



HIGHLAND PARK HIGH SCHOOL

PTO NEWSLETTER

March, 2010

Newsletters will be available electronically to PTO member families. The deadline for the final issue of this school year is **May 24**. Please e-mail articles or flyers to Sheri Warsh, Newsletter Editor at sheriwarsh@llegal.com.

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

March 29 - April 5	Spring Break
Monday, April 12	PTO Meeting 7:30 pm A217
Tuesday, April 13	Holocaust Remembrance Day
Wednesday, April 14	Junior Parent Meeting: Financial Aid and Scholarships 7 pm Auditorium
Friday, April 16	EKG Testing, 8 am Exhibition Gym
Saturday, April 17	Senior Citizen Prom 6 pm
Monday, April 20	Health Fair
Wednesday, April 21	Giants Club Meeting 8 pm A217
Thursday, April 22	HPHS Honor Society Induction 7 pm Auditorium
Friday, April 23	Lunch with Brad 7:15 am and 11:45 am A217 Jazz Night 7 pm Cafeteria
April 28 and April 29	Senior Class Picture (April 28) AM: Junior PSAE Testing (April 28) and ½ Day Inservice (April 29) PM: Classes for all Students
Friday, April 30	Cinco De Mayo College Bowl
April 30 – May 1	Spring Play
Sunday, May 2	Band Concert 2 pm
May 3 – May 14	AP Exams
Tuesday, May 4	Honors Vocal Recital 3:30 pm E117
Wednesday, May 5	Summer Camp and Fall Athletic Parent Meeting 7 pm Auditorium
Friday, May 7	PTO Staff Appreciation Day
Tuesday, May 11	Choral Concert 7 pm Auditorium
Thursday, May 13	Sophomores & Parents – Anticipating College Planning 7 pm Auditorium
Friday, May 14	Lunch with Brad 7:15 am and 11:45 am A217
Monday, May 17	Orchestra Concert 7 pm Auditorium
Wednesday, May 19	Giants Club Meeting 8 pm A217
Thursday, May 20	Honors Night 7:30 pm Auditorium
Saturday, May 22	Prom
Wednesday, May 26	Graduation
May 28 – May 29	Short Play Festival Studio Theatre
Monday, May 31	NO SCHOOL – MEMORIAL DAY
June 7 – June 9	Final Exams
Thursday, June 10	NO SCHOOL – INSTITUTE DAY
Friday, June 11	Last Day of School

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CINCO DE MAYO COLLEGE BOWL
HAS BEEN MOVED FROM MAY 7TH TO APRIL 30TH**

Letter from our Principal

I am so proud that Highland Park High School provides opportunities for our students to achieve academic excellence while also helping others. We believe our learning environment is improved by maintaining a balance of encouraging high standards and developing a generous spirit.

Through the efforts of Highland Park High School's collective partnerships and support of our local businesses, numerous student and staff fundraisers, and countless generous personal donations, our Charity Drive was amazingly successful in generating over \$209,000 this year. This donation to Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America will be used to further support years of research to improve so many lives. I offer my thanks to Student Senate who worked tirelessly throughout the year to create this successful program. Beyond the money raised, I have been uniquely inspired by the sense of community and generosity created by this event. We are extremely grateful for the support and enthusiasm given to this project by the community as whole, and we encourage all of you to be a part of our efforts next year.

While HPHS is a comprehensive high school with many different opportunities outside of our classrooms, our daily work continues to focus on academic achievement. One of the many assessment tools that we use to evaluate student performance is the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) which will be taken by all juniors on April 28 and 29. The PSAE is comprised of the ACT Exam (Day One) and the Work Keys Exam (Day Two). The ACT Exam is a college entrance exam and the Work Keys Exam evaluates reading and mathematic skills as required in common workplace environments.

The federal initiative of No Child Left Behind requires HPHS to use the PSAE results to determine the percentage of Junior students each year that meet or exceed performance standards (approximately 80% currently at HPHS). The PSAE data also informs us of how student sub-groups are performing. We continue to use this data to make informed revisions and improvements to our curricular programs. As the PSAE may be a stressful experience for our Juniors, it proves to be a valuable tool allowing HPHS to continue our goal of achieving academic excellence.

If you have questions about No Child Left Behind legislation, the Prairie State Achievement Exam, or our successful Charity Drive, please feel free to call at 224.765.2001.

Thank you for your continued support of all the great efforts of our students and staff at HPHS.

Go Giants!

Brad

Letter from our PTO President

Dear HPHS Parents and Guardians –

Greetings from the PTO! Spring is definitely on its ways and I feel as if the school year is beginning to zip towards its conclusion. The work of the PTO is keeping up! Many thanks to all of our committee chairs and members who keep our programs moving along. A special thanks to Sue Libowsky, Kathy Sonnenthal and the members of the Parent Education Committee for a great program in January. A big thank you to Corrine Bronson-Adatto and Karen Braun for not only chairing the Health Fair this year but also for taking on organizing the Max Schewitz Foundation EKG testing about which you will be hearing a lot over the next few weeks. This valuable program requires a lot of volunteers to make it happen and I hope you will help if you can.

Last fall, we added a number of Lunches with Brad at times other than 11:45 am to accommodate parents who might not be able to attend at that time. Our test program was successful and we have added a second time either early in the morning or late in the afternoon to each of the remaining Lunch dates through the rest of this year. Please be sure to check our updated calendar if these times are better for you.

The PTO has been busy distributing the money that our members help us raise through our dues, donations and fundraising. In December, we committed to a gift of \$40,000 that is being used to jumpstart our school's plans to introduce Promethean board technology into our classrooms. The gift will also be used to add to the number of projectors already installed in some classrooms. I hope that you will be able to join us at our next PTO meeting on Monday, April 12 at 7:30 pm when we will see the technology in action and hear from a teacher about how it is changing what happens in our classrooms.

We have also just completed a grants cycle that distributed almost \$10,000 to faculty and staff and over \$1500 to student clubs and activities in support of their spring events. Over the next few months, we will also be providing financial assistance to students to allow them to participate in various school events and scholarships to graduating seniors.

The next time I write to you, it will be in our summer newsletter and I will be asking you again to join the PTO and support our fundraisers. I hope that you will keep in mind all the good that your support in terms of time and dollars provides for all of the kids at HPHS. Thanks for all you do! If I can ever help you in any way, I hope you will let me know. See you at school!

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

Debate Team

The team placed 6th (out of 120 schools) at the Harvard National Debate Tournament, with two that advanced into the final round.

Jacob Arber and Dana Schwartz placed in the top 6 at the Tournament of Champions qualifying tournament held at Jacobs High School in February.

At the National Forensics League District tournament, Dana Schwartz and Bryan Schatz were both 1st alternates in Congressional Debate, and Sam Fishman and Michael Schoof were first alternates in Public Forum debate.

Four students have qualified for the Tournament of Champions held in Lexington, Kentucky in May. To qualify, debaters must place in at least the final round in two national tournaments. Jacob Arber, Dana Schwartz, Bryan Schatz and Evelina Yarmit will participate in this tournament.

Results from State DECA Competition 2010 from Decatur, IL

Highland Park High School brought 41 students to compete against a total of 900 students, from over 35 different high schools, at the SCDC (State Career Development Conference). Students compete in one of many competitive event areas. The Top Three winners within each competitive event area qualify to attend and compete at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Louisville, KY taking place on April 24th – April 28th, 2010.

Highland Park High School qualified 20 students to move on to the International competition by finishing either 1st, 2nd or 3rd at the State level. We added another 16 students who finished in the Top Ten at the State level within their competitive event area. All together 31 out of our 41 students finished in the Top 10 at State within their respective event.

Students competed, as individuals or with a teammate, in a specific competitive event area. These students were scored in four different contests within their event area:

1. Economics Test
2. Content Knowledge Test
3. Role Play #1
4. Role Play #2

The combined rankings from these four contests are used to determine the students overall ranking in the State

The 20 HPHS students who are moving on to International Competition are:

David Abrams, Michael Schiller, Brad Mills, Kellen Svetov, Ross Hochwert, Sam Silverman, Joey Becker, Jordan Kravitz, Ben Johnston, Jason Deitch, Gordon Kelch, Zack Ignoffo, Jon Silberstein, Hanna Ehrlich, Keren Reichler, Jason Phillips, Brian Rosen, Willie Goodman, Jordan Kohn, and Seth Lang.

Mock Trial Team

The mock trial team completed its season at the state competition in Springfield on March 13. Only 12 teams are invited to the state finals. The team advanced to state out of the St. Charles regional after earning a wild card berth. HPHS earned the most points at the regional with Azza Cohen and Neeve Terman being named Outstanding Witnesses. The student officers are Blake Harwood (President), Daniel Wynbrandt and Brad Mills (Vice-Presidents), and Azza Cohen (Secretary).

Upcoming College Fairs

Barrington High School College Fair

Monday, April 5th, 2010 from 6:30-8:30pm

The Glenbrook College Night

Thursday, April 8, 2010 from 6:30-8:45pm

@ Allstate Plaza

2775 Sanders Road

Northbrook, IL

(1/2 miles south of Willow Rd, immediately west of Interstate 294)

Over 225 Colleges plus College Financing Seminars! Volunteers needed for April 20th Health Fair.

EKG Screening

All School EKG screening to be offered for the first time and *we need your help*.

We are pleased to announce that the Max Schewitz Foundation is providing free EKG screenings to all HPHS students on April 16, 2010. The foundation was created to screen teens for hidden heart defects that can be detected and treated. The foundation was created in memory of Max Schewitz, a 20 year old Lake Bluff resident with no prior evidence of heart disease, who died of sudden cardiac death.

We are looking for 120 volunteers to help with the screening. Volunteers will help with student registration, processing, performing a component of the EKG test, or filing results. No medical experience is necessary. You must be able to help with one shift, either 7:30am-11:30 am or 11:00am-3:00pm. You also must attend a training session on April 15th from 4:00-5:30pm *or* 6:00-7:30pm.

In addition to the 120 volunteers for the day of the screening, we are looking for 2 volunteers who have experience with EXCEL to input student information about each student from forms completed by students and their parents regarding permission and participation in the screening. We need these 2 volunteers to begin next week (March 15th) and continue inputting through April 12th.

An all school mailing about the screening will be in your mailbox soon. The mailing will contain a number of forms including a request for volunteers. Please complete and return the form to volunteer to the high schools main office and if you wish, email either Corinne Bronson-Adatto at corinnejba@gmail.com or Karen Braun at karenbraun9@gmail.com and let us know that you are interested in helping us with this wonderful opportunity to help our students.

Health Fair Volunteers

We need volunteers to help on Tuesday, April 20th for the HPHS Health Fair. The Health Fair is a one-day event that students attend during their Physical Education period. Community experts present a variety of topics relating to student's health. We also need bakers to provide treats for the speakers. If you can help, please email Corinne Bronson-Adatto at corinnejba@gmail.com or Karen Braun at karenbraun9@gmail.com.

Fine Arts Committee

We are looking for new committee members for next year. The committee does not require a lot of time, only an interest in art and a few meetings per year. Please contact Julie Hainsfurther at juliehainsfurther@gmail.com for additional information.

The newest show installed in the Library Foyer is comprised of the work of three female painters. Each has provided us with an artist's statement/bio which are included below.

Artists' Statements

Caren Rudman:

My work explores the relationship between the physical body and the world around us with the expression of body language. I try to outline my own body in space by blurring the boundaries between inside and outside, perception and reality, feelings and facts. I believe there is a constant spiral of these connections and separations that begin at birth and continue to build throughout our lives.

Carli Staffa:

I am a Chicago artist. I have been painting and creating since I was a child. As you can see I am inspired by nature. I use a variety of mediums, sometimes incorporating several into one piece.

Mary Kathryn Dunston:

The many seasons of my life have led me from one career to another. I am professionally a Cartographer, Teacher, and Artist. I like to also include being a Professional Parent, but so far, no one will pay me for that!! And while I have my degrees in Cartography and Education, I am self-taught in both parenting and art.

I have really been an artist all my life, starting with macramé, crewel-work (for those who remember that!), and drawing, as a child. But it wasn't until I was well into my "professional" parenting career that I decided to become a watercolorist. Since I was both teacher and student, my education took about 4 years, where I painted, experimented and painted some more.

In 2005, our family was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, one of the many bases in the Marine Corps. I saw there a culture that was largely under documented. Much of WW II was documented, but not the culture. I found the culture unique, interesting and exciting, and chose Okinawa as my primary subject matter. Life in Okinawa is much slower than here, with natives taking the time to walk, sit in parks, play as a family and generally enjoy nature. I have tried to capture that, along with the deep, clear blue waters, and rugged, fossilized coral.

Though my mind and body are back here in the states, my paintbrush is still in Okinawa. I continue to document their culture, using the hundreds of photographs I took as inspiration. I hope you enjoy the bits of Okinawa I have captured as a watercolorist.

Grad Night Bash!!!! Support this Wonderful Occasion

The PTO Grad Night Committee (chaired by Liz Copeland , eecopeland@comcast.net (847) 433-6619 and Julie Kraff, jdkraff123@mindspring.com (847) 926-0199) is once again planning a safe and substance-free party with bus transportation for all graduating seniors. This all-night event (approximately 11:00 p.m. – 5 a.m.) will take place on May 26th – 27th. The festivities will start at Highland Park Country Club where the graduates will board buses to the Enchanted Castle in Lombard. Some of the activities will include video games, laser tag, karaoke, miniature golf, and of course, food. The party will end with a bonfire and breakfast at Rosewood Beach in Highland Park and then students will be bussed back to the Country club by 5am. All information is in your graduation packet and permission forms and more information can be found at <http://www.cseer.com/registerhere/hphs.html>.

Please also support grad night with purchase of tribute cards and t-shirts. Forms are in your packet.

Contact Liz or Julie if you want to be involved in chaperoning that night.

Senior Prom 2010: Prom Ever After

Highland Park High School's senior prom, "Prom Ever After" will be held on Saturday, May 22nd from 7:00-11:00 p.m. at the Lincolnshire Marriott. (Students must arrive at Prom by 8:30 p.m. in order to be admitted. No exceptions will be made. Parents will be notified if students do not arrive by 8:30.)

Registration will be available from April 27th – May 13th only on the school webpage: www.dist113.org/hphs. After registering, students must pick up their tickets at the Highland Park High School bookstore no later than Friday, May 14th at 3:00 p.m.

Non HPHS student guests must be registered. **(Because final numbers must be given to the Marriott in advance, absolutely no tickets may be purchased nor refunds made after May 13th .)**

The ticket price of \$80.00 per person includes a full buffet meal, unlimited soda, dessert table, favor, and entertainment. Eric St. John will be the D.J. Parking is available on the grounds at no extra cost. Information regarding assigned dinner seating (to take place on Monday, May 17th, periods 4-7) will be on the school webpage after April 27th.

Scholarship applications for seniors with demonstrated financial need will be available on the HPHS website beginning April 27th. Funds for full or partial scholarships are limited for qualifying students on a first come basis.

Prom is sponsored by the HPHS Junior Class Council. For further information, please contact sponsors Patrick Sassen (224) 765-2022) or Sandie Gilbert (224) 765-2049.