



APRIL 1, 2025

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL


Happy Spring HES Families!

I want to formally introduce myself as the new principal at Highlands Elementary School. I am thrilled to continue the work that has been done, and look forward to what we will accomplish together! You can look for our newsletter, *The Golden Gazette*, after each quarter moving forward, highlighting our HES happenings.

It is hard to believe it is already April and we are approaching the final quarter of the 2024-2025 school year. Our HES Golden Rams have been receiving RAMS tickets and working towards filling our pom pom ball container. Our schoolwide PBIS incentive is a schoolwide GLOW party! We have already reached the halfway point and received a BINGO day. We continue to celebrate our successes at monthly RAMS Roundups- recognizing stellar students, AAA Junior Safety Officers, golden spatula winners, and RAMS Readers.

As we approach PSSA testing in April, our 3rd and 4th grade teachers will be working closely with students to ensure they feel confident and prepared for the assessment. In preparation for the test, our teams will provide testing strategies, discuss the test format, and familiarizing students with the online system (4th grade Math) to minimize any stress. PSSA testing will take place on April 23, 24 and 25 for ELA and April 29 and 30 for Math. We encourage all families to help their students get a good night's rest, enjoy a healthy breakfast and arrive to school on time.

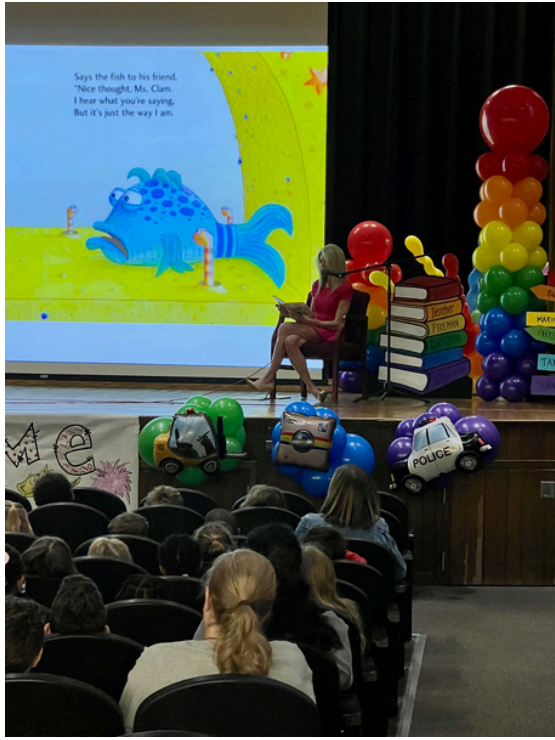
Looking ahead to May, we have our band and chorus concerts, field trips, our 4th grade send off, step up day, and our annual fun fest. The next few months will fly by, so lets end the year on a positive note!

 Sincerely,
Mrs. Kumar



READ ACROSS AMERICA COMMUNITY READERS DAY

Read Across America Week was a blast at HES with daily themes, reading activities, and guest speakers. During Read Across America Week, 2nd grade teacher, Ms. McCurdy organized a schoolwide Community Readers event for students in grades 1-4. HES hosted over twenty visitors who shared a children's book with students and gave an overview of what career path they chose and why.



FIRST GRADE FIELD TRIP

In March, First grade students went on a field trip to the Pittsburgh Children's Museum! They explored and created in the Kindness Gallery, Makeshop, Garage, and Art Studio. First graders also had the opportunity to discover different habitats and learn about nature's diversity in Charley Harper's I Am Wild exhibit.



SECOND GRADE SCIENCE

Second graders completed a science unit titled "How Can We Stop Soil from washing away?" Students explored and collected evidence on the fast and slow ways water and wind can change the shape of the land. They used a stream table as a model to compare multiple solutions designed to prevent water from changing the shape of the land.





THIRD GRADE HAPPENINGS

This week in science, we've been diving into the world of organisms and exploring how inherited and environmental factors shape their traits. Ask your child what traits they think they inherited from you!

In math, we're tackling fractions—learning how to compare them and understand their values.

In ELA, we're sharpening our opinion writing skills, and let's just say—our third graders have strong opinions! Our current focus? Why every third grader should have a cell phone. Sorry, parents—we promise it's just a writing exercise (for now)!



FOURTH GRADE CWR

Fourth grade was so thrilled to have Senator Lindsey Williams visit us while we celebrated Read Across America week the first week of March. The students love having guest readers and visitors to expand their knowledge outside of the classroom. The students have learned so much in Social Studies and ELA learning about the role of the constitution at the national, state and local level.

Through the BizTown program, students have had opportunities to learn about the economy and experience 'real world' situations such as opening a bank account and voting for a mayor of the town. It's been a fun and engaging way for students to start preparing for their future and learn about how the community works. We loved talking about this program with Senator Williams during her visit to our classrooms.





STORY BOOK TISSUE BOX PROJECTS

Recently, the HES Library hosted a Story Book Tissue Box contest. Participants were tasked with decorating an unopened tissue box to resemble their favorite storybook character. The contest encouraged family engagement, imaginative thinking, artistic expression, and a love for reading. We received an astounding 70 entries! Seven winners were selected for their outstanding work. The library congratulates all the participants and celebrates their efforts in bringing beloved characters to life!



BLACKBERRY FARMS VISIT

First graders had the opportunity to participate in planting activities with farmers from Blackberry Meadows Farm. They planted spinach, beans, and beets with Farmer Greg and his team. The farmers guided first grade to show them the correct way to plant sprouts and seeds.





Mega MATH festival

FAMILY NIGHT

Highlands Elementary School

Monday, April 14, 2025

5:00-6:00pm

Please join us for a hands-on, engaging, unique and fun way to learn math!

Please scan the QR code to RSVP! →

We hope that you can join us!

This event is made possible through Title I.

MEGA MATH NIGHT

Save the date! April 14th from 5:00-6:00. Join the HES MTSS team for a hands-on, engaging, unique and fun way to learn math!

TITLE I NIGHT MAY 7TH

Save the date! Our annual Title I family night will take place on May 7th at Highlands High School. More information to come.

PTO APRIL NEWSLETTER

Highlands K-4 PTO Newsletter

APRIL 2025

Mark Your Calendar

- REPORT CARDS AVAILABLE ON POWERSCHOOL- April 1st
- BROWN & GOLD DAY-April 4th
- KIND KIDS SALE- April 7th
- FUNDRAISER PICKUP-April 9th from 3-6pm at the Community Center
- BROWN & GOLD DAY-April 11th
- MEGA MATH FESTIVAL-April 14th
- SPRING PARTY- April 15th from 1:30-3:00pm
- MAKE-UP DAY #2- April 16th
- SPRING BREAK- April 17th-21st
- PSSA's ELA-April 22nd-25th
- BROWN & GOLD DAY-April 25th
- PSSA's MATH & SCIENCE-April 28th-May 2nd.
- BROWN & GOLD DAY-May 2nd

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Can you believe we are almost in the last quarter of the school year? With the end of school approaching we have events coming up, that you have the opportunity to volunteer at. Please make sure you have your clearances in, so that you can take part in all of the fun.

BOOK FAIR DURING TITLE I FAMILY NIGHT

The Scholastic Book Fair is back for one night, and one night only. On Wednesday May 7th at the High School, during Title I Family Night, from 5:30-7:30pm. Take advantage of their BOGO deal. (Buy one get one free!!!)

STAFF APPRECIATION

We will be having staff appreciation days May 5th-May 9th. Stay tuned for more information.

FUN FEST is BACK!!

In May we are bringing back FUN FEST!! This is a day that the students can enjoy games, bounce houses, art, fun food, etc. It will take place on the following dates: HES 2nd & 4th Grade will be Wednesday May 28th, followed by 1st & 3rd Grade on Thursday May 29th. HECC will be on Friday May 30th. We are going to need a lot of volunteers. Please make sure you have your clearances in, so you can take part in this years fun! Watch for a sign up genius to come out in the next few weeks.

KIND KIDS CLUB

The kind kids club will be having a school sale on Monday April 7th. They will be selling things like bracelets, buttons, etc. All proceeds will go to help the families at the HOPE CENTER. It is a CASH ONLY sale. Please consider supporting a great cause.

FUNDRAISER PICK UP!!!

Distribution of all Marianna Hoagie, Sarris Candy and Spirit Sale orders will be at the Community Center on April 9th from 3-6pm. All orders **MUST** be picked up during this time.

Stay Connected!

Scan the QR code above to sign up for Remind updates or you can get text updates by texting the number 81010 and put @hesk4pto or @hecc4pto in the message.

Like our "Highlands K-4 PTO" Facebook page by scanning the QR code below

Highlands4pto@gmail.com

MEGA MATH FESTIVAL

HES will host a Mega Math Festival for families on Monday, April 14th from 5:00-6:00pm. This Title I sponsored event will feature hands-on, engaging, unique and fun ways to learn math! Please register for the event here: <https://bit.ly/4IKD814>

