Principal’s Point of View
Only four weeks left! Where did the time go? It seems like we were just registering and here we are in the final stretch. It has truly been a fantastic year and we still have numerous exciting activities for our students, parents, and faculty to enjoy. The 8th Grade Six Flags trip, the 8th grade party, graduation, the Millionaire surprise field trip, honor’s day, and Buzz for Beds. With all these activities scheduled, I can assure you that there is still valuable learning taking place in our classrooms! Our faculty takes great pride in teaching to the very last day!

Final Report Cards
We will mail final 6th and 7th grade report cards May 31st. Eighth grade report cards will be given to the students after the graduation ceremony. Don’t forget you can go online to check your child’s academic progress to provide them the guidance and push to finish the year on a positive note!

Registration for next year
Registration is currently available online. Go to our website and register your child as soon as possible to eliminate any stress in the summer. Our goal is to have all of our middle school students registered before May 20th. Please take a minute to register your child online at www.district106.net. Should you need assistance please call Mrs. Jones at 708-579-6890.

Buzz for Beds Fundraiser May 31, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Don’t forget to celebrate the 2012-2013 school year with us after school on May 31, at 10:00 a.m. We will combine efforts with Buzz for Beds, have lots of fun, and raise money for a great cause. There will be games, food, a dunk tank, face painting, watermelon eating contest, a photo booth, and much more! See you there!!!!

Priorities:
Decide what you want. Decide what you are willing to exchange for it. Establish your priorities and go to work!

-H.L. Hunt

Have a great summer! Enjoy the time with your family and spend lots of time relaxing!

Sincerely,

Mr. Papierski
The 6th graders will be continuing their unit on ratios, rates, and proportions. Students will be using different strategies to solve proportions, including cross-products and solving an equation. Students will be using proportions to solve real world problems. We will also be doing a unit on percents and probability. Students will be asked to memorize common fraction, decimal, and percent equivalents. They will be given the opportunity to use different methods to memorize these important math basics.

All 6th grade students will finish off the year with a cumulative project. The M&M project will include skills from fractions, decimals, percents, proportions, probability, graphing, and data analysis. The students enjoy this project because they get to EAT the M&M’s when they are done with the project!
Language Arts – Ms. O’Brien and Mrs. Scheiwe

During May, 6th grade language arts students will experience a new genre of literature: **DRAMA!**

They will study the elements of drama, compare and contrast the format of plays with that of stories, and even perform their own student-directed productions. We will also continue with the self-paced grammar unit of study to review the eight parts of speech, and students will synthesize their knowledge of Greek and Latin prefixes and roots to create “vocabulary advertisements” promoting a real or imaginary product.

In addition to our grammar and vocabulary studies, the advanced language arts class will read the final companion novel to the William and Mary *Persuasion* unit, *Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two* by Joseph Bruchac. We will wrap up our studies by comparing and contrasting all four books we’ve read this year.

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**6th Grade Art**

Student have done a great job working on their pinch pot animals and stained glass mosaics! We are finishing the mosaics, and will be moving on to our drawing unit. They will learn about the basics of drawing, pattern, creating texture and shading. The result is a beautiful black and white pencil drawing! Displays of all of the work will be in the front lobby, and in the Art Fair on May 9th!
The 6th graders have just completed an Ancient Egypt mini-research project. In addition to their research, students had to create a graph or chart to represent data related to their topic. For the remainder of the year we will continue to focus on social studies skills like interpreting graphs and timelines. We will also be developing critical thinking skills: ask your 6th grader, “How is courage like a cup?”

We will finish the 6th grade year considering global connections, specifically the evolving relationship between the United States and China. It has been an exciting year of history adventures.

![China Income and Population for last 2,000 Years](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

*Source: Angus Maddison, University of Groningen*
6th grade Spanish - Señora Murphy

The 6th grade students have been very busy this month! They just completed their weather unit by creating a weather forecast using i-Movie. You will be able to check out our forecasts soon on the school website. To find our movies look under WebLinks-Classroom WebPages. They turned our fantastic! The students utilized the vocabulary from this unit and the Titan Pad website to write the scripts they used for their broadcast. We will be beginning our next unit on body parts and articles of clothing. Students will be using their new vocabulary to describe a space alien that they have created. We will also be learning the vocabulary for clothing items. We are looking forward to a very productive end to the school year!

6th grade Music

The sixth graders are working on their rhythm unit and will be moving on to putting the notes on the staff and writing melodies. We will work through three major keys: C, F, and G. Following our theory unit, the students will apply their note-reading skills to playing chords on the guitar. We will perform simple strumming patterns and sing and play familiar folksongs.
Our 4th quarter promises finnish strong with many activities and lab experiences in our weather unit. Students will be immersed in reading weather maps from multiple sources. Kids will learn how warm and cold fronts develop due to the density of air masses.

We have hands-on experiences (see column at the left) to demonstrate a variety of weather phenomena.

Convection is a major part of how weather develops so we will have many experiments to show how and why warm air rises and cold air sinks. Students will learn to light a Bunsen burner and set up chemistry stations to analyze convection patterns in a variety of fluids.

www.district106.net
The final stretch of the seventh grade is here! We are excited to continue the fourth quarter studying a variety of topics.

*This month, LA classes will begin reading Avi’s Nothing But the Truth. During this unit, students will connect one last time to our quarterly theme of “Individuality” as they consider the antics of the novel’s protagonist.
*We finished the book! During May it’s time to say goodbye to our year long vocabulary and word parts study. Students will take a final assessment to showcase their outstanding word part knowledge. :)
*Students will also wrap up our last Grammar Independent Study unit that has had them focus on four specific parts of speech.
*Finally, our “Individuality” study will come to a close with an expository biography writing piece about a noteworthy Civil War individual. The students will then create a culminating multi-media ‘documentary’ about their research subject.

In Advanced Language Arts, our year-long study of Utopia is coming to an end. Sigh...
* The beginning of May has students wrapping up the Classroom Courtroom trial of The House of the Scorpion’s El Patron. The final verdict was... ask your student to find out!
* Students will also wrap up our last Grammar Independent Study unit that has had them focus on four specific parts of speech.
* Our final two units take a look at the idea of ‘Individuality Lost’ in the classic Tennessee Williams’ play, “The Glass Menagerie” as well as a new novel study with Lois Lowry’s The Giver. As always, the idea of Utopia (or Dystopia) is woven throughout.
* Finally, students will soon begin working on a culminating collaborative project that involves designing their own utopia. Along with making decisions about their laws and government, students will explain key themes and compare and contrast their utopia with many of the texts we have studied during the unit. Look for these projects to be published on the school website at the end of the year!
Students in Pre-Algebra have just completed their unit on Formulas. They did a great job on this unit. There were many formulas they had to use with basic shapes, irregular figures, and application problems. For the rest of the school year, we are going to focus on proportions, proportional relationships, and application of proportions. We will also spend a little time towards the end of the quarter refreshing our algebra skills.

Students in Algebra 1, Advanced, have completed their study on functions and slope. They have learned how a function can be written as an equation, how slope can be found by calculating the rise over the run, how to graph a function, how to write parallel and perpendicular lines using point-slope form, and more! The next unit we are going to learn about is systems of equations. The students will learn how to solve systems of equations through graphing, elimination, and substitution.

This has been a great year in both levels of math classes. The students have learned a lot of new concepts. I hope that they will go to BrainPop, iXL, and even TenMarks, to continue with these new skills and learn new concepts over the summer.
The 7th graders are finishing the year with an overview of the muscular, skeletal, and nervous systems. They will practice locating and analyzing various functions of the skeletal system and how we diagnose and treat athletic and accidental injuries by using X-rays and MRI’s.

By early May we will partake in our first dissection unit, "The Chicken Wing Lab." Within this lab, our students will learn how bones, muscles, ligaments, and tendons work together to aid in movement.

Last month in Social Studies we spent most of our time looking at the American Civil War. We studied what events led up and ultimately caused the war, as well as the advantages and disadvantages that the North and the South had heading into the war. To help students gain a deeper understanding of the life of a soldier during the war, we watched clips from the film “Gettysburg”.

This month we are concluding our study of the Civil War with an individual project. Students are selecting a topic they are interested in investigating and then formulating how they want to present their findings. Following the conclusion of this assignment, we will spend a few days wrapping up the time period with a look at Reconstruction. The we will be using the last two weeks of school discussing a variety of topics including current events, world-views and a Memorial Day celebration.
7th Grade SCULPTURE with Mrs. Cavello

We are continuing where we left off in the winter.... with our wire fantasy trees! Student will be finishing their work answering the question: “If I could make a tree anything I wanted, what would it look like?” We will then move on to ceramic shoes with a “creature feature”! Creativity will be flowing the last month of school!

Las clases de español - sra. Rus

7th grade

The students are learning the imperfect tense, which is one of the two past tenses in Spanish. This tense is used to describe what used to happen in the past or to show a repeated or continuing action in the past. The students are learning vocabulary about holidays and childhood activities. They will do a project about what they used to do when they were younger.
Highlands 7th and 8th graders have completed three entertaining performances of Oklahoma! Special thanks to all the cast, crew, staff, administration, parents, and community for supporting musical theatre!

Thank you also for the beautiful bouquets of flowers, the card and gift. It was very thoughtful and generous.

Congratulations to everyone for giving your best and creating so many fun and positive memories for yourselves and the Highlands Community.
7th and 8th grade Music
Spring Chorus has begun! We are using our voices to present the fun, fun, fun music of the ever popular Beach Boys! Slip into your shorts, hawaiian shirt, huarache sandals and join us for some sounds of the summer!

We will be performing on Tuesday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the middle school lunchroom. The 8th graders are also preparing to sing for the graduation ceremony on May 29! Please mark your calendars and join us on both evenings!
Maths with Mrs. Funk

The month of May will be very busy for all 8th graders. With several assemblies and field trips, it is very important to stay current with homework assignments, study for quizzes and tests and come in for extra help when needed. Please check the homework website frequently as it will be continuously updated with assignments, downloads of class documents, important dates and my availability before and after school for extra help.

During the remainder of the school year 8th grade algebra classes will their complete a study on rate of change, slope, slope-intercept form of a linear equation and standard form of a linear equation. Students will also be completing the remaining two vocabulary quizzes from chapters 3 through 5. A final exam covering material from chapters 1 – 6 will be given on May 13th and May 14th. The first part will require showing all steps for solving the problems and the second part will be multiple choice. Students will be given a review sheet in the beginning of May and class time on May 7th, 8th, and 9th will be dedicated to reviewing concepts and solving practice problems.

During the remainder of the school year the 8th grade advanced algebra class will be completing their study of rational expressions and equations. The second semester exam will be given on May 22nd. Students will be receiving a review packet approximately 10 days before the exam and May 20th and 21st will be dedicated to review and solving practice problems. Letters will be given to the students by May 28th with exam results and Geometry placements.

We have finished with our coil vases and the ceramic plates, and moving on to our ceramic teapots! Students have seen professional and student examples and are ready to create their own! The only requirements are a lid, spout, handle and creativity!
In SOCIAL STUDIES, the 8th graders will spend May studying the Holocaust. Throughout the month, students will do a multitude of activities to help them better understand the key aspects of this major historical event.

After looking at a variety of primary sources from the time period, students will create a “Fakebook” profile for a person who played a significant role in the Holocaust. Fakebook is an educational tool that allows students to create a web page that is reflective of a Facebook profile for a historical figure. They will not only give key historical information on these people, but they will also have conversations between the historical figures to show their understanding of the relationships among key individuals from this time period.

The students will also looking into the role propaganda played in Germany at this time. Students will then use what they have learned about the Holocaust and apply it to the idea of genocide as a whole. We will discuss the recent genocides in Rwanda and Darfur, and watch the film “Hotel Rwanda” to use as a discussion tool. Students will then compare and contrast the Holocaust with the recent genocides.

Finally, in Language Arts, students will read novels on the Holocaust to learn more about various aspects of life during this time. The students will have in-depth discussions with others about the content of these novels, they will research key questions about the time period, and they will ultimately look for a common theme throughout all of the novels.

These activities will tie into our trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum on Friday, May 3rd. This trip will give students the chance to get more in-depth information on the Holocaust, along with seeing various artifacts from the time period. If you are interested in learning more about various aspects of the Holocaust, please use the link below to the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. This tremendous resource gives you in-depth information on all parts of the Holocaust. Enjoy the site!

It has been a pleasure working with the 8th grade students this year. I wish them all the best as they begin their high school careers next year. It will be a quick four years – remember to take advantage of every opportunity and learn something from all of your experiences!

United States Holocaust Museum Web Page
with Mr. Zeman
The past few weeks in science have had the 8th grade students blending their knowledge of the respiratory system with language arts skills as they debate the impacts of environmental factors on human health. Students are assuming the roles of members of the four major groups; agriculture, medical, oil/coal, tobacco. Each student has been spending time digging deeper into what their randomly assigned groups stands for in an attempt to defend and scientifically pick apart the impact that the other groups have on respiratory health. The final month of school will see this debate come to an end and the use of a S.T.E.M. Challenge to get students thinking, designing, and engineering to solve a specific problem.

There is also a chance for students to speak at graduation so please visit THIS LINK to learn more!

Las clases de español - sra. Rus - 8th grade
The students are learning the imperfect tense, which is one of the two past tenses in Spanish. This tense is used to describe what used to happen in the past or to show a repeated or continuing action in the past. The students are learning vocabulary about holidays and childhood activities. They will do a project about what they used to do when they were younger.

Best of luck in High School.
¡Buena suerte!
The Language Arts classes have been very busy writing their research papers. We have worked on the many steps to develop a successful paper. The research project will continue with a presentation for social studies class. The classes will observe these presentations throughout the week of May 20th. The students will also be reading Holocaust novels for the remainder of the year as a culminating activity. We have truly enjoyed working your children this year and wish them all the best of luck in high school. Continue to read over the summer. Check out lths.net for summer reading assignments.

Advanced
The Advanced class has completed their Literature Box Project. I was very impressed with all the work they did and the information they presented to their classmates. We have reflected on the project and continue to investigate how these “isms” relate to different texts that we are reading. We are very busy reading and analyzing Harper Lee’s *To Kill A Mockingbird*. We will finish off the school year with our research papers, using all the skills we have learned in the William and Mary text. I have truly enjoyed working with all of your children this year; we have had many learning journeys. I wish all of your children the best of luck in high school. Check out lths.net for summer reading assignments.
**Middle School: Want to Speak at Graduation?**

If you are an *8th Grade student* please read [THIS INFORMATION](#) and submit your commencement speech for consideration. Please feel free to ask your teachers for help or to read what you are creating. To be considered, submissions are due **NO LATER than Tuesday May 14th, 2013 at 3:30 pm.**

"
HEALTHY CHOICES
with Mr. Yena

Click below for more information the alcohol use and abuse among teens and how to reverse it! Monthly Health Newsletter

**THIS MONTH IN HEALTH CLASS...**

The 6th grade classes are just finishing up their big nutrition unit which included discussions on nutrients, the new MyPlate diagram, and how to read a food label. The students created presentations about one of the aspects of the My Plate diagram to present to their classmates. They had a great time digging into the truth behind foods when they analyzed what their food consists of during our “Are you reading the food labels?” activity. During this activity the students determined what a food label really explains. The students will finish up the Health block discussing how their bodies grow and develop over their lifetime.

The 7th grade Health 2 classes are finishing up the block this week. The students recently finished discussing the dangers of alcohol. The students engaged in discussions about how alcohol directly affects the body and mind. The students created infomercials about a specific topic related to alcohol to finish the unit! The students are currently discussing the different classes of drugs in class. The students are learning the basics about legal drugs and the dangers of illegal drugs from their peers and teacher.

The 8th Grade Health 2 classes are finishing up the block as well. The students worked hard in class creating public service announcements about a specific alcohol topic they chose to research. The students moved onto discussing illegal drug use in class, and are currently creating presentations on a specific drug they wanted to learn more about. As always, we are discussing the importance of making responsible decisions in regards to these substances.

**HEALTH UNITS**

6th Grade
- 4 Parts of Health
- Self-Esteem
- Sleep
- Hygiene
- Nutrition
- Human Growth and Development
- Diseases and Treatment
- First Aid

7th Grade Health 2
- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- Nutrition

8th Grade Health 2
- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Drugs
- College and Career Planning
- Nutrition

**Did You Know...**

Alcohol is the most commonly used and abused drug among youth in the United States, more than tobacco and illicit drugs.
The Physical Education classes will be finishing off the year with the final units of the year, flag football and golf, each of which will conclude with a written assessment. In flag football, students will work on a variety of football skills, including passing, receiving, running pass routes, defending, centering, blocking, kicking, punting, and returning. After practicing skills, the students will compete against their peers in flag football games.

Golf is a new unit to Highlands. The P.E. department felt golf is a great lifelong activity to introduce to the students. Students will learn the fundamentals of golf, along with the etiquette and fair play that is associated with the sport. The unit will begin with frisbee golf, where students will learn the basics of how to score a round of golf and learn terminology used in the game. Once they have learned the basic principles of the game, the students will take a few days to learn how to hold and swing a club. We will take a day each to spend on woods, irons, and wedges. In the final days of the unit, the students will get into foursomes and play a round of golf (using a limited flight golf ball) on our strategically developed “Links at Highlands”.

Golf Professional Ken Malnar from Flagg Creek Golf Course has assisted our golf program here at Highlands Middle School. If you want to continue with your child's golf experience this summer, you can contact Ken Malnar at 630-655-0555 or view his 2013 summer golf programs on his website at www.kengolflessons.com.
In the French Classes...

May brings thoughts of spring and, for our 8th grade French students – food, glorious food. The students will be studying travel vocabulary as well as sampling their own versions of the French recipes they researched during the third quarter. Miam, miam! Additionally, they continue to work on being able to express themselves in the past tense. There will be a final exam similar to the exam given at LT on May 14-15.

The 7th grade French students have been studying the works of the Impressionist painters and their colleagues. They will present their acquired knowledge in a “Gallery Walk” of famous French artists on May 1 and finish off the year with continued practice in adjective use. They will also do a film study of François Truffaut’s classic “L’Argent de Pôche.”

The 6th grade French students started out the month making their own “muguet” – lilies of the valley - which are traditionally offered by the French on May 1st as a sign of friendship. They will end the year with a special viewing of Jean Cocteau’s timeless film - “La Belle et la Bête.”

All grades, weather and time permitting, will get a chance to try their hand at the second national sport of France – boules or “la pétanque”.

Some of our 7th and 8th grade French students have been enjoying an e-mail correspondence with students from two schools in France from the cities of Lille (north) and Neuilly-sur-Marne (just outside of Paris.) Although we have not had as regular a response from our pen-pals as we would have liked, it is always an interesting experience for them to compare notes on interests, and to see photos of their pen-pals and where they live. Some of our students even got to meet their pen-pals, as we were invited to visit the Collège (French for “middle school”) Balzac in Neuilly-sur-Marne during a trip over spring break. It was an amazing experience, enjoyed by all.

Félicitations (congratulations) to all the eighth graders who qualified to participate in this year’s National French Contest: Grace Brannen, Bridget Brodlo, Patrick Caruso, Nadia Garcia, Jacob Halon, Meghan McGarry, Jacqueline Osborn, Caroline Pavlecic, Anna Podkowski and Shayna Prinz. All of our students placed in the top 25% of the national rankings, and we had four students place in the top 10 rankings:

Caroline Pavlecic - National Rank 2
Jacqueline Osborn - National Rank 4
Anna Podkowski - National Rank 4
Meghan McGarry - National Rank 8

All students will be receiving prizes and certificates from the Chicago/Northern Illinois Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French. Bravo and great job, all!

Wishing everyone a good end of the year and great summer vacation!
The Wind Ensemble had a wonderful trip to the Vandercook Band Festival on April 9th! The band performed beautifully and we got many positive and helpful comments from the judges. It was a great chance for them to perform out in the community again. Everyone behaved and played in a way that represented Highlands well! Congrats!

Our Spring Band Concert will be taking place on Wednesday, May 15th at 7:00pm in the middle school gym. This is change from the date originally released at the beginning of the year. Please come and enjoy the music your children have worked so hard to prepare.

The 6th and 7th band will be combined with the 5th grade band to perform for graduation this year. A detailed schedule will be coming out soon for this event.

Besides the May 15th concert, the Jazz Band will be performing at a nursing home for Service Day on May 10th as well as concluding the year with our final performance on May 24th with the show choir for the annual Show Choir and Jazz Band Concert. Report time will be at 6:15pm and the performance will begin at 7:00pm in the Multipurpose Room.

The Jazz Band would also like to congratulation Meghan McGarry, the 2013 Jazz Band Vocalist, who will be singing *On the Sunny Side of the Street* with us for these final concerts. Thank you all who came out for the audition!
Students who read more than **ONE MILLION** words during this year's Reading Incentive Program earned the opportunity to go on a special field trip on May 7th to celebrate their reading achievement. Thirty-seven of our middle school students met this reading challenge! They enjoyed a fascinating architectural boat tour on the Chicago River, followed by a pizza lunch at Navy Pier. Congratulations to all of our Millionaire Readers for your independent reading accomplishments this year!
Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge

This summer, Highlands Middle School students have been entered in the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge, a free program meant to encourage summer reading and prevent the "summer slide" where students' reading skills decline during the weeks away from school. The Summer Reading Challenge invites students to log their reading minutes, participate in weekly challenges, earn digital rewards, and enter contests to win prizes. Recommended reading lists are provided to help students find good books to read. There are even apps that you can download to access additional reading resources and help track student progress! Language Arts teachers will give each student a randomly-generated login and password to enter the site so they can begin entering their reading minutes right away. Students can watch the Scholastic "leader board" to see which school has tallied the most minutes read, and our school could win prizes as well!

*Keep reading this summer, Highlands!*
2013 Summer Challenge Book List
www.scholastic.com/summer

Ages 10-12
(By Title, Author and Illustrator)

- 13 Gifts, Wendy Mass
- Al Capone Does My Shirts, Gennifer Choldenko
- The Amulet Series, Kazu Kibuishi
- The Animorphs series, K. A. Applegate
- Athlete vs. Mathlete, W. C. Mack
- Cardboard, Doug Ten Napel
- Blizzard: The Storm That Changed America, Jim Murphy
- The Bone series, Jeff Smith
- The Boy on Cinnamon Street, Phoebe Stone
- The Brotherband Chronicles, John Flanagan
- Bud Not Buddy, Christopher Paul Curtis
- Chains and Forge, Laurie Halse Anderson
- The Clone Codes series, Patricia C., Fredrick, & John McKissack
- Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two, Joseph Bruchac
- Cold Cereal, Adam Rex
- The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou
- Confectionately Yours series, Lisa Papademetriou
- Confetti Girl, Diana Lopez
- Countdown, Deborah Wiles
- Dark Life and Rip Tide, Kat Falls
- Dark Lord: The Early Years, Jamie Thomson
- The Deltora Quest series, Emily Rodda
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Jeff Kinney
- The Disaster of the Hindenburg, Jill Sherman
- A Dog’s Way Home, Bobbie Pyron
- Dragon Run, Patrick Matthews
- Drawing From Memory, Allen Say
- The Dreamer, Pam Muñoz Ryan & Peter Sis
- Ellis Island, Elaine Landau
- The Encyclopedia of Me, Karen Rivers
- Esperanza Rising, Pam Muñoz Ryan
- Explorer: The Mystery Boxes, Kazu Kibuishi (editor)
- The False Prince, Jennifer A. Nielsen
- Fever 1792, Laurie Halse Anderson
- Finding Zasha, Randi Barrow
- Freak the Mighty, Rod Phlipbrick
- Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement, Ann Bausum
- From The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, E. L. Konigsburg
- The Giant and How He Humbugged America, Jim Murphy
- Game Changers #1, Mike Lupica
- Ghosts in the Fog, Samantha Seiple
- The Harry Potter series, J. K. Rowling
- The Hatchet series, Gary Paulsen
- Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans, Kadir Nelson
- The Heroes of Olympus series, Rick Riordan
- Hold Fast, Blue Balliett
- Holes, Louis Sachar
- Hoot, Carl Hiaasen
- Horton’s Miraculous Mechanisms, Lissa Evans
- I, Funny, James Patterson
- Icefall, Matthew J. Kirby
- The Kane Chronicles series, Rick Riordan
- Killer Species #1: Menace from the Deep, Michael Spradlin
- The Last Dogs: The Vanishing, Christopher Holt
- Lawless, Jeffrey Salane
- Lawn Boy, Gary Paulsen
- The Lions of Little Rock, Kristin Levine
- A Long Way from Chicago, Richard Peck
- Mammoth Bones and Broken Stones: The Mystery of America’s First People, David L. Harrison
- The Suzanna Snow Mystery series, Angie Frazier
Young Adult
(By Title, Author and Illustrator)

- The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Sherman Alexie ★
- The Alex Rider series, Anthony Horowitz ★☆
- Alexander the Great, Robert Green
- Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart, Candace Fleming ★
- American Born Chinese, Gene Luen Yang ★ ★☆
- An American Plague: the True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793, Jim Murphy ★ ★
- Andrew Jenks: My Adventures as a Young Filmmaker, Andrew Jenks
- Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl, Anne Frank, translated by B.M. Mooyaart ★
- Artemis Fowl Series, Eoin Colfer
- The Bar Code Rebellion series, Suzanne Weyn ★ ★☆
- The Battle of the Labyrinth, Rick Riordan
- Beautiful Creatures Series, Kami Garcia & Margaret Stohl ★
- Bomb: The Race to Build – and Steal – the World's Most Dangerous Weapon, Steve Sheinkin ★
- Black and White: The Confrontation Between Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth and Eugene “Bull” Connor, Larry Dane Brimner ★
- Black Star, Bright Dawn, Scott O’Dell
- Blizzard of Glass: The Halifax Explosion of 1917, Sally M. Walker ★
- The Bluford series, Paul Langan ★ ★☆
- The Book Thief, Markus Zusak ★
- Border Town Series, Malin Alegria ★ ★☆
- The Boy Who Dared, Susan Campbell Bartoletti ★
- Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith, Deborah Heiligman ★ ★ ★
- Chasing Lincoln’s Killer, James L. Swanson ★ ★
- The Lunar Chronicles series, Marissa Meyer ★ ★☆
- Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice, Phillip Hoose ★ ★ ★
- Cleopatra's Moon, Vicky Alvear Shecter ★
- Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip, Jordan Sonnenblick ★ ★
- The Dark Unwinding, Sharon Cameron ★
- Dead and Buried, Kim Harrington ★
- Deck Z: The Titanic, Chris Pauls & Matt Solomon ★ ★
- Defriended, Ruth Baron ★
- The Divergent Trilogy, Veronica Roth ★ ★★
- A Dog's Journey & A Dog's Purpose, W. Bruce Cameron ★ ★★
- Dr. Frankenstein's Daughters, Suzanne Weyn ★
- Drama, Raina Telgemeier ★
- The Eleventh Plague, Jeff Hirsch ★ ★
- Endangered, Eliot Schrefer ★ ★
- The Enemy Series, Charlie Higson ★ ★
- The Escape from Furnace Series, Alexander Gordon Smith ★ ★
- Every Bone Tells a Story: Hominin Discoveries, Deductions, and Debates, Jill Rubalcaba and Peter Robertshaw ★ ★★
- Fablehaven, Brandon Mull ★ ★
- The Far West, Patricia C. Wrede ★ ★
- Fat Kid Rules the World, K. L. Going ★
- Fearless Feats, Laurie Calkhoven ★ ★
- Flash and Blood So Cheap: The Triangle Fire and Its Legacy, Albert Marrin ★ ★
- The Giver, Lois Lowry ★ ★
- Guilty By a Hair, Anna Prokos ★
- Guts, Gary Paulsen ★
- Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent, Thomas B. Allen ★
- Heroes of the Environment, Harriet Rohmer ★
- The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy, Douglas Adams ★ ★
- Hitler Youth: Growing Up In Hitler's Shadow, Susan Campbell Bartoletti ★ ★
- Home of the Brave, Katherine Applegate ★ ★
- The House of the Scorpion, Nancy Farmer ★
- The Hunger Games Trilogy, Suzanne Collins ★ ★ ★
- I Am a Seal Team Six Warrior, Howard R. Wasdin ★ ★ ★ ★
1st - 8th Grade Lions Tour @ LTHS
2nd - Spring Orchestra Concert
3rd - 8th Grade Field Trip to Illinois Holocaust Museum
    Friday Night Fever (5th & 6th grades)
7th - PTC Pasta Day
    TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY
    Millionaire Reading Field Trip
10th - Early Dismissal
    Service Day
15th - Spring Band Concert
16th - 8th Grade Class Trip to Six Flags Great America
17th - Recognition Day
    8th Grade Class Party
21st - PTC Fun Lunch (hot dogs)
24th - 8th Grade Honors Day Program
    Show Choir/Jazz Band performance
27th - Memorial Day - No School
28th - 7th & 8th Grade Chorus performance
29th - 8th Grade Graduation
31st - Last Day of School (10am dismissal)
    Buzz for Beds
Keyboarding skills are a must for students interested in higher levels of education in almost any field. Many careers today require keyboarding skills and the use of technology. This summer have your child practice their keyboarding skills using the website [http://www.typingweb.com/tutor/courses/](http://www.typingweb.com/tutor/courses/)

He/She can create a free account using the Highlands login and password to save their progress over the summer. Remind him/her to use home row and keep his/her eyes on the screen.

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We are finishing out the year with some open art time to have some fun and relaxation! Our last meeting for the year will be on May 15th! Thanks to all for your participation!

*** Please stop by to see your child's work in our annual Art Fair and Ice Cream Social in the elementary school gym on May 9th! Art and ice cream...it doesn't get better than that! Hope to see you there!
The Highlands Middle School Service Club has had a full year of helping those in need... but we know that the opportunities to help others are endless. Here are some ways you can get involved and make our world a better place:

Create care packs for the homeless.
Help neighbors for free.
Help with yard work.
Pick up trash at local park or beach.
Do extra chores.
Write a card thanking the fire and/or police department.
Help at an animal shelter.
Try to use less plastic.
Collect food for a food pantry.
Donate old clothing.
If you are playing sports, cheer on your team mate.
Make a jar of change for a charity.
Donate old sports equipment.
Clean up graffiti.

Want to find more ideas for ways to help others?
Check out these websites!

http://www.randomactsofkindness.org/kindness-ideas
http://www.foundthemarbles.com/2012/02/acts-of-kindness-for-kids/
http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/health/wellness/acts-of-kindness
http://www.daretobeanangel.com/tasklist.php