



# 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!!**

**JANUARY 2012**

| Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday  |
|--|---|-----------|----------|---|
| 2<br>No School   | 3<br>Classes Resume                               | 4         | 5        | 6   |
| 9  | 10<br>Highlands<br>Geography<br>Bee<br>12:00 p.m. | 11        | 12       | 13<br>School Musical<br>6:30-8:30 p.m.<br><br>14 School Musical<br>1:00-3:00 p.m.     |
| 16   | 17  | 18        | 19       | 20<br>Early Dismissal<br>@ 11:27 a.m.   |
| 23<br>PTA Meeting<br>6:00-7:00<br>p.m.   | 24  | 25        | 26       | 27  |
| KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION JANUARY 23 <sup>RD</sup> -27 <sup>TH</sup><br>Please register in the office between the hours of 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. |   |           |          |   |
| 30   | 31  |           |          |  |



**Be Respectful - Be Responsible - Be Safe**





From the Principal.....

As educators and parents we have children who are growing up as “Digital Natives,” and our children are very comfortable with the technology that is at their fingertips. This isn’t always the case for us as educators and parents, so as technology is becoming more easily accessible we need to do our part as parents and educators to help guide them in the right direction. Unfortunately it is becoming more common to hear of cases where students have been a target of cyber bullying (exclusion, rumors, etc.) or have received inappropriate text messages, which reinforces the need to be knowledgeable. Below is a guideline for one of the most popular social networking sites, Facebook , but this information can be applied to other technology students use.

### Advice for Parents

Although Facebook denies access to children under the age of 13, we have seen and heard about an increase in student use at the elementary level. It appears that students are using false birthdates either with or without parent permission.

We strongly urge you to keep in contact with your child regarding their use of online social networking sites. It can be a very fun and entertaining experience, but with misguided use, it can also potentially be very harmful.

Here are some tips directly from Facebook for safe use of their site:

- Never share your password with anyone.
- Adjust your privacy settings to match your level of comfort, and review them often.
- Be cautious about posting and sharing personal information, especially information that could be used to identify you or locate you offline, such as your address or telephone number.
- Report users and content that violate our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities.
- Block and report anyone that sends you unwanted or inappropriate communications.
- Remember that while Facebook has always been based on a real name culture, and using fake names in a violation of our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities, people are not always who they say they are. Use caution when accepting or sending friend requests, and keep in mind that it

is always risky to meet anyone in person whom you don’t know through real world friends.

According to the Facebook website, they, “strongly urge parents to talk to their children about the dangers they may encounter online, and to make sure their children are using Facebook in a safe manner. Parents may want to install monitoring software on home computers if they are concerned about what their children are doing online. Children must know that they should [report any inappropriate or offensive Facebook content](#) to their parents and to Facebook using the tools made available through the site. Parents should always remind their children to follow the important safety tips listed on this page when using Facebook” or other technology.

I hope you find this information helpful as you guide your children through the technology that is available to them. If you have any questions on this topic or would like to discuss it further, please contact Mrs. Kristin Comerford at 832-6250 or [comerfordkrist@asds.k12.wi.us](mailto:comerfordkrist@asds.k12.wi.us)

### PTA/PTO News:

Happy Holidays! **Thank you** to those of you who attended the **O’Charley’s Pancake Breakfast fundraiser**. Ticket sales were low, but we had a lot of walk-ins. We ended up with 101 people in attendance! With ticket sales and tips, we made **\$546!!** I know those who attended would agree that it was an amazing breakfast and a great deal. Thank you to the staff members who came out on a Saturday morning to volunteer and eat with us. Thank you also to O’Charley’s for making this event possible. **We appreciate your support!**

A big **thank you** also goes out to those families who donated items for the **Treats & Coffee Day**. The staff looks forward to this day, and once again they were not disappointed. The treats and coffee were delicious! The next PTA/PTO sponsored event will be **Winterfest, on February 10th from 5-8 p.m.** It is a fun, carnival night that includes inflatables, games, raffles, silent auction, cake walk, food, and much more. The committee has been planning the event since October! Our biggest job is soliciting **donations** for the raffles and silent auction. If you or someone you know would like to promote a business, please consider donating to this fundraiser. We will also be looking for **volunteers** to work the night of the event. More information will come home in mailgrams each week in January. **Our next meeting will be Monday, January 23 at 6:00 in the LMC.** I hope to see you there!  
**Lisa Hoffman, PTA/PTO President (738-0024)**

## TOPS Tidbits



Our school continues to work on emphasizing student behavior by teaching behavior expectations weekly, handing out TOPS tickets for rewards, announcing classes that are behaving as positive role models, having celebrations, and more. We're delighted to say that we've had great results so far! November had the smallest number of office referrals so far this year. About 94% of our students have not had a single referral, and about 5% more have had only one – so almost 99% of our students are doing TOPS terrific!

## The Literacy Corner



### Reading Informational Text

#### What is it?

Informational text is any nonfiction reading material. It can be reading directions, menus, food labels, pamphlets, magazines, newspapers, research on the internet, nonfiction books or anything else that is providing the reader with information.

#### Why read it?

Reading informational text is important for people of all ages. It is used at work, school, in the community, at home – everywhere! It is so important that it is now part of the Common Core Standards for education that will be assessed in most of the states in the United States.

#### How can parents help?

Since parents need to read informational text frequently in everyday life, you can share *how* and *why* you are reading. It is important for parents to show their children that reading is essential and required for many things in life. Encourage your children to read directions with you to figure something out, or read recipes together while cooking. Share information you learned from reading the newspaper or on-line or in a magazine. Encourage your child to do the same. Parents are the first and most powerful role model children have.

### Appleton Reading Specialists



## Music Notes for January 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 time** on your calendars.



All Highlands 5th Graders will be studying a differentiated keyboard unit after Winter Break and each class will perform in a piano recital before Spring Break.



## Incoming Kindergarten Parent Information Session

**Date:** Tuesday, January 10

**Time:** 6:00-7:00 pm

**OR**

**Date:** Thursday, January 12

**Time:** 12:00-1:00 pm

**Location:** Appleton Public Library  
Amy Wilson, Birth—Five Coordinator  
Phone: 920-886-1211

E-mail: wilsonamy@asds.k12.wi.us

**Sponsored by:** Appleton Area School District's Birth—Five Outreach Program

**Are you the parent of a child born between September 2, 2006 and September 1, 2007?**

**Do you live in the Appleton Area School District? Join us to learn the ins and outs of transitioning your child to kindergarten.**

**To register, contact:**

**Child care will not be offered at either session. Please make other arrangements for your child(ren).**

E-mail: wilsonamy@asds.k12.wi.us

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