

The Highland School Hotline

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Headline News

Spring Break

Our Spring Break is going to be different this year. We will not have school starting Thursday, April 9 and will return to school on Thursday, April 16. This means we will still have 5 school days off, just not the same week. If you have questions about the break, please call the school.



Contents

Headline News	1
Upcoming Events	1
Trip & Travel	2
Writer's Workshop	2
Arts & Crafts	2
Conservation Club	3
Lego Club	3
Dorm Committee	4
Wish List	4

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Spring Break April 9-15. At school April 8 & 16.
- ◆ BOD & Melissa Graduation meeting March 19
- ◆ Birthdays:
Steve April 7th
Eowyn April 2nd

I-129 Update

We received official confirmation that our paperwork for the I-129 has arrived at Homeland Security. It will still take some time for them to review and hopefully approve our application. The I-129 is the visa for Heike to work at the school at least this coming year. Heike will be able to bring her son, Tristan, on this visa. We look forward to adding another staff member and student!

Mary Duty/Grounds Update

Thanks to Morgan, Steve and Candy our new front property has made big progress! The old house and buildings have been removed in preparation for cleaning the trash and glass off the land. We decided to keep one shed that is in good condition for use as a garden tools/outside toys storage building. We hope to have the property completely cleaned-up and ready to use by next spring! Our Grounds Committee has been making plans for both long term and short term goals for the school grounds as a whole. Our short term plans include mostly flower planting and landscaping around the dorm in preparation for our May 9 ribbon cutting. If you want to help, please call the school.

Thanks Whitescarver Extended

Family They donated a computer to replace the Secretary's computer. The old one could only be used for word documents on a Windows 98 operating system. The new one is an all-in-one PC so there are no cords running all over the floor! Additionally, John put in a wireless network card, so we have internet access in the multi-purpose room.

Visitors

Noah and Ian Cooper are scheduled to visit us March 16-20. They will be staying in the dorm to experience what it will be like this fall. Noah and Ian will have their Admissions interviews on Friday. We look forward to visiting with them again!

Nice Weather- Mud Season

The weather is starting to warm up and we are enjoying playing in the creek. The paths tend to get muddy by people walking around on them. We plan to lay bark mulch soon. Please remember to bring a change of clothes and shoes in case you get wet or muddy.



Can you guess who's wearing these mud gloves?

Coins for Cystic Fibrosis

On February 27, we gathered all our collected change. Several school members counted and rolled all the types of coins. We were able to raise \$200 for the Cystic Fibrosis center's teen education program. Thank you to all who donated your change!

Trip and Travel

Trip and Travel has been working very hard on fund raising. The Elder-Beerman coupon sales we participated in during February were very successful! We initially only took 25 books to sell and then we had to pick-up more and were able to sell a total of 34 books! Our candy sales are in full swing. We need your orders in before April 1 for delivery before Easter. One box of toffee is 12 pieces and weighs about a pound. It is \$10. We are pleased to announce our quilt is finished! (see photo) If you would like to buy a chance to own this quilt, we are raffling it off in time for Mother's Day. One raffle ticket is a dollar or you can get 6 tickets for \$5.



The completed quilt: 13 individually personalized squares. They were hand embroidered by school members.

In trip news, our housing discounts have been a big help in reducing our total trip costs. Thanks to Suebee Sheldon and the A.R.E. Conference department for letting us use the Gibbons for a small donation. It is just two blocks from the beach. Many of us have discussed waking up one morning very early to collect sea shells on the shore. Thanks to Candy's Choice Hotel points, we are able to stay at a hotel for free following our late night at Busch Gardens. A few members have started meeting to discuss meal planning ideas. We hope to earn enough funds to be able to eat one night at a seafood buffet!

Arts and Crafts

Keilee made this layout from supplies donated by her grandmother and some recycled materials rescued from the landfill.



Writer's Workshop

The members of Writer's Workshop decided to do romantic poems for Valentine's Day. The first writer wrote 5 words. The second person wrote a poem or story containing the words, then finished by listing 5 words the next writer needed to include in their part of the story. Writers were Keilee, Candy, and Karen. Italics indicate a new writer and bold indicate what the new writer must include.

Beauty and Friends

You are a lovely person.

*The sun shines on your lovely hair. Butterflies land on your outstretched hands. Rainbows sprout from your footprints in the mud. Joy bubbles out from your warm, soft lips. You are my valentine, a beautiful person. **Mud, Angry, Sleepy, Rows, Boat.***

When my life gets chaotic and I am angry enough to throw mud, you are there to love and support me. Nobody but you can massage my feet until I turn sleepy. It is you, my darling, who rows the boat of my heart. My tomorrows are filled with happiness. **Grass, Computer, Bird, Silly, Spear.**

One small little girl was sitting in the grass and feeding the silly birds, while looking at her computer. The birds were eating and there was a boy. The boy carried a spear and they became friends.

Music and Monkey

Hearts, Flowers, Candy, Music, Laughter.

There once was a man who loved music. His name was Charlie. Charlie listened to all kinds of music but he could also play several instruments. He always caused great laughter when he played his funny banjo songs. Everyone liked the one about the flowers that grew candy hearts for seeds.

Ugly, Throw, House, Monkey, Car.

There once was a ugly monkey that had a car. He loved to play in the house. He would throw a ball. It was so much fun. **Hearts, Many, Colors, Pool, Funny.**

Charlie walked along carrying his banjo and singing funny songs. He noticed a yard filled with balls of many colors. The ugly monkey was playing with a big red ball in the small wading pool by the house. The monkey threw the ball over the fence to Charlie. Charlie caught it and threw it back. Soon they had a game going. After they tired of ball playing, they sat by the pool singing songs about hearts and flowers.

Conservation Club News

Conservation Club meets every Tuesday to discuss project plans and to work on the scrapbook. Many of us have been working hard to get the scrapbook finished before spring break arrives. Adopt a Highway is planned for March 13 or if it is too cold, our make-up date is March 19. The Highland Hawks decided to order twenty five Eastern Red Bud trees and twenty five Douglas Fir trees. The trees are going to provide extra cover from neighboring buildings and houses. We are looking forward to seeing the Eastern Redbud's beautiful purple coloring in the spring and summer. In other tree news, a winter tragedy took place in our roadside park. During one of the recent wind storms, some of the Arbor Day trees that we planted were damaged from a falling tree (see picture below). ☹ We will clear the tree and see if the trees can be revived. Our plans for the Youth Environmental Day are all set. We plan to spend the day with our families exploring the booths, eating the picnic lunch, and participating in the annual awards. Three school members plan to submit posters for the contest. Our club is also eligible to win some prizes for our group projects during the year. Recycling continues to happen twice a month and we now are recycling 7 different materials every time. In other news, Keilee noticed strange and beautiful birds by the sandbox pine tree last month. She photographed several of them and then we looked them up. They were White Winged Crossbills- new visitors from the North. The small finch birds only travel this far south into WV when nuts and seeds are scarce in their northern range. White Winged Crossbills normally live from central Alaska to Newfoundland. We are pleased they like our pine trees and welcome their presence anytime!



A male white winged crossbill (the females are green)



Keilee and Ryan stand next to the fallen tree

Lego Club

Lego club has been busy with figuring out an order of miscellaneous, specialized pieces. Some of the pieces are really cool. Keilee likes the miniature fruit. Travis likes the little tools. Ryan loves the body parts and accessories. They requested an allocation of \$55 to place the order. GSM approved. Thanks go out to Candy and Melissa for their generosity. Melissa donated a pink box of Legos. It contains random pieces in different colors than the traditional pieces. Candy bought a set called, "the town square." It contains street signs, cars, buses, people, and benches. The club members set up the card table to create a town. They built houses, post office, and grocery store. They also a built horse and carriage model for the town. They want to continue to expand their collection to build bigger and better things. Look for photos next month.



Democracy In Action

The Highland School
Route 83 Box 56
Highland, WV 26346

Phone:
(304) 869-3250

Fax:
(304) 869-3253

E-mail:
highland@ruralnet.org

We're on the Web!
TheHighlandSchool.org

Dorm Committee

Dorm Committee has been meeting regularly to make completion plans. We decided to have a dorm Ribbon Cutting/Open House this spring to encourage interest in the school's boarding program. After looking at our calendars, we decided Saturday, May 9 from 1 to 4 will be our date. This deadline has helped us make project timelines. While the dorm is almost complete, we have a few projects to do in the next few weeks. We will be installing the floor in the last bedroom and finishing the handicapped bathroom. We moved our landscaping plans to Grounds Committee. We also suggested that GSM plan to complete some school projects before the open house.

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
- ◆ New computer
- ◆ Dining table



Shawn and his giant pickle by Laura