

Highland Hawks

PTA Newsletter

December 2015

Dec. 5	Chimes Concert @ 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 7	General PTA Meeting, 10:00 a.m
Dec. 12	Band /Strings Concert@ 6:30 p.m.
Dec. 14	3 rd Grade Christmas Sing for parents 10:30 a.m.
Dec. 21	Loud /Wolfe Christmas Play 1:15 p.m.
Dec. 22	Heinrich/Nielsen Christmas Play 1:15 p.m.
Dec. 22	Class Christmas Parties
Dec. 23- Jan. 2	No School – Christmas Vacation
Jan. 3	School Resumes
Jan. 4	PTA Board Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Jan. 16	No School Martin Luther King Day
Jan. 23-27	Tech Safety Week



Message from Mr. Hodson

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. However, we also know that when students miss too much school – regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent – which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year. Research shows:

- Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out of school.
- By 9th grade good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.

Absences can add up quickly. A child is chronically absent if he or she misses just two two days every month.

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Set out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.

- Ensure your children go to school every day unless they are truly sick.
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to your child's teacher for advice if your student feels anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.

Let us know how we can best support you and your children so that they can show up for school on time every day. We want your child to be successful at Highland Elementary School!!!

Reed Hodson, Principal



Message from the PTA President

The PTA's Christmas Wish List

- All the toys your kids want for Christmas in stock and on sale for 80% off.
- Our General PTA Board meeting (on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 10:00 am in the teacher's lounge) will have so many people in attendance that I will be forced to use a microphone and wave like Eva Peron from a balcony. Or maybe a Disney Princess on a parade float. I like that one better.
- Peace, love, and happiness...at least for five minutes in the car ride to piano lessons...and only because a movie is playing.
- A huge congratulations to our school's Reflections winners (see list below), as well as Michelle Buechner, who was in charge of Reflections. May all of their artistic dreams come true. Unless they involve big messes that don't get cleaned up.
- Someone will have the burning desire to be in charge of Tech Safety Week in January. Ironically, the people most interested won't be reading this wish list because they will be safely involved with their tech-related interests.
- A treadmill that will only get used for three months and then become a jungle gym, clothes hanger, and a constant reminder of failed intentions.
- 100% of parents and teachers join our school's PTA. Hey, it's a wish list, so why not?
- Timidity will be banished until we have next year's board positions filled. Contact Jody Graham (our Nominating Committee Chair, dougandjody@msn.com) if you are interested in any of the following positions: President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership VP. The Council PTA also has positions open for next year if you are interested in volunteering at a higher level. I, personally, have the following positions open: Snack Chef, Homework Helper,

Diaper Genie Genie, and Mr. Clean Magic Eraser Chair.

- Happy holidays filled with gratitude for our wonderful school! Because that's what you think about on Christmas morning.



Reflections

Congratulations to the following students who placed at the Council level:

Inza Brown—Dance—1st
AnaBelle Davis—Film—2nd
Mark Ockey—Film—3rd
Annaka Gardiner—Film—3rd
Talmage Brammer—Literature—2nd
Kaitlin Anderson—Literature—3rd
Delayna Graham—Literature—3rd
Zhuocheng Wang—Music—1st
Michael Brinton—Music—3rd
AnaBelle Davis—Photo—3rd
Tate Rasband—Visual Arts 2D—3rd
Zachary Brinton—Visual Arts 3D—3rd
Ella Larsen—Visual Arts 3D—1st

I'd like to thank all who helped make REFLECTIONS so much fun for the students this fall! I'd like to especially recognize Tara Bowen and Melissa Gillings for their many hours of service and

expertise. Special thanks also go to all of our judges (who will remain anonymous), Jessica Adamson, Rachelle Guymon, Natalie Ockey, Randi Davis, Amy Ahlander, Jody Graham, Jodi Scott, and Nicole Atkinson for help with the digital files. The students benefit from your time and efforts and I enjoyed working with you all!

-Michelle Buechner



Staff Birthdays

Dec. 2	Aimee Tubbs
Dec. 15	Merilee Parke
Dec. 26	Randy Ockey
Dec. 28	Carol Sparks
Jan. 3	Teresa Louw