

# HIGHLINE HIGHLIGHTS

## What YOU Need to Know

May 15, 2008



### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

O Ambassador Program 6:00pm

#### May 15<sup>th</sup> – May 30<sup>th</sup>

**No More Charges for Lunch**

#### Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

Saturday Detention 8:30-11:00

#### Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

REACH Assembly 8:00am  
Scholastic Book Fair Begins

#### Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

Last Coffee with the Principal  
8:00am  
Scholastic Book Fair Ends

#### Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Middle School Lucky 5 BBQ at  
Cook Park

#### Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

NO SCHOOL Memorial Day

#### Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

Grade Trade Dear  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Last Day of Classes  
Goat Tournament 1:30pm  
Commencement Assembly

#### Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>

Grade Trade DEAR

#### Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

Ms. Walling's Drama Class  
Presents Green Eggs & Ham  
2:00pm

#### Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

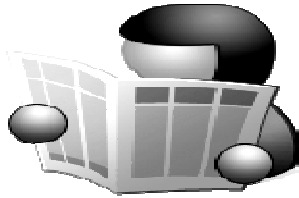
Talent Show 2:00pm  
Last Day of School

#### Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Commencement at  
DU 10:00am

#### Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>

Last day for Non-proficient  
Students K-8



### O Ambassador Program:

Highline Academy is proud to be one of the first schools in Colorado to participate in the O Ambassador Program. O Ambassadors™ is an exciting new joint project of Oprah's Angel Network and Free The Children that will inspire young people to become active, compassionate and knowledgeable global citizens.

The program connects young people in North America with people around the world to create lasting change by working toward the UN Millennium Development Goals. Participants address problems such as hunger, poverty and limited access to education.

We invite you to join us tonight at 6:00pm to learn more about all of the fundraising projects Highline is currently involved with and to socialize and network with our community.

We have a fun evening planned, Sharky, the mascot from downtown aquarium will show up to sign autographs for the kids!

Highline Academy requests your presence to network with local businesses, enjoy food from CityGrille, desserts from Belvedere's of Cherry Creek and beverages from Odwalla and Green Mountain Coffee.

Enter the \$1.00 drawing to win:  
2 tickets from Elitch Gardens;  
Family 4 pack from Denver Zoo;

Swim passes from Eldorado Water;

\$25 Gift Certificates from Dora's Mexican and CityPub;

2 Family 4 packs from Downtown Aquarium;

\$25 Power card for Dave and Busters;

5 yards of Supreme Organic Mulch from Mountain High Tree, Lawn and Landscape Co.;

2 hours of chair massage from First Contact Massage Therapy

Thanks to these wonderful companies for contributing gifts to help us meet our donation goals.

Art work created by some of our students will also be for sale.

The event is free. Money raised from the evening will go directly to support Highline's REACHING out to our community and beyond.

### New Highline

**Baby:** Mr. and Mrs. Neuhart are the proud parents of Althea Grace Neuhart, born May 5, 2008 at 11:42 pm. Althea weighed in at 7lbs. 9.5 oz. and was 19 inches long. Both Mom and baby are doing great!

### 3<sup>rd</sup> grade CSAP reading

**scores released:** The results are in; 86% of Highline 3<sup>rd</sup> graders scored proficient or advanced on their reading CSAP's—almost 20 percentage points higher than our last year's 67% proficient and advanced rates for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading.

As excitedly, our scores were the 6<sup>th</sup> best in the district (out of 100 elementary schools!). The 5



who out-performed us are all GT magnet schools and/or serving high-income students. Here's the list of the top 10:

Polaris at Ebert Elementary School  
Bromwell Elementary School  
Slavens K-8 School  
Cory Elementary School  
Southmoor Elementary School  
Highline Academy Charter School  
Steck Elementary School  
Odyssey Charter Elementary School  
William (Bill) Roberts K-8 School  
Teller Elementary School

We are excited to watch this cohort of students as 82% of our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have been with us since 2005. We are looking forward to watching their growth in the years to come.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester Explorations and Summer School:** All students, including 8<sup>th</sup> graders, who are **not** proficient in a core academic class, (a 79% or below), as of tomorrow, Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> will be assigned to a 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester intervention from June 2<sup>nd</sup> - June 6<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Stanford 10 Testing:** Our students have been taking Stanford 10 tests all week and will finish up next week. This test will give us a measurable assessment of your students' progress during the course of this school year. Results will be passed on to you as soon as we receive them, usually by the end of August.

**Lunch Money:** DPS is no longer allowing any student to charge lunch. Please make sure your student has money on their account or brings lunch money to school.

**Buy One Get One, Spring Book Fair:** We are having a second Scholastic Book Fair beginning Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and running through Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a great opportunity to purchase some books for summer reading as it's a buy one get one free!

**Two Weeks:** We still have two weeks of school left and would like to remind you that our students are still required to attend school, complete their homework, be on time, stay through the day, and be present and attentive in class. Please help your students finish the year strong by encouraging them to do their best.

**Grade Trade:** All students will do a "Grade Trade" during DEAR the last week of school. Grade trade means that each class will spend DEAR time in the next grade level to give students a chance to meet the new teachers and visit the new classrooms.

**Last Day of School:** Our last day of school for Kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade is Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. We will have a full day; dismissal is at 3:30. See you in the car line!

**Final Report Cards:** Final report cards will not be issued to any student with an outstanding

library or lunch balance. Please make sure your account is cleared by June 6<sup>th</sup>. Final report cards will be mailed home by the end of June.

**2008-2009 School Calendar:** The School Calendar for the 2008-2009 is posted on our web site at [highlineacademy.org](http://highlineacademy.org)

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Commencement:** Due to space constraints at the University of Denver, commencement is not an open event. Any non 8<sup>th</sup> grade student wishing to attend must RSVP on a reply card with an 8<sup>th</sup> grade family. Our closing ceremony, scheduled for Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:30, is open to all families and will include all Highline students. Please join us to say your farewells and wish our 8<sup>th</sup> graders well.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Commencement Activities:** There are several activities for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders coming up. A detailed list has gone home with your 8<sup>th</sup> grader (if you have one). Here is a brief outline of some of the activities:

Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, Final Day of Class & Celebration Activities: As noted on the calendar and in celebration of their hard work, 8<sup>th</sup> graders are being released from school 3 days early! Uniforms are required for the last day of school.

Farewell Breakfast, 7:50 - 8:30am. Our 7<sup>th</sup> graders (with the help of their families) will send our 8<sup>th</sup> graders off in style. Students are invited to join us for a festive breakfast in the middle school cafeteria.

Academic Classes, 8:30-11:30  
Students will follow their normal morning academic schedule. Final assessments will be administered and will factor into year-end grades.

Faculty/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Awards Ceremony, 12:15-1:15

Yearbook Signing and Final Farewells, 1:15-2:30

Closing Assembly, 2:30pm - 3:30pm. 8th graders will address their younger peers with brief closing remarks. Faculty and students will bid our 8<sup>th</sup> graders farewell. Parent/Guardians are welcome to join in.

Pool Party, Details Forthcoming  
A group of parents/guardians are working to organize a pool party and BBQ at Hampden Heights to celebrate this final day of school. Save the date for Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

No School for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders  
Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> - Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>: Highline is not sponsoring any activities for our graduates during these final 3 days of school. Please do not send your student to us unless they have explicit and written permission from the principal to be on campus earning your family's remaining volunteer hours. If they come to school without written permission, you will be called to come pick them up.

Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 3rd Trimester Interventions:  
All students, including 8<sup>th</sup> graders, who are not proficient in a core academic class, are required to be on-site for academic interventions. 8<sup>th</sup> graders who fail to become proficient and/or fail to show up for interventions will have a recommended retention letter placed in their permanent academic file.

### **Deliverables We Need From You**

**Re-Enrollment Rates:** Highline Academy is proud to have a 94.5% re-enrollment rate. We do realize that Highline is not for everyone and some of you are looking at other options to make sure this is the best right choice for your student. If you are holding onto a seat that you know you will not be taking in the

fall, you are doing us a disservice by holding on to it. Please notify the front office now so we can offer that seat to another student on the waitlist.

**Lost and Found:** Lost and Found has grown to unprecedented heaps and mounds! There is a particularly lovely collection of coats, blankets, hats, shoes, pants and shirts of larger sizes since the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip. Please come to claim your missing things today! Donations to a worthy charity will take place next week.

### **Principal Hiring Update:**

Highline's Principal Hiring Committee (a 12-person team comprised of parents/guardians, Board members, faculty, administrators, and DU partners) was joined by a group of Highline students to spend all day Monday interviewing 2<sup>nd</sup> round candidates for our principal residency program. Six top candidates engaged in a 12-hour interview process that included a number of simulations such as preparing and presenting a mock faculty meeting, responding to simulated crises, and developing coaching plans for a teacher. In addition, candidates had an opportunity to interact less formally with students, faculty, and parents/guardians. Thank you to the many parents/guardians who came to our meet and greet. We appreciate your engagement in this important process! The hiring committee is now charged with making a formal recommendation to the Board regarding our top choice candidates. The Board will discuss and vote on their hiring decision during their meeting on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, scheduled for 6:15 in Highline's library.

### **Board Notes**

Due to the principal candidates here on Monday, the board meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:15pm.

The board will discuss and vote on their hiring decision. Board meetings are open and everyone is welcome to attend.

### **Shout Outs**

#### **Top Highline Readers**

Congratulations! These students worked extremely hard to read their books and take Accelerated Reader tests throughout the school year. Due to all of their hard work, they have been identified as the Top Highline Readers for the 2007-2008 school year. To reward these students for their commitment to reading, they will be participating in a Pizza Party on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and receiving a Barnes and Noble gift certificate at the REACH assembly on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Way to go!

Keehnan Anderson  
Ethan Bennett  
Andrew Berscheid  
Rachel Dreyer  
Keenan Ebner-Watson  
Parker Engel  
Janie Eslinger  
Gabby Galindo  
Ariadne Katsaris  
Julia Marusyk  
Meagan Monaghan  
Hayley Owens  
Meaghan Owens  
KC Petersen  
Elisa Rodriguez  
Shannon Sankey  
Bailey Schwartzkopf  
Alex Tate  
Reagan Tucker  
Elly Weber  
Mackenzie Whitehead-Bust  
Feven Yohannes  
Nika Zina  
Olivia Zina

#### **Shakespeare Festival:**

Congratulations to the wonderful Shakespeare Club who performed three scenes from "The Comedy of Errors" at this year's city-wide Shakespeare Festival. 8th Grader KC Petersen took home a special "Spirit of Shakespeare" award

for her individual performance. Thank you to Mr. Apodaca, Ms. Dewane, Ms. Siclari, and Mr. Ziemba for their hard work and leadership.

### **Spring Concert:**

A huge shout out to Mr. Apodaca and his after school Junior and Senior Singers for the amazing Spring Concert they put on for the school and parents on May 7<sup>th</sup>. They all sounded great!!!

### **Love & Logic:**

#### **Modeling Conflict Skills**

How do kids learn to solve conflicts in healthy ways? By watching their parents solve conflicts.

That's right! The most powerful technique for teaching any skill is modeling.

Here's the problem: Some of us grew up in homes where our

parents handled conflict by arguing and fighting like cats and dogs.

People who grow up with this often reason, "I'm not going to do that to my kids. They're never going to see us argue and fight."

This is good...and bad.

Kids need to see their parents disagree in *healthy* ways. Conflict is a normal and very common part of life. When kids see their parents avoiding it, they are robbed of the most important life skills.

One couple commented, "After we thought about this, we started having some very respectful disagreements in front of our kids. Then we'd compromise. One afternoon, we saw our daughter having a very assertive, respectful disagreement with her best friend. It was great!"

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:** Next Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> will be the last one of this school year. If you would like to connect with Ms. WB please email her at [awhitehead@highlineacademy.org](mailto:awhitehead@highlineacademy.org)