

The Highland School Hotline

April and May 2009
Volume 28, Issue 8

Published by The Highland School Members

Headline News



Ribbon Cutting May 9

Everyone is very excited about our upcoming Dormitory Ribbon Cutting on May 9! We invite all to come enjoy hot dogs, lemonade, art activities, and tours of the school. The ribbon will be cut at 2pm - but tours, food, and activities will be available from 1-5 P.M.

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School Trip

The Highland School will be on their End of the Year School Trip the week of May 17-23. We will be visiting Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, and Norfolk, Virginia. For more information, see the Trip and Travel article on page 2.

Heike and I-129 Update

We received notification that our case is open. Then we received a letter stating we applied too late for this year's immigration lottery. Candy wrote a letter asking them to keep our case active due to us wanting to be exempt from the lottery. We applied for the exemption because Heike is coming for a specialized career and has a Master's degree.

Melissa vote/graduation?

Melissa's graduation committee voted to recommend her to the General School Meeting. Everyone read or listened to her Thesis. After asking some questions, GSM voted to grant Melissa a diploma. She is planning a ceremony on May 29 for school members and immediate family. She will have a graduation party at her home on May 30.

Nice Weather- Mud Season

The weather is warming up and we are enjoying playing in the creek. The paths tend to get muddy at this time of year as people walk around on them. We plan to put down bark mulch soon. However, please remember to bring a change of clothes and shoes in case you get wet or muddy.

Youth Environmental Day

The Highland School Hawks Conservation Club will be attending the annual Youth Environmental Day at North Bend State Park on Saturday, May 16th. The day will begin at 10 a.m. with a parade. Come join us and other clubs from across the state for a day of fun! See the Conservation Club article on page 2 for more information.

Hotline Issues

You might have noticed that this is an April/May (double month) Hotline. We're doing this because we have so many activities in the spring. Attending conferences, making the conservation club scrapbook, and delivering our WVU presentation are just a few of the projects we did in April. The next issue of the Hotline will be our summer edition. Look for it in mid-June.

Parents FOTS Meeting

We will be having a FOTS/Parents meeting after the School Trip. The meeting will cover summer planning, tuition credit jobs available, and transportation options for the 2009-2010 school year.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ May 9- Dorm Ribbon Cutting 1-5
- ◆ May 16- Youth Environmental Day
- ◆ May 17- Leave for Virginia/School trip return on May 23
- ◆ May 25- Memorial Day- No School

Trip and Travel

We are pleased to announce the winner of the quilt raffle... Debra "Kay" Leggett. She is Keilee's grandmother and a big supporter of our school and Trip and Travel Club. Éowyn McCutchan (Noël's daughter) was the most impartial person to draw the winning ticket. She drew Debra's name out of a large bucket of approximately 600 tickets. We would like to thank everyone who purchased a ticket.

Our trip plans are really coming together! We will be spending two full days at the beach enjoying the sand and ocean. Some of us have big plans to do some shopping and oceanfront touring. We are currently searching for an affordable seafood buffet to have a nice dinner out while we are there. Coming from the mountains, some of us have never eaten fresh seafood. We will also visit Colonial Williamsburg for a full day. We are arguing over who will go into the stocks first! Busch Gardens will be our last stop before we return home on May 23rd. There has been much discussion about riding in the front seat of the Griffon coaster!

We will also spend a day at Nauticus museum in Norfolk. This is a modern science and maritime museum. We'll do a tour of the Battleship Wisconsin and enjoy a boat ride through the harbor.



Éowyn draws the winning raffle ticket while Laura, Travis, Keilee, and Ryan look on.

Conservation Club News

Conservation Club members have been very busy with spring beautification projects. They purchased almost four hundred annuals to plant in garden beds, several hanging baskets, and four big planters. Their gift will beautify the campus in preparation for the Dorm Ribbon Cutting. The grounds look colorful with all the new flowers and the lilacs coming into bloom. The club also received five more ornamental trees from the Arbor Day Foundation. They were planted as replacements for the ones that died during the winter. While planting the trees, club members noticed the signs would look great with a flower bed around them. They turned the soil, added some dirt, used logs as a border, and planted several flowers. Club members are excited about the Youth Environmental Day at North Bend State Park. On Saturday, May 16th, the festivities will kick off at 10 a.m. with a Parade. Highland School Hawks Conservation Club members will march in the parade to the picnic area where the stage will be set up. As they cross in front of the judges, Hawks will do their special cheer created just for the occasion. Cheer:

*We are the Ninja Hawks of Highland
A small but mighty band
Reduce Reuse, Recycle... all across the land
Come on, everyone, lend a helping hand.*

Club members will then be free to explore the conservation exhibits until lunch time. After lunch, awards will be given out to winning clubs from around the state of West Virginia. Conservation Club members worked hard this year on a wide variety of projects from recycling to tree planting. A report and summary of the projects, along with pictures of each one, went into a scrapbook submitted before Spring Break. Last year the Highland Hawks won second place in the Mountain State Award of Excellence Category. That category is reserved for clubs who have won 1st place during the past two years. The Hawks will be in the same category this year as well.

Trip to WVU

Keilee, Karen, Melissa, Candy, and Steve traveled to Professor Jane Cardi's Graduate student class to present our DVD and answer questions about THS and democratic education. Professor Cardi asked her students to read *Free at Last* before our visit. Students had many questions for Keilee and Melissa about mixed age, how to get into college, and how they spend their time. Several grad students expressed interest in attending our May 9 Dorm Ribbon Cutting and Open House. After the class, three students who are also parents were really excited about bringing their children for a visit. They asked many more detailed questions about tuition, length of the school year, and individual rights.



Melissa, Keilee, Karen and Candy answer questions at WVU

NCACS Conference

Karen and Laura went on a road trip to Glenmore, PA for the annual National Coalition of Alternative Community Schools (NCACS) Conference April 23-26. They camped on the grounds of the Upattinas campus. The food was delicious and some of the workshops were very informative. Laura enjoyed the international folk dancing class, while Karen participated in a fabulous discussion about civil rights for individuals under age 18. Laura and Karen also presented a workshop about making a movie democratically and showed our school DVD. They received some good feedback and technical advice from some of the participants. Friday evening was filled with entertainment by a local singer/songwriter and the rest of the night was open mic night. Some of the students from other schools were really great performers. Laura and Karen thanked the General School Meeting for paying the conference fees so they could attend. Candy and Steve arrived on Saturday to participate in a "fishbowl" with founders from other schools. Other schools' staffers were happy to see the Highland founders.



Candy participating in the fishbowl.



*Laura drawing at the art table with other artists.
See the final picture on page 4*



Democracy In Action

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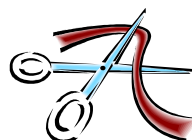
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Dorm Committee

The dorm committee has been very busy preparing for Saturday's Ribbon Cutting. Steve completed the floor in the violet bedroom. A crew has been working on the handicapped bathroom. Donald has finished the trim indoors and put up the last section of railing on the porch. Karen and Candy have been painting while Steve and Morgan worked on the porch ceiling. An electrician is coming to complete the exterior fixtures and the emergency lighting. Jodi Smith cleaned the school and James America did weedeating. We are looking forward to our Ribbon Cutting and showing visitors our new dormitory. We hope the weather will cooperate on Saturday, May 9 from 1-5 p.m.



THS Wish List

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

- ◆ Low water/high efficiency washer and gas dryer
- ◆ Shovels
- ◆ Swing set equipment
- ◆ New computer
- ◆ Dining table



Wolves in den by Laura Nolan