Chinese New Year Parade at HMS  Tommy Maroon

February 8, 2016 was Chinese New Year and to celebrate the big cultural party, kids from HHS and eighth grade planned a parade at the middle school. The parade was going to originally be on the 11th, but there was a snow day, and after two snow days, they finally had their parade on February 25.

There were many people involved who were doing cultural Chinese dances, people who were passing out Chinese candy and, of course, carrying the dragon. They went all through the halls and hundreds of sixth, seventh and eighth graders stopped class to enjoy the parade. Many teachers helped out and kept the beat for all the dancers, but it couldn’t have been done without a visiting Chinese teacher, Ms. Wu. She has taught the middle school Chinese dances and art that we can pass on for many generations. I believed that it was awesome and it keeps a great tradition for all of the middle school.

Maybe one day, you’ll want to be in the Chinese New Year parade, give out candy, do the dances, or, be the leader of the dragon!
March 21st. Unless you have a birthday or special event on that day, it probably means nothing more to you than a day on the calendar. But really, it’s much more than that— it’s Down Syndrome Awareness Day, a day to spread awareness about Down Syndrome all around the world! Here are some things you may not know about Down Syndrome:

- Down Syndrome affects 1 in 691 babies.
- There are more than 400,000 people living with Down Syndrome.
- 25% of U.S families are affected by Down Syndrome, including mine.
- 50% of children born with Down Syndrome have heart defects.
- The life expectancy for someone with Down Syndrome is 67 years old.

Many of you may know someone with Down Syndrome or have heard things about Down Syndrome before, and if you have, you know that people with this disability can still lead, fulfilling, satisfying lives. This year, to raise awareness for Down Syndrome, Room 600 is selling green T-Shirts for $10 that say, ‘So Much More Than an Extra Chromosome’. Everyone who buys a shirt will wear on March 31st for Down Syndrome Day to support our students at HMS.

16 Facts About Leap Day

1. Leap Day is February 29 every leap year.
2. Leap Day is February 29 because that is the extra day in a leap year.
3. In Scotland, it is said it is unlucky to be born on Leap Day.
4. Leap Day is also St. Oswald’s Day because archbishop of York died on February 29th, 992.
5. Leap day is needed to keep people in order with Earth’s rotations around the sun.
6. The Egyptians developed Leap Day, but in 46 B.C., the Romans used the idea on their calendar.
7. On Leap Day women can propose to men.
8. The Summer Olympics are every leap year.
9. In Greece it is considered unlucky to get married on a leap year.
10. The leap year capital of the world is Anthony, Texas.
11. Famous people born on Leap Day are John Bryom, Pope Paul III, Gorge Bridgetower, and Gioacchino Rossini.
12. In Scotland, leap year is considered to be bad for livestock.
13. Presidential elections are held every leap year.
14. February 29 is also Rare Disease Day.
15. Odds of being born on Leap Day are 1:1461.
16. People born on Leap Day are called leaplings or leapers.
On Saturday, February 27, nine students from Highland Middle School competed in the “You Be the Chemist” local challenge at the Double Tree Inn in Fairlawn. The “You Be the Chemist” Challenge is sponsored by the Chemical Education Foundation and supported by Akrochem, an Akron manufacturer and distributor of chemicals. Students took a qualifying exam based on questions about the scientific method and principles of chemistry in their science classes. The following students qualified and participated: David Briesemeister, Lilia Colbrunn, Jack Marinelli, Teddy VanFossen, Alyssa Haun, Addy Zugaro, Austin Lindsey, Braeden Jeske, and Billy Baker. Alyssa Haun and Billy Baker were the two finalists, and Billy was the winner of the local challenge and a $100 gift card.

Of the seven students qualifying for the state championship, five are Highland students! Congratulations to Alyssa, Addy, Austin, Braeden and Billy!

The finalists will be competing in the state challenge on April 9 in Toledo. The winner of the state challenge wins an all-expense paid trip to Philadelphia and the opportunity to win various scholarships up to a $10,000 scholarship to the college of their choice. Good luck to our students in the upcoming competitions!

State Finalists
Highland Students, below, from right: Billy Baker, Braeden Jeske, Austin Lindsey, Addy Zugaro, and Alyssa Haun
February 7, 2016. It’s not just a regular day. It is the day of Super Bowl 50! Yep, it’s hard to believe that that day will mark the 50th Super Bowl ever played. It was played between the Carolina Panthers and Denver Broncos as young Cam Newton (Carolina) took on aging legend Peyton Manning (Denver). The Panthers had the #1 offense and the Broncos had the #1 defense.

The first Super Bowl occurred on January 15th, 1967 in which the Green Bay Packers crushed the Kansas City Chiefs 35-10. It was the only Super Bowl to be televised on two channels, NBC and CBS, and it was the only Super Bowl that was blacked out in one city, Los Angeles. It was blacked out in Los Angeles because the LA Coliseum hosted it and it was not a full house. The Super Bowl I MVP went to the Packers’ quarterback and future hall of famer Bart Starr. The halftime performance was by several high school bands and 30-second commercials were about $42,000.

Let’s fast forward to 2016. CBS covered the Super Bowl for people all across the world including Santa Clara, California, the place for Super Bowl 50. It was played at Levi’s Stadium, home to the San Francisco 49ers. The Super Bowl MVP went to the Broncos’ linebacker Von Miller. Coldplay performed in the halftime show along with Bruno Mars and Beyoncé. A 30-second commercials cost more than 4 million dollars. The Broncos won 24-10 and knocked off the MVP winner Cam Newton. It was Peyton Manning’s 200th NFL win, and he is expected to retire.

Now that we covered the comparisons of Super Bowl I and 50, time for the Super Bowl fun facts! Terry Bradshaw of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Joe Montana of the 49ers and Tom Brady of the New England Patriots all have won four Super Bowls, most by any quarterback. Chuck Howley of the Dallas Cowboys is the only player from a losing team to win Super Bowl MVP in which the Baltimore Colts won 16-13. The Buffalo Bills are the only team to make it to four straight Super Bowls...and lose four straight Super Bowls. Their quarterback Jim Kelly is the only QB to lose four Super Bowls. Deion Branch of the New England Patriots, Joe Namath of the New York Jets and Fred Bilenikoff of the Oakland Raiders are the only offensive Super Bowl MVPs not to score a touchdown. The Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis, Minnesota is the most northern place to host the Super Bowl. The Denver Broncos, Dallas Cowboys, New England Patriots, and the Pittsburgh Steelers have gone to more Super Bowls (8) than any other team in its history. The Steelers’ Willie Parker owns the record for the longest rushing touchdown in the game’s history (75 yards). Jake Delhomme threw the longest touchdown pass to Mushin Muhammad (85 yards). Super Bowl XXXVI was the first Super Bowl to be held in February (the third of 2002). The 1972 Miami Dolphins are the only team to have a perfect season and win the Super Bowl. The San Diego Chargers are the biggest underdogs to the 49ers by being 18.5 underdogs, and lost 49-26. Finally, New Orleans and Miami has hosted more Super Bowls than any other city.

The Super Bowl’s rich history over the past 50 years has many interesting details. The Super Bowl is very much a part of American history, and will continue to be the most watched sporting event in the foreseeable future.
A young teenage girl with the name of Gracie Ehemann realized that one of our biggest bullies can be our own mind. So one day, she created the Love Thy Enemy program that helps teens to build self-esteem. Now, groups all over America and the world are spreading the word.

Highland’s Chain Links organization saw this and decided to make up their own post-it notes with messages on them for a special “Love Thy Self” which was in the media center. On January 27th, the group got together and watched the video in Mrs. Schilling’s room. After that, they grabbed post-it notes and markers and wrote inspiring messages on them to inspire kids in our middle school. Once when they were done, Mrs. Schilling and Mrs. Watson helped stick up the post-its and the whole group took a picture in front of the display. Announcements were made and students were encouraged to take a note that spoke to them, or a note that they thought someone may like. You might not be bullied by others, but you could be bullying yourself. The message was to help us remember that we could be our own worst bully.

Mrs. Schilling e-mailed Ehemann pictures of our event. She was really impressed and was very happy. She said, “WOW! This is absolutely INCREDIBLE! I cannot believe that this happened, this absolutely warms my heart. I am so thankful that you guys took the time to do this and that the kids are being exposed to the mission of #LoveThyEnemy. It is such an important cause to understand and I believe that all kids need to be reminded that we aren’t perfect and that our imperfections are what makes us who we are! What a wonderful club you have to bring to life!”

Gracie also wanted to post it on LoveThyEnemy.org, and social media. She was “blown away.” Not only did it make her happy, but her positive comments made our club happy, too.

For more information, go to http://www.lovethyenemy.org/.
Winter Sports at HMS!

By Jack Buzzard

Our sports this winter at HMS have been very intense. With winning records this year from Johnny Bova and Jack O’Donnell, the wrestling team went 11-6. Highland placed 4th at the Cleveland State and Brooklyn Brawl tournaments. Then, they came and 3rd at the Green Invitational and took 1st at the Revere Du- als tournament. The wrestling team and coaches would like to thank Mia Robinson, Anna Lanier, and Alaina Scavuzzo for their support and hard work keeping stats and making videos. The wrestling team also wants to advertise that they need kids 150+ lbs for next year.

Our basketball teams had good seasons this year, too. The 7th grade girls finished their season thirteen wins and three losses with Coach Josh Arbour, while the 8th grade girls ended 7-9 with Coach Amanda Corrigan. The 7th grade boys ended their season two wins and twelve losses with Coach Jason Cress. Finally, the 8th grade boy’s team ended their season with nine wins and five losses, under the coaching of Jake Brown. These stats are shown without tournament games.

(This article does not include sixth grade stats)

Weird Facts You Probably Didn’t Know About Some of Our Presidents

By Tommy Maroon

February 15th was Presidents Day and here are five weird facts about some of our presidents.

The first fact is that John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe died on the Fourth of July. The second fact is that Calvin Coolidge had a pet raccoon named Rebecca. The third fact is that when President Abraham Lincoln was killed, he had Confederate money in his pocket. The fourth fact is that John Adams skipped school and went hunting and fishing as a kid. The fifth and final fact is that President Harry S. Truman doesn’t have a middle name. He chose “S” after his grandfathers.

Happy Presidents Day!

Adventures of the Spring Bird

By Anna Potak