

# HIGHLAND PARK HIGH SCHOOL

## PTO NEWSLETTER

### August, 2009

Newsletters will be available electronically to PTO member families. The deadlines for this school year are **November 9, March 15 & May 24**. Please e-mail articles or flyers to Sheri Warsh, Newsletter Editor at [sheriwarsh@lplegal.com](mailto:sheriwarsh@lplegal.com).

*Looking Ahead ...Dates & times are subject to change. For more information, please check: [www.dist113.org](http://www.dist113.org)*

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| Tuesday, August 18                                 | Senior Prep Day  |
| Wednesday, August 19                               | Junior Prep Day  |
| Thursday, August 20                                | Sophomore Prep Day   |
| Friday, August 21                                  | Freshman Prep Day  |
| Tuesday, August 25                                 | Freshman Orientation (morning), Lunch, Mini-Schedule   |
| Wednesday, August 26                               | First Day of School<br>Senior Parent Meeting Kick Off to College Apps 7 pm                           |
| Thursday, August 27                                | Parent Night for Freshman and New Students   |
| Friday, August 28                                  | Welcome Back BBQ – lunch periods in the courtyard<br>Freshman Tailgate – before Football Game 6-7 pm |
| Friday, September 4                                | Lunch with Brad 11:45 am Room A217   |
| Monday, September 7                                | No School – Labor Day  |
| Monday, September 14                               | PTO Meeting 9:30 am Room A217  |
| Thursday, September 24                             | Open House   |
| Monday, September 28                               | No School – Yom Kippur   |
| Thursday, October 1                                | Homecoming Window Painting   |
| October 4-10                                       | Homecoming Week  |
| Monday, October 5                                  | PTO Meeting 7:30 pm Room A217  |
| Saturday, October 10                               | Homecoming Dinner Dance  |
| Monday, October 12                                 | No School – Columbus Day   |
| Wednesday, October 14                              | Half Day of School - PSAT, Explore Testing   |
| Thursday, October 15                               | Half Day of School – PLAN Testing  |
| October 15-17                                      | STUNTS   |
| Friday, October 16                                 | Lunch with Brad 11:45 am Room A217   |
| Wednesday, October 21                              | Junior Class Parent Meeting College Entrance Tests 7 pm  |
| Monday, November 2                                 | PTO Meeting 9:30 am Room A217  |
| Wednesday, November 11                             | No School – Veterans Day   |
| Wednesday, November 18                             | Junior & Parents Kickoff to College Applications 7-9 Auditorium                                      |
| <b>Friday, Nov. 20 –<br/>RESCHEDULED TO DEC. 4</b> | Lunch with Brad 11:45 am Room A217   |
| Tuesday, November 24                               | Grandparents' Day  |
| November 25-28                                     | No School - Thanksgiving   |

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BAND CONCERT PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> HAS BEEN CHANGED TO MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> AT 2 PM.**

# Letter from our Principal

Dear HPHS Families:

As I begin my “sophomore year” at Highland Park High School, I am encouraged about the wonderful possibilities that this upcoming school year will hold.

While I anxiously anticipate all of the great successes that will occur by our students and staff, it leads me to ask...

*What challenging conversations will emerge in each classroom as our faculty and students engage in meaningful teaching and learning? What student leadership will develop as the Class of 2010 establish their place at HPHS? What athletic success stories will be written as students and coaches commit and prepare for victory? What musical and dramatic performances will capture the hearts and minds of the audience? What thoughtful charitable efforts will make a positive difference for others? What new spirit and pride will grow in the hearts of students, staff, and the Highland Park community?* I enthusiastically embrace the fresh, new, and exciting opportunities that this school year will offer.

As we continue to nurture, value, and respect our HPHS community, and the wide variety of people that contribute to it, I am excited about increasing our attention as a staff upon the topic of *collaboration*. This will be my focus for the 2009-10 school year. I believe effective collaboration is vital to the health of a successful community. Our HPHS community will continue to grow in our ability to seek various perspectives, hold meaningful dialogue, and achieve successful results. The emphasis on collaboration will permeate through all aspects of HPHS life and further our abilities to value, support, and utilize the most important resource HPHS has to offer - our people.

I strongly believe that the formula for high school success requires active participation and strong communication from home, school, and student. It is this trio of efforts and responsibilities that make the high school experience best for all those involved. We all want to achieve the same vision of a healthy, happy, young adult equipped with the knowledge and skills for success. This goal can be realized when home, school, and student collaboratively work together. Each is accountable for their own role and responsibility while being supportive and understanding of the others. Highland Park High School values deeply this partnership and I encourage you to become involved in the life of your son/daughter’s high school career. One avenue of collaboration for you may be a parent organization such as our PTO, the Giants Club Athletic Boosters, or our various Fine Arts Booster Clubs. Please contact the HPHS Main Office at 224-765-2000 for more information about these organizations.

I look forward to working with you throughout this school year.

Go Giants!  
Brad

# Letter from our PTO President

Dear HPHS Parents and Guardians –

Greetings from the PTO and a special welcome to everyone new to HPHS! As I write this, we are enjoying such glorious August weather that it is hard to believe that the beginning of school is only a few weeks away. Although school has been on vacation, the work of the PTO has been continuing all summer long. There are many people to thank for their efforts.

First of all, a big thank you to YOU for joining the PTO. Your dues, contributions and support of our CheckAwards fundraiser make the work of the PTO possible. Because of you, the PTO is able to provide funding for school enhancements, scholarships, student clubs and activities, the Health Fair, Focus on the Arts, parent education events, receptions for our students and staff, and so much more.

Thank you also for volunteering to work on our committees; none of what we do would be possible without hours of volunteer commitment. Many of our committees have been busy over the summer, and there are many people to thank for their efforts, including the following committee chairs: *Membership* – Beth Conen; *Parent Directory* – Bonnie Shay; *Parent Directory Ads* – Kim Schwartz and Mary Snower; *Parent Directory Calendar* – Allyson Rose; *Parent Directory Distribution* - Lynne Reisner, Susan Wagner, Tanya Schwartz, Robyn Berman and Nadine Preskill; *Book Sale* – Dawn Breiter, Debbie Wilneff, Kim Levy, Sheri Warsh, Marjie Shapiro, Katherine Lederer, Eydie Sternberg, Gail Boorstein, Mindy Sterns, Jill Saltzberg, Marjie Sandlow, Kim Schwartz, Josi Rein, Sheila Gutman, Elissa Halpern, and Sarah Leibman; *CheckAward Fundraising* – Marjie Sandlow and Kim Schwartz; *Freshman Lunch* – Michelle Appelbaum and Julia Danecker; *Hospitality* – Michelle Appelbaum, Nancy Jacobson and Olivia Paitich; and *Fine Arts* – Deb Weil, Julie Hainsfurther, Liz Meyer, Caryn Suber, Heidi Kirsch and Amy Curzi. Thank you to everyone who will help our kids buy their books, feed lunch to the freshmen, provide dinner to the staff and snacks to the parents at Open House, hand out Parent Directories, sell CheckAwards and hang art over the next few weeks. And a special thank you to our newsletter editor, Sheri Warsh, who helps keep everyone informed about what is going on with the PTO and at HPHS.

Finally, a huge thank you to Jody Weinberg for implementing our new PTO registration website. Our membership drive has been a great success and it went smoothly thanks to Jody's work on the website.

Please join us for our monthly meetings to stay informed and involved during the year. The first Lunch with Brad will be Friday, September 4 at 11:45 am in Room A217; bring your lunch and your questions for our principal, Brad Swanson. The first PTO meeting of the year will take place on Monday, September 14 at 9:30 am in Room A217. I hope to see you there.

From all of us on the PTO Executive Board, best wishes for a great school year. If I can ever be of any assistance to you, I hope you will let me know. See you at school!

Beth Shapiro Kopin  
eask@comcast.net  
847-926-0838

## **Fine Arts Committee**

The PTO Fine Arts Committee is proud to present the work of 2 artists in the HPHS Library Foyer September 8th through the end of October. This will be the first exhibit of the 2009/2010 school year.

Pamela Olin's sculptures feature 3-dimensional "painting" with molten steel and they range in size from 9"-52" tall. She explains the "sculptures are about how we disperse our energy, how we affect life around us. Everything we touch we influence, our very presence changes the world. Just as we affect the world, the world has an effect on us. Energy flows both ways. Life is a journey with ebbs and flows. Go with the flow."

Kerry Mulvania Hirth's works are synesthetic paintings -- she illustrates music she hears in colors. She has chosen these specific pieces of music to paint because of the harmonies and boundaries of each piece. "When people see my work I'd like them to feel like they are a part of it. That somehow, my code, my language and the privacy it offers can show them things they haven't seen or make them a part of something beautiful that won't disappear, that they can come back to and explore."

Please stop by to view these amazing works of art.

## **Graduation 2010**

Graduation 2010 festivities are held in the evening after the graduation ceremony. It's a wonderful night that includes lots of great activities. Any parents interested in volunteering please contact Julie Kraff at [jdkraff123@mindspring.com](mailto:jdkraff123@mindspring.com) or Liz Copeland at [eecopeland@comcast.net](mailto:eecopeland@comcast.net).

Looking forward to another successful graduation.

## **Pesticide Applications**

Highland Park High School has a long tradition of maintaining a safe and clean environment for its students and staff. Our facility is regulated and visited frequently by the State of Illinois Regional Office of Education and the Lake County Board of Health.

At certain times during the year we do apply pesticides as part of the maintenance of our physical education and athletic fields.

On occasion, we also do spot applications of pesticides inside the building, such as in the case of a bee's nest or a minor ant problem.



Regular spraying is not part of our procedure.

Our applicators are state certified and all applications are made during unoccupied times, either late evening or early morning.

Any parent, guardian, student or staff member wishing to receive written notification of any pesticide application should contact Mark Koopman, HPHS Building Manager, at (224) 765-2031 or [mkoopman@dist113.org](mailto:mkoopman@dist113.org).

# Fall School Events

2009

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| <b>Yearbook Photos</b>  |   |   |
| <p>We welcome Stuart-Rodgers (SR Image) as our new school photographer. Yearbook pictures are taken during check-in before the start of school for all Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen. ID pictures will be taken for seniors. Information regarding the purchase of school pictures will be mailed from Stuart-Rodgers during the summer. Students should bring their purchase forms and payment to check-in in August. Students who miss their portrait sitting will have an opportunity to have their picture taken the first week of school. A picture is required of all students; however a purchase is not required to be in the yearbook. Student ID's will be made using the yearbook picture and distributed on the first day of school.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>Stuart-Rodgers – SR Image</b><br/> <b>Senior Portraits</b><br/> <b>Summer – October 1</b><br/> <b>By Appointment</b><br/> <b>1580 Old Skokie Road</b><br/> <b>Highland Park, IL 60035</b><br/> <b>312.787.8696 Underclass Portraits</b><br/> <b>Check-in – August 19-21</b><br/> <b>8:30 AM – 12:00 PM</b></p> </div>  </div> <p><b>Make-up: August 26, 27</b><br/> <b>Retakes: September 23</b></p> <p>All senior portraits for the yearbook will need to be taken at the Highland Park Studio. Students may call the above number to schedule a summer appointment. In order to meet production deadlines, portraits for seniors will not be taken after October 1<sup>st</sup>. If interested in placing a baby picture of your senior in the yearbook and supporting the yearbook– please see the form on-line. Please note the November deadline.</p> |   |   |
| <b>Freshman Tailgate</b><br><b>August 28</b>  | 6 – 7 PM<br>Before Football Game          | Free  |
| <p>This is a great event to celebrate becoming an HPHS GIANT! Students are invited to enjoy music, hot dogs, and new friends from the Class of 2013. Freshman Board Sponsors and Link Crew leaders will be hosting the event. The tailgate will be held at Wolters Stadium South Field.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Homecoming 2009 - GIANT MADNESS!</i></b><br/> <b><i>HPHS competes in the final four games.</i></b></p>   |   |   |
| <b>Homecoming Window Painting</b><br><b>October 1</b>   | 3:30 – 4:30 PM                            | Free  |
| <p>Kick off Homecoming week by decorating the school. Clubs and teams register to paint the windows and share their enthusiasm for the upcoming weeks' events. Please note that this event is the Thursday evening before Homecoming Week!</p>  |   |   |
| <b>Spirit Dress-Up Days/Special Activities</b><br><b>October 5 - 9</b>  | All Week<br>Prizes/Trivia                 | Friday – Special BBQ<br>Lunch Periods             |
| <p>Show your school spirit by participating in each theme day. Listen to the daily announcements for each theme day or check the website for information after school begins. Join the parade to Wolters Field at 5:30 PM, on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.</p>  |   |   |
| <b>Homecoming Dinner/Dance</b><br><b>October 10</b>   | 7:30 – 10:30 PM<br>Time may change        | \$35 per person<br>Additional info will be shared |
| <p>The dinner/dance is our largest event of the year. The exhibition gym atmosphere is festive and oriented toward the theme chosen for the week. Generally students attend in large groups and enjoy the entire evening at the dance. Ticket price covers a buffet dinner and entertainment for the evening. Students are encouraged to attend in nice casual attire or in costume to fit the theme of the event. Tickets will be available for purchase at the end of September. All students will be required to register on-line along with any guests to purchase a ticket(s).</p>   |   |   |
| <b>Senior Grandparents Day</b><br><b>November 25</b>  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> Periods | Free  |
| <p>The Class of 2010 is invited to bring their grandparents for the day. A special continental breakfast begins third period and ends with a wonderful concert seventh period. Grandparents shadow their grandchild during the remaining periods. All grandparents will receive A's! Registration Forms are available now on-line. The Student Activities Office is accepting registration now – mid Nov.</p>   |   |   |

## 2009-2010 Additional Events

Yearbook Picture Retakes – September 23  
MORP for Class of 2011 – TBD?  
Charity Drive – January 29 – February 26  
Battle of the Bands – January 30

Valentine's Day Dance – February 12  
School Dance/Event (formally Winter Formal) – March 6  
Senior Citizen Prom – April 17  
Prom – Class of 2010 – May 15



[www.dist113.org/hphs](http://www.dist113.org/hphs)

for the most accurate calendar information

## Frequently Asked Activity Questions

### Where can I find information regarding extra-curricular activities?

Information about upcoming activities and athletic events, including club meeting times and their locations, is in the daily announcements. Students hear the daily announcements during period 3, and copies of the announcements are generally posted in the teachers' classrooms, e-mailed daily to students and e-mailed home. Parents and students are encouraged to check daily announcements and the school calendar on the school website. A student may also e-mail or call the sponsor to ask about specific information. Students are also encouraged to read the flyers posted on the student information bulletin boards. Students are encouraged to check their school e-mail accounts regularly for notification about special opportunities and upcoming activities.

### What if I was unable to attend the activities fair?

The activities fair is only a glimpse into the many great things HPHS has to offer. If you were unable to express interest at the fair, there are still plenty of opportunities to become involved by following the information listed above. Feel free to contact the sponsor directly if you have any questions.

### What happens after I signed up for something at the activities fair?

Your signature indicates to the group your interest only. Your signature does not commit you to attend any meetings or events held by the group. Some groups use the sheet as a resource to contact interested students, and other groups use the list as a way to gauge incoming interest and the strategies they need to plan for cultivating new members. Signing up or missing a sign-up does not include or exclude you as a potential member.

### What if our family cannot afford for my child to participate in an activity or attend an event?

All students are given the same opportunity for participation in all extra-curricular activities. The PTO, through the Counseling Department, makes full or partial scholarship funding available. All requests are handled discreetly and should begin by speaking with your child's counselor. The counselor will contact the appropriate department chair or director for information regarding participation. Scholarship applications are available for all traditional school dances.

### What do I need to know about school events?

All school events are open to Highland Park High School students. To encourage individual as well as group participation, only single tickets are sold for dances. Students are expected to arrive within one hour of the beginning of the event and remain until the event ends. For special dances, we ask that parents keep the dance as the main focus of the evening.

The following rules apply at all dances and other school sponsored events.

- School sponsored activities are planned for Highland Park High School students only unless it is an event for which tickets are sold in advance. Students who wish to bring a guest to a school event must register that guest in the Activities Office at least three days prior to the event.
- All students must present a valid student ID card to gain admittance to the dance or event.
- All school rules apply at dances and other school sponsored events, whether on or off campus.
- Appropriate dress is expected at all dances and other school sponsored events.
- Students enter and exit through the doors to the North Parking Lot, unless advised otherwise in advance.
- All students must arrive within one hour of the beginning of a dance, unless the school announces different expectations for a specific dance.  
Exception: Students must arrive within 30 minutes of the beginning of a post-game dance. Students should make any late arrival plans prior at least two days in advance with the Activities Director.
- Inappropriate dancing and other activities deemed unsafe by dance supervisors are not allowed.
- Students who leave a dance for any reason may not re-enter.

### When is it appropriate to contact other parents of children attending school events with my child?

Any time is appropriate. Parents should be aware of the plans their child is making. When your child makes new friends, parents are encouraged to contact the friends' parents to introduce yourselves and open a line of communication. Before a get-together, parents are encouraged to call the host parent to confirm plans. For special events involving transportation to the school and other destinations, please confirm who is responsible for getting your child to the event and back home, in addition to who will be supervising during the time en route.