

Welcome to Highland! The next edition of the Eagle News will be Monday, December 12th. Please submit information for the newsletter (in text format) to hms-ptsa@live.com by Sunday, December 11th at noon. (If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please unsubscribe at the bottom.)

Important Dates

December 2011-February 2012

12/1 - Band Concert, 7:00-8:00, Gym
12/2 - Highland Auction - Click for [Auction Invite](#)
12/2-9 - Interlake Horticulture Holiday Sale, M-F 11-4, Sat 9-3, Closed Sun
12/6 - Orchestra Concert, 7:00-8:00, Cafeteria
12/9 - Band/Orchestra Community Performance, 10:00-12:30, Crossroads Mall
12/15 - Music Department School Assembly, 1:00-2:00, Gym
12/15 - PTSA Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm (loc TBA)
12/20-1/2 - Winter Break, no school
1/12 BSD Middle School Jazz Festival, 8:00-1:30 pm, International School
1/16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, no school
1/17 PTSA General Membership Meeting, 7 pm (Library)
1/30 Professional/Conference Day, no school
2/15 North Zone Band Concert, 7:00-8:00 pm, Gym, All Bands
2/20-24 Mid-Winter Break, no school

PTSA News

Staff Appreciation Luncheon - Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Staff Appreciation Luncheon on November 15th! Special thanks to Kristina Wald, Sharon Gill Rogers, Carolyn Stanley, Tiffany Montoya, Julie Pratt, Chris Douglas, Cindy Mehlhoff, Kelly Glenner, Cathy Cudd Allen, Jessica Barcus, Margo Allan, Connie Kramer, Lynn Pitts, Jan Becker, Allison House, Vickie Baldwin, Mali Vassdal, and Claudia Vasquez. The staff was treated to a delicious soup/salad luncheon and loved it!

If you'd like to help with the next luncheon and future Staff Appreciation events, please contact Carolyn Stanley (carolynmstanley@gmail.com).

Thank you!!!

Thank You to Clear Chiropractic

We want to thank Clear Chiropractic of Redmond for having their massage therapist come in during the week of November 14-18 to treat the Staff to a complimentary neck massage. They loved it! Thank you Clear Chiropractic!

HIGHLAND SWEATSHIRTS

Show your school spirit and buy a **Highland Hoody!!**
Navy blue Highland sweatshirts **on sale for \$20 at the Band Concert on 12/1/11 and Orchestra Concert on 12/6/11.**

Cash or checks made out to **HMS PTSA**.

Thanks for your support. Questions: contact cathycuddallen@aol.com

School News

Nurse's Corner

THANKSGIVING LICE CHECK

Please check every family member for lice after the Thanksgiving break - the school will be very thankful!

There are no concerns presently at Highland but families are all together at holiday time and lots of sleepovers occur.

Click [here](#) for more information.

SWEAT PANTS AND SHORTS NEEDED!

It's that time of year again where kids are getting wet and are in need of dry clothes at school! Please donate any gently used sweatpants and shorts (for girls and boys) to Highland. Clothes can be brought to the main office and our school nurse, Sandy Bacerdo, will distribute them as needed. Thank you!

How does weather impact school start times?

As we approach the winter and storm season, we want to take this opportunity to share the District's procedure for determining whether to close or delay schools for weather-related reasons. As you know, the safety of all children and staff members is and must be our top priority. Therefore, school closure decisions are based on conditions throughout the District as a whole.

We operate as a system, not as independent schools. Because the weather conditions across the District vary with some schools located on hills and others located in lowlands, members of our community may sometimes wonder why one school is closed when looking out their window. Thus, decisions to close schools may make some people happy, yet leave others unhappy. Explaining the process used to determine whether to close schools, based on weather conditions, helps our parents, staff, students and community members understand such decisions and, hopefully, reduce frustration.

The process is outlined below, followed by a few commonly asked questions. Safety is our primary concern and we hope the information below is helpful to you as we approach the winter storm season. Please share the information and resource links below with all community members.

Steps for determining whether to close schools due to snow or ice

Weather forecasts of coming snow and ice, or existing dangerous road conditions the evening before a school day trigger the following response:

2:00-4:00 AM:

District representatives consider the best information available regarding weather

conditions. They drive Bellevue's streets to determine if school buses can safely travel on **the most difficult hills and roads**. They also check City of Bellevue traffic cameras and the forecast.

District representatives analyze the situation by answering the following questions

Can buses get up the steepest hills, including the Somerset/Hilltop areas?

Does the weather forecast call for more snow, or rising/falling temperatures?

If we bring students to school, will school have to be closed before the end of the instructional day? (It is not desirable to bring students to school and then have to close early, because we don't know if we can get them home safely and/or if there will be a parent or adult at home when they arrive.)

What is happening in other districts?

Are areas where teachers, bus drivers and staff live, for example, in Snohomish County or East King County, snowed in and can they get to Bellevue safely?

4:00 AM:

Around 4:00 am, the Superintendent will be provided the information gathered and a recommendation, and will make a decision. The established District phone tree will be initiated to notify central office and school administrators.

4:00 - 4:15 AM:

The decision will be posted on the Public Schools Emergency Communication System (also known as SchoolReport.org), if possible, by 4:15 am. Following this, the District 24-hour Newsline (425.456.4111) message will be recorded, District website (www.bsd405.org) updated, School Messenger auto-dial system activated, District e-mail notification sent, and a message will be posted on our Facebook Fan page. The Facebook Fan page will also feed the message to the District Twitter account. Updating all of these resources takes time and will ideally be completed around 5 am.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Sometimes when the District closes schools, I look outside my house and see only a thin covering of snow on the ground; I could easily take my child to school, but it is closed. Why is my school closed when it doesn't need to be?

A. School closure decisions are based on conditions throughout the District. We operate as a system, not as independent schools. Some staff members work at more than one school. By state law, missed days must be made up and it makes sense to have these makeup days occur for all schools at the same time. Teachers and school staff may live in areas where there is significantly more snow and cannot make it into work. Some areas of Bellevue may have much more snow and school buses cannot be driven safely- i.e. Somerset/Hilltop areas.

Q. Schools are open, but with the snow and/or ice on the road it isn't safe to drive out of my neighborhood. What should I do?

A. We can't make this decision for you or your family. You need to determine if it's safe for you to drive your child to school.

Q. What's the District's 'School Messenger' auto-dial system?

A. School Messenger is an automated parent notification system that the District uses. The School Messenger system is utilized in many other districts and has been extremely successful at notifying parents quickly. Once activated, the system automatically dials the designated phone number of a parent to provide a recently recorded message such as school district closure, reminder of a professional development day, or other important message. In the instance of a winter weather school district closure, a parents' phone rings and, once answered, the district closure notification (recorded by district staff moments after receiving the decision to close) is played for the parent. In this way, parents are notified in the fastest way possible without having to call a newswire, watch local news or log on to the internet. In order for the system to work, parents must ensure their child's school has the most up-to-date telephone and (if possible) e-mail contact information for parents.

Murphy's Law--What can cause the best laid plans to fail?

Forecast of heavy snow coming during rush hour, but no snow on the ground at 4 AM
Ice on streets at 4 AM, followed by warming and no ice by 8 AM
No snow on the ground by 4 AM and snow arrives later in the morning or right before school starts

Bellevue School District Emergency Closure Information: This information is on the website at www.bsd405.org under About Us/Departments/Transportation/Emergency Closure Information. If school is delayed or closed, a link to this information will be posted on the District homepage.

City of Bellevue Emergency Preparedness: Information posted on this page may be useful as you prepare for the cold weather.
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/extreme_weather_response.htm

Community News
Bellevue School District News and Events

Sammamish High School named a Washington State Innovative School

A bold, creative and innovative approach to educating students has earned Sammamish High School the designation as a Washington State Innovative School. It's one of only 22 schools statewide to receive the recognition from the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Innovative Schools program celebrates the state's most inventive and exciting public school models. A key element of Sammamish's innovative approach to education is its implementation of Problem-Based Learning across all curricular areas. [Read more...](#)

What are your kids doing online?

Learn essential tips for monitoring your children's online and social media activities at an **Information Night for 21st Century Parents on Wednesday, November 30 at 6:30 pm at Odle Middle**

School. Guest speaker Stefanie Thomas from the Seattle Police Department's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force will discuss how to keep your child's social networking page safe and private, how to respond to cyber-bullying and the reality of posting and sexting. The event is hosted by the Odle Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) and the Bellevue PTSA Council.

School Board Community Conversations

The Bellevue School Board wants to hear your voice. In an effort to create multiple ways for parents and community to connect and access their school board, members of the Bellevue School Board will be holding several forums. The goal is to provide an opportunity for parents, community and educators to interact with school board members directly about education in our schools. Two forums are scheduled, one for parents and the general community and one for educators. Board members will take questions and engage in conversation about issues and opportunities.

Community Forum

Monday, December 5 at Sammamish High School Library 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Educator Forum

Monday, December 12 at Interlake High School Library 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

Two New Committees are Formed. Applications are Open But Close November 30!

Title IX Advisory Committee

Equity is an important value in the Bellevue School District and the District regularly engages in reviews to ensure we keep this value in sight. One area which needs review is the District's federal Title IX compliance. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects people from discrimination based on sex, in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. The District is establishing a committee to serve in an advisory capacity as the District reviews its Title IX compliance efforts. [Learn more and apply](#)

English Language Learners (ELL) Advisory Committee

The ELL Advisory Committee will determine the service delivery models most suited for English Language Learners in the Bellevue School District for consideration of program implementation. This committee will sunset after a formal recommendation to the Director of Student Services and/or Superintendent's Cabinet but may be reconvened for input on additional ELL matters. [Learn more about the ELL Committee and apply](#)

Get School Closure Info When You Want It and How

Hey Parents--don't want to join [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#), but you would like to get a call or text message when news comes out about school closures? Visit our [SchoolMessenger Contact Manager](#) to update your contact information. School Messenger is set up to call between 6am and 8pm.

Superintendent Coffee: November 30, 6:30 PM, Sammamish High School

Library: Over the last two years, these coffee forums have been a popular opportunity for parents to chat with Dr. Cudeiro about what's going on in the District, ask questions and provide parent perspective.

School Board Information Night: Mon. Dec. 5, 6:30-8 PM, location TPD: Please attend this evening with your School Board members. This is an opportunity to meet and discuss issues with the School Board members in an informal setting.

Bellevue Schools Foundation Updates

Shop Amazon for Bellevue Schools!

Getting started with your holiday shopping? Click through the link on the [Bellevue Schools Foundation website](#) (or [here](#)) to enter Amazon.com and Amazon will donate 7% of your purchase at no cost to you! This is such an easy way to support Bellevue students. Please share with your friends and family as well!

The Bellevue Schools Foundation is Thankful for YOU!

A huge round of applause to all of the parents, students, district staff, and community leaders who helped to make the Bellevue Schools Foundation's Dialing Up Excellence Phonathon possible!

Our BSF Reps are amazing recruiters and our families are incredibly supportive! 100+ volunteers called thousands of district families, raising over \$50,000 that will help to provide the best possible learning opportunities for every one of our district's 18,000 students.

If you answered the call, thank you! If you missed the call, it's not too late to help! Make your gift online today at www.bsfdn.org or contact your BSF Rep - [Julie Thomas](#) - to learn more.

Thank You to the Dialing Up Excellence Phonathon Volunteers from Our School!

The Bellevue Schools Foundation has partnered with Your Local Market to provide a basket for Local Unit auctions. Your Local Market opened November 11 in the old Safeway store across from Bellevue Square.

Open Family Library Nights

The Lake Hills Elementary Library is inviting students, parents, families, and the community to participate in their open library. Monday evenings from 6-8pm in the library will be open for access to computers and books as well as other library services like research, homework help, and reading. In addition they will have author appearances, presentations, and speakers of interest to students and families. **Students must be accompanied by an adult over 18 years old.**

Schedule:

Nov. 28th - Journeys, the district's new reading program.

Dec. 5 - Snacks made easy: Learn how to make inexpensive, healthy, easy snacks with your children.

Dec. 12 - Easy crafts to do with your children: Michaels will be coming to lead us in creating some great gifts just in time for the holidays

Eastside Pathways

Eastside Pathways, the new collective impact community organization in Bellevue, has completed its first phase and embarking on the next. Phase one consisted of developing a set of goals for the group to **ensure that every child in Bellevue is a success from cradle to career**. Phase 2 is development of definable outcomes and metrics for each of these goals. More voices are needed to help in this task. If you are interested, you can contact Eastside Pathways here: <http://www.eastsidepathways.org/contact>

Roots of Empathy Lecture

Roots of Empathy Lecture - Science, Self-Regulation and Citizenry:

Tues. Nov. 29, 7 PM, Town Hall, 1119 8th Avenue, Seattle:

Register at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/207135

Please join Roots of Empathy Founder Mary Gordon and Dr. Stuart Shanker for a free presentation discussing **the role of social and emotional learning in today's classrooms** and our common future. Sponsored by Town Hall Seattle, Puget Sound Educational Service District and Parent Map

FREE EYE EXAMINATION AND GLASSES

FREE EYE EXAMINATION AND GLASSES FOR QUALIFYING FAMILIES*

*Free and Reduced Lunch - No available insurance for eyeglasses

WHEN: **TUESDAY, DEC. 13, 2011 8:00 10:00 AM**

WHERE: **LENSCRAFTER'S - BELLEVUE WAY LOCATION**

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT: 425-688-0344 (**SPACE IS LIMITED**)

CALL TODAY TO SECURE APPOINTMENT!

SPONSORED BY: LENS CRAFTER'S GIFT OF SIGHT PROGRAMS

Bellevue Ski School

ONLY TWO MORE WEEKS

TO SIGN UP TO

Board and Ski

This winter with the

BELLEVUE SKI SCHOOL!

For more info click [here](#).

IHS Holiday Plant Sale

IHS Holiday Plant Sale, Dec. 2nd-Dec. 9th.

Open:

Weekdays: 11:00-4:00

Saturday: 9:00-3:00

CLOSED Sunday.

Come in early for the best selection!

Thanks, Cheryl and Lynn

Cheryl Schumacher
Interlake High School
Instructional Assistant
Environmental Horticulture
Floral Design
425-456-7336

schumacherc@bsd405.org

SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE EAGLE NEWS!

The Eagle News is the Highland PTSA e-mailed newsletter which is sent bi-weekly on Mondays (except holidays) during the school year. Make sure your friends are receiving it. To subscribe, send your name, student name and grade level, and e-mail address to: hms-ptsal@live.com.

SUBMISSIONS: Please submit information for the newsletter to hms-ptsal@live.com by Sunday at noon before the next deadline. Thank you for your articles! Submissions

should be in plain text in the body of your email message.