

The Hillsborough Highlander

Hillsborough Happenings

March 2010

From the Desk of Mrs. Adamson

This has truly been a busy but tremendously fulfilling month. Although our month of kindness and tolerance has drawn to a close we hope the benefits will continue to be seen throughout the remainder of the year. Speaking of kindness, our heartfelt condolences go out to the Harker-DeViso family with the recent one-year anniversary that marks the date of the disappearance of their beloved niece and cousin, Amber Dubois. You continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

Open House is scheduled for March 12th. I hope to see you all there in recognition of your children's exceptional academic efforts. With regards to your child's education, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the importance of having students at school on time. Students arriving tardy present a distraction to the teacher and students. Please show consideration to the other students as well as the teacher by making the extra effort to leave earlier, thus setting your child up for a successful start to the day. We all benefit from the results☺.

This past month we reached our school-wide total of 200,000 reading minutes for kindergarten – 8th grade. Wow! I am so proud of the students' incredible efforts towards this program. Congratulations to all of you as we continue our journey in our school-wide program, "Carpe Diem - Read" I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of our next season – spring, which is just around the corner. May we all feel the renewed sense of purpose that accompanies this refreshingly bright season. Let us marvel in the many changes that surround us. "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt within the heart," Helen Keller.

Character Awards

The month of February allowed students several opportunities to focus on kindness, as we celebrated kindness month. While this important character trait was practiced by many throughout the school, the following students were chosen by their teachers for going out of their way to reach out to others in so many instances - not just this month, but all year long:



Cooper D., Mayalia G., Tara G., Sarah B., Suwemi C., Mia B., Kestrel L., Jolie A., Aubrey H., Tessa D., Sahar A., Lily A., and Rachelle P. What an achievement to have been chosen for this award – thank you boys and girls, stand proud and tall – you are true role models for our school. We now move onto the character trait courage, as students discover and address the many areas in our daily lives that require us to be brave, to face any fears we may have, and to stand up for that in which we believe.

Dates to Remember

Mar 3	Parent Volunteer Meeting, 2:30 p.m.
Mar. 8	Progress Reports/Pennies for Patients Begins
Mar. 10	Minimum Day Pre. (11:00), K-1 st (11:30) 2 nd - 4 th (11:45), 4 th - 8 th (12:00)
Mar. 12	Minimum Day Open House – Friday, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Pre – 8 th) 3 rd – 8 th Science Fair Projects Due Pennies for Patients Donations Due
Mar. 14	Spring Forward (Daylight Savings Time Begins Mar. 14 th)
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day Free Dress (Wear Green)
Mar. 18	1 st – 8 th Oral Spelling Bee 1 st – 2 nd 9:00 – 10:00 3 rd – 4 th 11:00 – 12:00 5 th – 8 th 1:30 – 2:45
Mar. 19	Spirit Day/Pennies for Patients Ends
Mar. 24	4 th – 8 th Grade Evening Speech Contest , 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Mar. 25	Late Start for 4 th – 8 th Grade 9:30 a.m.
Mar. 26	Jog-a-Thon (8:30 – 11:30 a.m.) Free Dress (Sports Attire) Parents' Night Out Jr. High Fun Afternoon
Mar. 29	Panoramic Picture, 8:45 a.m. Third Quarter Ends

Disco Day

A day filled with so much fun and activity.

The creativity of costumes displayed by students at every grade level was admirable, making it terribly



hard to choose winners from each class. From 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. classes moved from one station to the next, during which time they were able to try their skills at disco dancing, including “The Hustle,” Disco basket ball, Disco art, photos with John Travolta himself, and of course relay races. Thank you to Kendall, Zeinab, Chloe, Kayla, Ashley, and Samantha C. for their “disco Idol” dance performances – what talent! Special thanks to our parent volunteers who gave up their time on this day to help with individual stations: Mrs. Escobedo for your help with providing such terrific music, to Mrs Escobedo Mrs. Alam, and Mrs. DiGiulio for encouraging students at the dance station, Mrs. Drake for your enthusiasm and master dance moves for The Hustle, Mrs. Albery for your help with the art contest Mrs. Ferguson and Mrs. Bilello for your help with capturing memories all morning long, to Mrs. Annigoni for your help with the “Travolta” photos, and to Mrs. Steele for your help with judging (in between working in the library). Finally, a huge thank you to Mr. Hagman (Chloe’s stepdad) for playing such a believable John Travolta – what great photos we were able to take. Finally, a very big thank you goes to our student council for taking on the responsibility of assisting at individual activities and thereby forgoing the fun of participating in each activity. As a reward, they will all receive an extra free dress day, free snack coupon, and free homework pass. The morning culminated in the staff relay race, with participants chosen by Lukela A. and Phoenix H. It was so very close, but Mrs. Linkous, Mr. Macias, and Mrs. Lesser were narrowly beaten by Mrs. Adamson, Mrs. Batarse, and Mr. Michael’s team, who won the contest by mere seconds! Congratulations to all of you! Overall – a day filled with fun and unexpected events. Thank you to all of you for making this a memorable and eventful day!

Second Annual Jog-a-Thon, March 26th

Forms have been distributed and we challenge each child to raise \$20 each for this event. All proceeds will go directly towards a computer system solely for our library – including 3-4 laptops for student searching usage. The Jog-a-thon will take place from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Each class will be given a total of 10 - 20 minutes during which time they will be required to run/walk as many laps on the field as they can. We are in need of

enthusiastic parent volunteers to help with this fun event – please contact the front office if you are willing and able to help. Mr. Macias has already begun training the students during their PE classes, so we know they will be prepared. We look forward to the spirit and excitement that this day promises to deliver.

Two Minimum Days in the Month of March

Please make a note that we have two minimum days scheduled for the month of March. March 10th (to allow teachers additional time to prepare their rooms for Open House) and March 12th are both Minimum Days.

Dismissal times on minimum days are as follows:

Preschool: 11:00 a.m.

K-1st Grade: 11:30 a.m.

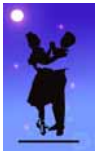
2nd – 4th Grade: 11:45 a.m.

5th – 8th Grade: 12:00 p.m.

If you ordered hot lunch for either of these two days – please let the front office know in advance whether your child will be present for lunchtime. Lunches will otherwise be ordered –credits will be issued with prior notice only.

Junior High Valentine’s Dance/Party

What a fun afternoon! The children danced to music while chaperoned by Mrs. Lesser, Mrs. Blanco, and Mrs. Parkhurst. A big thank you to the students and staff for their combined efforts in a quick and thorough cleanup. We hope a fun time was had by all.



Math Counts

MATHCOUNTS® is a national math enrichment, coaching and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement in every U.S. state & territory. Our students had the opportunity to prepare using the specified curriculum materials under Mrs. Lesser’s coaching and leadership. Schools select students to compete individually or as part of a team in one of the more than 500 written & oral competitions held nationwide. Top students advance to the state, & ultimately, national level. MATHCOUNTS challenges students' math skills, develops their self-confidence & rewards them for their achievements.

Thank you to Mrs. Lesser for not only working hard with a select group of junior high students over the last few months in preparing them for this very challenging competitive math testing session, but for also giving up her Saturday on February 20th to accompany the participating students on this important day. Congratulations go to: Sarah Y., Nick A., Avery B., Percilla M., and Destene V., all of whom represented Hillsborough School and displayed their math skills and efficiency. We are proud of all of you for attempting this challenging competition and applaud your

accomplishments. We will proudly announce the results as we hear of them.

Kindergarten Chicks

Kindergarteners will have the opportunity to welcome several small visitors to their classrooms over the next week...baby chicks. Every year the kindergarteners are given the chance to observe the transformation from egg to chick (in their own classrooms). Hopefully we will see signs of hatching in time for Open House. Be sure to stop by and see for yourself what all the excitement is about.

4th - 8th Grade Speech Contest, March 24th (6:00 p.m.)

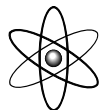
An event towards which the students have been working so very hard – our second annual evening speech contest. Students in the 4th – 8th grade have been perfecting their public speaking skills since the start of the school year. In February, grades 4th – 8th held class contests, from which students were chosen to represent their class in this upcoming contest. Students will partake in the following categories: Prepared persuasive speeches, unprepared speeches, evaluators, and additional responsibilities (such as timer, grammarian, vote counter, etc.). All 4th – 8th grade students are requested to attend, whether they are involved or not. Parents – please keep this evening aside to witness the skills of our students in practice. This will be a tremendous opportunity for all of our students. We hope you are able to join us.

Open House – Friday, March 12th, 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

We hope to see you there. You are encouraged to invite friends, family, and neighbors. Word of mouth is the strongest form of advertisement. Please keep this evening open to celebrate your child's extraordinary accomplishments. We are requesting that all children be collected no later than 6:00 p.m. to prevent overlap that evening. We will not have an available room in which to keep the children confined after this time. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Carl's Jr. will be on campus that evening selling hamburger meals for \$5.00 each. Be sure to come hungry ☺

Science Fair – March 12th

Science projects are to arrive at school on March 12th, no later than 12:00 p.m. This will allow ample time for the setting up of all projects. Children are to follow the direction of their teachers. Third grade projects will be on display in room 7, while 4th - 8th grade projects will be on display in the resource room. All projects will be judged on Monday, March 15th. We are currently in need of volunteers for this responsibility. If you do not have a child in grades



4th – 8th and you have a science or engineering background (or keen interest☺) we would appreciate your assistance as a judge on March 15th. Please contact the front office if you are interested. Teachers will grade the projects on Tuesday and Wednesday March 16th/17th. Please remind your child to take his/her project home on Wednesday, March 17th. We will not be able to store projects after this time.

Hillsborough Birthdays

We only have three students celebrating their birthdays this month – here is an extra big happy birthday to each of you. We hope your day is both special and memorable.

Kyle S. (23rd), William L. (23rd), and Keanu A. (23rd).

Happy Birthday wishes are also in order for Miss Deserae, who celebrates her birthday on the 11th. Many happy returns to all of you!



Spring Cleaning and Upkeep

In our ongoing efforts to keep our campus clean and appealing to the eye, we are having all the carpets shampooed, the windows and blinds cleaned, and the hallways and stairs power washed. Spring-cleaning indeed!

Significant Mention

A very loud thank you to the parent volunteers who helped with the collecting and putting together of our carnations. Thank you to Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Writer, Mrs. Annigoni, Mrs. Chang, Mrs. Alam (and daughter Faith☺) and Mrs. Anderson for taking on the time-consuming task of preparing the carnations and separating them by class. Excellent teamwork helped this process run smoothly and efficiently. Special thanks too go to our student council for their combined efforts in selling the carnations.

Thank you too, to Mrs. Steele and Mrs. Anderson for your continued help in the library with inputting books into our cataloging system. What a process!

Pennies for Patients

For the first two weeks of March, students are encouraged to collect as many coins (and bills too) as they can to donate to our school-wide Pennies for Patients fundraiser. 100% of the proceeds will go directly towards the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society. Last year we managed to raise a total of \$1500. Our goal this year is to exceed that amount. Thank you Hillsborough students and families for your anticipated support in this valued project.

High School Applications

Our eighth grade students are currently in the throes of the lengthy application process to ensure their acceptance into high school. Many of these schools require the students to endure stringent interviewing processes and challenging testing sessions to measure academic ability and extra-curricular involvement. Good luck to each of you. We know your education here at Hillsborough will serve you well in this process.

Welcome

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following students who have recently joined the Hillsborough family: Rachele in 7th grade. Welcome Rachele – we hope your first few weeks at Hillsborough have been enjoyable. The second student to whom we bid a warm “welcome back,” is Devon (5th grade). Devon – it is terrific to have you back at Hillsborough. We are thrilled at your return and hope the transition has been a smooth one.

Priority Registration

Current Hillsborough families are encouraged to register early for the 2010/2011 school year. Register by March 12th to receive a significant discount off your registration fee. Open enrollment begins on March 13th – so don't delay!

Camp Hillsborough 2010

We are pleased to announce the advent of our upcoming Camp Hillsborough. Brochures will be on display the evening of Open House, so you can start planning your summer early. See Miss Tami for further details.



Summer

Hillsborough Alumni

Kevin Fortier (Graduation Class of 2007) recently competed in the Academic Decathlon Regional Finals for the So. Cal Private Schools. We are proud to announce that he received a gold in music, a silver in math, and a bronze in social science. Overall, Kevin came in 7th overall place, while his team earned a bronze for super quiz and came in 3rd place overall Go Kevin!

School Uniforms

Please remember that students are required to wear full dress uniform every Monday (or Tuesday, should Monday fall on a holiday) and only approved Dennis uniform options on the remaining days of the week. Students not wearing the required Dennis uniform will receive a uniform notice. Two notices in a one-month period will disqualify your child from participating in that month's free dress day. Please be aware too, that students are required to tuck their shirts into their pants

or skirt waistband at all times of the day (with the exception of play times), and that boys are required to wear belts. Finally, we ask that you continue to keep a close eye on your child's hair length. If your child's hair exceeds the regulations as stated in our hair policy, he/she will receive a reminder notice. Your consistent attention to this area is most appreciated. Thank you parents for your cooperation with our uniform policy, as we encourage overall school pride.

Save the Dates

Please make a note of the following upcoming dates:

Spring Break – April 5th – 9th. School Closed

SAT WEEK – April 26th – April 30th

Carnival Evening/Talent Show: June 4th (6:00–9:00 p.m.) The Talent Show will take place that morning (June 4th) from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Field Day: Friday, May 7th

A Word From Mrs. Blanco

Hola Padres,

The month of February (febrero) has always been a very special time for most of us – special because of Valentine's Day...a day of love and a day to think of others. During this fun and busy month, students in kindergarten through eighth grade have been focusing on unique unit projects for Spanish. The lower elementary students are practicing their writing in Spanish. The fifth grade students are busy creating their own piñatas. The sixth grade students are working on El Cuerpo Y Sus Partes - The Parts Of The Body. The seventh grade students are working on their unit projects Los Quehaceres-Chores. The eighth grade students' project is that of creating a collage of favorite pastimes and the writing of a report on a Spanish speaking country. These reports show a lot of research and creativity!

All projects will be on display on Friday March 12th during our Open House. I am looking forward to seeing you all on this special night to celebrate the hard work of our students.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Blanco

Foreign Language Department Head

A Word From Miss Pizzi

Art

It's Open House time! On March 12th, Room 3 will be decorated from top to bottom with some of the fabulous art projects that our K-5th grade students have created so far this year. Brand new artwork made in the styling of Marc Chagall (our artist for the month of March) will also be featured. Please stop by as I know you will be astounded by the excellent artwork that is blooming here at Hillsborough! ~Miss Pizzi ☺

Computers

On the night of Open House, please be sure to stop by the computer lab to see the incredible work posted by our K-8th grade students. I will not be in the lab that evening as I will be in Room 3, but I will of course be available to speak with you about computers in the art classroom. For the month of March, the main focus in the computer lab for our K-7th grade students will be proper typing posture and accuracy. As a special privilege, the 8th grade student will be introduced to website building this month. I am very proud of how far each of our students has risen so far this year on the computers. Be sure to ask your child to show you his/her achievements on the night of the 12th! ~Miss Pizzi ☺

A Word From Mr. Macias – PE Coach

The month of March will be baseball and kickball month. Students in grades 2nd through 8th will be learning about and playing both kickball and baseball. Students will learn rules, regulations and basics terms. They will also learn how to field, catch, hit, throw and run bases. They will begin the month playing and learning the rules of kickball. They will then move onto learning and playing baseball. Students in kindergarten and 1st grade will learn the most basic of baseball rules and fundamentals. Students will be learning how to run bases and hit off a baseball tee. They will continue to work on their throwing and catching to help improve their baseball skills. I'm looking forward to a fun and exciting month.

Thank you,
Mr. Macias

Yearbook Pictures

If you have pictures you think would make terrific additions to this year's yearbook – please save them to a disc and drop them off at the front office. Our yearbook this year must be submitted no later than March 30th – so time is of the essence. We appreciate any and all photos submitted no later than March 15th. Thank you.

Parking Lot Safety

Please be reminded of the necessary rules in place when driving through our parking lot. One area of concern – as it poses such a safety risk to our children – is parents who continue to insist on making a left turn immediately as they enter the parking lot. This is a ONE WAY! Drivers are required to stay right until they circle the island. We understand that at times, the line of cars backs up all the way to the entrance and the time it can take to make your way through the lot can be frustrating. However, this is no excuse to ignore the rules of the road. Bypassing the line of cars by entering the one-way lane puts both drivers and pedestrians in harm's way. We thank you for your cooperation in this area.

Special Mention

Kiera (7th grade) is sporting a much shorter hairdo lately. This is because last month she donated her hair to Locks of Love, an organization who makes wigs for cancer patients from donors' hair contributions. Kiera – we salute your kindness and thoughtfulness. Your gorgeous hair is going to make someone very happy. Thank you for spreading kindness through your actions.

Lukela (5th grade) and Jolie's (3rd grade) Youth 2 team as well as Lukela, Jolie and Madeleine's (3rd grade) Junior 4 team received first place at the National Cheer competition this past weekend. Since it was a national invitation this makes them National Champions (the second time around for the Youth 2 team!). Congratulations to all three of you girls – teamwork and dedication certainly pays off!



K-Prep's Lucky Duck and Serena R.
at Valerie Bertinelli's Home☺



Valentine's Day



2nd Grade/Preschool Reading Buddies



Disco Day Fun



Junior High Valentine's Dance



Spirit Day

