

HIGHLAND NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 2010

From the desk of Mr. Hart

Included with this letter is your son's/daughter's semester one final report card. It is hard to believe semester one is over already. Please use the information contained in this report card to formulate your personalized plan for success in semester two.

I encourage you to visit our website at www.hwdsb.on.ca/highland for our complete newsletter. In an effort to be more environmentally-friendly, we are only distributing paper copies of the newsletter to families who request them through the office.

I would like to welcome all our students back for semester two. Starting a new semester will provide students with a fresh opportunity to meet new friends and explore new courses of study. High school memories will last a lifetime. I encourage all our students to give their very best effort to achieve academic excellence. Their future depends on it. I also encourage students to become actively engaged in our school culture. Highland has many extraordinary co-curricular opportunities available to our students where they can further develop their leadership, athletic and interpersonal skills. Joining any of these co-curricular activities will round out their high school experience.

The Semester turnaround usually brings some changes in staff and this year is no exception. The following staff members are joining Highland's team of professional educators, starting Semester Two:

<u>Staff Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Mr. Ackles	Science
Mrs. Allchin	English
Mr. Bieksa	Business
Mrs. Boatman	Assistant Head Student Services
Ms. Kay	English
Mrs. Macdonald	Math
Mis. Rimnyak	Math
Mrs. Rosebery	Science
Mr. Utjesinovic	Technological Studies

The altruistic spirit has been alive and well at Highland once again this year. Thank you to Mr. Samson for overseeing our most successful Christmas Tree of Hope campaign to date. Highland raised a record breaking total of \$8,518.00 for this year. This brings our overall 24-year fundraising total to \$131,400.00!!

Further to our mission to raise our students' awareness of global issues, we are continuing the implementation of our Global CONNECT Program. Global CONNECT is Highland's Program of Choice for students who would like an enriched educational experience with a Global focus. Students who graduate having completed the senior Global CONNECT program will have gained invaluable experiences: leadership and mentorship opportunities, expertise in their chosen area of global environmental or social change, research and communication skills, individualized teacher mentorship, local and/or international excursions, and a personalized educational program. Global CONNECT students will be better prepared to face an increasingly Global world and its challenges.

The creation of a safe and supportive learning environment for our students is essential to inspire learning. Parents and community members are an integral part of Highland's Educational Team. I invite your input, through our School Council or other venues, to help shape and enrich the learning of our students. Together we can significantly influence positive change in the lives of our students.

Safe Schools

New legislation that comes into effect February 1, 2010 will affect how all school board employees handle incidents at school. It will require all school staff to **report**, and those who work directly with students to **respond**, to incidents that happen in school. This new law continues our ongoing efforts to make Ontario's schools safer for students and staff. These changes require:

- ⇒ all school staff to **report** to their principal incidents that can lead to suspension or expulsion
- ⇒ principals to contact the parents of victims of these types of incidents
- ⇒ staff who work directly with students to **respond** to incidents that have a negative impact on the school climate.

For more information regarding this and other Safe Schools documents please visit our Board website **www.hwdsb.on.ca**

Global CONNECT – the Senior Years...

Global CONNECT is Highland's Programme of Choice for students who would like an enriched educational experience with a Global focus. Students who graduate having completed the senior Global CONNECT programme will have gained invaluable experiences: leadership and mentorship opportunities, expertise in their chosen area of global environmental or social change, research and communication skills, individualized teacher mentorship, local and/or international excursions, and a personalized educational program. Global CONNECT students will be better prepared to face an increasingly Global world and its challenges.

Global CONNECT – Grade 11

- Grade 11 Course – Leadership and Peer Support (GPP30)

In the first Global CONNECT focus course, students will develop their own vision for making environmental or social change. With a teacher-mentor, they will construct a personalized program to meet goals related to their area of interest. Students will learn about Leadership and Mentorship, then apply their knowledge through Community Outreach projects in the local community, the region and beyond. Throughout the course, students will reflect on their personal leadership growth and create a portfolio to illustrate their experiences and objectives for the future.

Global CONNECT – Grade 12

Global CONNECT students will continue to develop their personalized program with their teacher-mentor. Their grade 12 courses will be selected to further explore their Global CONNECT focus, integrate their learning, and make cross-curricular connections. They will plan their development and choose from a wide range of experiences including internships, field work, Community Outreach and Canadian and International service trips.

They will enroll in *one or more* of the following courses where they will complete projects and assignments based on their environmental or social area of interest:

- Canadian and World Issues (CGW4U)
- The Writer's Craft (EWC4C or EWC4U)
- Organizational Leadership (BOH4M)
- Canadian Politics and Citizenship (CPC3O) or Canadian and World Politics (CPW4U)

Students may also integrate their Global CONNECT focus in other grade 12 courses as they see fit. They will work with their teacher-mentor to integrate their learning in each course, add to their portfolios, and continue on their journey of leading Global change at home and abroad.

At graduation, they will be presented with a Letter of Recognition letter from the Principal outlining their accomplishments to include in their portfolio for scholarship and work applications.

From the Guidance Office:

Summer Opportunities: There are many *summer opportunities* arriving in guidance daily, such as credit courses overseas, exchange programmes, volunteer opportunities and jobs. We cannot possibly announce all opportunities, so drop into guidance regularly to check them out. It is not too early to explore these opportunities, as many have winter application deadlines.

Option Sheets: Counsellors will visit classes in February to review Highland's Course Offerings for 2010-11, make suggestions, review pathways, and hand out Option Sheets. All students will complete on-line option sheets in the computer labs with their counselors, then be able to change the options online for a short period of time. In March, Option Verification Letters will be sent home to be signed and returned to confirm parental approval.

Grade 10, 11, and 12 students planning to attend post-secondary school need to research college and university admission requirements to plan backwards from grade 12. Find admission requirements for Ontario colleges at www.ontariocolleges.ca and for Ontario universities at www.electronicinfo.ca. Out-of-province schools will have their requirements posted on their individual websites.

Potential Graduates: About half of you have handed in your community service hours. Please bring them in as soon as you have accumulated 40 hours so we can record them. If you still have to complete community service hours, make sure you get pre-approval in guidance for the volunteer activity so your hours will count for graduation.

Post-Secondary: Students who have applied to college and universities need to keep track of deadlines for supplementary applications, portfolios, auditions, scholarships, and acceptances. Although the

deadlines for the first round of acceptances at college and university have passed, students may still apply. See Mrs. Lawson if you need assistance.

Graduation: Mark your calendars – graduation will be at Redeemer College, Tuesday, June 29th, 2010. At 6:00pm grads arrive to get their gowns and at 6:30pm the doors will open for seating. The ceremony will run 7:00-9:00pm. Please limit guests to 4 per graduate to ensure seating.

From the Learning Resource Office:

IEP's: Students who have IEP's will have revised copies sent home for signature at the beginning of semester 2. Please ensure these are returned as soon as possible to ensure smooth operations in the Learning Resource Department.

Post-secondary Opportunities: Colleges and Universities have support centres for students with physical and academic needs. Often they run summer information sessions to introduce students to their support services. Please check out their websites for more information.

From the Co-op Office:

A sincere *Thank You* goes out to the employers who supported Highland's Cooperative Education program. The Co-op experience has helped so many of our students make important decisions about their future career plans.

Students registered for Co-op in the Spring semester will attend Pre-placement classes commencing on Wednesday, February 3rd. Students will be attending interviews at their placements and begin work at their placements on Tuesday, February 16th, provided classroom assignments are successfully completed.

Anyone interested in a Co-op placement for the next school year must request Co-op on their option sheet, complete the Co-op Application form and attach a current resume. Student information sessions will be held.

OSSLT: LITERACY TEST 2010

All grade ten students will be writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test on Thursday April 8, 2010. Passing this test is a requirement for a high school diploma. Highland has a history of great success on this test, and we are committed to preparing the students well. The test is delivered in the morning, in two 75-minute blocks. There are two booklets to complete. Each booklet has a series of reading

selections, multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and long writing tasks. The two key pieces of writing are the opinion essay and the news report.

Opportunities for Rehearsal:

1. After-School Literacy Program

This 10-week program runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school and focuses on the key reading and writing skills on the test. This class is for students who struggle with reading and writing, or students who are anxious about the test. Space is limited, so if you would like your son/daughter to attend, please e-mail colleen.court@hwdsb.on.ca.

2. In-Class Rehearsals

In the two weeks before the test, students will do two practice tests. The day after writing the practice test, a member of Team Lit -- a group of 12 Highland teachers -- will come to the class to debrief and provide tips. By the time the students write the actual test, they will have completed a full sample test as a rehearsal.

3. Literacy Boot Camp

The day before the test, we will offer a refresher session in the library for those students who need one final rehearsal.

If you have any concerns or questions, please e-mail jennifer.warren@hwdsb.on.ca.

Business Department

The Highland Business Department is happy to welcome back Mr. Biekse to teach the Marketing and Accounting courses. He was with us for a semester last year and is going to be part of the Highland Team until the end of the current school year along with Ms. Reynolds and Mr. Toth. We are excited about the upcoming DECA Provincials, High School Business Heroes, and Accounting competitions, Highland students have a history of outstanding success! The 2009-2010 Highlander yearbook is looking to be the best we've ever produced, along with a fantastic interactive DVD. The first semester Business Leadership Course raised over \$4,000.00 for The Christmas Tree of Hope, and the semester two course has vowed to surpass their total!

Parents, don't miss your chance to say farewell to your graduate! You have the chance to advertise in Highland's 2009/2010 yearbook. It's only 50\$ for a business card size ad to send them your best wishes as they enter a new chapter of their lives.

From the Yearbook Editors:

Dear Highlanders, staff, and parents!

The yearbook is progressing fabulously! The yearbook class has been working extremely hard, and we are producing some beautiful pages! We have more photos than we have ever had before, and their quality is all outstanding. Yearbooks are still available for \$50.00. You do not want to pass up the opportunity to have a copy of this book filled with memories from your time at Highland. The Highlander 2009-2010 is looking like it will be the best we have ever had!

DECA, DECA, DECA

Highland DECA has had a wonderful first semester! We had almost all of our participants qualify in Regionals and are moving on to Provincials in Toronto on February 7-9th! It will be a fabulous trip and we are confident that we will walk away proudly with medals and ribbons. And remember, what happens at DECA, stays at DECA!

- The Senior DECA Executive

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Highland's History Department has been busy these past few months. Our Civics students have been active in their Youth and Philanthropy projects, which have been used as their culminating assignment. One group from each class has advanced to the finals, which will take place in March, leading to one local social service charity winning \$5,000 from the Toskan Foundation – a truly great initiative. Many of our Civics students also took part in “Keeping the Dream Alive”, a celebration held by the HWDSB to commemorate the life and message of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.. Upcoming in Semester 2, our CHW3M class will be going to the AGO in Toronto to view the King Tut exhibit, and as well we have plans in the works for a trip to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, and for our law students a trip to the John Sopinka Courthouse.



LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT



How to succeed in Grade 9 French

- Review daily lessons at home 10-15 minutes a day - *every day*
- Participate actively in class
- Study “in writing”
- Discuss any concerns with your teacher

Kensington Market Trip

The annual trip to Kensington Market area will take place on April 27th. This is an excellent opportunity for language students to explore the multicultural aspect of the area and to become aware of the diverse cultures in Ontario.

New ! French Conversation Club for senior students during period 4. Sign up with Mme Hedley or Mme Bomches by Monday, February 8th.

Highland Math Department News

Congratulations to our students who for a great effort completing semester one math courses, and hopefully semester two will be just as successful for them. We welcome four new teachers into the department this semester, including Mrs. D. Macdonald, Ms. J. Rimnyak, Mr. M. Bieksa, and Ms. S. Zourntos.

The Highland Mathematics Enrichment Program has been up and running now for two months at the grades 9, 10 and 11 levels. Students in this program have been working during two lunch hours per week in preparation for the University of Waterloo mathematics contests that are taking place on the morning of Thurs. Feb. 25th. Mr. Ho has been working with the twelve students who will be writing the grade 9 Pascal contest, Mr. Farruggia has been working with the ten students who will be writing the grade 10 Cayley contest, and Mr. Gmell has been working with the sixteen students who will be writing the grade 11 Fermat contest. The Mathematics Enrichment Program for grade 12 students will begin later this month and run into April in preparation for the grade 12 Euclid contest that will be written on Wed. April 7th. Highland students traditionally have done very well writing these contests, and we look forward to their achievements this semester.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

As you know, our Music students were adjudicated while on their Cruise last spring. Here is the letter Highland received from Music Festivals National Headquarters, officially notifying us of the final rating.

From:
MUSIC FESTIVALS
National Headquarters

*P.O. Box 4579
 Reading, PA 19606
 (610) 898-1844 ext. 118*

NEWS RELEASE

During the Spring of 2009, the Highland Secondary School Jazz Ensemble & Symphonic Band, under the direction of Todd Smith and Bruce Lawson, participated in the March 6-15, 2009 Eastern Caribbean Cruise Festival onboard Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's "Explorer of the Seas". In addition to earning a Superior rating, both performing groups were also entered into competition against other ensembles and performing groups that participated in one of over 50 other Cruise Festivals, which took place from January to the end of May. After the conclusion of the final festival, all scores were combined to determine the overall highest scoring groups in each class and category from all of the Festivals.

On behalf of MUSIC FESTIVALS, the national sponsor of this event, it is a sincere pleasure to announce at this time that Highland Secondary School is the winner of the 2009 Cruise Festival Overall Grand Championship Award for Jazz Ensemble & Symphonic Band Class AAA. These awards signify the highest scores overall in these categories from all of the 2009 Cruise Festivals. It is an honor to present this award at this time to Highland Secondary School and Todd Smith and Bruce Lawson, Directors.

All of the staff at MUSIC FESTIVALS extends our congratulations to the directors and all the members of these outstanding bands. The hard work and dedication that you displayed was exemplary and every member of your community, your parents, families and friends have every reason to be extremely proud of your accomplishments.

Congratulations on receiving this prestigious award.

Upcoming Events

February 16-18	<u>Golden Horseshoe Music Festival –Redeemer College</u> 16 th . 9:40 am Concert Band B300 1:00 pm Junior Band B200 17 th . 9:40 am Symphonic Band B400 18 th . 9:50 am Osler/Highland Jr. Jazz Band 11:50 am Highland Sr. Jazz Band
Tuesday, February 23	Lunch Bag Concert #5 Steve Strongman
March 3-22	MacMillan's Cookie Dough Drive
Thursday, March 25	Lunch Bag Concert #6, John Fanning, Baritone
Wednesday, March 31	MacMillan's Delivery

Friday, April 9	Lunch Bag Concert #7, Dr. Cameron Bennett, Piano
Thursday, April 22	Coffee House
April 27 - May 3	Memphis Tennessee Trip
May 20-21	Cedar Point/Cleveland Ohio Trip
Tuesday, June 1	Final Concert at Redeemer University College
Wednesday, June 9	Lunch Bag Concert #8, Nathan Fanning, Trombone
Tuesday, June 29	Graduation

Technically Speaking...

New classes are unfolding in the Technology Department where Staff and Students are happy to be back for semester two. First, I'd like to welcome a new teacher in our Technology Department; Mr. Utjesinovic, so please make him feel at home at Highland. Mr. Utjesinovic will be teaching our Grade 9 Exploring Technology, and our Manufacturing (Aviation) program for this semester. Secondly, I like to encourage all of our students to achieve their full potential in the Technology Department, as we had many students achieving great results from last semester, and we are very proud of your accomplishments. We have students achieving great marks, creating wonderful design reports, and completing fantastic final projects, just to name a few of the achievements we witnessed while taking Technology. In addition, Mr. Clapiz, Mr. Kruis, Mr. Lane, Mr. Seiler, and Mr. Utjesinovic are working hard to promote good work ethics and time management skills in their classrooms. It is important to arrive on time, as every employer will agree, and school is no different. We look forward to a successful semester, and encourage all students to take a Technology course- you won't regret it.

HIGHLAND WRESTLING TEAM

Meeting Mondays from 3:10-4:40 in the Gym students enjoy the game of wrestling through two international FILA rules systems: Freestyle & Submission.

HIGHLAND KOREAN LANGUAGE STUDY GROUP

Also known as the Korean Club, students learn the Korean alphabet and language. They develop fluency in this important language of international business and culture in the 21st Century. Meets in room 110 every period 3 lunch.