

HIGHLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER

From the Desk of Mr. Hart:

It is hard to believe my first year as Principal here at Highland is already finished. I have learned that Highland is not your average Secondary School. We have provided our students with so many engaging educational opportunities and a wide range of co-curricular experiences that the school year seems to have flown by. In most cases our students not only participate but strive to excel in a whole variety of ways throughout the school year. Once again our teachers and students have accomplished amazing things working together. In addition Highland is very fortunate to have an extremely supportive School Council and parent community that encourages, supports and enriches the learning experiences of our students. As partners in this educational journey we can all be very proud of our accomplishments.

One of our most experienced and respected educators is retiring from Highland. We extend congratulations and thanks to Mrs. Shields for her many years of dedication to the Highland community. In addition, the following teachers are leaving Highland this June - Mr. Ackles, Ms. Allchin, Mr. Bieksa, Ms. Boatman, Ms. Dumitru, Mr. Farruggia, Ms. Kay, Mr. Miller, Ms. Rimnyak, Mr. Utjesinovic and Ms. Zourntos - and we wish them all the best.

Highland is continuing its long-standing tradition of success through our belief in achieving high standards in the four As: Academics, Athletics, Arts and Altruism. This newsletter will provide you with a snapshot of our most recent student achievements in each of these areas.

ACADEMICS

Academically our students continue to be high achievers within our Board. 47% of our June graduating class has achieved the Principal's Honour Roll. The most recent EQAO Literacy results placed Highland amongst the top three schools in the greater Hamilton region including both the public and separate school boards.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

A sincere *Thank You* goes out to the employers who supported Highland's Co-operative Education program.

Students registered for Co-op in the Fall semester will attend Pre-placement classes the first two weeks of September. They will start their placements when all assignments have been submitted.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

As usual, it has been a busy year within the History Department. We've had many guest speakers and trips throughout the year. Along the theme of Dr. Martin Luther King's message of making a positive difference in our world, eight of our Civics classes took part in the *Youth and Philanthropy Initiative* this year again, sponsored by the Toskan Casale Foundation. As their culminating project, these Grade 10 Civics classes had to choose a local social service agency to research, and present why their particular charity should win the \$5,000 grand prize. The main aim is to raise awareness of the great work so many charities do in our local Dundas / Hamilton area. Past winning organizations have included Babyshowers, and the Eva Rothwell Resource Centre. After all of the fabulous presentations, our panel of judges comprised of senior students chose *Out of the Cold* as the recipient of this year's \$5,000 prize. Congratulations again to the winning team of Shari Levine, Alison Mitro, and Lucas Waxman. *Out of the Cold* is a charity which runs from November to March of each year, providing hot meals and overnight accommodations to families and individuals in need. Organizers from *Out of the Cold* were so thrilled with the win that they came personally to the school to show their appreciation, and stated that the \$5,000 will be enough to provide meals once a week, throughout their entire season!

ATHLETICS

The Highland Hawks enjoyed an outstanding athletics record this past school year.

The cross country and track teams won their third and seventh straight City titles respectively. Individually, Carise Thompson became Highland's first OFSAA individual track champion, earning a gold medal in the SG 3000m.

Our Girls' program enjoyed unprecedented success with our teams making seven city finals.

The Grade 9 soccer and volleyball squads, the Jr. Girls' basketball and water polo teams, the indoor soccer, hockey and fastball teams all earned Silver medals in the City.

The Boys' hockey team qualified for the SOSSA Championships, after an undefeated regular season, and the Boys' golf team made a strong run at OFSAA.

All in all, the Hawks continue to rule the skies!

ARTS

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

This year has culminated with, as usual, our Final Concert which was held at Redeemer earlier this month. Our Music students performed extremely well and we are very proud of their accomplishments. We look forward to next year as we prepare for another busy year with our feeder schools coming in to learn from and work with our senior students, the continuing Lunch Bag Concert series, MusicFest Regionals, our trips to New Orleans and Cedar Point.

VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

Two events are held each spring to showcase our students' work:

The Carnegie Gallery Senior Art Exhibition gives the Highland students an authentic opportunity to be a part of the real 'art world'. The partnership between the Carnegie Gallery and the 2 Dundas high schools encourages the exhibiting students to continue a life-long appreciation of visual arts and to pursue a pathway into visual arts. This event brings in a large audience from the Dundas community and beyond.

The Art Expo is the culminating event of the visual arts department. All Highland students enrolled in visual arts courses get an opportunity to showcase their artistic talent to the Highland and Dundas community. The students work together to mount this event which also simulates an authentic 'art opening' with live music and refreshments. The Dundas Artist community is also involved in judging and presenting the students with awards of artistic merit. This year we were recognized by the community's TV program "Hamilton Lives" on Cable 14.

ALTRUISM

CONNECT-4-HOPE was an evening of education and fundraising for Eric Walters' organization, Creation of Hope. A steering committee of 17 grade 10-11 students brought together many clubs and organizations on campus to create a spectacular fashion show and coffee house. The theme was environmentally and socially conscious consumerism - not only did the students educate and entertain the audience, but they raised \$875 to add to the Highland donation to Creation of Hope.

HAVEN, led by Lauren Bentham and Emma Sanges, worked hard to fulfill their mandate: to educate and fundraise. The White Ribbon Red Rose campaign raised awareness about the violence against women. They invited a Holocaust survivor to come and speak to the student body for Yom Ha'Shoah. For the Rubber Ducky campaign, HAVEN collected over 3,000 items of personal hygiene which were distributed to shelters in the Hamilton area. Over \$8,000.00 was raised which went to various places around the world. The events included a "Barefoot Walk-a-thon", "Diversity Luncheon", "Day Without Desks", and "Day of Silence. Lastly, HAVEN took on a special challenge this year and held a car wash which raised just over \$1,200.00 to help fight cancer.