

Welcome to Highland! The next edition of the Eagle News will be Wednesday, January 4. Please submit information for the newsletter (in text format) to hms-ptsa@live.com by Sunday, January 1 at noon. (If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please unsubscribe at the bottom.)

Important Dates

December-February

- 12/15 - Music Department School Assembly, 1:00-2:00, Gym
- 12/15 - PTSA Board of Directors meeting, 7 pm (loc TBA)
- 12/19-1/2 - 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

President's Message

Dear Highland families:

As we wrap up this year, I want to acknowledge how much was accomplished. Many things were held at the beginning of this year: camp, international festival and the auction.

First, I want to acknowledge our fabulous HMS staff they took on all these changes, plus orchestrated a flash mob, assemblies, teacher conferences, taught our children and much more. The staff at HMS has so much synergy - it really energizes you! Kudos to the HMS Staff! I also want to share that over 30 of them attended the auction. Parents and I had a great time interacting with them outside of school.

Second, The HMS PTSA is very lucky to partner with Mr. Ferguson and Mrs. Bereano to support our school. Things were constantly changing at the beginning of this year and I am very grateful for the many volunteers who stepped up to support these activities including: Elise Cottingham, Kristen Booth, Claudia Vazquez, Jennifer Lubanski, Michelle Ball, Stacy deBruyn, Steve Poteet, Julie Thomas, Kristina Beauchamp, Jill Wagner, Kathryn Pecha, Carolyn Stanley, Cathy Cudd-Allen, Cathie Cottle, Cherish Gortner, Carol Davis, Tiffany Montoya, Liz Stulz, Camilla George, and Kelly Glenner.

The cool thing about all the activities held at the beginning of the year is that our students, teachers and parents have had opportunities to create unique bonds that

can continue to grow over the rest of the school year. For example, friendships formed at camp, staff and families learning about student's individual heritage, and parents enjoying a night out getting to know other parents and teachers. Well, I am very delighted on how this year is wrapping up and look forward to supporting more activities next year like our first ever Book Swap Ice Cream Social held on 3/15. To find out more come join us at our next PTSA general meeting on January 17th, 7pm in the library.

Happy Holidays and New Year,
Alison Hinojosa House

Auction Results

Auction Results, 17K!

Thank you to all those folks who attended the auction on Friday, December 2nd! Especially the 30+ teachers and staff! I had a blast at the end of the night when "cutting a rug" on the dance floor with fellow parents and HMS staff.

I am very grateful to so many people that helped us raise just over \$17,000 including all the Highland Staff, many businesses and families that responded with great donations. In particular, we want to give a "shout out" to ALL the auction volunteers, Andria Quarry who coordinated everything at the school including the classroom baskets, Kelly Glenner for all the beautiful decorations, to the George family along with Chateau Ste Michelle for the wine enjoyed at dinner and last but not least - Elise Cottingham and Kristen Booth my colleagues who partnered with me on this adventure called the Auction.

Sincerely, Alison Hinojosa House

School News

Nurse's Corner

Don't assume

that your child received all recommended vaccinations during their elementary school years.

Now

is the time to talk to your child's health care provider about your teen's current vaccinations needs.

Vaccines are not just for babies and children.

For more information about vaccination requirements click [here](#).

Meningitis - How to protect your teen

Click [here](#) for more information and links to the **CDC**.

Community News

Bellevue School District News and Events

We'd Really Like Your Feedback!

Just over a month ago, the District launched a new web site. We wanted to give you some time to get used to the new look and feel of the site before we asked your opinion and now's the time. Please take a moment to give us your thoughts through this quick and easy survey. The survey takes about two minutes to complete, and we'd really like to know what you think.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/V88MLQT> Thank you!

Boundary Review Update

District staff is starting work to prepare for Boundary Review. The process to review boundaries of all schools in the district is expected to take 18 months or more. A large Boundary Review Committee comprised of parents and principals will be formed to develop a district-wide school boundary recommendation to send to the Superintendent. The District has identified staff members to form a district technical team and will identify what information may be needed to develop a springboard proposal to present to the committee to use as a starting point. A tentative timeline would launch applications for the citizens-based Boundary Review Committee in spring 2012 with committee meetings potentially starting in late summer of 2012. [Read background on issue and the process.](#)

Congratulations!

Bellevue High School's football team won the Class 3A state title on Friday, their fourth state championship win in a row. The 35-16 win over O'Dea is the Wolverine's ninth state title in 11 years. As of Monday, the Wolverines are ranked fourth in the nation by the experts at Rivals.com, who say "this may have been the best Bellevue team since it made the move onto the national scene."

Congratulations also go out to the Bellevue High and Newport High boys water polo teams. The teams played each other in the state championship last month, with Bellevue winning by a score of 15-8 to take the 2011 state title.

Players on Interlake's girls soccer team are also state champs. The team won the 2011 2A state championship title during the recent state soccer tournament. Way to go!

Deadline extended for advisory committee

Title IX Advisory Committee-Application closes January 6
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-Would you like to get a call or text message when news comes out about school delays or closures? Visit our School Messenger Contact Manager to update your contact information. School Messenger is set up to call between 6am and 8pm.

Compassion is the Virtue of the Month--Bullying Prevention Parent Info Night (New Time)

The next Bullying Prevention Parent Information Night will be held Tuesday, January 24 at 7 pm (new time) at the Sammamish High School Library. Come learn about the District's new Bullying Prevention and Social Skills curriculum, see how students are putting what they're learning into practice during "No Name Calling Week", and take part in a conversation about inclusive communities.

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Director of Communications & Community Engagement
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Advocacy Corner

GRASSROOTS UPDATE/
Ombudsman's report lists top complaints, recommendations

Dec. 8, 2011

[Annual report, recommendations](#)

[Request ombudsman services](#)

www.wanarentslearn.org

Dear advocates,

The Office of the Education Ombudsman resolves complaints, disputes, and problems between families and public schools. It also has an online library of publications to help families navigate the system. It's an **excellent resource for PTA leaders or parent representatives** to leadership teams. Its annual report is now out.

The top complaint issues last year were:

- Special education
- Suspensions and expulsions
- Student-to student bullying/harassment/intimidation
- Parent involvement in schools.

The school districts OEO worked most frequently with were: Seattle, Northshore, Edmonds, Renton, Lake Washington, Yakima, Clover Park, Federal Way, Highline, Bellevue, Kent and Spokane.

Their recommendations: "OEO collects data of patterns and trends in complaint issues across the state. The frequency and nature of complaints we receive about certain issues provide us with the opportunity to research state and federal laws and issue annual recommendations to improve processes that affect students. **This year, we are issuing recommendations about:**

- Suspensions and expulsions in schools,
- Communication equity for parents,
- Parent access to Special Education classrooms, and
- Procedural and administrative issues that contribute to the gap in the achievement of students of color."

Ramona Hattendorf, Washington State PTA Government Relations Coordinator,
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Boys Lacrosse

Registration Now Open

- Lacrosse, the fastest-growing team sport in the country, combines some of the best aspects of many other sports into one, while at the same time allowing for players of all sizes and skill sets the ability to contribute and compete.
- Lacrosse is a spring sport, with practices starting in February for kids in 5th grade and above, March for the younger kids.
- Sammamish Lacrosse Club serves boys from Kindergarten through High School that live within the attendance boundaries of Newport, Interlake, and Sammamish High Schools.
- For more information, or to register, please go to:

SammamishLacrosse.com

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-pts@live.com.

SUBMISSIONS: Please submit information for the newsletter to hms-pts@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.