

# HIGHLANDER HILLTOP 2/12

Happy Friday Highlander,

While the past few weeks have been a bit chaotic with both the shift to full in person learning and the multiple weather related disruptions, I wanted to use the newsletter this week as an opportunity to recognize Black History Month, and share some of the things that we have been doing at Portland Middle School in celebration of the many incredible individuals of color, who have helped to shape this country. One individual that students have been discussing is Amanda Gorman, the American poet and activist. In U.S. History, students will be taking a deep dive into the analysis of the poetry she shared at last month's presidential inauguration. In ELA, students have been looking at mythology and folklore from around the world, and making connections between the stories of different cultures. Right in our lobby, Ms. Ellam has developed a wall of heroes, recognizing a number of African Americans and their impactful contributions to society. Students have been given the challenge to look at that wall, and research other notable black Americans, so that we can continue to celebrate their accomplishments. Today I spoke with students to share that while these are just some of the things we are doing this month, we need to continue to do more. If you have a moment, please feel free to view my [message](#) to all middle school students from this afternoon.

I hope you all have a wonderful President's day weekend.

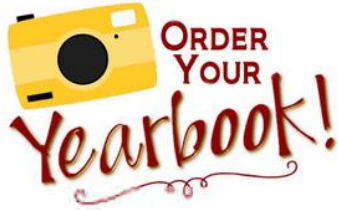
Sincerely,

**Mr. Hershon**



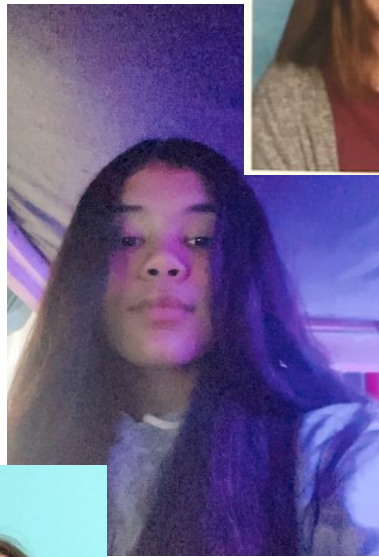
**ROCKING it out for  
MUSIC DAY**





Middle School Yearbooks are available to purchase! The 7th Grade Computer Science classes are working on this year's Yearbook. The price is \$20 and can be ordered online now! Follow the website below:  
<https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1037183/Portland-Middle-School/>

### MEMBERS OF THIS YEAR'S PMS Future



### Problem Solving Team



**Congratulations** to the PMS Future Problem Solving Team of Allison Tine, Emily Bernard, Laila Coleman, Maddie Vardon and alternates Alyssa Madden and Logan Kehoe!! The team researched human environmental impact and competed last week. Their booklet was evaluated and qualified for the 2021 State Bowl on the first round. This year's state bowl topic will be Personalized Medicine. Wish them luck on their booklet and their skit!

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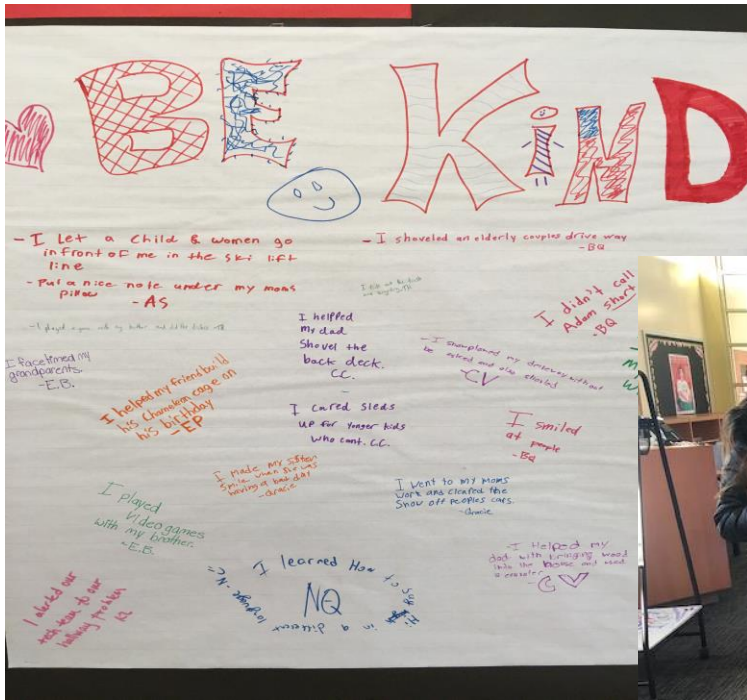
### STAR CITIZEN from PVLA:

**Nick Dumais is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader who is known for great attendance, always participates, and has been working hard all year.**

8<sup>th</sup> grade students are currently examining the personal and state protections provided by the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Students are in the process of reviewing case studies and rendering their opinion on if personal rights have been violated by applying the Bill of Rights to these cases.



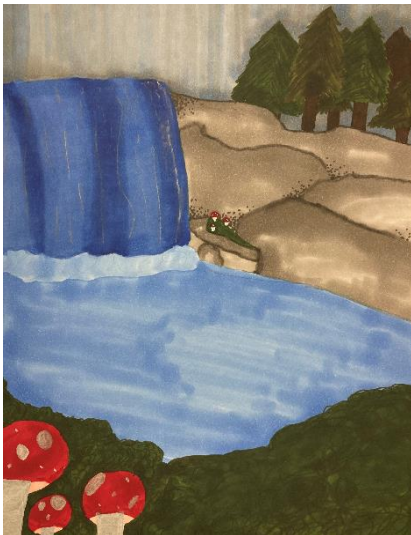




During the month of January, our advisory groups focused on being kind to one another. They took on the **Great Kindness Challenge!!** Here are some of their *Random Acts of Kindness*



Highlights of 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Quarter 2 Art Work  
Audrey Farmer



Leah Lampson



Danny King