

Husky Herald

February/March 2012

ALIENS INVADE H.H.S.!

Actually, these space invaders really belong to Junior Alex Jones, who wore them on Slipper Day; this was part of a week-long observance of No Name Calling Week, sponsored by the G.S.A.



Photo by Aryanna DePorres

Sticks and Stones will Break Bones and Names will Break Spirits: Highland G.S.A. Leads Anti-Bullying Campaign

From putting a cap on name calling to slippers giving name calling the slip, students were encouraged to watch what they say, and how they say it. No Name Calling week was initiated in order to bring awareness to students that words hurt. Name calling is just a piece of the whole picture of bullying, if we take it apart piece by piece we can take it out as a whole.

No Name calling was inspired by the novel The Misfits by James Howe the novel is a story of four "misfit" kids who don't quite fit in anywhere, and

how they were bullied and hurt by the words of others. The week included sports team day, red white and blue day, cap day and slipper day.

Junior Evan Martensen added, "I felt that no name calling week is an excellent way to bring us all together."

"It was a nice change of pace."

- Nick Wern

Junior Caleigh Duggan stated "It's a good cause and I took the chance to show everyone that the Giants are the best!"

The theatre class performed three different



Above Caleigh Duggan and Laura Arrubla sport their favorite sports team. Evan Martensen and Zak Wern sporting blue!

Sticks and Stones will Break Bones and Names will Break Spirits: Highland G.S.A. Leads Anti-Bullying Campaign

skits to spread the awareness using stories of real life teen suicides. The skits showed real situations that happen on a day to day basis. The class tried to make it as relatable as possible to get everyone thinking about what they say and how they say it. They received a mature response to the skits and hoped it was a sign that they got through to the audience.

Junior Saige Greenwell said “Suicide is often seen as a taboo subject and many people don’t have personal experience with it but it’s important for them to realize the magnitude of the topic and to understand it and how easily it can be prevented.”



Left: Nick Gunderson, Kelly Storh, Quayeshawna Smith, Caitlyn Classey, Dan Russo, Gabriella Polson, McKenna Gallinari during the skit.

Visiting Mills Mansion

In January, some students from Highland High School visited the Mills Mansion in Hyde Park. They learned about how the the Mills

Family lived and all the secret passage ways. The house still had all original furniture and more than 60 rooms including bathrooms.

Highland High School student Carly Curtain said “The tour guide (Donald Fraser) was very interested in the house; he even dressed like he was a servant from that time period.” Fraser acted as if students were the Mills’ guests for dinner. The house was full of very exquisite pictures and quite a sight to see.

Student Khadijah Williams said “Mills mansion was very extravagant. Every mirror , every room had its own style .”

Student teacher Mr. Putnick “It’s better when you guys experience firsthand rather than reading it in a textbook; it sinks in much better, I think.”



The group peers over the balcony in front of the mansion, after being met by Tour Guide Donald Fraser, inset. After the tour, students walked down the huge lawn.



French Club Forays to Phantom

by Gabi Lichtenstein



Billowing gray curtains gently frame an antiquated stage that represents the Paris Opéra in 1911; an auction of old props is underway. Lot 666 is a shattered chandelier that, the auctioneer says, has a connection to “the strange affair of the Phantom of the Opera....a mystery never fully explained.” As the overture commences, the chandelier illuminates, reassembles itself, and slowly ascends over the audience to its old position in the rafters. Meanwhile, the Paris



Opéra returns to its 1880s grandeur, bustling with color, people, and music, and the show begins.

The Phantom of the Opera was based off of the poorly-sold 1910 French novel *Le Fantôme de l'Opéra* by Gaston Leroux. However, several other film and stage adaptations have been widely successful, including the 1925 silent horror film, Ken Hill's 1976 musical at the Theatre Royal Stratford East, followed twelve years later by perhaps the most widely known depiction, Andrew Lloyd Weber's 1986 musical, and then by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Joel Schumacher's 2004 film.

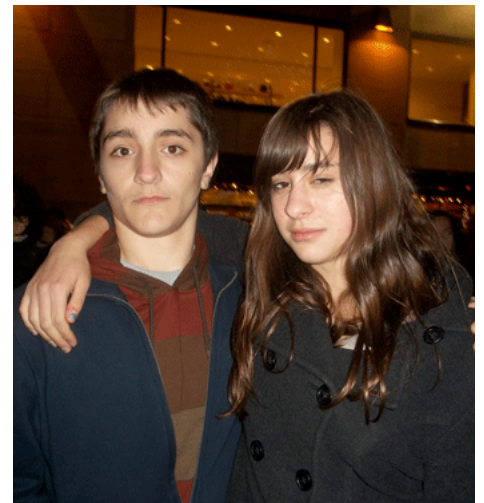
Andrew Lloyd Weber's musical depiction of *The Phantom of the Opera* won countless awards both on Broadway and in the West End, where it originally opened. It is the longest-running Broadway show by far, the second longest-running West End musical, and the third longest-running West End show overall.

Phantom is the highest-grossing entertainment event of all time and the most financially successful theatrical show in history, with total worldwide box office receipts of over \$5.1 billion, \$800 million of which was

accumulated solely by its U.S. Broadway venue. By 2011, it had been seen by over 130 million people in 145 cities in 27 countries, making it the most successful entertainment project in history.

On December 14, 2011, members of Highland High School's French Club were given the wonderful opportunity to see this show.

“I love going to the city in winter!” states senior Allie Gordon, who enjoyed the day. “It's even better when I go with my friends.”



Honoring Black History Month

by Tianna Pittman, Layout by Gina Cruz



"Willie Mays . . .
because he is a professional baseball player who works ethics and he was one of the best African American baseball players. He played for the San Francisco Giants before finishing with the New York Mets. Mays was then elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1979."

- Mike Millimen



"Will Smith . . .
because he is a great comedian, awesome actor and a good rapper."

-Zach Milligan



"Martin Luther King Jr . . .

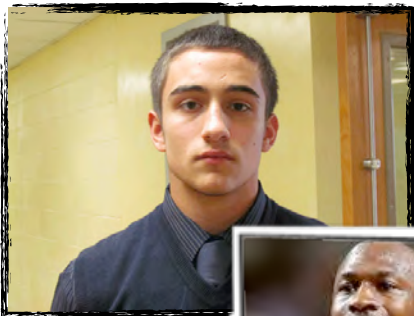
because he gives good advice and he is very outspoken and he stopped black racism."

-Austin Ingraham



"Beyonce . . .
she is really successful and she is creative and she is confident with who she is."

- Dana Rhodes



"Michael Jordan . . .
because he took the game of basketball to a new level by dunking from the foul line."

- Max Cruz



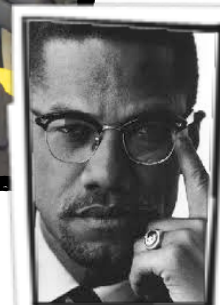
"Jackie Robinson . . .
he broke the color barrier. He was the first black American to play baseball. He had to endure anger, hostility, names, and stuff being thrown, everyday. He was brave and played for the Brooklyn Dodgers."

- Mr. Mango



"Billy Holiday . . .
because of her little pipsqueak, rockin' voice."

- Ms. Reilly



"Malcolm X . . .
because he was a cool guy and he was a fighter for what he believed in."

- AJ Buchanan

Who Let The Dogs In?

by Greg Kolber



can't just run off because they hear a gunshot, or perhaps a door slamming shut, but must be ready to obey their commands no matter the situation.

Police dogs must be intelligent, strong, have an exceptional sense of smell, and even be playful. The way they train to dog to find drugs is, they put the drug in its favorite toy so when they dog smells it they think they're going to play. The officer with the dog will then hide



Transitions did! On Monday November 14th, the Transitions Department at Highland High School had a “K-9” visitor when an Ulster County Sheriff's Department K-9 Officer came to speak to a few Transitions classes. Deputy Lattin told his story about how he first started in the K-9 unit, and there were just two dogs. Deputy Lattin had to compete with 15 other people to get the job of canine specialist; although, now the department he works in has seven dogs. The canine friend/coworker Deputy Lattin has now is named Beal and it is his second dog to work with.

Quinn Halligan, a student in Transitions, thought the most fascinating aspect of the presentation was “having the dog there, and showing how obedient he [Beal] was to the deputy.” When Lattin ordered the dog to go to the corner of the room and lay down, Beal did exactly as he said, without any hesitation and stayed in the corner laying down until Deputy Lattin told him otherwise. The only movement Beal made while he was laying in the corner was to sit up slightly every few minutes to make sure his owner and friend, Deputy Lattin, was alright.

Deputy Lattin explained the process of getting the dogs ready to work for the police. There is an extensive twenty-two week training course both the dog and

the officer need to successfully complete in order to be certified.

Once the dog is certified, then if he/she starts sniffing or scratching at a suspected persons' vehicle, no other search

“I had no clue how helpful the police dogs could be!”

- Natalia Rios

warrant or probable cause is needed. The dogs they choose for training must be pre-determined as fighters in the ‘fight-or-flight’ scenario. In other words, they

the toy and the dog will sniff out the drug they think is in the toy because the dog just wants to play.

Junior Natalia Rios said, “The presentation was an eye-opener because I had no clue how helpful the police dogs could be. I thought it was interesting how the dogs could find someone hiding in the woods with nothing more than following a small scent! Also, I never knew how they trained the dogs to find drugs until now.”

Deputy Lattin talked about the bond he has with Beal, a four year old German Shephard. He explained how Beal is always by his side - from when he wakes up and goes to work, to when gets home from work.

Deputy Lattin joked that if he goes out to dinner without the dog, even if he's only gone for a half-hour, the dog will greet him and jump all over him when he gets home, as if they had been separated for days.

Knitting Warmth for a Community in Need

by Jess Cruz



Kenny Ling, knitting

The knitting and multicultural clubs of HHS put in the effort that is in dire need to keep the people warm in the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. "We knitted the scarves on our own time" says scarf contributor Amber Pauli. The scarves knitted for the members of the

reservation were sent out during the winter break. "It felt really good helping out!" shares Kenny Ling, another scarf contributor and knitting club member. This reservation is nearly 1,700 miles away, meaning that real problems do exist outside of our melodramatic comfort zone, and that H.H.S. students are enthusiastically lending a helping hand.

There are 3,143 counties in the United States and this reservation is one of the poorest. It lies along the Nebraska border in the corner of South Dakota. According to ask.com, the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, an Oglala Sioux Native American Reservation, comprises more than 3,468 square miles of land, of which only 8 thousand acres are suitable for farming. In addition, the unemployment rate is over a

staggering 80%; the population is greater than 40,000 (do the math - that means 32,000 out of work!). This reservation has struggled with extreme weather, along with social, financial, housing, and educational issues.



Ms. Daole

Mrs. Daole, who spearheaded this charity work explains that she got involved after a friend began to volunteer on the reservation every year. Since she was making the trip by car, her friend decided to start a food drive for the people of the reservation. "I began donating food 13 years ago and this year decided we could knit scarves and send those instead."

"We sent a box of scarves - most of which were created by first-time knitters - because we are concerned about the extremely cold temperatures and poor living conditions on the reservation," she added.



Melannie Orton, Aryana DePorres, Chelsea Wood, Courtney Pineiro, Alexandra Beckervmit, Keri Gordon and Allie Gordon proudly sport their knit-wear.

CHECK THIS!

•16-year-olds have higher crash rates than drivers of any other age and are 3 times more likely to die in a motor vehicle crash than the average of all drivers.

•63% of teenage passenger deaths in 2008 occurred in vehicles driven by another teenager. Among deaths of passengers of all ages, 19% occurred when a teenager was driving.

•81% of teenage motor vehicle crash deaths in 2008 were passenger vehicle occupants.

•37% of male drivers ages 15-20 who were involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time.

•55%, or 2,014, of the 3,678 occupants of passenger vehicles ages 16-20 who were killed in crashes were not buckled up.

•31% of drivers ages 15-20 who were killed in motor vehicle crashes had been drinking some amount of alcohol; 25% were alcohol-impaired, meaning they had a blood alcohol content of 0.08

•16- and 17-year-old driver death rates

Ever wonder how and why so many teens are involved in car crashes?

Car crashes are the leading cause of deaths for 15 - 20 year olds. About 8,000 teens die in crashes every year and another 350,000 are injured.

Teens are easily distracted and inexperienced. This is a major problem in today's society.

Highland High School recently won a grant from State Farm's Project Ignition, a program which will raise awareness about the risk factors of teen driving. Highland's program, is called "Think. Drive. Arrive." and will focus on the two riskiest behaviors of teen driving - distracted driving and driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs.

Distracted driving is becoming a serious problem in the U.S. especially since automakers are stuffing new cars with active technology that is now distracting the drivers, especially teens. Examples of these distractions are smart phones, iPods, and satellite radio.

Teen drivers play with these gadgets while driving; this is a dangerous hazard that has resulted in an increase of serious accidents over the past 15 years.

In addition to distracted driving, teens also drive under the influence at alarming rates. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety website, 31% of drivers ages 15-20 who were killed in motor vehicle crashes had been drinking some amount of alcohol.

We wanted to talk to students and get their stories about driving to show just how vulnerable teens are.



Joe Jackson takes a poll for a Project Ignition survey

Tread Lightly:

Even when we observe ALL the driving rules, crazy things happen which can put us in danger. . .

One student who was involved in a car accident that can speak about the dangers of driving is senior Mike Feola, whose incident occurred the day after he got his license. Feola is an excellent driver and would never break the rules. He said that he was going to a friend's house near the Sunoco gas station. "Out of nowhere I get rammed right in the back of my car. When I got out of my car I looked at the other driver and he was a kid that looked like he was at least 21-22 years old."

Another students who also was involved in a accident was senior Rayne Gibson. Rayne's incident occurred at night when he was coming home from his aunt's house in the dark. Rayne said "I was driving back to my house when out of nowhere a car comes and hits me in the back side of my car. No one was hurt though, thank the lord."

Senior Allie Gordon recalled a rainy cold night in March when her mom was driving from the Hudson Valley Rail Trail "My mom just lost control of the car and we spun twice. It didn't hit me until later how scary it was."

Senior Anthony Pennes remembers an Easter car trip when he was little; a drunk driver crossed into his lane, ran them off the road and crashed into the car behind them. He added solemnly, "The driver [behind them] died on impact."

Senior Liz Oswald vividly recalls a terrifying moment in middle school. She and a friend were walking on a sidewalk in Kingston when a driver under the influence hit both of them. Her friend was hospitalized for a long time. She said, "Driving is a serious matter."

H.H.S. Wins Safe Driving Grant

By: Travis and Jarrett DiStasi

Senior Lily Watkins recalled an accident when her sister was distracted by “changing the radio station or texting” when she hit another car. She said that a passenger in their car had to be airlifted to Westchester.

Junior Nicollette Tomasulo, whose only been driving since November, recalls a fender bender after she left school one day. “I realized speeding is a bad thing,” she admitted.

Junior Kevin Pacheco about his speeding and tailgating tickets which added points onto his license. “Right now, I’m driving like an angel!”

Pacheco credits his stepmom with giving him the best driving advice. “She told me that you always have to assume that other people are going to do the wrong thing behind the wheel.”

Guidance Counselor Ms. Andrea Marz said “Young kids just don’t realize what’s involved in driving and what the risks are if you don’t concentrate.”

The “Think. Drive. Arrive.” campaign hopes to bring awareness to these issues.

Kevin Pacheco added, “I’ve got it - think smart, drive safe, arrive unharmed.”

Please Vote!

These posters created by students in Mr. Castellanos’s Media Arts Class are part of the “Think. Drive. Arrive.” campaign. Results will be tallied in Journalism. The winning poster will be displayed around the school and town.



A large percentage of the people said they know distracted driving is dangerous, but do it anyway.

*Where's Mommy
Will she ever come back?*



NFL DREAM TEAM

by Matt Hart, Ant Smith and Vinny Molinare



QB-Drew Brees: 6 time pro bowler and Super Bowl MVP. Also Madden Cover Athlete

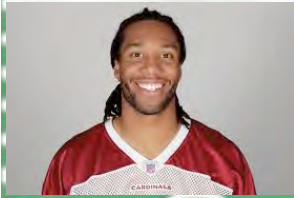


RB-Arian Foster: Undrafted but one of the best RB in the NFL. Led the league in rushing in 2010.

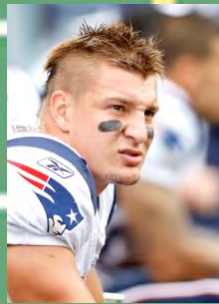


WR-Andre Johnson: 5 time pro bowler and 4 time all pro

Wide Receiver



WR-Larry Fitzgerald: Hands down one of the best WR's in the NFL. Best acrobatic catches!



TE-Rob Gronkowski: Owns a number of tight end records including 18 touchdowns in one season and most receiving yards

Polamalu: 7x pro bowler. Made the 2000's all decade team. Super Bowl MVP in 2010.



WR-Calvin Johnson: Has a rare but skillful combo of size, hands, speed, strength, leaping ability, body control and hand eye coordination. AKA-Megatron



LG-Ryan Clady: Plays for Denver Broncos; 2 time pro bowl and all pro

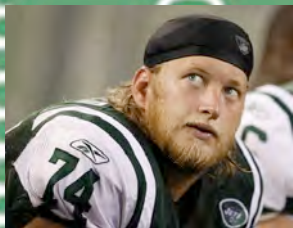
LT-Joe Thomas: 6 foot 7 313 pound lineman with 5 pro bowl selections



RG-Logan Mankins: 4 time pro bowler. Moved to right guard in the NFL



KR-Devin Hester: 18 kick/punt return touchdowns and thats an NFL record. Made the NFL all decade's time for the 2000's



C-Nick Mangold: One of the best centers in the league. Jets starting center.

RT-Joe Staley: 6 ft. 5, 315 lb. lineman, one of the best lineman in the league and was a pro-bowler this season



OLB-Demarcus Ware: First round pick. 4.56 40 yard dash. 99.5 career sacks.



DE-Jason Pierre-Paul: All Pro D end. Started playing as a junior in high school. AKA-JPP

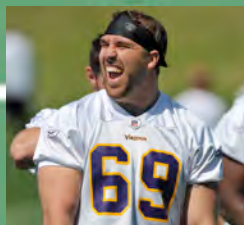


DT-Haloti Ngata: 4 straight all pro selections. 17 sacks, 3 picks and 311 tackles



CB-Champ Bailey-All time leader in interceptions in Bronco history. 6x all pro selection.

DE-Jared Allen: 105 career sacks. Holds Vikings record with 22 sacks.



MLB-Ray Lewis: One of the best linebackers of all time. 2x defensive player of the year.



CB-Darelle Revis: Spot on the field is "Revis Island." One of the best corners in the league.



Highland Wrestling: More than Meets the Mat

The Legend. A man by the name of Dan Gable once said "Once you have wrestled everything else in life is easy." This phrase has been immortalized on posters, t-shirts, and in the hearts and minds of young aspiring wrestlers everywhere. He knew the recipe for success and he was and still is victorious in all that he does because of it. Coach McFarland ensures that this philosophy is instilled in the minds of all the wrestlers that go through his program.

A Complex Sport Wrestling is a complex sport that requires both physical and mental toughness. It's a sport that is unforgiving but rewarding. It's a very different sport from other team sports like football or lacrosse, because of the fact that wrestling is a more individually-orientated sport. Now it still is a team sport but only because your team will receive points based on your performance.

Starting out Even if you played a sport in the fall I can almost guarantee you that you are out of shape. You will be tired, you will be sweaty, and all you will

want to do is go home from practice and sleep (after you do your homework of course).

The sport is extremely demanding and it's one of those things, where if you have any aspirations of being good at it you need to practice, practice, oh yeah and practice more. Practice combined with mat time will make you a good wrestler, but you still need the drive to succeed. You can go to practice and go through the motions and still be sub-par, but the person that commits and gives it

"Once you have wrestled,
Everything else in life is easy" -
-Dan Gable

their all everyday will eventually reach their goals.

Wrestling is not for everyone, Wrestling is a great sport but it's not for everyone however. If you don't like running, if you don't like hard intense workouts, if you don't like pressure, and most of all if you don't like sweat, then wrestling may not be for



you. Even if you feel like you don't like some of those things now, once you make it through a season of wrestling you will be in the best shape of your life and you will feel invincible.

The Road To Success

Dan Gable was successful only because of his determination and incredible attitude. The road to success is long and winding. The only way to be successful and to meet your goals is to keep your chin up and take on what ever obstacles are in your way.

H.H.S. on the Mat

This season, Highland's team had no seniors, so it was a good building year for the team which currently has 29 members.

Austin Ingraham, sophomore, currently has an impressive record of 39-5 and holds first place seed going into sectionals.

Sal Mazzella has a record of 30-9. A.J. Buchanan is also a sectional hopeful with a record of 27-9.

The team has an average of six tournaments, with each wrestler competing in seven matches a tournament.

Wrestlers agree that one wrestling match is the equivalent of playing a full football game. You walk off the mat and you just want to drop. One afternoon really feels like five football games, which makes it a tough sport to play.

"I'm proud of the kids staying with it - all of our young guys staying with it," Coach McFarland said. "This is what I always say to them: 'If you can get through wrestling season, you can get through anything in life'."

"I honestly believe that a lot of my wrestlers that make it through come back the next season with a sense of pride."

Kevin Rivera, a junior who's been wrestling for three years now, says that he learned how to be a disciplined kid. He said, with a confident grin, "My stepfather once told me that he was worried about me before I joined wrestling."



Juniors Tour Hudson Valley Landmarks

Story, photos by Taylor Atkins

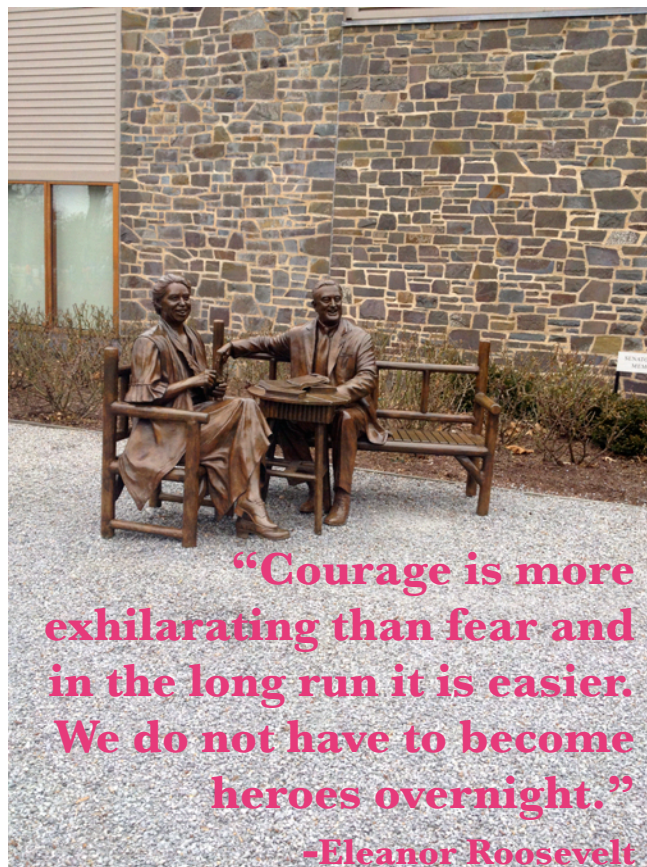
On February 2nd, Mr. Moriarty, Mr. McFarland and Ms. Meisel took the junior classes to visit the Vanderbilt mansion and Franklin D. Roosevelt's house in Hyde Park.

First, we arrived at the Vanderbilt mansion. A tour guide met us outside of the mansion, and told us some of the history. He began the tour by telling students the history of why they made this mansion, how much it cost, and some family history. The mansion was built by Frederick William Vanderbilt in 1898. The house was built within a two to three year period and it cost 2.25 million dollars.

He then took us inside to the first floor entrance hall, adjacent to a dining room, a bathroom, and a study, which was Frederick's

personal space to talk business with other wealthy Gilded Age industrialists. It also included a room where parties were held, a room where dinner was prepared, and Mrs. Louise Vanderbilt's, private room. We learned a lot about this era in time from the mansion; it was a great experience. The guide told us that after Frederick died in 1938, the mansion was given to his niece, who didn't want it.

President



Franklin Roosevelt convinced her to sell it to the state for \$1 so that it could become a landmark museum of Hudson Valley

history.

Next, we went to FDR's mansion right down the road. We heard the history of his life in the house and then proceeded in. In the house were many things that belonged to him. We got to see the room he was born in, his room when he grew up, and a library. We

saw many other rooms too, but those three really stood out because in the library you got to see a wheel chair of his, in his bedroom you saw where he slept; we also got to see where he was born. Seeing FDR's grave really proved how important this area is to history even though we might not realize it.

Mrs. Meisel says, "I love how going to Vanderbilt estate really brings the gilded age experience to life for students whether they are reading about it in a history book or studying it in literature. And the stop at FDR never fails to teach me something new about that period of history and the importance of the Hudson Valley."

Student Brittney Peiffer says, "the trip was fun and educational at the same time, I think we all learned a lot about the area we live in."



M-m-m-maple Syrup on Pancakes

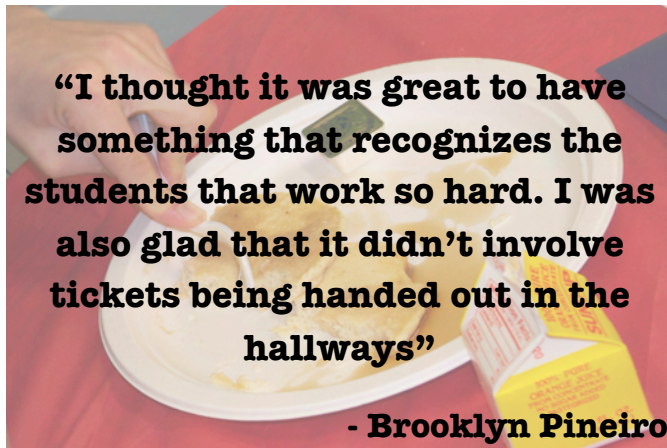
By Sydney Lutz

On Friday the 13th, Highland High School hosted a pancake breakfast for students that have demonstrated positive behavior recently. It was run by P.B.I.S, which is led by Mrs. Dudley-Lemek and Mrs. Petrosoff. P.B.I.S stands for Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports. Many students loved the idea and look forward to the next sponsored event.

In the past there have been numerous ways that Highland has rewarded the good behavior and hard work that the students do. There's been everything from kickball games to green bagels to handing out tickets. "I thought it was great to have something that recognizes the students that work so hard. I was also glad that it didn't involve tickets being handed out in the hallways," said Brooklyn Pineiro. Although pancakes were thought to be an unusual reward it seemed that most students



agreed with Brooklyn. All around the cafeteria students ate happily as they looked forward to their half day. "The pancakes were good even though I wish they had been cooked a little longer and weren't so cold. I feel that it was a good way to start off half a day of school," said Puja Saha. With full stomachs and happy minds, the students of Highland were left to wonder what would be next! Will it be a dodge ball game, where the students are pitted against the teachers, or will it be something far crazier?



"I thought it was great to have something that recognizes the students that work so hard. I was also glad that it didn't involve tickets being handed out in the hallways"

- Brooklyn Pineiro



Top: Jayna Parker and Jeremy Jackson are served by Mrs. Cosh and Mr. Moriarty.

Middle: Mrs. Eckert serves up pancakes with a smile.

Bottom: Alejandra Cruz gets her pancakes.



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2011-2012

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Preparing for the Slam!

By Gina Cruz

In today's world where everything is electronic and instantly gratifying, fields like journalism and publishing are slowly fading, however it's important to recognize humanity's true roots in our written language.

Highland High School has an accomplished history of encouraging written expression, both inside and out of the classroom. For several years now, Highland's been holding a variety of events to try to get the student body to better appreciate traditional literary works. Highland has in the past generated an enthusiastic turnout to these workshops.

This year's Poetry Slam will mark the second year of the writing workshop. Even those who didn't participate in last year's day of poetry workshop found the product enjoyable. This year's participants of the Poetry Slam team -meeting every Thursday after school- have brought an impressive number of people into the group.



Above: a student rehearses original poetry; below: the audience listens and offers feedback.

"The purpose of poetry slam is to bring poetry back to the people," says instructor Krista Petrosoff. "The slam takes place in two rounds. During each of these rounds, competing poets have three minutes to perform an original work, for which they will receive a score out of ten points from each of the five judges randomly selected from the audience."

The event takes place on Friday, April 20th, at 6:00 pm. There will be an open mic period in which the audience is encouraged to perform any type of poetic or musical act. It has also been planned that a featured professional poet will perform a 20-minute set. Refreshments will be provided by the Interact Club. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



POETRY SLAM: 4/20, 6 P.M.

FEATURING HIP HOP ARTIST: M.C SWIFT

HE IS A MEMBER OF UNIVERSAL ZULU NATION AND PERFORMS WORLDWIDE WITH HIP HOP LEGEND AFRICKA BAMABADTA. HIS POETRY HAS APPEARED IN MH-18 & FUSION



Highland Visits the Metropolitan

by Grace Park and Jerron Shropshire



“As soon as [I] stepped into the Metropolitan, it was as if I had traveled back in time,” says Miriam, a Highland High School junior. On December 22nd, 2011, the classes of Mr. Castellanos, Mrs. Driller, and Ms. Skrabak took a trip to New York City to view the

the flawless, dynamic structure took hold of our eyes. It was massive, seeming even larger on the inside because of its dome-shaped ceiling. The trip also exposed aspects of mathematics that helped some students better understand it. After entering

The trip showed us the evolution of architecture, geometry, and even biology. Others started to grasp their math and science classes from the experience. It was a day off from school, yet we all saw something that related to our core subjects, making it a valuable learning experience. “Each piece was only a small part of something greater, no matter what the culture.” This also gives a feel of connection of humanity, showing that we’re all not that different from each other. The museum was a classroom combined with the freedom of Manhattan. Many of the students said, “Can’t wait to go back” and that they want to learn about these other cultures more in-depth.” For those who missed out, this experience was amazing. Anyone who visits the museum will be inspired, no matter what field of work they are in.

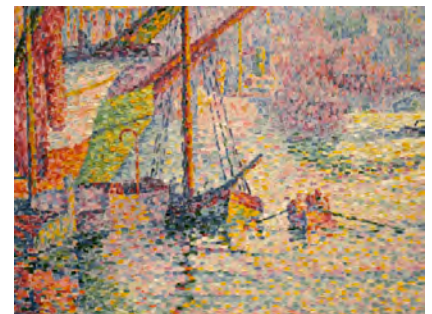
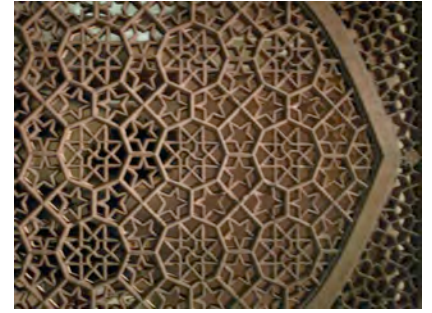
So, the next time anyone hears about an art trip going on, don’t knock the idea – it might be just what you need to relax and to inspire yourself to do great things.



timeless art of the Metropolitan Museum. The museum houses artwork from so many exotic cultures and periods of art history; it has attracted people from around the world. Tourists, scholars, art majors, and this time, high school students traveled to see what awaited them. Immediately upon entrance,

the museum, the group split up, going to enjoy the wonderland that awaited us all. “Seeing van Gogh’s paintings in person was my favorite part.”

Some kids experienced the full effect of their social studies classes inside the museum. The Metropolitan was not just about art or art history.



Isn't it incredible how you can go around the world in four hours and travel through history and art.

-Ms. Driller

A Blizzard for the Books

by Ashley Hartford



Aryana DePorres paints a shirt during the party.

While waiting for the actual snow to fall, the art club hosted the Blizzard Bonanza on January 18th, a late night event for artists and aspiring artisans alike. Students enjoyed a variety of crafts and sweets while listening to music and watching the esoteric Tim Burton's "Coraline." A talented student named Pinak Sharafi even brought henna to paint unique designs on teachers' and students' hands. Almost everyone there got a personalized henna tattoo.

Every member brought in a snack or drink, including brownies, cupcakes, cookies, soda, hot cocoa, coffee, chips, pizza, hummus, and vegetables. The students enjoyed building

gingerbread houses, making t-shirts, and drawing. "It was nice to get together and hang out with friends," Allie Gordon says.

This was the second late night the art club has ever hosted. The profits were much larger and will go towards the purchase of supplies for the club as well as the organization of trips. They hope to offer another similar event in the spring.

In the meantime, watch out for posters for other art club events and be sure to stop by. They're always looking for new, inspired members.



Abby Ruiz enjoys a henna treatment from Pinak Sharafi.

It's a Bust!

by Ashley Hartford



On Monday, February 13, Ms. Driller's Ceramics class began to make sculptures of self-portrait busts. The interdisciplinary lesson combines the study of anatomy and art. From left Allie Gordon, Chelsea Wood, Mike McKee and Taylor Lent .

"It's really hard, and it's really cool," enthused Ms. Driller. "And they are doing so well!"

H.H.S. Students React to Budget Crisis

By D. Pikul

Highland Central School District is in a budget crisis. It is apparently three million dollars in debt which means there are some things that could be cut such as sports, AP classes, extra-curricular activities and many more. This would be the worst-case scenario for our school.

Some things are mandated by New York State Department of Education. If it's not mandated, the district can cut it. Mandated items are 120 minutes of physical education between grades K-12 per calendar week; 2 units of study must be earned in foreign languages between grades K-9; districts must offer all classes needed to earn a Regents diploma; there must be a school library in each building and a library media specialist in each district; there also has to be a K-12 guidance program. Schools may provide Regents classes with advanced designation, but it is not mandated.

During the last decade, Highland has experienced several program and staffing reductions. Family and Consumer Science was eliminated in 2002, Technology was eliminated in 2005, and Business was eliminated in 2010.

Potential reductions are listed on the school website which shows that the high school stands to lose electives and teachers in all core subjects. Jayvee sports and clubs also might be cut.

Some Highland students are afraid they will be affected from the budget crisis.

"The [2%] budget is dumb because we're going to cut jayvee sports. It would be terrible without jayvee sports," stated freshman Nick Brognano. Freshman Nick Brognano who plays j.v. basketball and soccer, said he would be disappointed if sports were cut. "That's what I look forward to every year."

Hunter Fauci gave his opinion on the budget: "I hate the budget [cuts]. They should just come to a deal so both sides can be happy."

Junior Kevin Hayes expressed concern about losing some band and chorus electives: "I hope I can play in band and jazz band next year." Sophomore Elijah Sullivan stated that he expects that jazz band will be cut.

Hayes said he would be disappointed: "I enjoy being in jazz band."

Sullivan added, "Yeah that's spot on."

Junior Winnie Oberholtzer reacted to the plan to cut English electives like theater. Oberholtzer starred in theater class's production of "Status Update" this past winter. "If theater were cut," she said, "I'll cry forever. I'll just go insane!"

"Having performances goes positively with the school. I think it's something good for the school," agreed Nicole Bellacicco.

Junior Nicholas Gunderson added, "It keeps kids busy; its influence is a part of real lessons that students want to be involved in. Most kids come to school just to be a part of this."

If art electives were cut, Howard Birch, freshman, said he would be disappointed, "It's a creative part of my day," he said.

Sophomores Hannah Peterson and Sarah Kassel discussed the importance of keeping a foreign language program. "It's important these days to be bi or tri lingual because it's going to be important to share ideas in the blink of an eye. You can't assume everyone is going to speak your language," stated Sarah Kassel.

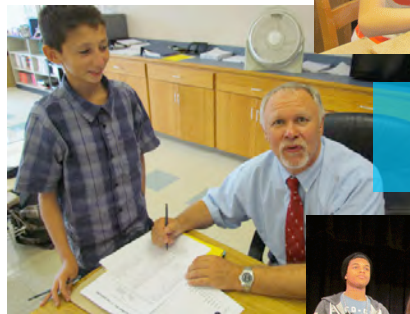
Hannah Peterson added, "I could probably get into a college if we didn't have it, but we do have it. We already have College French here." Peterson added that when college admissions officers see a high level of French on her transcripts, they will see that she "can speak French really well." She summed it up: "I'll have the upper hand."

According to the website, the high school will also lose a social worker, a special education teacher, a guidance counselor and a library specialist.



Sports programs?

Art electives?



Foreign languages?

English electives?



photos by Ashley Hartford

Choir Competes in All-County

On March 3rd, 15 Highland chorus students will join singers from across Ulster County in an annual musical festival. To earn a spot in the ensemble, a student must successfully audition in one of two ways: Junior High Chorus members from 6th grade to 9th grade need to audition for Mrs. Keech, the high school choir director; Senior High Chorus students from 10th through 12th graders, must sing a pre-selected a cappella piece as a quartet in front of a panel of four judges, who rate the performances for accuracy of notes, tone quality, diction, and expression.

The concert, open to the public, will begin at 4:00PM at Ulster Community College. A nominal fee of \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens helps to defray the cost of music, facilities charges and conductor fees.

Come support Highland's choirists and enjoy a high quality performance featuring the best singers across Ulster County. Hope to see you there!

by Kyle Welch

Junior High Choir:

Soprano: Makayla Caso, Shelby Houston, Shannon McMann
Alto: Janie Nelson, Dana Piscopo
Baritone: Cory Garcia, Sam Porter

Senior High Choir:

Soprano: Caitlyn Classey, Roseanne Lesser, Quayeshawna Smith
Alto: Sara Kassel, Martiana Scott
Tenor: Kyle Welch
Bass: Osmaan Shahid, Damien Stevens