



# The Highland HIGHLIGHT

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

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### MEET:

Victoria Kinsey, 2nd grade, Sharon Elementary

## Board initiates community engagement

In November, the Highland Board of Education announced that it would begin a three-part community engagement initiative in an effort to obtain feedback regarding the future of the school District and potential funding options. The Board is reaching out to community members, parents and Highland staff for input.

The three-part initiative consists of listening sessions, online surveys for both parents and staff, as well as a phone poll of 500 randomly chosen registered voters in the District. Four listening sessions were held in November and included a cross-section of representatives from the schools and communities. Online surveys for both staff and parents/community were offered from December 1-10. A link to the community survey was posted on the District web site as well. The phone poll will be conducted prior to the new year.

The discussions and questions focus on school programming, school funding and developing a stronger partnership with the community-at-large.

Superintendent Catherine Aukerman explained the results from this community engagement will ultimately be used to lay the groundwork for future strategic planning, communication initiatives and possible levy campaigns. The District is also exploring additional funding alternatives that could be used to bring in new revenue, such as an income tax instead of a property tax and reinstating open enrollment.

It would not be wise to move forward without additional information from the community, Mrs. Aukerman continued. "We must collectively establish priorities, look very carefully at the challenges we face and prepare a variety of scenarios from which to work. There are some very difficult decisions and choices that both the District and the community will need to make." What level of educational programming and services will we offer in the future? How will extracurricular offerings be impacted by the budget shortfall? How will transportation be affected? What types of courses, class sizes and quality of teachers does the community expect from its school district? What type of education do our students need to prepare them for college and beyond?

Although the Board has not yet decided if it will place a tax issue on the May ballot, they will need to make that decision by the February 2 deadline. The Board is aware of what is at stake for the students of Highland, Mrs. Aukerman said. "With three failed levy attempts and additional state funding cuts anywhere between 5-20 percent, our District has the potential to look very different in the future."

## BOE, donations help defray cost of surveys

The current community engagement initiative project, which includes listening sessions, online surveys and a phone poll, is expected to cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Over the past few weeks, the District has been working to secure donations from corporate and individual sponsors, as well as service organizations such as PTOs and booster clubs. A special thank you is extended to those who have offered a generous donation to help make this project possible.

In addition, members of the Board of Education have agreed to donate their annual salary – \$125 per meeting, to help defray the cost of the surveys.

"We decided collectively to donate our pay because we want to send a clear message about how important we think this community engagement project is," said Board President Dr. Norm Christopher. "We all need to get on the same page as to future needs of our students and the District."

Additional information on this process will be communicated through e-mails and the District's E-newsletter.

### Did you know?

**Medina County is the only county in the State to have ALL of its school districts simultaneously rated "Excellent" two different times. Congratulations to all schools on this impressive accomplishment!**

# MAKING HEADLINES...

## DRUESEDOW IS MEMBER OF ALL STATE BAND



Highland High School senior, **Elizabeth Druesedow**, is now a member of the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) All State Band. She was one of over 1,000 who submitted her audition for review and only 96 were accepted to participate. Elizabeth (Libby) plays clarinet and is 1st chair in Highland's Wind Ensemble and is active in Highland's music program.

## THOMAS EARNS ACHIEVEMENT

Kudos to Highland High School sophomore, **Gabe Thomas**, was recently promoted in a ceremony of the Medina County Skyhawks, the 219th Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. Cadet Thomas earned the Doolittle Achievement, which comes with the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant. The achievement honors Jimmy Doolittle, who led a daring raid on Japan after Pearl Harbor. Civil Air Patrol, the civilian auxiliary to the U.S. Air Force, offers young adults across the country challenging opportunities in an awards-based, multi-level program. Leadership training, technical education and an opportunity to participate in aviation-related activities are just a few of the benefits.



## COACH ROLLYSON AMONG 2010 INDUCTEES

Highland boys baseball head coach **Jeff Rollyson** was among 17 to be inducted into the Greater Akron Baseball Hall of Fame on October 18. Rollyson, a health and physical education teacher at Highland Middle, was also recently inducted into the University of Akron Hall of Fame this past January. A right-handed pitcher and shortstop in Ellet youth leagues, Rollyson led Ellet High School to City Series title. He was an All-City Series and All-Ohio selection and a four-year starter at the University of Akron, where he holds records for stolen bases and runs scored. Most recently, under his direction, he coached the Hornets to their 2007 and 2008 Division II regional final.

## ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to Highland High School sophomore **Nicole Hadler** and Highland Middle School 6th graders **Emily Holmberg** and **Abigail Long** who were all 1st place winners in an essay contest sponsored by the VFW scholarship program. Nicole's essay was titled "Roles of the Young Adult Generation in America's Future," and addressed the Voices of Democracy Essay Contest, while Emily's and Abby's were titled "Patriotism: Does It Matter Anymore?" and both addressed the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. Both Nicole and Emily received a \$100 prize from the Ladies Auxiliary Division of the Medina County Post. Abigail received \$100 from the Post itself for her winning essay. All students, their families and teacher were honored at a dinner on December 7 at the VFW Medina Post. Students had the opportunity to share their essays at the dinner.

## HIGHLAND'S RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM

Please consider becoming a member of Highland Schools' 2011 Relay for Life Team. It's a great way for the Highland family to come together and help in the fight against cancer. The 2011 Medina Relay is set for Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12 at Medina County Fairgrounds. If interested in joining the team or making a donation, please contact co-captains Scott Brubaker at 330-239-1901, ext. 5501 (brubaker@highlandschools.org) or Kelly D'annolfo at ext. 1101 (kannolfo@highlandschools.org). Or, feel free to visit the Highland Relay web site at: <http://tinyurl.com/HLSRelay2011>.

## HLSD RECOGNIZED FOR FINANCIAL REPORT

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to Highland Local School District by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its 2009 comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents an accomplishment by the District. The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story.

## BOEDICKER GETS PUBLISHED

An article written by Highland Curriculum Director **Laurie Boedicker** was recently featured in the October 2010 issue of *School Business Affairs Magazine*, published by the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International. Her article was titled "Automated Employee Training: Efficiency and Effectiveness" and addressed Highland's expanded online



training to faculty and classified staff in such areas as child abuse detection, violence prevention, substance abuse prevention and positive youth development.

## SHURAN PLACES 3RD

The 2010 Ohio Grade Level Championship, sponsored by the Ohio Chess Association, was held on November 20 in Aurora. Nearly 370 students from all over Ohio competed in 13 sections of the championship. Among the participants was a small group of five-year-olds who had the courage to enter the competition. **Alex Shuran**, kindergarten student at Granger Elementary, kept his mind sharp during a five-hour long competition and tied for 3rd Place in the Kindergarten Section of the 2010 championship.



# VETERANS DAY: A DAY OF RECOGNITION

*Each year on Veterans Day we remember the contributions made to our nation by service members — past and present. While Memorial Day honors those who gave their lives in military service, Veterans Day commemorates and recognizes the personal sacrifices made by anyone who wears, or has worn, the uniform. Throughout Highland School District, each building celebrated this day in a special way as a way to say “thank you” to our veterans.*



**HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL**

Highland High School held a breakfast program for about 20 veterans, hosted by the Key Club. Here, Brandon Plevris, freshman, is all smiles as he spends time with his grandparents, George and Jeanette Manos.



**HIGHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Highland Middle School students invited their family members who are serving or have served in the armed forces. Over 55 veterans were in attendance. Following a presentation, each student introduced their guest and enjoyed breakfast and refreshments. Above, with her father, Jeff, is 6th grader Rachael Kressin. Also present were the Civil Honor Patrol: Matthew Thomas, senior, 2nd Lieutenant; Andrew Campbell, 8th grade, Cadet Master Sergeant; and Gabriel Tomas, sophomore, Senior Master Sergeant.



**SHARON ELEMENTARY**

To honor our veterans, Sharon students participated in a special assembly that included patriotic songs and a flag ceremony. Pictured are Sharon students with Principal Connie Marzullo, and her son, Matthew, who is a captain and a pilot. He has completed tours in the Middle East and Germany and is now stationed in Columbus. He is a graduate of Highland!



**GRANGER ELEMENTARY**

Veterans and their families were also invited to attend the assembly held at Granger Elementary. Students offered a moving tribute through a variety of songs. Third grader James Sikon was proud to invite his father, Jim (left) and his great-grandfather, Al Olsen, to the event.



**HINCKLEY ELEMENTARY**

Nealy 40 veteran's attended the concert program at Hinckley Elementary. Led by vocal music teacher Michael McClintock, students in grades K-5 sang a variety of heartfelt patriotic songs. Many audience members were moved to tears throughout the program. Above, Mr. McClintock leads the 5th graders in song.

# Highland

## Coats for Kids Campaign

Highland Middle School 8th Grade DARE Role Models, along with the High School DARE Role Models and members of SADD, joined together to collect new and gently used coats for the annual Coats for Kids Campaign -- "Keep a Child Warm this Winter." The campaign ran from November 10-30. All school buildings in the District served as drop-off locations. The coats collected are distributed to the Salvation Army in Wadsworth and given to those in need right here in the Highland community. This is the 29th year for the Coats For Kids Campaign. Highland students worked in conjunction with Howard Hanna Real Estate Services who agreed to clean the gently used coats. Thanks to everyone who made a donation to this worthwhile effort. *Pictured at left are HMS 8th Grade DARE Role Models Leegan Vorndran and Kyle Wissel.*



Highland juniors Megan Hazard (left) and Missy Doak take SIDNE for a test drive and are asked to text while driving to demonstrate the dangers of distracted driving.

## TEENS LEARN ABOUT DANGERS OF DISTRACTED DRIVING

On November 12, the Simulated Impaired DrivInG Experience®, or SIDNE®, made a stop at Highland High School. SIDNE® is a battery-powered vehicle that simulates the effects of distraction and impairment from alcohol and other drugs on a motorist's driving skills. According to Highland DARE Officer Sharon Centner, this prevention initiative delivered engaging and hands-on lessons about the misuse and abuse of alcohol and other drugs and the dangers of distracted driving to students in Highland DARE classes. The computerized go cart showed teens how being impaired or distracted driving can lead to crashes. As part of the program, Ohio State Patrol Officer Dan Jones was invited to speak with students about the serious consequences of operating a vehicle while impaired (OVI). The prevention program was made possible by a donation from the Medina Eagles FOE 2224 and the Medina County Sheriff's Office (from seized drug money). Highland is the first District in Medina County to host this program, which will again be offered in May to Highland seniors.



Trooper Dan Jones watches carefully as sophomore Mark Vitko attempts to walk a straight line while wearing impaired goggles to simulate the effects that alcohol has on a driver.

# Happenings



*Sharon Elementary Artists from left are 5th graders Charlie Wiswesser, Jayda Vorndran, Anna Spiros and J.J. Kocevar.*



*J.J. Kocevar in action*

## SHARON STUDENTS PAINT LIKE POLLOCK FOR FOUNDATION

Four Sharon Elementary School 5th graders dribbled and dripped just like artist Jackson Pollock for this year's donation to the 2010 Highland Foundation Benefit Dinner Auction, held on November 13. Jackson Pollock was an influential American painter and a major figure in the abstract expressionist movement. 5th graders selected to tackle this daunting art project included J.J. Kocevar, Anna Spiros, Jayda Vorndran and Charlie Wiswesser. Like a well-oiled machine, the students, with their selected colors, rotated around the canvases laid out on a huge tarp in the Sharon Elementary Art Room. As they worked, they evaluated how much canvas needed to be covered and determined the balance of color. They worked beautifully together and created masterpieces!

## Medina County Robotics Network

The Medina County Robotics Network is a new initiative to coordinate Lego robotics opportunities for elementary and middle school students throughout Medina County. Teachers from across the county who are teaching robotics in the classroom or as a club receive support, training, grant writing, robotics supplies and coordination of county-wide events as members of the group.

The gifted coordinators at the Medina County Educational Service Center have partnered with MTD Products, Inc., and the University of Akron Medina County University Center (MCUC) to coordinate and fund this initiative. Twenty-five elementary and middle school teachers are currently participating in the Robotics Network.

As part of this initiative, several county-wide events are currently being planned for any students in grades 4-8. These Saturday events will be held at the Medina County University Center. Interested students should mark their calendars now and make plans to participate in **NXT Robotics activities from 9-11:30 a.m. on January 29 and February 26, as well as the Robofest local qualifying competition from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 26.** Pre-registration information may be found at [www.medina-esc.org](http://www.medina-esc.org) beginning in January.

**Highland Middle School students interested in participating in Robofest should also plan to attend an informational meeting at 2:30 p.m. on January 11 in the middle school library and training sessions that will be held at 2:30 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday from January 13 through March 24.** Sessions will be held at HMS.

Parents and community members are also invited to get involved by assisting in individual districts with the above-mentioned events. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information about the Medina County Robotics Network, please contact Brenda Magier ([bmagier@medina-esc.org](mailto:bmagier@medina-esc.org)).

# Sports Notes

## TITLE WINNERS:

- **Highland Middle's Football Team** captured the Suburban League Title and finished their 2010 season with a perfect 7-0 record. This is only the 2nd time in school history that the football team has gone undefeated! Way to go team!
- **Highland Middle's 7th Grade Volleyball Team** also won the Suburban League Title with a 13-1 season record. Very impressive!
- Congratulations to the **Highland Boys Soccer Team** on capturing the Suburban League Title -- their 2nd title in four years! This was the first team in Suburban League history to go undefeated in conference play.
- Kudos to the **Highland Girls Golf Team** on their 4th place finish at the Division I State Tournament! This marks the highest finish by a Medina County school in the 18 years of the event! And, a special congratulations to sophomore Jessica Porvasnik who earned runner-up medalist honors and was named The Post's Player of the Year for the second time.

## OTHER NOTABLE NEWS:

- Also named to *The Post's* 1st Team All-Stars were Highland Girls Golf Team members, junior **Stephanie Horvath**, junior **Lauren McKinzie** and **Jessica Provasnik**. Second Team included sophomore **Jessica McRae**, while freshman **Rachel Horvath** and senior **Sarah Sniff** received an Honorable Mention.
- Golfer **Steve Schneigenberg**, Highland junior, was named to *The Post's* All Star Team and 1st Team All-Suburban League.
- Soccer player **Jacob Naumann**, senior, was named to *The Post's* All Star Team. He was among top players in the league and county with 21 goals and 16 assists and earned 1st Team All-Suburban League and 1st Team All-Ohio honors in Division II.
- Congratulations to **Highland Girls Tennis Team** members **Danielle Hadler**, senior; **Nicole Hadler**, sophomore; and **Michelle Mullen**, senior on being named to the *Medina Gazette's* 1st Team All-Gazette Girls Tennis! **Ashley Lengel**, sophomore, received an Honorable Mention.
- **Natalie Zidd**, junior, who captured the 800-meter track championship and is the 5th ranked runner in Medina County. She also earned all-league honors with her 7th place win at the Suburban League Meet.

## Parents can use online payment system

The District is pleased to offer parents the ability to pay student and lunch fees through a safe and secure online payment system called PayForIt. Payments can be made through PayForIt via credit card, debit card or electronic check. Credit and debit card transactions are subject to a 4.6% internet convenience fee. Electronic checks are subject to a flat \$1.25 per transaction fee regardless of the dollar amount of the payment. To set up an account, visit the Parent Portal page at [www.highlandschools.org](http://www.highlandschools.org) and follow the instructions provided.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Norman Christopher, M.D. Mike Houska  
Robert Kelly Dan Petek Diane Thomas

### CONTACT US

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# UP and COMING

## JANUARY 2011

- **JANUARY 4:** Students return.
- **JANUARY 10:** Highland Middle winter sports picture day.
- **JANUARY 13:** End of 2nd grading period; Sharon Mix-It-Up Day; 5th Grade Band Concert at 7 p.m. (HHS).
- **JANUARY 14:** No School (Professional Development Day).
- **JANUARY 15:** Medina County Solo and Ensemble Music Festival.
- **JANUARY 17:** No School (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day).
- **JANUARY 18:** Highland Middle winter sports picture day.
- **JANUARY 26:** Sharon Market Day.
- **JANUARY 27:** Medina County Career Center Open House, 6-8 p.m.
- **JANUARY 28:** Elementary beach parties; Middle School Activity Night, 7-9 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 2011

- **FEBRUARY 2:** Medina County Career Center Open House, 6-8 p.m.
- **FEBRUARY 4:** Hinckley Pint Size Hero Blood Drive Assembly; Sharon PTO Book Bingo.
- **FEBRUARY 5:** District VI OMEA Solo and Ensemble Contest.
- **FEBRUARY 10:** 8th Grade Parent Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- **FEBRUARY 11:** Elementary Valentine's Day parties.
- **FEBRUARY 15:** All-Star Band Concert, 6:30 p.m. (HHS)
- **FEBRUARY 16:** Sharon PTO Book Swap.
- **FEBRUARY 17:** Red Cross Bloodmobile, 2-7 p.m. (Hinckley Gym)
- **FEBRUARY 18:** Interims.
- **FEBRUARY 21:** No School (President's Day).
- **FEBRUARY 23:** Sharon Market Day.
- **FEBRUARY 24:** Middle School Conferences, 4-7:30 p.m.
- **FEBRUARY 25:** Hinckley Cuddle Up and Read Day; Sharon PTO Family Dance.

## Winter Youth League set to begin

Join the Highland High School basketball players and coaches and have fun learning fundamentals that can improve your game. The Winter Youth League will be held from 12-2 p.m. on Saturdays from January 15 through February 12 at the Highland High School Gym. Players will receive a reversible jersey to use for games and to keep for their own use. The league is open to students in grades 3-6 and cost is \$50. Checks can be made payable to Highland Boys Basketball. For more information, please call 216-408-1375 or e-mail [hornetsbball44256@yahoo.com](mailto:hornetsbball44256@yahoo.com).

## Preschool Fair planned

The Highland Preschool PTO is sponsoring a Preschool Fair from 6:30-8 p.m. on Monday, January 10, 2011, at Granger Elementary School. This event is free to all Highland residents and offered as an informational event regarding local preschool opportunities for our preschool-aged children. Please come and learn about preschool programs in our community.

# 2010 NHS Inductees

Congratulations to the following Highland High School students on their recent induction into the Highland Chapter of the National Honor Society. A total of 64 students were recognized during the 56th annual ceremony held on November 17.

## SENIORS:

Peyton Ashby  
Elissa Bene  
Samantha Brobst  
Robert Businger  
Sarah Choate  
Stephanie Ensworth  
Taylor Hauser  
Emily Husney  
Andrew Killmeyer  
Katherine Knyszczek  
Elaine Kunzler  
William Molchan  
Breanna Mullen  
Audrey Owens  
Amanda Palecek  
Jillian Sammon  
Tyler Tekaucic  
Ryan Timura  
Tyler Violillo  
Ryan Zawada

## SOPHOMORES:

Stuart Arbuckle  
David Back  
David Barnum  
Kristin Bede  
Erin Boedicker  
Dominic Carrino  
Kailee Felix  
Korina Gaishouser  
Kathleen Gillota  
Briana Gironda  
Nicole Hadler  
Jeffrey Hall  
Samantha Kissel  
Mark Komives  
Ashley Lengel  
Taylor MacWhade  
Jessica McRae  
Greta Minor  
Jessica Porvasnik  
Adin Richardson  
Haley Roddy  
Cole Roessler  
Mason Rorapough  
Malory Rymer  
Andrea Scherler  
Steven Smykal  
Alexa Stampler  
Mitchell Turk  
Samantha Vasilatos  
Kayla Wiatroski  
Ryan Wilber

## JUNIORS:

Hannah Buehrle  
Raelene Campbell  
Elizabeth Golias  
Jenea Kastelein  
Rachael Nicholas  
Jackie Rocco  
Kelsey Scherler  
Ryan Sefcik  
Bradley Sievers  
Maria Smith  
Matthew Snyder  
Riley Stewart  
Andrew Wyatt

Additionally, students choose one faculty member each year to be named an honorary NHS member based on what they feel embodies the spirit of NHS. **Congratulations to 2010 NHS Teacher of the Year, Highland science and chemistry teacher, Mr. Chris Luker.**

## Community Education News

Highland Community Education has exciting new classes this winter and spring, including Mandarin Chinese, Pottery Painting, Yoga, Pilates, Lacrosse, Robotics, Animation and Stress Relief. Also coming are classes in Interior Design and Cake Decorating (back by popular demand!). A brochure on all class offerings will be mailed in early January and also available for download on the District web site. Classes are not restricted to Highland residents. Questions? Call 330-239-1901, ext. 4245.



## Granger students give thanks

Granger Elementary first graders presented their Annual Thanksgiving Musical on November 19 to their parents, under the direction of vocal music teacher Millie Frambaugh. Following the musical, students and parents enjoyed snacks and "all things pumpkin." **Pictured above are Norah Lugo, Jenna Furst and Madison Griffin.**



**Pictured are some of Hinckley's Creature Contest winners from left, Dario Prescenzi, Ellen Fuller, Madison Sauer, Nick Jarosewich and Alex Ivanov.**

## Getting creative with creatures

Congratulations to Hinckley Elementary's Harvest Creature Contest and Poem Winners! Student had the option to create a "creature" from nature's items such as pumpkins, leaves, twigs, acorns, and the like, or write a poem for Hinckley's annual contest.

### Poem winners are as follows:

Kindergarten: Karl Batman, 1st; Logan Marquis, 2nd.  
4th Grade: Conner Klein, 1st; Emily Beal, 2nd.  
5th Grade: Boyd Colburn, 1st; Ray Flannery, 2nd.

### Creature winners are as follows:

Kindergarten: Sienna Kendall, 1st; Carter Swarm, 2nd; Alexis Filote, 3rd.  
1st Grade: Alex Ivanov, 1st; Dario Prescenzi, 2nd; Ellen Fuller, 3rd.  
2nd Grade: Andra Filote, 1st; Nicholas Jarosowich, 2nd; Mady Sauer, 3rd.  
3rd Grade: Brooke Feher, 1st; Ellie Dannery, 2nd; Lauren Cifranic, 3rd.  
4th Grade: Logan Kendall, 1st; Hannah Nowack, 2nd; Kristen Curran, 3rd.  
5th Grade: Erick Standar, 1st; Jackson Carrino, 2nd; Dagny Sacksteder, 3rd.



# THE HIGHLAND FOUNDATION

## HIGHLAND FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS



*In back from left are Quinten Tiftt, Scott Ewers, Jim Kelly, Greg Wolny, Brian Fisher and Ryan Phillips. Seated are Superintendent Cathy Aukerman, Carol Baker, Lori Miller, Jean Christopher, Diane Thomas and Carrie Milkovich. Missing is Rachel Miller.*

## Proceeds from Foundation's annual event benefit students

The 6th Annual Great Gifts Benefit Dinner Auction, hosted by the Highland Foundation, netted approximately \$25,000 to help support unique educational programs and projects for Highland students. Nearly 200 attended the event, held November 13 at Weymouth Country Club.

A team of volunteers worked to collect donations from businesses and individuals for the silent auction that included an array of wonderful gift baskets and prizes. Special highlights of the evening included entertainment by the Highland Jazz and String Ensembles and a moving video regarding Rachel's Challenge held in October, which was sponsored by the Foundation.

Special thanks to Carrie Milkovich, Special Events Chairperson and the Special Events Committee for their countless hours and hard work, as well as to George Paidas, master of ceremony.

Since the Highland Foundation's inception in 2000, they have raised \$565,717 and funded 161 innovative programs and projects ranging from musical enrichment and artist-in-residence programs to new projects and special classroom needs. To learn more about the Foundation, please visit [www.highlandfoundation.org](http://www.highlandfoundation.org).

## WEB SITE HAS NEW LOOK, FEATURES

The Foundation recently unveiled its newly-redesigned web site. The new site now offers the ability to make online donations, includes updated grant information and projects, as well as a word search engine to make the site more user-friendly. **Check it out at [www.highlandfoundation.org](http://www.highlandfoundation.org).**

## New board members join Foundation cause

Five new Board members were recently named to the Highland Foundation. Please welcome the following:

### CAROL BAKER

Mrs. Baker, formerly a long-time educator in the Chippewa Local School District in Doylestown, she is a current member of Emanuel United Church of Christ and Embroidery Guild of Wadsworth. Even though her son is now a freshman at Highland High School, she continues to volunteer her time in the cafeteria at Granger Elementary. Carol has also volunteered her time and efforts with other school-related activities in recent years. She and her husband, Donald, reside in Granger Township with their son.

### RACHEL L. MILLER

Mrs. Miller is currently a stay-at-home mother and serves as treasurer of the Granger Elementary PTO. She has a strong background in marketing and communications and was formerly employed by Rubbermaid Home Products. In 2004, Rachel started a support group for parents of children who are blind or visually impaired and is currently an Associate Board Member of the Foundation for Retinal Research. She is also a volunteer for the Cleveland Sight Center and is a member of the Children and Youth Services Advisory Committee and the Consumer Council Committee for the Cleveland Sight Center. She has served in a number of volunteer capacities at Highland Schools, including the Highland Pride Levy Committee. She resides in Montville with her husband, Jeff, and their two children.

### RYAN PHILLIPS

Mr. Phillips is currently the Director of National Accounts for the J.R. Simplot Company and responsible for all sales and marketing functions for Yum! Brands – the world's largest restaurant company. He has over 18 years of professional sales and marketing experience in the food service industry. An active parent at Granger Elementary, Ryan has served as committee chair for the "Muffins with Mom" breakfast, as well as a member of the Highland Family and Civic Engagement Team and serves as a substitute volunteer. He and his wife, Michele, reside in Granger with their three children.

### DIANE K. THOMAS

Mrs. Thomas is the newest member of the Highland Board of Education and will serve as the BOE's liaison for the Foundation. With a business and human resource background, Diane is the epitome of a "professional volunteer." She continues to serve in a number of volunteer capacities including special projects, fundraising, PTO, Athletic Boosters, Highland Community Support Network, as well as a past coordinator for the middle school and Granger Elementary blood drives. Diane and her husband, Mark, reside in Granger Township with their two children.

### GREG WOLNY

Mr. Wolny is currently the Sales Manager at Chad Allan Consulting in Medina. He is a 2001 graduate of Highland High School. As a more recent graduate, Greg hopes to offer a fresh perspective to the Foundation and increase its networking and partnership opportunities. He is a member of the 2011 class of Leadership Medina County, as well as Medina Breakfast Kiwanis and the Council of Smaller Enterprises (COSE/Mindshare). He and his wife, Annie, reside in Medina.