



# HIGHLANDERS



Southwestern Elementary

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## Raising Readers: What Parents Can Do

Learning to read takes practice. Loving to read takes enthusiasm. Parents can create a sense of enjoyment, wonder, and a passion for reading within their child. Below are a few things that can be done at home to create readers.

1. **Read together every day.** This can be at breakfast reading the morning news, sharing a story in the evening, or reading a book at bedtime. A daily reading routine creates a reading habit and excitement for reading.
2. **Talk and build vocabulary.** Having interesting conversations with your child builds vocabulary, language skills, and knowledge about the world.
3. **Point out print.** Read and talk about the words around you—signs, recipes, cereal boxes, instruction manuals, schedules, news, maps, menus and much more.
4. **Visit the library.** Take advantage of all the books, materials, story times, programs, and resources in the library.
5. **Be an active reader.** Use expressive voices for characters, make sound effects, and point things out in the text and illustrations to make reading fun.
6. **Ask questions when you read.** Ask open ended questions while reading about the story such as 'What comes next?', 'what is going on in the picture?', or 'what clues tells you what is going to happen?'
7. **Try different approaches to reading** such as having them read to you, act out a favorite part of a story, take turns reading, read outside during nice weather. You can make reading more memorable and create long lasting memories through reading.

**Reading is an important skill for life but it can also be enjoyable and a life long joy.** (nea.org)

## Strategies for Improving Math Skills

At times Math can seem overwhelming for students. You can do some activities to enrich and relate to math in every day life. Below are some strategies that you can help improve your child's math skills without being a whiz at Math yourself.

1. **General Math:** compare prices (which costs the most, how much more), read the days, dates, and number of days left on the calendar, let your child count out change to buy something.
2. **Computation:** Count orally by 2's, 5's, 10's, Complete connect-the-dot pictures, count objects and determine if there's an odd or even number, Give your child verbal math problems such as take 5 and add 6. multiply by 2, etc.
3. **Geometry:** Look for different shapes (circles, triangles, squares & rectangles) and identify them, fold paper or napkins in different shapes, Use items to construct shapes
4. **Measurement:** Let your child help measure ingredients, weigh fresh produce when shopping, measure objects in length, height. Use vocabulary such as wider, heaviest, less, more, etc.
5. **Problem Solving:** Encourage solving answers to real-life situations—we have 1 can of pop, how many more do we need to have one for everyone in the family?, 7 children share 49 pieces of candy. How many does each get?

**With your help, encouragement, and practice your child will become comfortable with math and succeed.** (<https://www.nwea.org/>)

## LINE DANCING

The Highlanders have been learning how to make Healthy Choice all year by eating healthy, making smart choices, and exercise. OSU Extension agent, Erin Dailey visited the program and taught Line Dancing as a choice to use for physical activity. The children loved dancing to the music.



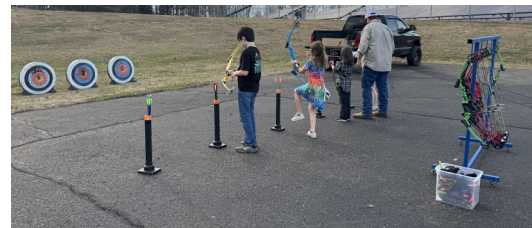
## SUPERHERO Reading & Math Literacy

On March 13, the Highlanders held their Super Heros Numeracy and Literacy night. Parents and student were invited to various stations that engage their minds in Math or Reading. The station Make an Animal a SuperHero involved making a stuffed animal and then transforming it to a superhero, then creating a story for that superhero. Another station called Try the Sunday Scoop, children choose their drumstick and learned probably in math. In Apocalypse Archery Scoring superheroes learned how to tabulate their scores in Archery.



## Archery Is Back

The Highlanders enjoyed Archery so much that they asked Eric Clary from the Conservation Club to return. Students picked up and improved archery skills with this visit. They say PRAC-TICE MAKES PRE-FECT.



## Designing a Garden

On February 4th, Traci Winters from OSU Extension Office visited the Highlanders program. She discussed different types of seeds, the care, and environment that is needed for the plants to grow. They planted seeds such as peas, lettuce, and spinach. After the session the students placed their seed trays in their grow station to watch and tend to. In the Spring, the students will be able to take the seedlings home to transplant and enjoy their produce.



## Daily Intervention

After snack and attendance, Highlanders report to their rooms for some extra intervention in Reading and Math with their day school teachers. The students enjoy this special time with their teachers outside of the regular school day.



## Chilling with Kona Ice

Highlanders always look forward to the Kona Ice visit at the end of the program. YUM!!





## Soil & Water Conservation Visit

The Highlanders brought in the Soil & Water Conservation District, Tiffany Reihm, to talk about life cycles. Students discussed life cycles and types of wild life that has life cycles. Mrs. Reihm provided kits that included a wooden puzzle for the Stag Beetle's life cycle. As the students worked through the kit students could see how the beetle changed forms though out it's life. She brought Easter Eggs and talked about the cycle of the chicken. Students enjoyed the hands on activity of cycles.



## Easter Baskets

The Highlanders had a drawing for students that attended 30+ days in the program to receive an Easter basket. The winners are pictured below which are Landon Skidmore, Connor Lambert, Alex Duty were the winners.



## Committed Highlanders

The Highlanders program had the majority of their students committed to attending the program. The program had an 83% of registered students to attend at least 30 days or more. The students below are some of the students that attend- ed 50+ days this year.



## The Hunt is One!

The Highlanders ended the program with an Easter Egg Hunt. Students were divided by grade levels and hunted candy filled eggs in their designated areas. Everyone enjoyed the activity.

