

May 15, 2015



HPAC News

Remember that Monday, May 18 is Victoria Day - have a great long weekend!

If you would like to include any information in the weekly HPAC News, please forward your submission to verna@noru.ca by Wednesday afternoon.

This issue:

- May 12 HPAC Meeting
- Spring Fair
- Bike Week
- Natural Playground Meeting
- Kids Club
- Grade 7 Farewell Gift/Buddy Bench
- Family Photo Program
- In the Community

Highlands PAC AGM Meeting/Elections

Following Tuesday's AGM and Elections, we are pleased to share that the HPAC Executive Committee members for the 2015/16 school year are as follows:

Co Chairs: Moira Cregan
Ed Desaulniers

Treasurer: Tracy Stirling

Secretary: Tracey Lebedovich

Fundraising Coordinator: Carmen Kaufman

Communications Coordinator: Verna O'Neill

DPAC Representative: Jason Krupa

Safety Coordinator: Amber Zhao

Member at Large: Marnie Giblin

The draft minutes from the May 12 AGM meeting are [attached here](#) for your information. They are also available on the [HPAC web site](#).

Highlands 3rd Annual Spring Fair

Highlands Spring Fair was a tremendous success last Saturday! A huge crowd turned out for a sunny day of fun and games. The event raised just over **\$4,500** for the school.

Thank you to Highlands Kids Club for running the BBQ!

The Entrepreneur Fair was full of innovative creations... congratulations to all our young tycoons.

Thanks to all the volunteers who made the day possible and a special thanks to our Community Sponsors:



BC Playthings
3070 Edgemont Blvd
North Vancouver
604-986-4111



Team Clarke

Team Clarke
amclarke.com
RE/MAX Crest Realty
04-3151 Woodbine Dr
North Vancouver

DAVIDS TEA

David's Tea
davidstea.com
3124 Edgemont Blvd
604-980-0652



Great Canadian Landscaping Co.
clc.ca
04-924-5296



Sheri Stenson Murphy
stensonhomes.com
RE/MAX Masters Realty



MARNIE PREMONT
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The Guterres Family
Thank you for your support!



Steve Hamer-Jackson
tevehj.ca
Royal LePage | Sussex Realty

Highlands Bike Week

NEXT WEEK: Tuesday, May 19 - Friday, May 22

Encourage your child(ren) to ride their bike to school next week. Students who ride will be entered to **win daily prizes** plus each time they ride they will get an entry for the grand prize (a new bike!).

Waivers must be completed. Unfortunately, students can not participate in the skills session of bike week without them.

The grand prize draw will take place during the Friday wrap up assembly.

The classroom schedule for Bike Week is below:

- **Tuesday, May 19:** Mrs. Mitchell's grade 4 class & grades 5/6
- **Wednesday, May 20:** Grades 2, 3 and Mrs. Sherlock's Grade 4 class.
- **Thursday, May 21:** Grade 7 Offsite Ride
Kindergarten and Grade 1 Bike Rodeo
- **Friday, May 22:** 10:40 am Assembly

Class representatives have distributed class specific details.

Highlands Natural Playground Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 19 6:00 pm

Highlands School Library

Anyone interested in helping with the next phase of the natural playground project is encouraged to attend our last committee meeting of the school year on May 19. We will be reviewing planting choices, looking at grant options and brainstorming future fundraising and sponsorship ideas.

And if you'd like to see our natural playground plans, the design boards have been posted in the front hallway!

For more information please email tracey@gloriousday.com

Highlands Kids Club - Summer Program

Details about Kids Club summer programs will be available soon. Check out their web site for more information:

www.highlandskidsclub.ca

Grade 7 Farewell Gift: Buddy Bench



Every year the Grade 7s give a graduation gift to the school and we are excited about a new bench that will be the Grade 7s gift to the school this year. It's being built by students at Argyle Secondary School and it will be ready by the end of the school year. It has a special purpose...it's a "buddy bench" (not its final name...grade 7's are deciding that now).

Before our new bench arrives, we are starting to practice how our buddy bench will work with the bench near the blue slide. It was decorated on Tuesday May 5 at to show it's a safe and happy place where you can go if you need a friend or something to do. We want everyone in our school to feel like they belong here and that they are a part of our school community...that's the "hope" for the bench.

These benches exist elsewhere, and this CTV news story gives an idea of how they work and how impactful they can be: <http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/winnipeg-school-debuts-buddy-bench-it-s-more-than-a-bench-1.2008950>

The way it works is that anyone from Grade K-7 who feels left out or lonely, or wants someone different to hang out with at recess or lunch can sit on the bench. When a student sits on the bench, someone from Grade 6 and 7 will join them on the bench to see if they can help find someone to play with, or they will spend time with those students themselves.

Please talk to your child about the bench. We've asked students to please remember that the bench is a place of kindness and respect. If someone approaches you on the bench and asks you to play, say "yes". They are offering you a welcoming hand and you may be making a new friend.

We also decided that it is vital...that if a person on the bench has a bigger problem about anything other than finding something to do at recess or lunch, then our offer will be to find them adult help to talk with them. We are not counselors, we are important Buddies. We are there to help everyone feel they are a member of the Highland School community.

Thank you, we hope your children will use and respect our gift.

- From the Grade 7 students of Divisions 1,2,and 3

p.s. If your child is in Grade 6 or 7 and wants to volunteer to be a friend for the bench, there's a weekly sign-up sheet outside Ms. Wright's classroom.

p.p.s. If parents have any questions/thoughts or would like to become involved, please email carmenfarrell@shaw.ca.

Family Photo Program (*formerly MJM Photos*)

Important Notice for those families that participated in the Family photo program:

Please read the [attached letter](#) from Lifetouch about a price adjustment and special offer. Lifetouch Canada Inc. and Mark Martineau (of MJM Studios) thanks you for your continued patience during the merger of their two businesses.

In the Community

Mental Health Parent Education Series

Creating Capacity for Youth Mental Wellness: Signs, Symptoms & Strategies

Tuesday, June 2 6:30 - 9:00 pm
5th Floor, 2121 Lonsdale Avenue

Free Event

For more information, click [here](#).

Register for tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/creating-capacity-for-youth-mental-wellness-signs-symptoms-strategies-registration-16959052984>