

NEWSLETTER # 32

November, 2009

Mr. David Colburn
Trustee

Mr. Edgar Schmidt
Superintendent
of Schools

Mrs. Jennifer Allen
Principal

Mr. Glen Wilcox
Assistant Principal

B.R.A.G. Begins

Stand up for a friend – you could get a **B.R.A.G.** Report an act of bullying – a **B.R.A.G.** could be yours. **B.R.A.G.** or better known as the ***Because of a Random Act of Goodwill*** – is the new awards program developed by the Edmonton Police Service and used at Highlands School.

Designed to create opportunities for positive interaction between youth and police, Highlands' resource officer, Constable Amanda Chernyk, will be visiting our school to award and recognize the leadership and good citizenship of students who have been identified by staff members or other students at the school.

With a B.R.A.G. award, students will also receive a free fitness pass to any City of Edmonton facility.

Neighbourhood Empowerment Team Program Manager, Michelle Fillion, says “ We are hoping that this program will help set the stage for youth to be proud of their actions and allow the EPS to have more meaningful meetings between police and youth.”

Principal of Highlands, Jennifer Allen adds “We hope to see a lot of B.R.A.G. awards given out as we have great students who are positive role models both in and outside the school.”

So, if a police officer gives you a ticket while you are at Highlands – don't be alarmed – you've been given a B.R.A.G.!

*Bright futures
begin here*

 EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Highlands Families:

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit us at Highlands School next Thursday, December 3rd, at which time you may pick up your child's first progress report of the year. At this time we hope that you will sit down with each of your child's teachers to discuss their progress and set goals for the upcoming term. Students are encouraged to attend these meetings with their parents/guardians. ***Teachers will be available from 3:30 – 5:00 and 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.***

When meeting with teachers regarding progress reports, please be sure to ask for advice on what can be done to help your child achieve their potential. If they have fallen behind in one area, there is usually a way for them to make up or redo work. This will often help them to be more successful on upcoming units and will help their mark in the long run. We believe that marks at the end of the school year reflect what students know and can demonstrate by the end of the year.

Congratulations to our Girls and Boys Volleyball team players and their coaches Ms Boulet, Ms Smale and Mr. Rees for a very successful season. Many of our players were new to the game this year and were able to develop some great skills and represent our school well. Both teams will be advancing to the playoffs which begin next week. Basketball try-outs will be commencing shortly after volleyball play-offs have been completed.

Congratulations as well to our Peace Talks student leaders, Mr. McMains and our Peace Talks coordinator Queenie, for completion of a fabulous three day retreat. Our students will now begin working with Montrose students as they take their anti-bullying messages to their classes. Plans are also in place to take this important message to Mount Royal students in the new year, and for our student leaders to be trained in community conferencing as well.

A huge thanks to the many parents who came out and supported our Highlands School community by volunteering at the recent casino. Funds raised will help to enhance a variety of learning experiences for our students. You can have a say into exactly how these funds are used through participating in school council meetings. ***The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 14 @ 6:30 p.m.*** All parents are welcome to attend.

During the final week of school prior to the winter holiday, all Highlands students will be participating in ***"Health Week."*** During this week, students will participate in activities aligned with the Health curriculum. Our first Health Week, which was held last year was a huge success. Many community guests worked alongside our teachers presenting sessions which enhanced curricular themes. This year, the week will follow a similar format. On Thursday, students, staff and community partners will be treated to a turkey lunch when we will all sit down and eat together in the small gym. ***This year's meal is made possible thanks to the generous support of Metis Child and Family Services along with Enbridge Pipelines Inc.*** Their financial support, along with the efforts of many volunteers who organize, cook, and serve the feast enable us to host this special event.

Thanks for your ongoing support of your sons and daughters and their education at Highlands School. We look forward to seeing you for progress reports and meetings with your child's teachers next Thursday.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Allen

SPORTS TEAMS UP AND RUNNING!

Volleyball



The *Highlands Boys Volleyball* Team is on a 6 game winning streak. The team is 6 wins and 2 losses with three games left in the season. Semi-finals and finals are in December. Way to go boys! *M. Rees*

The *Highlands Girls Volleyball* season is coming to a close and it was a great two months! We are most proud of the improvement in each girls' skill level. Way to go, girls! We start the City League Quarter-Finals on Monday, November 30, Semi-finals December 04 and, if all goes well, Finals December 05, at Jasper Place High School (East gym). Come cheer on our team! Go Hurricanes! *A. Boulet & S. Smale*

What's Coming Up in December . . .

Thursday, December 3

Coffee & Conversation Parent Group (see notice on this page)
Progress Reports and Parent/Teacher Interviews 3:30-8:30 p.m. with
teacher supper break at 5-5:30 p.m. Students encouraged to attend.

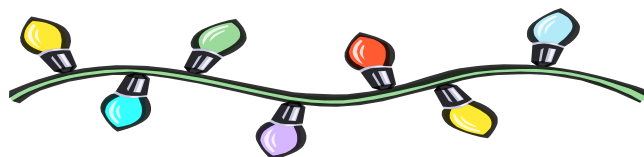


**Monday, December 14 –
Friday, December 18**

Highlands 2nd Annual Health Week. Students will participate in sessions ranging from careers to sex ed throughout the week.

Thursday, December 17

Christmas Bureau Dinner for Highlands Students. Students will enjoy turkey with all the trimmings! The Christmas Dance will follow in the afternoon.



Coffee & Conversation

Highlands next *Coffee and Conversation for Caregivers* of teenagers is
Thursday, December 3 @ 10 :00 a.m.

The featured speaker is
Darren Herd from Youth Addiction Awareness.
For more information, please call
Noelle Dufort at 780-479-4206. Please sign
in at the office before coming for coffee.



Christmas Break

**Monday, December 21 –
Friday January 1**

Classes Resume

Monday, January 4, 2010

Schoolzone

A reminder to parents who are waiting for Schoolzone User Id's and Passwords to **call Linda at 780-470-4206** and give her permission for her to email this information to you at home.

All student information, report cards, interim reports, attendance, homework and missing assignments, newsletters and other important parent information is accessible to parents on **Schoolzone**.



Change is Coming . . .

With a New Year comes a new way of delivering the newsletter – via Schoolzone.

As of **January 1, 2010**, the school newsletter will be sent electronically through a caregiver's Schoolzone account.

If you haven't signed up yet, contact Ms. Linda Graham in the office at 780-479-4206.

If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the office to make arrangements to receive the newsletter in a paper copy.

Imagine . . .

Spending 2 weeks in Disneyland with an award-winning marching band!



Interested?

Consider joining the Edmonton Sabers Marching Band. They offer:

- ✓ Low-cost music lessons for youth ages 6-16
- ✓ 16 hours of musical instruction a month
- ✓ Lessons in clarinet, flute, trumpet, brass, saxophone, percussion and colour guard
- ✓ Instruments/flags provided
- ✓ 3 weekend band camps **PLUS** the 2 week tour in the summer

For more information call May Murphy at 780-985-3698 or e-mail sabersvicepres@gmail.com or check out their website at <http://www.edmontonsabers.com>



Basketball Coaches Needed!

The Highlands Hurricanes Basketball teams are still in need of coaches.

If you have experience in coaching basketball and are interested in coaching this season (January to March with 1 tournament), please e-mail Kendra Eliuk at

kendra.eliuk@epsb.ca.

Teachers are willing to sponsor the team and act as supervisors.

2009/2010 High School Open Houses

February 23, 2010

Old Scona – 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Ross Sheppard – French Immersion – 7:00 p.m.

February 25, 2010

Centre High – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

March 2, 2010

Strathcona High School – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

March 4, 2010

Harry Ainlay – Time – 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Jasper Place – Time – 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

March 8, 2010

Edmonton Christian – 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

March 9, 2010

Victoria School – 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

March 11, 2010

J. Percy Page – 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
L.Y. Cairns – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Vimy Ridge – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Eastglen – 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
M.E. Lazerte – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

March 16, 2010

McNally – 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Amiskwaciy Academy – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Argyll Centre – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

March 17, 2010

W. P. Wagner – 7:15 p.m.
Queen Elizabeth – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

March 18, 2010

Millwoods Christian – 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Ross Sheppard – 6:30 p.m.

April 20, 2010

Argyll Centre – 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

2009/2010 IB Information Evenings

February 1, 2010

Harry Ainlay - French Immersion and IB Information Night – 6:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

February 4, 2010

Jasper Place – AP/IB Honours Evening – 6:30 p.m.
Strathcona – Advanced Placement Evening – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

February 10, 2010

M.E. Lazerte - IB Information – 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Queen Elizabeth – AP Evening – 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

February 17, 2010

J Percy Page – 7:00 p.m.
Ross Sheppard – IB Information Evening – 7:00 p.m.

March 8, 2010

McNally IB Information Evening – 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Eastglen AP Information Evening – 7:00 p.m.

March 17, 2010

W. P. Wagner – IB Information Night – 6:30 p.m.

DATES TO REMEMBER

PLEASE POST ON YOUR FRIDGE FOR AN EASY REFERENCE

December	3	Progress Report #1 Parent/Teacher Interviews 3:30-8:30 p.m. with teacher supper break 5-5:30 p.m.
December	14-18	Health Week
December	17	Christmas Bureau/Christmas Dinner & Dance
December 21-Jan 1		Christmas Break (no school)
January	4	Students Return
January	21-22	Mid-Year Exams
January	28	Student Interim Reports
January	29	Professional Development Day (no school)
February	1	Semester 2 Options Begin
February	15	Family Day (no school)
February	23	6 th Annual Young Readers Conference
February	25-26	Teacher's Convention (no school)
March	11	Progress Report #2 Parent/Teacher Interviews
March	18	Open House
Mar. 29-Apr. 5		Spring Break/Easter Break (no school)
April	6	Classes Resume
April	19-23	Spirit Week
April	26-30	HLAT Writing Exam
April	30	Student Interim Report
May	3-7	HLAT Reading Exam
May	12	Grade 9 Language Arts Final, Part A
May	21	Day In Lieu (no school)
May	24	Day in Lieu (no school)
June	16	Grade 9 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test
June	21	Aboriginal Day
June	23	Grade 9 Language Arts Part B Final Exam
June	24	Grade 9 Science Provincial Achievement Test
June	25	Grade 9 Mathematics Provincial Achievement Test
June	29	Awards Ceremony and final day for students, 1:00 p.m. Grade 9 Celebration, 6:00 p.m.
June	30	Final Progress Report handed out – 9 – 10 a.m.

* School Council Meetings will be held monthly, every fourth Wednesday evening