

# The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue  
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

## Highland School Updates

February 24, 2023

### **2023 Spelling Bee Champion:**

We are proud to announce that Xavier McCarthy (Grade 5) is the Highland School Spelling Bee Champion for the 2023 school year. Leila Bastos-Andreazza (6<sup>th</sup> grade) was the runner up. Xavier joins a list of winners going back to 2017 and will now have the opportunity to compete at the county level;

### **WINNERS HISTORY**

- 2017- Wilson Dhalwani
- 2018- Grace Pagano
- 2019- Gabby Pena
- 2020- Gabby Pena
- 2021- Gabby Pena
- 2022- Joey Vrsalovic
- 2023- Xavier McCarthy

### **After School Pick-Up:**

After School there has been a recent uptick in inappropriate behavior; which involves pushing and even hitting in some cases. If students are going to play after school on school property, parents should be on the playground area watching them. Staff is not outside after school to supervise the playground, blacktop and back field. Students who are in aftercare should head right to Godwin after school so children can be accounted for during their attendance process. Your help with this is very much appreciated. *(see after School pick up under 'Old But Always Relevant Information' below)*

### **Reminder: Important Contacts for Highland School:**

#### **Technology Department:**

- If you are having issues logging onto the Parent Portal, receiving emails, or your child is having an issue with their Chromebook or subscription log-ons, we have a technology staff member that can assist you. For all Highland technology and log on issues, please contact Mr. James Thumm; [jthumm@mpsny.org](mailto:jthumm@mpsny.org)

#### **Nurses Office:**

- If your child has a medical issue, needs medication, or you have doctor's notes to excuse absences, please contact Mrs. Juliana Lisi, the School Nurse; [jlisi@mpsny.org](mailto:jlisi@mpsny.org).

### **Read Across America Week:**

Our Annual Read Across America Week will take place the week of 3/6 – There are a number of spirit days, an assembly and one of our favorites, Drop Everything And Read (DEAR). Please see link below for specifics.

- [Read Across America Week Information](#)

### **Do the Right Thing Assembly (DTRT):**

Last week there was a Do the Right Thing Assembly. Students heard a message about the difference between Responding vs. Reacting, which we now reference in school to the students. Students were nominated by staff for a DTRT shirt, a handshake and recognition in front of the entire school. We hold at least 4 of these a year, this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> DTRT assembly. February's winners and past winners can be found on the school webpage;

- [DTRT Nominees Webpage](#)

### **Congratulations to Mr. Peters:**

Mr. Peters was selected to be the Co-Manager for the 2023 NJSMA Region I Middle School Concert Band. This is quite an honor and speaks to his dedication to the Music Arts Program.

### **School Climate Survey:**

Beginning the week of February 27th, students in grades two through twelve (those who have parental consent from the beginning of the year forms), will take the School Climate Survey. This is the thirteenth year that our students will participate in this anonymous survey. This annual survey assures that Midland Park Public Schools is in compliance with provisions outlined in the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act. The voluntary survey also provides our Administration and School Safety and Climate Teams with valuable feedback from our students. As a result of this feedback, our district is able to identify areas of strength and address areas that need improvement. This student feedback assists us in our endeavor to promote a positive school climate and reduce bullying. Our School Climate Survey results are shared with the community during our annual HIB Community Presentation in the Fall. If you are interested in previewing the School Climate Survey, there is a hard-copy kept in the main office of each school. As always, we appreciate your partnership and your support as we all work together to make Midland Park Public Schools a friendly, welcoming and respectful educational community. For any questions please contact Mr. Craig Rush, District Anti-Bullying Coordinator; [crush@mpsnj.org](mailto:crush@mpsnj.org) . For last year's survey results and an update on the anti-bullying bill of rights act please click the link below.

- [School Climate Survey and HIB Legislation Link](#)

### **State Testing:**

As a reminder, state testing (NJSLA) will be in the Spring. Although May seems far away, we all know it is just right around the corner with how time flies. Below are NJSLA testing dates. Please do your best to have students in school on these days. It is very much appreciated so it limits make-up testing.

<b>NJSLA 2022-2023 Testing Dates</b>			
<i>Highland School</i>			
<b>Assessment Name</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Testing Time</b>	<b>Testing Dates</b>
NJSLA: Language Arts/Literacy	Grades 3-6	75 - 90 minutes ea. (2 sessions)	May 16- 17
NJSLA Mathematics	Grades 3-6	60 minutes ea. (3 sessions) (total 180 minutes)	May 23-24
NJSLA Science	Grade 5	45 minutes ea. (4 sessions) (180 total minutes)	May 18-19

### **Upcoming Events:**

- 2/20: PRESIDENTS WEEK OFF BEGINS
- 2/27: School Climate Survey opens (Health Teachers please note the date)
- 3/3: 1/2 way through the marking period
- 3/6: Read Across America Begins
- 3/8: Student Battle of the Books Periods 1-3.

- 3/10: 12:30pm dismissal for students (staff development)
- 3/14: Pi Day
- 3/16: Invention Convention (6:30pm-8:30pm) at Godwin School
- 3/27-3/31: Cultural Awareness Week
- 4/3: April Break Begins

## **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'. Those who walk home, please set a time for arrival home, and those who go to aftercare should head right over to Godwin so we do not have to send out a search party if they are late.