

The Highland School Hotline

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Headline News



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Friends Of The School Meeting

Our last FOTS meeting was cancelled due to the freezing temperatures! We sent out new letters containing possible dates in February. After reviewing them, we have chosen Friday, February 20 as our meeting date. The meeting will start at 6:30p.m. to accommodate parent work schedules. We plan to show and discuss the democratic process section of our video during the evening. We will also address transportation issues. We look forward to seeing everyone there, weather permitting!

President's Day

We will NOT be having school on February 16 – President's day. We will return to our regular schedule Tuesday February 17. GSM will meet on Tuesday.

Staff Update

Josh Cook visited us January 8 & 9. We had an interview and decided to hire him for the fall semester. Since leaving he has been in e-mail contact with us. He has expressed great interest in re-designing the school website. We welcome Josh and look forward to his involvement this fall!

I-129 Update

We have been making lots of progress with the I-129. This is part of the process to bring Heike and Tristan to our school. We have sent her transcripts and resume to be approved by a professor at WVU. Once we receive her approval, we will complete the form and send it in. The application process should be completed by the end of February.

Coins for Cystic Fibrosis

We have started a fund raiser called Coins for Cystic Fibrosis to benefit The Antonio J. and Janet Palumbo Cystic Fibrosis Center (CF Center) at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC. We will be collecting our loose change until the end of February. On February 27 we will count up our change and send a check to the CF Center. The money raised will help the CF Center with their Teen Education Program.

Visitors

Matthew Landers, age 7, visited us this week. He is interested in becoming a full-time day student immediately. Matthew will be commuting daily from Parkersburg. He has been enjoying his visit spending time playing with everyone, especially games involving Lego! His interview is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10.



Keilee, Travis, Ryan, Matthew, & Candy playing Lego

We are also making plans for Noah and Ian Cooper to visit us. They are interested in boarding next year. Their visit will be sometime around March 20. Look for updates about these students in our upcoming Hotline.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ February 16- President's Day- We Will NOT Have School
- ◆ FOTS Meeting February 20 at 6:30
- ◆ Laura's Birthday February 8

Trip and Travel

We have been very busy planning fund-raising projects. Our trip to Williamsburg will be an expensive one, so we have been working on some new ideas. One project we are doing is the Elder-Beerman spring Community Day coupon sales program. This is the same program we did in the fall with coupon books costing \$5 each. Each book gives \$10 off plus other coupons. These coupons must be used on Saturday, February 28. Please call the school if you would like to purchase one. We will also be doing another big candy sale in April. We will keep you up to date on when to order in future Hotlines. A few other ideas we are considering are a yard sale, a dance, and possibly some type of craft raffle. If you have more suggestions, send them in with your school member or call the school. We will continue to work hard to finance our BIG trip!

Exercise Club

The Exercise Club has started up again. Some members want to just dance to fun music while others want to concentrate on specific muscle groups. At 11 a.m. each day, they meet in the multi-purpose room to decide how long they will dance and then whether they want to do push-ups, sit-ups, and other isolation exercises. Some days they choose to take a walk or a hike in the snow! In addition, some have joined the Pound for Pound Challenge. It motivates us to lose weight knowing we can help the food banks across the country. All it requires is to sign up at a website and pledge the number of pounds we want to lose between now and April.

For every pound we lose, Pound For Pound will donate 10¢ to Feeding America™ - enough to provide one pound of groceries to a local food bank. Check it out here:

<http://pfpchallenge.com/>

We are all very excited about getting in shape before the end of the school year trip to Williamsburg. (See Trip and Travel.)

Writer's Workshop

First Line Story

In these stories the first person writes a sentence and the second person writes the rest of the story.

School Members participating in the first story were: Candy, Travis, and Melissa. The second story was: Melissa, Travis, and Laura. Bold and italics indicate the first author.

Space Travel

One day the Earth blew up. A few lucky souls were on a trip to investigate the planet Mars and missed the big explosion. Then they saw an alien and decide to return to Earth. Once seeing their home planet destroyed they went into shock. One of them fell to their knees busting into tears and screamed out "Mommy!" They jumped back into their ship and ran away to Venus! They lived happily ever after, until the chimps that traveled with them evolved and enslaved the humans. The End!

LEGOS AND GIANT ROCKS

This is a story about a very small piece of plastic, a LEGO cup! The poor Lego cup is in a vast land of only rocks, which are shifting, giant rocks. A strange maze for a strange adventure!

This Lego cup hops around to find an exit, hoping to find its Lego family. The giant rocks keep shifting into many sizes and they go in many places. The poor Lego cup can't find an exit because of the giant shifting racks that keep blocking its way. Finally one friendly shifting rock finds the Lego cup and gives a friendly greeting. The Lego cup looks up. "Are you lost?" says the shifting rock. "Yes, I was trying to find a way back home. Say, do you think you could help me out?" asks the Lego cup. The shifting rock nods with a big grin and sprouts rocky hands to hoist the Lego cup on his head. "I'm absolutely sure I can! I hope this height will help you to find your home!" The Lego cup is surprised that it can see a whole different view of the world. The Lego cup smiles down at his new friend and says, "Why yes! I can see my home over there! Just go straight forward and there we are!" The shifting rock nods and hops straight forward to where the Lego cup lives, and once there he gently puts the Lego cup down so he can go home. The Lego cup turns and asks the shifting rock if he'd like to have tea with him sometime. The shifting rock nods in agreement and they both go to get some tea.

Conservation Club

Conservation Club meets every Tuesday to discuss project plans and to work on the scrapbook. We hope to complete our book as we complete projects. We voted to make the investment, along with the General School Meeting, to purchase compact fluorescent light bulbs for the school. This is particularly expensive because we have two rooms with dimmable switches. We want to track our conversion and also recycle the old compact fluorescents we are currently using. The recycling boxes are purchased from the company and have shipping and recycling processing costs included. The investment is large, but we hope the savings will show in the school electric bills. In other news, Melissa and Ryan have put five giant sequoia trees into dormancy. We will photograph the process of planting through sprouting and transplanting. We are continuing to feed the birds during the winter months. This year we have also been filling a squirrel feeder. Some members have been enjoying watching and identifying the different birds using our feeder. This project has been especially important to us this year due to the extremely cold temperatures. As the temperatures warm we are planning to complete many more projects, including Adopt-A-Highway. Look for conservation updates in future Hotlines.



Karen and Keilee feeding the birds on a cold February day

Lego Club

Lego Club had its first meeting and discussed what type of Legos we would like to purchase. We passed a motion to ask GSM for \$20 to purchase a big board for layouts. Karen and Travis are going to research the use of “eBay” to save money. We will see what options are available before we decide which Legos to buy. We will also make rules about the use of the Lego pieces we have now.



Travis, Keilee, Ryan, Matthew, & Candy playing Lego



Ryan with his Lego ship



Democracy In Action

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Party Committee

Karen and Candy both had decade birthdays in January. Karen baked a Scrabble cake with the wishes written in scrabble tiles. We all enjoyed a piece with ice cream. Then we played bananagrams and Karen won!



The scrabble cake for Candy and Karen

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
- ◆ Legos of any kind
- ◆ New computer



Fox Ninja, LiFaye and Fox Pirate, Nicholas by Laura