, November 10—Grade 5 & 6 Fun Day! See attached flyer for more details.

Friday, November 11—Parent-Teacher Conferences. If you have not already done so, please call Pamela Leake in the Middle School office at (540) 878-2710 to schedule a 10-minute conference with your child’s teachers.

Friday, November 11—Veteran’s Day—No School for students.

Sunday, November 13—fall Admission Open House for PK-12 beginning in The Rice Theater at 1:30 p.m.

Friday, November 18—NJHS will deliver the Thanksgiving food drive items to the Food Bank for the Middle School.

Saturday, November 19—Highland School Auction, Rockin’, Rollin’ and Strollin’ on the Bandstand!, begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Upper School gym.

Tuesday, November 22—Thanksgiving Dessert Buffet during lunch period. More information to follow.

Wednesday, November 23—Sunday, November 27 Thanksgiving Break—No School.

Monday, November 28—Divisional Work Day, No School for students.

Tuesday, November 29—Classes resume.

Wednesday, November 30—“Founder’s Scholar Information Session”, a parent outreach program at 8:15 a.m. in the Upper School Hazel Library presented by Donna Tomlinson, Director of Admission and Financial Aid.

Wednesday, November 30—“Upper School 101”, a parent outreach program at 7:00 p.m. in The Rice Theater presented by Cassin Bertke, Assistant Head of School & US Director.

Thursday, December 1—Order your child(ren)’s yearbook at the special price of \$85.00 before December 16th. Order forms are located in the Middle School Office.

Thursday, December 1—Deadline for Eighth grade baby pictures for the yearbook. Email photos to yearbook@highlandschool.org to the attention of Lindsey Dengel.

Friday, December 2—Grade 5 Play, *Better Than Perfect* at 1:30 p.m. in The Rice Theater.



Whitetail Ski/Snowboard Program

Highland School is again pleased to partner with Whitetail Resort to offer Middle School students and parents discounted ski packages. This year’s Winter Activity Days are January 27, February 3, and February 10, 2011.

All Middle School students received an informational packet from their homeroom/advisory. Informational packets include sign-ups for bus transportation. Transportation is provided for all interested Middle School students. Please contact Linda Ayres for further information, layres@highlandschool.org.

Sign-ups for skiing or snowboarding will take place November 7—November 26, 2011.

Students of the Month—September



Left to Right: Hayden Garrett, Sana Ahmed, Logan Van de Water, Reed Morris, Tucker Minter, Angela & Ryan Weber, and Kieran Kirk

Most Improved Students—September



Left to Right: Hodman Ahmed, Conor White, & Kollin Sharpes
(not pictured: Lewis Pollard)

Students of the Month—October



Left to Right (top): Cameron Smith, Mallory Bryan, Abby Long, Stevie Weber, & Mallorie Ross

Left to Right (bottom): Maya Small, Clark Martin, Abbey Wills, Georgia Scarborough, & Ellie Rogers

Most Improved Students—October



Left to Right: Mackenzie Hay, Edward Gimbel, Jenna Place, Bean Bailey, Jack Silvernale, Katy Myers, Adam Cooper, & Rachel Paradise



Thanksgiving Food Drive November 2-18

FOOD ITEMS REQUESTED

Boxed mashed potatoes
Stuffing
Cranberry Sauce
Fruit Cocktail
Canned turkey gravy
Canned sweet potatoes
Corn
Green beans
Peas

Advisory Challenge: Each student is challenged to bring in a minimum of 7 cans of food from the above list. If every student within an advisory/homeroom does, they will earn a dress down day on Tuesday, November 22.

Thank you for your family's support of this important community service project!

The Highland School Parent Association Invites You to

A General Membership Meeting on

Wednesday, November 9

8:15 a.m.

The Rice Theater

Featuring Guest Speaker

Philip Mulford

Professional Mediator and Radio Talk Show Host:

*"When You Speak, Listen:
Improving Communication with Your Children"*

Mr. Mulford will offer effective ways to communicate and to better connect with each of your children, and to stay connected, in a loving and fulfilling relationship.

Once a practicing attorney, Mr. Mulford founded Mulford Mediation in 1990. He specializes in marriage, family and divorce mediation, as well as family business mediation and communication. He and his wife, Lisa, are Highland School parents of 7th and 9th grade sons. Mr. and Mrs. Mulford created and co-host *Communication 360*, a weekly radio talk show, which features relationship communication. The show has more than 170,000 listeners per month. Mr. Mulford is a regular contributor to *Warrenton Lifestyle Magazine*.

For more information about Philip Mulford, please go to
www.mulfordmediation.com

5th and 6th Grade Fun Day!!!

Who: 5/6 Grade Highland Students

**When: Thursday, November 10, 2011
3:45-8pm**

Where: Outside for some capture the flag

Or

Inside for dodge ball (depending on the weather)

Then

Pizza in the Middle School

And

A movie in the MS Gym

Dodgeball is good.

Other Details:

- Students should bring
 - \$3.00 for admission (pays for food and drinks)
 - Clothes to change into after school
 - A pillow or blanket for the movie

YOUNG HAWKS BASKETBALL



BASKETBALL PROGRAM COACHES:
*Directed by Gary Leake,
Reginald Ryder, and Jake Shechtman*

Mail or return the below, registration form
and payment to Highland School.

GRADES 2 AND 3 - JV
GRADES 4 AND 5 - VARSITY

December 3th & 10th: Participants will receive 2
hours of instruction each day.

December 17th: Participants will be assigned to a
team at halftime of the varsity home basketball game
that evening.

Each team will have two practices over the Christmas
holiday.

Teams will play games on Saturdays in January and
February in the Upper School Gym.

All teams will also play a 5 minute game during
halftime of a varsity home game.

Registration Fee: \$25.00 (includes a game day jersey)

**Highland Students and
Guests in Grades 2nd - 5th**

Registration Deadline: Thursday, December 1, 2011



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REGISTRATION FORM

\$25.00 (includes game day jersey)

Deadline: Thursday, December 1st



JV Co-ed (Grades 2 and 3) **OR** Varsity Co-ed (Grades 4 and 5)

T-shirt Size (youth sizes): S M L XL (please check off one)

Participant Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____ **___ Check here if a guest**

(if a guest, please use your name and school and identify the Highland student you are a guest of below)

If a guest, name your school _____ and the Highland Student: _____

Has the participant ever played in a basketball league before? _____

I give my permission for my son/daughter to participate in the Young Hawks Basketball League.

Signature of Parent

Date

Parent Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Fill out this registration form and return or mail to: Highland School, 597 Broadview Avenue,
Warrenton, VA 20186 Attn: Gary Leake.

Check enclosed payable to YOUNG HAWKS BASKETBALL or Bill my School Account

**Saturday Enrichment Program
University of Virginia
2012**



Fauquier County Location

*A Saturday Morning Enrichment Program for
Gifted and/or High Ability Students
in Kindergarten through Grade Five*

Located at Highland School

January 21 through February 18, 2012
Snow make-up date: February 25, 2012
9:00 – 11:00 AM

Application Deadline: December 1, 2011
Confirmation of Acceptances: December 19, 2011

Apply Online!

Available on our website: <http://curry.Virginia.edu/sep>

Sponsored by
University of Virginia Curry School of Education