



FALL 2018

HIGHLANDER HAPPENINGS

CHARACTER. INTEGRITY. WISDOM.
HONOR. TRADITION. COMMUNITY.

Lately ...

The 2018-2019 Highlander school year kicked off with food, family, and fun at the Back-to-School BBQ. Thank you to the Highlander Men's Club for the delicious meal and to HPA for the warm welcome to our many new families. This semester, we celebrated Founder's Day, enjoyed Donuts With Dad, and we reflected on our blessings on Thanksgiving Feast Day. Students have been learning to honor and respect others through good manners at monthly "manners meals". Students, teachers, and parents enjoyed fellowship centered around a love of reading at the Book Fair before journeying outside to the Highlander orchard for fun at the Pumpkin Patch. Our annual Carnival proved once and for all that we are "The Greatest School on Earth", and one of our cherished founders, Mr. Woodring, was honored and remembered through a special magic show.



Pre-K II

Highlander's youngest students have been mastering their colors, shapes, and numbers. Each child found a group of four objects that were alike and showed them to the class. Using Cuisenaire rods to make stair steps, the children learned the concept of numbers from one to ten, then arranged the rods from left to right and smallest to largest. Everyone successfully recited the nursery rhymes, "Jack and Jill", "Humpty Dumpty", and "Jack Sprat". The class enjoyed painting with brushes, strings, marbles, and fingers. Dot painting, watercolors, and leaf rubbing with pastels were especially fun activities. Students are practicing and improving their cutting skills and ability to hold a pencil and crayon correctly. Pre-K II moms have blessed the grade with demonstrations of making lemonade, gingerbread cookies, orange juice, and cranberry bread.



Pre-K I

Highlander Pre-K I students have been developing their vocabulary, perception, and creativity through discussions of the book, "Mary's Home". The children have memorized classic nursery rhymes and Bible thoughts, including the fruits of the spirit. The fine motor skills focus has been on pencil grip, and the children have been busy learning their consonant play names, which help them visualize the sounds made by the letters. Students have explored shapes, colors, community helpers, fish and birds, fruits and vegetables, holidays, and more. The children enjoy "cooking" their own fun snacks on special days.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten has been exploring the concepts of simple addition and patterns, sorting, and graphing. They have learned to write numbers zero through nine correctly and have had a great time delving into the worlds of bats, bears, and spiders. Students have studied safety (with a visit from Fireman Addison), conducted worm experiments, explored the State Fair of Texas, and learned about pioneer life and chores at the Heritage Farmstead Museum. The students continue to work closely with their teachers on early reading, using Mae Carden's "two-vowel rule", where the first vowel says its name and the second vowel sits politely quiet.



1st Grade

First grade students have had a "sweet" semester, using treats to enhance their understanding of math concepts. The class used Nutty Bar ice cream to learn about geometric solids, such as cones and spheres. A large Hershey bar helped demonstrate equivalent fractions, and sharing Smarties helped the students learn about dividing a set of objects. The class made teepees out of tortillas, using frosting as the glue. The first grade has enjoyed visiting the library once a week to read stories and share adventures with beloved librarian, Mrs. Eichstadt. In art, all lower elementary students began the year with cave art, followed by studies of Edward Degas, Piet Mondrian, and Edward Hopper.

2nd Grade

Highlander's second grade students completed an exciting unit on the rainforest this semester, complete with a crocodile cake. Next, each student researched a famous American who contributed to the history of flight. Students were able to see history come to life through a field trip to the Frontiers of Flight Museum. The second grade classroom was transformed into night with star lights on the ceiling, while the children studied the life and habits of nocturnal animals. Other semester highlights include a trip to the Dallas Arboretum and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra for the music of Bernstein and Beethoven.



3rd Grade

Third grade students began the semester with the study of plants. Learning the art of thorough examination, students observed small plants that they brought to the class and were able to determine the specific purpose for each part of their unique specimens. Art met science, when students used their creativity to glue beans, seeds, and rice on construction paper to create flowers born from their imaginations. Using the knowledge gained from their map skills unit, the third grade studied the seven continents, comparing their similarities and differences. The class also enjoyed reading "The Tailor of Gloucester", "The Tale of Jemima Puddle Duck", "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", and "Charlotte's Web".

4th Grade

Fourth grade students began the semester with the study of famous explorers. For Explorer Spice Day, the fourth grade took a field trip to Central Market for the purchase of various spices and vegetables before returning to the classroom to cook a delicious meal of sweet potato and carrot soup, a salad with Italian dressing, and a cream cheese-topped spice cake. The explorer unit concluded with a report and presentation, for which students learn how to conduct proper research. Students have enjoyed reading "Bambi", "Shiloh", and "Dr. Dolittle". Fourth graders recently enjoyed a trip to the Dallas Zoo, which accompanied their study of reptiles, fish, amphibians, birds, and mammals.



5th Grade

The fifth graders began the year with their founding father research papers, before moving on to their D.A.R. essays on the topic of "The Women's Suffrage Campaign". Students continue to master their language and improve their communication through sentence analysis and creative writing. They have been busy studying invertebrates in science. Each student cut apart a flatworm in order to observe regeneration. In social studies, students reviewed European exploration in North America before delving into Native American studies and British colonization of America. In art, all upper elementary grades studied Egyptian masks and artists Frieda Kahlo, Wassily Kandinsky, Joan Miró, Winslow Homer, Keith Haring, and Michelangelo.



6th Grade

This semester, in addition to academic studies, our sixth grade students have served as role models for our younger grades through the Buddy Program, flag and carpool responsibilities, leadership at Pumpkin Patch, and more. In their science studies, the sixth grade students designed their own roller coasters and explored owl pellets. In social studies, students used archaic maps to study Ancient Mesopotamia and created PowerPoint presentations on Ancient Egypt. Language arts has presented the students with creative writing opportunities, as well as an Egyptian research paper, memorization of many challenging poems, conjugation, and advanced diagramming. The students' new grammatical skills include infinitives, participles, gerunds, all clauses, and more. The sixth grade also began to study Greek and Latin in addition to French.

