

# The Hiland Hall School NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

Dear Friends,

We have a new logo and a new website! Longtime parent and wonderful artist, Amy Anselmo, designed the logo and website which launched this winter with the help of other tech savvy parents. We hope to include Newsletters on our website in the future and would like to begin sending them directly to you electronically. The slip enclosed in this Newsletter has a spot where you can send us your email address – or you could email it directly to [office@hilandhallschool.org](mailto:office@hilandhallschool.org) with ‘Newsletter’ in the subject line. We’ll add your name to our list and promise not to pester you with too much other stuff. Above all enjoy the new site at [hilandhallschool.org](http://hilandhallschool.org) !

- Meg Cottam, Director



## Middle School has a 'Day Under the Dome'

Middle School students traveled to Montpelier with the Bennington Chamber of Commerce for their annual Day Under the Dome. A former HHS parent organized the bus trip to the Vermont state house. While there, students had the opportunity to hear testimony before committees, sit in on the daily work of the House of Representatives, meet the Lieutenant Governor in the Senate, tour the historic State House building and visit the Vermont History Museum.



Detail – parent led pin needle felting mural

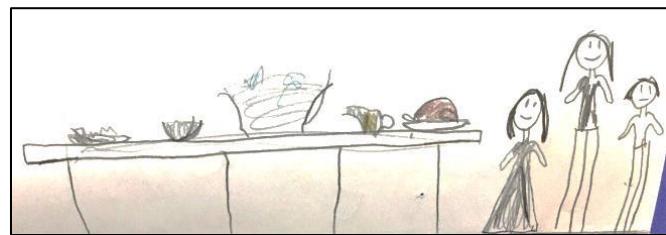


Hey everyone,

This place rocks! I'm three years into high school and I still am regularly thankful for my time here. Enjoy it!

Note left on the board from visiting alumnus

## South Group 'Momentus Moment'



*"Thanksgiving lunch because it was fun to host and because we got to have a big good lunch and we all had lunch together."*

by Beth, age 10



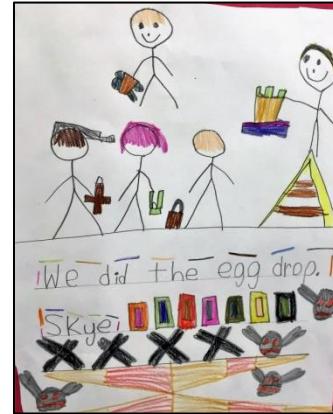
# The Hiland Hall School NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

## Bulletin notes from Quena

We are taking time as a group to discuss generosity of spirit in the form of patience and kindness for self and others. These qualities, and the remarkable teamwork that can emerge from them, was seen quite clearly this week in our elementary group.

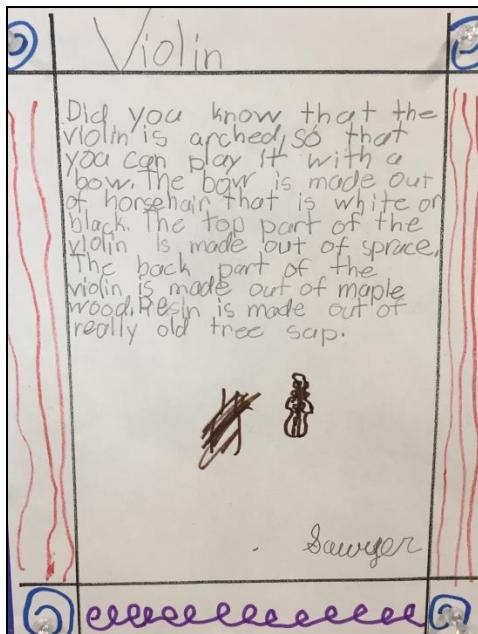
**Egg Drop Challenge.** Working in pairs consisting of one North Grouper and one South Grouper, students created a vessel meant to protect an egg from a drop of nine feet. All vessels were made out of reused paper products, with the exception of duct tape. Although students were given very similar materials (a paper towel tube, a tissue box, a paper bag), the resulting vessels had great variance in design and their creators were very clear in their explanations of why they chose to construct them in that fashion. Perhaps the most fun of all was the actual dropping, which led to a physics discussion of why certain vessel designs behaved certain ways and how designs could be improved upon. Students were still talking about the drop at lunch, and one student even shared that they had a dream about the egg drop!



Egg Drop Challenge by Skye, age 7



Egg Drop Momentus Moment by Trace, age 7

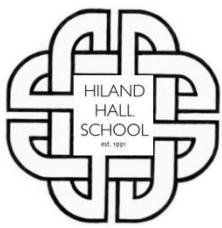


'Recollection' by Sawyer, age 9

The elementary group has also recently enjoyed drumming with Otha Day, and a visit by a violinist, Cedar Stanistreet, who in addition to guiding us on an exploration of the history and construction of the violin, also played music so we could have a mini contra dance. One student commented that having live music not only made the dancing more fun, but also "much more real!" and I quite agree!



Drumming with Otha Day



# The Hiland Hall School NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

## More Classroom Activity

### Today

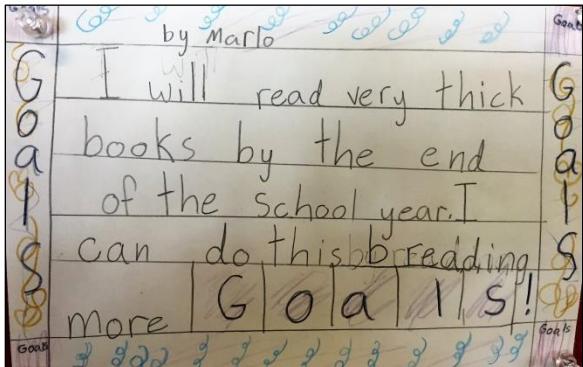
Today  
I walk alone  
The bay is dark water  
The sky and I even darker  
Today

Cinquain - A poem with two, four, six, eight  
and then two syllables.

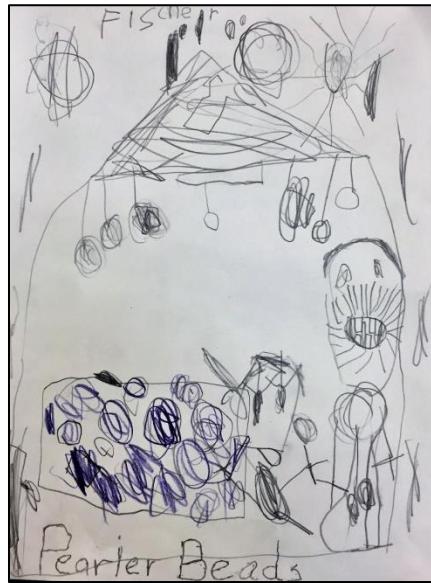
By Lily, age 11



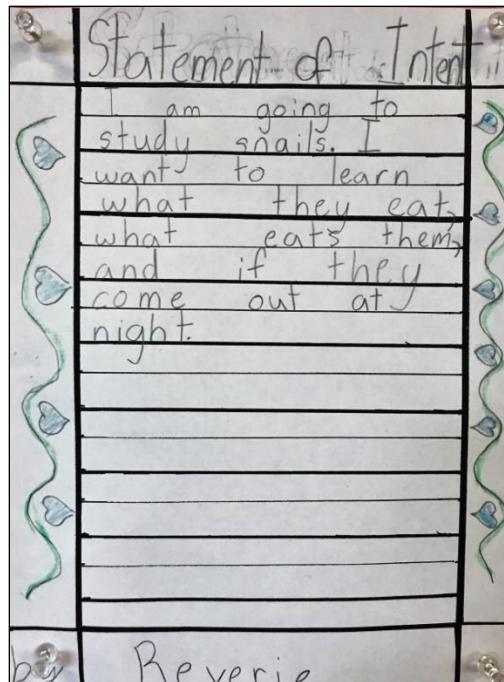
Marble shoot by Sawyer, age 9 and Iver, age 7



Goals by Marlo, age 8



Perler Beads by Fischer, age 5



Independent Study Statement of Intent  
by Reverie, age 8



# The Hiland Hall School NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018



## Hildene Essay

*This year middle school students wrote about a current or recent event in which the actions of the people involved could be viewed as patriotic by some or unpatriotic by others.*

### Patriotism

Many football players in the NFL have been ‘taking a knee’ during the national anthem; others link arms or don’t appear on the field. They’re protesting mistreatment of people of color, police brutality and white privilege. Some people think that it’s unpatriotic to kneel because they believe it shows disrespect to our country, its flag and the military. However, the players say they mean the nation, military and flag no disrespect, it’s that they strongly disagree with the ways racism still exists in our society. Some support the football players and their position, agreeing something must be done to stop racism in all its forms. The National Anthem concludes,

*‘O say does that star spangled banner yet wave.  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?’*

If not everyone is treated equally, this last line isn’t true.

I think the football players are doing the right thing because I believe that everyone is equal and should be treated accordingly. I see no reason why people of *any* race or gender should be treated as less or more than anyone else. I think peaceful protest is a wonderful way to be an activist for your beliefs, and it’s also a constitutional right. If a person of color, or anyone, isn’t empowered or doesn’t feel safe to use their freedom of speech, they’re not free. In order to be patriotic, you must have freedom to exercise all of your constitutional rights.

*Excerpt – Ocie Tucker, age 14*

### Confederate Statues Taken Down

On December 20th in Memphis Tennessee, two confederate statues were removed from two parks. They were removed because of their association with our racist history. The statues are of Jefferson Davis, the former president of the Confederacy, and General Nathan Bedford Forrest, who was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. The city council had not been allowed to take them down themselves because of a state law called the Tennessee Heritage Protection Act, which states that memorials on public property cannot be removed, renamed, or relocated.

Therefore, the council unanimously voted to sell the parks to a non-profit organization that could remove the statues. ....

Some people think that it is unpatriotic and illegal to move statues that are a big part of this country’s past. Another point of view is that keeping the statues up is unpatriotic because they do not support the diverse, free nation we want to have today. In my opinion the Confederate statues around the U.S.A should be kept in museums so that we can learn about the history without celebrating the horrible events that those people represent. It is offensive and cruel to keep the statues in a place which makes people feel as if we are respecting the racist ideas the statues represent. I believe keeping the statues up is unpatriotic because they do not stand for what I hope this country can be. I believe that being patriotic is trying to make your country live up to its highest ideals, not enthroning poor actions of the past.

*Excerpt – Carly Anselmo, age 13*