

# The Highland School Hotline

September 2008  
Volume 28, Issue 1

Published by The Highland School Members

## Headline News



### Contents

Headline News	1
Upcoming Events	1
Pet Poetry	2
Conservation Club News	2
Tom Farewell letter	2
Summer Conferences	3
Dorm Update	3
Wish List	4
Floor Tile Fun	4

### Welcome Back to School!

Our first day back to school was September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Most of us had very exciting summers! Candy, Steve, Laura, Travis, and Karen traveled a lot. (See “conferences” on page 3.) Laura, Ryan and Melissa have new pets. (See the Poetry section.) Tom wrote a farewell letter and told us about his new adventures. (See page 3.) Keilee went to Valley Worlds of Fun three times. She also went on a jet ski trip.

### Saturday School September 13

School members are having a campout on Friday, September 12. Students and staff need to bring their own sleeping supplies, including a tent if they don't want to sleep under the stars. Weather permitting, we will swim, play games, and have a picnic. An invitation letter has been sent home for families to attend the Saturday School potluck picnic starting at 10:30 a.m.

### School Calendars

Our 2008-09 school calendars are all printed. We will be handing them out at the Saturday School on September 13.

### Grounds Committee

The General School Meeting created another new committee to decide about the property at the entrance to the school. The committee will also plan for flower beds, gardens, compost pile, and general landscaping for the whole school campus.

### Fall Visitor

Heike Friere and her 10 year old son, Tristan, will be visiting us. They will be arriving in the evening on October 1 and plan to spend 5 days. She is interested in possibly being a dorm staff member and/or a daytime staff member. Heike helped start a democratic school in Spain and has worked for many years at democratic schools. We look forward to meeting both Heike and Tristan.

### Website Committee

General School Meeting Members voted to form a Website Committee to make some short term improvements to the site and also to develop a completely new website. At the first meeting, some ideas were: 1) e-mail addresses for school members, 2) a simple clear home page with more detailed information on other pages, 3) an online client intake form that would automatically send “packets” and insert info. into a prospective students database, 4) access to video clips, and 5) more eye-catching backgrounds. John Whitescarver and Maple Landvoigt have agreed to help us with the more technological work required once we make more progress with our ideas. We are researching school website home pages to bring to next Tuesday's meeting.

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ Campout:  
September 12-13
- ◆ Family Picnic:  
September 13
- ◆ Adopt-A-  
Highway:  
September 26



## Poetry about new pets

Haiku poems- 5-7-5 syllables

My Ninja Cat by Laura

Look he's a ninja  
He is furry and pouncey  
For a small fluff ball



Rosco by Melissa

White with brown patches  
He bounces into my arms  
I love my new pup



My Lizard by Karen and Ryan

A Jesus lizard  
Basilisks walk on water  
Scaley lizard cool

## Conservation Club and Adopt-A-Highway

The Highland School Hawks are busy getting ready for this year's conservation activities. We did over one hundred pounds of recycling on the third day of school!

The statewide Adopt-A-Highway Fall Clean-up is the last week of September and we decided to re-adopt our 2 mile section of Highland road. The Adopt-A-Highway is scheduled for 10 am on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Friday the 27<sup>th</sup>.

We voted Melissa as the new club President and Laura as the VP and Treasurer. Karen remains the Secretary.

We decided to enlarge our projects with North Bend State Park and try to schedule a fall and spring cleanup of the lakeside area (or a trail).

We are looking for articles about the environment, conservation, wildlife, etc. to put on our September/October bulletin board. Steve donated a beautiful six foot long snake skin to hang around our bulletin board.

We hope to continue our trail expansion projects planned last year including a picnic table and fire ring on the ridge above the school buildings.

## Farewell from Tom

Dear Highland School friends and Families,

I had a wonderful year at Highland last year. I will take with me some fond memories of dry ice escapades, soda rockets, baking, reinventing dodge ball base x, racing boats, and living in, and, building a dorm. This Highland School experience will be with me forever. I learned a lot about true education being student driven, how to live with Roberts Rules of Order, government regulation, finances, and the administrative parts of starting a boarding school. Most of all I learned how wonderful, joyful, and creative a small group of committed educational pioneers can be. I am thankful to have been, and to continue to be a part of, this revolutionary school in such a beautiful and unlikely place.

I have decided to take a job in California. I will be a part of an alternative health plan for a friend of mine. Myself and some medical professionals will be doing massage, physical therapy, and other holistic treatments on him. I feel a connection between the holistic medical movement and what I call the holistic education movement. Either way, I am a part of creating a better world. I plan to stay connected to the school through the internet and being a part of a graduation committee. Thank you for this opportunity, I appreciate it. Many Hugs and Blessings, Tom Dewey

## Summer Conferences

The Highland School staff was very busy this summer traveling to New York, Boston, and Vancouver, B.C.

Tom Dewey attended the AERO Conference in Albany in June. He took information about our new boarding facilities and met some interested people.

In July, Laura Nolan, Karen Whitescarver, and Steve and Candy Landvoigt participated in the Sudbury Valley Conference in Framingham (near Boston). The trip included a stopover in New Jersey to sleep and provide an opportunity for Travis to visit with his grandparents. At the conference, they met people doing democratic day schools who now know about our boarding program. The four Highlanders also had long discussions about issues in democratic schooling.

In August, Candy and Steve Landvoigt took a train trip across the country to the International Democratic Education Conference at the University of British Columbia in Canada. The 8 day conference included Windsor House School demonstrating their democratic process every day at noon. Windsor House brought students, staff, and parents to the conference where they lived their lives - including complaints and judicial meetings - for all to see. Steve, Candy, and Maple Landvoigt (Highland graduate) were fortunate to participate in many of the activities. Candy and Steve also did a workshop on issues involved in doing boarding at a democratic school. Discussion was lively and several people (including "Tomo" a staff member from Summerhill School in England) asked about doing exchanges. One parent, Anna Rodrigues, expressed interest in being an intern later this year. Anna has two boys who could also attend.

Candy put together a workshop on "Play and Democratic Education." She hopes to use some of the material from that workshop in an article about the consequences of children not having the opportunity for unstructured, unsupervised play in their overscheduled lives.

The opportunities for networking, sharing ideas, and experiencing new practices made the conferences a real bonus for everyone who attended.



*Steve, Karen, and Laura on a rock at Sudbury Valley in Framingham, MA*

## Dorm Update

The dorm is almost ready to move into! Steve completed the siding on the front of the dorm. Donald has been working on the interior doors and trim. All the appliances are installed and the furniture unpacked! Tom donated dishware, pots and pans, and a queen size bed. Parents, students, and staff held a meeting in the dorm living room July 26. Everyone was ready to move in!

We still need to finish the second bathroom and the floor in the violet bedroom. We also have some final details to complete - both inside and out including gutters and some other small trimming. The Grounds Committee will be working on terracing and other plantings to make the dorm look finished and welcoming!



*The siding complete and the grass starting to grow!*



The Highland School  
Route 83 Box 56  
Highland, WV 26346

Phone:  
(304) 869-3250

Fax:  
(304) 869-3253

E-mail:  
highland@ruralnet.org

Democracy In  
Action

We're on the Web!  
[TheHighlandSchool.org](http://TheHighlandSchool.org)

## Floor Tile Fun!

Students turned the flooring removed from the multi-purpose room into a fabulous, all-purpose toy! The floor tiles will soon be replaced by new fire rated flooring.



Laura, Travis, Keilee, Ryan, and Melissa with Blockheads



Travis, Ryan, and Keilee with their fort

## THS Wish List

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

- ◆ Punching bag
- ◆ Working filing cabinet
- ◆ Shovels
- ◆ Swing set equipment
- ◆ Flat screen monitor

The Highland School  
Rt. 83 Box 56  
Highland, WV 26346

