

# What's the Buzz

of, by and for Highlands' students



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## What the Writers have to Say....

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To try something new and write a newspaper article-Ella

I like to share my writing and want a place to share my thoughts- Emme

Because I'm a good writer-Michael L

I like writing a lot- Miranda

Because I like writing- Mirielle

To write an article- Michael M

## In this issue:

- Winter Fun
- Boy Scouts
- Cheating?
- Interviews
- And much, much more





# Interview of Mr. McEachern

by Michael McCullum

## What do you do here at Highlands?

I am the middle school music teacher for 5th-8th grade music.

## What do you like about Highlands so far?

I really like the teachers and the students. They are kind and supportive. The students are hardworking and passionate.

## Where did you work before Highlands?

I worked in Minnesota at Northdale Middle School. I was the choir director there.

## Is that where you grew up?

I grew up in a northwest suburb of Minneapolis.

## When did you move to Chicago?

I moved here in July of 2018.

## How do you like Chicago?

I live in Oak Park, and I like Chicago so far.

## What kind of instruments do you play?

I play piano, drums, guitar, bass guitar, accordion, harmonica, ukulele, percussion, and didgeridoo. It's an Australian instrument.

## Did you ever perform in a musical or play in a band?

Yes, I played in band in middle school, high school and some of college.

I played Joseph, in Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat in high school. In college I was in a play called Curtains. It was a show about a group of actors and the theatre was going to close so they put on a show. I was also in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

## Do you have any hobbies?

I like to play volleyball and broomball. Broomball is like hockey but you wear boots and use a broom and a ball, not a stick and a puck. There are no leagues here, though.

## Tell me about your family and pets.

My wife's name is Krissi and our dog is named Leonard.

## What are you going to be doing for the holidays?

I will be going back to Minnesota. We will drive. Then I fly from there to Arizona to see my wife's family.



# Field Trips, Fun or Not?

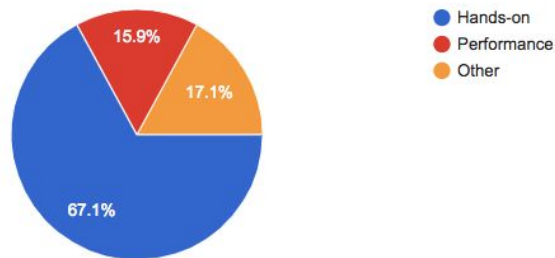
by Miranda Holich

Field trips provide a break from school, excitement, and less stress. It is always nice to have a break from time to time and field trips seem to be the best option. Field trips provide fun with some of the aspects of education, so we can be enjoying ourself, and still be learning.

Here at Highlands we have field trips in every grade, usually multiple every year. They are usually based around performances, but does everyone enjoy them? Based off of my survey's data, I learned that 67.1% of students prefer hands-on

## What type of field trip do you prefer?

82 responses



field trips over the usual performances. Many kid's favorite field trip was the Wolves Hockey Game, and a few kids enjoyed the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) trip.

Some people do not enjoy the field trips that we have because they might have allergies, headaches, sensitivity to light or sound, and more. One new idea that the students of Highlands have is an allergy checklist on the permission slip.

In conclusion, field trips are a good way to relieve stress, for everyone, but are they fun for everyone? Maybe they should be more hands-on, like the geocaching trip. Maybe they are fine being mostly performance, like CSO. What do you think? Should they be changed or adjusted, or are they fine how they are?



# Say No to Cheating!

by Rohan Shah

Have you cheated on a test? Well, If you have, you know it is wrong, and if you have not, here are the consequences if you get caught. I got all of these from the middle school student handbook.



1. The teacher shall notify the student's parents and the building principal.
2. The teacher and the building principal shall counsel with the student.
3. Students found cheating on homework or classwork may receive a zero and may be required to do the assignment over outside of regular class time.
4. Students found cheating on tests may receive a score of zero for the test and may not be permitted to retake the test.
5. In instances of repeated cheating, the principal and teacher(s) shall meet to evaluate the individual situation. As a result, the following actions may be taken: a. Eliminate the student from Honor Roll recognition b. Eliminate the student from graduation honors recognition c. Isolate the student when taking future tests.
6. Students found cheating and/or their parents may appeal the decision of the administration by appearing before the Board of Education. Arrangements for such an appeal will be made through the Superintendent of Schools.

## Now I'll tell you if certain actions are cheating or not.

### 1. Is using a study book during the test cheating?

It depends. If it is an open book test then it is not cheating. But if you are using it on a non-open book test, then it is considered cheating.

### 2. Is it cheating if I study in the line before school?

This is not cheating. Doing a little review will not be considered cheating. But if you have a copy of the answers then it will be considered cheating.

### 3. Is it cheating if I look something up during the test?

This is DEFINITELY cheating. Do not ever do this.

### 4.) Is it cheating if I ask the person next to me a question during the test?

This is DEFINITELY cheating. This is why teachers want it to be silent during tests. So they don't think you are trying to get help on a test.

### 5.) Is it cheating if I look at the posters on the wall?

No, it is not cheating. Some teachers here actually encourage this.

### 6.) Is it cheating if I glance at the test of the person next to me?

This one is questionable. If you do this and use their answers, this is cheating. If you do not use their answers, then you didn't cheat.

# Boy Scouts is Not Just for Boys Anymore

by Mirielle St. Arnaud

Whether you are camping, horseback riding, shooting at a target, or just getting to know nature, Boy Scouts is a great experience for boys everywhere. But Boy Scouts is now taking a slightly different approach: adding girls into the mix. Is this a good idea? Why are they doing this? In this article, you will find out the answers to these questions.

In early October, the Boy Scouts of America announced that starting February 2019 they would be accepting girls into their troops. Our local troop, Troop 216, will be participating in this movement. However, Boy Scouts has been around for centuries. So why are they taking this new approach now? The change was brought up because families wanted to make Scouts a more family friendly experience. For example, if there is only one boy in a family, and that boy has several sisters, why can't the sisters participate in the fun experiences like camping. This also means that it will be more difficult for parents to organize weekends when one child has a campout and another one is staying home. Naturally, families didn't like the conflicts. They began to send in complaints. Now, Boy Scouts has begun to accept girls into their programs.

Although many people might think that this new motion is very convenient, and that it was wrong to discriminate girls, but this new approach hasn't gone undisputed. In November 2017, when the movement was first brought up, Girl Scouts filed a lawsuit against the Boy Scouts. The President of the Girl Scouts organization said that she worried that the new change would ruin their organization. They aren't the only ones who disagree with Boy Scouts. Eighteen percent of Highlands students said in a survey that they do not like the idea of the merge. However, 42% of Highlands students do like the idea. It is surprising that so many people had an opinion, because only 33% of Highlands students actually participate in Boy Scouts, and only 36% of people who participate in Girl Scouts would consider switching over to Boy Scouts.

Some people think that allowing girls is a good move, because it means that there is no more discrimination. However, some people think that allowing girls could be a negative thing. They say that girls have to have their own space so that they can develop into great women. Whatever you think, boy scouts and girl scouts is a great experience for everyone. Do you think that Girl Scouts will ever allow boys?



# White vs. Chocolate Milk

by Michael Lilly

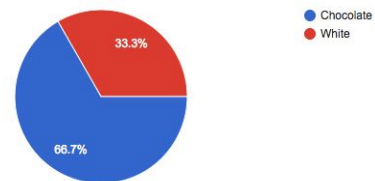
I surveyed 153 5th-8th graders and this is what they think about white milk and chocolate milk. I asked people about what kind of milk they prefer, and if they drink organic milk or regular milk. You may be asking why I picked to write about milk. I thought it was going to be interesting to see what we drink.



I asked 3 questions to different people. I asked if people prefer chocolate or white milk, what kind of milk they drink, and if they drink organic milk. Fifty-nine percent of students say that they drink non-organic milk. Another 50% of people like to drink 2% milk. Nineteen percent of people drink no-fat milk which is actually surprising to me. For the last question, I asked if people liked chocolate or white milk. I actually learned what I expected. More people chose chocolate milk instead of white milk.

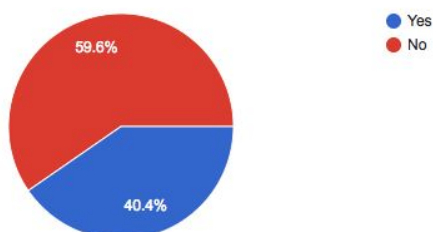
Do you prefer chocolate or white milk?

153 responses



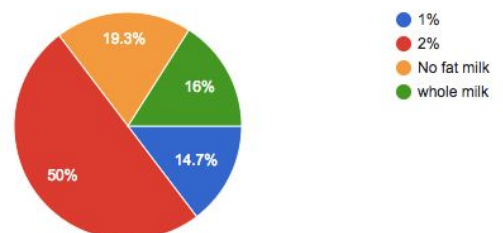
Do you drink organic Milk?

151 responses



What kind of milk do you drink?

150 responses



# The Man who Fought in Three Armies

by Abraham Kayali

Yang Kyoungjong was a Korean soldier who had an awful journey to the Western Front by fighting alongside the Japanese, then the Soviets, and then the Germans. He was born on March 3, 1920, and died on April 7, 1992, at 72 years old.

Little is known about his life before World War II other than he was a native Korean living in Manchuria. At the age of 18 in 1938, he was forced to join the Japanese Army. Korea and many other Asian countries were colonies in Japan. He was drafted to the Kwantung Army of the Japanese Army in order to fight



Manchuria is an area the Japanese named as northeast Asia.

the Soviet Union. He fought for the Japanese for a year until the Soviet Army captured him in 1939 during the campaign of Battles of Khalkhin Gol, and was sent to a labor camp. This was fought between Mongolian and Soviet troops who were allies against the Japanese.



The Battle of Khalkhin Gol was from May to September 1939. The USSR and Japan fought an undeclared war which had over 100,000 troops. In the end, there was a peace treaty which made the Soviets and Mongolians victorious.

Since the Soviets were short on men to fight for the army against the German army, they wanted their prisoners of war to enlist in the Red Army. Soviet military officials made a decision in 1942 to help increase the number of troops by drafting thousands of prisoners of war. Then in 1942, Yang went to go fight for the

Red Army against the Germans on the European Eastern Front. A year later, he was captured in Eastern Ukraine during the Third Battle of Kharkov. Once again, he was pressed into fighting for the Wehrmacht.

He was sent to the Western Front as part of an Ost-Bataillone (Eastern Battalion) in the 709th infantry division of the Wehrmacht. He would fight the troops on D-Day near the Utah beach. The Germans had to leave and Yang was captured. Initially, the US paratroopers thought all of them were Japanese, although three of them were from Turkestan while Yang was from Korea. He was sent to a prison camp in Britain until the end of the war. After the war, he went to the United States.



The Battles of Kharkov were fought between the Soviets and Germans. The Soviets were not as technologically advanced as the Germans leading the Germans to be victorious in the battle.

Although we don't know much about Yang, we do know that he lived in Evanston, Illinois and died in 1992 at the age of 72. He didn't talk to anyone, not even his children about his experience from World War II.

### **Sources:**

Simple History

Today I found Out

[en.wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.com)

[weaponsandwarfare.com](https://weaponsandwarfare.com)

[thediplomat.com](https://thediplomat.com)



Yang being taken as a prisoner of war after D-Day.



## Follow up or Give up, Hot Lunch

by Emme Barnes

I thought I would follow up after my first article about Hot Lunch. I was honored when Quest accepted to have an interview with me. I would first like to say Mrs. Singletary, the Quest Manager, was so nice and I am very thankful for that.

To start off, I started to ask questions about how Quest started. I learned that Quest started thirty five years ago. The original founder of Quest created the company in response to wanting better school lunches for his kids. He started Quest because his kids were complaining that the food served at their school wasn't good. Now Quest strives to make kids happy with their food. I think they are living up to that and they are going farther. I know they are because they now serve one hundred accounts which are college, K-12 schools and some businesses. Also Quest's headquarters are very near us in Lombard. Since they are living up to having good food, at Highlands we questioned if they really do have fresh food.

Does Quest really use fresh products? I think we think the food isn't always the best because it is not fresh. We are wrong! Quest gets local fresh food from farms in the midwest. The food gets shipped from Wisconsin and inspected before it heads to Riverside-Brookfield High. They check it before and after it gets there. Then the workers at Riverside-Brookfield High cook our food. After it is cooked, it goes to our school in a truck and is checked again. When it gets to our school, they bring it in and our Quest worker heats it up and does whatever else it needs. It is inspected again for the last time. In conclusion, the food is fresh and it goes through four points of inspection.

Then I asked about our questions and concerns. I asked about allergy free food including meat, peanuts, and gluten. Mrs. Singletary said Quest has been working on those for awhile and she was proud to say that the new allergy free menu should come out in January! Then I asked about nutrition information for all our food. She said that the burgers and all beef products that are Angus are grass fed. They try to look for antibiotic free but sometimes it's hard because of the



pricing. She then said that by 2020 all the eggs will be from cage free chickens. If you want to know any more nutrient and ingredients go to the Quest website. <http://questfmsnutrition.com>

Then I started to ask questions about our setup. I learned that our milk isn't supplied by Quest. We use Cloverleaf Farms. So if we have expired milk it is not the fault of Quest. That then led me to our question about the green spots on the hot dog bun. Mrs. Singletary apologized and said that it happens because they're humans too and mistakes happen. Besides that, I also asked about extra meals. They said that Quest always has at least two extra meals on hand. They do this incase something would get smashed, go bad in the truck or somewhere else, or if a student forgets or doesn't have a lunch.

In the end, Quest is a good company always working hard to make students happy. I would like say thank you to Quest, Mrs. Lanciloti, and our students reading this article. This probably sounds weird because I am saying thank you about food, but I had an opinion and I wrote about it and I got to have an interview with a company manager. If you want to write about a strong opinion you have, do it! Join What's The Buzz. You'll love it! Again, thank you.



# Fun DIYs to try at Home!

by Ella Holmes

DIYs are really fun to do because they are crafts that involve items that you have around your house. Some fun DIYs to try are below.

## Snowflake Ornaments

**Items:** empty paper towel roll, ribbon or yarn, paint or markers, and a glue stick or liquid glue.

First, cut your empty roll into 8 rings. Once you have it all cut, put glue on one side of them and stick them all together to make them look like a snowflake. Then add some gems. It will be a perfect holiday craft!



## Bowls

**Items:** blown up balloon, paint/glitter/both, foam brush.

First, put your foam brush in some paint and brush it on the bottom half of your blown up balloon. Then, you can put glitter on it if you want. When you are all done decorating the bottom half of your balloon, let it dry for 2-3 days. After 2-3 days, get something sharp and pop the top half of the balloon. It will look so cool!



## Rainbow Acorn

**Items:** Acorns, glue, pom-poms

First, put glue on all the edges of the acorn. Then, put on the colorful pom poms, glitter, or more. Let this creation dry for at least seven minutes. This will be a wonderful decoration to make!



## Marble Paint

**Items:** marbles or some small balls, blank paper, tray, paint.

First, put the paper in the tray. Next, roll the marbles in the paint, then put the marbles on the paper. Then, you take the tray and tilt the tray. The paint will make the paper all colorful!



You need to try all these DIYs. They will be so fun to make and they will look so cool!



# Best Things To Do During Winter

by Emme Barnes



Winter, most of us love it some don't. You have to be safe in winter and do the right things. What are the right things to do you ask? I'll tell you, I surveyed students on winter. I wanted to see the best things to do in winter. This is what students said.

First things first, do you give gifts during winter? Ninety-five percent said yes they do. This led me to who do you give the gifts to? Of course family had the most, then friends, then charity, then neighbors and other was last. I wanted to see the answer to the famous question. Is it about giving or receiving? Most people said giving! Twenty people said receiving.

I thought about advent calendars. I asked in my survey and most people said yes they do advent calendars. Then I was thinking about snow and how I thought everyone liked it. One hundred four people said yes they like snow, which I was thankful for, but 16 said they didn't like snow! I was so baffled at first but then thought they probably have a reason for it.

I was at home when it hit me. I will ask what song is a go to for the holiday season. Also, what snacks and drinks are best. So, I learned the top three songs are All I Want For Christmas Is You which I agree with. Then in second, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. Lastly, of course, we need the classic Jingle Bells. While, you're jamming out what snack and drink should you be eating and drinking? Well, students said that cookies and hot cocoa are the best. After you finish your cookies and hot cocoa what will you be doing? You should either go sledding or outside and make a snowman or snowball fight! After that, drink more hot cocoa and watch some movies!



Lastly after you do all of that, decorate! But, what are you going to decorate with? Students said that the best decorations are mostly lights and some inflatables. Students that have trees in their house responded pretty equally saying that it will either be mostly a fake tree or a real tree! Again I was so surprised.

In conclusion I am not at all trying to say this is what you have to do to have a "perfect" winter. I am just saying this is what you can do to make your winter a blast. Thank you to all who responded to make this article possible. Have a fun winter!

# Winter Fun

by Anya Torres

I surveyed 5th-8th graders to see if they have been to these fun places and which one they liked best. 138 students took my survey. Jump Zone was voted as most fun by Highlands' students, but more students have been to Pump It Up.

**Pump It Up** 53% of Highlands students have been here.

Where- Orland Park, IL

15.6 Miles From The School

\$8 For Open Jump Every Day

Pump it up is a fun place for all ages. It lets kids get all of their energy out. There are a lot of jumpy houses that kids could play on.



**Jump Zone** 46% of Highlands students have been here.

Where-Chicago Ridge, IL

7.3 Miles From The School

\$8-\$10

At Jump Zone you can have parties and play. You can bounce and hangout with your friends. You can jump on trampolines and do flips. You can even do flips into the foam pit and shoot hoops.



**Gizmos** 30% of students have been here.

Where- Orland Park, IL

4.1 Miles From The School

Open From- 4pm-9pm

Packages Starting At \$27.99

At Gizmos there is an arcade and way more such as a rope course and go-karts. There's also a humongous play place.



## Funtopia 4% of students have been here.

Where- Naperville, IL

15.9 Miles From The School

30 Minutes-\$9/1 Hour-\$16/1.5 Hours- \$20/2

Hours-\$24

Funtopia is a fun place that has rock climbing and way more. Also there is a rope course, ninja course, and basically a warped wall. The “warped wall” is a tall wall and you have to lay down on the bottom and you hold on to a handle with your two hands, but sometimes you fall and don’t make it up.



## Safari Land 16% of students have been here.

Where- Villa Park, IL

10.4 Miles From The School- \$20 Wristband Special On Weekends And Holidays

Safari Land is an indoor family amusement park. It has bowling, an arcade, jumping, go-karts, and rides. It has such cool rides and one of them you go upside down. If you pass Safari Land, you see it has pretend safari animals on the outside.







Abraham Kayali, Miranda Holich  
Anyia Torres, Michael Lilly, Ella Holmes  
Emme Barnes, Mirielle St. Arnaud  
Rohan Shah, Michael McCullum  
Sponsor: Mrs. Lanciloti

