



Friday, November 4, 2011

Dear Highlands Families:

October was an eventful month here at Highlands, with the continuation of the Basketball and Cross Country seasons, Thanksgiving activities, Family Photo Nights, pumpkin carving, Hallowe'en parade (see the pictures on page 5!) and many Hallowe'en classroom activities. One of the largest events this month was the annual pumpkin Patch Community Event held October 29th. Children of all ages had a wonderful time testing their skills on a variety of novel games, choosing the "perfect" pumpkin, riding ponies, having their faces painted and feasting on candy floss & hamburgers. It was a day filled with community spirit. Special thanks are extended to all the parents and children who contributed to making this event such a success. Events such as the Community Pumpkin Patch truly reflect the dedication and caring that so characterizes the Highlands school community.

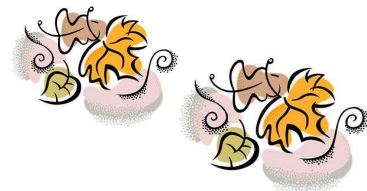
We enjoyed a highly entertaining and informative assembly in October on our monthly virtue, "Diligence", by students in divisions 5 and 7. Through student presentations and a slide show, "Diligence" was introduced and modeled. We were all very impressed with the clarity and finesse with which the presentations were delivered. Teachers have reinforced the underlying messages from the assembly through classroom discussions and activities.

We also invite you to join us for our Remembrance Day Assembly, on Thursday, November 10th at 10:45 a.m. focusing on the virtue of honour. The assembly will be led by our Student Council, under the guidance of Mrs. Fox and Miss Ham. And to each and every family, the Highlands staff sends wishes for a peaceful, thoughtful day of Remembrance on November 11th - may the vision of world peace guide us all.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Arlie Thompson
Principal

Mr. Blair Martin
Vice Principal



November/December Calendar

Nov. 7 School Tour 9:30 am
 Nov. 8 & 9 **Early Dismissal 2:00 pm** Interviews
 Nov. 10 Remembrance Day Assembly 10:45 am
 Nov. 11 Remembrance Day -**Schools Closed**
 Nov. 14 MJM Photo Retakes 11:00 am
 Nov. 21 – 24 Book Fair – Front Hallway
 Nov. 23 HPAC Meeting
 Dec. 2 Next Newsletter
 Dec. 2 Gingerbread Event 3:15 pm
 Dec. 5 Band Concert 7:00pm
 Dec. 13 Christmas Concert
 Dec. 15 Reports Home
 Dec. 16 Last day of classes



Roots of Empathy



We are honored to be invited to participate in the Roots of Empathy (ROE) program which teaches children about their own feelings and the feelings of others.

Once every three weeks, Baby Cassandra and her mother, Kirstie, will visit Mrs. McFarlane's and Mrs. Patterson's kindergarten. The kindergarten students watch the baby grow and interact throughout the course of the school year, celebrating her developmental milestones and learning to read the cues the baby provides to let us know how she is feeling.

For more than ten years across Canada and internationally, thousands of children have learned to respect and care for one another with the lessons started through their Roots of Empathy baby. We are excited to be able to take part in this program!

School Goal 3

To increase the level of responsibility and independence demonstrated by students in Grades K-7



Vacations

Family vacations taken during school hours have an impact on student learning. The fundamental core of our educational programs occurs in classrooms with teachers.

Explanations, clarifications, discussions, opportunities for feedback, and group activities are invaluable components of an effective learning environment. When a student is away, (s)he loses out on the teaching, learning and assessment that occurs on a daily basis. These cannot be duplicated for individual students upon their return to class. Teachers cannot be expected to prepare vacation packages for students or re-teach material missed while the student was on holiday. Furthermore, a student's ability to take part in a performance or sports activity may be compromised when they miss the practices for that event due to a vacation.

In October, twelve students took vacations during school for a total of 33 missed days of school.

Lates

#Lates by month	September	October
10 - 11	218	399
11 - 12	226	256

Note that although our lates are up in number from September they are significantly reduced from October of last year. Let's see if we can see another drop next month!

Student Registration 2012 – 2013 School Year

These procedures for registration and transfer requests are in effect for the 2012/2013 school year. These procedures are consistent with the North Vancouver School District **Policy 605: Admissions of Students to Schools**.

Priorities for student placement are dependent upon place of residence as well as meeting registration and transfer deadlines. Please refer to **School Catchment Areas** to determine the school catchment area for your place of residence.

The following dates are in effect for the 2012/2013 school year.

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|--------------------------|---|
| November 7, 2011 | Registration begins for new kindergarten students |
| December 16, 2011 | Deadline for priority placement consideration for New Kindergarten Registrations |
| January 23, 2012 | Registration and transfer requests for grades 1 - 12 begins |
| January 25, 2012 | LFI Parent Information Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at LMCC |
| March 9, 2012 | Deadline for priority placement consideration for New Registrations, Grade 1 - Grade 12 and Transfer Requests |

Basketball



If you have dropped by the school lately, you would probably have heard the sound of basketballs in the gym. The grade 7 students have been representing Highlands well on our school basketball teams.

Thank you to the coaches and teacher sponsors, who have volunteered their time to provide this experience for the students.

Grade 7 Girls - Coaches- Mrs. Anzovino and Miss Wright (Teacher sponsor)

Grade 7 Boys - Coaches- Mr. Ewan and Mr. Martin

This year we have a new intramural program for all grade 6 students. The program will run 6 weeks and focus on Basketball.

A reminder about filming, photography and student privacy

With all the exciting school activities that occur throughout the year, we provide this consideration regarding the filming and sharing of student photographs and videotapes of student events.

Parents are welcome to photograph and videotape school events. However, the potential promotion, exchange or sharing of student images raises privacy issues that are important to be aware of.

A parent wishing to film or photograph students and then post these images to a website (i.e. YouTube) ***needs to have signed permission for the students (provided by parents or guardians in the case of minors) in the video before posting their photos.*** To do so without signed permission is a violation of student privacy.

While any liability would lie with the photographer/videographer in a situation like this, we feel it's important to remind all parents to respect the privacy of other students and their families. While it's understandable that many families would appreciate being able to exchange photographs or videotapes of school events, privacy concerns must take precedence.

Thank you for your understanding.

Highlands X-Country

Highlands participated in a very successful cross-country season this fall. We had 17 runners from grades 4-7 who attended two practice runs each week and competed in four district meets. Our runners were enthusiastic representatives of Highlands. They made us very proud!

Thank you to our committed parents who supported their children in drop-off/pick-up from practices and meets. As well, a BIG THANK YOU



to our parent runners, The Bergs, The Jollymores, the Speranzas, Neil Chomos and Sasja, who helped us keep up with the students on the trails, lead stretches, warm ups and support us at the meets.

On October 12, Highlands hosted the district meet at Inter River Park. Our race was a great success with 525 participants and no injuries. We had 17 staff and parents (and even baby Rowan!) volunteers who supervised on route. We couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you for a great season!

Mrs. Sherlock, Mrs. Svenhard, Mrs. Tevendale

Hoodies, Hoodies and Hoodies!



Our lost and found is overflowing with hoodies – all of them in good shape but none with a name inside.

Please ensure that all your children's outer wear is labeled with their initials or surname so that lost items can be reunited with their owners.

And, check out the lost and found before November 15th after which time the items will be donated to Charity.

HIGHLANDS ANNUAL GINGERBREAD EVENT & POINSETTIA SALE



It's that time of year again! Mark your calendars for Friday, December 2nd for this annual tradition which will take place in the gym from 3:15-4:30pm. This year we are going "Green" by cutting down on waste and with a new twist to the event. The kids will be decorating Gingerbread Cookies and parents will have the opportunity to buy their holiday Poinsettias and raise funds for the school!

Get a jumpstart on your Holiday Baking and have your kids decorate Gingerbread Cookies with their friends. Cookies will be sold in groups of 3 for \$5, 6 for \$8 or \$15 for a baker's dozen (13) which includes cookies, icing, and candy to decorate...of course a few will be consumed while decorating.

Poinsettias are a beautiful holiday tradition for your home or as a gift. Choose from red, pink or white 6.5" pots which come with a decorative pot cover and are approximately 15" high. (Cost \$12)

Registration will begin online (except for those families not on email) after November 7th and the deadline for registration will be Wednesday, November 23rd. Registration will be on a first come first served basis and this event always sells out!

December is just around the corner! We're looking forward to another FUN school event for the kids!

If you have any questions, please contact:

Julie Dryzmala @ juliedryzmala@me.com OR 778.232.3082

Andrea Gordon @ dgordo@shaw.ca OR 604.985.3688

Cherie Carpenter @ cherie.carpener@telus.net OR 604.990.4998

Pumpkins



A big thank you to Super Valu for the generous donation of pumpkins at Hallowe'en for our classroom displays.

Photo Retakes

MJM Studios will be here on Tuesday, November 14, at 11:00am for retakes.



HALLOWE'EN PARADE





Call in reminder

Please use our call-in (604-903-3544) for ANY lates or absences. When signing in or out at the office please remind your child to write their last name, time, as well as marking off who their teacher is.

Students only need to sign in outside the office until 9:15am and between 12:05 - 12:55pm. Otherwise, they just check in /out with their classroom teacher. Students leaving the school at lunchtime should sign out & in at the office. If they have a note for the day to go to the village, they will need to check in at the office.

The school will no longer be able to accept verbal permission for students to leave the school (eg. to walk home due to an illness). If a situation arises we would be able to accept an email or fax authorization.



Disaster Response Routes

Have you noticed these yellow signs on all the major roads? In the event of an emergency, only First Responders (Fire, Ambulance, and Police) will be able to use these roads. They (Responders) need to get where they are required, quickly. It is important that you do not use these roads, until you are told, via your battery operated or car radio. Do you have a kit in your car? It will probably be several hours until roads are re-opened, if undamaged & passable.

To learn more about Emergency Preparedness, enroll your neighbours/community, into a Personal Emergency Preparedness Workshop. No charge to North Shore Residents. To arrange, call North Shore Emergency Management Office @ 604-983-7440 or check out our website @ www.nsemo.org



WEATHER ALERT

As we get further into the cooler, wetter weather, parents are reminded to ensure their children are suitably dressed for the weather. It is always best to assume that children will be playing outside during recess and lunch, and appropriate clothing for the weather is a must! Please remember how quickly our weather can change from sun to heavy rain and plan for your child's comfort.

SAFETY

PATROL



We welcome our new Safety Patrollers who received their training on October 20th. Grade 5, 6 and 7 students are out at the Colwood-Queens crossing.

We ask that all pedestrians using this crossing obey the directions of the Safety Patrollers and parent supervisors.

Parent drivers can help out too by trying to minimize use of this intersection during the morning rush to school. If you are coming down Queens, we ask that you turn on to Thorncliffe instead of turning at Colwood. Turning left at Colwood while other cars are trying to come straight through or turn left out from Colwood makes the intersection more dangerous for pedestrians.

We wish to recognize and thank all new and continuing parent safety patrol volunteers. Without a parent present, the safety patrollers cannot operate. We still need parent volunteers for the afternoon shift! If you are interested, please contact Julie Drzymala, parent patrol coordinator, at 778-232-3082.



HONOUR

What Is Honour?

Honour is living with a sense of respect for what you believe is right. It is living by the virtues, showing great respect for yourself, other people, and the rules you live by. When you are honourable, you don't have to feel ashamed of who you are or what you are doing. You are worthy of respect. You set a good example.

Why Practice It?

Without honour, people act disrespectfully and do things which make them and others feel ashamed. They just do what they want without caring about the virtues or whether it is right or wrong. When someone is honourable, other people trust them to do what is right. Their word of honour means they will do exactly what they promise. People respect and look up to someone who is honourable.

How Do You Practice It?

When you act with honour, you do the right thing regardless of what others are doing. You keep your promises, without anyone reminding or nagging you. You honour your elders by speaking respectfully to them. You honour yourself by being your best, practicing your virtues every day. When you act with honour, you set a good example, not to be admired, but just because it is the right thing to do.



Volunteer Driving



Volunteer Driver Application Form

If you are planning to drive for any field trip this year you must complete the following:

- Volunteer Driver Application Form (available at the main office)
- ICBC driver abstract (contact ICBC at 604-661-2255) please have this emailed or faxed to you, not to the school. If you drove last year (*and have no changes*) we may still have it at the office. Please check with us.
- Please make a copy of your Insurance
- Please make a copy of your Driver's Licence

Volunteer Application Form

The Volunteer Application Form only needs to be completed **once** during a 3 year period (2009-2012), any applications completed during this time will be valid until **June 2012**.

Outdoor School Photo Contest

“Picture This: Outdoor School” photo contest open to students, staff, parents and NVOS Alumni

The North Vancouver Outdoor School (NVOS) is the subject of this year's school district-wide photo contest. If you have a high-quality, original and engaging photograph that depicts an aspect of Outdoor School, please consider entering it in our “Picture This: Outdoor School” photo contest. The contest is open to entries from October 24, 2011 to January 31, 2012. Prizes and recognition will be awarded by jury, and by an online “voter's choice” poll. As well, students who vote in next year's online poll will be offered a chance in the participation draw for a Kidsbooks gift certificate.

You'll find more information, a detailed prize list, and the entry form at:
www.nvsd44.bc.ca

