

# The Highland School

31 Highland Avenue  
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432

## Highland School Weekly Updates

February 16, 2024

### **Read Across America Week:** (optional)

In preparation for Read Across America week which will be March 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, Highland School is asking for your help! We would love to put together a slideshow with pictures of your children reading books in various places. If you are going on a vacation or just reading at home, this would be a good time to snap a picture of your child reading a book! Please email any pictures to Mrs. Ackerman at [aackerman@mppanthers.org](mailto:aackerman@mppanthers.org) by Thursday, February 29th.

### **The Highland Roar:** (Newspaper)

Highland School has an official newspaper that is created by students via the Newspaper Club, Supervised by Ms. Edwards. Twice per year the students scour the school looking for news, write articles and come up with little games. To make it look like a real old school newspaper, we use a company who converts our content to that newspaper feel and prints it out for us. Every student then gets a newspaper to read. In an age of digital content, it is no surprise that many students barely know what a newspaper is. What is a surprise, is how many students like the look and feel of the old thin paper with color pictures and simple articles to read. Ms. Edwards and the students do a really nice job.

### **Grade 5 Family Life: (5<sup>th</sup> grade only)**

The Health teachers, Mrs. Dolianitis and Mr. DeCarlo, are planning to teach their Family Life Lessons the weeks of 4/15 and 4/22. Linked below is the curriculum, the resources with the Power Points we use to teach the class, as well as, the opt-out form if parents would rather not have their children take part in the 2 classes.

- [Family Life Resources Link](#)

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Eligibility:** (for current 6<sup>th</sup> graders only)

Next year Midland Park Jr./Sr. High School will offer students a lot of new opportunities, including access to 7<sup>th</sup> grade Honors Programs in Language Arts and Mathematics. Parents of 6<sup>th</sup> graders please read the letter linked below regarding the Honors Program and eligibility for next year.

- [Grade 7 Honors Program Letter \(for current 6<sup>th</sup> grade students\)](#)



### **Battle of the Books School Winners:**

The Highland Battle of the Books tournament has been completed. I am proud of everyone who competed, but there can only be one overall winner---The 6<sup>th</sup> grade 'Demigods' took first place (pictured to the right) 5<sup>th</sup> grade teams took 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 'Book Wizards' took 2<sup>nd</sup> place and the 'Golden Hawks', came in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Now it is on to the county competition in Upper Saddle River. We are proud of all the teams who competed; taking the time to read more and take some risk in the field of competition.



#### **1<sup>st</sup> Place**

#### **The Demigods (Gr. 6)**

*Peyton Toro*  
*Madeleine Libretta*  
*Ben Aiello*  
*Angel Aencha*  
*Christian Estevez*

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

#### **The Book Wizards (Gr. 5)**

*Maral Medzadourian*  
*Ella Wong*  
*Steven Postolaki*  
*Nickolas Postolaki*  
*Destiney Beniquez*

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

#### **The Golden Hawks (Gr. 5)**

*Sylvia Eliya*  
*Kady Stein*  
*Violet Wolfson*  
*Leonardo Tirico*

### **Godwin Career Day:**

Godwin School is seeking presenters for their 4th annual Career Day. It will be held on March 19, 2024, from 8:30-11:30 AM. More information is in the Google Form. Please contact Ms. Bache with questions - 201-445-5350.

- [Career Day Form](#)

### **Color Fun Run:** (Annual Event sponsored by #LightUpMBC)

Everyone is invited to this community event!! Please join the community on May 19 for an unforgettable event the whole family will enjoy! The festivities will feature a 1-mile color run/walk (no experience necessary). The race will start with a Color Blaze color-powder toss, and then participants will pass through pink, teal and green color stations where they will be sprayed with Color Blaze color powder by volunteers. In addition, this year we have added a FOURTH bubble station!!!! There will also be a DJ, food, face painter, balloon artist, giveaways, and children's activities. We hope to see you at this fun event to raise money to find a cure for metastatic breast cancer.

- To Register: [Fun Run Registration '24](#)

### **Battle of the Bands:** March 9, 2024 – 7:00pm at Macaluso's

The MPPEF will hold their annual fundraiser in just under a month. I will certainly be there. All funds that are raised go directly back to the school system to support our students. They are another very dedicated group that supports the Midland Park Public School and are appreciated.

- [MPPEF Battle of the Bands Flyer](#)

## **Upcoming Events:**

- 2/19 – 2/23: Presidents Day – NO SCHOOL
  - 3/1: Progress Reports as needed
  - 3/4: Read-Across-America-Week begins – One School One Book Assembly grades 3 and 4
  - 3/5: County Battle of the Books-Upper Saddle River
  - 3/5: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Eligibility Math Test (6<sup>th</sup> grade students only)
  - 3/6: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Eligibility ELA Test (6<sup>th</sup> grade only)
  - 3/7: Earth Science Assembly (During school)
  - 3/8: PTA Sponsored Bingo Night- Godwin School
  - 3/9: MPPEF Spring Fling – Macaluso's
  - 3/11: Early Dismissal for students / Professional Development for teachers
  - 3/18: Math-A-Thon begins
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## **Old, but always relevant information:**

### **Nurses Contact:**

Mrs. Patty Trava has returned as the Highland School nurse. Should you have any student related health questions, or need to submit vaccinations, and/or doctor's notes, please contact Mrs. Trava at [HLNurse@mpsnj.org](mailto:HLNurse@mpsnj.org).

### **Grade 6 End of Year Privileges:**

An email regarding 6<sup>th</sup> grade privileges went out to all 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents. If you did not see it please click the links below. This only applies to grade 6 students.

- <https://highland.mpsnj.org/common/pages/UserFile.aspx?fileId=97051868>
- <https://highland.mpsnj.org/common/pages/UserFile.aspx?fileId=97051870>

### **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 Parent Handbook 2023-2024](#)

### **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. Your child should not be playing outside if you are not present afterschool. 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.

**Make-Up Work:**

The weather is changing and as it gets colder we all spend more time cooped up inside with the windows closed. This is the time of year where kids begin getting sick. This is also the time when many families travel. If a student misses school this is typically the protocol:

If a student is sick:

Parents may request work from the teacher. All we ask is that if you do request work from the teacher it gets picked up by the end of the day so it is not just sitting on the bench overnight. Most work, especially in the upper grades can be found on the Google Classroom.

If students go on vacation, teachers are not obligated to provide work, but may provide some they think is necessary or beneficial. It is very difficult for a teacher to put a weeks worth of learning together for a vacation, especially since plans are augmented all

Students who do miss school are typically afforded the same amount of time to make up work. For example; missed 2 days, student have 2 days to make up the work.

**Highland Instagram:** @highlandschoolmp

We are over 120 followers on the Highland Instagram. Ms. Carr and the teachers will post pictures and news from Highland on the Instagram routinely. If you enjoy Instagram and would like to follow Highland please scan the QR code to the right.

Sincerely,

Peter Galasso, Principal

