

# Highland School

## *Middle School Hawknotes*

Hank Berg, Head of School

October 3, Issue 2



*From...*

**Matthew Ormiston**  
*Middle School Director*

Dear Middle School Parents,

Welcome to Highland Middle School 2011-12 – this year we are back and better than ever! If you follow sports you’ll know that I borrowed that line from Mike and Mike in the morning, but I think it applies to our Middle School for a few reasons. First, I truly believe that we are off to the best start since I arrived at Highland. We retained all but one from a great group of teachers, we have a great group of kids, and we are on the verge of renovating our building so that our facilities enhance our teaching and learning. Second, I think the phrase speaks to the concept that we try to model for our students, the idea that we are constantly learning and growing and improving.

We were certainly back and better than ever at Camp Friendship this year. The facilities were great, the kids were outstanding, and it was a tremendous experience for the Middle School. What surprised me most was the phrase that brought back to me why I always enjoy going away from school with kids. I can’t. I can’t spend a night away from my parents. I can’t complete this high ropes exercise. I can’t go off the rope swing or jump off the tower or do the zip line or go down the hill on the mountain board. So many times throughout our time there I heard kids say I can’t and then saw them change that to I did. Despite the fear and the uncertainty they made the leap, both literally and figuratively, and did what they were sure they couldn’t. It is always inspirational to watch kids learn that they are stronger, braver, and tougher than they thought. To see the ear to ear grins when they completed the challenge before them and received the heartfelt congratulations from their peers made all the volume and long nights and lack of sleep more than worth it.

The tendency today seems to be to want to protect our children from anything that could go wrong. The world seems uncertain and scary and thus we want to shelter them from the pain and fear they might face. We protect them from the world with the best of intentions, but unfortunately we also end up sheltering them from the natural challenges that come with life. A recent New York Times article, *What if the Secret to Success is Failure?*, writes that this challenge “...is a central paradox of contemporary parenting, in fact: we have an acute, almost biological impulse to provide for our children, to give them everything they want and need, to protect them from dangers and discomforts both large and small. And yet we all know – on some level, at least – that what kids need more than anything is a little hardship: some challenge, some deprivation that they can overcome, even if just to prove it to themselves.” It is vital that they begin the process of learning how to handle challenges now, when the consequences are relatively small, so that they are prepared for the challenges they will face as they get older and so that they gain confidence in their own ability to overcome obstacles. At Camp Friendship I was fortunate to be able to see firsthand a number of students who, despite their own uncertainties and fears, found out that they could meet the challenges before them and thus that there was more to themselves than they previously realized. In so many ways that is what education is all about.

Sincerely,

Matt Ormiston  
Middle School Director

**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

**Wednesday, October 5**—"How to Help Your Child Handle the Unique Challenges of Middle School", a parent outreach program at 8:15 a.m. in the Loeb Library. Matt Ormiston and Reginald Ryder, Director of Guidance, will meet the parents and answer questions. Refreshments will be provided by the Parents Association.

**Wednesday, October 5**—Enkijape & Monthly Awards Assembly at 9:40 a.m. in The Rice Theater.

**Wednesday, October 5**—No infraction Dress Down Day for September.

**Thursday, October 6**—"Teens and Parties, How Do I Handle This?", a parent outreach program at 8:15 a.m. in the Hazel Library. Presented by Henry Berg, Head of School, and Reginald Ryder, Director of Guidance. Refreshments will be provided by the Parents Association.

**Thursday, October 6**—Enkijape Dress Down Day, Our students may make a suggested donation of \$3-\$5 with funds going toward much needed projects.

**Friday, October 7**—Professional Day— No school for students.

**Monday, October 10**—Columbus Day— No school.

**Tuesday, October 11—October 14**—Spirit Week!

**Tuesday, October 11**—Grade 5 students will leave at 8:15 a.m. to travel to Montpelier. Dress code is required and comfortable walking shoes. Students will return in time for regular dismissal.

**Wednesday, October 12**—Blue/Gold Pep Rally at 2:00 p.m. in the Upper School gym.

**Saturday, October 15**—Homecoming!

**Monday, October 17—Friday, October 21**—Explore the creative world of books at the Book Fair in the Loeb Library.

**Friday, October 21**—Monthly Awards dress down day and lunch.

**Monday, October 24**—School Pictures Make-ups.

**Sunday, October 30**—**LEGO Exposition** from 3:00—6:00 p.m. in the Upper School gym.

**Monday, October 31**—Faculty Work Day—No school for students.

## Spirit Week Dress themes

### Wednesday (Oct 12) - Blue/Gold Day

**Top:** Blue or Gold Shirt

**Bottom:** Gym shorts, jeans, or dress pants (no pajama bottoms)

**Footwear:** tennis shoes

\*All new students should wear a combination of Blue/Gold.

### Thursday (Oct 13) - Highland Day

**Top:** Shirt with a Highland School logo or the Hawks logo.

**Bottom:** Shorts or jeans

**Footwear:** tennis shoes

### Friday (Oct 14) - Class Color Day

**Top:** Shirt in your class color

Grade 5 = green

Grade 6 = purple

Grade 7 = orange

Grade 8 = pink

**Bottom:** Shorts or jeans

**Footwear:** tennis shoes

\***NO** body paint, face paint or hair Spray coloring.

If not participating, students are expected to dress in normal dress code attire. Any questions about dress code please contact,



Rockin', Rollin' and Strollin' on the Bandstand!  
Highland School Auction  
Saturday, November 19 at 6 p.m.

There is no better way to celebrate the start of a new and exciting school year than to make plans to attend the annual Auction! We are thrilled to introduce "Rockin', Rollin' and Strollin' on the Bandstand" – this year's Highland School Auction featuring an electric rock and roll venue filled with the fun and excitement of the American Bandstand era.

As you pull up to the School, dressed either in cocktail attire OR your favorite outfit from the Bandstand era, look to be taken back in time to the fun of the Bandstand in a wonderful evening of food, fun and friends to support our exceptional School. Do some strollin' through the silent auction, and then get hoppin' during the live auction segment. Play your favorite tunes with our live DJ Jukebox, then stay on the Bandstand after the live auction is over for rockin' and rollin' to the music of The Robert Rogers Blues Band.

Our annual Auction remains the School's primary fundraiser each year as it provides invaluable support for faculty development, technology, and more. Its success is truly dependent on the support of our community, which can come in many different ways – volunteering to help with the event, donating items for the silent and/or live auction, underwriting the event's expenses by becoming a sponsor, and last but not least, attending the event on November 19!

So put on your dancing shoes and stroll on over to help us celebrate our wonderful Highland School community and all that it has to offer!

Items not to miss this year...  
Superbowl Tickets AND hotel stay  
Camp Hicklin  
Elizabeth Locke aquamarine earrings  
Gold Cup passes  
Pev's Paintball party

**TEAM  
PLEDGING**

The Lady Hawks are accepting donations as well as pledges for **BLOCKS, ACES, DIGS** and **KILLS** during the varsity match.

# DIG PINK

**VOLLEYBALL FUNDRAISER  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2011**

**BOOSTER  
CONCESSIONS**

The Athletic Boosters will host a concession stand throughout all games. All proceeds will be donated to the Side Out Foundation.

**HIGHLAND HOSTS  
WAKEFIELD SCHOOL**



## GAME TIMES

<b>MS B TEAM:</b>	<b>2:30</b>
<b>MS A TEAM:</b>	<b>3:30</b>
<b>JR VARSITY*:</b>	<b>4:30</b>
<b>VARSITY:</b>	<b>5:30</b>
<b>FACULTY:</b>	<b>7:15</b>

**GO HAWKS!**

\*JV WILL HOST FRESTA VALLEY

**DIG PINK T-SHIRTS FOR SALE:  
(SEE ATTACHED PAGE)  
ALL SCHOOL DRESS DOWN DAY  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH  
IF YOU WEAR A PINK SHIRT**

**PLEASE COME OUT AND SUPPORT THIS WONDERFUL CAUSE  
AND OUR LADY HAWKS AND FACULTY AS THEY COMPETE  
DURING THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING.**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT BREAST CANCER**

**GARY HICKLIN, HEAD VARSITY COACH**

**ghicklin@highlandschool.org**

# DIG PINK T-SHIRTS

ALL NET PROCEEDS BENEFIT BREAST CANCER



**ALL SCHOOL  
DRESS DOWN DAY  
ON TUESDAY,  
OCTOBER 18TH  
IF YOU WEAR A PINK  
SHIRT TO SCHOOL**

100% preshrunk cotton

## YOUTH SIZES:

**XS - XL**

Identify Quantities  
Below:

YOUTH			
XS	S	M	L

## ADULT SIZES:

**S - XXL**

Identify Quantities  
Below:

ADULT				
S	M	L	XL	XXL

3XL available by special request

**ORDERS DUE BY: Wednesday, October 5th**

Please turn in order forms to any school office.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOMEROOM/ADVISORY: \_\_\_\_\_

\$12.00 each.

- Cash
- Check attached payable to Highland School Dig Pink
- Bill my school account. Account Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTIONS?: Vicki Kelly vkelly806@aol.com



Photograph by  
Anne Stevens

THE GALLERY AT  
HIGHLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
INVITES YOU TO A RECEPTION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2011  
4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

FEATURING PHOTOGRAPHS,  
HANDCRAFTS, AND OBJECTS  
FROM

KENYA

AND

THE ENKIJAPE  
SCHOOL

There is a special exhibit in The Gallery that will be on display until the end of October titled *Kenya and the Enkijape School*. Some of our Highland families and faculty went to Kenya and the Enkijape School, Highland's sister school over the summer. They taught classes, planted trees, built furniture, played in a soccer match, sang and danced, installed a solar battery charging system, provided three computers and delivered many school items. They also travelled in Kenya on safari in Range Rovers and on horseback, riding in hot air balloons over the savanna, visiting an elephant orphanage, a giraffe rescue site and more. They took many fabulous photos and brought back exquisite handmade objects. We are fortunate to have many of these wonderful things on display in The Gallery. The exhibit is designed to be self-guided, with the photographs arranged in groups with wonderful narratives written by members of the trip. The Gallery is open during school hours from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday and I hope everyone will get a chance to see this amazing exhibit.

For more information contact Diane von Goellner-Suppa, Director of The Gallery at [dvongoellnersuppa@highlandschool.org](mailto:dvongoellnersuppa@highlandschool.org).

# CAMP FRIENDSHIP—2011

