

Calendar

Monday, Dec. 19	Piano Lessons- Community Ed.	4:00-7:00	Room 5
Tuesday, Dec. 20	Highlands Choir	8:30-9:15	Room 10/11
	Real World Spanish - Community Ed	3:55-4:55	Room 28
Wednesday, Dec. 21	No after school activities		
Thursday, Dec. 22	Winter Break- No School		
Friday, Dec. 23	Winter Break- No School		

Field Trips -

Mon. Dec. 19	Prowell/Pusey	Old Log Theater	9:25-11:45
Tues. Dec. 20	Baier/Racek	Midtown Global Market	9:30-11:45

LINKS

Notes from the Principal

12/16/11

An important part of our mission at Highlands is to ensure the positive and healthy development of our children. This is a complex task, but as a community it is one of our most important tasks.

The work of Dr. Peter Benson is an excellent model of how a community can work together to foster the positive and healthy development of young people. Dr. Benson has identified 40 assets that help young people develop in a healthy manner. These assets are grouped into external assets and internal assets.

The external assets are grouped in four categories.

1. Support

- Family support - A family life that provides high levels of love and support for the child.
- Positive family communication - The young person and her or his parents communicate positively, and the young person is willing to seek parents advice and counsel.
- Other adult relationships - The young person receives support from three or more non-parent adults.
- Caring neighborhood - The young person experiences caring neighbors.
- Caring school climate - School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
- Parent involvement in schooling - Parents are actively involved in helping the young person succeed in school.

2. Empowerment

- Community values youth - The young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
- Youth as resources - Young people are given useful roles in the community.
- Community service - The young person serves useful roles in the community.
- Safety - The young person feels safe at home, school and in the neighborhood.

3. Boundaries and Expectations

- Family Boundaries - The family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the child's whereabouts.
- School boundaries - The school provides clear rules and consequences.
- Neighborhood boundaries - Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring children's behavior.
- Adult role models - Parents and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.
- Positive peer influence - Young person's best friends model responsible behavior.
- High expectations - Both parents and teachers encourage the young person to do well.

4. Constructive Use of Time

- Creative Activities - The young person spends time each week in lessons of practice in music, theater or other arts.

- Youth programs - The young person spends time each week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in community organizations.
- Religious community - Young person spends time each week in activities in a religious institution.
- Time at home - The young person is engaged with family members and/or has meaningful activities to do at home.

The assets are important to us as a community, because they provide us with opportunities to influence the development of our children in a positive way. Next week we will look at the internal assets and how they benefit our children.

Peter Hodne

The new Highlands T-shirt went on sale this week during Impact Lives. The kids are loving them, so we are extending sales until winter break. They will be on sale during lunch time on Monday and Tuesday of next week. If you would like to purchase a t-shirt as a gift and keep it a surprise, contact Sue Teien 612-508-7358, to place an order. We will make arrangements to get it directly to you.

The shirts cost \$10, and \$1 will continue to go towards Impact Lives.

Thank you for supporting the Highlands SPIRIT, and Impact Lives. Going forward the Highlands Site Council plans to continue t-shirt sales with \$1 going to various service projects the kids are involved in.

Thank you and Happy Holidays! from all of the Highlands Site Council.

IMPACTLIVES

A million thanks to everyone -- students, staff, and parents -- who participated in **ImpactLives** yesterday. The day was a wonderful success! We surpassed our fundraising goal, and, more importantly, we packed **55.080 meals**, which is enough to feed 255 families in Haiti for a month.

Edina Public Schools

presents

Legislative Dialogue

A legislative forum for understanding the upcoming 2012 session

This is your opportunity to learn about the District's current priorities, and voice your questions and concerns to area legislators and District administrators.

Thursday, January 5th, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Edina Community Center, Room 350

(Light snacks provided)

Agenda

- Welcome
- Edina Public Schools Update and Legislative Priorities – Ric Dressen, Superintendent
- Working with your Legislator - Representative Keith Downey, Representative Pat Mazorol, and State Senator Geoff Michel
 - Legislative priorities
 - Education issues from a legislative perspective
 - Communicating effectively with your legislators
- Community Dialogue
- Closing Remarks – Ric Dressen

**Edina Public Schools
2012 Minnesota Legislative Priorities**

Edina Public Schools works closely with the Minnesota School Boards Association, the Association of Metropolitan School Districts, and the Minnesota Association of School Administrators in advocating for early childhood through adult learning education. The District recognizes that the priorities of these organizations also support the interests of Edina Public Schools. The District's major priorities for the 2012 Minnesota legislative session include the following:

1. Provide a plan for stabilizing funding for Minnesota school districts.

- Maintain current public education funding levels in the upcoming legislative session.
- Provide mechanisms for school districts to contain increasing costs.
- Pursue an alternative school funding model that will provide adequate and equitable funding for Minnesota school districts.

2. Increase the independence of school districts with accountability.

- Modify and reduce mandates that cause school districts to be overregulated.
- Allow school districts to have greater flexibility in determining their school learning year, including the mandated after-Labor Day start date.
- Focus on emphasizing statutory changes that will enhance the academic success of student learning.
- Reduce mandates that limit school districts in being innovative and creative in responding to today's world in a timely manner.

3. Create and maintain the highest quality educational work force.

- Modify the educator evaluation program to ensure the program aligns to researched best practices.
- Maintain and enhance the alternative teacher professional pay system.

4. Create a 2020 Educational Vision for the State of Minnesota.

- Understand and plan for the demographic and societal changes occurring in Minnesota.
- Understand and plan for the educational enhancements that must occur in public education.
- Align funding and policy to the educational vision of the State.

What: Ada Alden; "The Parent Teacher partnership; A necessary relationship for success."

What can parents do to support, prepare and establish a positive learning environment in their home? When and why is it wise to say "NO! not at our house." Why is it important to have home schedules, routines, and a sense of predictability? The home can be the anchor point from which a child may risk and celebrate a successful educational journey.

Specific practical suggestions and techniques will help parents establish a home agenda that will help ensure the optimal development of their child. Purposeful and attentive parents establish "School Smart" Homes.

Be sure to check Community Opportunities for Youth on the [EPS Facebook page](#)

Table captains needed for the Edina Education Fund Show and Tell

On Monday February 6, 2012 the Edina Education Fund will be hosting the 5th Annual Show & Tell Event at St. Patrick's Church. We are looking for individuals to serve as Table Captains for this year's event. As a Table Captain you will be asked to fill a table of 8 people by personally inviting friends, family, neighbors, colleagues and anyone with whom you would like to show the Ed Fund's work and the great things the Ed Fund does for our schools and kids. The Ed Fund's goal is to reach as many new people as possible.

- ~ Your job is to invite new faces, the Ed Fund will inspire them
- ~ You will be given a kit to walk you thru your job as a table captain
- ~ We will be here to offer help and answer question
- ~ Best of all the bag lunch is provided by the Ed Fund

If you are willing to help please contact Kristin Karpinsky - Table Captain Chair at kakarpinsky@hotmail.com or Barb Bloom - committee member at barbbloom@mac.com.

Thanks for your continued help.

School's out December 21!
Drop the kids off at the Edina Community Center on Thursday, Dec 22 and finish shopping!!!

Click on the class title for more details and to register online

[Build It, Race It, Fly It - Abrakadoodle](#) ages 5-10, 9 am- 3pm (bring a lunch!)

[My Favorite Doll's Fashion Show - Abrakadoodle](#) ages 4-9, 1-4 pm

[3,2,1 . . . Blast Off! - Abrakadoodle](#) ages 3-6, 9am-12pm

[Fun in the Winter](#) ages 2 ½-6, 12:30-3 pm

There isn't enough room here to list all the other great choices coming up on
December 27, 28 & 29th for ages 5-12.

Visit our website to view all the details and register online. Click on the link below.

[Winter Break Classes](#)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

www.edina.thatscommunityed.com

952-848-3952 www.edinacommunityed.org

Trivia Corner

Kittens can clock an amazing 31 mph at full speed and cover about 3 times their body length per leap

Americans consume about 138 billion cups of coffee a year.

The electric eel's shocking power is so great that it can overtake its victims while 15 feet away

On this Day 1773 - The Boston Tea Party took place as nearly 350 chests of tea were dumped off Griffin's Wharf into Boston Harbor as Colonial patriots, disguised as Indians, protested taxation without representation and the monopoly granted the East India Company.

**"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish."
- John Quincy Adams**