

HIGHLINE HIGHLIGHTS

What YOU Need to Know

May 1, 2008



DATES TO REMEMBER

1st-3rd Wednesday Mornings
Coffee with the Principal 8-9am

Thursday, May 1st
Shakespeare Club Performance
7:00pm

Saturday, May 3rd
Saturday Academy 11:00 – 1:00

Monday, May 5th
Teacher Appreciation Week
PWP Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday, May 7th
Eye & Ear Testing Begins
Highline Singers Spring Concert
7:00pm

Friday, May 9th
NO SCHOOL Teacher
Appreciation Day
Shakespeare Festival Downtown

Monday, May 12th
Board Meeting 6:15pm
Stanford 10 Testing Begins

Saturday, May 17th
Saturday Detention 8:30-11:00

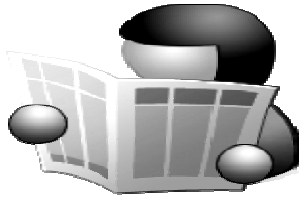
Monday, May 19th
REACH Assembly 8:00am
Scholastic Book Fair Begins

Wednesday, May 21st
Scholastic Book Fair Ends

Friday, May 23rd
Middle School Lucky 5 BBQ at
Cook Park

Monday, May 26th
NO SCHOOL Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 27th
Grade Trade Dear
8th Grade Last Day of Classes
Commencement Assembly



New Highline Baby: Ms. Kelso's new family member, Michael Aaron Kelso arrived on April 3, 2008 at 9:05 PM. Michael weighed in at 8 pounds 12 ounces and was 20 inches long! Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Kelso!!

School Surveys: School surveys for students will be done during school. Watch for Highline's parent/guardian survey information coming home next week.

CBLA (Literacy) and Stanford 10 Testing Underway: Literacy testing began on April 28th and will continue through May 8th. Stanford 10 testing will begin May 12th and end May 23rd. Both of these tests will measure each student's growth during this past year. Please make sure your students get plenty of rest and a healthy breakfast, so they can do their best on the test.

8th Grade Trip: Last week, we traveled with our 8th graders to 100 Elk Outdoor Center for three days of fun and learning. 100 Elk Outdoor Center is located just north of Buena Vista in the Upper Arkansas River Valley, nestled between the Mosquito Mountain Range and the Collegiate Peaks of the Sawatch Range. The Outdoor Center is up at about 9000 feet in the forested foothills just below Mt. Yale and Mt. Columbia (both 14,000 foot peaks). Our 8th graders challenged themselves with one low, and two high ropes courses. An outdoor and indoor

climbing wall, night hike, ecology hike, learned about orienteering and much more. Each element was designed to help students overcome fear, gain self-confidence and learn to work as a team. It allowed them the opportunity to push past previous barriers and discover inner abilities they never knew they had. We watched our 8th grade support and cheer each other on in amazing ways. It was a life changing experience for many.

Thanks to our Highline community for coming together to support this amazing trip.

Special shout-outs go to our student leadership teams and to PWP for helping to raise the money needed to take such a trip.

Web Site Update: The Highline Academy web re-design team (consisting of parents/guardians and school personnel) have selected a vendor and have begun work on the web re-design. Our chosen vendor, Contagious Media, brings extensive expertise in branding, marketing, and web design. In addition to helping upgrade and update our web-site, they will work more generally to help the school develop a more cohesive message and marketing plan. Look for our new, interactive web-site to be live by August, 2008. Prominent features will include classroom web pages, an interactive calendar, and a face lift to all images and text.

3rd Trimester Explorations and Summer School: Please refer to last week's Thursday folder for your student's mid-trimester progress report. Any student who is not proficient in a core academic class, (a 79% or

below), as of Friday, May 16th will be assigned to a 3rd trimester intervention from June 2nd-June 6th. Intervention work will be compiled by core teachers, but will be managed by interventions teachers. Students are required to attend interventions in the subject area of concern only.

The schedule is as follows:
Literacy, Language Arts, and Social Studies: 7:50-9:30
Snack/Recess Break: 9:30-10:00
Math and Science: 10:00-11:30

Any student not proficient in multiple classes will be recommended for consideration for summer school and retention. Our teaching team is working hard right now to prepare paperwork for retention and summer school conversations. You will be contacted via phone or letter in the upcoming week if your student falls into this category.

Stop Bullying Now is a website created for elementary and middle-school students. It addresses issues of bullying with honest explanations, provides recommendations for bystanders, and contains student letters and posts all in kid friendly terms. Check out the website's area for adults, and please pass the site along- everyone will benefit!

<http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/index.asp?area=main>

Deliverables We Need From You

Annual School Satisfaction Survey: If you have not already done so, please take the time to fill out and return the DPS school satisfaction survey. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete. These surveys should be returned in the envelope provided, by U.S. mail directly to the Assessment & Research Department to ensure the confidentiality of individual

responses. Parents who do not receive a questionnaire should contact the school.

Parent surveys must be postmarked by May 9.

Survey information will be compiled and preliminary results released at the beginning of June. All school and district summary data are available to the public upon release. Individual survey questionnaires will remain confidential and will not be released outside the Assessment & Research Department.

Thank you for helping to make the 2008 School Satisfaction Survey a success!

The Goat Project: Got milk? Some don't.



Makida Yilma, Liliya Martynyuk, Ms. Walling and Vanessa Padilla, have started "the goat project". We are raising money to buy families in La Gonave, Haiti, a female goat.

The families will be able to use their goat for milk and cheese. The family will also be able to take their goats to a non profit organization that allows them to have their female goats impregnated for free. This will provide them with a lasting food source.

Here is how our campaign works. Each homeroom is collecting loose change to raise money. Your child is asked to bring in pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, bills or checks to help us help others.

Buy One Get One, Spring Book Fair: We are



having a second Scholastic Book Fair beginning

Monday, May 19th and running through Wednesday, May 21st. This is a great opportunity to purchase some books for summer reading as it's a buy one get one free!

Principal Hiring Committee Update:

The committee has identified the top 20 candidates. The first round of interviews will be taking place this Wednesday and Thursday via phone. From there the top candidates will be asked to come for a face to face interview held on May 12th. Details will be forthcoming in regards to a "meet and greet" with the candidates.

As Highline Academy prepares for this significant transition, we wanted to share some background knowledge as to why the Board chose to adopt the Principal-in-Training-Program.

According to the latest research, Principal succession is a significant national issue.

Demands on principals are increasing because of No Child Left Behind, the educational crisis, and increasing diversity.

More principals are either retiring or moving on to other professions and fewer individuals are studying to become principals.

Across all school levels, the national principal attrition rate (principals leaving their job) has more than doubled in the past 10 years.

Part of this attrition is attributed to schools not adequately supporting principals in building a positive school culture.

Between 1988 - 1998 the elementary principal attrition rate was 42% with that number projected to increase in this decade to 60%.

Attrition in urban schools is higher than national averages.

In the Colorado charter school marketplace the average principal stays only 18 months.

As a result of this attrition and principal shortages, more than 70% of principal hires nationwide are now first-time principals.

The costs of principal attrition are many. Lag in student achievement, loss of cultural norms, organizational doubt, training costs (the average cost of training new principal is \$70,000, and teacher attrition.

Nationally, in 2005 we spent nearly \$5 billion on teacher turnover (recruiting, hiring, and training)

Nationally, schools have about a 30% chance of getting a "seasoned" principal.

In light of this crisis, Principal in Training programs have been implemented and have proven successful. Not only are the schools that have adopted this model raising scores and closing the achievement gap, but they are producing well prepared principals who are succeeding!

Shout Outs

REACH Award Recipients:

Congratulations to the following students for receiving this months REACH awards:

Reach-up: Andrew Thibodeau
Artemis Katsaris

Reach-in: Kelvin Morales

Reach-out: Amua Adu
Tessa Baur
Jacob Gonzales

Kudos to 4th Grade for a job well done at their Night of the Revolution celebration. Students showed in-depth knowledge of the American

Revolution, including key historical figures and events, through their three act play. In addition, they had a lot of fun showing off their knowledge!!!

Kudos also to all Highline artists: If you were not able to participate in Highline's annual art walk, which happened last Thursday, you are highly encouraged to stop by the school to check out the amazing art work produced by our students under Ms. Enyert's guidance. You will be impressed by the skills and creativity our students are developing!

Board Notes

Leadership Changes

Ron Johnson, board member, and most recently board president, resigned on Monday, to focus on his professional and personal commitments. Ron's contributions to the board were valuable and his leadership will be missed. The board is appreciative of his service! Jon Lowry, former vice president, became president and Rev. Rodney Perry offered to step into the open vice presidency position. We are grateful to Jon and Rev. Perry for accepting this new level of board responsibility!

Search Committee

Kim Easton, who is chairing the Principal In Resident Search Committee, presented an update to the board. The committee undertook a national recruitment effort in search of our future leader and the progress is encouraging! Approximately 40 applications have been submitted to date and the committee is currently reviewing and scoring each of them. First interviews will be conducted at the end of April and second interviews will be conducted May 8, 2008. A presentation of the top three candidates will be made to the full board of directors on May 12, 2008. A decision is expected to be made

May 19, 2008, so the new Principal Resident can join the HA team in July.

High School Charter Application

Ms. Whitehead-Bust updated the board on a new DPS initiative to expand the number of high schools in the district. The board is looking into possible community partnerships to support a future Highline Academy High School. More information will be provided if a partnership is formed.

Committee Updates

The Finance Committee was officially constituted and Jennifer Douglas, the committee chair, presented her committee's new policies to the full board. All were approved unanimously.

Jon Lowry, chair of the Facilities Committee, discussed the need to expand committee membership. If anyone with expertise in facilities, financing, or real estate is interested, please contact Jon at 720.279.3100 or via email at jon@jplowry.com.

Highline's board meets the 2nd 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:

Raise Great Employees

It's getting harder to find good, responsible employees. While a problem for employers, this provides a great opportunity for parents! If we can teach the following skills and attitudes, we can practically guarantee that

our youngsters will become financially secure adults:

The ability to complete tasks without reminders

The desire to be proud of one's work

Knowing how to cooperate and compromise

The self-discipline to complete boring, tedious tasks

Being able to creatively solve new and unique problems

The ability to learn from one's mistakes

The single most important thing we can do to help our kids develop these skills is to expect them to complete chores without reminders and without pay. In our CD, *"Didn't I Tell You to Take Out the Trash?!"*, we teach the following steps for making this happen:

Instead of saying, "Take out the trash, now!" try giving your child a deadline, "Just have the trash taken out by six o'clock."

This deadline gives you plenty of time to think about what you will do if your child forgets or refuses to do the chore.

Resist the urge to nag and remind.

If your child forgets or refuses to do the chore, do it for them.

With great empathy, provide a consequence. "This is so sad. I did your chores. How are you planning to pay me?"

Your child can pay by doing extra chores, staying home instead of being driven somewhere they want to go, giving you a toy, etc.

Thanks for reading.
Dr. Charles Fay

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 4th 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.