

The Highland Avenue Newsletter



In the Newsletter:

- *Appreciating the school built on Highland Avenue.*
- *Quick profile of the new 4th grade collaborative team.*
- *A very talented former Highland student gives back to the school.*

When Highland was built in 1924—what else was going on?

The Winter Olympics were held for the first time in France

Macy's held its first Thanksgiving Day Parade

Joseph Stalin begins his bid for leadership after Vladimir Lenin dies

Marlon Brano was born on April 3rd in Omaha

To buy a new car it would cost \$265

A loaf of Bread cost 9 cents

The Washington Senators beat the NY Giants in 7 games to win the World Series

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2017

THE HIGHLAND SCHOOL: *Shaping young minds since 1924*

Tens of thousands of students have graced the hallways of the Highland School since its opening in 1924. Now just 7 years away from its 100th anniversary the building and infrastructure of the Highland Avenue School has never been better. When we stand back and look at the school, it is a magnificent blend of upgraded facilities and innovative technology, with the unique character of a nearly century old building. Sometimes I think we do not realize how fortunate we are to have the Highland School.

Case in point; for an Elementary Building, the Highland School boasts an excellent gymnasium that allows our physical education classes to run wild, be creative, and host excellent presentations such as our Musical and Promotion. With all the space and innovations the assemblies and shows are now more like rousing events.

The technology too leaves little to be desired, as we now can compete with any other Elementary School in Bergen County. It is not just the implementation of the Chromebook 1:1 initiative, or smartboards, or being a google school, or even robotics and STEAM courses, but more so, the way the teachers cleverly embed the technology into the classroom to facilitate 'fun' learning'. But even then, we can not forget about the unbelievable reliability of the WiFi network, which,

ultimately allows everything to happen. Yet another subtle benefit of this vintage building that can be overlooked.

The facility too, because of the recent referendum, has a state of the art heating system, brand new bathrooms, fencing, playground, synchronized clocks and bells, and safety mechanisms galore. All of which have transformed the school.

But the best part, even with all the upgrades and updates, there is still history that peeks through at us if we look for it. Like the etched word 'Boys' in the side door cement head jamb that recalls when the opposite genders had separate entrances in the 20's and 30's. Or in the basements 2 foot thick poured cement walls that allowed the building to be the town bomb shelter in the 50's and 60's.

Old isn't always bad, especially when we take the time, energy, and resources to keep everything current. The Highland School should be celebrated for withstanding 9 decades of change. It's had a lot of help from the community, BOE, parent foundations, staff, administration, tech teams, and maintenance crews, but in the end we have a pretty good place for learning that happens to have just enough character to make us realize we are all part of a little piece of history.



Highland School Classroom 1949-1950.

Though most rooms have been painted and repainted over the years. Room 201 still has the original stained wood doors and molding as seen in the picture. They are still in great shape for being over 90 years old.

**THE HIGHLAND
SCHOOL**

Highland School Main Office
201-445-3880

Quick Contacts:

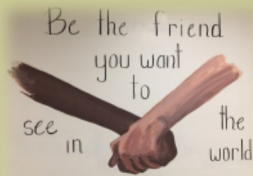
Mr. Galasso, Principal
pgalasso@mpsny.org

Ms. Callesano, Secretary
mcallesano@mpsny.org

Mrs. Scala, Guidance
kscala@mpsny.org

Mrs. Kessler, Nurse
rkessler@mpsny.org

Other Murals Sophie has
had a hand in ...



Meet Highland School's new 4th grade Collaborative Team

"Collaboration allows teachers to capture

Name: Ms. Madalyn Messina

Graduated: 2014– Monmouth University

Hometown: Ramsey

Favorite Movie: Pitch Perfect

Favorite Book: Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Hobby: Sports; soccer and golf

Someone who inspires Ms. Messina:

Mrs. Beth Papaz—Kindergarten teacher



Name: Mrs. Dianna Grasso

Graduated: 1977—Seton Hall University

Hometown: North Haledon

Favorite Movie: Papermoon

Favorite Book: The Glass Castle, by J. Walls

Hobby: Golf

Someone who inspires Mrs. Grasso: Mr. Galasso

**Making Highland School a Better Place
One Mural at a Time**

Talent can be hard to find, especially talent that is affordable, but luckily the Highland School hit the jack pot with a former student that has been leaving an indelible mark on the school's walls for the past several years. Sophie Mahoney, now a Senior at the Midland Park High School, has a habit of donating her time to the Highland School. She has produced a number of beautiful murals and the most recent two are perhaps her best. You can see Sophie's murals in the 1st floor hallway outside the cafeteria and also on the 2nd floor by the 4th grade classrooms. Even better news, there are more to come during the 2017-2018 school year.

