



Highview Highlights

Notes from the Principal

Thanks for attending our student-led conferences; we appreciate your support. One of the primary conference focuses was to inform parents of the Percent of Normative Growth (PNG) which your child is expected to make on this spring's NWEA tests. If students make their goals, they likely will pass required high school graduation tests. It is important to reinforce goals at home by checking your child's homework, providing a variety of reading materials, and communicating with teachers. If you haven't signed up for SchoolView (our parent information portal), now is a great time to get on board. See SchoolView information in this newsletter.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC): Our November 6 PAC meeting featured how to access Internet support for MCAII preparation by using the locator number on your child's last year's test result information. If you have lost the locator number, please contact Micky Paine or Jon Larson at Highview. We also discussed the schedule changes for next year if we adopt a foreign language for which we would be cutting 1.0 position in the allied arts and adding a 1.0 teaching position to accommodate the foreign language. If you have any questions please contact me.

Our next PAC meeting is on Thursday, January 8th at 7 p.m. in the Library Media Center. Ellen Clifford, School Psychologist, will give a presentation designed specifically for middle school parents. Research shows that parent support is more important to school success than a student's IQ, economic status, or school setting. Parenting middle schoolers can be rewarding so come and enjoy an evening designed to help make the most of those middle school years for both you and your student.

SchoolView is Ready

By now, every family should have received in the mail a letter and access key codes allowing them to log onto the new parent portal SchoolView. This new system will give parents secure, electronic access to their student's records, including attendance reports, assignments, schedules, grades and a host of other important information.

The sooner parents review their information online, the sooner that more and more features will be activated for all families.

To log on and register for the first time, please visit www.moundsvIEWSchools.org. Be sure to download a step-by-step instruction guide for setting up a SchoolView account. Questions can be sent to schoolview@moundsvIEWSchools.org

Ben Pennings

KSTP Educator of the Month



Ben Pennings, Highview social studies teacher, received the honor of being chosen the KSTP teacher featured on a segment of Excellent Educators. He was nominated by two former students: Stephanie Sullivan and Georgia Sterns.

KSTP reporter, Vineeta Sawkar, came to Highview on Monday, October 27 to interview Ben, Stephanie, and Georgia. The feature was aired on Wednesday, October 29th.

Congratulations Ben!

DECEMBER CONCERTS



Highview music students are working hard to present inspirational seasonal concerts for you and your family. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

ALL CONCERTS AT HIGHVIEW

December 8	7/8 th Grade Band Concert	7:30 pm
December 9	7/8 th Grade Choir Concert	7 pm
December 11	7/8 th Grade Orchestra Concert	7 pm
December 16	6 th Grade Band, Choir and Orchestra Concert	7pm

Please bring a non-perishable food item to the concert to be donated to our Dear Santa Program.

Students of the Quarter

Congratulations to the following students for being chosen students of the quarter. These students have shown consistent effort as well as a positive attitude through the first quarter.

6th Grade

Zahraa Atia
John Beckman
Michael Burgoyne
Ben Bye
Daniel Crist
Kevin Duffy
Nicholas Elscott
Joe Fredrickson
Brady Geary
Lina Gurung
Megan Larson
Natalie Linders
Devon McDonald
Ethan McGowan
Joe Myslajek
Sara Nelson
Suzanne Patten
Anna Quanbeck
Marianna Quanbeck
Kaiya Ruff
Allie Stien
Donnie Thammaraksa
Yeliz Toker
Molly Tynjala

7th Grade

Anna Burckhardt
Kelly Catlin
Oscar Eclov-Reher
Trey Harsch
Alberto Hernandez
Stephanie Hoch
Laura Jankowski
James Kripotos
Audrey Kristufek
Kathleen Landry
Zachariah Litzinger
Lady June Maniago
Logan Moe
Lara Noren
Colleen Patty
Michelle Richards
Adam Ruff
Christopher Rupp
Brandon Smith
John Spear
Wai Vang
Nicholas Varberg
Melissa Warme
Olivia Young

8th Grade

Lars Anderson
Faith Barnier
Jessica Borchert
Madeline Boyum
Justus Canfield
Abigail Conrad
Carolyn Dunn
Sophia Gorham
Madison Herlofsky
Kokou Kah
Trevor McDonald
Miranda Olson
Siv Palmer
Kunj Patel
Nathan Rhode
Kyle Ringhofer
Scott Rubsam
John Saja
Matthew Schreiber
Rebecca Snyder
Amelia Wagenknecht
Michael Wolff
Feier Joy Xie

Community Education

Middle School Activities

Please join your friends for a fun session of skiing or snowboarding. No matter what ability level you possess. Each session includes lessons to get you on your way to learning an activity that you will enjoy your entire life. Parents - we are always in need of chaperones. If you are interested, please fill out a background check and drop it off with your child's registration at Highview or at the Community Education office at Pike Lake Education Center, 2101 14th St NW, New Brighton. More information and forms can be found at www.moundsvIEWSschools.org/comm_edu/youth_programs.asp

Upcoming winter sports include boys & girls basketball, fitness training (with a new hip-hop dance component!), and swimming. Any questions can be directed to Jen Danielson at 651-621-6799 or

Jennifer.Danielson@moundsvIEWSschools.org

Yearbook Ordering

It is not too late to order a 2009 Highview Highlights yearbook. Orders will be accepted until late January.

Orders may be placed via a toll-free telephone or online. The toll-free telephone number is 1-800-853-1337. Online ordering may be done at www.smart-pay.com. There is a link to this website on the Highview homepage.

The cost of a yearbook remains at \$30 this year. Highview publishes a 100% digitally produced all-color yearbook. Advance ordering is strongly recommended. The supply of extra yearbooks provided in the spring is very limited. This year, as an incentive to order in advance, the cost to purchase one of the extra yearbooks in the spring will be \$40.

Humanities

Seventh grade humanities students took a great trip to see "Rainbow Crow", a Native American tale, at the Stepping Stone Theater in St. Paul on November 5th. Classmate Samantha Hallgren did an awesome job as a "snow spirit." If you have never seen a production there, consider taking your family. It is a beautiful venue. In other news, students are working hard to finish essays for this year's Philosophy Slam contest. More information on that is at philosophyslam.org. If your student is not in humanities, and he or she would like to submit an essay, have them see Mr. Iverson ASAP!

MIX IT UP LUNCH

This year Highview held the 7th annual Mix it Up Lunch! The theme this year was Happy Birthday! Students sat at tables according to the month in which they were born. The lunchroom was decorated with party decorations and "presents" on the tables. At each table, students received conversation starters. In addition 8th grade student volunteers sat at each table. Party treat sack prizes were won.

Mix It Up helps students appreciate and respect diversity. Because students thrive in inclusive school environments, Mix It Up program is a fun, engaging way to unite the student body and break through social barriers. According to student feedback, the majority feel that we should Mix It Up again this year!

A special thank you to the following 8th grade Mix It Up volunteers: Lars Anderson, Maria Becker, Brianna Bergstedt, Thomas Budd, Maddy Boyum, Justus Canfield, Amy Davidson, Nate Douvier, Kyle Duddleston, Carolyn Dunn, Mitchell Fredrickson, Sophia Gorham, Chris Graf, Sam Griebel, Madison Herlosky, Haylee Kruse, Trevor McDonald, Jessica Mullarie, Claire Opperman, Helena Nguyen, Kunj Patel, Katie Peterson, Lucas Pfaffe, Riley Plisek, Heather Ponce, Z Quanback, Kyle Ringhofer, Kyle Ronchak, Dan Scarr, Casey Sladek, Mitchell Van Laar, Leah Watkins, Joy Xie, Michael Wulff, Sam Yankey, Jonathan Young.



The direct line for the attendance office is 651-621-6701.

6th Grade News

By Heather Timmons, grade 6 dean

Parents / Guardians,

Please continue to keep the lines of communication open with your child. Your students' days present rewarding and challenging moments. Take some time over the break to talk with your child about his or her successes or concerns with the school year so far. You may also want to help your child reorganize by cleaning out class folders and throwing away old papers. We also ask that you make sure your child has plenty of pencils, pens, and **labeled** notebooks & folders. It might be helpful to plan a time with your child to come back one night after school to do a locker cleanout; you may be surprised at what you see! As always, I encourage you to contact me with any concerns or positive feedback!

Our 6th grade field trip is scheduled for Friday, February 13, 2009. All students will be attending our "Learn to Ski" program as part of our 6th grade physical education curriculum at Wild Mountain Ski Resort in Taylor's Falls, MN. The cost for the trip is not finalized at this time but in year's past has run about \$20 per child which includes: transportation, lift ticket and ski rental for the day. Financial scholarships will be available as well for those who need them. Wild Mountain representatives will be coming out to Highview the day before the trip to go over questions and discuss what the next day will look like for the kids!

Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to the date.

Highview Hosts 2008 Bucket Walk

On Sunday, October 5, hundreds of students, parents, siblings, staff and friends came to Highview to participate in the 2008 Bucket Walk. Highview, Edgewood, Irondale, Mounds View and Sunnyside schools each sponsored a booth and collected donations for various H2O For Life School to School projects. Highview raised over \$8000 in pledges, which will be used to build a water project at Kilfo school in Ethiopia.

Participants carried buckets of water as they finished lap after lap to blaring music. All walkers were given special Bucket Walk t-shirts designed by 7th grader, Kelly Catlin. In addition, walkers could buy hot dogs, chips, pop, nachos, and coffee to energize their slightly chilly and tired bodies. A variety of cool pets attended along with a New Brighton Department truck.

A \$200 gift card was awarded to 6th grader, Hannah Schmidt. She was one of many students who raised over \$50 to be eligible for the drawing.

All in all, the day was a huge SUCCESS!!

7th Grade News

The 7th grade is off to a wonderful start! In early September, Mrs. Kucera, the 7th grade dean, headed into classrooms to discuss rules and expectations. Along with rules and expectations, Mrs. Kucera explained the 7th grade homework completion program called BUG, Bringing Up Grades. Homework is a nightly expectation for 7th grade. If students do not have their homework to hand in at class time, they are bugged. If students are bugged, they have the following options:

Stay after school in the BUG room with 7th grade teaching staff to complete their assignment for no penalty. Students who do not stay after at BUG will receive 50% off. Students who complete their homework during homework and hand in to the appropriate teacher at 2:40 will receive 25% off. All students were given two BUG OUT passes after returning the BUG parent form. These BUG OUT passes allow students to hand an assignment one day late without penalty. Students who do not use their BUG OUT passes may hand them in at the end of the quarter for extra credit. Please encourage and support your student to complete their homework nightly. It is helpful to check our web page at www.moundviewschools.org/highview where homework is posted for the week under grade level news.

OLWEUS

Anti-Bully Program Update


We are all very excited at the anticipated results we hope to achieve in decreasing, over time, the number of bullying incidents at Highview.

In homerooms on Mondays, "OLWEUS MONDAY," the students participate in activities focused around anti-bullying ideas. On Mon. Dec. 1st, students viewed a skit of their peers acting out a bullying scenario in the lunchroom. This month, we are teaching students about not taking (using intimidation) or asking for other students' food and we're giving the students a strategy how to handle this if they see this happen or it happens to them. Ask your child about the "Bait and Switch" strategy and also about how these identities (Bully, Victim, Henchman, Bystander & Defender) play a role in any bullying situation.

We also welcome your feedback on how you feel or hear the OLWEUS program is working at Highview!

Looking Ahead . . .

December

- 8 7/8th Band Concert **7:30**  **p.m.**
(Note the time change.)
- 9 Mid Quarter
- 9 7/8th Grade Choir Concert 7 p.m.
- 11 7/8th Grade Orchestra Concert 7p.m.
- 16 6th Grade Band/Choir/Orchestra Concert 7p.m.

December 22—January 4 Winter Break

January

- 5 Classes Resume
- 8 PAC Meeting 7 p.m.
- 13 Middle School Enrollment Night 7 p.m.
- 19 No School—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 22 Early Release Day - 11:10 a.m.
- 23 End of Quarter - Early Release 11:10 a.m.
- 23 Sno Daze Dance 6:30-9 p.m.
- 26 No School Secondary Transition
- 28 Reports cards sent home with student