




# UNDER THE BIG "TOPS"

Highlands/Odyssey School Newsletter

Please Visit: [www.aasd.k12.wi.us/Highlands](http://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/Highlands)  
or the brochure racks by the office FOR THE  
**REST OF THE NEWSLETTER!!**

February 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10 Winterfest 5:00-8:00 PM
13	14	15	16	17 No School
20 No School	21	22	23 Family Math Night 5:30-7:00 PM GYM	24
27 PTA Meeting 6:00-7:00 PM	28	29		



Be Respectful - Be Responsible - Be Safe





From the Principal.....

It is hard to believe that we are beginning the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of school. I want to thank all our parents for all of their support and for assisting the Highlands/Odyssey in educating your children. We have a lot of exciting family events coming in the month of February, so please plan ahead to attend.

As we finally welcome the Wisconsin winter weather, I just want to remind all the families and students to make sure that all students are dressed appropriately for our outdoor recess. We ask that all students wear snow pants and boots to play on the field and woodchip areas.

In a final note, we still continue to have safety concerns with our drop off and pick up areas. I am republishing the information I shared in December and **asking everyone to follow the safety rules.**

#### Drop off and Pick up Rule and Tip

- The parking lot is closed from 8:00 – 8:30 and 3:00 – 3:30. **Do not drop off in this area for student's safety. Do not drop off in under the canopy.** The hill at the entry of the parking lot can become icy and can make it very unsafe for our students if you do not follow the rules.
- Please allow extra time for your students and yourself while coming to and from school.

Please watch for a map with detailed information about the safe drop off zones around our school.

**Thank you for assisting us on behalf of the safety of all the students.**

**Mrs. Comerford**

#### PTA/PTO NEWS

Happy New Year!--2012 is off to a fast start! Thank you to the families who attended the **Pancake Breakfast at O'Charley's on December 10th.** It was a lot of fun and the food was AMAZING! Thank you also to the staff members who helped serve the hungry guests . If you couldn't make it, plan to attend next year--you will be glad you did! A big thanks to those of you who donated treats for the **Staff Treat Day in December.** This day is always a favorite for the staff--they definitely feel appreciated when they see all those yummy treats in the lounge!

Last week you should have received a form for our **Dairy Queen Cake sale.** These cakes are a great deal because you pay exactly what you would pay at Dairy Queen, and the school gets half the money! You get a certificate that you can use anytime in the year. Remember that **orders are due February 3rd.** If you need another form, please let me know.

**Winterfest** is just around the corner--mark your calendars for **Friday, February 10th.** Plan to attend this fun, family night. You will enjoy food, games, inflatables, raffles, a cake walk, a silent auction and much more. This year we have so many donations that the silent auction will be in the multi-purpose room. We will also have 3 inflatables instead of 2. You do not want to miss the fun!! Be sure to send in your donation items for the grade-level themed silent auction baskets. If you are interested in helping out that night, we **REALLY need volunteers** to make this event a success. Please fill out the form that came home last week and send it back to school or contact me.

Our next **PTA/PTO Meeting** will be **Monday, February 27 at 6:00 p.m.** in the LMC. Hope to see you there!

Lisa Hoffman PTA/PTO President 738-0024

#### **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

Highlands Families are the Best! Thanks to all of you for donating your **Box Tops For Education!** During our latest competition, we raised \$761.80 for our school. Way to go! Congratulations to Allison Semrau, who won the \$25 Woodman's gift card. Our other prize winners were: Lillie Chudacoff, Austin Schmit, Arianna Condon, Rachel Steinhorst, Stewart Larson, Remini Thao, Emily Verrier, Matix Englund, Claire Hanson, Brendan Nesemann, Izaiah Joslin, Madison Phillips, Kenny Mui, Aidan Ball, and Nathan Shanahan. Great job everyone! Our next competition will begin in January, so watch for the Box Tops sheet in your child's mailgram.

Do you love sorting and organizing? We are looking for someone to take over our Box Tops program here at Highlands. If you are interested, please let Principal Comerford know, and we can give you the details.



## Highlands Family Math Night

Leap Into Math

Feb. 23rd

Help celebrate leap year by joining us for Highlands Family Math Night Thursday, Feb. 23 from 5:30-7:00 in the gym. We will start the night off with a hot dog supper. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be provided, please bring a dish to share. Following supper we will have games and activities to do with your children to help reinforce math concepts they are learning in school. Watch for the flyer coming home soon in the Take Home envelope for more details and to sign up.



### Geography Bee Contest

The school competitions of the National Geography Bee were held in December and January for Highlands and Odyssey fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students.

Elizabeth Randa won the Highlands School competition of the National Geography Bee. Madeline Goehler was in second place. Other participants in the Final Round were Gabriela Silva, Cassidy Gosz, Andrew Olson, Stephanie Wallace, Kaden Endres, Jykira Lewis, Andrew Lanyon, and Kiera Jones.

Travis Fetting was the winner of the Odyssey School competition and Shane Nelson was in second place. The other finalists were Olivia Nevins, Siri Lokensgard, Emma Richards, Manish Raj, Max Hinrichs, Jacob Ortiz-Breiting, Hannah Schecklman, and Gabe Smith.

Both Elizabeth and Travis have completed a written geography test to qualify for the State Geography Bee in April. Congratulations to all the students and they are all to be commended for their outstanding knowledge of United States and world geography.

## Kindergarten Registration for Next Year

The Appleton Area School District will be holding their kindergarten registration for the 2012-2013 school year : **January 23-27, 2012. If you missed these dates please stop in the office as soon as possible.**

If you live in the Highlands area and have a child who will turn five on or before Sept. 1, 2012, and plan on sending them to Highlands for kindergarten, please plan to stop in our office during that week. We ask that you bring along their birth certificate and immunization records.

## Attention Orchestra Parents & Guardians! Upcoming Concert Information!!!

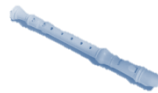
Our annual Highlands/Odyssey Spring Concert will take place on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:25 or 2:10pm. **4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade String Students** will perform on stage at Highlands Elementary. You will also hear performances from the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade vocal/recorder music students. Please be sure your child has his/her instrument and music that day!

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Highlands/Odyssey String Students** will also perform at the All City String Festival on Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Performing Arts Center in Downtown Appleton. The concert starts at 7pm but students will need to arrive by 6:30. A dress rehearsal will take place at the PAC the morning of April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Parent Volunteers will be needed to chaperone the bus to the PAC for the daytime rehearsal and help with the evening Concert.

Sign up forms and ticket information will be coming out soon! Thanks for your support!!! Mrs. Cummings & Mrs. Konkol

## Music Notes for FEBRUARY 2012



All Highlands/Odyssey 4th Graders will be studying Karate Recorder this spring semester. They will demonstrate what they have learned during our 3rd/4th Grade Vocal Spring Concert Tuesday, March 6, 2012 from 12:25-1:25 p.m. **or** 2:10-3:10 p.m.

Our Intermediate 4th, 5th, and 6th Grade string students will be performing at these same March 6, 2012 concerts.

Please mark **this date** and **times** on your calendars.



All Highlands 5th Graders are now studying a Differentiated Keyboard Unit and EACH 5th Grade class will perform in a piano recital in March. **All class recitals will take place in the Lower Level Music room L01 from 8:45-9:30 a.m.** The dates are as follows:

Ms. Luedtke's Class: Mon. – Mar. 19  
Mr. Bonson's Class: Tues. – Mar. 20  
Ms. Woodrow's Class: Wed. – Mar. 21

## Instrumental Music Instruction in our School

There have been many articles in magazines and newspapers citing the educational advantages of playing a musical instrument. Both sides of the brain's abilities are augmented. Research has found that a person's mathematical and reading skills are greatly enhanced as are other critical thinking skills. It also promotes concentration and persistence.

The earlier a child begins a musical instrument the longer the experience fosters the brain's development. The piano, which provides a most basic foundation in the musical skills of rhythm and note reading, is an excellent instrument for the child to begin learning to play. Besides the use of the creative and logical sides of the brain, it also helps to promote small muscle motor skills. These various skills give an edge in learning and when beginning instruction on a musical instrument in the future.

At our school, the string program begins in the fourth grade and the band program is available at the sixth grade level. A student can begin in either program without a piano background. However, due to the dual nature of the percussion instruments (drums and bells), it is **highly recommended** that those who are interested in percussion have at least two years of piano instruction.

We hope you and your child will consider participating in either of these programs. Be aware of any information sent home at the fourth or sixth grade level when the school year begins.



Recipe for the Best School

Year **EVER** From the

**School Counselor, Mrs. Heu.**

Highlands Elementary School, 997-1399x3543

[heumaikou@asd.k12.wi.us](mailto:heumaikou@asd.k12.wi.us)

Website:

<http://sharepoint.asd.k12.wi.us/SiteDirectory/schools/hig/counselor/default.aspx>

### Main Ingredients:

- 1 cup of respect
- 1 cup of responsible behavior
- 1 cup of safe actions

Mix together **respect, responsibility** and **safety**. Fold in your **best effort**. Bake with **compassion**. Cool off any angry feelings. Frost with a heaping amount of positive attitude. Sprinkle with loads of **kind actions, words and deeds**. Top with a cherry just for **fun!**

Best when shared with friends. Enjoy your school year and happy holiday!!



