



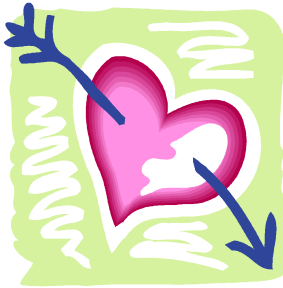
Husky Highlights

www.boiseschools.org/schools/highlands

208.854.5050

February 9, 2012

Note from the Principal ... Sally Skinner



Valentine's Day is here again—hooray! It is refreshing and simply fun to see anticipation build during the week as children create and distribute Valentine cards and then get to open them one by one. While the fall and holiday parties are highly anticipated, the Valentine's parties are my favorite. Children are filled with quiet joy as they read and share the sentiments on Valentine cards; decipher the secret messages on the specially selected candy hearts; and marvel at a note from a "special" friend. How wonderful would it be if the world stopped for 30 minutes to give and receive kind wishes and share candy conversation hearts? Stop by and share the joy if you can—it just might make your day!

Valentine's Day is an appropriate time to send our *heartfelt* thanks and appreciation to our parents, former parents and students, and the entire Highlands community. We are so grateful for the help, generosity, and support you all provide in a variety of ways. Many thanks to each of you! A very small sample is shared below:

- Our PTO officers Rashelle Gussner, Kirsten Cadwell, Sheryl Trembley, Vlasta Sparling and Renee Kading work very hard to keep parents informed and involved.
- Kim Maloney, Elaine Duerr, Robin Ivanoff, Kim Rene, Clay Gill, Louise Echeverria, Amanda Krause, and Jan Fonken faithfully volunteer for Target Time which is held each day at lunch.
- Sandy Bjerke and our many art parent volunteers are helping plan another successful auction and are busily inspiring students as they create their fabulous works of art.
- The service learning parents are planning and facilitating class projects with teachers and students.
- Our classroom volunteers help with groups, individual students, or preparing materials for classroom use.
- Dedicated room parents are busily planning Valentine's parties.

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 15	Learning Fair Entry Forms Due
February 16; 7-8:00 PM	Levy Informational Meeting hosted by Highlands PTO
February 20	No School; Presidents' Day Holiday
March 8; 4-5:30	Kindergarten Registration
March 13	Learning Fair
March 13	Levy Vote
March 23	Early Release; End of 3 rd Quarter
March 26-30	No School; Spring Break



**Boise School District Levy
Information Meeting
Thursday, February 16
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Highlands Elementary School**

Please plan to attend this important meeting hosted by our Highlands Elementary PTO to present facts about the Boise School District Supplemental Levy. Guest speakers from the District office will present facts that are crucial for voters to know in order to make an informed decision on ballot day—March 13. Please bring your neighbors and friends—all adults are welcome to attend. As an added bonus, anyone who attends will be eligible to win an Italian Date Night door prize drawing!

The Highlands Elementary PTO's mission is to promote continuous development throughout each student's life. The Highlands Elementary PTO Board is therefore in favor of the levy and intends to share information about the District's financial position with the school community it serves.

2012-13 PTO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: Highlands Elementary is fortunate to have an active and supportive Parent Teacher Organization. Our PTO officers do a great job of encouraging and organizing efforts to support our children in a variety of ways. If you are interested in being a PTO officer (vice-president, secretary, treasurer) for the 2012-13 school year, please contact the school office at 854-5050.

**Time To Get Curious!
Entry Forms Due February 15**

How much water do plants need to grow?
How do whales communicate?
What makes thunder?
How can I help my community?
Time to start talking with your kids about what they're curious about!



PLEASE READ THE PROJECT REQUIREMENTS with your child before signing their entry form.

Any questions? Contact Amy Steckel (amysteckel@msn.com) or Aunick Lund (aunickl@hotmail.com)

SO WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON WITH SERVICE LEARNING?



Third and Fourth Grade combined project - Mrs. Taylor, Ms. Coles, Mrs. Troy and Mrs. Nydegger's classes are working on a kids' walking tour of downtown Boise. Each class is researching and writing up a quadrant of sites of interest to elementary school students who may be visiting Boise. The end product will be designed and printed by the 3rd/4th students and distributed to the City of Boise and the Chamber of Commerce.

Mrs. Orler's 5th Grade class: Mrs. Orler's 5th graders love the Idaho Humane Society and made hundreds of dog biscuits to keep all the hounds currently in residence happy over the holidays. Flour, peanut butter and vegetable oil were key ingredients. Students continued their support of the shelter with a Pet Drive January 23-27th, asking for donations of blankets, food, toys, office supplies and more in an effort to keep everyone happy and healthy at the shelter until they find new homes.



More to come next time...



Four Tips for Soothing Sibling Rivalry

Tip from the Love and Logic® Experts courtesy of Dr. Charles Fay

Why is sibling rivalry such a perplexing issue for so many parents? Simply because we can't make our kids love each other. That's completely out of our control.

Listed below are just a few of the many things we can control:

- *Whether we do extra things for kids who are battling with each other.*

It's perfectly reasonable for a parent to say, "This is such a bummer. I'm tired-out from listening to you arguing with each other. I don't have the energy to drive you to your friends' houses."

- *Whether we allow certain items to remain in our homes.*

A friend of ours said to her kids, "This is so sad. Every time you guys play with that game you get in a fight. I gave it away so it wouldn't be a problem anymore."

- *Whether we allow their fighting to interrupt our responsibilities and time.*

Have you ever noticed how kids tend to argue and bicker with each other when you are trying to do something that requires your complete attention such as trying to talk on the phone? If you feel secure that your kids won't harm each other, it's probably best to say, "This is really draining my energy. You guys need to work this out or go your separate ways."

- *Whether we give them "bonding opportunities."*

When your kids start to battle with each other, experiment with saying, "Sounds like you guys need some bonding time." Then assign them some chores to give them an opportunity to feel the love.

Treasure Valley Math and Science Center

TVMSC is a unique learning community that serves students who have a strong interest, ability and a desire to excel in math and science. The program serves students in multi-aged, highly challenging science, math and applied research classes. Teacher instruction involves research-based, hands-on investigations integrating math, science, communication and technology. If you are interested in additional information please come to the office or visit their website: www.boiseschools.org/schools/tvmssc

Opportunities to Look Into

Throughout the year we receive flyers about sports/activities and other opportunities for your children. Please check in the office if you are interested in any other following:

- Ø Tennis at Highlands – starts Feb. 27
- Ø Flag Football – Spring league
- Ø Arrow Rock Wrestling Club at Boise High – starts Feb. 13
- Ø Boise High Volleyball Clinic – July 10-12
- Ø North Boise Little League – current
- Ø Bowling Leagues at 20th Century Lanes – ongoing
- Ø Spanish classes – ongoing
- Ø Vellotti's Chess Club – ongoing
- Ø Young Rembrandt's – ongoing



Highlands' Student Heroes

Please check out the bulletin board in the main hallway next time you're in the building. We are recognizing students who make good choices by helping someone else, picking up playground equipment without being asked, go above and beyond their daily responsibilities, and any other good deed we catch them doing!