



HAMMONDSPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL

Laker Lines

February 2009

Beyond Textbooks

HCS students can always count on getting a well-rounded education. Though January was filled with New York State tests, Regents exams and midterms, students at HCS also had the opportunity to experience some really neat learning opportunities outside of their textbooks.

For example, the 5th grade classes learned to play the guitar as part of a guitar unit in Mr. Vonderlin's Music class. In the picture to the right, Mrs. Bower's class is working on a simple first string melody using the G, C and D chords. Who knows, maybe we'll see one of these aspiring musicians on



stage at Madison Square Garden some day. Don't forget your roots; free tickets are always welcomed!

In the Primary School, the First Grade classes have been studying honey bees. Upon completing the unit, the classes enjoyed a visit from a local beekeeper, Mr. Dick Russell. The students had the opportunity to see and handle some of the beekeeper's equipment. All of the First Graders even had the chance to see the world through the beekeeper's eyes by putting on his special hat. Best of all, Mr. Russell provided everyone a sample of honey to taste. Sweet!

Pictured left: Dylan McGinn, Mr. Dick Russell, Aleah Ordway

Timing High

News from Hammondsport Central School

It seems as if winter is going to go on forever. As of today we have used three of the five snow days that were built into the District calendar so we can handle two more "storms" before we have to start taking back days from spring break. No one wants to spend these days shoveling and snow blowing when the kids should be in school, so let's hope Mother Nature relents and the groundhog didn't see his shadow (I hope that's the one where spring is just around the corner?).

Please remember to pay attention to the sign board at the front entrance of the Main Street School. We are receiving great news daily on what colleges our seniors have been accepted to and the many scholarships they are being awarded. This is an exciting time for them and their families and we'd like to share the good news with the entire community. Our school is a reflection of our community and the level of excellence should make everyone very proud!

The budget process continues and we continue to look at ways to not simply reduce, but restructure. This will be the year where we aren't just looking at ways to do things with less; we are also going to be looking at ways to do things differently, more efficiently, more cost effectively, while still keeping the rigor and expectations that define Hammondsport School. I will be introducing the first draft of the 2009-2010 budget to the Board of Education at the February 11th meeting. After that time I will be scheduling some public forums where I will be sharing some of the initial changes within the District that I have recommended for the upcoming year and in years to come. Stay tuned for dates and times and I hope to see many of you there.

Winter sports are winding down. Tournament and sectional time are just around the corner. We all remember the excitement that our volleyball team brought to the school and community when they brought home a title in the fall. Let's get out there and support our winter athletes with the same spirit and enthusiasm! Keep that Laker Spirit alive! That's one positive way to beat the winter blues. As always, the door is always open.

Outstanding Performances by HCS Vocalists

On January 24th, Hammondsport High School chorus members who wanted to audition for this year's All County Chorus, sang at the Prattsburgh Vocal Festival for an adjudicator. Our soloists began preparing for this event in October when they selected a solo from the New York State School of Music Association's (NYSSMA) manual. Hundreds of solos are categorized in the manual by degree of difficulty, with level 1 being the easiest and level 6 being the most difficult. At Prattsburgh, solo vocalists from Steuben County were given scores on how well they sang their solos and how well they can sight-sing music. Our students did very well. Seven out of eight Hammondsport students received a rating of 94% or higher.

Several notable performances include Kelly Perz who sang "Habanera" (lvl 6) from the opera "Carmen" and received a rating of 96%. Kelly plans on taking her solo to the NYSSMA adjudication in April so that she can be considered for participation in next year's All-State Chorus. Jessica Anthony gave an outstanding performance singing "Sure on this Shining Night" (lvl 5) by Samuel Barber and received a 99%. Micah Armstrong received the only perfect rating in the county with his performance of "Some Enchanted Evening" (lvl 5) from the musical "South-Pacific." The following students passed their auditions and will sing in this year's All County Festival: CeJae Scotchmer, Kelly Perz, Nick Hopkins and Micah Armstrong will sing in the Mixed Chorus and Jessica Anthony and Bethany Leggett will sing in the Women's Chorus.

SAT TEST REGISTRATION

Deadline: MARCH 31ST FOR THE MAY 2ND TEST

(TEST SITE: Bath-Haverling HS
PACKETS ARE AVAILABLE IN
THE GUIDANCE OFFICE OR:
WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM

ACT TEST REGISTRATION

Deadline FEBRUARY 27TH FOR THE APRIL 4TH TEST

(TEST SITE: H'PORT HS
PACKETS ARE AVAILABLE IN
THE GUIDANCE OFFICE OR:
WWW.ACT.ORG

We Want to Build You Something



The Construction Systems Class is looking for a project for the spring semester. We can build up to an 8' x 12' shed, playhouse, greenhouse, etc. You pick the design, buy the materials and pay for delivery to the school, and we do the rest. Contact Jon Lowin at jlowin@hport.wnyric.org or 569-5200 (ext. 5281) if you are interested.

From the Bus Garage

We're sure to have more winter weather coming and would like to request all parents make sure their children have a coat with them before they get on the bus. If we have a breakdown or are delayed for some reason, the interior of the bus will get cold very quickly, and we noted a number of children in last week's freezing weather who were not wearing even a sweat-shirt! We appreciate your help in making sure your student is dressed appropriately.

Laker Lines is the official newsletter of the Hammondsport Central School District. It is distributed to all district residents. HCS Board of Education members include: James Zimar, President; Frank Curran, Vice President; Richard Drain, Nancy Torp and Christine Kolo.

The Board meets the third Wednesday of each month in the Library of the Main Street School.

Superintendent of Schools: Kyle Bower

Newsletter Editor: Julie Amsden

From the Desk of HS Principal Tad Rounds

Special congratulations to our Senior High Art Teacher Gina Pflieger. Mrs. Pflieger has been selected by McGraw Hill to illustrate a new children's book entitled; *Where Are You, Boots?*. This is the second children's book Mrs. Pflieger has illustrated.

A few procedural reminders to parents include address changes and student dress. Parents are asked to contact the main office with any address change or phone number change to ensure prompt delivery of school communications. Parents are also asked to ensure their son/daughter's compliance with the school dress code as delineated in the School Code of Conduct. Listed are the major provisions:

- Be safe, appropriate, and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process. **Pajama apparel is not appropriate.**
- Recognize that extremely brief garments such as tube tops, net tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, plunging necklines front and/or back, clothing that reveals midriff, and see-through garments are not appropriate.
- Ensure that underwear is completely covered with outer clothing.
- Skirts should extend to the end of the fingertips. Shorts should extend to the end of the thumbs.
- Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
- Not include the wearing of hats, bandanas (as head coverings), or other head gear in the school buildings from 7:45 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. on school days unless part of a recognized religious practice, special school activity, medical purpose, or permission from the principal.
- Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, or denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.
- Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs, and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.

Upcoming events in February include the Jazz and Solo Concert scheduled for February 11th. The Winter Ball is scheduled for February 28th and the next Parent Liaison Meeting will be February 24th at 7:00 PM in the Senior High Library.

Notes from Elementary Principal Jim McCormick

We look forward to the new semester commencing February 3rd for students. The ELA testing went well thanks to the excellent attendance of the students. Thank you to all the parents for your efforts in making this happen. Our teachers are busy analyzing the test results so that academic decisions can be modified for students who need intervention services immediately. The official ELA scores will not be available until later in the year.

This year's reading campaign is proving to be very successful. With emphasis on participation of all students rather than total books read, students are earning points that will be used at the end of the year carnival. I encourage parents to fight off the winter blahs and incorporate reading into their routines and activities with their children. Reading can be fun and it makes these cold winter days fly by as we approach spring.

Spring Pictures in Hammondsport

Grades Pre-K through 12
Friday, April 24, 2009
(no "make-up" date)

Sponsored by 7-12 Student Council
Pre-K-3 & 7-12 pictures will be taken on the auditorium stage
Grades 4-6 pictures will be on the Curtiss stage



The pictures will be individual student pictures in a portrait setting. This is a "see before you buy" program. All students will have their pictures taken and in about four weeks, each student will receive a picture package. There is no obligation to purchase anything, but portraits can be purchased by the sheet. If the family does not want the package, it is to be returned to school and there is no charge. More information to follow

Congratulations HCS Senior Cheerleaders

Senior Cheerleader Liz Reardon was chosen to represent Steuben County Cheerleading at the Ronald McDonald All-Star Game in Rochester. This honor places her among the top 16 cheerleaders in all of Section V. She will be attending a press conference and tour at the Ronald McDonald House of Rochester, an honorary banquet at RIT, and cheering at the Ronald McDonald All-Star game in March.

Stephanie Malone and Katherine Woods were among 8 finalists for the Greater Rochester Cheer & Dance Memorial Scholarship and the Sister Marlene McQueen Scholarship. Over 1000 cheerleaders applied for these two awards. Great job ladies!



HCS Artist of the Month

The "Artist of the Month" column recognizes our resident artistic talents. Initiated by High School Art Teacher Gina Pflieger, an outstanding artist is chosen from one of her art classes each month and is featured with his/her artwork in the Laker Lines. This month, we are recognizing Senior Liz Reardon for her self portrait piece (pictured left). Below, we learn a little more about Liz's artwork through an interview conducted by Mrs. Pflieger.

What is your favorite kind of artwork to create? **Abstract things.**

What kind of art are you most drawn to? **Paintings and sculptures.**

Tell us about this artwork. **This is a painting of me! It was done for Advertising Design and I really enjoyed creating it.**

What did you use to create this piece? **Acrylic paints.**

How long have you been creating art? **As long as I can remember.**

How do you see art being a part of your future? **I'm going to college to hopefully minor in communication design which will allow me to deal with art all of my life!**

Calendar Items

February

- 7 Baseball can/bottle drive, 8:30 am
- 9 PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 11 BOE Meeting, 7 pm; Jazz & Solo Concert, 7:30 pm
- 13 Wrestling Sectionals
- 16-20 No School, Winter Recess
- 23 Academic All-Stars @ AA, 6:15 pm
- 24 Kindergarten Registration, 2-4pm & 6-8pm; Parent Liaison Meeting, 7pm
- 27 ACT Registration Deadline for April Test; Volleyball Tournament sponsored by baseball team
- 28 Winter Ball, 7:30 pm

March

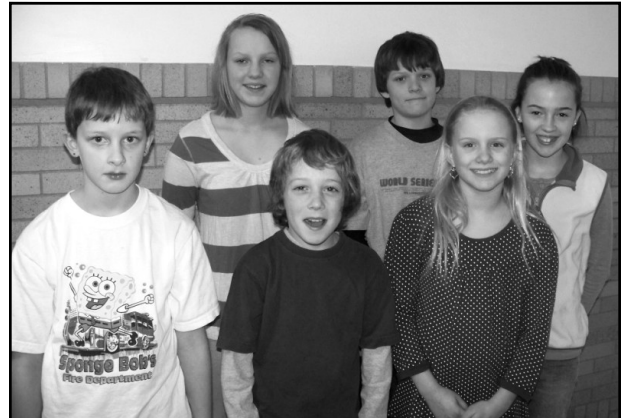
- 2 Academic All-Stars @ Avoca, 6:15 pm
- 3 Grade 3 & 4 NYS Math Exam
- 4 Grade 3 & 4 NYS Math Exam
- 5 Grade 4 & 5 NYS Math Exam
- 6 Grade 5 NYS Math Exam
- 7 Baseball can/bottle drive, 8:30 am
- 9 Grade 7 & 8 NYS Math Exam; Academic All-Stars (H), 6:15 pm; PTO Mtg., 6:30 pm; HS Progress Reports

**ATTN: HCS SENIORS
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
ARE DUE APRIL 1ST TO THE
GUIDANCE OFFICE**

Glenn Curtiss Elementary Announces Leading Lakers for January

Each week, *Leading Lakers* are chosen by the Elementary staff. *Leading Lakers* are students who are real leaders throughout the school environment. They must be students that others should follow because of their ability to be a model student and exemplify the LAKERS motto.

Leading Lakers students are announced



Pictured row 1: Dana Northrop, Nathan Shippee, Ashlyn Amsden. Row 2: Kourtney Hoyt, Kenny Becker, Tanessa Whitney



on the morning announcements on Fridays and posted on the sign in front of the Main Street School for all of the community to see. In addition, the PTO awards each student a book.

Pictured row 1: Braden Webster, Shelby Sherman, Madison Wright. Row 2: Marshall Bennett, Brittany Storrs, Noah Wilkinson

Hammondsport Reading Buddy Program

The Hammondsport Central School Reading Buddy program found its way in the December issue of the local RSVP Connections Newsletter. We are fortunate to have dedicated volunteers visit once a week to work with children on a one to one basis or as needed to reinforce reading skills and to provide a meaningful reading experience with the intent of installing a love of reading.

This program has enabled children at different grade levels to build trusting relationships with caring adults who give generously of their time.

Michelle Benincasa from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program makes volunteers aware of the different volunteer opportunities in our community and then matches them based on their area of interest. Kristen VanValkenburg, Primary Reading Specialist, acts as the site coordinator who then matches volunteers to grade levels, teachers and schedules based on compatibility. Thanks to the continuous effort of the volunteers and classroom teachers' flexibility in their schedules, the program has been very successful this year. Classroom teachers who have welcomed "reading bud-

dies" in their rooms are Third Grade teachers Mrs. Yahn and Ms. Waterstraat, and Mr. Stermole in Kindergarten. The success of the program has spread and several teachers have asked to be assigned a "reading buddy" for their classroom as soon as one is available. Our current volunteers are Lynn Domaras, Carolee Prutsman, and Bonnie Taggart. Two additional volunteers have recently expressed interest and are waiting for placement.

Students look forward to weekly visits from their "buddies." It's easy to see why. They receive individual attention from a caring adult, enjoy a positive reading experience and even get credit for books read toward their "25 book" reading goal. It's obvious that the "Reading Buddy" program at Hammondsport Central School is a win-win situation for everyone. We look forward to working cooperatively with RSVP in order to provide this valuable opportunity to more classrooms and students in the months to come.

Hammondsport Central School
District
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Hammondsport, NY 14840

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