



Highland Highlights

Highland Elementary School (503) 665-7158

Today's Learners - Tomorrow's Leaders

January 2020

Mark Your Calendar

1/8 Free Food Market 3:30 p.m.

1/9 Snowcap

1/20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, **No School**

1/24 C&I Day, **No School**

Principal's Message

Dear Highland Families,

I want to take this opportunity to wish all our Husky families a happy and healthy new year. I hope your winter break was relaxing and filled with memories to cherish with family and friends. Our students have transitioned back into their academic routines and were so excited to be back with their Highland community of staff and friends.

Reminder: It's important for students to arrive to school on time and attend daily. Being on time provides students with a smooth transition to a day of learning. At this time, the students review the day's schedule, listen to school announcements, get breakfast, and distribute notes and materials from home to their teachers. To provide your children with a positive start to the day, please plan your morning so your child arrives to class before 8:35 (arrive by 8:15 for breakfast).

Thank you for partnering with us in educating your children.

Sincerely,

Shawnda Sewell

Principal

Immunization Exclusion Date

Exclusion day for state required vaccinations is Wednesday, February 19, 2020. Letters will be mailed to parents whose children are not up to date or whose records are incomplete. Should you receive a letter, please provide updated information to the school as soon as possible. Children who are not current for vaccinations by February 19th will not be able to attend school until records are complete. If you need assistance in locating a health care provider or clinic site, please contact your school nurse.

Office Reminders

Please remember to call in student absences *before* 9:00 a.m. If your student has a change of transportation for the day, please call the school *before* 2:00 p.m. Has any of your contact information, or emergency contacts changed? If so, please let the office know, and we will update our records.

Receive Emergency School Closure Information Via Email

Parents and community members can sign up for notification of any emergency school closures (such as a snow day) by email. There is no cost for this service. It does have a test function when you register to confirm that the message will get past your computer's spam filters. To register for this notification, log on to the following website: www.flashalert.net.

Counselor's Corner

In January, I will begin teaching and empowering students regarding safety using the Second Step Curriculum. One of the safety rules I teach Highland students is 'Never keep secrets about touching'.

How can we help our children understand the differences between a secret, something that's private, and a surprise? These are different terms with often very different outcomes when applied. The ways we frame, model, and reinforce these concepts in everyday situations makes all the difference in how our children use them.

In the context of health and safety, here is some helpful language to highlight the differences between the three terms:

- Secrets are often meant to be kept quiet for a long time and to protect something that would make people feel unhappy, unsafe or hurt.
- Privacy is about respecting a person's personal space or information. It does not have the outcome of hurting or compromising the safety of another person.
- Surprises are kept quiet temporarily then shared with others for a happy or positive result.

Make it a habit in your home culture to opt for privacy and surprises over secrets, and when secrets happen, be sure they know if it is a safe or unsafe one. Remind them of who the trusted adults in their life are. Let them know that if they ever tell someone about unsafe secrets or touch, and that person does not believe them, that they should keep telling until someone believes them. Starting the talks early to make these differences clear can prepare a child for informed choices about the types of communication to have with others and who they can talk to when something feels unsafe or hurtful.

To learn more about these concepts, or if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at nash8@gresham.k12.or.us.

PBIS

Save the date! Highland will participate in *The Great Kindness Challenge* from January 27th to January 31st. We will have a spirit week that week. This year there is a Family Edition of *The Great Kindness Challenge*. Please go to: <https://thegreatkindnesschallenge.com/familyedition/> to learn more about the Family Edition. Adults can download the app on their phones to begin the challenge with their families. *The Great Kindness Challenge* is available in multiple languages. Spread kindness...

From Your Highland PTC

Please join us at our next PTC meeting on January 14th at 6:00 p.m. Free to attend, and free childcare is provided.

Amazon Smiles Non-Profit: "Highland Elementary PTC"

Box Tops: Keep collecting! Every Box Top counts.

Save the Dates: January 15th at 8:00 a.m. is Doughnuts w/ Dudes, and February 12th at 8:00 a.m. is Muffins w/ Mujeres. More information to come.

SUN

The winter session for SUN began on Tuesday, January 7th and ends on Thursday, February 13th. If you have questions, please contact Betty, SUN Site Manager, at 503-665-7158 ext.2234, or email garfias2@gresham.k12.or.us.

Green Team News

Join us for a fundraiser to support Highland Elementary School Green Team. Come in to the Gresham Mod Pizza located at 1844 NW Eastman Parkway on Wednesday, January 8th. The fundraiser lasts all day. Tell the cashier you're supporting the Highland Elementary Green Team to make sure that 20% of the proceeds will be donated to us. Thank you!

Attendance Challenge

Attendance is very important for student success, and we encourage students to be here everyday. From December 2nd to March 20th we're having an attendance challenge for classes with 100% attendance. Each day a class has 100% attendance they will earn a Husky Paw. Below are the whole class rewards for 100% attendance:

- 5 Husky Paws = Licorice at Lunch
- 10 Husky Paws = Fruit Snacks at Lunch
- 15 Husky Paws = Chips at Lunch
- 20 Husky Paws = Cookies at Lunch
- 25 Husky Paws = Movie & Popcorn Party
- 30 Husky Paws = Hot Chocolate Party
- 35 Husky Paws = Pizza Party
- 40 Husky Paws = Special Surprise

Please support this challenge and your student's attendance by sending them to school everyday.

Every Student Prepared for Success

Gresham-Barlow School District recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups. It is the policy of this district and the board of education that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups in any educational programs, activities or employment.

Gresham-Barlow provides equal access to individuals with disabilities.