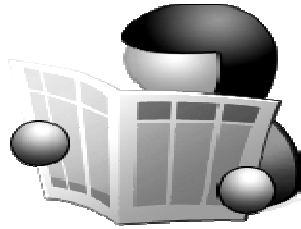


# HIGHLINE HIGHLIGHTS

## What YOU Need to Know

March 13, 2008



### DATES TO REMEMBER

**1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Mornings**  
Coffee with the Principal 8-9am

**Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Middle School Lucky 5 4:00-6:00

**Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Saturday Detention 8:30-11:00

**Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Middle School Lucky 5  
Elementary School Dance 6-8pm

**Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Saturday Detention 8:30-11:00

**Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Middle School Dance 6-9pm

**Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Saturday Academy Cancelled

**Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Spring Break Begins

**Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**  
School Resumes 7:45am

**Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Saturday Detention 8:30-11:00

**Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>**  
PWP Meeting 7:00pm

**Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Earth Awareness Day

**Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Saturday Academy 11:00-1:00

**Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Board Meeting 6:15pm

**Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**  
NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day

**Saturday Academy:** Is cancelled for Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Mr. Aerelius' Spring Break Camp:** Mr. Aerelius will be holding his spring break sports, fitness and knowledge camp from 6am-6pm for grades K-3. Look for the flyer in today's Thursday folder.

**School Dances:** The elementary school dance is tomorrow, Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00pm. The cost of the dance is \$5 per student with a \$10 per family maximum. Parents are expected to stay with their children and will not be allowed to drop them off and leave. We need volunteers to set up, clean up, bring snacks and monitor hallways. Call Alison at extension 142 if you can help.

The Middle School dance will be on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00-9:00pm. The cost is \$5 per student with a \$10 per family maximum. We need volunteers to help set up, clean up, donate snacks and chaperone. Call Alison at extension 142 if you can help.

**Ms. Neuhart's Substitute:** Ms. Neuhart is hosting a coffee with Tara Whalen, her substitute for her maternity leave, and Ms. W. B. on March 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:15-7:45 in her classroom. Parents of Ms.

Neuhart's students are invited to attend to meet Ms. Whalen.

**Love and Logic Class:** There's one more chance to take the "Becoming a Love & Logic Parent" class before the end of the year. The class will be held at Cook Park Rec Center on Friday nights, April 11 - May 9<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-8:30pm. Learn how to put an end to whining and arguing, avoid power struggles, set loving limits, use a universal consequence, and much, much more! For more information visit [www.shellymoorman.com](http://www.shellymoorman.com)

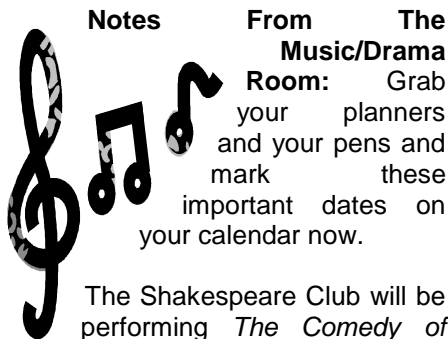
**Lost and Found:** "One man's loss is another man's gain". Lost and found will find its way into the hands of a charitable organization over spring break. If you are missing something, please check our ever-growing assortment! You will find boots, hats, coats, sweater, sweatshirts and mittens in the nurse's office or one of the cafeterias. April is Colorado's snowiest month; you may need your missing things!

### Deliverables We Need From You...

The U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative is accepting nominations for 2008 American Stars of Teaching until March 31. Parents, students, colleagues, school administrators and others can nominate an exemplary teacher who they believe has the qualities to be an American Star of Teaching. We are seeking nominations of teachers across the United States who are improving student achievement, using innovative strategies in the classroom and making a difference in the lives of their students. Teachers across all grade levels and disciplines will be honored as 2008 American Stars of Teaching this fall. To nominate a teacher, go to

<http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/index.html>.

The U.S. Department of Education received more than 4,000 nominations for the 2007 school year. A list of previous honorees can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/tools/initiative/american-stars-teachers.html>.



**Notes From The Music/Drama Room:** Grab your planners and your pens and mark these important dates on your calendar now.

The Shakespeare Club will be performing *The Comedy of Errors* on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm.

The Highline Singers will be performing their spring concert on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

All performances will be held in our concert hall (middle school cafeteria). I hope this advance notice will give you proper time to plan around these events so you can come and support the Arts here at Highline.



**Notes From The Gym:**

**Basketball:** I would like to thank the boys and girls basketball team for doing such a great job this year. Two years ago the boys did extremely well and the girls were keeping up but this year the girls truly did a great job. I would like to thank all the parents that helped support this team which helped us to have a very successful year. I also would like to thank the coaches

for the boys and girls teams. Without them we would not have been so successful.

**Soccer:** Mr. Gonzales and Ms. Herndon will be the coaches for the girl's soccer team this year. If you have any questions about schedules or concerns please contact Mr. Gonzales at x 148. Please mark your calendar for the first game on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 against Challenge to Excellence played at Place Middle School at 4:30 p.m.

**Tennis:** Matt Aerelius and I will be the coaches for the coed tennis team this year. The opportunity to be on our tennis teams has already passed and the teams have been determined as follows: Team A: Bridget Alexander, Hunter Alexander, Ganbayar Bayarsaihan, Trevor Davis, and Cole Johnson. Team B: Naomi Butler, Nick Golden, Bernadette Johnson, Devon Marquez, Danny Pan, Taylor Terrell. Please come to practice prepared to play, bring your rackets and water. Each child will need to wear black shorts and a blue top (t-shirt) to play the games. Not necessary for practice but necessary for games. We will start to practice behind the school in the apartment building area. This may change however and each family will be responsible for providing a ride to get to the other location if a change is made.

**Jump Rope for Heart:** I would like to thank all the parents for their support of this event. It was a GREAT success. The children really enjoyed themselves and many outdid themselves in trying to achieve success. This event is for all of us to remember that there are many others who need help and by this small offering we help these many people out. I thank everyone for their contribution and look forward to next year's as it is such a fun, and giving event. Julie Thibodeau

deserves much thanks for all of her hard work and dedication to this event. Special thanks go to the adults in the building that also jumped with the children: Alison Magno, Donovan Taraba, Sarah Wilczak, and Mike Logan. In future events we will include special awards for the teachers that help to jump.

Ms. Wetzel's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class raised the most money for Jump Rope for Heart with \$630.00. The top seller was Erica Quijada with \$350.00. 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to Ms. Siclari's class with \$208.74. No info regarding the top seller for Ms. Siclari's class. Last year Ms. Wetzel's class raised the most money for the school. And this year she/they did it again. I would like to say congratulations to Ms. Wetzel for her hard work in reaching these parents. So when you see Sue, give her a big hug in appreciation for her hard work for Jump Rope for Heart!!

**Language Corner:**

At Highline Academy we are blessed to be part of a community of incredibly hard working students—many of whom already speak 2+ languages fluently. In addition, through our K-8 Spanish program, all students are learning an additional language several times a week.

We are proud to maintain the same rigorous standards in our Spanish program as in other areas of the curriculum. Yet we all know that language learning can be quite demanding—so let's not forget the many advantages that being bilingual (or multi-lingual) provide for our students...Let's keep striving together to help our students realize their full potential as well-prepared global citizens of the world!

**Learning a second language at an early age...**

- Has a positive effect on intellectual growth.
- Enriches and enhances a child's mental development.
- Leaves students with more flexibility in thinking, greater sensitivity to language, and a better ear for listening.
- Improves a child's understanding of his/her native language.
- Gives a child the ability to communicate with people s/he would otherwise not have the chance to know.
- Opens the door to other cultures and helps a child understand and appreciate people from other countries.
- Gives a student a head start in language requirements for college.
- Increases job opportunities in many careers where knowing another language is a real asset.

Source: *The Center for Applied Linguistics*

### Shout Outs

A huge thank you goes to this year's auction committee. This year's auction was a smashing success!! The auction committee worked hard for months to ensure all that all who attended would have lots of fun, interesting items to bid on and the event would flow smoothly. Thank you too, to all of the families and friends who attended this year's auction. Your participation was instrumental in making the auction a fun social event for a good cause. What a great community we have here at Highline Academy.

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who responded to our call for help and brought in healthy snacks for our test

takers and to those who monitored our hallways during CASP testing. We are deeply appreciative of your efforts to make the week successful for all of our students.

### Notes From the Board:

Principal succession planning was the leading matter discussed at Monday's monthly board meeting. The board had an opportunity to hear from faculty members on the many leadership qualities they would like to see in their new principal, as embodied in Highline's beloved principal, Ms. Alyssa Whitehead-Bust.

The board shares the faculty's desire to ensure that the school's next leader embraces the mission, vision and culture of Highline, be passionate in his or her commitment to our learning environment and motivate each teacher and student to reach to their highest potential.

Highline Academy has grown into an amazing school and the board is committed to keeping the school on its successful path.

The board chose to seek a principal-in-training who would train under Ms. WB during the 2008-09 school year. With an ambitious timeline at hand, the board voted to take on a national search without the expense of hiring a recruiting firm, while encouraging internal candidates to apply as well. To accomplish this mighty task, the board formed a search committee which will have its first meeting on Monday, March 17. Parent input is important to the committee, so please share your ideas! Direct and frequent communication during this process is a high priority for the board. Parents will have multiple opportunities to participate and share their viewpoints. Please look for details on an upcoming town hall meeting to learn about the recruitment process. Kristin Summer is the search committee

contact person. She is available at 303.803.3316 or via email at [craikris@comcast.net](mailto:craikris@comcast.net).

### Facility Update

The board recently formed a Facility Committee. Preliminary inquiries have been made to potentially acquire existing school facilities and to explore building a new school. The committee has also made inquiries to verify our ability to finance a move to a permanent location. More information will be shared with the school community as it becomes available. For more information, please contact the Facility Committee Chairman Jon Lowry at 720.279.3100 or via email at [jon@jplowry.com](mailto:jon@jplowry.com).

Highline's board meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. The board is responsible for governance—setting policies, holding the vision and mission, ensuring financial and legal health and hiring, evaluating and managing the principal. While much of their work is behind the scenes, the board is a key stakeholder in shaping who we are and who we will become as a school. All meetings are open to the public. Please join us!

### Love & Logic:

**Give your children the values they deserve.** Parents can combat societal pressures with the right approach.

Peers, TV shows, movies, magazines ... With so many external pressures facing kids at younger and younger ages, parents often wonder: How can I get my children to listen to me ... instead of the 'cool' kids at school?

How do I teach my child the importance of hard work, honesty, and humility?

How can I reach them when they get so many messages that seem to say, 'Who you are is not

as important as how good you look, and how many toys you have'?"

There is hope. Using the following tips, parents can have a much stronger influence than any friend or TV commercial:

**Tip #1: Instead of telling your kids how to live, show them.**

Wise parents commit lots of honest, respectful, kind, and responsible acts in front of their kids. Simply stated, actions speak louder than words. The next time another driver cuts you off or someone in your neighborhood needs help, treat the situation as an important opportunity to show your children how responsible, caring adults act.

**Tip #2: Talk about your values when they're eavesdropping.**

What we say *in front* of our kids is more important than what we say *to* them. When you do something great, talk about it within earshot of your kids. For example, when your child is sitting nearby, you might say to your spouse, "Honey, the clerk at the store gave me ten dollars too much in change. I could have kept it, but I gave it back. I always feel better when I do the right thing!"

**Tip #3: Teach character and responsibility with empathy and consequences**

At the Love and Logic® Institute, we've found the most effective parents allow children to make mistakes in safe situations. Kids develop character and positive values when they learn that poor decisions result in uncomfortable consequences. Parents who deliver consequences with anger raise kids who spend their lives feeling angry and who reject their parents' values. If those same parents replace anger with empathy, their children begin to see them as caring and recognize their values are important.

For more than two decades, Love and Logic has helped parents with these life-changing tips. One very grateful parent wrote, "As a teenager, our daughter got caught shoplifting. We were mortified! When this happened, we turned to Love and Logic. With lots of empathy instead of anger, we held her responsible for hiring her own lawyer and paying the court costs. That was fifteen years ago, and she's grown to be a wonderful, responsible young woman. On her thirtieth birthday,

she even thanked us for being so strict!"

Give Love and Logic a try and join thousands of parents who have discovered easy and effective ways to improve their relationships with their kids and teach positive family values.

Dr. Charles Fay is a nationally known speaker, parent, and school psychologist with the Love and Logic Institute in Golden, Colo. His book, *Love and Logic Magic: When Your Kids Leave You Speechless*, provides a host of helpful tips for teaching values, as well as handling other perplexing parenting issues. For more information about Love and Logic parenting and teaching techniques, call 1-800-LUV-LOGIC

**Principal's Coffee:** This year's coffee with the principal will happen the first, second, and third Wednesday of each month from 8:00-9:00am. For the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, I will remain available for individual drop-in conversations from 8:00-9:00am. A sign up will be on my door the last Wednesday morning of each month for first-come, first serve conversations.