

# HIGHLAND GRADE SCHOOL

MR. MIKE COULAHAN  
PRINCIPAL  
410 S HICKORY STREET  
STILLMAN VALLEY, IL 61084

Telephone (815)645-8188

## *OPEN HOUSE FOR THE 2010/2011 SCHOOL YEAR!*

August 27, 2010

Dear Parents:

**Highland School Open House is taking place at school on Thursday, September 9th.** This Open House is specially designed for parents to meet teachers and visit the classrooms. It also offers a time for your child to show their classroom and school. It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of your child's educational journey. Our mission is to help all students learn to their fullest potential and to develop in the social, academic, emotional, and physical domains.

Each teacher has devised a way to meet and greet our parents. Some teachers will discuss the curriculum and grading procedures, inform parents of the daily schedule, and explain goals, procedures and expectations. Some teachers are conducting a meet and greet and are letting the children show off their beautiful classrooms. Either way that it is run, please make every effort with your child to come in and meet your child's teacher. This is a great demonstration of your support and respect for your child and their education. Your presence shows your child that you are an active partner with the school and it demonstrates the value you place on your child's education. Thank you for this showing of positive support.

Upon arrival, students can show parents to their classrooms, or parents will be directed to their child's classroom.

**Kindergarten Open House will take place at 6:00** in the kindergarten rooms.

I will ring a bell at **6:25** signaling the end of the kindergarten orientation.

**Prekindergarten and Early Childhood will have an Open House from 6:00 until 7:00.**

**First Grade Parents** can attend either a **6:00 or 6:30** classroom orientation.

I will ring a bell at **6:25 and 6:55** signaling the end of orientation for these sessions.

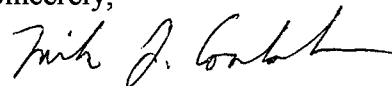
**Second Grade Parents** can attend either a **7:00 or 7:30** classroom orientation.

I will ring a bell at **7:25 and 7:55** signaling the end of orientation.

This is a great time to visit our school, view your child's classroom, meet your child's teacher, ask questions, and to see what a typical day is like for your child at Highland School. Make this visit a top priority. I thank you in advance for your attention, support, and attendance to our Highland School Open House on Sept. 9.

I look forward to our partnership in learning this school year.

Sincerely,



Mike J. Coulahan

**There will be a book fair in the gym. Make sure to visit our book fair.**

**All proceeds are used to fund new Highland library books.**



# Highland Elementary School

## Important Information

**ER = Early Release** on the School Calendar. We have 5 a year. Students are released at noon, MJH and SVHS are released at 11:00 a.m.. Please make sure you have a plan in place for your students on those days. **We will not have EC or Pre-K.**

## Highland Grade School

Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2010

### Highland School Important Information

#### School Hours:

EC & Pre-K - A.M. 8:50 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.

P.M. 12:50 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.

KDG - 8:50 a.m. - 1:20 p.m.

1st & 2nd - 8:50 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.

**Drop-off** - students being dropped off should be dropped off by 8:45 a.m. in order to be in class by 8:50 a.m. Drop-off anytime after 8:30 a.m.

If you are bringing your student in after 8:50 a.m. a parent must sign them in at the office.

**Plans for After School** - Our district is growing rapidly. Our transportation department will be able to have only one pick-up and one drop-off location for each child. If you need to have your child change their after-school arrangements, please pick your child up at the school or at the normal drop-off location.

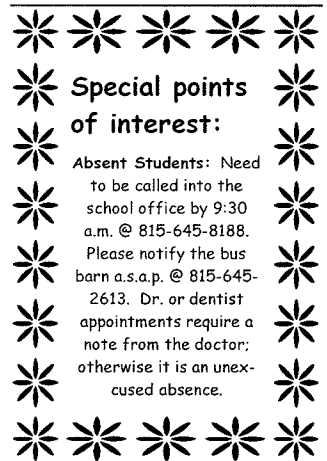
**Classroom and Birthday Treats** - May be dropped off in the office. We will deliver.

**Label** - Please label everything with your child's name and homeroom number! (i.e.: clothes, book bags, shoes, gloves, envelopes)

**Contact us by E-Mail** - All of our teacher and staff e-mail accounts are the person's first initial and last name followed by @mail.meridian223.org. For instance, my e-mail address is MCoulah@mail.meridian223.org.

### EARLY DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS

Please refrain from picking your child up early at the end of the day. Every minute is important in the routine of a school day. Early dismissals are disruptive to the educational process for your child and the other students. Attending all hours of attendance gets your child used to the idea that there are expected work hours in their routine. When you must have a child leave early for a Doctor or Dentist appt., please write a note for your child to give to the teacher on the morning of the early dismissal and have your child turn the Doctor or Dentist note in to the teacher the following morning.



**Special points of interest:**  
Absent Students: Need to be called into the school office by 9:30 a.m. @ 815-645-8188. Please notify the bus barn a.s.a.p. @ 815-645-2613. Dr. or dentist appointments require a note from the doctor; otherwise it is an unexcused absence.

### Inside this issue:

1A, 1S, 2BU, 2E, 2H & 2 LI

Outside Recess 2

2B, 2S, ED, MUSIC, 3 S/L

1CO, 2D, ART & RR 4

AFTER SCHOOL, & SIBLINGS 4

KJAM, 1C, 1M, COUNSELOR & P.E. 5

HGS CALENDAR 6 & 7  
MARKET DAY ORDER

## KBAM - Mrs. Ballard

Hi and welcome back to the 2010-2011 school year. I am Mrs. Angel Ballard. It is exciting to start a new school year. This will be my fourth year teaching Kindergarten at Highland. My family lives here in Stillman Valley. It will be a busy year for me

with 24 students, a daughter that started High School, and another daughter that started Junior High. My littlest girl is still here at Highland...WHEW! With another year brings new opportunities. I will be working to incorporate more small group

differentiated instruction into my class this year. I attended a conference for several days this summer that addressed differentiated reading instruction...so I am looking forward to putting my new knowledge to work! Have a great year.

## 2BU - Mrs. Burch

Welcome to another school year! I am happy to be teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> grade this year. It's especially great to see familiar first grade faces from last year. This is my fifth year at Highland. It's a fabulous school and I'm so lucky to be here. I am anxious to work with your children.

My husband, 2 year old son, and I live in Sycamore. We just purchased a home this summer. We have been very busy remodeling it, as it used to be my grandparents' home. It's been a fun project. I also had to move my classroom down the hall this summer. I am now in Mrs. Welker's old classroom. I am happy to be all settled here at school and in my home.

I look forward to seeing you throughout the school year!

## 1S - Mrs. Simpson

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2010-2011 school year! My name is Mrs. Simpson and I am very privileged to be returning to Highland for my second year in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. I have been so fortunate to work with such a fun and inspiring team. My husband Tom and I live in Davis Junction along with our



HGS - Book Fair Sept. 7-9th  
HGS Open House - Sept 9th

son Justin. He is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Monroe Center. We are very fortunate to be a part of this great community and school district. I look forward to working with you and your families to create a wonderful year for our children. It will be wonderful to see and meet so many of you as we

progress through our year at Highland.

## 2H - Mrs. Hilliard

Welcome back! I am Lisa Hilliard, and this is my fourth year teaching at Highland. I have been married to my husband, Scott, for 20 years. I have two wonderful children. My daughter, Logan, is a junior at S.V.H.S., and my son, Grant, is in 8th grade at M.J.H.S. In my classroom, I promote safety, trust, and respect. I work hard to build a sense of community among my students and parents with an emphasis on teamwork. I believe that great things will happen when we work together. I am looking forward to a terrific year with your children!

## 2L - Ms. Lindwall Outside Recess

Hi! My name is Sarah Lindwall. This will be my 11th year teaching. I have been fortunate enough to have been teaching at Highland for four of those years. I love teaching here because of the community, families, staff, and kids! I live in Rockford and spend a lot of time with my family and friends. I love to travel to new places and do new things. I got to do some traveling over the summer. I am excited to be starting a new year at Highland!

**OUTSIDE RECESS** - children go outside to play in the morning before school begins and at lunch recess when the temperature/wind-chill is above 10° Fahrenheit.

Please be sure that your child is dressed for the weather with a hat, warm coat, mittens, boots, and snow pants when there is snow on the ground or they will not be allowed to play in the snow. Cold weather is here. When it is 50° or cooler, please make sure that your child has a coat when they leave home.

That time is here.

## 1A - Ms. Allton

Hello, my name is Laura Allton and I am so pleased to be working with the first graders at Highland Elementary. This is my third year at Highland, and I am continually amazed by the parental involvement and support this district has. I grew up in Rockford, IL and attended Rock Valley College for my Associate Degree and Northern Illinois University for my

Bachelor's Degree. I have also received my certification in gifted education through Aurora University. I am looking forward to a great school year and I hope that you will come to discover, like I have, what a wonderful school and district we are blessed to be a

## 2E - Mrs. Eisele

Welcome back! It's always so exciting to meet the new students and families. I am starting my 8th year here at Highland and my 5th year as a 2nd grade teacher. Now that my family is nearly grown, I enjoy spending time taking care of our family pets. Last year I adopted three chicks that were hatched in my classroom, and I'm proud to announce that I was just given my first egg! I am looking forward to a great year. Mrs. Eisele

## Speech/Language Pathologist - Ms. Schaub

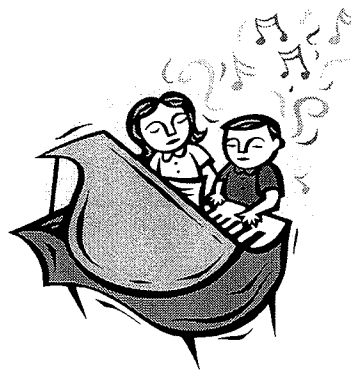
## EC - Mrs. Christianson

My name is Michele Schaub and this is my ninth year as the speech pathologist at Highland school. I am excited to begin working with each of the children on my caseload and look forward to seeing great progress!!

I am currently in the process of making out a therapy schedule. Once this is complete, I will be sending a note home with my speech students which will inform you of therapy days and times.

If you and your child are new to the district and your child has an IEP in place, please call the school office and let Jody Bennett know about this. We want to be sure that your child receives all of the therapy services that they are eligible for.

Please continue to help your child to work on their speech and language skills at home. Feel free to call, email, or stop in to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have. I would also like to invite all of the parents of my speech students to stop in and say "hello" during the open house. I look forward to working together with each of you to help your children to become the best communicators that they are capable of being!



Music is the shorthand of emotion. ~Leo Tolstoy

Hi, my name is Linda Christianson. I am teaching in the Early Childhood classroom. I have been a corporate trainer, children's camp director, substitute teacher for 8 years, and a mom. My husband and I live in Davis Junction. Our older son works as a national Park ranger at Bryce Canyon, Utah and our younger son is a machinist in Rockford. I am thrilled to be a part of the Highland School community and look forward to a fun and rewarding first year.

## 2S - Mrs. Simmering

Welcome to 2S! I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Mrs. Debbie Simmering. This is my eighth year teaching second grade at Highland. Before second grade, I taught third grade here at Highland and for one year at Monroe Center. My husband is also a teacher. Although he retired from the Rockford School District six years ago, Ted continues to teach

the L.I.N.C. program for the Lee/Ogle R.O.E., art method classes at Rockford College and is teaching art classes at the SVHS. He is also a painter and has a studio in Rockford.

My oldest son, Jacob, graduated from Grinnell College in May. He is in graduate school at the University of Iowa. My daughter, Jordan, is taking some time off from college and at

home. Jack, my youngest son, graduated from SVHS in May. He's beginning Rock Valley College.

I'm looking forward to a great year with my new class. We are getting to know each other and learning new routines and procedures. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone at open house, September 9, 2010.

## Music - Mrs. Knight

Welcome to music! My name is Mrs. Knight and I teach vocal music at Highland grades one and two as well as some classes at Monroe Center. I enjoy gardening and biking in the summer and reading and knitting in the winter. Parents are welcome to visit the music room and share their talents at anytime. We love to have live performances, so dust off your old band instrument or guitar and come see us.



We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet forget that he is someone today. ~ Stacia Tauscher

## 2B - Mrs. Burke

Welcome back to a new school year. My name is Patty Burke and if you did not know, I used to be one of the Title I teachers here at Highland. I am honored to now be a part of the 2nd grade team. This is my 13th year at Highland and I am excited to be back in the classroom. I have been married to my husband Tom for 18 years and we have two wonderful daughters, Annie who is in 7th grade at MJHS and Emma who is in 4th grade at MC. I am certain that this will be one of the best years yet at Highland and I am thrilled to be starting a new year.

## 1CO - Mrs. Collins

Welcome to a new year here at Highland! This is the beginning of my 6th year teaching at Highland. However, this is the beginning of my 11th year as a teacher. The grades I have taught range from Kindergarten to 5th grade. I seem to have found my home in 1st grade! Originally, I am from the San Francisco Bay Area. Both my parents are from this area. They moved out to California in the 70's. My sister and I grew up coming back to this area for summer and holiday visits. It was on one of these visits that I met my husband. In 2003, I took a big risk and moved out here. The risk paid off. My husband and I celebrated our 4 year wedding anniversary in June. This September 11th, we will celebrate our son Charlie's 1st birthday.

I look forward to an amazing year! See you all at Open House!

Mrs. Collins



The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows. ~Sydney J. Harris

## Art - Ms. Wolarek

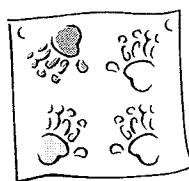
Welcome back! I hope everyone had a great summer. My name is Monika Wolarek. This is my third year as art teacher for students in grades one to five at Highland and Monroe Center. I graduated from Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Art Education. I would like to thank everyone who has supported me and especially our art program. I very much enjoy working in this district. Wishing everyone another exciting and wonderful school year!

## 2D - Mrs. Dessing

Hi, my name is Mrs. Renie Dessing! I just got married this summer at Starved Rock in Utica, IL. I live in Byron with my husband and we have a golden doodle dog named, Chassis. I went to grade school in Creston, attended both RTHS and Sun Prairie High School and went to NIU for my bachelor's degree. This is my third year teaching 2nd grade and my fourth year teaching at Highland. Some of my favorite things to do are: reading, art projects, playing with my dog, watching movies, and traveling. I am looking forward to a great year with my new 2nd grade class!

## RR - Mrs. Foss

I am Mrs. Julie Foss. I teach Title I Reading. This is my fourth year in this position. It is my 17<sup>th</sup> year at Highland School. This year Title will look a little different. I am working with 2 literacy aides. We will be using research based interventions to help those that are struggling in the area of reading. We want everyone to be confident and happy readers by the end of the year. I am really looking forward to the 2010-2011 school year.



Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can. ~Danny Kaye

## After School Arrangements

**Plan ahead. Call school by noon for students' after school arrangements. Late changes should be for emergency only. Notes should be sent in with the students if they are being picked up, otherwise they will be transported home by bus.**

## Note about Siblings

We ask that siblings be cared for at home when volunteering, helping in the classroom, or at parties.

Please find a caretaker or try to plan a different day for a visit when daycare arrangements can be made.

## Highland Grade School

Address

Highland Grade School  
410 S Hickory  
Stillman Valley, IL 61052

Phone: 815-645-8188

Fax: 815-645-8200

Bus Barn: 815-645-2613

Please **LABEL** everything - hats,  
gloves, sweat shirts, coats, etc.  
Initials or last name would be helpful!



**No Homemade Treats are allowed!**

Treats need to be store bought and pre-packaged. We will no longer allow homemade treats to be passed out. The State of IL. Suggests nutritious or healthy snacks!

From Mr. Fritz ( Physical Education Teacher):

Welcome to the 2010-11 school year! We are all very excited about the new year and all the exciting activities that are planned for the year for all first and second graders.

There are a few very important reminders I would like you to be aware of:

1. Please have your child wear gym shoes everyday to p.e. Class. If possible have them keep these shoes in their lockers during the week. Make sure that they have their names in their shoes which will make it easier to find the owner if they are lost or misplaced.
2. When the weather turns cooler please make sure that your child wears warm clothes to school. We will be going outdoors as long as possible throughout the fall.
3. Your child will be taking the presidential fitness testing in the fall and spring. This involves doing sit-ups, pull-ups, shuttle runs, sit and reach (testing their flexibility), and doing a run at the high school. All first graders will be doing a 400 meter run and all second graders will get to choose which run they will do. More information will be sent home in September about the testing.
4. My focus for physical education is participation. My number one goal is to make physical education an enjoyable experience while they learn different physical skills and cooperative skills.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me between 8:00-8:30 am.

## Mrs. Zitzke

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year here at Highland Elementary. I am excited to be returning for my second year as the school counselor. I will be working with students individually and in groups based on parent, teacher, or principal referrals. I will be adding a few new groups this year in addition to the social skills, shy kids, and friendship groups from last year. These new groups will focus on anger/conflict management and divorce. I will also be entering the classrooms to help with Second Step lessons. I am very excited that PBIS has made its way to Highland Elementary. It is truly a great program! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns by phone (815) 645-8188 ext. 4484 or by email at [zkitzke@mail.meridian223.org](mailto:zkitzke@mail.meridian223.org). Thank you and lets have a great school year!

## 1C - Mrs. Cook

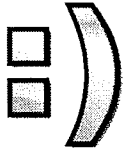
Welcome to the beginning of a new school year. I would like to introduce myself. I am Ellen Cook. My husband's name is Dan. We have two wonderful children. Hailie is a sophomore this year at Stillman Valley High School. Colten is in first grade. This is my 13th year teaching first grade at Highland. I love to watch how many new things my students learn each year.

## KJAM- Mrs. Jones

My name is Courtney Jones and I am very excited to begin my 6<sup>th</sup> year in kindergarten here at Highland! I live in Davis Junction with my husband and our 2 year old son. We have a great group of kindergartners this year and we have a very busy year ahead of us!

## 1M - Ms. Martinez

Welcome to 1st grade! First grade is an exciting time as children embark upon new adventures in the world of learning. During first grade, your child will learn how to read, write stories, add, subtract, and so much more. I hope to make your child's learning experience a fun and exciting one, and I hope to instill a love of learning that will last throughout your child's years of schooling.



Don't forget to send in a change of clothes for your child to leave at school. Please put it in a Ziploc bag with the student's name and teacher's name, to be left here at school.



**Fall Update**

**If you have no changes, please just fill in your Student's name.**

**Please fill out only changes:**

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Babysitter: \_\_\_\_\_

Mom's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Babysitter's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Dad's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Babysitter's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Babysitter's Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Bus Pick up location** \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Animal to school \_\_\_\_\_

Mom's Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bus Drop off location** \_\_\_\_\_

Mom's Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Animal to school \_\_\_\_\_

Dad's Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

(include shuttle bus Animal) \_\_\_\_\_

Dad's Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Teacher \_\_\_\_\_



**Do you have internet access at home? Yes or No**

If "no" and you would like to receive paper updates please give your student's name. Student Name \_\_\_\_\_