

The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

Highland School Updates

December 21, 2022

Art Room Kiln Update:

The Kiln Room for our young artists, and soon to be ceramicists, is progressing nicely- December has been a good month for cutting out the entrance way, framing the kiln room and new storage/drying area, installing fire rated doors, and roughing electric for the new Kiln and lights. We are hoping it is completed over break so we can then work to install the Kiln with proper venting, as our goal is to order clay and fire up the Kiln for pottery in early Spring.



To find space we used part of the storage area, but to do so we had to cut through a poured foundation wall that is 100 years old. It took five days to accomplish the task. Highland School, during the Cold War served as a fallout shelter for the town because it was built so well. This means we were literally cutting through a bomb shelter's walls.



There are actually 3 new spaces; a little foyer, a big storage closet to consolidate all art supplies (which will allow us to make another little pull out classroom elsewhere), and the Kiln room/drying room. The space was previously shelves for storage in the boiler room.

Winter Concert:

The winter concert was only two weeks ago, but already feels like it happened forever ago. We had an excellent turnout as always, which we do not take for granted. I know life is busy and we are grateful for families blocking out some time for the performing arts. The choral students executed the songs wonderfully under the direction of Mrs. Daley. Likewise, we can see the band students making progress every week under Mr. Peters. I hope the students continue with the performing arts as they are a very talented group. Some of our students did not stop with the concert and performed impromptu at the Mill Gardens Senior Living Home on one of our visits. Click the link to watch our students singing one of the concert songs for the Senior Residents; [Mill Gardens Chorus Video Link](#)

- *We would also like to thank Mrs. Daley for filling in for Mrs. Georgiou's maternity leave. Mrs. Daley's last day will be Dec. 23, 2022. It was wonderful watching her work with the students. The music program did not skip a beat with her at the helm. She did a wonderful job, which was reflected in the winter concert.*

6th Grade door decorating:

As a perk of being in 6th grade, students competed by homeroom to decorate their classroom door. These were completely done by students during their free time. They came out better than we thought. 25 judges voted and the winner was Mr. Winter's door, but it was a very, very close race. Once again, we learn that students can do impressive things with little to no adult intervention, when motivated to do so. This was a lot of fun.



Mr. Winters HR



Ms. Edwards HR



Mr. Savages HR



Mr. Kilgallen's HR

Lost and Found:

The lost and found has a lot of clothes. I promise we try to remind students about their belongings, but now with rec/travel basketball starting, it is getting even crazier. We have the lost and found set up across multiple tables in the cafeteria. We will remind the students to claim their belongings while eating lunch, but parents are welcome to come in after school to double check the cafeteria as well. Parents can enter by the gymnasium after school. Please only take what is yours. After 12/23 all items not claimed will be donated.

Holiday Store:

The PTA sponsored Holiday store was a success, especially for our youngest students, who never really have the opportunity to feel grown up and practice purchasing power on their own. Thank-you for supporting this activity and the PTA volunteers for making it happen.



The Highland Lost and Found is running out of space. The clothes, gloves, hats, ear muffs, lunch bags, etc. are now taking up two, 6 foot tables and a coat rack, as pictured above.

Student Council Food Drive:

The student council, under Mrs. Lelinho, with the help of Mrs. Scala and some very motivated students, collected food that was donated by the Highland Community (Thank-you). Not only did they collect, they loaded the boxes and worked together to help load the bus and hand deliver the items to the shelter, where they unpacked and stocked the shelves. So often we rely on just giving, so it is nice for the students to see the donations full circle and actually deliver the materials to gain perspective on life outside our Highland bubble.



Student council at the Sloatsburg Food pantry where they stocked the food they collected.

Upcoming Events:

- 12/23: **Half day for students**/ Winter Classroom Party
- 1/20: End of Marking Period 2
- 1/27: Online and Paper Report Cards sent home
- 1/31: Highland Spelling Bee (during school hours)
- 2/3: Highland Talent show

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 School Handbook 2022-2023](#)

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'.

Sincerely,

Peter Galasso, Principal

