

The Plaid Apple ~The apple of your eye ~

October 29, 2021



Bless the Intersesh!

BY ANAHI SILVA

October intersession was held from the 25th through the 29th. There will be another week of intersession in January during winter break from the 3rd through the 7th. This is an opportunity for high school students to earn credit if they need towards graduation.

Students will choose 2 classes to attend for the week for an hour and 40 minutes. They can earn a quarter intersession elective credit if they meet the requirements. The entire Highland School District can do intersessions but only the high school students earn the credits.

There will be 3 weeks of intersession throughout the school year, and students can earn a total of three quarters of a credit. There was one in the last week of October, one in January during winter break, and the last one is in March the week before spring break.

The intersessions are voluntary, so during winter break, students who choose to go to school during January intersessions only get two weeks off from school instead of three. Students who do not need credit but still want to attend intersessions can go.

Intersessions provide both enrichment and intervention opportunities and you can do a combination of both.

In October there were 15 choices of intersession classes to choose from: playing sports with leverage, life skills in sports, power of positive thinking, how to buy a car (place holder), programming and robotics, visual effects computer class, journalism writing, journalism publication, ELA job hunting and interviewing, orchard training, orchard management, science and social studies academic credit intervention, ELA academic credit intervention, and math academic intervention. The classes will be different from the October intersessions.

The return of the SBA

BY OCT. JOURNALISM STUDENTS

Seniors, juniors, and freshmen took the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) test in October, 2021. The test is used as a graduation requirement in Washington state.

The SBA in English and math is one of five pathways to graduation. According to The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), the other pathways include: SAT exam; enrollment in a dual credit course; ASVAB test; CTE course sequence for 2 years, or Bridge to College class in math or English.

The test was shortened this year to limit time out of class for test-taking. Students completed the Computer-Adapted Test (CAT) during their regularly schedule classes. The test eliminated the performance task portion of the test which includes essay writing for ELA and longer, multiple tasks in story problems in math. Students who took the test will receive their scores within five days, according to Michaela Miller, Deputy Superintendent of OSPI. Mr. Jensen does not know when or if the scores will be shared with students. Miguel ("Michael") Carrillo, a senior stated that he did not find it to be too difficult. He said, "I am confident that I passed even though on some questions I didn't know what to do." Junior Anahi Silva felt good about the ELA test, but not as confident about the math test.

Seniors and freshmen also took the Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS) during the October testing window. Although this is not a graduation requirement, it is used for federal and state accountability.

The testing window closes November 10, so students who have not taken it should contact Mrs. Westfall.

The sophomores will take the full SBA test in the Spring. Juniors and Seniors who didn't pass will take it as well.

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To fund schools or not to fund schools?

BY MICHAEL CARRILLO

The Highland School District is looking to pass a levy or bond this upcoming February in 2022 to cover maintenance projects that it would otherwise be unable to cover.

According to Francis Badu, the School District is looking for a capital levy to be passed this upcoming February which covers big projects such as construction or maintenance and not a recreational levy that covers programs and incentives for the students staff and faculty.

As of right now, Badu said that a sure decision has not been made but a bond may be pursued instead of a levy which would have a higher threshold for funding but votes requires 60 percent of voters to approve it whereas a levy would only need 50 percent.

The board may also be more hesitant to try and run a bond by the public since a bond is generally met with hesitation since it's a much a higher amount in funding and taxes as shown by how the last bond had to be run three times before it was finally accepted with it coming within a percent of passing each time.

Player shortage in Highland!

BY YONATHAN RUIZ

Highland High School has now officially become a 2b classification, which will determine the future of highland sports and the teams we will be able to compete against.

Sports such as soccer, basketball, football etc. have been at a drop before even the pandemic began.

Senior Salvador Ceja said, "back in early 2019 we talked with Mr. Jensen and he told us about the school and how "due to the lack of students joining sports we're probably going to switch over to 2b." Ceja added "I also heard soccer players discussing the 2b switch over."

Now in 2020-21 the 2b switch has been official and we've been able to see this firsthand.

Schools that we'll be going up against with our 2b sports Classification include Cle-Elum, White Swan, Columbia Burbank, Dayton, Goldendale, Granger, Kittitas, Mabton, River View, Tri Cities Prep, Walla Walla Academy and Warden.

Soccer will compete in the 1A league because many 2b schools do not have soccer teams.

Dropping of students?!

BY MICHAEL CARRILLO

The Highland School District has been seeing a steady decline in enrollment across the 4 schools in the district over the past several years which may present funding problems.

The district receives funding from the state for every student enrolled with an average of 14,355 dollars being received per student. This is leading to a decrease in funding in our schools in an area where high head counts matter due in part to us not having a particularly reliable source of revenue from property tax that most schools would have.

This may lead to more drastic levels of funding being requested in levies to make up for the loss in funding from a decrease in student enrollment. According to Francis Badu, these levies may not pass as easily since they'd be of a much higher amount.

According to the OSPI website, every school in the district has been facing decreasing enrollment with Marcus Whitman and Tieton Intermediate showing a dramatic decrease over the past year alone with Marcus Whitman losing 35 and Tieton losing 27 but that is not to say that the high school and Junior High haven't been seeing a decrease either with the Junior High having lost 8 students over the past year with the High School having only lost 1 student.

Treat or Trick? BY CARLOS BARRAGAN

Halloween is a holiday celebrated each year on October 31st. This year, Halloween will occur on a Sunday. Around the 1840s Halloween first came to the United States.

The tradition originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor all saints. Soon, All Saints Day incorporated some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve, and later Halloween.

Over time, Halloween evolved into a day of activities like trick-or-treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, festive gatherings, donning costumes and eating treats.

Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago, mostly in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1.

Trick or treating has existed since medieval times. Back then, it was known as "guising" in Scotland and Ireland. Young people dressed up in costumes and went door to door looking for food or money in change for songs, poems or other "tricks" they performed. Today, the tradition has morphed into children to getting dressed up and asking for candy.

Now Halloween is the second largest commercial holiday in the country. It ranks second after only Christmas. Consumers spent approximately \$9 billion on Halloween in 2019, according to the National Retail Federation. Spending was down a bit in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but Americans still forked over \$8 billion overall, or an average of \$92 per person.

World War III BY KALVERY WELCH

China created a new hypersonic missile (hypersonic gliders) that can travel through orbit and then crash down on the country or state of choosing. (Show how this missile could strike without warning and we would not know) Scientists in America are stumped as to how China managed to do so.

Regardless, China has a dangerous perception of the U.S, as according to an interview with NPR's Tong Zhao, a senior fellow with the Carnegie Endowment in Beijing states, "China feels it needs a greater overall military power, including a stronger nuclear power, to basically ensure that the U.S. wouldn't be able to interfere with Chinese internal matters."

New national holiday BY ANTONIO JAMES

Columbus Day is now known as Indigenous People's Day. It is a national holiday that celebrates and honors Native American people and commemorates their histories and cultures.

It is celebrated across the United States on the second Monday in October, and is an official city and state holiday in various localities.

The day is centered around reflecting on their tribal roots and the tragic stories that hurt but strengthened their communities.

The first state to recognize the day was South Dakota in 1989. Berkeley, California, and Santa Cruz followed suit.

Although the day was still considered Columbus Day up to 1937, many people began calling it Indigenous Peoples' Day to celebrate the rich culture and the lives of the Native American people.

Website Facelift BY JAZMINE SARGENT

If you didn't already know about the Highland District Website then you can check it out at highland.wednet.edu. Decked out in the school colors the "Highland School District 203" Website provides a website for each school with an assortment of information about each school such as the locations of the schools, sport game days, and the district calendar. There is even a page for "teachers across the district" that teachers can update as needed.

According to Brian Johnson, the Director of Technology, some changes to the website include "[Switching] web hosting services over the summer to help facilitate some much needed updates." On a normal basis the Highland District Website "is updated periodically by various staff in the office of every building and the District Office."

How to access a particular school page in the Highland school district website. First access the website at highland.wednet.edu. Then you click the "SCHOOL" button in the top right corner of your page. Now you can choose what school page you go to. The school pages can be updated to add links that students and staff may use.

Pledge for the dead

BY MICHAEL CARRILLO

Prevention Club is a club both serving the high school and junior high as well as the community in keeping the youth alcohol and drug free.

The Prevention Club advocates against alcohol and substance abuse in youth as well as providing support for those who do struggle with alcohol and or substance abuse or those who have been affected by someone who does.

This upcoming first week of November the club will be helping our school celebrate and participate in Red Ribbon week. What is Red Ribbon Week? Red Ribbon Week is a week which came about after the death of Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena who was murdered in 1985 by drug traffickers he was investigating in Mexico.

After his death, people began wearing red ribbons to honor Kiki's sacrifice and has now become a week in which people wear red ribbons to make a commitment to stay alcohol and drug free and to celebrate those who have stayed drug and alcohol free.

The club was founded in 2019 by our former SAP (student assistant professional) Staci Beat and is now run by the new SAP Olga Bautista with Michael Carrillo as president Exary Valles as vice president Isabel Olivera as secretary and Mariah Hunot as treasurer alongside members Jessica Herrera, Oxiris Reyes, Isis Garcia, Tyler Oberrender, KaylInn Salazar and Issac Jensen.

Students of the month revealed

BY CHRISTIAN ALBARRAN

Each month, a student is chosen as student of the month. The student is chosen by meeting the criteria such as: Scottie Spirit, Scottie Pride, Leadership, and Involvement.

There is a nominating/voting process each month. All staff members such as teachers vote on the nominees, but the nominator remains anonymous.

For September, the student of the month was Gwen Rydberg. Gwen is a ASB president, a three-sport athlete, and a member of band. She is an incredibly supportive teammate, a hard worker, and is a great representative of HHS.

For October, the student of the month was Jasmine Sargent. She has been a member of the student council for 3 years, and ASB Vice President. Jasmine is incredibly supportive and makes students feel welcome at Highland High School.

Remembering loved ones

BY JESSICA MORFIN

The Day of the Dead also known as El Día de los Muertos is a holiday celebrated by most Latino people. This holiday is celebrated every November 1st through November 2nd.

During these days of celebration people create altars and they make their favorite dishes of those that have passed.

The significance of The Day of the Dead is to pray and keep in memory of the loved ones they've lost. However, it is also believed to be a border between the spirit world and the real world. During that time many souls of the dead then rise and return to the living world to eat, drink, and dance with their adored ones.

Furthermore, The Day of the Dead is often mistaken as a Mexican version of Halloween. However, it has nothing to do with Halloween other than the shared time of year.

Halloween only focuses on the scary viewpoints of death while The Day of the Dead traditionally focuses on the celebration of the people that have passed away and is a cheerful way to honor their memory.

Students and staff at Highland created a very colorful and spiritual altar or also known as an ofrenda to honor those loved ones that have passed away.



The Highland community celebrates the dead

Chucky cuts his way into a feature!

BY KALVERY WELCH

This new *Chucky* T.V series is a wonderful addition to the Chucky franchise with a new outlook on everybody's famous serial killer doll--Chucky.

The series shows the backstory of Chucky along with a fantastic depiction of Chucky's influence on children. If that is not enough for you, this series comes with Chucky's classic way of killing people with even more different kills for old and new fans to enjoy.

This show is another marvel by the man Don Mancini. Every ending of this show leaves fans with wanting more and always coming back for the new episodes every Tuesday on the *USA Network* and *SYFY*. With only three episodes already aired each episode has special moments that make viewers laugh or sit on the edge of their seats as they watch this fantastic story unfold.

While previous fans can enjoy the references of past movies, new fans will not have to worry about these references as they either do not matter or Chucky will explain it himself.

It is now wonder why this series is Rotten Tomato fresh in ratings and is a must see for adults and teens alike. Overall, this series is a must see for anybody trying to find something to watch on.



Some new prey for Chucky... and his new friend?

Anime earns an A

BY AMARIS SANCHEZ

Demons torment humans, eating them alive. Blood goes everywhere, leaving families without their loved ones. The only in their family to survive, a brother and his little sister are left alone with only each other. The sister tried to eat her brother alive, but they were saved by a man with a sword, a demon slayer. The boy and his sister, locked in a box, take a journey so that he can become a demon slayer to turn her back into a human. With no way to communicate with her, he trains and she sleeps for two years. He did it and became a slayer. No, he is half-way there.

This is an anime series about a boy and his demon sister is called *Demon Slayer*. There are many anime series, and they are all about different things. Some can be about fighting, heroes, hunters, vampires, and many more exciting topics. The Japanese genres usually consists of horror, action, supernatural or fantasy.

The first few animes that I saw were *Pokeman* and *Fairy Tail*. *Fairy Tail* was one of my friend's favorite animes at the time, so she got me to watch it. This was what got me into watching anime. The style of animation originated in Japan. Most animes are in different languages, so they provide English dubs and subs. English voice actors replace the original voice, making it a dub. If a person doesn't want to watch it dubbed they can watch the watch the anime with the original audio but have the sub-titles (subs) on.



Tanjiro and his friends on a mission to save his sister

New close friends added to the community!

BY ANAHI SILVA

Students from the other side of the world come to our school for a whole school year. They come for different reasons, but mostly for a wonderful experience. This year, we got five exchange students from all over Europe. One from Denmark, two from Germany, and two from Italy.

Frida Moeller is a sophomore from Denmark. She is enjoying her visit so far. "It is such a great experience, and I can't believe I get to do this." She was a bit nervous but then she met the people here and are super helpful. Frida is in the JV volleyball team; this was her first time playing the sport and she said its fun! "Yeah, its super fun, the people are so sweet and fun; I got some good friendships out of it." Her motive to come here was to improve on her English and learn about our culture.

One of our newest member of the girls' soccer team is Franca Wasilewski from Germany, and a junior. She a great defense player of the team and has scored about 4 goals. Her experience here is great so far! Her main motive to transfer here was to get away from her family and home and have a new schedule because she was tired of her old one. Franca was not nervous at all and she said everyone here is so kind.

Alev Ucar is a junior and also from Germany and was part of the volleyball team, but quit because it was not something she enjoyed. She is now in band and she does enjoys being apart of it. She made friends whom she loves spending time with. She is planning on joining tennis in the spring. Alev was nervous and excited, but she is having a great experience so far. She misses her family and friends but not home. Her main reason to come to the United States was "to get the high school experience and to get a better language."

Meriem Bambi is happy to be here. "I was really lucky with my host family, they are really nice people, and the majority of the people here were really welcoming." She said as well that it's a really great experience. Meriem was nervous because she had to take two planes by herself to get to a place she's never been too. "A language that although I've been studying all my life, I've never spoken, starting to live in a house with people I've never met, and get to a place where I don't know anyone." Although she misses her home and family, she was dedicated to come to a different place to learn English. She even discovered she likes volleyball. "When in Italy I always said that it was one of the most boring sports." Meriem also wanted to learn a new culture and get out of her comfort zone.

Lucia Martinez is a junior here at Highland from the country Italy and in the girls' soccer team. She is an amazing soccer player, and has scored about 1 or 2 goals every game. She is thinking of joining tennis in the spring. Lucia has a brother who has been an exchange student in the United States and that inspired her to try it out as well. So far, she is enjoying her visit and trying out many things with her host family.



Lucia, Frida, Meriem, and Franca (Alev not pictured)

Opinion

Scottie Pride ReBoot

BY JAZMINE SARGENT

Bring the Hype!

BY JAZMINE SARGENT

In our assemblies ... what do you see? I see some cheering, being quiet, and little to nun participation. On prom day ... What do you see? I see some hype, some spirit week participation, and little to nun participation at the actual event. Senior night ... what do you see? I see a totally different school with the stands full cheering on their favorite senior, bringing balloons, gift baskets, and every sport did their best to win! The perfect example of how our Assemblies and events should look like all the time. The energy is what brings hype into what we do and gives our school pride.

To make that happen we need more school participation. Actually doing this would help our school's mental health as well as making school less boring. Our goal is to have every student participate in at least one extracurricular activity, or attend one game for every sport season. Just that would give the players the motivation to keep trying, or give student counsel the courage to do more. We need to remember we are on the same team.

Some might say they can spend their time on more meaningful things, but the clubs and activities we provide are beneficial to you and will help your future. We even have a variety of options to suit the student interests and needs. These are a safe and fun way to try new activities and find out what you like and you don't like. Participation will take you and your peers' places in life and help make your current day high school a more exciting place.

Personally, Scottie Hype is so cool to me because of all the amazing things the Scottie YouTube page provides. Some of those amazing things are interactive activities intertwined with the Highland Instagram account like "Where's Scottie?" Having a YouTube page available for our school at Highland is so awesome, because this allows our leadership class to share important information and do shout outs to the senior class, student of the month, and etc.

This was all started by Mrs. Kenny and Mrs. Way due to the lack of way's to share information during covid-19. Today the Scottie Hype is still standing and growing! Recently the leadership class welcomes a new technology they call "Sheldon", this will help with passing on the responsibilities to the next class. The best part of starting Scottie Hype is that our leadership class at highland posts weekly with the most current announcements. There is also a variety of different sports games posted as well.

Don't forget to check out the SCOTTIE HYPE out @YouTube.com

Mask up!

BY YONATHAN RUIZ

Mask up Washington is something we've all heard by now but what do you think of when you hear or see this? You're going to think of Covid-19 and how masking up will slow down the spread, but what about when a majority is vaccinated and mask will no longer be mandated around schools, shopping stores, restaurants etc. then what? Well mask shouldn't be something we're trying to get rid of we should make mask something we see occasionally.

If you or someone you know is sick we usually either stay home or the person still goes out due to the severity of their sickness being low. This will result in someone else becoming sick from whatever it is they have in their system, this is why masking up is very important because sources say that this year in America the flu was basically nonexistent have you gotten the flu in the past year? Well this is due to the fact that mask capture our germs imagine going to school for a whole year and only getting slightly sick that would be amazing.

China and Japan have been wearing mask for at least 100 years and they're known to not get sick as often because of this. Even a small cold should make you mask up because this could prevent the next person from giving it to the next and so on you could still be helping out our community years after Covid-19 has died down. You may think maybe wearing a mask yourself will do absolutely nothing but make you uncomfortable but think of the people with compromised immune sickness, we have people that come to highland in fear of even catching a common cold because of their white blood cell having a low count a simple cold could be enough to make them miss a week or more of school! Also think about the other people you would get sick what if there's a football game or prom just opened up but someone won't be able to go with their significant other or just hang with friends and they're missing out key parts of their high school experience all because you didn't want to wear a piece of cloth while being sick.

We agree that you should not always wear a mask but if you or someone you know is sick try giving other people a thought and don't be selfish you would want someone else considering your health and safety right?



English

- Good Morning
- Pride
- Nice
- Hello
- Good Bye

Scottish Gaelic

- Maddin n Maith
- Prothaid
- Snog
- Halò
- mar sin leat