



# The Highlander

May 2013



Dear Parents & Guardians,

On May 4th Daisy Troop 78236 and Boy Scout Troop 1496 will be helping to beautify the Highlands grounds. Please stop by with rakes if you are willing to help out. Brownie Troop 85395 has already filled four planters in the front of the building. We are always looking for some flowers to brighten up the front and side of the building. A huge thank you goes out to these boys and girls as well as other volunteers that plan to assist on Saturday, May 4th.

Please note that field day and the Healthy Highlander events are going to be taking place shortly. Parents are reminded that they need to have a current CORI form on file in order to volunteer during these events.

Please review the calendar of events listed in this newsletter. The Spring concert on May 30th will be for students in grades 4 & 5 that play a musical instrument as well as all fifth graders as they will be singing during the concert.

We will soon be starting our second round of MCAS testing. The spring testing will be in the area of Math for students in grades 3, 4, & 5 and fifth graders will also take the Science & Technology MCAS as well. Please note the following dates:

**Grade 3: Tuesday, May 7th & Wednesday May 8th**

**Grade 4: Tuesday, May 14th & Wednesday May 15th**

**Grade 5: Thursday, May 9th & Friday, May 10th ~ Mathematics**

**Thursday, May 16th & Friday, May 17th ~ Science & Technology**

Our annual spring social was held on Friday, April 5th. There were so many wonderful prizes. A huge thanks goes out to the volunteers that worked very hard to put this event together. Also, thank you to all the parents & guardians that supported this event by purchasing items for the classroom baskets, purchasing raffle tickets, bidding on auction items and attending the event. This was once again a great success and the students at Highlands are the ones that will benefit! I also want to recognize and thank all the staff that attended the spring social and donated items for the raffle. Our students are so lucky to have such a wonderful school!

Sincerely,

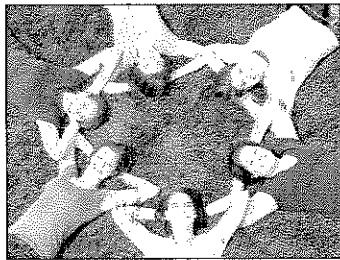
Dr. Pelletier

The children worked very hard during the English/Language Arts portion of the MCAS testing done earlier in March. I know that they will continue to put forth great effort on the testing to be completed during the month of May.

Please help your child by having them get a good night of sleep and a healthy breakfast to start each day. It is very important that your child arrives to school on time, especially during testing sessions. We are not able to interrupt the session once it has started.

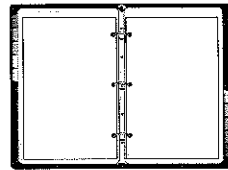
### ONE FUND BOSTON

Thank you for your donations! Our school raised \$ 387.00 in a 1day, \$1.00 fundraiser. A check will be mailed from the Highlands School Community



## TEACHER/STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK MAY 6TH. THROUGH MAY 10TH.

PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE AND DISCUSS "APPRECIATION WEEK" WITH YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN. YOU OR YOUR STUDENT MAY WANT TO PRESENT A PERSONAL NOTE, A HOMEMADE CARD, OR AN ORIGINAL PICTURE TO A SPECIAL TEACHER OR STAFF MEMBER. THIS WOULD BE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY!



### Kindergarten Parent Orientation

The date for **parents** of new incoming Kindergarten students is May 23th at 9:00AM. **Parents / Guardians** will have the opportunity to learn about the curriculum, busing issues, health forms, etc. Please pass this information on to your neighbors that have children entering in

September 2013.

Parents are also invited to attend our last PTO meeting on May 15th.





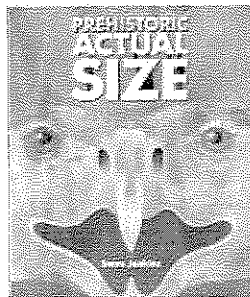
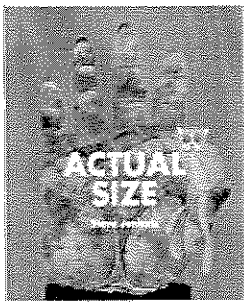
## BRAINTREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS DRESS CODE

When purchasing clothes for your children, please keep in mind the dress code of Braintree Public Schools. Students must come to school in clothing that is conducive to learning. Keeping this in mind is very important when buying summer clothing. Pants and shirts should NOT be worn in a way as to reveal undergarments or the area normally covered by undergarments. We ask that shirts, tops and dresses not expose the midriff, navel or back. Please purchase shirts that will extend beyond the top of hip hugger pants. The length of shorts and skirts should be no shorter than the longest finger when putting arms down by one's side. This dress code is consistent with the dress code for middle school and high school.

Please keep safety in mind when selecting footwear. Sandals and flip flops are not safe during physical education and recess. Shoes with wheels are not safe for school. Please remove the wheels if your child wears these shoes to school.

### Reading Ideas from Mrs. Cook

Please check out this fabulous nonfiction author/illustrator, Steve Jenkins, at [www.stevejenkinsbooks.com](http://www.stevejenkinsbooks.com). The kids really enjoy his books and you will too. You will be wowed by the artwork. Steve writes about the animal kingdom and other scientific topics for children in a way that is never condescending. Most of his books include two levels of text, one that can be managed by a beginning reader and a second that can be read by a more proficient reader, or aloud by an adult if a younger child is interested in finding out more. Thus his books span grade levels. Steve deals with topics that fascinate children, such as scale of size. A sample of his books:





## WHAT IS A TEACHER?

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In celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week May 6th through May 10th, I wish to share with you the following:

A teacher is a person dedicated to the task of teaching children. He/she provides a positive learning environment and assists children in acquiring information and skills that will contribute to their success in later years.

A teacher performs many duties on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis:

- ◇ Meets with and instructs assigned classes.
- ◇ Plans programs of study that meet the needs, interests, and abilities of students.
- ◇ Prepares for classes by organizing written lessons plans.
- ◇ Guides the learning process toward the achievement of curriculum goals.
- ◇ Employs a variety of teaching techniques to meet the needs of individual students.
- ◇ Evaluates students on a regular basis and reports progress to parents.
- ◇ Takes work home at night in order to be prepared for the next day.
- ◇ Maintains records as mandated by state laws.
- ◇ Continues to keep up-to-date on new trends in teaching by attending university classes, workshops, and conferences.

A teacher is trained to be a good listener. He/she is available to help children during times of need. A teacher is concerned about academic, physical, and social development for all children. Through the performance of the above tasks a teacher aids in this development.

### **Child Safety and Stranger Danger**

The good weather is finally here and everyone is out and about in their neighborhoods. It is a good idea to periodically review safety information with your child. We remind students that they should not speak with strangers while walking in the neighborhood or out in the community. We encourage students not to give directions to strangers or to approach a car that has slowed down. We also explain to students that it is OK to run away in the opposite direction if they are nervous or afraid and find an adult immediately. Although we don't want to invoke alarm with our children, it's important for them to know that not all adults can be trusted. As parents, you can greatly assist us by discussing stranger danger with your child. When speaking with just your family members, you can more closely monitor your child's reaction to stranger danger information. You can choose how much information and details to offer your child. You can also pick the best moments to have these kinds of discussions. Children should be encouraged to be aware of their surroundings and periodically reviewing safety information with them is important.

## May is Better Hearing and Speech Month



*You listen and talk all the time. But when is the last time you really thought about it? May is Better Hearing and Speech Month. The perfect time to communicate some important information about hearing and speech. One in six Americans has a hearing, speech, or language problem, a condition that makes it difficult to communicate with others.*

### **What is a speech language pathologist?**

A speech language pathologist is trained to assess and treat individuals with deficits related to speech, language, cognitive-communication, voice, swallowing, and fluency. Speech language pathologists work in many settings and can treat individuals across the life span, from infants to the elderly. Communication disorders typically addressed within the school system include, but are not limited to, difficulty understanding language, problems expressing language effectively, difficulty with social language conventions, problems articulating sounds correctly, and stuttering.

### **What can I do to help my child's language development?**

As a parent, you play an important role in encouraging your child's language development. Please consider the following activities to encourage development of language in all children.

#### **...in early elementary grades (K-2):**

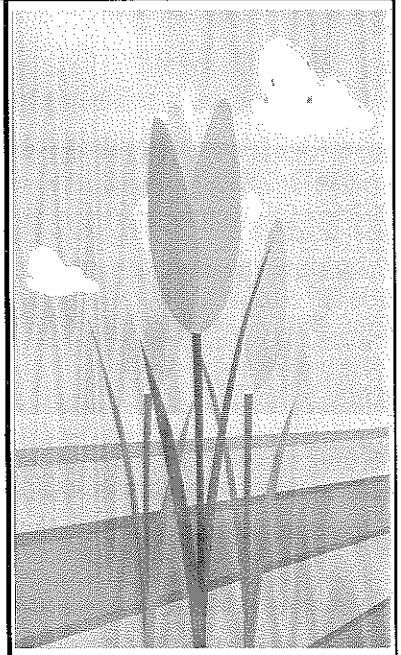
- Talk with your child frequently
- Read a variety of books; read often and talk with your child about the story
- Help your child focus on sound patterns of words such as those found in rhyming games
- Have your child retell stories and talk about events of the day
- Talk with your child during daily activities; give directions for your child to follow (e.g., making cookies)
- Talk about how things are alike and different
- Give your child reasons and opportunities to write

#### **...in later elementary grades (3-5):**

- Continue to encourage reading; find reading material that is of interest to your child
- Encourage your child to form opinions about what he or she hears or reads and relate what is read to experiences
- Help your child make connections between what is read and heard at school, at home, and in other daily activities
- Talk aloud as you help your child understand and solve problems encountered in reading material
- Help your child recognize spelling patterns, such as beginnings and endings of words (e.g., *pre-* or *-ment*)
- Encourage your child to write letters, keep a diary, or write stories



**PLANT SALE AT POND MEADOW PARK**  
The Friends of Pond Meadow Park will hold a plant and flower sale on Saturday, May 11th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the new pavilion at Pond Meadow Park. Hangers, perennials and annuals will be on sale. Hayrides and refreshments will also be available. Come, purchase your Mother's Day plant, buy perennials for your garden, take a hayride and enjoy some refreshments while helping to support Pond Meadow Park and enjoying the beauty of the park.



#### News from the School Nurse

**Please keep sending physical exam forms for students who will be in 4th grade in September! They are required by law to have a physical before attending 4th grade. Students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be screened for scoliosis 4/30-5/2. You will be contacted ONLY if your child needs follow-up.**



Don't forget to visit Highlands School Website which is constantly updated by Mr. Bruce Parks. It is a great source of information. Please go to [www.gpvillage.com/highlandsschool](http://www.gpvillage.com/highlandsschool)

#### Community Food Pantry

The food pantry is requesting canned fruit for the month of May. We will have the box outside the office to collect all donations.

## Calendar of Events ~ Highlands Elementary

May 3: Gr. 5 class picture

May 6: Sparky's Puppets Grade K

May 8: Gr. 1 field trip Big Apple Circus

May 12: Mothers' Day

May 15: PTO meeting 7:00 PM

May 17: Wax Museum, Ms. Forbes & Ms. Winders

May 22: Gr. 2 field trip to Franklin Park Zoo

May 23: Kindergarten Orientation for new 2013-2014 school year in the school café 9:00-10:00

May 24: Savings Makes Sense Gr. 3

May 27: Memorial Day—No School

May 30: Spring concert 10:00 & 1:30

May 31 Healthy Highlander Event (Rain date 6-14)

June 3 & 4: Grade 5 to Camp Bournedale

June 7: Field Day 9-2:30 (rain date 6/12)

June 11: Gr. 4 field trip to the Museum of Science

June 12: Wax Museum, Mrs. Galvin

June 13: Wax Museum, Mrs. West

June 13: Grade 5 Dinner

June 17: Wax Museum, Mrs. Donahoe

June 19: Wax Museum, Ms. Umbro & Ms. Flynn

June 19: Party in Park (more info to follow)

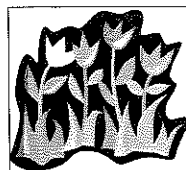
June 25: Last Day of School (Early Dismissal)

*Reminder!*

Please refrain from sending in birthday goodie bags, small gifts, etc. for the class. This can be done when you have a party outside of school. It is presenting a problem in classrooms where students are feeling "left out" if their parents do not send in gifts for the entire class when it is the child's birthday. The children come to my office to receive a special pencil and certificate in recognition of their birthday. In many instances the classroom teacher recognizes the birthday as well.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Dr. P.



### MAY PTO MEETING

The May PTO meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15th.  
at 7:00 PM.  
All are welcome !



## Announcing Recipients of the 2013 Community Inclusion Award!

The Braintree Special Education Parent Advisory Council is honoring those members of our community that have furthered the ideals of *inclusion*. After leading our school community for 22 years with a tireless commitment to inclusion this year's celebratory event will be dedicated to **Dr. Peter Kurzberg**, our retiring Superintendent.

The purpose of this award is to celebrate and recognize those individuals who support and foster inclusion in our community. Inclusion means that ALL children and youth are given equal opportunity to participate in the community. More specifically, children and youth with special needs are participating alongside their typical peers.

We are honored to be presenting this award to the following members of our community:

Braintree Special Services Out of District Coordinator

***Doreen Brids***

Braintree Boy Scout Troop 138 Leaders

***John Collier***

***Ed Fruth***

***Gerry Bouley***

***Derek Menadue***

***Jim Burke***

***Tom Walsh***

***Frank Morrissey***

Braintree South Middle School LINKS Program Staff

***Patrick Kwedor***

***Marina McHugh***

Braintree Flaherty Elementary School Principal

***Mary Struzziero***

Please join us for this celebration at the Braintree Town Hall on **Thursday, May 23rd**. The event will begin at 7pm with light refreshments and the program of speakers will begin at 7:30pm.

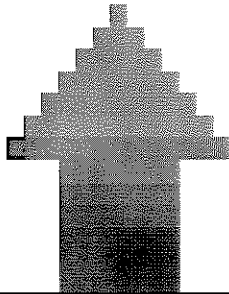
We welcome the community as a whole to attend the celebration of these exceptional individuals on May 23rd. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Community Inclusion Awards Committee

*Stefanie Brown, Lyn McPhail, Mimi Pugsley, Barbara Tennison and Kristen Zechello*



Brownie Troop 85395



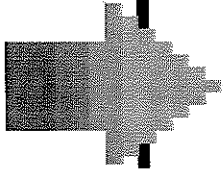
Brownie Troop, doing their part for Earth Day!

They had a blast filling the four flower planters at school and were really proud of it!

Highlands Students hosting a Lemonade Stand over the weekend. They raised \$65.00 .

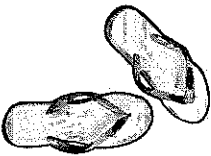
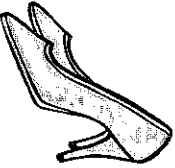
Doing their part for the ONE FUND BOSTON

Thank you,  
Jolie, Lois,  
Ashleigh & Cathleen





# Donate Your Used Shoes!



Do you have shoes that don't fit anymore?  
Do you have shoes you don't wear anymore?

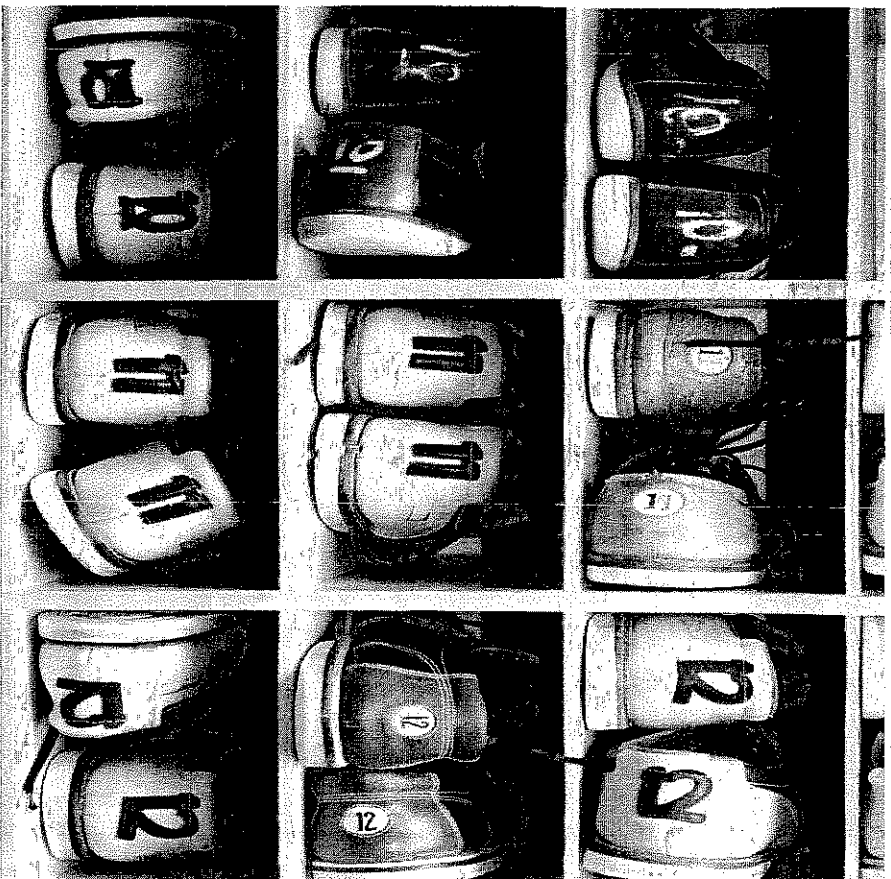
Donate them to those in need!



## APRIL 29 - MAY 10

Drop off your used shoes at the  
collection bin in school!

\*any type of shoe (sneaker, boot, sandal, etc.)  
\*all sizes! (Adult, Kids, etc.)



Summer Reading for **Students Entering Grade 6 in 2013**

Book Pre-Order Form for Jerry Spinelli's *Crash*

Dear Parent or Guardian of **5<sup>th</sup> grade** student:

In an effort to make sure students have easy access to copies of the required middle school summer reading books, we are offering copies of *Crash* for purchase through the Integrated Information (Media) Teacher in each building. If you would like to purchase a copy through this opportunity, please return the form below. We estimate that copies will cost approximately \$6 and will arrive by the end of the school year.

You and your student are not obligated to purchase the book through the school, or at all! Copies will be available at local stores and through Thayer Library, if you prefer one of those alternatives.

We hope this service is helpful to you and your child. Please enjoy the upcoming summer and our new summer reading book!

**\*FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY FRIDAY, MAY 24**

Sincerely,

Rebecca Fredericks  
Director of English & Reading, K-12

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School: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I would like to purchase a copy of *Crash* by Jerry Spinelli, the required book for all students entering Grade 6.

\_\_\_ I have attached \$6 (cash or check) for my copy of the book. Checks payable to Highlands PTO.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\*If this is a hardship for your family and you are in need of assistance, please contact Dr. Pelletier.

# Shopping Boutique

to Benefit

## "BHS All Night Grad Party"

South Middle School





May 4<sup>th</sup> 10AM - 2PM

Over 30 Crafters and Vendors with Cash & Carry Items

Great Gift Ideas for Mothers Day, First Communions and Graduations!

50/50 Raffle



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Special Entree of the Week
<p>You can now prepay and check balances and transactions online! Go to <a href="http://www.myschoolbooks.com">www.myschoolbooks.com</a> to register. Enter 02184 as the zip code and choose Braintree Public Schools. Then follow the instructions on the site.</p>	<p>Applications for free or reduced meals available at school office and at <a href="http://www.braintreeschools.org">www.braintreeschools.org</a> Price of lunch: \$2.10 (free and reduced price \$0.40 meals available for families who qualify) At a Cante Milk: \$0.50</p>	<p>1 Gilled Cheese Sandwich Soup Roasted cauliflower with parmesan cheese Steamed Broccoli Applesauce B: Scrambled Eggs</p>	<p>2 Ham and Cheese Sub Lettuce and tomato topper Condiments Potato Wedges Fruit Jell-O with or without topping B: Choice of Cereal, Yogurt</p>	<p>3 Cheesy Stuffed Crust Pizza Pears Fresh Garden Salad Baby Carrots Lite Ranch Dressing Creamy Ranch Hummus Cookie B: Egg and cheese burrito</p>	<p>Chicken Salad on a Hamburger Bun</p>
<p>6 Circo de Mayo Inspired Chicken fajita Cheese Shredded lettuce Salsas Mexical Cheddar Bean Salad Canned peaches B: Choice of Cereal Bar, Cheese Cubes</p>	<p>7 National Teacher's Day Brain-y Hot Bagel with ham and melted cheese Top of the Class Potato wedges Teacher's Pet Applesauce B: Parackets, Sausage, Syrup</p> 	<p>8 Chicken nuggels Green Beans Corn Tiny Twist Pretzels Assorted fresh and cupped fruit B: Homemade Muffin Square, yogurt</p>	<p>9 Macaroni &amp; Cheese Dinner roll Steamed broccoli Mixed Veggies Canned pears B: Mini Yogurt Parfait, Animal Crackers</p>	<p>10 Personal pizza Fresh Garden Salad Baby Carrots Lite Ranch Dressing Creamy Ranch Hummus Strawberry cup Cookie B: Egg and cheese burrito</p>	<p>Yogurt parfait with cereal and giant goldfish</p> 
<p>13 Spaghetti With or without meatballs and sauce WW Breadstick or Dinner Roll Green beans Assorted fresh and cupped fruit B: Choice of Cereal, Yogurt</p>	<p>14 Choice of Hamburger or Cheeseburger on a ww bun Tomato slices Romaine lettuce Baked sweet potatoes with cinnamon and brown sugar Applesauce B: Cereal, Sunflower Seeds, Cheese Stick</p>	<p>15 New England Turkey Wrap Broccoli salad Crispy Crunchy Chick Peas Condiments Grapes B: Hot Cheesy Bagel</p>	<p>16 Sloppy Joe on a Roll Potato wedges Corn on the Cob Ketchup Pears B: Mini parackets</p>	<p>17 Wild Mike's Pizza Cucumber circles Red pepper strips Apple Fruit Crisp Strawberries B: Ultimate Breakfast Round</p>	<p>Chicken Caesar Wrap</p>
<p>20 RIBBQ on a whole wheat bun Lettuce &amp; Tomato Toppers Homemade Baked Beans Assorted fruit B: Choice of Cereal, Cheese Cubes, Yogurt</p>	<p>21 Southwest Chilled Chicken Wrap Rice Corn on the Cob Canned pears B: Bagel, Light Cream Cheese</p> 	<p>22 Celebrate Strawberry Month Gilled Cheese Sandwich Potato wedges Strawberry &amp; Spinach Salad Assorted fruit B: Snakh Waffle</p> 	<p>23 Spirals and Trees with Chicken Breadstick Roasted cauliflower with parmesan Fresh Grapes B: Mini Parackets</p>	<p>24 Personal Pizza Fresh Garden Salad Baby Carrots Lite Ranch Dressing Assorted fresh and cupped fruit Cookie B: Mini Yogurt Parfait, Choice of Cereal, Sunflower seeds</p>	<p>Ham and Cheese Sandwich</p>
<p>27 Memorial Day No School</p>	<p>28 Memorial Day Inspired Cook-out style Mini burgers Romaine lettuce Tomato slice Condiments Commemorative Corn cobble Pears B: Scrambled Eggs</p>	<p>29 Soft Taco Cheese Salsa Shredded Romaine Lettuce Lowfat Sour Cream Peaches B: Scrambled Eggs</p>	<p>30 Whole Wheat French Toast Sticks Sausage links Syrup Tator Tots Applesauce B: Wheat Bagel, Light Cream Cheese</p>	<p>31 Domino's Smart Slice Pizza Cucumber circles Red pepper strips Light Ranch Dip Midnight Chocolate Cake w frosting Assorted fruit B: Choice of Cereal Bar, Cheese Cubes</p>	<p>Chicken Salad on Hamburger Bun</p>

## Braintree Elementary School Lunch and Breakfast Menu

May 2013

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
WITHOUT NOTICE  
(All Weekly Specials include  
fruit, veggie and milk)

**Did you know ...**  
The month of May  
celebrates national  
awareness of  
physical fitness and  
sports. In addition to  
eating well, regular  
exercise is  
encouraged as part of  
an overall healthy  
lifestyle.

Available as entree choices  
every day:  
PBJ (SBJ at Highlands)  
Fresh Garden Salad with Whole  
wheat pita pocket  
Bagel, sunbutter, cream cheese  
Assorted fruits and veggies, are  
included with every meal every  
day & may also be sold as  
snacks for \$.50.  
White skin and white 1% milk  
available for grades K-5 & fat  
free chocolate milk available  
grades 2-5 (3-5 at Morrison)  
every day with meal or ala carte.  
\*B: = Breakfast. All breakfasts  
include 100% Fruit Juice, Fruit  
and choice of Milk.