

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Weekly Updates

Nov. 4, 2022

October turned out to be a pretty great month that incorporated a lot of non-traditional academics to broaden our student experiences. The staff learned a lot about the kids. For example, to get students excited about reading, make it a competition with prizes and call it a read-a-thon or have students read to a dog. Either way, we were happy to see children reading more and enjoy doing so. We can only hope that the Read-a-Thon resulted in some lifelong readers.

Therapy Dog at Highland:

Highland School's official new staff member, Benson (our therapy dog), began reading with 3rd graders in the Highland School Library this week. Now that he has an official Highland School Picture ID (pictured to the right), Benson will make regular visits to the library this year and all students will have the opportunity to read to him. We are very lucky to have him as part of our staff.



2022 Read-a-Thon:

In just two short weeks, the Highland School achieved a personal best when it came to minutes read. Highland School logged 192,585 minutes (up from just 163,000 minutes last year). Homerooms who read the most minutes every night were announced each morning and the winning HR was given a trophy to sport in their classroom for the day. We had some remarkable outcomes from students and homerooms. In the end, all of our students who participated in the Read-a-Thon are stronger readers because of it. The money raised from the Read-a-Thon will be put to good use. Teachers and administration will be meeting with the PTA, who sponsored the event, to find creative ways to use the money. Thank-you for all of the tremendous support. See below for the top readers.

Most minutes read by homeroom in each grade:

1. Mrs. Guarini/Ackerman HR– Gr. 3: 10,398 minutes (pictured right)
2. Mrs. Lelinho/Mullady HR– Gr. 4: 9822 minutes
3. Ms. Edwards HR- Gr. 6: 8784 min.
4. Mrs. Stalb HR- Gr. 5: 7,552 min.



Top readers in each grade:

1. Top Reader in the school: Sylvia Eliya (Gr. 4) 2,828 minutes
2. Top Reader in 6th grade- Lamees Alhoms- 1,785 minutes
3. Top Reader in 5th grade- Paula Cruz Yanez- 1,357 minutes
4. Top Reader in 3rd grade-Charleigh Restifo- 1,340 minutes

Community Service at Mill Gardens:

Highland School has an intergenerational program where we send students to Mill Gardens, which is an assisted living residence in Midland Park. Students and residents participate together in activities and talk about everything under the sun. It turns out that our students like to talk and the residents love to listen, so it is a great match. Below are some pictures from the experience. Also, our STEAM class made pumpkins for the residents as a gift.



Parent/Teacher Conferences:

Godwin-Highland Parent/Teacher Conferences are fast approaching, Nov. 30 – Dec. 2. Conferences will be held on the following days/night;

Conference Dates	
November 30	Daytime Conferences
December 1	Evening Conferences
December 2	Daytime Conferences

Enrollment has fortunately went up and conference spots are limited for grades 4-5 based on the teamed and departmentalized nature of the schedule. Teachers will reach out shortly regarding

conferences. Grade 6 conferences will be scheduled by the teachers based on need. If a parent has a concern, please reach out their child's homeroom teacher to schedule a conference.

End of Marking Period/Report Cards:

The end of marking period one is November 4th. Report cards will be released online on Wednesday 11/16 at 2:50pm. In 5th and 6th grade, the Parent Portal will be blacked out to finalize grades beginning on Nov. 8th. After Nov. 8th, parents will not have access to student grades until after report cards are released. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Grade 5 and 6 Winter Concert:

The winter concert for grade 5 and 6 is December 7, 2022 at 7:00pm in the Highland Gymnasium. **All 5th and 6th grade parents please read the information in the link below.**

- [Highland Winter Concert 2022](#)

Upcoming Events:

11/6: *Daylight Savings Time (please set clocks back)*

11/10: *No School*

11/11: *Veterans Day (No School)*

11/15: *Picture Day Make-Ups*

11/14: *Book Fair Begins*

11/14: *District HIB Presentation- 7:30pm-9:00pm in MPHS Center (BOE Counsel S. Cherry and Dr. T. Heindel)*

11/14: *After School Hours to see Veterans Wall (4:00 – 6:00pm)- Highland Gym entrance*

11/16: *Book Fair Night Hours*

11/16: *MP 1 Report Cards Online*

11/18: *Book Fair Ends*

11/23: *Early Dismissal*

11/24-11/25: *Thanksgiving (No School)*

11/30- 12/2: *Early Dismissal (Parent/Teacher Conferences)*

12/7: *Highland Winter Concert (Grades 5 and 6)*

OLD BUT ALWAYS RELEVANT INFORMATION:

Clubs and Activities:

- Highland Clubs are starting their preliminary interest meetings. There are 15 clubs/activities running this year at Highland. If your child(ren) are interested, please have them attend the interest meetings which are announced over the loud speaker. Or, if interested, have the student email the club advisor. Clubs, their descriptions, and supervisors can be found on the school website under activities and at the following link.
 - [Highland Club Descriptions and Supervisors 2022](#)

Student Drop-Off:

- Hopefully everyone knows where they are going at this point; Grade 3= playground, Grade 4= Back of School (door 5), Grade 5 = Gymnasium entrance, Grade 6 = Back of School (door 6)
- **Drop-Off Timeline:**
 - 8:00am- supervision provided at each entrance.
 - 8:19am- students enter the building.
 - 8:23am- **late bell sounds**. Outside doors will close. All students arriving who cannot 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 8:00am from their same regular entrance: grade 6 will then go to the cafeteria, grade 5 will be in the music room hallway, grade 3 and 4 will be stationed in their hallway outside their classrooms.

The Car Line:

- All across America the drop off car lines at elementary schools can be stressful. We have been doing okay so far considering over 300 students are being dropped off in a 20 minute span- THANK-YOU. Traffic is not backing up to the intersection of Prospect and Godwin as much.
 - **Reminders of things we can do to keep the car line moving:**
 - **Pull all the way up as far as you can go, then let out your child(ren).** Have student exit the vehicle on left side whenever possible (safer).
 - Have student water bottles and backpacks ready to go, like a paratrooper ready to jump out of a plane. When the car stops it's a "Go, Go, Go."
 - Pre hug and kiss your child prior to getting in the car. Those are important things, but safety of kids during drop off is too. We want to avoid cars passing in line as much as possible.
 - **If you find yourself U-turning anywhere, you are doing something illegal. Let's try not to do illegal things.**

After School Pick Up:

After the bell rings at 2:50pm, students are released with the expectation that they will be watched, picked up by parents, or head to aftercare. There is limited supervision outside after school. Students who misbehave may be held accountable for their actions.

Students will be released from the same door they entered in the morning so we do not have a stampede going out of one door. Please arrange a spot for your child to meet you or your 'picker-upper'.

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 School Handbook 2022-2023](#)

Sincerely,

Peter Galasso, Principal

