

HEIGHTS HAPPENINGS



Volume 3, Issue 5

The Monthly Newsletter of

December 1, 2016

Heights Elementary IB World School

Vision: To be a world-class school.

Mission: Heights Elementary IB World School is dedicated to developing balanced, lifelong learners through educational excellence, a global perspective, reflection and action.



A Message from Administration

As the Winter Break approaches, it is with heartfelt warmth that we take an opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of the students, parent/guardians, volunteers, teachers, and staff of Heights Elementary. Together we focus everyday on the learning and well being of our children. We thank you for your continued support of our school.

As we say good-bye to 2016 and get ready to usher in 2017, we wish you, "...Peace of mind, prosperity through the year, happiness that multiplies, health for you and yours, fun around every corner, energy to chase your dreams, and joy to fill your holidays!" - D.M. Dellinger

Heights Elementary Afterschool Program

Heights Elementary Afterschool Program is now accepting registrations for new students. Please ask for registration forms in the front office from 7:30 A.M.—3:30 P.M., Monday through Friday, or at the Afterschool Program desk in the café from 2:30 P.M.—6:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. You may also email the Director, Dodie Lytle, at dorothykl@leeschools.net.

Heights Hurricane Choir

The Heights Hurricane Choir will have their Holiday Concert on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. in the cafeteria. Everyone is invited to attend.

The Heights Hurricane Choir will also be performing their holiday show at the Bell Tower Shops on Friday, December 16, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. We hope to see you there!

Harry Potter Night at Barnes & Noble

On December 9, will be a fun-filled night for our students and families. A portion of the sales that evening will support the first grade field trip. There will be lots of make-and-takes, contests, giveaways, etc. for Harry Potter fans. Our Heights Hurricane Choir will perform at 6:00 P.M. and a teacher read-aloud at 6:30 P.M.

Edison & Ford Winter Estates

More than half of our 5th grade students created ornaments that are hanging on our tree at the Edison and Ford Winter Estates Holiday Tree Trail. Dates for the Holiday Tree Trail are November 25, 2016 to January 1, 2017, 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Traducion disponible: Si desean información sobre este boletín por favor de llamar a Lizzette Roman (481-1761) de 7:45am-2:00pm.

Breakfast: 7:25 AM - 7:45 AM

Student Hours: 7:55 AM - 2:10 PM

Office Hours: 7:30 AM - 3:30PM

<http://het.leeschools.net>

Follow us on Twitter @HeightsIB

Upcoming Events for December/Diciembre

7	Heights Hurricane Choir—Holiday Concert 6:00 P.M./Concierto de Pascua Coro de Heights—6PM
9	1st Grade—Harry Potter Night at Barnes & Noble/Noche de Harry Potter en Barnes & Noble
14	PTA—Heights Movie Night— Alliance for the Arts/Heights Noche de Película en Alliance for the Arts
16	Heights Hurricane Choir at Bell Tower Shops—6:30 P.M./Presentación del Coro de Heights en el Bell Tower Shops—6:30PM.
20-22	Early Dismissal Days/Días de Salida Temprana
Dec 23 — Jan 6	Winter Break—Schools Closed/Vacación de Invierno
	School Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting Dates/Fechas para Reuniones de SAC February 28, 2017 and April 25, 2017

IB Profile Word for December

Principled

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere.

We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

"The principles you live by create the world you live in; if you change the principles you live by, you will change your world." Blaine Lee



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School Notes



Student Assignment 2017-2018

January 23—March 24, 2017

Parents of currently enrolled students in Lee County Public School grades five, eight, and students in Pre-K attending Lee County Public Schools who are eligible for kindergarten for 2017/18, will be mailed their child's personalized application on January 19, 2017.

Those receiving the applications can save time by applying online! Please read the documents sent to you very carefully, and determine if you want to apply online, mail it back to us, or bring it to one of our offices in person. This is a nine-week application period. There is no need to stand in long lines the first few days since you have nine weeks to submit the application. All applications are processed as a group.

Parents of children who will be five on or before September 1, 2017 and who are not enrolled in one of the district's Pre-K programs must visit one of our offices to register for kindergarten for the 2017/2018 school year (bring registration requirements.) This should be done during the first application period (January 23—March 24) to increase the chances of being assigned to your preferred school. Brand new students cannot apply on-line, they must register in person.

There are **no automatic assignments**—parents need to register incoming kindergartners even if they have an older sibling already attending the preferred school. Please visit www.leeschools.net for registration requirements and Student Assignment Office locations. **Mrs. Curry, here at Heights Elementary, is available to answer any questions you may have. (239-481-1761)**

IB News



What is student action? What does IB mean by “student initiated action?”

Action is not easily defined especially for children. The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) defines action as “demonstrations of deeper learning in responsible behavior through responsible action; a manifestation in practice of the other essential elements.” IB encourages teachers to teach students about action by modeling it throughout every unit of inquiry. At Heights, students develop key concept questions to promote a greater level of understanding. The questions are organized into categories: form, function, causation, change, connection, perspective, responsibility, and reflection. By asking questions, students begin the process of action through inquiry and reflection. Action is a rotating cycle which encompasses a Choose, Act, Reflect model. Heights students are showing Action by: helping other students in class; offering to clean up the classroom; planting trees around the school; participating in the building of a community playground; organizing fundraisers such as the Canned Food Drive; picking up trash around the school; making healthy snack choices at home and at school; including new students in peer groups; and the list goes on and on. Action revolves around the idea of offering all learners the opportunity to CHOOSE their actions, to ACT and to REFLECT on them in order to make a difference in their communities and the world.

First Grade has started their “How We Organize Ourselves” IB planner. We are learning how culture defines and connects people. Recently we had several guest speakers share their expertise about countries such as India, Haiti, Ireland, Thailand and Panama. A special THANKS to the Timeny, Leslie, Farrell and Koshy/Thomas families for sharing their cultural knowledge with First Grade. We look forward to making inquires and connections to other countries around the world.

Technology News

Heights Elementary is participating in the 2016 world wide Hour of Code initiative. Millions of students and volunteers across the world join this movement each year during Computer Science Education Week (December 5-9). This is our second year of participation. Hour of Code was started in 2012 by Hadi Partovi as a way to encourage all students to explore computer science and especially computer programming. Code.org is the website dedicated to this non-profit organization. All students, K-5, will experience the Hour of Code by December 9th. They will be given a sticker to wear showing they participated as well as a bookmark with the web address so they can continue to explore this at home. Be sure and ask your child about it and encourage them to log on at home or at the public library.



We are proud to announce our final total revenue from our October auction is...\$65,083!! Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors and participants that made this possible. Because of your generosity, we were able to give \$1,000 to each grade level towards their field trips, \$500 for ESE's field trip, and an additional \$3,000 towards the phonics program. All of the children at Heights will benefit from this gift.

Thank you to all that helped out at this year's book fair. It was a tremendous success and our library will be able to get some new books to feed those eager minds.

Big shout out to those who came to our last PTA meeting on November 17. A special thanks to Amy Phillips who volunteered to take over Box Tops next year and Carly Schwartzel who agreed to chair the book fair next year. Thank you ladies for investing this time into our kids and school!

Please mark your calendars for our FREE family movie night on December 14. It will be held at the Alliance for the Arts and we will be showing *Secret Life of Pets*. Admission is FREE to all Heights families. Dinner is available for purchase with proceeds going to the 5th grade end-of-year trip. Flyers came home last week. Come out and have dinner under the stars with your family and your Heights family.

Please watch for the next Spirit Wear preorder form to come home on December 5th. It will include items like adult short sleeve shirts, long sleeve shirts for adults and children, athletic socks, panther fit sleeves and shoelaces! Items are preorder and paid in advance only—no refunds. Orders will be delivered in January. Happy Spirit Days!

Just a reminder that if you complete a volunteer form for PTA you must also complete a school volunteer form as well.

“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” - Frederick Douglass

Mark your calendar for 16/17 PTA meetings: 2/2/17, 4/27/17. All meetings will be at 8:05 a.m. in the cafeteria AND at 2:45 p.m. in the Media Center. Pick the time that works best for you. Free child care available in afternoon for all potty-trained children and seated siblings are welcome for morning meetings.