



# RAIDER WEEKLY

McCulloch Intermediate School and Highland Park Middle School

**Thank you Meredith Bjorck Real Estate Team for sponsoring  
Raider communications!**

**MB**  
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AllieBethAllman™ & Associates  
A BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY AFFILIATE

[www.alliebeth.com/bio/meredithbjorck](http://www.alliebeth.com/bio/meredithbjorck)

January 26, 2025

## **Message from the Principal**

Dear Raider Nation,

I hope this message finds you well after a restful weekend! Thank you for your patience last week as our drop-off lines were extra slow due to the cold

temperatures and an increase in cars. In addition, on Friday, Golf was closed while the city was repairing some utilities. When we see that the traffic is heavy, we do not count students tardy until several minutes after 8:00 am, so we hope that lessens a little bit of your stress. **On the Granada side of the school, we are hoping to alleviate some of the backup that develops on High School by opening an additional door for students further west and near the bike racks. We encourage cars to pull up as far as possible in the Granada drop-off lane, and we ask that drivers do not stop at the very first door if there is room to pull forward toward the next door. By making this adjustment, we can have many more cars dropping off at one time.**

Last week, I shared with you that we are having an issue with several students who arrive at school without their ID badge, which is required to enter the school. Our security guards are required to check for ID for anyone who enters the school each day, and they are now having students write their names on a list if they arrive without their badge. **Starting Monday, any student who arrives without their badge will sign the list and be required to call home to parents to bring their badge to school. These students will also be issued a detention.** The same issue persists in the cafeteria where the ID badge is required to be scanned to pay for lunch. Without their badge, students must tell the cashiers their number, which slows down the lines. We are asking teachers to remind students to have their badge ready before heading to the cafeteria, and we will be sending them back to their classrooms to get their badges before getting lunch since the majority say they left them in their backpacks when asked where they are. We believe that having their student ID to enter the school each day and to purchase their lunch are small asks that require minimal effort. Please help us by speaking with your students about showing responsibility and integrity by following expectations.

**[Parent Input Form](#)**- Please use this form to submit constructive questions, concerns, or suggestions that may benefit our two schools.

Sincerely,

*Amanda Reyes*

Amanda Reyes  
Principal  
214-780-3600  
**[@prinrey2019](#)**



- **January 29:** 8th Grade Cheerleading Parent Meeting
- **January 29:** 5th Grade Coffee Talk
- **January 30:** 7th Grade Coffee Talk
- **February 4:** PTO General Membership Meeting
- **February 17:** Presidents' Day (Student Holiday)



- Review the Traffic Guidelines [HERE](#).
- Review the Student Handbook & Dress code (page 9) [HERE](#).
- Sign up for a volunteer shift [HERE](#).
- Add money to your student's lunch account [HERE](#).

## 2025-2026 PTO: Proposed Slate Available to Review

The Nominating Committee met on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, and will present the proposed 2025-26 slate of MIS/HPMS PTO Officers and Chairs to the PTO Board of Directors. The Board will vote on the slate at its meeting on Tuesday, February 4. Click [HERE](#) to view the proposed Board of Directors. This is also posted on the PTO website for convenience.

Please thank members of the nominating committee:

Margaret Kelley  
Alexa Snelleman  
Kitsy Smith  
Amy Barker  
Brandi Jane Graham  
Claire Swope  
Meredith Baird  
Ann Higginbottom  
Catherine Baldwin  
Nicole Vanderstorm

Kristin Evans  
Rachel Stephens  
Allison Small  
Jill Morrison  
Jessica Hoffmann  
Karen Glassman  
Laura Terry  
Elizabeth Rafael  
Karina Lonsdale-Hands  
Mary Margaret Neff  
Rochelle Mayfield  
GeeGee Hammel

Any questions? Please contact nominating chairs, Margaret Kelley and Alexa Snelleman at [nominating@mishpmspto.org](mailto:nominating@mishpmspto.org)



**5th Grade Coffee Talk**

**Wednesday, January 29 at 8:30 am**

**5/6 Assembly Room**

**Topic: "Tech & Tweens: Parenting Smarter than the Devices"**

Dr. Ben Kirby, an educator of 17 years and a parent of three children will guide us through how technology is a powerful portal for learning and also a pitfall of temptations. Topics will include brain research, emotional health, strategies for family decisions, device introduction, peer groups, and social media.

"Less is More" parent group will also be present for ongoing resources and support.

**7th Grade Coffee Talk**

**Thursday, January 30 at 8:30 am**

**7/8 Assembly Room**

**Topic: "Healthy Habits for your Teenager"**

Come learn from fellow HPMS mom and local pediatrician Dr. Tana Roberts as she discusses smart phone recommendations, nutrition and appropriate sleep schedules for growing teens, as well as mental health tips to help them navigate middle school.

\*Look for 6th grade coffee talk information coming soon!

Thank you to Geneva M. Williams and Mendrygal Law PLLC  
for sponsoring our coffee talks.



Genevra M. Williams  
Mendrygal Law PLLC



Please Join Us for Our February PTO Meeting

**Tuesday, February 4**  
**12 - 1pm (lunch service begins at 11:45am)**  
**7/8 Assembly Room**

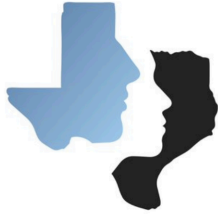
**Guest Speaker:**  
**Mark Rowden**  
**Chief of Police**

"Rumors, Social media and Cell phones"  
as well as a Q and A



Thank you to our community sponsor, Johnson Oral Facial Surgery,  
for generously providing lunch at our February PTO meeting.

got wisdom teeth?



JOHNSON  
ORAL FACIAL SURGERY

**TAG Waiver Application (Current 8th Graders)**



**HPHS  
2025**

**TAG WAIVER APPLICATION**

TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY, CHECK OUT  
[www.hpsd.org/tagwaiver](http://www.hpsd.org/tagwaiver)

**DUE FEBRUARY 14**

**APPLY NOW**





The application will open on January 27 and close on February 14.

## SEPAC Valentine's Day Fundraiser



### VALENTINE'S GIFT SALE FOR HPISD TEACHERS & STAFF

Show Your Love to Staff Members During the Valentine's Day Notecard Sale!

Recognize special teachers and staff members by purchasing a Valentine's Day gift! The sale features packs of blank notecards with the theme "Kindness" for \$7 each or 4 packs for \$25. Our teachers and staff are always in need of blank notecards for use throughout the year for thank you notes and sending words of encouragement to students and each other. Ordering is easy. Just click [HERE](#).

Each notecard pack purchased will have the staff member(s) you choose and your family name as recognition of the gift. The Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) will take care of delivery, so this is a super easy way to show your support and treat our amazing teachers and staff!

Deadline to order is **February 5** or when our stock runs out, so please hurry! We have ***limited quantities available***.

*Money raised funds school materials, technology, events, and education that benefit special education teachers and students within HPISD.*

Thank you for your support!  
2024-25 SEPAC Board

## Spelling Bee

The school's top 34 spellers from grades 5 through 8 competed against each other in the annual HPISD District Spelling Bee.

We had a long evening of intense competition with students spelling words like ***grimoire*** and ***oblocutor*** with ease. After a lot of back-and-forth, we crowned **Jacob Gekhter**, an eighth grader in Ms. Cruz's ELA class, and **Stella Chen**, a sixth grader in Ms. Johnson's ELA class as **co-champions**! Both outstanding students will represent Highland Park ISD in the Dallas County

Public School Spelling Bee next month here at Highland Park Middle School. Also, I'd like to recognize **Harrison Gibbons**, a fifth grader in Mrs. Thomas's ELA class, and **Mary Doran Cosgrove**, an eighth grader in Mrs. Janik's ELA class as our two runners-up. An extra spell-off determined that Harrison will be the district's alternate should our either co-champion not be able to participate.

Congratulations to our two winners, our two runners-up, and the other 30 spellers who stayed after school and stayed late into the evening to compete in this year's bee.



## Tree Planted in Atrium

We want to extend a big Raider "Thank you!" to Sam Hill Tree Care for donating their labor and a beautiful tree for our school atrium. The tree is planted in loving memory of **Lucas Cole**, class of 2012.

Sam Hill Tree Care is the tree and plant health care leader serving Dallas and the surrounding communities since 1998. We provide our clients with exceptional tree and plant health care services that are effective, evidence-based, and custom-tailored to our clients' needs.





## Attention 7th Grade Parents: Is Your Student Interested in 8th Grade Cheerleading?

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for (audience)? Why should they care (benefit)? What do I want them to do (call-to-action)?

Create a great offer by adding words like "free," "personalized," "complimentary," or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take action, so consider inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"

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Does your student want to be an 8th grade cheerleader for the 2025-2026 school year?

If so, please save the date of Wednesday, **January 29**, at 6:30pm for a mandatory parent meeting at HPMS in the 7/8 Assembly Room. Students are welcome to attend.

Please contact [Erika Hultsman](#) with questions.

## Raider Cafeteria

**In the Rockin' Raider Cafe  
Please don't let the kids dismay!  
When you show up late  
Kids won't have any food on their plate!**

Just a very friendly reminder to please be on time at **10:20am**. People have been showing up very late and we can't open the doors without volunteers in place. Thank you everyone for all the amazing help this year!

Please email [Katherine Issel](#) & [Tracy Port Melech](#)  
Raider Café Volunteer Chairs

## Raider Shop Volunteers Needed

Volunteers still needed for reoccurring shifts and substitutes welcome! Click [HERE](#) to volunteer!

**Volunteer in the  
Raider Shop!**



Questions? Raider Shop Volunteer Chairs [Laura Price](#) or [Brooke Garner](#).

# Sports

## RAIDER BASKETBALL

### Girls

Please congratulate our 7th grade basketball girls on a clean sweep!

**7th Grade  
Red Team Wins:**  
14-4  
MVPs: Hadlin Honea

**7th Grade  
White Team Wins:**  
37-5  
MVPs: Margot  
Munding and Molly  
Harper

**7th Grade  
Gold Team Wins:**  
55-11  
MVPs: Ella Marie Hooks  
and Ellie Townsend



Please congratulate your 8th grade girls basketball team on their wins against Prosper Hays! The last home game will be played at the High School. We would love to see you there!

**8th Grade  
Red Team Wins:**  
34-7  
MVP: Presley Miller

**8th Grade Team  
White Wins:**  
42-9  
MVP: Loftin Jones

**8th Grade Team  
Gold Winss:**  
44-24  
MVP: Maggie Birdwell

## Boys

Your 7th grade boys basketball teams played last week on the road against Prosper Reynolds. The White team got things rolling against a tough team. Leading the way for the White team were **Doug Owens**, **Jeb Olmstead** and **Marcum Enfield**. The Red Team played hard and finished the night out with a win. Leading your Raiders were **Stone Andrews**, and **Jackson Mitzel**. The Gold Team played a tough Reynolds team. Leading the way for the Raiders were **Chase Merrick** and **Charlie Bradbury**.

**7th Grade  
Red Team Wins:**  
38-28



**7th Grade  
Gold Team Loses:**  
48-50



**7th Grade  
White Team Wins:**  
35-32



Your 7th grade boys basketball continued their season at home against Prosper Hays. The White team got things rolling with a total team effort. Leading the way for the White team were the three guys down low, **Duncan Swope** with 12 points, **Doug Owens** with 10, and **William Foster** with 8 points. The Red Team played hard. Leading your Raiders were **Jackson Mitzel** with 14 points, **Drew Prine** with 8 points, and **Benjamin Christy** with 7 points. The Gold Team bounced back with a good performance against Hays. Leading the way for the Raiders were **William Beckett** with 17 points, **Chase Merrick** with 14 points, and **Hudson McClain** with 9 points. Your Raiders will be back in action at Prosper Jones next Monday! Please come out and support!

**7th Grade  
Red Team Wins:**  
50-17

**7th Grade  
Gold Team Wins:**  
71-33

**7th Grade  
White Team Wins:**  
62-7

Please congratulate the 8th grade boys basketball team on their clean sweep of Prosper Hays! Tuesday, January 28th we will play at Highland Park High School against Prosper Jones and will also be having Teacher Appreciation Night. Our players have been passing out invitations to both former and current teachers of theirs to come join us. We would love your support as this is their final home basketball game as Raiders!



**8th Grade  
Red Team Wins:**  
63-15

Logan Jones- 12 points  
Hayes Durham- 12  
points  
Parker Arviso- 11 points

**8th Grade  
Gold Team Wins:**  
84-45

Scott Young- 14 points  
Jacob Green- 13 points  
Luke Johnson- 10 points  
Steel Roy- 10 points  
Charlie Petet- 9 points  
Bear Anderson- 9 points  
\*All 10 players scored

**8th Grade  
White Team Wins:**  
57-10

Baker Brown- 11 points  
Layton Thomas- 10  
points  
\*13 players in the scoring  
column



Toughness Belt Co-Award Winners are **Luke Meyer & Graham McCants**. Meyer showed mental toughness in sparking the offense after a slow individual start in the first quarter while McCants had a number of steals and stops on the defensive end of the floor.

## Cheers to Raider Volunteers

Thank you to **Mindy Hefty**, **School Grounds Chair**, for overseeing the planting of a beautiful new tree in our atrium. You worked so hard to secure the donation and ensure the tree will have the right environment and irrigation to

thrive for years to come. Raider Nation is thankful to have such a knowledgeable and dedicated Grounds Chair who is always planning ways to make our campus more green and beautiful.

## **Spelling Bee**

### **GO RAIDERS!**

Kitsy Smith  
MIS PTO President

Amy Barker  
HPMS PTO President

## **News to Share**

### **A.L.L. Spring Catalog**





## **THE ACADEMY FOR LIFELONG LEARNING**

Highland Park Independent School District

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### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

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**SPRING 2025**

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**EDUCATIONAL AND  
ENRICHMENT  
CLASSES FOR EVERYONE!  
CALL 214-780-3380 TO REGISTER**

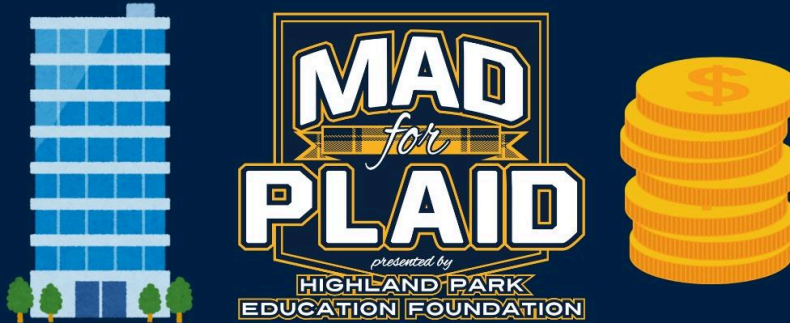
Please view the catalog [HERE](#).

### **Mad for Plaid**



Click [HERE](#) to donate.

**Did you make a gift to the Highland Park  
Education Foundation during 2024?  
Did you know many companies will match  
their employee's donations to non-profits?**



**Learn more and see if your donation  
to the Highland Park Education  
Foundation can be matched at:  
[hpef.org/matchinggifts](https://hpef.org/matchinggifts)**

Click [HERE](https://hpef.org/matchinggifts) for matching gifts.

**HP Literacy Flickfest**



The poster features a marquee sign at the top with the HP LitFest logo and the event title 'FLICKFEST Presents A Night with David Magee'. Below the sign is a row of red theater seats. The event details, including the date, time, and location, are centered in the middle. At the bottom, there is a paragraph about David Magee's career and a paragraph about the ticket price and what it includes. The website URL is at the very bottom.

HP LitFest  
*write here, write now*

**FLICKFEST**  
*Presents*  
**A Night with David Magee**

sponsored by  
ELLIOTT ELLIOTT  
*Dave Perry Miller Real Estate*

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025**  
**STARTS AT 7:00 PM**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM**

**ANGELIKA THEATER**  
**5321 EAST MOCKINGBIRD, DALLAS**

David Magee is an acclaimed screenwriter and two-time Academy Award nominee.  
He will discuss his films as we view clips from his most popular pieces.

Donations of \$35 or more include admission to the discussion and review  
of movie clips, a beverage and popcorn.

David Magee is a veteran screenwriter, known for adapting books into screenplays  
including *Life of Pi* (2012) and *A Man Called Otto* (2022), adapted from Fredrik  
Backman's celebrated novel, *A Man Called Ove*. He also penned the screenplays,  
*Finding Neverland* (2004), *Mary Poppins Returns* (2018), and the live action remake of  
Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (2022).

[hplitfest.com/flick-fest/](http://hplitfest.com/flick-fest/)

## HP Cheer Informational Meeting



**HP CHEER TRYOUT MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28TH | 5:30PM  
HPHS CAFETERIA**



Current 8th, 9th, 10th & 11th Graders  
interested in trying out for the  
2025-2026 HP Cheer Program  
are required to attend this  
informative and mandatory meeting,  
along with their parent(s) or  
guardian(s).

For questions contact Emily Barnes,  
Highland Park Cheer Director, [barnese@hpsd.org](mailto:barnese@hpsd.org).

**@HP.CHEER**

**HP Bombers**

## CLUB SOFTBALL TEAM FORMATIONS/TRYOUTS

HP Bombers 8/10/12/14U &  
Lady Highlanders Select 14U Team

**Jan 19th:**

2:30-3:30pm: 8-10 yrs (8/10U)  
3:30-5:00pm: 11-14 yrs (12/14U)

**Jan 26th:**

2:30-3:30pm: 8-12 yrs (8/10/12U)  
3:30pm-5:00pm: 13-14 yrs (14U only)

@ HPHS softball field

Register with QR code or email us:



Questions: [HPBombers@gmail.com](mailto:HPBombers@gmail.com)

## Raiders Reaching Out

Raiders Reaching Out is ready to serve our Raider students, families, and staff in need of support and to honor those who go above and beyond to serve our school and children. Please let us know if you know someone in our Raider community who needs some sunshine sent their way! Email confidentially [raidersreachingout@mishpmspto.org](mailto:raidersreachingout@mishpmspto.org).

Thank you so much!  
RRO Chairs, 2024-25



Not receiving **Raider Weekly** and **News To Know** email newsletters?

[Click here](#)

## Quick Links

MIS and HPMS Website  
Principal on Twitter  
HPMS on Instagram  
MIS/HPMS Attendance Offices  
MIS Activity Calendar  
HPMS Activity Calendar

Lunch Menu  
MIS/HPMS PTO Website  
Volunteer Sign-Up  
Raider Shop  
Skyward/HPISD Parent Portal

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## McCulloch Intermediate & Highland Park Middle School

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3555 Granada Drive  
Dallas, TX 75205  
MIS Phone: (214) 780-3500  
HPMS Phone: (214) 780-3600

Didn't see a school-related shout-out this week?  
We want to hear about it! Please send details  
and any available pictures!

[Email Raider Weekly](#)



MIS & HPMS | 3555 Granada Dr. | Dallas, TX 75205 US

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