

# The Highland Avenue Newsletter



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- Important Dates and events for Highland School
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## Other Interesting field trips at Highland

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Fort Lee Military Trip

Mill Gardens Senior Center

Hoboken Homeless Shelter

CTC Academy for students with disabilities

Museum of Natural History

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## 6th grade Team Building at the YMCA

It has become a tradition for the Highland School 6<sup>th</sup> grade to attend the Fairview Lake YMCA for a day of bonding, survival tests, row boating, and rock climbing. However, this year was a little different. For the past 4 years, students have gone on this extended day trip at the end of the school year, typically late May or early June. However, as Highland School becomes more and more focused on Social Emotional Learning we decided to flip flop the culminating trip to a 'kick off of the year trip'. With SEL's core principles weighted in meaningful communication with peers, perseverance, and goal setting, the Highland School staff decided to take this trip just 9 days into the school year. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, with the teachers barely knowing the students and the students still trying to figure out their schedule and where they fit now that they are finally the big fish in the small Highland pond. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade arrived at the Highland school at 7:30am, ready for the long day ahead.

Students are placed into 5 groups and are rotated through three stations. The War Canoe is an activity where the children



Two MP students in a self-built Survival Shelter

divide up and board two canoes. As a team they work together to paddle around the lake while racing and splashing the other team in the "rival" canoe. If the team does not work together to paddle simultaneously, the canoe will not move at a fast pace. The Survival Activity takes place in the woods where the students are divided up into groups and asked to again work together to create a survival shelter for their group with nothing but what they can find in nature. Lastly, rock climbing gives the students the opportunity to challenge themselves to reach the top of the wall while their teammates encourage them from below. All these activities are skills that we want our students to hone as they mature not only as students, but as human beings.

Perhaps the best part of the day though, is the buffet lunch and the freshly baked cookie. Everyone gets to eat their fill and they all are accountable for cleaning up after themselves as working together to clean up and assign roles is part of the team work experience as well. We are proud of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders who push themselves and get dirty and wet while working towards common goals with their team. Likewise, we are proud of the teachers who annually go beyond their contract to provide an experience for the students. I just do not know who has more fun; the teachers or the kids.



MP students and Mrs.. Scala on the War Canoe

## THE HIGHLAND SCHOOL

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### Quick Contacts:

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### Upcoming Events

Picture Day  
October 2nd

Harvest Festival  
October 10th

HIB Community  
Presentation  
October 21st

Week of Respect  
October 7th – 11th

Progress Reports  
October 11th



## Meet Highland School's Pull Out Team

*"What a teacher is, is more important than what 'they' teach"—Karl Menninger*

**Name:** Ms. Cristina Horuzy

**Graduated:** Ramapo College

**Hometown:** Waldwick

**Favorite Movie:** Alice in Wonderland (the new one)

**Favorite Book:** *I am an Emotional Creature* by Ensler

**Hobby:** Skateboarding

**Someone who inspires Ms. Horuzy:** GRANDMA



**Name:** Ms. Katharina Grammer

**Graduated:** Undergrad– Parsons School of Design

**Masters:** Montclair State

**Hometown:** Harlem

**Favorite Movie:** Sophie's Choice

**Favorite Book:** *100 Years of Solitude* by Marquez

**Hobby:** Kayaking, Hiking, and Painting in Studio

**Someone who inspires Ms. Grammer:** Mom



## Coding opportunities for Highland Students

Students can code in school and out of school

Over the past several years the Invention Convention has had some pretty great judges; Directors of Curriculum, Superintendent, Principals, a top notch maintenance worker, an actual inventor, a tech aficionado, and for the past two years a gentlemen who is an entrepreneur in Midland Park and happens to be a kid at heart. Mr. Bob Lockwood takes time out of his busy life to come down and work with the students for the Invention Convention at Highland. Mr. Lockwood is perfect for this because he understands the value of education, so much that he has dedicated his time to STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math) for students, specifically **Coding**. Coding is the process of using a programming language to get a computer to behave how we want it to. Just as fitness is a part of every physical education curriculum, Coding is part of every grade levels tech program with Mr. Hershberger. Students as young as 1<sup>st</sup> grade are learning the ins and outs of coding through moving coding blocks. 6<sup>th</sup> grade stu-

dent's graduate to coding robots and we are even looking into coding drones this year. Whereas coding might seem like a very tech focused skill it does help the whole learner as well. Coding has significant impact on other skills like higher order thinking, problem solving, and perseverance. These skills can be applied to every subject. To promote coding further, Mr. Lockwood and his wife recently opened up a STEM lab in Midland Park called **Code Ninjas**, where students are welcome to go after school to learn and have fun. Coding is a skill that can lead to jobs that were unimaginable just 20-30 years ago. By coding robots and programs a whole new virtual world can be opened up to students and we are glad to see that STEM is being promoted at all ages, skill levels, and genders. Mr. Lockwood is already slated to come back and serve as a judge for the third year and we thank him and wish him luck in trying to further coding opportunities to Midland Park students. To learn more about Code Ninjas and the program they offer visit <https://www.codeninjas.com/>