

HIGHLANDER HILLTOP 5/28

Happy End of May Highlander Families,

We are truly in the home stretch of the school year now. Today we had a fantastic field day, capped off by a students vs. teachers tug of war. The students and faculty all had a blast letting loose today, as we celebrated the completion of our SBAC testing. Please enjoy the photos from today's event dispersed throughout this newsletter. A huge thank you to the school climate committee for helping make our first middle school field day in over 10 years, a reality.

Some other end of the year events are coming up shortly. 8th grade awards night will be on June 8th, at 6:00 pm in the auditorium. Award winners will be notified next week that they are invited to the event, and will be allowed to bring two guests with them. The event will also be streamed for any additional family members to watch along.

On June 11th, all of our 8th graders will be celebrated with our first ever promotion ceremony from 3-4 (this event will be live streamed for family members on our WPHT YouTube channel). It will be immediately followed by our 8th Grade Send Off. This carnival-like event will include caricature drawing, a dunk booth, selfie stations, plenty of food, and a DJ for students to enjoy in our back fields as a cap to their Middle School experience.

Finally, we will have our yearbook signing event during school on June 15th for all students, prior to us closing up shop for our final day of the school year, Wednesday June 16th.

PVLA students are invited to come in for any and all end of year activities to participate with their grade level. Please don't hesitate to contact me, if you have any questions.

-Chuck Hershon

FROM THE NURSES OFFICE:

The ticks are out! If your kids are playing outside, you should be checking for ticks. Ticks can be found in the woods or tall grass. CT has 2 new species of ticks that transmit disease, the Lone Star Tick and the Asian Longhorned Tick. The more common ones include dog ticks and the tiny blacklegged "deer" ticks that carry the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

Things you can do to prevent Lyme Disease: wear socks pulled over long pants, wear long sleeves, a hat and closed shoes, use tick repellent on clothing, wear light colored clothing so ticks are spotted easily, and inspect yourself, child, and your pets after being outdoors. After outdoor activity, shower and change your clothes and check especially in the hair, ears, underarms and other crevices.

If you find a tick embedded in your skin, remove it with fine point tweezers or a tick removal tool, get as close to the skin as possible and pull straight out with direct even pressure then disinfect the area. Take a photo of the tick, or save it in a Ziploc or glass jar and call your physician. Symptoms of Lyme disease can include: skin rash, stiff neck, fatigue, headaches, nausea, dizziness, fever, muscle and joint pain and swollen lymph nodes.

The following links provide great information on what kind of tick you have and when/how to get it tested for disease:

<https://www.lymedisease.org/types-of-ticks/>

<https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/Tick-Office/Tick-Office/Information-on-Submitting-Ticks>



Grade 7 News:

Students in the 7th grade Math and ELA have been working hard on their Aimsweb assessments. We are using the data collected from these assessments to help build next year's curriculum. This work helps identify the strengths and weaknesses among our students, so that we can productively focus our efforts to remediate and accelerate their learning next year. Additionally 7th grade math students recently completed a Performance Task called "Apple Festival". In this task, students were challenged to comprehensively answer a few detailed math problems. Many students rose to the challenge and submitted thoughtful and engaging responses.



Grade 8 News:

U.S. History classes are finishing a unit on *Manifest Destiny*. Students have examined how the United States added lands from coast to coast and the effects this expansion had on the people and cultures of the region. Moving forward, an analysis of the events leading up to the Civil War will be June's Focus.

Finally, we are asking all students to be prepared to return their *History Alive!* textbook starting on June 14th.

An Amazing Field Day!





As May draws to a close, we continue to celebrate National Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month, recognizing and honoring the cultures, lives, and achievements of our AAPI brothers and sisters. Portland Public Schools continues to stand arm-in-arm with the AAPI community against unfair, baseless discrimination and despicable, cowardly attacks they have been forced to endure throughout history and of late. We encourage all families to share in our practices of promoting respect and inclusiveness by engaging in discussions and learning about Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage at home. To support your efforts, we are thankful to the Portland Social Justice Coalition for [this list of extensive AAPI heritage resources \(click to access\)](#). By seeking to understand and learn from one another, we can continue to make our shared world a better, stronger, more just place for all.

Volunteer Hours Available at the Portland Library This Summer!

The library has made the decision to welcome Summer Reading Volunteers again this year after a hiatus last year. This position counts as community service for school or religious organizations so it's a great opportunity for those who need hours. Volunteers should be entering grades 7-up and will need to attend an online training session and adhere to COVID-19 safety requirements, including wearing a mask and social distancing. Hours are flexible and there is no minimum requirement. Please see Mrs. Jenn Renk at the library for more information. Click the link to apply!

[2021 Internship Application Portland Public Library.pdf](#)

HAVE A GREAT MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND!!

