

Highland Families,

Fourth Quarter Notes...

We are in the home stretch of our school year with less than forty days of school left. These are important days for instruction and academic growth. Please continue to work with your student and communicate the importance of attendance and learning. April 16th is a day off for students and a professional development day for teachers. Graduation will take place on May 23rd, outdoors if weather allows. The final day of school for students is May 27th. As always, we have a number of events between now and then so visit our website frequently for updates.

Budget

Weld Re-9 has a fiscal year that starts on July 1st and goes through June, so, we are working on our budget for the next fiscal year. Our district has received stimulus dollars from the federal government. Since this is one-time revenue, our challenge is to keep our expenses low enough that we don't operate in the negative once the stimulus dollars are gone. The board of directors have created a master plan for projects and we will continue to improve our physical plant. We are also aware of the responsibility of spending tax payer dollars and will do our best to be good stewards of these funds. I will provide more detail as the budget develops.

Legislation

We are following a list of education bills at the state level. A few impactful bills are worth mentioning. House Bill 1104 would increase the length of a teaching license from five years to seven years. House Bill 1164 is the Total Program Mill Levy Tax Credit. If this bill is passed, property owners would see a tax increase of one mill per year for approximately 10 years. Senate Bill 182 is a student discipline bill that changes the state law related to school discipline, including district policies, data reporting, student supports and law enforcement on school grounds. It would restrict police officers and student resource officers in school buildings. Furthermore, it creates additional reporting requirements and a financial expense to the district to provide additional staff training.

Paul Harvey

If you are not in the neighborhood of 50 years old, you probably didn't get the privilege of listening to Paul Harvey on an AM radio. As I remember it, Paul came on about noon each day and we stopped everything to listen to his message. I miss his voice and his wisdom. As it goes, both can be relived through YouTube and while it isn't quite the same, it is worth taking the time to listen too. For starters, I recommend his message titled "America the Beautiful" and his "Easter Message" is timely as well. Enjoy your holiday.