



Husky Highlights

www.boiseschools.org/schools/highlands

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November 19, 2009

The Principal's Corner

Sally Skinner

Thank you again for your outstanding support of parent teacher conferences. We gain so much valuable information at this time and hope you found it to be helpful as well. Highlands is an exceptional school and much of that success is due to the high level of parent involvement. Not only do we, as a staff, value your support, but we know it makes ALL the difference for your child.

On Tuesday, our teachers attended a follow-up training with Dr. Michael Klentschy on science instruction and the use of science notebooks in the classroom. The PTO has helped to fund this training with good results. Some teacher feedback is provided below.

"Dr. Klentschy's training has made me a better science teacher. It is so exciting to see kids enthusiastic, engaged, and questioning during science. The "lightbulb" is not going on for just the students, but for myself as well."

"Using science notebooks is an important instructional tool. By learning how to use them more effectively, I am able to increase student learning and engagement..."

"...I kept seeing ways to use the ideas across the curriculum. I saw the structure of science matching up with our Step Up to Writing lessons..."

"...follow-up training was a valuable experience. I especially appreciated the assessment guides..."

We wish all of our families a very Happy Thanksgiving!

What is Upcycling?

Upcycling is when you take something that is usually thrown away and turn it into something people can use. Upcycling means less trash ends up in landfills. How can you help? A bin has been placed in the cafeteria where kids can discard empty Capri Sun and similar juice pouches (without the straw). These pouches will be upcycled to earn money for our school. Empty pouches will be turned into fun bags and pencil cases. Pouches can be collected at home and brought in as well!

IMPORTANT DATES

11/20	Holiday Lunch 11:15 & 12:15
11/25	Early Release 10:30 & 1:15
11/26-27	No School – Thanksgiving
12/1	DWA – 5 th grade
12/2	DMA – 5 th & 6 th grades
12/11	Winter Program Grades 1-3 9:30 & 2:30
12/16	Band/Choir/Orchestra Program 9:00
12/18	Early Release 10:30 & 1:15
12/21 - 1/1/10	Winter Break

Winter Coat Drive: RESULTS

Way to go Mr. Franz' 6th grade class! Keziah Sullivan from the IRC (International Rescue Committee) came to Highlands on November 9th to accept 75 coats brought in by Highlands students. These coats will go to refugees that just moved to Boise and have never experienced a winter before. Way to look out for the community, Mr. Franz' class!

Holiday Luncheon – November 20th

The Holiday Luncheon is upon us – tomorrow, in fact! Keep in mind this is by reservation only for parents/grandparents/visitors. K-2nd grade will eat in the cafeteria at 11:15 (including older siblings at Highlands). 3rd – 6th grade will be at 12:15 in the cafeteria. Thank you to all of the volunteers who help make this fun holiday tradition possible.

See a Need – Bring it Forward!

The Spring Art Auction Committee wants YOU! We want input from all parents as to what they see as a real need around the school. Plans and committees are forming, so if you are interested in helping out, please let us know. Contact Nancy Werdel at jwerdel@yahoo.com with ideas, suggestions or ways you might be able to help out.

Walk-n-Roll Wednesday One More Time!

The kids are doing a super job helping us control traffic, save gasoline, and getting a bit of exercise by walking, riding bikes, and scooters to/from school. Keep up the great work as the last Walk-n-Roll Wednesday for the 2009 year will be this Wednesday, November 25th – Turkey Tokens are the final prize! (Keep an ear out for the Spring version coming in 2010!)

Baking for *Box Tops* –

'Tis the season for baking so don't forget to scour those boxes for the plentiful *Box Tops* that can bring money in to the school! From biscuit tins to flour bags to cereal containers to frozen food boxes, those cute little *Box Top* logos are everywhere. Make sure you check out any boxes you buy this holiday season, clip 'em when you see 'em, and then send them in to Highlands!

Note of *Thanks* this Thanksgiving ...

Just a quick *Thank You* to all who were able to participate in our Fall Fundraiser through the District's Wish List Drive. The final amount is still being tallied, but each teacher at Highlands will be able to use the money well to help further all our children's education. We are very lucky to have such involved and interested parents/grandparents. Thank You!

A Note about Multiple Emails

We hope you are finding the electronic version of the Husky Highlights to be helpful. We appreciate the feedback you provided during conferences and apologize that you may be receiving multiple mailings if you have more than one child at Highlands. Because we are using our Infinite Campus system, the e-mail addresses for all parents of each child receive a mailing. At this time, we are unable to change that process so that everyone only receives one e-mail, without also *excluding* some parents. Until we have that capability, we hope you will bear with us and just delete duplicate copies of our messages. Thank you!

Highlands Running Club

Still coming this Fall! We need a few more volunteers to get the Highlands Running Club up and "running". This is a great opportunity for students to get physical activity and enjoy the benefits of healthy choices.

Volunteers who would be willing to help facilitate the program and help keep track of laps are needed. Are you available in the afternoons from 2:15 to 2:45? Email if you can help. kqcarloso1@gmail.com

The PTO Minute

November 18th was the most recent gathering of the Parent-Teacher Organization at Highlands. Lots of information, lots of suggestions, and lots of updates were shared. Here is a brief re-cap:

- The Giving Tree this year will be sponsored by Mrs. Jungen's class – more details to follow, but keep an eye out for what you can provide.
- Our PTO leaders, community, and school leaders are working hard to put together some grant applications to improve our school grounds (sprinklers, surveillance, and bike racks) – keep your fingers crossed!
- The 2010 Spring Art Auction is well under way. Still looking for ideas, so keep an eye out for a "Parent Survey" to head your way – now's the time to get your opinion heard!
- The Parent Community Advisory Committee (PCAC) met and wants to remind parents about the Idaho Math Initiative. See www.sde.idaho.gov to learn more (click on "Idaho Math Initiative" under the "Top Topics" section on the Home page).