

# LaGrange Highlands District 106

## Superintendent's Newsletter -- Dr. Patricia Viniard

How can a school year go by so quickly? Thank you for helping make this a wonderfully successful year at Highlands. All that you do—working in partnership with educators, advocating for your child, supporting our amazing staff and the phenomenal PTC and Educational Foundation, and much more—make Highlands the exemplary district it is!

Please join me in extending a warm thank you and congratulations to:

- Retiring teachers: Mrs. Ciango, Mrs. Leamy, Mrs. Meske, and Mrs. Schweizer
- Retiring Support Staff: Mrs. Herman and Mrs. Piet
- Mr. DePorter, Director of Operations, who will be leaving us July 1 to start a new position in Glen Ellyn District 41!



### Two Important Surveys Demonstrate Excellence at Highlands

#### \* 2017 "5Essentials" Survey of Teachers, Parents, and Students

Since 2013, each school district in Illinois is required to give the 5Essentials Survey at least every other year. Because Highlands highly values the feedback from students, parents, and teachers, we have administered the survey *each* year since its launch. From 2013 to this year, the results have gone from GOOD to GREAT! This year, three areas—**Supportive Environment**, **Ambitious Instruction**, and **Involved Families**—earned the highest rating possible. A fourth area, **Collaborative Teachers**, has shown *significant* growth from the first year of the survey, this year earning the second highest rating level. The fifth area assessed, **Effective Leaders**, scored well above the state average, with a positive rating score this year that was 25 points above the score in 2013 (the first year the survey was given)! After all survey data were synthesized, Highlands received the highest possible overall rating: **WELL ORGANIZED**.

#### \* 2017 Ninth Grade Student Survey

Several Lyons Township K-8 districts worked together to design and implement a coordinated survey of ninth grade students. The purposes of the survey were to identify (a) how well the K-8 experience prepares students for high school and (b) how well students are making the transition to high school. Nearly 50% of last year's graduates completed the survey (an extremely high completion rate compared to other participating schools), and results were overwhelmingly strong and positive!

- **94% rated their overall preparation for high school as Great/Good.**
- **100% of respondents reported their academic preparation as Great/Good.**

Areas rated especially strong included technology preparation; preparation for math, social studies, science, English/language arts, and advanced classes; support for English Language Learners; feeling safe and respected; and access to academic and social-emotional support. A small number of areas marked lower, by comparison, will be further explored for improvement. The survey data also demonstrate Highlands' graduates are successfully transitioning to high school (e.g., participating in extra-curricular activities at a high rate, feeling comfortable and successful in classes).

Hats off to the Highlands community—students, parents, and educators!

Along with other data, these survey results will be used to identify areas of strength and areas for further development, and they will help us advance our **commitment to continuous improvement!**

### June through August "Quick Takes"

#### June 5

*Eighth Grade Graduation (7:00 p.m.)*

#### June 6

*Last Day of School!  
ES Field Day and Awards Ceremony*

#### June 12 to July 6

*Summer School (Monday through Thursday)*

#### June 21

*Library Family Fun Night (6-7:30 p.m.)*

#### July 4

*Independence Day—District Offices Closed*

#### July 11

*Computer/Technology Sale (8:00 a.m.)*

#### July 12

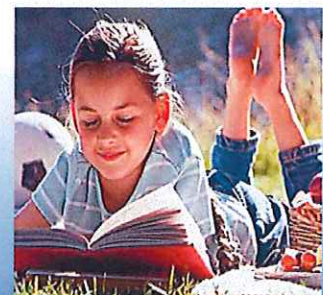
*Library Family Fun Night (6-7:30 p.m.)*

#### August 9

*Library Family Fun Night (6-7:30 p.m.)*

#### August 22

*First day of school for 2017-18 year!!*





## ***Back by Popular Demand: Highlands to Again Host Summertime “Library Family Fun Nights”***

- WHAT:** Each *Library Family Fun Night* offers Highlands families creative and engaging activities, with each built around a fun theme. Activities typically include a reading and writing activity, a craft, a snack, and a fun surprise or two—all at **no cost!**
- WHO:** Highlands families
- WHEN:** This summer’s dates are tentatively scheduled for June 21, July 12, and August 9, each from 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** Highlands LRC (library)
- WHY:** These fun, interactive evenings give students a chance to stay connected to school while enjoying family time. Initiated last summer, the events were very well attended and received rave reviews, so we are thrilled to offer them again!
- HOW:** About two weeks prior to each event, you will receive an email invitation with specific details such as the theme and how to sign up. (Because of the preparation involved and the popularity of these events last summer, you must RSVP.)



### ***“How can I help my child(ren) avoid the ‘Summer Backslide?’”***

- **Read 5-6 days a week:** Ensure your child reads throughout the summer break—non-fiction, fiction, ebooks, poetry, newspapers, cartoons, recipes, etc. Also, be sure to read aloud to your child(ren). Twenty minutes is typically an appropriate amount of time to read for a child who is an independent reader. Reading to children and teens benefits them greatly, especially those who struggle. When you can read books aloud your child can't yet read, (s)he builds listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books.
- **Cook together:** This is one of the best ways to integrate math, reading, and following directions.
- **Plant a garden:** Your child will gain knowledge and responsibility and learn by watching plants grow and thrive.
- **Incorporate simple, but high-value, activities:** Play games that involve math and/or reading... Have your child keep a journal and do lots of authentic writing, such as the grocery list, thank you notes, family schedule, etc.... Listen to Audio Books during road trips or in the evening before bedtime... Take pictures and have your child create a summer scrapbook with written memories/info.... Have your child assist with planning your getaways (e.g., calculating fuel needs, figuring distance to or between destinations, budgeting)... notice and compliment your child while engaging in these activities!
- **Visit and check out books from the Highlands LRC:** The library will be open from 8:15-10:15 a.m. every day summer school is in session, and every Wednesday throughout the rest of the summer from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Also, attend Highlands “Library Family Fun Nights” (see info above) to enjoy fun, engaging family activities!
- **Ask Your Child’s Teacher:** Speak with your child’s teacher and ask him/her to suggest interesting and appropriate summer activities.



***Stay in touch with Highlands’ happenings and updates. Our presence on social media is growing strong! Connect through***

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/district106>

**Twitter, Elementary Account:** <http://twitter.com/hes106hornets>

**Twitter, Middle School Account:** <http://twitter.com/hms106hornets>

**Twitter District Account:** <http://twitter.com/district106>

***Have a wonderful, safe summer! With Highlands’ Pride, Dr. Patricia Viniard***