



TROJAN TODAY

YOUR SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SOURCE FOR NEWS AND EVENTS | APRIL 2021

2019-nCoV
coronavirus

SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SPECIAL REPORT

Hope is on the horizon as school year draws to a close

I want to begin this letter with a passel of great news.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the HHS Girls Bowling Team. These talented young women brought home Highland’s first-ever Indiana girls bowling title. The boys team wasn’t far behind, finishing a commendable seventh in the state.

That’s not all. Merkle Elementary placed in the Top 10 in the state for Science Bowl this year!

Congrats to everyone who gave it their all and came home winners.

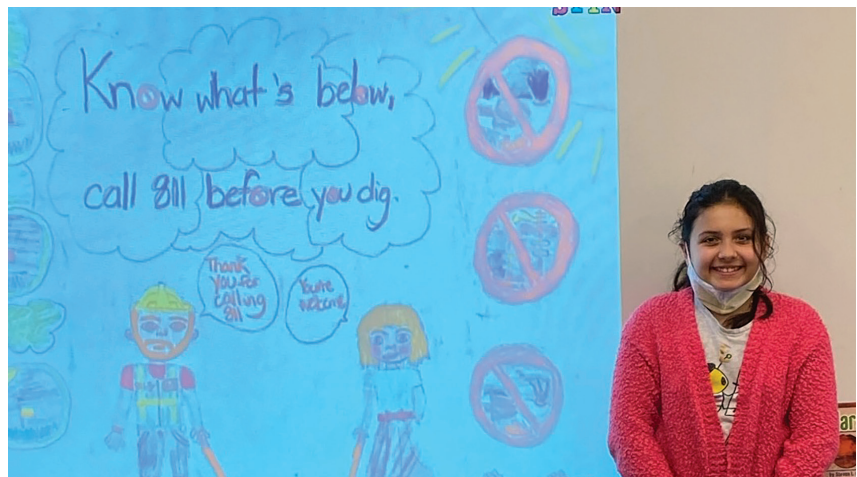
IN-PERSON GRADUATION

Mark your calendars: In-person graduation has been scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 6 on the football field. Graduating seniors will each receive tickets for family and friends. The number of tickets has yet to be determined. The rain date will be 6 p.m. Monday, June 7.

CARES ACT MONEY

The School Town is over-the-moon happy with the opportunities presented by an award of \$2.6 million in CARES Act money.

We invested heavily in HVAC upgrades when we revamped each of our schools several years ago. Our early plans for the money are to invest it in our students, using the money on tutoring and summer



MERKLEY STUDENT WINS NATIONAL POSTER CONTEST

Aspen Fonseca bested elementary school students from 22 states – including Indiana – to win a poster contest telling people they need to call before they dig to safeguard against unintended interactions with underground power lines. Aspen, who was a fourth-grader when the contest began in 2020, was officially informed in March during a Zoom call. Fourth-grade teacher Annamarie Pizer said Aspen won an iPad, stylus, AirPods and keyboard for her eye-catching poster. Pizer’s class wasn’t left out, receiving an \$811 cash prize. “Aspen did a phenomenal job showing why it is so very important to call before you dig,” she said. “We are thrilled she won.” [photo provided]

school to get our students back where they need to be academically. The rest of their lives will be impacted by what we do now.

STAY VIGILANT

That leaves me with a request of all of you. Your children, grandchildren and neighbor kids have done all they can to stay safe – and they’ve done it well. We have eight

more weeks of school and we need for you to mask up, social distance and wash your hands just as you’ve been doing for the last year. Stay vigilant. Help us get through the end of this academic year.



Brian Smith
Superintendent
School Town of Highland



JOHNSTON HONOR PARKWAY

Nearly a dozen trees donated and planted last year at Johnston Elementary are giving north Highland more than shade. The saplings are providing funds needed to augment playground equipment that will be used by the Johnston Elementary community.

Principal Amy Harrington said the goal is to raise an estimated \$5,000 for specialty structures – such as a gravity swing pictured above – that provide joy and play opportunities for children of all abilities.

“Our Johnston outdoor space is used by so many members of our community,” Harrington said. “We envision our Honor Tree Parkway being a place where current students can honor and remember members of our community who have made this a great place to live, work and play.”

The fundraiser allows the community to adopt each of the 11 trees. Every donation will be made in honor of an individual or family that will be recognized with plaques placed adjacent to the adopted trees.

By mid-March, four of the 11 trees had already been adopted. Harrington said an event is planned for late spring to recognize all that has been accomplished through the generosity of others.

HOW TO DONATE: To secure your very own honor tree (\$500) or simply make a donation to help purchase the all-ability playground equipment, please complete the donor form that can be found at www.highland.k12.in.us/o/jes. **Questions?** Please contact Principal Amy Harrington at (219) 923-2428.

TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

Show your student’s teacher(s) how thankful you are for all they do by making a donation in their name to the Highland Education Foundation on Teacher Appreciation Day.

For a minimum donation of \$11 per honoree, the teacher will receive a special card and apple pin. All donations help provide grants to School Town of Highland teachers for instructional items for the classrooms.

HOW IT WORKS: Login to your PayPal account, enter our email address – highlandedufdn@gmail.com – then add a note to enter your name and email address, your student’s name, and the name of the teacher and school. Deadline for submission is **April 28** to ensure teachers get the cards and pins during Teacher Appreciation Week.

TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

The Highland Education Foundation will host its annual Trivia Night Fundraiser – virtually from 7-8 p.m. **April 24**. Gather a team of two to 10 players and log on for a fun-filled night of competitive trivia. Team captains will receive the code to join and report answers, while teams meet in-person or virtually.

TO REGISTER: Email HEFDNevents@gmail.com or call (219) 923-7621. The cost is \$100 per team to enter in this battle of facts and fun! Pay via PayPal or check made to: HEF c/o Highland School Administration Center, 9145 Kennedy Ave., Highland, IN 46322.

SPRING CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR

The Highland Band Boosters will host an outdoor Spring Craft & Vendor Fair – rain or shine – from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **May 1** at Highland Middle School, located at the corner of 41st and Erie streets. Admission is free. Help support the School Town of Highland bands and enter a raffle for a chance to win two roundtrip tickets on Southwest Airlines as well as other exciting prizes!