



HIGHLAND PARK HIGH SCHOOL

PTO NEWSLETTER

November, 2008

Deadlines for the rest of the school year are March 16 & May 26. Please e-mail articles or flyers to Sheri Warsh, Newsletter Editor sheriwarsh@aol.com

Looking Ahead ...Dates & times are subject to change. For more information, please check: www.dist113.org

Saturday, November 15	Winter Athletic Parent Meeting 8-9 am Student Cafeteria Winter Athletic Pictures 10-11 am MORP HPHS & DHS Junior Class Dance 7-10 pm Ex. Gym
Monday, November 17	Junior Parent Meeting – Kick off to College Applications 7-9 Auditorium
Tuesday, November 25	Grandparents Day
November 26-28	No School – Thanksgiving
December 4-6	The Laramie Project – Studio Theatre
Friday, December 5	Lunch with Brad 11:45-12:45 am Room A217
Saturday, December 6	SAT Testing
December 11 & December 12	Pack the Place
Thursday, December 11	Winter Band Concert 7-9 pm Auditorium
Saturday, December 13	ACT Testing
Monday, December 15	PTO Meeting 9:15-10:15 am Room A217 Choral/Chamber Orchestra Concert 7-9 pm Auditorium
Wednesday, December 17	Sophomores and Parents – Interpreting PLAN Scores 7-8:30 pm Auditorium
December 22 – January 2	Winter Break
Wednesday, January 7	Spring Club Pictures 8-9 am Ex. Gym
Friday, January 9	Lunch with Brad 11:45-12:45 am Room A217
Monday, January 19	No School – Martin Luther King’s Birthday
January 21-23	Final Exams
Monday, January 26	No School – Institute Day
Tuesday, January 27	Charity Drive Opening Assembly 10:30-11:45 am Auditorium
Wednesday, January 28	PTO Parent Education Night
Saturday, January 31	Battle of the Bands 7-10 pm Ex Gym
Wednesday, February 4	Juniors: College Planning 101 8-9 am
Friday, February 6	Lunch with Brad 11:45-12:45 am Room A217 Valentines Day Dance 7-10 pm Cafeteria
Monday, February 9	PTO Meeting 9:15-10:15 am Room A217
February 12 – February 14	Rent - Auditorium
Tuesday, February 17	No School – Institute Day
Thursday, February 19	All City Band and Orchestra Festival
Saturday, February 21	Winter Formal
Monday, February 23	Sophomores, Juniors and Parents – Exploring College 7-9 Auditorium
Monday, March 2	No School – Casimir Pulaski’s Birthday
Friday, March 6	Lunch with Brad 11:45-12:45 am Room A217
March 12- March 14	Dance Concert Auditorium
Saturday, March 14	SAT Testing
Monday, March 16	PTO Meeting 7:30-9 pm Room A217 PTO Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, March 17	Sophomores, Juniors and Parents – Introduction to Highly Selective Colleges 7:30-9:30 pm DH
Wednesday, March 18	Winter Sports Award Night
Thursday, March 19	Percussion Show

Letter from our Principal

Dear Parents:

We are *all* still learning...

Possibly, one of the greatest secrets as to why Highland Park High School is highly successful can be found in the fact that the adults in our school value their own learning and model for our students the traits of being life-long learners. We are very fortunate to work in a district that values and supports continued professional development. In all areas of our organization, we are challenged to reflect, identify areas of improvement, and implement changes to better serve our students. In fact, our district's second guiding principle addresses this directly – "*We seek new information and use our discoveries to change understanding.*"

Opportunities for professional development can take many forms. A number of staff members are actively involved in national and state level associations that provide valuable workshops and conferences. These associations offer a tremendous amount of support and guidance as they promote current best practices for topics such as curriculum development, instructional strategy implementation, assessment and data analysis, and building a positive school climate. Many HPHS staff members are leaders in their respective state associations as they engage in professional dialogues, enhance their own learning, network with successful colleagues, and through it all, proudly represent Highland Park High School.

Other professional development opportunities occur locally as we create learning activities for Institute Days and Collaboration Days (each Wednesday). These events are very successful because they are planned by our own staff members to address the current issues and topics that directly impact student learning. These times are also used to support our school-wide *Inquiry Process*. At HPHS, all staff members have developed a question – either collaboratively or individually – that will help guide their professional work. A sample question might be, "How can I improve feedback to students in order to help them gain more responsibility for their own learning." This question then becomes the basis for their specific professional development. The Inquiry Process allows HPHS teachers to study issues that are relevant and meaningful to their own classrooms while still being a part of a common process that supports school-wide improvements.

I am truly inspired to work with a highly professional staff that never stops learning. One reason for the tremendous success *inside* our classrooms is the hard work of our staff *outside* the classroom as they plan, prepare, learn, and grow. Engaging classrooms, successful students, and a positive school climate don't just happen. They are the result of many thoughtful decisions made each day by caring, intelligent educators. I am proud that our collective emphasis on professional development continues to play a critical role in our success.

So, after an Institute or Collaboration Day, or the next time you hear of a teacher attending a workshop, I encourage you to ask what was learned. I think you'll be impressed, as you are reminded that our teachers are learners too.

Go Giants!

Brad

Letter from our PTO President

Dear Parents,

Our PTO has been very busy since the last newsletter – I want to thank all of our committees for their hard work. Many thanks to our Hospitality committee – *Kitty Fishman, Cynthia Hara, Lori Hill, Sarah Liebman & Elissa Halpern* -- for their contributions during Open House – the teacher dinner was wonderful and the spread they provided to our parents was amazing. Many thanks to all the parents who baked for that evening! Our Fine Arts Committee – *Deb Weil, Julie Hainsfurther, Marie-Andree Laberge, Polly Richter, Caryn Suber & Julie Stempel* --has hung a terrific exhibit and is planning many more for the rest of the year. The Shoreline Committee – headed by *Nancy Koenig & Carol Wolfe* – has distributed the first issue of the Shoreline, and you wouldn't be reading this newsletter if it weren't for our wonderful newsletter editor, *Sheri Warsh*, and our Giant Hugs editor, *Julie Kraff*. Our School Board Liaisons, *Sharon Stein, Diane Moore, Caryl Aronson & Nancy Jacobson* are doing a great job letting us know what is happening at the school board meetings and in the district. And many thanks to *Lynda Erf & Anne Macknin* for their Weekend Update column in the school announcements. And a HUGE thanks to the PTO executive committee, *Susan Berk, Beth Shapiro Kopin, Marjie Sandlow, Beth Conen, Amy Perlmutter, Carrie Codell, Amy Kaufman & Janna Berk*, for making everything run so smoothly!

There is still time to join the PTO, a membership form enclosed in this newsletter. The money we raise through our membership dues supports many programs in our school. We provide funding for school enhancements, scholarships, parent education programs, student clubs and activities, receptions, the Health Fair, Focus on the Arts, newsletters, the parent directory and much more. I thank all of you for your support!

I want to remind everyone to attend our monthly PTO meetings and Lunch with the Brad. These meetings are a great way to hear what is going on at the school. Our PTO meetings always feature a guest presenter and are very informative.

Thank you for your support of the PTO!

Jody Weinberg

Giant Hugs

Best Wishes and Thank you

Best Wishes from the PTO to Jim Sorrentino, Head of Maintenance, on his retirement. We thank him for all his help through the years!

Student Achievements

Abigail Krumbein was the winner of the 2008 National Council of Teachers of English Awards for Superior Writing by High School Students.

Congratulations to the cast, crew and orchestra of Stunts ever After for starting off the HPHS theatre season with a winner!

Hispanos Unidos Club

A Giant Hug goes to the members of the Hispanos Unidos Club for good citizenship. On September 20th, eighteen students volunteered to help clear litter from the shorelines of Lake Michigan as part of the annual "adopt a beach cleanup".

Debate

Congratulations to the entire Highland Park Debate team on a great 1st tournament at St. Charles East. The following students places in their chambers:

Evelina Yarmit - 1st
Brock Edelman – 1st

Sam Fishman – 2nd
Danny Ginzburg – 2nd

Jared Molk – 3rd

HPHS Fall Athletes

Congratulations to all Highland Park Giant athletes on a great fall season!

Math Team

Our HPHS Math Team placed 1st in the first competition of the year in the North Suburban Mathematics League. Congratulations to the following HPHS students (all with perfect papers): Alana Lidawer, David Braun, Eric Emer and Pranay Mathur.

HPHS Students Named To Illinois Music Educators Association District VII Music Festivals

The following HPHS students auditioned for and earned membership into the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) District VII ensembles: Julia Belsky, Chorus, Soprano II; Lindsay Goldstein, Chorus, Soprano II; Cheryl Graff, Chorus, Alto I; Sarah Greene, Chorus, Alto II; Sarah Greene, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Alto; Lainie Liebman, Chorus, Soprano I; Roberto Astudillo, Band; Maggie Grossman, Band; J.J. Sechan, Band; Michael Solotke, Band; Kevin Stevens, Band; Zach Weiner, Band; Aaron Shapiro, Jazz Band; Michael Solotke, Jazz Band; Kevin Stevens, Jazz Band; Zach Weiner, Jazz Band; Jonas Tarm, Violin; Sarah Greene, Viola; Benjamin Fried, Cello; and Leora Sherman, Cello. They will perform in the district festivals in November where they will work with leading university music professors in a day of rehearsals and performances.

Announcements

Attention All 8th Grade Parents

Incoming 8th graders who would like to be considered for placement in Physics Honors need to take a placement exam on Saturday, January 10th at 9am. A make up will be available on Tuesday, January 13th for students who have conflicts with the Saturday date. Please mark your calendars now. More details will follow in a mailing home.

Attention All Junior Parents

Is your junior interested in traveling to **Washington DC** for a week to explore and experience the inner workings of our country's government?

Does he/she want to learn more about the exciting opportunities available to **all juniors** during this close-up look at our nation's government and its capital city?



Student Informational Meetings will be conducted on:
TUESDAY (11/18) during **periods 5, 6, 7, and at 3:15 PM** in
Room A233 (Assistant Principals' Office)

Questions? Contact Ms. Misfeldt in the Social Studies department by **TUESDAY (11/25)**
to learn more about the **CLOSE-UP** program and its details.
Genevieve Misfeldt: gmisfeldt@dist113.org 224-765-2297

HPHS Choirs and Chamber Orchestra to present a Winter Concert

The Highland Park High School Auditorium will be the site for the annual Winter Concert presented by the members of the H.P.H.S. Choirs and Chamber Orchestra. The December 15th concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. and feature the Concert Choir, Treble Ensemble, Swing Choir, Madrigal Singers, Chorale, and the select Chamber Orchestra. Directors Sheri Owens and Stephen Hobson will lead the groups in a variety of music that will present the audience with a wonderful display of student talent.

The conclusion of the program will feature the Chorale and Chamber Orchestra as they join their talents to present selected choruses from Franz Schubert's *Mass No. 2 in G Major*.

The concert is free to the public.

HPHS Mock Trial Team

The HPHS Mock Trial Team began the 2008-09 season with 32 students trying-out for the team. In the end, 12 new members (2 seniors, 4 sophomores, 6 freshman) joined the 12 returning members team for a total of 24 mock trial-ers.

On November 4, the Illinois State Bar Association released the mock trial case for this year. Recent ISBA cases involved situations with teenagers such as bullying, vandalism, and academic honesty. In honor of the celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday in February of 2009, the ISBA adapted the famous "Almanac Trial," a murder case which Lincoln tried in 1857. In the case, a witness for the prosecution testified that he witnessed a nighttime argument between the defendant and victim—a full moon providing full visibility. Lincoln used a *Farmer's Almanac* to discredit the witness and the jury acquitted the defendant. During regional and state competitions (January through March 2009), HP Mock Trial will alternate between prosecution and defense. The HP Mock Trial Team embraces the challenge and looks forward to another successful season.

HPHS PTO Fine Art Committee

The HPHS PTO Fine Art Committee is pleased to present its first exhibition of the year: The Sabbatical Work of Blake and Melinda Novotny. Blake teaches graphic design at the High School and also coaches girls' soccer. The artists have provided made this statement about their work and the exhibition:

"For the past seven years, we have been art educators at large high schools in the metropolitan Chicago area. Throughout our years of teaching art, we seldom found time to create our own artwork. We have always talked about the possibility of traveling, pursuing art, and learning a new language together in another country. After careful consideration and much research, we chose Buenos Aires, Argentina as our new home for a year. We knew that, by experiencing a new culture, a new lifestyle, and a new language, we would find many unique inspirations. We applied for a one year sabbatical and a leave from our teaching positions and made this dream a reality.

During the time that we had in South America, we developed a variety of artworks. We feel our art highlights the culture, people, and places of South America as we see them through the lens of our camera. Our paintings, drawings, and collage-style works are derived from our photography. We have incorporated found objects and local materials into much of our art as well."

The exhibit is currently on display in the Library Gallery and foyer and will be on display through the beginning of December.

Focus on the Arts

Focus on the Arts (April 27 – April 30, 2009) is up and running. There are hundreds of volunteers already hard at work. A special thank you to all who helped with the mailing campaign. This huge job was completed in just one day! Focus depends on the generosity of our whole community. We appreciate any support you can give. Next up: Sign up forms to volunteer during the days of Focus will be mailed out after the first of the year.

Key Club

Key Club has been very busy this year! Every week, we have Escuelita, an activity where club members assist Spanish-speaking children with homework, as well as read with them. We have regularly participated in multiple activities bimonthly – Tricon, reading and playing with preschool-age children, and Senior Connections, an activity where Key Clubbers chat and interact with senior citizens at Sunrise Assisted Living. In addition, we have gone to Hilda's Place, a church in Evanston where participants cook for and serve thirty to forty people living at the church's shelter temporarily. Along with our regular activities, we have had fundraising activities for Key Club, as well as Kiwanis, involving pizza sales, bake sales, and the traditional Peanut Day for Kiwanis. We have dedicated each month to a different cause. In October, forty-five members participated in the 'Walk for Hope' to raise awareness of and money for breast cancer. Key Club raised \$1714. We also trick-or-treated for UNICEF and organized a drive for diapers for 'Right Start,' an organization that provides counseling and monetary support for Spanish-speaking families who have children under the age of five. We are gearing up for November, when we will focus on The Sunshine Foundation, a charity dedicated to Progeria, a disease which causes young children to age at an extremely rapid rate. We will also participate in a dance with CEC, Council for Exceptional Children, and will continue to do service all around the community. Thanks for your support!

Abigail Krumbein
Co-publicity chair, Key Club

Parent Education Night

****SAVE THE DATE**** for PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT: Wednesday, January 28, 2009, at 7:30 p.m
"R U Online....or Out of Touch? Raising Teens in a Digital World," the impact of technology on teens and their families.

Science News

Do you have a child interested in Science? Shannon Bain, the science department chair, regularly sends out information about voluntary experiences in which students can participate. Recently a group of six students visited Fermi Lab for the Sixth Annual Symposium on the Nature of Science while other students are getting involved in the Fairchild Challenge, an environmental contest hosted by the Chicago Botanic Garden. Please email Shannon Bain (sbain@dist113.org) about your child's interest and she will add their name to the list of students receiving information via student email.

State Transportation Reimbursement Available

Parent(s) or legal guardians of Highland Park High School students may be eligible to receive partial reimbursement of transportation expenses for the 2008-09 school year. If you live less than 1-1/2 miles from school and you transport your pupil to school **due to a serious safety hazard caused by vehicular traffic**, you may qualify for this reimbursement. To determine if you qualify for this reimbursement, you must complete an **Application for Determination of Serious Safety Hazard**. The application packet and instructions for completing it may be obtained at the office of the Regional Superintendent of Schools in Grayslake or downloaded at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/safe_hazard_app_instruct.pdf. The completed application must be returned to that office no later than February 1, 2009.

Township High School District 113 Summer School 2009 Information

Summer School Location: Deerfield High School
1959 N. Waukegan Rd
Deerfield, IL 60015

First day of school: Monday, June 15
Last day of school: Friday, July 24
Closed: Friday, July 3

1st Semester courses end: Thursday, July 2
2nd Semester courses begin: Monday, July 6

- Visit our summer school website anytime. Go to www.dist113.org and click on the “Summer School” link on the left side of the screen to view/print information as it becomes available.
- Our brochure will be available ONLINE ONLY by the end of February.
- Our ONLINE Registration and Credit Card Payment Programs for courses and free bus service will be available by the end of March for District 113 students only. You will need your student I.D. number, a current email address and either a Visa or Master Card to register online. Please check the brochure for more details about this program when it becomes available.
- Bus routes will be developed for District 113 students only who have REGISTERED ONLINE for the free bus service by the deadline indicated on the brochure. Non-Resident students are not eligible for this service.

The District 113 Foundation invites you to the
U.S. PREMIERE OF THE HIT MUSICAL, *DIRTY DANCING*
At Broadway in Chicago's Cadillac Palace Theatre
Direct from London—Sunday, December 7, 2008, 2:00pm



Dirty Dancing – The Classic Story On Stage is a coming of age love story involving the talented and headstrong dancer Johnny Castle and Frances "Baby" Houseman. During her family's summer vacation at the popular Kellerman's resort, Baby, a doctor's daughter with dreams of joining the Peace Corps, meets Johnny, the guy from the wrong side of the tracks. Against all odds, they fall in love, learning life-changing lessons along the way. Featuring favorite songs like the Academy Award-winning "I've Had) The Time Of My Life," "Hungry Eyes," "Hey Baby" and "Do You Love Me?"

"The hottest ticket in town."
Evening Standard
 – Emma Forbes

 VIP Orchestra Seats @ \$250 = \$ _____
 Orchestra Seats @ \$150 = \$ _____
 Dress Circle @ \$125 = \$ _____
 Student Ticket (Mid Balcony) @ \$ 40 = \$ _____

We have a limited number of additional orchestra seats to be sold on a first-come, first-served basis at a reduced price.

Orchestra Seats: _____ @ \$100 = \$ _____

Would like to support the District 113 Foundation \$ _____

TOTAL = \$ _____

Make check payable to: District 113 Foundation and mail to:

District 113 Foundation, 1040 Park Avenue West, Highland Park, IL 60035

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

For Credit Card Purchase: (circle one) Visa MasterCard:

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Cardholder's Signature (required for credit card payment): _____

QUESTIONS??? dirtydancing@dist113.org 224-765-1080



This Foundation Event is Generously Sponsored by NorthSide Community Bank