



Highwood Hills

Elementary School

Dear Families:

As we close the calendar year and open another one, there is no better time to extend our appreciation than now. This month's message from me will largely center on appreciation and "counting our blessings."

Calendar of Events

December

- 13 Karen New Year
- 19 Common Ground Conversations
- 23 - 31 Winter Break
NO SCHOOL

January

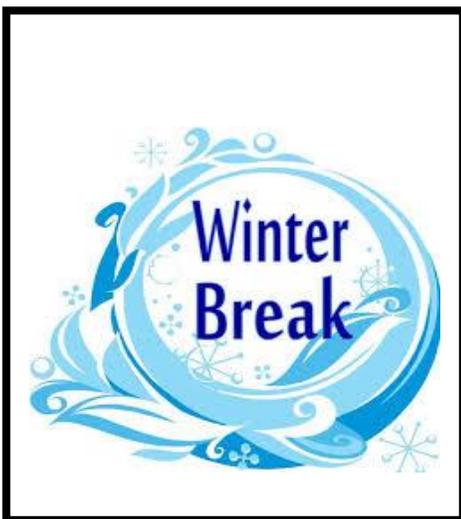
- 1 New Year's Day -NO SCHOOL
- 16 Common Ground Conversations
- 20 Martin Luther King's Day
NO SCHOOL
- 24 Professional Day for Teachers - NO SCHOOL
- 25 School Choice Fair- Union Depot 9:30AM - 2PM

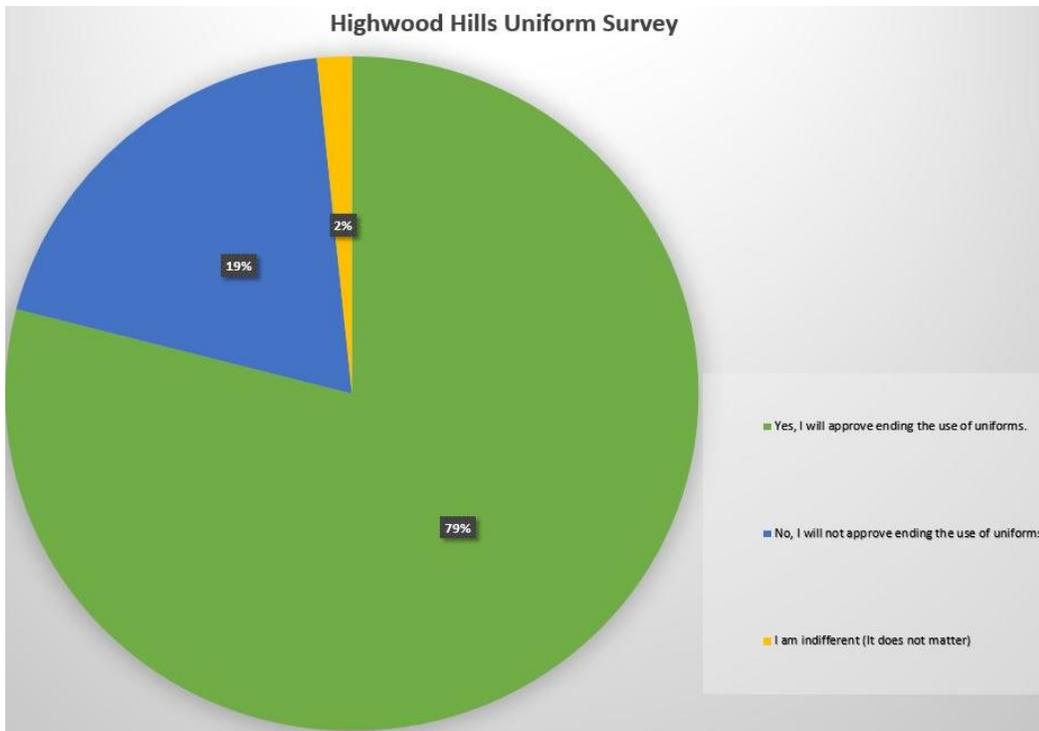
Thanks to all those who attended our recently concluded fall conferences! It was good to confer with you. We had over 90% attendance!!! Book fair will resume during Spring Conferences!

I don't believe that I've acknowledged the work that our parents are doing behind the scenes to get our students prepared for school every day, so I am doing so via this medium. I also want to acknowledge all those families who come to school every day to help their young children during breakfast time. Special thanks to Sh'Hassan Khadeeja and Ali's mom for her generosity and kindness in volunteering in her children's classroom and for other activities, and to Mrs. Farhiya Dubow, Najma, Nadwa and Nasteho's mom for volunteering in the classroom and lunchroom especially during critical times. We appreciate your partnership and contributions to our school and community! We look forward to collaborating with all of you during our forthcoming Common Ground Conversations meeting, as we work together to set the next SCIP goals and determine the most critical needs for our students. This meeting will also outline an overview of math and reading programs at Highwood Hills

I would like to thank parents for their cooperation and understanding with our drop off and pick up procedures. Please remember to NOT park in the drive area for busses. We had a very close call this week when a car skidded and would have run into a group of students being dismissed if not for some quick thinking on the part of other onlookers. It is very imperative for all of us to adhere to these simple expectations and only park in the parking lot when coming to drop off or pick up your student. We do not want to resort to getting Transportation or the Transit Authorities involved. It is very important to remember that the safety/well-being of your child and others is very critical. We really crave your indulgence in this matter.

You have spoken and we have listened. Following an overwhelming request that Highwood Hills discontinue the use of uniforms due to the immense difficulty families are facing getting the appropriate uniforms, cost effectiveness, etc. a survey was conducted and the result (copied below) shows that the general consensus is to discontinue enforcing the use of uniforms at Highwood Hills starting from the 2020/21 school year. Families who wish to continue to send their students to school in the school uniform colors may still do so. So, NO UNIFORMS officially as from next school year!





I hope that you and your families will have happy holidays. Best wishes for the New Year!
 Please remember to access this newsletter in our website as well at www.highwoodhills.spps.org.

Respectfully,

Fatima Lawson

Fatima Lawson, Ph.D.
 Principal

Highwood Hill's and St. Paul District's ATTENDANCE POLICY

When students are not in school, they cannot learn. Please make sure that your children attend school *every* school day, except in cases of illness, doctor and dentist appointments that cannot be made after school hours, religious holidays, and family emergencies. If absences of more than 2 days occur due to illness, a doctor's note may be requested.

Your child WILL NOT be excused for babysitting, oversleeping, missing the bus, travel, weather conditions, or visiting relatives. If it becomes imperative for families to travel, please complete a Travel Request Form for approval by the principal. Please also note that students must make up any work missed as a result of the travel.

We are required to contact the Ramsey County Truancy Intervention Program after five (5) non-excused days. This is a District /State Policy and is enforced.