

THE HIGHLAND HIGHLIGHT

ISSUE 3 ■ MAY 2018

Published by Highland Local Schools to promote our students, staff and programs.

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BEST OF LUCK GRADUATES!

The Highland Local Schools marks its 65th Annual Commencement at 11 a.m. on May 26 at E.J. Thomas Hall in Akron. Congratulations and best of luck to the 270 graduates in Highland's Class of 2018!



Larkin

VALEDICTORIAN: LARKIN CLELAND

GPA: 4.928

ORGANIZATIONS: Young Democrats of America, Gay-Straight Alliance, Highland Soccer Team, Academic Challenge, Student of the Month Committee, Ken Harbaugh for Congress Intern.

AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS: Ohio State Eminence Fellowship, Highland Student of the Year, National Economics Challenge Ohio Champion, National Merit Scholar, National AP Scholar,

STARTALK Arabic Scholarship, Highland Top Scholar, Varsity Soccer Team (senior captain and four-year letterman).

Larkin will attend The Ohio State University where he will study Economics and Islamic Studies. He is the son of Kent and Karen Cleland of Montville Township.



Noah

SALUTATORIAN: NOAH KING

GPA: 4.901

ORGANIZATIONS: Awana's Youth Ministries, RRBCS Youth Group, Wayne College Health Professions Club (Secretary), RRBCS Basketball Team, Highland Track Team.

AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS: Akron Guarantee Scholarship, Akron Salutatorian Scholarship, Dean's Award Wayne College, President's Award Akron University.

Noah will attend the University of Akron where he will study Sports Medicine. He is the son of Mark and Laura King of Sharon Township.

RENEWAL ON MAY 8 BALLOT

The Highland Local School District will be asking voters to renew a 7.9-mill operating levy on the May 8 ballot. This levy was first approved in 1998 for operating expenses and is critical for the day-to-day operation of our school district. This is a RENEWAL ONLY, which means it is NOT A TAX INCREASE. If renewed for another 10 years, the levy would cost homeowners \$155 a year per \$100,000 of property valuation, as it does currently.

The renewal generates approximately \$4.15 million annually for the district and funds educational basics such as teachers, classroom materials, utilities and support services that help to educate our children. We cannot operate the district without this levy.

In addition, this renewal is completely separate from the recent Bond Issue for new elementary schools. The funds from this renewal cannot be used for the building project. Those are separate funds, by law.

The 7.9-mill renewal levy expires at the end of this year (December 31, 2018). The passage of this renewal is critical to the district's continued success. If you have any questions, contact Neil Barnes, Treasurer, at 330-239-1901, ext. 1222 or via email at nbarnes@highlandschools.org.

**LET'S KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING!
PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

TOP 10 PERCENT



Seated in front from left are: Kaila Oberhaus, Hannah Webb, Dagny Sacksteder, Claudia Namenyi, Cayleigh Hemming, Erin Christian, Isabella Adams, Elizabeth Kastelein, Katie Linger, Victoria Grayson, Julianne Origlio, Olivia Severyn, Lauren Johnson, Kimberly Sprungl, Stephanie Fannin, Clara Vorndran. In back are: Sujay Godugu, Nolan Kinsey, Ben Miller, Collin McInnes, Logan Wagner, Larkin Cleland, Carson Wirebaugh, Tyler Holdsworth, Ben Lewton, Boyd Colbrunn. Missing is Noah King.

MAKING HEADLINES...

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Heather, Peter & Caden

HMS STUDENTS COMPETE, CELEBRATE PI DAY

Highland Middle 8th grade math students participated in the annual Pi Day Memorization Contest on March 14. Students in Mrs. Anna Taylor's classes celebrated the day of a famous irrational number, pi, the quotient of a circle's circumference and diameter. Students memorized as many digits as they could to compete for a real pie. Congratulations to Peter Marinelli who won 1st place with 273 digits memorized; Heather Brickman, 2nd place with 221 digits; and Caden Klein, 3rd, with 128 digits.

TWO WILL ATTEND MATH SYMPOSIUM

Congratulations to Highland teachers Brendan Dade and Melissa Waltos who were recently selected to participate in the Martha Holden Jennings Math Symposium in June. Melissa is a 4th grade teacher at Granger Elementary, while Brendan is a 7th grade math teacher at Highland Middle. The symposium is designed to re-energize Ohio's mathematics teachers in grades 4-8. The sessions are filled with practical strategies that teachers can incorporate immediately in their lessons.

NAYMAN PLAYS WITH OMEA ALL-STATE BAND, ALSO PERFORMS AT BOARD MEETING

Flutist and Highland High School junior, Sadie Nayman, performed Gabriel Faure's composition "Fantasie" at the March Board of Education meeting. She was accompanied by HHS choir director, Christopher Ilg, on piano. According to HHS Band Director Ed Marquette, Sadie performed this song in concert on February 9 with the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) All-State Band. Superintendent Catherine Aukerman said she is proud of Nayman's musical involvement in school and elsewhere and recognized her accomplishment in playing in the OMEA All-State Band. Sadie is the daughter of Alan and Kathleen Nayman of Hinckley Township.



Sadie



*Pictured in front from left are Eliza, Abby and Morgan.
In back are Kaliana, Jamie and Lia*

POWER OF THE PEN TEAM CAPTURES 2ND PLACE

Congratulations to the HMS 7th grade team of Power of the Pen who placed 2nd overall at a tournament held in Wooster on March 10. 7th grader Jamie Zickefoose placed 3rd individually, and from the 8th grade team, Sarah Vorndran placed 3rd as well. 7th grade team members include Abby Huml, Jamie Zickefoose, Kaliana Berenak, Eliza Ladd, Lia Aceto, and Morgan Monasterio.

HIGHLAND ARTISTS WIN AWARDS AT SENIOR SHOW

The Educational Service Center of Medina County and the Medina County Art League announced the award winners of this year's County Art League Continuing Art Education Scholarships. This year's festival featured over 150 works of art by 42 local high school students. The scholarship awards reception was held March 19.

Congratulations to Highland High School senior Holly Sammon, who captured 2nd place and a \$700 scholarship. She is the daughter of James and Mary Grace Sammon of Hinckley and plans to attend the Cleveland Institute of Art.

In the non-scholarship "portfolio entry" category, senior Jesse Freas won 1st place. He is the son of Christopher and Victoria Freas of Sharon Township.

In the "individual entry" category, seniors Dagny Sacksteder captured 1st place and Madelyn Young was awarded 3rd place. Dagny is the daughter of Kurt and Corinne Sacksteder of Hinckley Township, and Madelyn is the daughter of John and Angela Young of Sharon Township.

ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE SET FOR MAY 20

The Highland Boys and Girls Golf Team will host their annual golf scramble on May 20 at Pine Hills Golf Course in Hinckley. This four-person scramble will begin at 1:30 p.m. with a shotgun start. Golfers are needed, as are hole sponsors. Interested groups should sign up at www.highlandgolfouting.com or contact Andrew Dutt at adutt@highlandschools.org.



Margaret

CONNORS SELECTED TO PERFORM WITH IMPROV GROUP

Stand Up for Downs, a non-profit organization that uses comedy to raise money for various causes and organizations

within the DS community, recently selected Margaret Connors to be in the cast of the world's first improvisation troupe made entirely of performers who have Down syndrome. A senior at Highland High School, Margaret auditioned with nearly 20 other young adults in March and is rehearsing at the Weathervane Playhouse in Akron.

The 10-member cast, called the "Improvaneers," are pioneers in this groundbreaking program committed to teaching an important art form to help build communication, teamwork skills and increase self-confidence while cast members have fun in the process.

While at Highland, Margaret was a member of the Highland Marching Band and choir and participated in several musical theater performances. In addition, she attended the Medina County Career Center in the Culinary Arts program. She will work at Yours Truly Restaurant in Medina this summer and continues to explore career options. Margaret is the daughter of Michelle and Guy Connors of Granger Township and comes from a long line of proud Highland graduates.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Norman Christopher, M.D., President
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ALCINI RECEIVES AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION AWARD

Joseph Alcini, a junior at Highland High School, received the Outstanding Cadet Award from the Air Force Association at a recent meeting of the Medina County Skyhawks Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. The Award recognizes leadership and academic standing, and was presented by Lt. Col. Paul Creed, an AFA member and the Ohio Wing Group 03 Commander. Cadet Alcini has been a member of the Civil Air Patrol since April 2017 and currently holds the grade of Cadet Senior Airman. He has been involved with the Unit's Color Guard and has served as an instructor for the most recent Basic Cadet Training Class. Alcini is the son of Brian and Amy Alcini of Sharon Township.



Joseph

Civil Air Patrol, the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary, is the newest member of the Air Force's Total Force. In this role, CAP operates a fleet of 560 aircraft, performs about 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and is credited by the AFRCC with saving an average of 80 lives annually. CAP's 58,000 members also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. CAP also plays a leading role in aerospace/STEM education, and its members serve as mentors to 24,000 young people participating in CAP's Cadet Programs.



Pictured in front from left are Thomas Maroon, Drew Thomas, Isabelle George, Garrett Nolte and Surya Gogisetty. Middle row: Ian Schuler, Kelly Lewis, Nick Houzenga, Ben Houzenga, Lukas Graber, Oliver Sverko and Mya Scally. In back: Mrs. Shemo, Mason Wright, Laura Potak, Nandini Pande, Kavya Chada, Liam Wright and William Sollenberger. Missing: Peter Marinelli, Stephen Shemo.

HMS TEAM WINS COUNTY-WIDE ACADEMIC CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to the Highland Middle School Academic Challenge Team for winning the Medina County ESC Middle School Tournament on March 10. This championship team was led by an enthusiastic group of 8th graders and supported by several 6th and 7th grade students at the tournament, as well as during practices. They competed against nine other area schools and will now move on to the Ohio Academic Competition Regional event in the Spring. The HMS team is led by advisor Wendy Shemo.

HORNET'S NEST

GRANGER ART SHOW FEATURES 'ANIMALS!'

Granger Elementary School's annual "Celebration of the Arts" was held on March 22 and featured hundreds of pieces of student artwork. The Granger art room, as well as the entire school, was decorated with all things "animals," to coincide with this year's theme. Each year, students work on several pieces, under the direction of art teacher Mrs. Joan Zacharias, to help transform the school into an amazing art gallery! Again this year, students had the opportunity to sell their 3-D clay art projects (\$5 each), with proceeds benefiting Feeding Medina County. A total of \$851.95 was raised!

Pictured with Mrs. Joan Zacharias in the art room are 5th graders Melanie Sallay (left) and Audrey Gopp.



COSI TAKES 'ENERGY' TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES

Thanks to the Hinckley PTO for sponsoring the school's annual visit from COSI on April 11. This year's theme was ENERGY! Students had the opportunity to experiment with electricity, magnetism and motion during this one-day, hands-on visit from COSI on Wheels. They also learned about forces and energy by building

circuits, creating chain reactions and moving objects without touching them. The program supports academic content standards in science. Thanks to all of the volunteers and especially to Stamatia Giatis for organizing this great event. COSI also visited Granger and Sharon Elementary schools.

(IMMEDIATE LEFT): Hinckley 4th graders Chase Rusk and Liam Zielinski.

(FAR LEFT): Hinckley 4th grader Donna Lapointe-Papay





HIGHLIGHTS

*Sharon Elementary
cast of Seussical
Kids!*



SHARON STUDENTS SHOWCASE TALENTS IN 'SEUSSICAL KIDS'

The Sharon Elementary PTO presented the production of "Seussical Kids" in March to hundreds of families and friends. This amazingly talented and enthusiastic cast included nearly 75 students under the direction of parent volunteer Tristana Foutz. Three performances were offered. A special thanks is not only extended to Mrs. Foutz and the PTO, but also to Tanya Headrick, vocal coach; Anne Hrics, costume designer; and Emily Barnett, set designer. It was definitely a show to remember!

HMS STUDENTS DOMINATE AT 'CHEMIST' CHALLENGE

Students from Highland Middle School, along with students from Summit County schools, competed in the "You Be the Chemist" Challenge in March in Fairlawn. The "You Be the Chemist" Challenge is sponsored by the Chemical Education Foundation and supported by Akrochem. Students took a qualifying exam based on questions about the scientific method and principles of chemistry in their science classes. The following HMS students qualified and participated: Mason Wright, Eris Foutz, Eliza Ladd, Emily Dunn, Katilin Herman, Falconn Bach, Jon Wuchter, Jason Yen, Grace Lukens, Caden Klein, Drew Thomas, Peter Marinelli and Chelsea Campbell. Four HMS students qualified for the state championship on April 14 in Toledo, by placing at county tourney, including Falconn Bach (5th place), Drew Thomas (2nd place), Jason Yen (Champion) and Grace Lukens (3rd place). Jason then went on to place 3rd at the State Championship!



Pictured from left are Jason Yen, Drew Thomas, Grace Lukens and Falconn Bach. Congratulations!



Pictured from left: Annabelle Stanec, Madison Sima, David Laib, Alicia Porvasnik, Evan Kasulones and Bryce Budzinski.

HHS SENIORS ADVANCE TO COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Highland High School student-athletes Annabelle Stanec, Madison Sima, David Laib, Alicia Porvasnik, Evan Kasulones and Bryce Budzinski signed their letters of intent on April 11 to attend and play sports for their chosen college.

ANNABELLE STANEC received an athletic scholarship to attend the Ohio State University where she will join the rifle team and major in criminal justice. She is an honor student at HHS and was a gold medalist at the 2015 NRA 3-Position Air Gun Championship in New Mexico; gold medalist at the 2015 USA Shooting Junior Olympics in Air Gun in Colorado; featured in the June/July 2016 edition of Outdoor Life Magazine; gold medalist at the 2015 USA Shooting Junior Olympics in .22 caliber; bronze medalist at the 2017 American Legion 3-Position Junior Air Rifle Championship in Colorado; bronze medalist at the 2018 Camp Perry Open in Port Clinton, Ohio; and gold medalist at the 2015 NRA Open Air Gun Invitational. Annabelle is the daughter of Michael Stanec and Whitney Painting from Sharon Township.

MADISON SIMA received an athletic scholarship to Point Park University in Pittsburgh where she will join the volleyball team and study business. Madison was named All-Conference American Suburban League, Honorable Mention All-District and set a new school record with 26 kills during one game. While at Highland, she also played basketball and softball for the Hornets. She is the daughter of Daniel Sima and Matt and Shelley Zelinski of Hinckley Township.

DAVID LAIB received an athletic/academic scholarship to Wheeling Jesuit University, where he will join their golf team and study

business. David was twice named to 1st Team All-Suburban League and 1st Team Medina Gazette. He currently holds the 18-hole school record with his score of 69. He is the son of Frank and Renee Laib of Sharon Township.

ALICIA PORVASNIK received an athletic scholarship to Ohio University where she will join the golf team and study business. Alicia is a four-year varsity letter winner and was named the 2017 Most Valuable Golfer/Low Average. Additionally, she was All-Medina County 2014-17, All-Suburban League 2014-17, was a member of the State Runner Up Highland Team in 2016 and was named an Akron Touchdown Club Tri-County All Star 2015-17. She is the daughter of Ron and Stacey Porvasnik of Hinckley Township.

EVAN KASULONES received a full athletic/academic scholarship to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, where he plans to join the track and field team and study either economics or political science. Evan is a four-year varsity letterman and was the OATCCC 60 meter State Champ. He was named All-Suburban League and All-Medina Gazette. He was also an outstanding member of the Highland Hornets Football Team and named a scholar athlete. He is the son of Dave and Debbie Kasulones of Granger Township.

BRYCE BUDZINSKI received an athletic/academic scholarship to Lake Erie College where he plans to join the baseball team. He is currently undecided on his major course of study. Bryce is a three-year varsity letterman and was named pitcher of the year. He is the son of Edward and Paula Budzinski of Sharon Township.

HIGHLAND RECEIVES 'SAFE SPORTS SCHOOL' AWARD



Highland High School is the recipient of the National Athletic Trainers' Association Safe Sports School award. The award champions safety and recognizes schools that provide safe environments for student athletes. The award reinforces the importance of providing the best level of care, injury prevention and treatment.

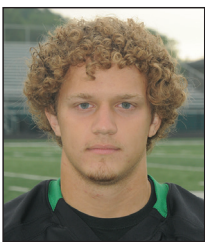
"Highland High School is honored to receive this recognition from NATA, and we remain committed to keeping our student athletes safe during physical education classes, practices and games so they can accomplish their own goals of competition, winning records, fair sportsmanship and good health. Our goal is to lead our athletic program to the highest safety standards for our players," said Dr. John Deuber, Highland Athletic Administrator. "We would also like to recognize Mike Gittinger, our Athletic Trainer, for his dedication to the well-being of our student athletes."

This award recognizes the contributions and commitment of schools across the country that are implementing safe sports policies and best practices to ensure athletes can do what they love best and have the appropriate care in place to prevent, manage and treat injuries should they occur.

In order to achieve this status, athletic programs must:

- Create a positive athletic health care administrative system
- Provide or coordinate pre-participation physical examinations
- Promote safe and appropriate practice and competition facilities
- Plan for selection, fit function and proper maintenance of athletic equipment
- Provide a permanent, appropriately equipped area to evaluate and treat injuries
- Develop injury and illness prevention strategies
- Provide or facilitate injury intervention
- Create and rehearse a venue-specific Emergency Action Plan
- Provide or facilitate psychosocial consultation and nutritional education
- Be sure athletes and parents are educated of the potential benefits and risks in sports, as well as their responsibilities

GERDING HONORED AT AWARDS CEREMONY



Ethan

Congratulations to Highland High School senior Ethan Gerding who was honored at the Scholar Athlete Awards Ceremony on March 6, held annually by the National Football Foundation.

Twenty-two students from Northeast Ohio high schools were recognized for their outstanding achievements in the classroom, as well as on the football field. Ethan had an impressive senior season as linebacker for the Highland Hornets, with the third most tackles in a season in the school's history. He plans to attend Walsh University in the fall to study physical therapy, where he was accepted into the Honors and the Early Assurance Physical Therapy programs. He will also be a member of their track and field team. Ethan is the son of David and Beth Gerding of Sharon Township.

CIORNEI IS NEW BOYS SOCCER COACH AT HHS



Coach Ciornei

Highland Local School District and Highland High School are pleased to welcome Denny Ciornei as the new Head Coach of the Varsity Boys' Soccer Team.

Ciornei was a goalkeeper for the Cleveland Force and Crunch where he won two National Professional Soccer League titles. A native of Romania and current resident of Hinckley Township, he is owner of Ciornei Goalkeeper Academy, which opened in 2005. Ciornei works to teach students technical skills and strategies that he has learned from more than four decades of playing and coaching experience. In addition to sending more than 20 players to Division I college programs, he has also worked with professional soccer athletes. He has experience at the collegiate level as the goalkeeper coach for Cleveland State University from 2008-10.

"We are really excited to expose our student athletes to Coach Ciornei's level of expertise. Plus, he understands the hard work and determination students need in order to take their skills to the college ranks," stated Athletic Administrator Dr. John Deuber.

2018 ATHLETIC SUMMER CAMPS

Highland Athletic Summer Camps have been announced! All dates and times are listed in the flyer located online at www.highlandschools.org, as well as instructions on how to register. Camps offered include tennis, basketball, soccer, golf, volleyball, football and cheerleading.

THE HIGHLAND FOUNDATION

for educational excellence

SAVE THE DATE:

2018 HORNET DASH

The 3rd Annual Hornet Dash, sponsored by the Highland Alumni Association in conjunction with The Highland Foundation, is set for Sunday, June 24. The 5k Run/Walk and Kid's Fun Run will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Highland Stadium. Onsite registration and packet pick-up begins at 8 a.m. Cost is \$15 per adult and \$5 for students (includes t-shirt). The Fun Run and Kids Obstacle Course, hosted by Premier Fitness and Performance, is FREE! To guarantee a t-shirt, please register by June 8 through the following link:
<http://register.chronotrack.com/r/39582>
Proceeds benefit The Highland Foundation.

COMING UP:

ALL THE WAVES WE CANNOT SEE

Many students find it difficult to understand waves in science and technology. Highland Middle School students will begin to see and understand those waves through a program that will take place over the course of two weeks this May. Ozobots are miniature infrared sensors using robots that respond to different color-coded sequences, as well as other stimuli, to perform a task. In addition, using a Microwave Optics System to indirectly observe invisible microwaves, students will develop a deeper knowledge of different frequency ranges of the electromagnetic spectrum and how they are used to communicate and decode information to perform a task. Students will compare these technologies to community-used technologies such as cell phones, radios, remotes and satellites. Cost of this Foundation-sponsored grant, which focuses on STEM studies, is \$3,017.

ODOB Program Continues to Bolster Love of Reading, Community Inclusion

Over the past several years, the One District, One Book program, sponsored by The Highland Foundation, has proven extremely successful in fostering a love of reading for students in grades K-5. Each January, students and staff enjoy a whole-school "book reveal" assembly. This year was no different as students could barely contain their excitement to start reading the book "Masterpiece" by Elise Broach.

To supplement this month-long program, "Masterpiece" author Elise Broach was invited to each school to offer a presentation on her book and explain what it takes to become a children's author.

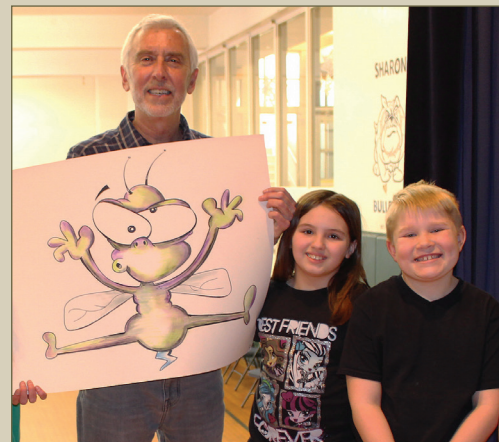
Additionally, Granger and Sharon students were treated to an all-school assembly featuring retired Granger teacher and cartoon artist, Jeff Nicholas. He used his cartoons and original artwork to tie into the themes of the book. A special thanks to the Sharon and Granger PTOs for sponsoring Mr. Nicholas' visit.

"Mystery readers" were also welcomed at each elementary school and several book-related activities were held throughout the month, including a visit from National Art Honor Society members from Highland High School. They helped the elementary students create their own mini artwork inspired by the animal drawings of Albrecht Durer. Durer is the artist featured in "Masterpiece."

HIGHLANDFOUNDATION.ORG



"Masterpiece" author Elise Broach with Granger students from left: Tessa Sohrabi, Chloe May, Hattie Stanton, Patrick Shipman.



Jeff Nicholas, Highland retired teacher and artist, with Sharon 3rd graders Annabelle Hopkins and Wyatt Sitz.



HHS senior Elly Ciesinski guides Hinckley 2nd grader Sophia Schidowka as she creates her own mini artwork.