

# The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue  
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

## Highland School Weekly Updates

*November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

### Week in Review:

We are pleased to announce the completion of the **outdoor classroom** at Highland School! We extend sincere gratitude to the BOE, our parents for participating in the fundraisers, the PTA, the MPPEF, and especially, TLC Landscaping for working together to make this dream a reality. Future plans include providing tables, WIFI, and other instructional resources to make this beautiful fresh air space a true classroom. The kids are excited, the teachers are excited, and I am excited to see how the teachers use the space.



The **Read-a-Thon** was an absolute success on so many levels. I cannot thank the PTA and Mrs. Derwin enough for organizing the event, the teachers for their patience and encouragement of the students, the parents for supporting the cause, and of course the students for their diligence in reading. Hopefully we converted some students to lifelong readers. You can view the Read-a-Thon statistics below.

Highland also had our first **evacuation drill** in a long time. The students and teachers did not skip a beat. Even the military would be proud at how the students followed directions and walked calmly to the evacuation site under police escort. We practice different scenarios and reflect on the drills so we are as prepared as we can possibly be. The priority, even before academics- is always safety.

### NEW INFORMATION:

#### The Read-a-Thon Statistics:

Total money raised: \$25,025 (Last year \$13, 502)

Total minutes read between Godwin and Highland: 163,497 minutes (Last year 85,140 minutes)

#### • Highland Results:

- **Participation:** 256 students (82% of the students)
- **Total Minutes Read:** 107,641 minutes (last year- 44,957 minutes)
- **Top Homerooms:** 1st place- Ms. Maimone (gr. 3), 2<sup>nd</sup> place- Mr. Kilgallen (gr. 6), 3<sup>rd</sup> place- Mrs. Guarini (gr. 3)
- **Top reader in the school:** Keely Nero- 2,490 minutes (gr. 6)
- **Top reader in 5<sup>th</sup> grade:** Mia Chiodo- 1,900 minutes (gr. 5)
- **Top reader in 4<sup>th</sup> grade:** Jerry Liu- 2,362 minutes (gr. 4)
- **Top reader in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade:** Sylvia Eliya- 2,080 minutes (gr. 3)
- **Top Earner in the school:** Ricardo Silva (gr. 5)

#### Report Cards:

First marking period report cards will be made available on the Power School Parent/Student Portal on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:50pm. We use grades to share concretely how students are doing relative to the grade

level expectations. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to your child first and then reach out to the teacher as needed.

- **If you do not have a Parent Portal Account, please reach out to Mrs. Treta in the tech department at: [Ctreta@mpsnj.org](mailto:Ctreta@mpsnj.org)**

### **Student Academic Honors:**

At Highland we enjoy nothing more than celebrating student achievements. All Highland students who receive academic honors will receive a congratulatory letter from the Principal and an Honors designation will be archived in Power School. The following are criteria for students to receive Academic Honors at Highland School;

- **Grades 3-5:** Students who receive all A's in the core subjects will be on the Honor Roll (not including Specials as they do not give letter grades).
- **Grade 6:** There are two levels of Honors;
  - 1) **Honor Roll-** Students receive all A's and no more than 3 B's in all their subjects including specials and electives.
  - 2) **Principal's List:** Students receive all A's in all subjects.

### **Student Drop off:**

Drop off prior to 7:45am for Band, Enrichment, and Clubs, may happen in front of the school as there may not be a crossing guard at that time. After 7:45am, please drop off in the municipal lot only.

**Dropping off students in other places can cause even more traffic and can be dangerous for the students.** PLEASE, do not drop off students on the one way part of the street coming from

Prospect/Godwin as we have already had some close calls with students exiting the vehicle in that area. Thank-you for your help.

### **Absences:**

If your child will be absent, the responsible adult **must call the school before 8:00am** at **(201) 445-3880** then **Press #1:** leave his or her name, the child's name, the child's teacher's name, and the reason for absence on the answering machine. Please do not just email the teacher as the teacher could be absent. Safety is always a priority. If we do not hear from a parent of an absent student, we do the following until a parent/guardian is reached:

- 1) Main office calls parents to verify absence
- 2) Main office calls emergency contacts
- 3) Main office will institute a robo call to all child contacts
- 4) Main office will contact the police

### **REMINDER-Parent/Teacher Conferences:**

Parent/Teacher conferences will be in person this year. This year's conference dates are as follows: 11/18 (evening), 11/22 and 11/23 (afternoons). Please remember, on all designated parent-teacher conference days there is a half day for students. Students will be dismissed at 12:30pm.

- **Grades 3-5:** Parent-Teacher conferences have been scheduled with every parent. If you have not scheduled a conference yet, please reach out to your child's homeroom teacher.
- **Grade 6:** Due the nature of the grade 6 Middle School schedule, teachers will schedule conferences for students who demonstrate the greatest need for formal parent-teacher communication. If a teacher did not schedule with you, that is good sign.

### **Bottles and Masks:**

All students should arrive to school with a water bottle and a mask until we return to normal. We do supply extra masks in case one breaks or a student forgets, but we go through approximately 100 spares a week. Please try to send your child to school with a mask. If a student has a water bottle, it is much more efficient than getting cups of water from the nurses office. We do not want to bog down Mrs. Kulesha's office for water service.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- 11/11- *Veterans Day*
- 11/12- *Report Cards On-line*
- 11/15- *Book Fair Begins in Highland Media Center*
- 11/17- *Evening Hours for Book Fair in Highland Media Center*
- 11/18- *Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences (12:30pm Student dismissal)*
- 11/18- *Evening Book Fair (Parent only)*
- 11/22- *Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences (12:30pm Student dismissal)*
- 11/23- *Afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences (12:30pm Student dismissal)*
- 11/24- *12:30pm student dismissal*
- 11/25-11/26- *Thanksgiving Vacation*
- 11/29- *Return to School Happy*

### **OLD BUT ALWAYS RELEVANT INFORMATION:**

#### **Highland School Student/Parent Handbook:**

Every year the Student/Parent Handbook is embedded into the student academic planner that the PTA so graciously provides. In the handbook is information related to the school, i.e. code of conduct, absences, bell schedules, and other important information. It is also posted under resources on the Highland homepage. Please use this as a resource prior to calling the main office.

- [Highland Student-Parent Handbook Link 2021-2022](#)

#### **Quarantining due to vacation: (Beginning 10/20/21)**

There is a new district rule in regards to virtual education provided for students who go on vacation. If a student is quarantined by the nurse because of a vacation in which unvaccinated students travel out of the tri-state area must quarantine, upon return, students will be entitled to asynchronous work only, i.e. packets. A virtual classroom will only be set up for children after approval from the school nurse, for an exposure unrelated to vacationing. As always, you must do what is best for your family, however it is the district stance that the effect on the classroom when students go virtual is substantial enough that we want to avoid it whenever possible. Again, students who are quarantined unrelated to vacationing are still entitled to virtual learning. I apologize for the change in rules after the start of school, but as always, this is an ever-evolving landscape that the district is constantly adapting to in order to provide the best schooling possible for our students.

#### **Birthday's in School:**

Teachers will set up activities in grades 3-5 to celebrate your child's birthday. Please do not send in snacks, gifts, goodie bags, etc. for the class. Sometimes, not every time, it becomes a competition for the best gifts or goodie bags to send home, or there are not enough, and it all unravels. Each grade level and/or homeroom teacher will acknowledge birthdays in their own way so the students can be celebrated.

#### **Drop-Off:**

- Drop off and student entrances with temperature checks have been smooth. Thank-you for helping with that. Since everyone knows where they are going at this point, and as we get into full swing, we are going to tighten up entrance a little bit.
- **Drop-Off Timeline:**
  - 8:00am- supervision provided at each entrance, with temperature checks, for students being dropped off to school.
  - 8:19am- students enter the building.
  - 8:23am- **late bell sounds**. Outside doors will close. All students arriving who can not get to their entrance by 8:23am, should then proceed to the front of the building to be let in through the main office. (when in doubt, go to the main office)
  - 8:25am- Morning announcements begin.

\*\*\* If it is raining, students will be let into the school at 8:10am (latest) from their same regular entrance. Grade 6 will then go to the cafeteria, grade 5 will be in the music room hallway, grades 3 and 4 will be stationed in their hallway outside their classrooms.