

**FROM THE
PRINCIPAL'S
DESK**

In the Newsletter:

- Celebrating Culture at Highland
- Bergen County Teacher of the Year for Highland School.
- NAAM Recognition for the 5th straight year
- The gift of reading — literally.

Guess the Flag of the country represented at Highland Cultural Day 2018

A



B



C



D



E



F



ANSWERS ON BACK

The Highland Avenue Newsletter



Volume 1, Issue 4

April 2018

Highland School Gets Cultured Cultural Awareness Day 2018

Robert Alan Authur, an American screenwriter quoted, "Cultural differences should not separate us from each other, but rather cultural diversity brings a collective strength that can benefit all of humanity."

The Highland School found a collective strength as Highland faculty and administration teamed up with the PTA and Midland Park community to give the students a cultural day experience the students would not soon forget. Teachers opened up their classrooms for the entire day allowing 14 separate presenters representing cultures from around the world to speak and engage the students in "cultural academics." From Italy, to Turkey, Armenia, Puerto Rico, Japan, Egypt, Scotland and 7 other representatives from the community exposed students to art, language, crafts, music, even tea/food from around the world. Not to mention, the entire day was kicked off by a Bantaba African Dance feature called the 'Circle of Celebration' that had students up on stage drumming, dancing, and moving to the beats of African music.

As a Principal, I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to not only expose students to other cultures, but purposely take the opportunity to instill pride for each child's cultural identity. After

all, culture is a significant part of who we are as individuals, but also who we are as a nation. And when the biggest 2 complaints by teachers and student are; "why couldn't we see more presenters? and "why can't this be two days?" We know we did something right. I cannot thank enough the efforts and patience of those involved who came together as a community and school to make the day happen. It is much appreciated.



Pictures: African Drummers, Crafts created by students, presenters in full dress, and a 3rd grader drumming away.

Highland School's Bergen County Teacher of the Year 2018

THE HIGHLAND
SCHOOL

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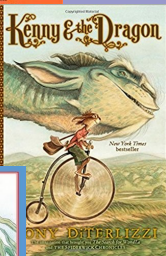
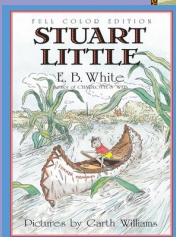
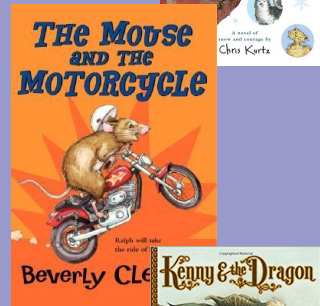
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Some Bundled Books:



“Teacher??? I prefer Educational Rock Star!”

Name: Mrs. Savannah Doliantis

Graduated: Montclair State

Hometown: Norwood

Favorite Movie: Serendipity

Favorite Book: Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Hobby: Bedazzling things

Someone who inspires Mrs. Doliantis:

Her Wonderful Mother



Always Thinking about the Kids

Ms. Carr bundles up some Highland classics for the students

The great thing about books is their battery never runs out and they don't need software upgrades. Ms. Carr dusted off some previous **One School One Book (OSOB)** titles and bundled them up as a gift for the 3rd grade students at Highland School. Each student received 5 books tied together by some yarn. Titles like The Chocolate Touch, Kenny and the Dragon, and Stuart Little, all of which had been read by students for our One School One book program have found a new home. The OSOB program is a shared endeavor between a Ramsey Elementary School and the Highland School in which grades K-4 all read the same book and discuss across all grade levels. By sharing and rotating with Ramsey, we cut costs in half and when they are done between both schools there are two many too hang on too, so we give them to our most prized possession— our students.



Ms. Walsh and Ms. DiPaola's 3rd grade class after receiving their books

Rated one of the BEST Communities for MUSIC Education in 2018

Midland Park brings home the NAAM Award for a 5th consecutive Year.

The Midland Park School District has been named one of the 583 schools **IN THE NATION** to be considered a Best Community for Music Education recipient by The NAMM Foundation. To earn this award a district has to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to providing comprehensive music education for all students. I am pleased to say that Midland Park has received this award in consecutive years since 2014. Midland Park demonstrates commitment to all Music Arts; from the Band, to Chorus, to the Musical, spanning grades 4-12. Congratulations to the teachers, students, and community who make this all happen. It does not go unnoticed.

