

# Highland Highlights

February 2014

Volume 1, Issue 1

Highland Park  
Elementary School

## HPS News

Early Release Day	2/5
PTA Mom & Son Game Night	2/7
PTA Health Seminar	2/11
PTA Meeting	2/13
President's Weekend No School	2/17 -18
Internet Safety Presentation	2/24
Movie Night	2/28

## Special points of interest:

- ◆ VIP Day
- ◆ Welcome New Families!
- ◆ Science Grant
- ◆ Nutrition Revisited
- ◆ Jump Rope For Heart
- ◆ Grade 3 "Small Moments"
- ◆ Curriculum Corner



**Mayor Leo Diana with Chuckles**  
*Chuckles Predicts 6 More Weeks of Winter*

Dear HPS Families,

Well, it's official, Chuckles predicted six more weeks of winter. With that comes our request for students to dress appropriately for winter

## Letter From the Principal

weather. Unfortunately it has been so cold that the students have not had many opportunities for outdoor recess but we remain hopeful that after this week's winter blast we will begin to see a warming trend that will allow students to get outside for recess .

Please be sure they come to school with a warm jacket, hat, mittens and appropriate footwear. If you need assistance with clothing, please contact Bev Prager at 860 646 3430.

Parents, please be sure to sign your child into the office if they are late.

Thank you for your continued support!

Mrs. Burns

## VIP Day A Success



HPS VIP Day was held on January 22nd and welcomed Very Important People all day who came to visit students in Grades K-5. VIPs had an opportunity to participate in classroom experiences designed to give them an understanding of the academic programs or activities that students participate in during a regular class day. In total HPS received 113 Very Important Persons for this event!



## Grade 3 Writing; “Small Moments”

As part of the Grade 3 writing curriculum teachers have been spending time teaching students how to capture a small moment and write about them. Students work towards a published piece. The samples enclosed are a first draft of their experience at last month's pep rally.

Matthew

When Mrs. Burns started announcing names I was excited. She announced Kindergarten first, second then third.

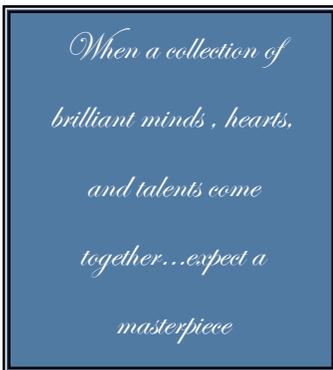
Then it happened I was picked for being safe. When I high fived Henry his hand was so soft. I smiled for the camera so I could take the photo. I felt great. Now I am just waiting for them to put the photo on the bulletin board in the hallway so every time I pass I can see the photo.

Aliana

At the pep rally today we all stood up and sang a moment and sat back down. Almost everybody in the school earned a husky paw and I also did and it was fun

to stand for a moment in all but the best part was actually singing like we always do at our pep rally. I love pep rallies a lot it was really super fun to be there like always. I didn't get a certificate or become an ambassador but that was the best part I don't need a certificate to be happy I got friends. So at the pep rally like I said before we sing and almost everybody got a husky paw. I will love pep rallies forever.

## HPS Welcomes New Families



HPS would like to welcome 8 new students since December. We would like to welcome the following students and wish them a happy and successful year at HPS!

Kindergarten:

Jeremy McClanahan

Grade 1; Laichun Sipala;  
Annabeth Iverson

Grade 2:

Jayden McClanahan; Joachim Martin; Ling-Li Sipala

Grade 3:

David Delgado

Grade 5:

Faith Lindsey



## Curriculum Corner

This month both the math and literacy coaches will be conducting data review meetings to analyze the NWEA benchmark data in looking at student growth. Teryl Croye, data specialist for the district, will be working with coaches to examine the reports shared with teachers. The district has begun curriculum writing using the Understanding By Design framework. Two teachers from HPS, Jen Smyth, Grade 1 and Laura Kowaleski, Grade 5 will assist in this work. Instructional Rounds will take place this month with teams of teachers visiting grade level partners in looking at rigor and engagement in mathematics.

Grace Deangelis, math coach, Aimee Pont, Kindergarten teacher and Jen Smyth, Grade 1 teacher, attended a math workshop supporting differentiation in the classroom entitled Guided Math. They will be presenting the learning objectives to the staff at our next PD meeting.



## Grade 4 Teacher to Participate in Next-Gen Science CT



Manchester Public Schools has partnered with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology in the pursuit of improving science and technology education. This partnership will look to improve science, technology, engineering and mathematic curriculum and instruction in the Manchester schools. Through the partnership the district seeks to achieve a K-12 science education program based on the Next Generation Science Standards. HPS is proud to announce that Ms. Jamie Carey, a Grade 4 teacher will be participating in this grant.

Ms. Carey, who was hired in August of this year, has wasted no time immersing herself in professional develop aligned to the CCSS and working with colleagues around embedding technology and implementation of best practices to support student achievement in literacy and mathematics.

Jamie's work in the grant will engage her in a comprehensive review of science education and Next Generation Science Standards; identify, evaluate, revise, develop, use, discuss and pilot materials that demonstrate the Framework/NGSS vision and create a Next-Gen Science CT Toolkit for statewide dissemination.

Her work with the grant will take place over the next 18 months over two phases. We look forward to Jamie turn-keying her knowledge to our K-5 staff upon completion of her work.

## Jump Rope For Heart

Our school is thrilled to be supporting the American Heart Association, through their Jump Rope for Heart Program. JRFH will take place during students' Physical Education Class on February 19, 20 and 21st.

When your child participates in JRFH he/she:

1. Will learn about the heart, how it works and how to take care of it
2. Will learn about other students their age who have special hearts
3. Will feel good about making a difference in other peoples' lives by raising funds to support the American Heart Association

research and education initiatives that save lives in our community.

Last year HPS raised \$2500.00!! This year's goal is \$3,000.00. Look for more information to be sent home with student. Note: students do not need to raise money to participate in this great event.



## PTA Sponsored Health Seminar , February 11, 2014

The HPS PTA will sponsor a Health Seminar on Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30 pm in the café.

The theme will be "Nutrition Revisited" What you know..., what you thought you knew...and what's new in nutrition.

Parents will participate in a presentation by Drs. Ana and Jeff Volek, who will highlight the 95210 and fruit/vegetable of the month programs. A Q&A session will also be shared to try and dispel common myths about nutrition.

## Highland Park Elementary

Diane Sheehan-Burns, Principal  
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Francine Harrell, Secretary 860 647 3430  
Mary Cohen, Nurse 860 647 3437  
Bev Prager, Social Worker 860 647 0272

## February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

## We Are On The Web!



<http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov>

<http://hphuskyline.com/>