

# HIGHCREST HAWK

A Publication of the Highcrest Middle School PTO



## From the PTO Presidents

Anne Williams and Eileen Noren

WOW! Good times were had at the first annual Highcrest Parent Party at Michigan Shores on November 4<sup>th</sup>. We had over 300 parents in attendance who danced the night away and we mean danced!! There were even a few after-parties for those parents who carried their joy late into the night. Many people walked away with wonderful free gifts: jewelry, stationery, manicures, pedicures, sporting tickets, besides the wonderful events with Dr. Rosen and Dr. McGee, etc. A huge thank you to Barb Shields and Mindie Dolinko and their entire committee who put on this very fun party. Thank you also to Cathy Rosen, Elizabeth Schuering, Superintendent Max McGee and the Highcrest teachers that attended the party. Our Kids Are Key fundraising campaign continues. We have raised over \$26,000 that will go directly towards enrichment programs for the Highcrest students.

While we just concluded the official Thanksgiving season, it is really always Thanksgiving here at the PTO. Among those for whom we are grateful:

- Renee Greening and Cathy O'Reilly for a superb gift wrap program - surpassing their goal with almost \$10,000 in gift wrap sold;
- Danae Melnick, our assistant treasurer, who thanks to your great generosity has been working overtime depositing checks!;
- Julie Bode and Stacy Hawks for overseeing our wonderful Birthday Books program which brings great new books into our Resource Center every month;
- Sharon D'Arcy, Sue Gault and Mary Lyman for recruiting and overseeing our cafeteria volunteer program;
- Kelly Hackett and Sue Franklin for managing PTO membership for the year;

*Continued on page 2...*

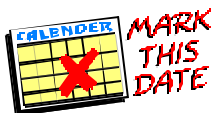
Dec 2005/Jan 2006

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**From the PTO Presidents** (continued from page 1)

- Martha Blood for recruiting and recruiting and recruiting for Resource Room Volunteers;
- and finally all of you who help Amy Dillon and Anne Thompson out in the Outdoor Garden. The children absolutely love being there, were thrilled that the garden was kept open through November, where they built a most amazing animal habitat!



Next PTO Meeting  
Wednesday  
January 4th  
9:15 am

Josh Price, one of our two staff psychologists at Highcrest, spoke at the last PTO meeting about what it like to be a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grader today. Parents who attended were scribbling madly, asking questions (as well as for his telephone extension) and left discussing what a wonderful talk it was. We hope to present an evening program to cover this topic. Many thanks to Dr. Price for sharing his wisdom with us.

At our January PTO meeting, Technology teacher Debby Atwater will bring us up to speed on what our kids are doing in technology and how it can be adapted to home use. She will also take us through the new Highcrest TV studio! Looking forward to February, we've scheduled Vicki Lundy the ever popular PE teacher who will speak to us about how to stay Fit as a Family. You won't want to miss either meeting. Our PTO meets the first Wednesday of every month in the auditorium.

January gears up with many other PTO efforts. Our Variety Show committee will be meeting in the January and February months to begin the

process of putting on another wonderful, creative, student-based show. Anyone interested in helping in this effort can contact Nili Wronski.

We will also be surveying Highcrest families to find out what kind of family event they would be interested in attending in the spring. If you have a specific idea, write it in on the survey form or email one of us.


And finally, believe it or not, we will be forming a Nominating Committee to establish next years PTO Boards. Please consider either being a part of the nominating committee, or helping make Highcrest an even better place for your children to learn and grow, by accepting a Board position. The more involved you are, the happier you will be with your child's education! Look for the survey and the list of available PTO Board positions in a January Back Pack Express. In the meantime if you are interested in any position, let us know. It's never too early.

We wish you a relaxing and fun filled Holiday season!

Eileen Noren  
[Eileenor@aol.com](mailto:Eileenor@aol.com)

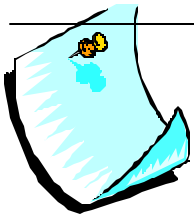
Anne Williams  
[annewilliams3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annewilliams3@sbcglobal.net)

The PTO is considering purchasing a sign for in front of the school to publicize events happening at the school.



Seen one you like? Have a contact with a sign company??

Please email Anne or Eileen with your ideas and/or information.



## Office News

Dr. Cathy Rosen, Principal

Elizabeth Schuering, Asst. Principal

Greetings!

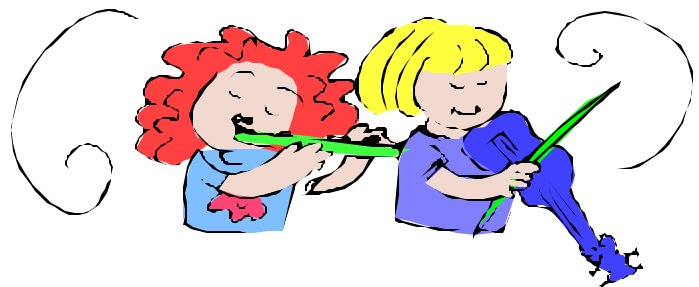
We hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving and had a chance to visit with family and friends. Thank you also for the great attendance during our parent teacher conferences as this is a wonderful opportunity to communicate with teachers and work together to ensure success for your child.

The month of December is filled with wonderful concerts. Even if you don't have a child in band, orchestra or chorus, these concerts are a real treat. Just check your PTO calendar for the dates and times and stop in and enjoy the music!

With the anticipation and excitement of the winter holidays, this is a great time to talk to our children about appreciating each other and the many things everyone has to offer. Although gift giving seems to be the emphasis, we need to help children understand the gift of time. Sometimes spending time with someone who is lonely during the holidays, or spending time as a family to help others, are wonderful ways to help children see they can really make a difference in someone's life. So many of our families do wonderful things to help those less fortunate and this is an incredible gift to teach our children. They have already shown their caring through our great success on our 5<sup>th</sup> grade service project for Make a Difference Day, as well as the generous support for our earlier Read-a-Thon for the Red Cross. Throughout the year, students will be participating in a variety of service projects as we at Highcrest support service learning and understand the value of such lessons. Thank you in advance for your support of these important projects.

Before closing, we'd like to thank all of you who in some way contributed to the success of the PTO's fundraising efforts and parent party! The money raised will go a long way in supporting programs here at Highcrest. It is truly a blessing to be part of such an incredible community that puts children first! The party was tons of fun - what a great way to mix and mingle with parents and new friends. Thanks to the organizers and participants as it was a great success!

All the best,  
Dr. Rosen  
Ms. Schuering





# From the Superintendent's Desk

Dr. Glenn "Max" McGee

Thinking back to when we were in school, two of our least favorite activities may well have been writing book reports and solving story problems. In fact, I still awake in a cold sweat trying to figure out the precise time when Train 1, which is traveling the 50 miles from Station A to Station B at 40 mph and left at 1:06 p.m. will actually meet Train 2, which is traveling on a parallel track from Station B to A traveling at 33 mph and left at 1:22 p.m. Seriously, nightmares notwithstanding, both are valuable academic activities for tomorrow's leaders who will be solving real world problems a lot more complex than "train terror" and often will need to rely on knowledge, concepts and insights they acquire through reading.

Knowing how we want to assure that our children are well prepared to become responsible, contributing men and women of integrity and knowledge, I have my own brief book report to share in the hope that the book will help us help our children. Dr. Mel Levine's *A Mind at a Time* is not the last book I read – that honor goes to my grandson's current favorite, *The Monster at the End of this Book* – but it is one of the best ones and was the first selection of Mother McGee's Book Club this past month. The teachers in the book club found it to be very powerful.

Dr. Levine uses numerous vignettes of children to illustrate the eight neuromotor systems we all have in some degree: attention control, memory, language (expressive and receptive), spatial ordering, sequencing, movement (aka fine and gross motor), higher level thinking (creativity and problem solving) and social thinking (i.e. interpersonal skills). He emphasizes that no child can really be strong in each one, but it is important for us as teachers and parents to recognize, appreciate and develop strengths and understand, support and work on deficits. Recognizing each child's profile, i.e. the extent to which each of the systems is developing, enables teachers and parents to find how students learn best and to adjust our teaching accordingly.

In other words, if they don't learn the way we teach, then we need to teach the way they learn. Perhaps the most compelling message, however, was how important it is for us to help children realize their own strengths and afford them ample opportunities to use them at home and school.

Finally, he shares practical suggestions for how we can monitor the development of each child's system and activities we can actually use to develop talents and strengthen deficits. Some examples I found particularly useful are:

- Teaching impulse control through simple activities such as three deep breaths, counting to ten, verbalizing three options before acting;
- Practice memory activities every day such as mental math, orally summarizing a reading selection, playing memory games and even memorizing lyrics or dialogue from movies, books or even (gasp) television;
- Use the arts—e.g. drawing, sculpting, building with Legos, playing an instrument -- to develop motor skills.
- Develop higher order thinking by discussing current events or even sports activities as problems to be solved.

*A Mind at a Time* will not only help you understand and appreciate your children, it will help you help them succeed in school and as members of your family. One word of caution, though, it will give you more than a little insight into your own behaviors. As someone once said, "Most of us actually do look more like the picture on our driver's license than we care to admit."

Now back to that story problem. Go ahead and e-mail me the answer, but remember, to get full credit you must show your work!

For your children,  
Max McGee



# Library Media Center Volunteers Needed

**THANK YOU** to all the following parents who volunteered at the Library Media Center during October. We really appreciate your Great Help! :

Cathy Foschi, Susan Barry, Pam Clarkin, Linda Al-Najar, Dorothy Nunemaker, Stephanie Foye, Lisa Printen, Chuck Jameson, Kim O' Donoghue, Kate Johnston-Legg, Linda Olson and Joellen Varga.

## Library Media Center New Schedule for 2006!!

Volunteering at The Library Media Center is a great way to be involved. Starting in **January 2006** we are having a New Flexible Schedule to accommodate your busy lives! We have lots of openings.

You can sign up to help out any time between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.! Email Martha Blood for details at Deblood 60091 @ AOL.Com.

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## Is your child having a Bar/Bat Mitzvah while in District 39?

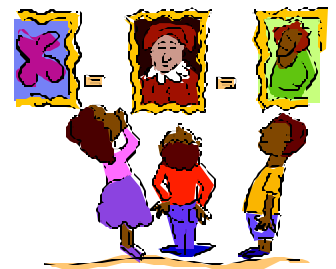
If so, please let us know so we can keep a list and hopefully avoid date conflicts. Current sixth grade families can contact Teri Merens at Buckswin03@aol.com. Current fifth grade families can contact Gail Adler at Gail\_Adler@TJX.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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**Art Awareness** will hold a meeting on January 6th, 1:30PM at the Border's at Eden's Plaza. We will be planning the fifth grade Spanish presentation, and related art project of the artist Antoni Gaudi. All who are interested in participating are welcome.

Questions: Contact LRocklin@mindspring.com



# The Highcrest School Store



Thank you to all of the School Store Volunteers that keep the store open and the students happy. The students seem to have adjusted to the new "guidelines" at the school store. ....if you didn't read them last month, here they are.

Students are asked to sit down at their tables and start lunch before coming to the store. There is room for 3-4 students to shop at one time; students waiting are to form a line along the lower ramp near the stairs at the store

Students need to bring coin, dollar bills, or \$5 bills to make their purchases ....**we cannot make change for \$10 and \$20 bills.**

Parents and students.....is there anything you would like us to have at the store? Please e-mail either of us to share your ideas.

The School Store will continue to sell Assignment Notebooks throughout the school year at the cost of \$6 each; if a student needs to replace a lost one. If a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student needs to replace a lost calculator, they can purchase one in the school office for \$15 each.

Come see us in the Highcrest School Store.....and happy shopping!

Mimi Dray [mdrayvwpto@aol.com](mailto:mdrayvwpto@aol.com)

Melissa Sloan [msloanarts@comcast.net](mailto:msloanarts@comcast.net)



## Youth Connection Names New Executive Director

Bonnie Lane Groner is Youth Connection's new executive director. Ms. Groner's background in youth services and counseling includes positions at Jewish Community Services of Chicago, Youth Services of Glenview and Northbrook, and Waukegan Alternative High School. She earned a masters degree in counseling psychology from National Louis University and continues to serve as a juvenile court mediator for the Cook County Court in Skokie. Parents with questions about Youth Connection and its programs are encouraged to contact Bonnie Groner at (847) 254-2224.

Youth Connection's after school program, RAD is going very well this year. Youth Connection would **welcome donations of new and/or gently used games and supplies for arts and crafts.** Games that are mentally challenging, such as Scrabble and Boggle, would be particularly appreciated. Please contact Bonnie Groner, Executive Director at (847) 254-2224.

# Highcrest Middle School PTO Membership Form 2005-2006

Student Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ grade & teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ grade & teacher \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ grade & teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Parents names \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Membership - \$25.00 per family** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**(this includes one directory)**

**Additional directories - \$5.00 each** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Voluntary contribution for enrichment programs** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT PAID** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **Highcrest PTO**

Bring to school or mail this completed form along with your check to:  
 Highcrest PTO – ATTN: MEMBERSHIP



## Family Awareness Network

### Workshop on "Aging 101: Help for the Sandwich Generation"

Co-sponsored by the Family Awareness Network and the North Shore Senior Center

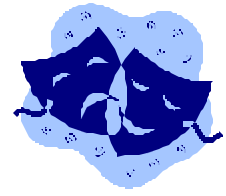
Just as we are getting our kids launched into independence and pondering ways to use our new free time, many of us get a big surprise – our parents now need our help! This workshop will help you save time and energy as you lovingly give your parents the support they need. Learn to recognize the signs that a parent needs more assistance and care and when and how to intervene. What are the local and national resources available to our parents and to us? Come away with caregiver survival tips and information on legal, financial, and medical issues. This workshop will be led by Kimberly Hand, MS, CMC, & Katherine Honeywell, LCSW, both on the North Shore Senior Center staff.

**This FAN event will take place at the Winnetka Park District Community Room, 540 Hibbard Road, Winnetka on Wednesday, February 1, 2006 from 9:30am - 12:30pm (join us for coffee at 9 am), Fee: \$20 (includes refreshments and materials). To register, call Mary Herzberg at 847-446-7384.**

Visit FAN's web site ([www.fan-ntts.org](http://www.fan-ntts.org)) to learn more.

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# Highcrest Variety Show 2006



Skits, songs, poetry, recitals, dances or mimes...

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders: share your talent with the Highcrest Family!!**

**Solos, duets, groups and bands, English, French, German, Chinese or Hebrew**

All acts 2 to 2 ½ minutes long are Welcome!

## START PLANNING NOW

Week of February 6: Sign-up for Preview at Cafeteria during lunch period

Week of Feb 13: Previews in Auditorium

March/ April: Rehearsals in Auditorium

Week of May 1: Final Rehearsals

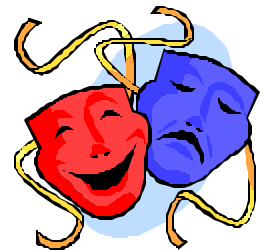
May 5: 4:30pm & 7:30pm Performances at WJHS

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It's the calm before the **Highcrest Variety Show** storm.

We're planning an informational volunteers meeting in January where we'll talk about the many activities you can get involved in: graphics, publicity, finance, decorations, stage management, technical, musical...

If you are interested in working on the Highcrest Variety Show coming up in May, please email Nili Wronski at [niliyelin@aol.com](mailto:niliyelin@aol.com). For those of you who have already expressed an interest in working on the show, you'll be contacted in January.

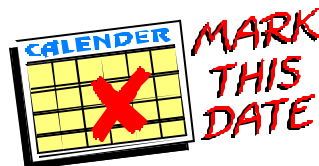




**Barb Shields and Mindie Dolinko would like to thank the following people for all their help in making the Kids Are Key fundraising effort and parent party so successful:**

- Anne Williams and Eileen Noren for all their help, support and encouragement,
- Mary Roth for accepting and keeping track of all the donations,
- Jill Schield for accepting and keeping track of all of the RSVPs and checks,
- Brenda Armstrong, with the assistance of Joan Sefton and Tricia Cook for the beautiful decorations,
- Lisa Eatman and Judy Avrck for coordinating the envelope stuffing and stamping and all of those who helped, Cheryl Smith, Wendy Schuman, Marguerite Rissman, Lori Kaplan, Ginny George, Rimma Kerzner and Eileen DeLarm,
- Kerry Wickel, Joan Coletto and Stephanie Foye for creating and maintaining the bulletin board of keys in the school lobby,
- Maria Bettini-DeBoer for updating the website,
- Danae Melnick for processing all of the checks,
- Marguerite and Michael Rissman, Fran Jacobs, Maureen and Rick Smith, Dede Glicker, Jill Schield, Mimi Rodman, Heidi Troester, Jenny and Hal Greene, Gigi and George Enriquez, Kaci and Chris Smith, Heidi and Greg Mayer, Patrice Petry, Kristyn Friske, Kevin Shields, Al Dolinko, Bruce Armstrong, Lisa Eatman, David Tenenbaum and Anne and Jim Williams for their help at the parent party.

**And remember, we will continue to collect donations through the end of the school year.**



Next PTO Meeting  
Wednesday, January 4th  
9:15 am

Check-out the Higcrest TV Studio  
with Technology Teacher Debby Atwater

# CLUBS!

## Winter Clubs Update

By: Lori Mulhern and Emily Woodrow

With the Fall Session of Highcrest Clubs almost complete, it's time to turn our attention to the new Winter Session. Our very own Highcrest teachers have been working hard to put together another great line-up of clubs. To complement our great new offering, we've also been working on some improvements to the registration process that we think will simplify the process and keep things running smoothly. Here's a sneak preview of some of the key dates and improvements for winter.

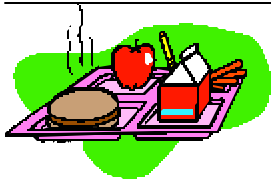
- Winter Session begins the week of January 23<sup>rd</sup> and runs for eight weeks through the week of March 20<sup>th</sup>. Dates will vary by club. This will be the final session of the year. Broadcasting will run for ten weeks beginning the week of January 16<sup>th</sup> and will be the only club that continues for a third session this spring.
- **New this session...**Registration will be handled by the Lottery System.
- Registration packets will be distributed before winter break and the forms must be turned into the school office by the end of the day on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. The lottery will be held on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **New this session...**Registration confirmation will be available through the Highcrest website. Class lists (first name of child and last initial only) will be prepared by club and posted on the website. Broadcasting class lists will be posted by Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and all remaining clubs will be posted by January 18<sup>th</sup>. If your child's name is not on the list, they did not get in the club.
- **New this session...**All clubs (excluding Broadcasting) will start and finish at the same time. The new time will be 3:50 to 4:50. This will help coordinate pick-up times.

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## Highcrest Yearbook

It's not too late to purchase a yearbook! Please submit a check in the amount of \$20.00 per book made payable to the Highcrest PTO. Write your child's name and homeroom teacher's name on your check!!!





# Highcrest Cafeteria Volunteers

**December 2005**

**Monday 5, 12**

Judy Leisher  
Anne Thompson  
Kim McElhenie  
Ellen Berger  
Arlyn Stern  
Sally Schiller

**Tuesday 6, 13**

Kendra Olvaney  
Lori Kaplan  
Tierney Sharif  
Pam Warnick  
Fu Zhu  
Renata Buehler

**Wednesday 7, 14**

Anichka Sakulsorn  
Cathy Albrecht  
Nancy Zalesky  
Lisa Meyer  
Michelle Melnick  
Lisa Georgouses

**Thursday 1, 8, 15**

Heidi Carnow  
Susan Friedman  
Jennifer Pietsch  
Meg Murphy  
Gigi Enriquez  
Susan Theiss

**Friday 2, 9, 16**

Colleen Trevor  
Sheila Brennan  
Susan Campbell  
Elizabeth Rose  
Celia Nelson  
Cathy McColloch

**January 2006**

**Monday 9, 23, 30**

Mary Quirke  
Patty Gahlon  
Helen Newmark/  
Cynthia Marines  
Mignon Dupepe  
Barb Takahashi  
Kaci Smith

**Tuesday 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

Kim Piekos  
Nancy Bernstein  
Julie Olson  
Linda Zajac  
Kim O'Donoghue

**Wednesday 4, 11 18, 25**

Margaret Sinn-Pong  
Judy Schenke  
Arunya Hori  
Anne Carole Witort  
Gail Carberry  
Carol Ducommun

**Thursday 5, 12, 19, 26**

Maggie Maloney  
Nancy Powers  
Emily Woodrow  
Mindie Dolinko  
Carol Dibo  
Lisa Leclercq

**Friday 6, 13, 20, 27**

Anne Wieboldt  
Anne Thompson  
Teresa Grant  
Gayl Monto  
Margaret Keene  
Beth Mirkin

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**Please note that due to the change in period times - the lunch period has been extended. The new time for volunteers is: 10:25 am until 12:45 pm.**

**Cafeteria Volunteer Coordinators:**

Mary Lyman (Aug-Nov)      mommymare@aol.com  
Sharon D'Arcy (Dec-Feb)      tom.darcy@comcast.net  
Sue Gault (Mar-Jun)

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# Highcrest's Annual Career Day

**Friday, April 28, 2005**  
**8:30 a.m. until noon**

**We are beginning our search for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Volunteer Speakers and Helpers with this year's Highcrest Career Day.**

## **On Career Day ...**

The morning classes are replaced with presentations given by parents who donate their time to speak to the students about their current professions. Each of the 34 speakers will address four different classes (including their own child's homeroom) for 25 minutes each.

These presentations offer the children a glimpse into the career world and may open them up to fields with which they might not otherwise be exposed. Speakers will be selected based on scheduling amongst the homerooms and varying the careers presented. Timely submissions will also be given preference. If you spoke last year to the fifth grade, we will also give preference to new speakers.

To make this event a success, we need **8 volunteers** in addition to **34 dynamic speakers**. Please forward all requests to volunteer or speak at Career Day to [lisameyer@comcast.net](mailto:lisameyer@comcast.net) . All requests to speak must be in the following format:

Name-

Child's name-

Child's Homeroom Teacher and Grade-

Your Professional Title-

Home Phone-

Home Address-

Work Phone-

Two – Four Sentences Describing Your Class Presentation-

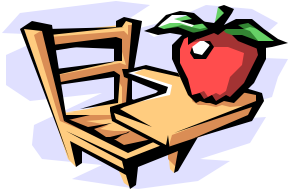
Please look to hear from us before March 1<sup>st</sup> .

**Deb VanSolkema**  
[vansolkema04@comcast.net](mailto:vansolkema04@comcast.net)

**Christine Werking**  
[cwerking@comcast.net](mailto:cwerking@comcast.net)

**Lisa Meyer**  
[lisameyer@comcast.net](mailto:lisameyer@comcast.net)





PEC 2005-2006

## Parent Education Consortium of the North Shore

*The North Shore Parent Education Consortium (PEC) develops, coordinates and produces educational programs for all New Trier Township parents. PEC is comprised of representatives from the community and parent/teacher organizations who, in partnership with The Book Stall at Chestnut Court in Winnetka, offer programs on relevant and timely parenting topics through joint planning and shared resources. PEC acts as a centralized source of information on parent resources/programs that promote stronger schools, family and community life.*

**December 1, "Hop on Board the Dog Train,"** 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sacred Heart School, 1095 Gage Street, Winnetka, 60093. Meet Sandra Boynton as she signs her newest book *Dog Train*. Fun for all ages! Sponsored by The Book Stall. Stop in and pick up your free train pass!

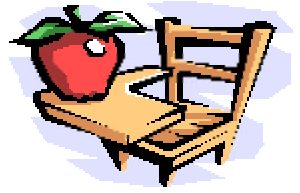
**December 1, "Materialism During The Holidays"** 7:30 - 9:00 pm, Kenilworth Union Church, 211 Kenilworth Ave., Kenilworth. For parents of middle and upper school, this presentation by **Susie Kiphart** is sponsored by the Alison Tobey Smart Memorial Fund which provides programs promoting the spiritual, educational, and emotional well-being of adolescents and their families.

**December 2, "Materialism During The Holidays,"** 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Kenilworth Union Church, 211 Kenilworth Ave., Kenilworth. For parents of middle and upper school, this presentation by **Susie Kiphart** is sponsored by the Alison Tobey Smart Memorial Fund which provides programs promoting the spiritual, educational, and emotional well-being of adolescents and their families.

**December 11, Adoption Discussion Group,** 7-8:30 pm, Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette. (MEC is at 615 Locust Rd just south of Regina High School across from WJHS). The Adoption Discussion Group aims to provide support, education, and networking for adoptive parents. Meetings are facilitated by Rebecca Nelson, Ph.D. ). Questions? Please contact Dr. Nelson at 847-729-4293 or email: [rinelson@comcast.net](mailto:rinelson@comcast.net). This group is open to all area parents touched by adoption -hope to see you there!

**January 12, "The Internet and Your Child,"** 7:00-8:30 p.m., Washburne Little Theatre, 515 Hibbard, Winnetka. Are you concerned about: Instant messaging, Chat rooms, On-line bullying and harassment, *Blogging*? Join our round-table discussion and find you aren't the only one with questions like: Is instant messaging simply another form of communication or should I be concerned? Who is my child speaking to and what are they are talking about? How do I keep my child safe, yet safe-guard their right for privacy? Should I read their e-mails and their instant messages? How much time on the computer is too much? What's the best way to monitor internet use? Should I purchase parental controls for filtering or blocking? Which ones? Where should computer(s) be situated in my home? Join Mimi Omilinsky Kravitz, clinical social worker on the North Shore whose private practice deals primarily with adolescents will talk about the

*Continued on next page...*



### January 12, "The Internet and Your Child," *(continued from previous page)*

social/emotional piece. Mary Ellen Schulz, technology director for Skokie School, and Tim Molepske, director of computer services at Washburne, will talk about the technological piece. Get these and all of your other questions answered; hear practical ideas to keep your children safe. Learn everything you wanted to know about the computer and your child, but were afraid to ask. Sponsored by the Winnetka Central PTA.

**January 17, "Positive Staff/Parent Communication",** 9:30-11:30 am, New Trier, Northfield Campus, Building C, North Entrance, Room 234, 7 Happ Road, Northfield, Sponsored by the North Suburban Special Education District Association of Parents and Staff, NSSED APS, RSVP to Karen Noonan at 847-831-5100 x210.

**January 23, "Emotional Intelligence: What It Is and How To Use It,"** 7:30-9:00 p.m., Conant Science Center Multi-purpose Room, North Shore Country Day School, 310 Green Bay Road, Winnetka. Clinical Psychologist **Michael Maniacci**, Psy.D examines that set of abilities which helps our children get along in life with other people in all kinds of situations. This skill set has far-reaching implications since emotions influence learning, behavior, relationships, health and ultimately success and happiness. Are you born with a finite level of social-emotional intelligence or can it be acquired? During his wide-ranging discourse, Dr. Maniacci will also explore the role empathy plays in bullying and diversity issues. Sponsored by NSCDS.

**January 25, "Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child "**, 12:45 -2:30 p.m., New Trier, Northfield Campus, Building C, North Entrance, Room 234, 7 Happ Road, Northfield, 60093. Have you ever wondered why some children navigate the social and emotional waters of life more smoothly than others? Emotional intelligence refers to a person's ability to handle emotions and social relationships. **Dr. Ed Dunkelblau of the Institute for Emotionally Intelligent Learning** will bring humor and insight as he discusses the principles of emotional intelligence and how you can raise your child with these skills. You will take away great information, such as, the vital importance of social emotional skills for your child's success, our role as parents in helping to develop these skills and specific strategies to support our children in the development of social emotional competence. Don't miss this valuable presentation! Open to the public. Suitable for parents with children of all ages.

**Questions? Contact Deb Guy at [dgguy@comcast.net](mailto:dgguy@comcast.net)**

**HIGHCREST MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCH MENU  
DECEMBER 2005**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
			1 PIZZA SALAD SOUP DESSERT	2 CORN DOGS SALAD SOUP FRUIT
5 BAGELS SALAD SOUP DESSERT	6 TACO/ TRIMMINGS FRUIT DESSERT	7 RAVIOLI SALAD FRENCH BREAD FRUIT	8 PIZZA SALAD SOUP DESSERT	9 CHEESE/ TURKEY MELT CARROTS / DIP CHIPS FRUIT
12 EGG ROLLS SOUP RICE SALAD FRUIT COOKIES	13 HOT DOGS VEGGIES FRIES DESSERT	14 GRILLED CHEESE SOUP VEGGIES PUDDING	15 PIZZA SALAD SOUP DESSERT	16 CHICKEN PATTY/BUN SALAD DESSERT

LUNCHES ARE \$2.35 FOR STUDENTS WITH MILK INCLUDED  
**ITSMENIA, JENNIFER, LORRAINE, AND TINA**  
**WISH YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY, AND SEE YOU JANUARY 3, 2006!**

**Look for the January menu on the Highcrest  
web-site in early December**



## **New Trier Board Observer**

### **New Trier School Board Meeting**

**October 17, 2005**

#### **Strategic Planning Committees**

The Superintendent requested that all constituencies, including students, faculty and staff, parents and community members, be involved in the further research and recommendations on identified strategic planning topics. The deadline for expressing interest in these committees was Friday, October 22, 2005. Those who have expressed interest should expect to be contacted shortly.

#### **Principals**

- The performing arts calendar is set for the year and is available on-line or in hard copy.
- The homecoming dance was a success and featured new activities this year.
- The successful Freshman Go To School Night allowed parents to get a taste of daily New Trier life including the hall congestion!

#### **Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction**

- New Trier will shortly begin experimenting with computer tablets. This technology will be tested by a small group within the school and will be evaluated for broader use.
- The Board approved additions or revisions to several classes after reviewing the recommendations and supporting information presented by several academic departments.

#### **Technology Plan Review**

The Board was presented with a 180 day update on the Technology Infrastructure and Systems Upgrade project. A consultant was engaged jointly by New Trier High School and the New Trier Technology Cooperative (which services the feeder schools) in November 2004 to audit the systems and infrastructure of both parties and to make recommendations for improvements regarding the security, stability and performance of the network's hardware, software and overall system management. The team has successfully alleviated the significant number of network outages previously experienced, strengthened network security and is slightly ahead of schedule.

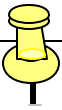
#### **Nutrition Report**

A report on the science of adolescent nutrition, its affect on learning, the associated curriculum at New Trier and the cafeteria choices available to students was made. The goal is to help students make informed and healthy choices. Certain strategic planning groups will need to address further actions that might be taken.

#### **Financial Report**

- The Cook County process for setting the New Trier tax levy is complicated and uses many variables and estimates. For the 2004 taxing year (taxes paid in 2005 calendar year), current tax information just received from the County suggests that this year New Trier will receive approximately \$180,000 over the 41¢ tax increase cap that was approved by voters in the 2003 referendum. This amount will be rebated to taxpayers by lowering the levy accordingly on next year's bills.
- The Board will review the potential for a second 12 month extension to the 5 year tax moratorium commitment agreed to in the 2003 referendum. The last extension pushed the date through 2009. This review will need to incorporate any funding needs emanating from the strategic planning process.

Julie Olson  
New Trier School Board Observer



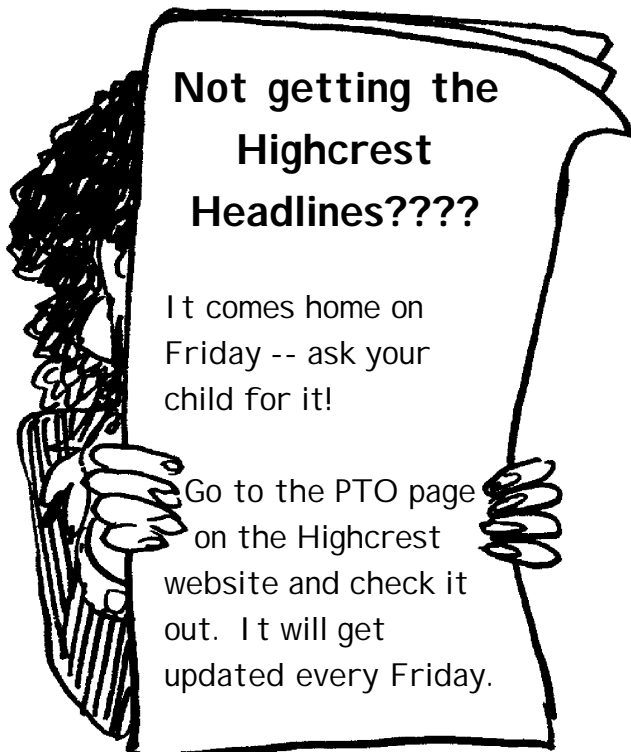
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### December

- 5 Grades 5 Premier Concert @ Regina - 7:30
- 6 Grade 6 Winter Concert @ Regina - 7:30
- 13 Grade 5&6 Chorus Concert @ Regina - 7:30
- 19 NO SCHOOL - Winter Recess Begins

### January

- 3 School Resumes
- 4 PTO Meeting - 9:15 am
- 6 Art Awareness Meeting—1:30 pm at Borders
- 22 Highcrest Clubs' winter session begins




### Not getting the Highcrest Headlines????

It comes home on  
Friday -- ask your  
child for it!

Go to the PTO page  
on the Highcrest  
website and check it  
out. It will get  
updated every Friday.

**HIGHCREST HAWK**  
A Publication of the Highcrest Middle School PTO



Submit articles to  
[highcresthawk@yahoo.com](mailto:highcresthawk@yahoo.com)

**Deadline for February  
issue is January 15th**

Editor: Peggy Wilson  
1130 Locust Road  
847/256-5036

Look for the "Hawk" on-line or copies  
are available in the school office

**OR**  
send an e-mail to  
[highcresthawk@yahoo.com](mailto:highcresthawk@yahoo.com)  
and we will e-mail you a copy