

Highland School

Lower School Hawk talk

Hank Berg, Head of School

October 1, 2009, Issue 2



From...

Lise Hicklin
Lower School Director

Dear Lower School Parents,

By now you have probably received the After School Enrichment Program information that was sent earlier today. We are excited about the program and the variety of offerings the faculty has designed. We wanted to broaden the opportunities for our students so they could pursue their special interests and talents after school. As some of you may recall, we offered Art Club last spring to see how it would be received by our families and it was such an overwhelming success that we have expanded our offerings for this fall. Next year when we move into our new Lower School building, we plan to expand the program even more!

Already in place is the First Lego League. Enrollment for this activity is now closed because the club has been up and running for several weeks. The club introduces students, ages 9-14, to the world of engineering by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks. Guided by adults, the student teams put their imaginations to work and discover unlimited possibilities for their designs. They design, build, apply real math and science concepts, research, learn to use critical thinking skills, participate in team building and attend tournaments. It is an incredible program that the children are thoroughly enjoying. We may have some future engineers in our midst.

Our new Music, Art and French Clubs will begin the second week of October. Another exciting possibility for your child could be the Keyboarding Club. The music department recently acquired new midi keyboards and now your student can receive individualized piano keyboarding instruction in groups. Whether your child is a beginner or advanced student, this could be the right club for him/her. Computer technology will be used with the keyboards to teach notes, practice counting rhythms, playing and reading music. It will be a cool club for your budding musician.

If your child has wanted to take guitar lessons forever, or if he or she is already an accomplished guitarist, he/she may want to sign up for Guitar Club on Friday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. It will be an hour of making great music under the guidance of accomplished guitar teachers. Your child may bring his/her own guitar or rent one from the Highland music department or from the local music store Drum and Strum. Our Upper School guitar classes have

become very popular and the interest has now reached our younger students. Could you possibly be living with the next Eric Clapton or Joan Baez and not even know it? Guitar Club may be the answer for your child!

Perhaps French is something your child would like to pursue after school. Not only will students learn to speak the language, they will sing, cook and play games in French. There is a variety of activities for each age/skill group. You will certainly want to say "oui" to this club.

We will again offer two art clubs for grades K-2 and grades 3-6. Both clubs are a lot of fun and relaxing, not to mention a great outlet for tons of creative expression! Please note the K-2 club won't begin until October 26. Younger students will really enjoy getting their hands dirty while sculpting, painting and making prints. The older students will draw, work with papier mache and experiment with different kinds of painting. Incorporated in each club will be a little relevant art history and the exploration of famous artists. Both groups will have an opportunity to work on projects they do not experience in their regular school art classes.

Last, but not least, we will offer Destination Imagination later in October. Students will join teams for this international creative problem-solving program. They will develop leadership skills and learn teamwork while they get their creative juices flowing to solve challenging problems.

As you can see, our faculty has enthusiastically put together an exciting array of offerings in which they can share their areas of expertise, while expanding our fine arts offerings. There is something for everyone! The problem may be you won't know which club to choose for your child because they are all going to be such fun!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We can't wait for the clubs to begin!

Regards,
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, October 2—First Grade field studies trip to Cox Farm to commune with nature. Please refer to the first grade news update for more details. Rain date is Tuesday, October 6.

Friday, October 2—“Team Day.” Students should wear their favorite college, pro, or local team shirt to school. Team or gym shorts and sneakers are allowed.

Saturday, October 3—Homecoming and All School Picnic. Please refer to the website or email sent last week for the day’s activities.

Monday, October 5—Friday, October 9—Fall Book Fair in the Loeb Library. A wide selection of offerings from Bookworm Plantation and EDC Publishing/Usborne Books will be available. Contact Lower/Middle School Librarian Maria Sogegian for details.

Tuesday, October 6—PK 3/4 and PK 4/5 field studies trip to Cows & Corn in Midland. Please refer to the classroom weekly information for more details.

Tuesday, October 6—Parent Association general membership meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the Hicklin Black Box Theater. Guest speaker Ann Dolin will make a presentation on “Homework Made Simple.”

Thursday, October 8—First grade presents assembly at 8:15 a.m. in the Arundel Gym. All families are invited to attend.

Monday, October 12—NO SCHOOL. Columbus Day.

Wednesday, October 14—Parent Resource and Outreach Program for first grade parents at 8:15 a.m. in the Loeb Library. Mary Chrisinger, Learning Support teacher, presents “How Can I Help My First Grader.”

Thursday, October 15—Kindergarten presents assembly at 8:15 a.m. in the Arundel Gym. All families are invited to attend.

Friday, October 16—Second grade play at 1:30 p.m. in the Arundel Gym. All families are invited to stay for the cast party afterwards.

Sunday, October 18—Wednesday, October 21—VAIS Accreditation Visit.

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Thursday, October 22—Fourth grade presents assembly at 8:15 a.m. in the Arundel Gym. All families are invited to attend.

Monday, October 26—School picture re-takes.

Thursday, October 29—Third grade presents assembly at 8:10 a.m. in the Arundel Gym. All families are invited to attend.

Friday, October 30—Classroom Halloween celebrations.

Monday, November 2—NO SCHOOL. Faculty work day.

Wednesday, November 4—Lower and Middle School parents are invited to a Parent Resource and Outreach Program at 8:15 a.m. in the Loeb Library. Differentiated Learning Specialist LeeAnn McVane will discuss the Step Up to Writing Program.



Recycle Your Yoplait Yogurt Lids

Once again Mrs. Boyce’s PK 4/5 class is collecting Yoplait Yogurt lids. For each lid donated, Yoplait will contribute ten cents to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure breast cancer research fund. The class will mail the lids to Yoplait just before winter break, so you have lots of time to round up your lids. If you would like to help with this worthwhile project, please send your clean lids to Mrs. Boyce or to the Lower School office. Thank you in advance for your help!

Lower School Grade Representatives

PK: Kathy Morehouse
K: Kathy Wakeman
1: Michelle Thomas
2: Kelly Smith
3: Kathy Weber
4: Cynthia Ellis



The Highland Middle School Green Team Needs Your Help!

The Green Team is collecting drink pouches and cookie wrappers to help save the environment and the members need your help. Each year BILLIONS of drink pouches and cookie wrappers end up in our landfills across America. Please consider saving and sending to school your empty pouches and cookie wrappers so you too can make a difference and support our students. As an eco-friendly innovator, TerraCycle is going to convert the used drink pouches and cookie wrappers into unique fashion bags, tote bags, and pencil cases for kids and adults! TerraCycle will donate two cents for all pouches and Nabisco cookie wrappers. Proceeds will go towards Highland Green Team projects.



Drink pouches should have the straw removed and be empty and flat. You may cut open the bottom inside of the pouch and rinse them, but please do not cut the top, corners, or front of the pouch. Drink boxes will NOT be accepted.

Nabisco cookie wrappers of any size (family and individual) are accepted. Please remove the plastic cookie tray and any crumbs before sending them to school!

Items will be collected in Lower School homerooms, in bins by the science labs, and in the Arundel Gym during Middle School lunch.

Green Team members will prepare the recyclables for shipment to TerraCycle. Please contact Green Team Advisors Gary Hicklin or Claire Mello if you have any questions.

The intention of the Green Team members and sponsors is to help the environment, not to endorse the consumption of cookies or drink pouches.