

The Highland School Hotline

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Headline News

Friends Of The School Meeting

We handed out letters at the Talent Show about an upcoming FOTS meeting. After reviewing them, we have chosen Friday, January 16 as our meeting date. The meeting will start at 6:30p.m. to accommodate parent work schedule. We plan to show and discuss the democratic process section of our video during the evening. We look forward to seeing everyone there!



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Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

We WILL be having school on January 19 – Martin Luther King, Jr. day. Ritchie County schools will NOT. Please remember your transportation arrangements if you ride the bus.

Snow Day Policy

This is a reminder that school is in session every scheduled day. If you cannot get to school due to road conditions, call the school. If the Ritchie County Schools are on a 2-hour delay, bus students and their driver will arrive at 10 am.

Let It Snow!

The snow and colder temperatures have arrived. Please remember to dress warmly for school. The Entry Room can accommodate snow boots, hats, extra layers, and mittens.

Staff Update

Josh Cook is visiting on the 8th and 9th of January. We will interview him on Friday for the position of Intern starting in the fall of 2009. He is from Wheeling, WV but is currently studying in the United Kingdom. Look for an update next month!

I-17 Update

Highland School is proud to announce it has received the NALSAS accreditation. We can now move forward with our application to the government in order to issue I-20 forms for international students.

Graduation Committees

Melissa Richards and Laura Nolan's graduation committees are both meeting on Thursday, January 15 starting at 5:00p.m. This will be an important and late night for all the committee members!

Winter Gifts

We had a small party and unwrapping of gifts on Friday December 19. Jana, our student from Germany, sent a care package of cookies and small packages for us. Steve had a cake he wanted to share so we feasted on sweets! Some school members chose to give gifts to the school this year. Some of the gifts received were: a new Hotline printer/copier/scanner/fax, Legos, a jump drive for moving files between computers, pens, crayons, a basic tool set, German candy, a new glue gun, and much more. Thank you to all the individuals who donated. We are enjoying everything and appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Winter Break Stories

People enjoyed their break! All school members stayed locally or only travelled within 100 miles to visit friends and family. Many enjoyed watching movies and resting. Candy fought a terrible chest cold the whole time. We are happy to report she is feeling better now.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ FOTS Meeting
January 16 at 6:30
- ◆ January 19 MLK
Jr. Day- We WILL
Have School
- ◆ Karen's Birthday
January 26
- ◆ Candy's Birthday
January 27

Conservation Club

The Conservation club met on January 6 to discuss many topics. The first was to put together the January/February bulletin board. We need more articles. We also discussed how to make sure the bird feeder stays filled through the winter months. In addition, we have to start assembling our scrapbook for submission in April. A motion was passed to meet every Tuesday at 1 pm to fill the bird feeder and work on the scrapbook. The squirrels have not eaten all of the corn we put in the feeder. We think this is because the weather has been mild and they found enough food on their own. Karen received a gift of Giant Sequoia seeds during the holidays. She would like to donate them to the Conservation Club. We hope this will be a fun ongoing project. Look for pictures in upcoming

Talent Show and Play Review

The talent show and play, "Comedy of Hairs," was a big success. After a power failure in the afternoon, the cast, crew, and audience all made it to the December 19th event. Visitors came from 130 miles away to see our command performance! One grandfather commented, "It was the best play we have seen here!" This positive comment felt great! Due to the many snow days and illnesses this fall, we had to work hard in a short amount of time to get the production completed.

Here is part of the program:

Act I

1. A Song- Keilee
2. Words- Candy, Keilee, and Karen
3. Universal Greeting- Karen and Travis
4. The Cat Came Back- Ryan, Travis, Karen, Melissa, and Keilee
5. Chocolate!- Candy and Ryan
6. Soap and Water- Candy, Travis, Melissa, Keilee, Karen, and Ryan

Act II

A Comedy of Hairs:

A collection of jokes assembled and performed by members of The Highland School

The evening was filled with singing and lots of laughter. We ended with a sing-along of Jingle Bells, Frosty the Snowman, and Let It Snow.

Writer's Workshop

Circle Story

School Members participating in the first circle story were: Travis, Melissa, Laura, Keilee, Candy, Josh, and Karen. The second story was: Melissa, Karen, Keilee and Candy. Bold and italics indicate a new writer. The underline indicates what the new writer could see of the previous person's contribution.

Magic Box:

Once upon a time there was a magic container box thingy with mystical powers. The first mystical power was to summon cheese. The second power was very strange for it was pizza power. "I have PIZZA POWER!" says uh... the gorilla named Rumpleskinz. Rumpleskinz runs around his tree house like a crazy gorilla with rabies, as he throws pizza everywhere. "And the pizza pie is cool," said the rabies. Then Darth Vader said to the death star. The death star paused for a millisecond, held its breath and exploded. Pieces flew though the atmosphere of planet Thanatos. A small dwerbal felt the impact as it knocked him flat on his face. Meteoric impacts of cheddar cheese can have devastating after effects - too much to clean up - everything smells like chesse. And there aren't enough burgers in the world to make cheeseburgers with it. It is a hopeless - if delicious - catastrophe. It reminded them of Karen's no-bake cookies. A catastrophe, yes, but one can never go wrong with chocolate and peanut butter. So they ate the delicious disaster until they were stuffed. That is when the sun came up and the rats came out. Yes, and the rats came out of the mystical box. And the professor, archeologist, and the genius ran away with the mystical box.

Fairy Moon:

Light shined from the moon on to the blanket of winter snow. It was one of those magical nights when fairies come out to play and dance. One fairy, named Serena, decided it was the perfect night for mischief with the humans. A young girl lived nearby with her family. She did not believe in fairies. From the top of a nearby tree a soft voice whispered, "I am a fairy. My name is Radvil and I love marshmallows and chocolate chip cookies." The fairy floated down from the tree and began to skip lightly along the path. "Follow me," she said. "We will go to my house and make cookies." Then we will take a trip to Flow County and say "Hi" and swim. Wow, that was a really cold swim. Frozen to the bone, the poor thing dragged itself out of the water. It made its way to a small village and knocked on someone's door. "Please help me." It cried. The lady that opened the door lets them come in. She wraps a blanket around the mysterious person and asks, "How are you?" and, "Where are you from?" The frozen person stayed the night and they became friends.

Trip and Travel

Trip and Travel is very excited to announce our destination for this year's trip. We plan to go to Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, and Norfolk, Virginia. We intend to visit Colonial Williamsburg, Busch Gardens, the beach, and a ship at the naval base. We may add some additional destinations as we continue research into the possible tourism options. We plan to go the week of May 18-23. Our plans for fundraising continue to be productive! As a result of selling 37 Elder-Beerman coupon books, we were eligible for a drawing for additional money. We won the drawing and received a check for 350 dollars. We are participating in their spring Community Day coupon sales program which the coupons will be used on February 28. We will also be doing our big candy sales in February. See the attached flyer to get your order in before February 2.



House of Burgesses in Colonial Williamsburg



Loch Ness Monster at Busch Gardens



Virginia Beach



USS Wisconsin from the Norfolk Naval Base

Work Credit Committee

The committee met to create a list of possible jobs around the school that students can work on in order to earn tuition credit. Some of the items are ongoing such as cleaning or lawn care. The list is posted on the dining room bulletin board and contains items such as dorm cleaning, multi-purpose room floor shoe area scrubbing, furniture moving, maintaining the bark mulch on the paths, and many more.



Democracy In Action

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Video Committee

The first DVD of the final version was burned on January 8. School Members will take a copy home and ask family members to view prior to the January 16 FOTS meeting. It costs us some money and time to produce them so we would accept a donation to cover the costs of materials, printing, and shipping. We have designed the video to be viewed as a whole under the following sub-headings: Democratic Process including Judicial, Activities both in Groups and Individually, Play, International Students and Boarding, and Graduation. We are very proud to have completed this 2-year long project with a very small budget and working together democratically.

THS Wish List

These are some things we could really use but are not in this year's budget. Can you help us? Please call Karen, the Donations Clerk, for more specific information before you send anything to us. Thanks!

- ◆ Low water/high efficiency washer and gas dryer
- ◆ Shovels
- ◆ Swing set equipment
- ◆ Flat screen monitor
- ◆ New computer



Fayliru with a long sword by Laura