

HAMMONDSPORT
CENTRAL SCHOOL

Laker Lines

January 2009

Holiday Performances & Community Spirit Wind Down 2008



The HCS Drama Club presented "A Tale of Two Elves," a musical holiday production, on Saturday, December 6, 2009. Pictured from left: Olivia Makarick and Sydney McGinn as "Cookies" and Sydney Farmer and Sydney Sprague as "Elves." The play was directed by JoAnn Michell and Stella Pulver and featured over twenty-five HCS students

Timing High

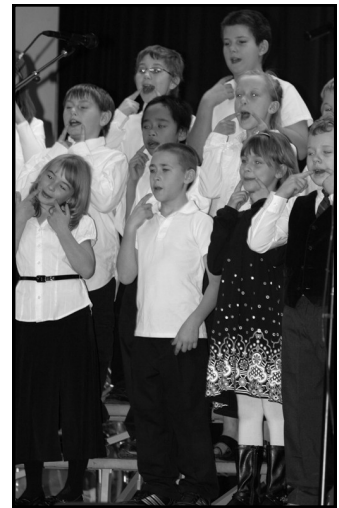
News from Hammondspport Central School District Superin-

The month of December always helps to renew the feelings of giving and charity. During the past month we have had the Curtiss School Celebration of Giving, our students helped Hammondspport Community Services load boxes of food for area families, and staff went above and beyond in contributing to children in our area. The Drama Club and musical groups put together wonderful holiday performances and put their outstanding talents on display. Despite the things that are wrong in the world, there is a great deal that is right in Hammondspport and that brings a smile to my face.

As we move into the year of 2009, Hammondspport continues to find ways to adjust to both its enrollment and its means. In late January we will be renting one of our Primary classrooms to BOCES. This special needs classroom provides a service for BOCES by helping to keep these students closer to their home districts. BOCES also pays a rental fee to our District as well as a fee for any school services that those students may utilize. The initial six month period through June of 2009 will give us an opportunity to determine whether this is something the District would like to continue or even expand.

At this time the District is in the midst of our official New York State Comptroller's audit. This is the thorough audit that results in detailed findings about all business operations within the District. There is a team of two state auditors that are in the District daily and will be with us for approximately eight weeks. I look forward to their findings and we will certainly work immediately to address any areas they find deficient.

January will bring midterms (believe it or not) and the New York State English Language Arts Assessments in grades 3-8. I'm sure our students will continue to work hard and make us all proud. As always, the door is always open.



Members of the 3rd Grade Chorus perform at the 2008 Holiday Concert.

Laker Lines is the official newsletter of the Hammondspport 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

Thank you to the Music Department for an outstanding Holiday Concert. Micah Armstrong deserves special recognition for his solo, which resulted in a standing ovation. In the area of extracurricular events the snowy winter conditions are a nuisance, but our Ski Club will make solid use of the extra accumulation. Congratulations to the winter sports teams on a solid start to their seasons. Hopefully a Sectional Championship is in the forecast.

At the conclusion of break, students and staff will be in full gear for January's assessments. The 7th and 8th Grade ELA (English Language Arts) exam is scheduled for January 20th through January 23rd. Midterm and Regents Assessments are scheduled the following week. During Midterm and Regents Week (January 27th through January 30th) students are only required to be in session during the times of their scheduled exams. The exam schedule will be sent home with students and posted on the school's website. Please have your son or daughter start preparing now for the upcoming exams. Have a great 2009!



Updates from the K-6 Principal's Office

by Jim McCormick

Our return from the two week holiday break requires us to shake off the cob webs and get into our school routines quickly.

The ELA examinations for grades 3 through 6 are upon us. Parents are reminded of the need to avoid appointments for their child on testing days as noted below. I thank the 5th grade students and parents for their efforts in maintaining good attendance while taking the Social Studies exams in November. Your continued efforts in this regard are appreciated. Parents should be on the look out for a letter along with a free breakfast coupon that will be forthcoming concerning preparation for the ELA exams.

I am confident after observing the hard work already put forth by our teachers and students in preparation for these tests that our results will be among the highest in our BOCES region.

Please note these dates of interest:

- January 13 – Grades 3 & 4 ELA exam
- January 14 – Grades 3, 4, & 5 ELA exam
- January 15 – Grades 4 & 5 ELA exam
- January 19 – No School, Martin Luther King Day
- January 21-23 – Grade 6 ELA exam
- January 26 – Marking Period Ends
- February 2 – No School, Conference Day

Giving and Caring Mark the Holiday Season at HCS

The holiday season is always a busy time for students and faculty at Hammondsport Central School. Not only are they busy with holiday concerts and getting ready for the Christmas season, but they also make sure they take the time to help others in need. This year was no exception.

This holiday season the Hammondsport High School Student Council raised \$256 for the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry in Hammondsport from the sale of locally made holiday wreaths. As part of their community service initiative, this sale has become an annual tradition for the Student Council members for the past several years.

The Curtiss School Student Council also helped the Food Pantry by collecting and delivering over 600 food items. They also rang the bell on behalf of the Salvation Army during Christmas in the Park, and are currently collecting metal pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House to recycle for cash.

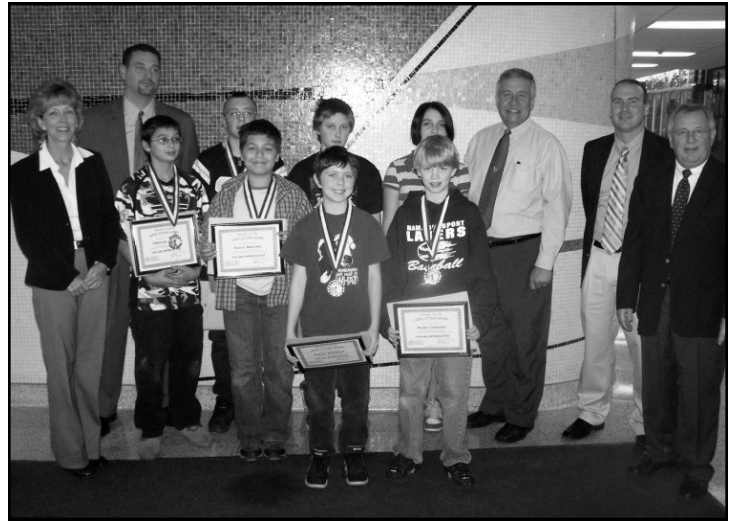
On Tuesday, December 16th, five members of the Class of 2009 volunteered to help load over 120 food baskets onto trucks supplied by Mercury Aircraft. The boxes of food were delivered to families throughout the Pulteney, Hammondsport and Wayne area. The project is an annual event sponsored by the Hammondsport Community Services Organization. Serving on the Community Services Organization are Dick McCandless, retired HCS Guidance Counselor; Mary Jo Hanna, retired HCS Elementary Teacher; Mary White, HCS School Psychologist; Lisa Zema, HCS Cafeteria Manager; Lynn Domaras, retired HCS Elementary Teacher; Jim Conklin, retired HCS High School Teacher; and Bill Fries, Jr., HCS Bus Driver. In addition, the members of the Bostwick Club bought and wrapped gifts and clothes for the pre-school children. The Hammondsport Women's club bought and wrapped clothing gifts for older children. All these items were distributed with the food baskets.



Pictured from left - Members of the Class of 2009 who helped load 120 food baskets onto trucks to be delivered to local families in need.: Ryan Welles, Josh Haluszczak, Arley Cornell, Jennifer Gordon, and Stephanie Malone.

Steuben County Youth Citizenship Awards Presented

Every year, the Steuben County Youth Bureau honors the unsung student who exhibits positive classroom behavior, is hardworking and conscientious, is a good neighbor and good helper, and displays a positive attitude in everything they do. This year, HCS is proud to have seven students receive this award. They are: Damein Personious (4th), Ruger Cummings (5th), Eladio Martinez (6th), Thomas Hoaglin (7th), Chris Coon (7th), Stephen Walker (8th), and Sarah Newman (8th). Each winner received a medal, a framed certificate and gift card.



Row 1: Commissioner of Social Services Kathryn Muller, Chris Coon, Eladio Martinez, Damein Personious, Ruger Cummings. Row 2: Superintendent Kyle Bower, Thomas Hoaglin, Stephen Walker, Sarah Newman, Youth Bureau Director Gary Pruy, Principal Tad Rounds, and Principal Jim McCormick.

Glenn Curtiss Elementary Announces Leading Lakers for December

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



From left: Nathan Guerin, Cameron Drain, Lanie Carvajal, Johnny Hilligus, Edda Martinez, Alyson Binnert



Front Row: Brianna Hill, Alliyah Jensen, Carter Watson. Second Row: Michael Stone, Annika Szathmary, Karigan Wright.

Reminder:

2009 Vintage Yearbooks (Grades 7th - 12th)
are on sale through January 15, 2009
\$20.00 per book or 37 Laker Leader Coupons

Budget Development Update

What a time to be in the business of educating children. As everyone is probably aware, the Governor's initial budget proposal calls for Hammondspport to receive a \$376,000 or 9.57% reduction in State Aid for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. This percentage reduction in State Foundation Aid is the highest in the area. Should this reduction be sustained, the District will be forced to make some very serious decisions. According to the Governor's budget statement, the reduction was based on the school district's "ability to pay." This is yet another example of land wealth being mistaken for income wealth.

In the coming months we will be looking at every area of our budget and developing a long-term plan to deal with the difficult years to come. I encourage everyone to attend our Board meetings which are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the High School Library. The State is coming out with new proposals almost daily and almost all of them will have an impact on the budget and programming here at Hammondspport.

Parent Advisory Meetings Scheduled

The remaining dates for the Parent Advisory Meetings are as follows:



Jan 22
Feb 26
Mar 26
Apr 23
May 21

All meetings begin at 6 PM and are held in the Primary Library at the Main Street School

Students of the Quarter

Stephanie Malone and Josh Malone have been selected as Students of the Quarter for the 1st marking period of the 2008-2009 school year. These students were nominated by their teachers for their outstanding contributions to HCS. To be eligible, students must be in grades 9-12, hold a Class A pass, and maintain an 85 or above average. Congratulations Steph and Josh!

Student of the Quarter

Full Name:

Stephanie Marie Malone

Favorite Subject in School:
Accounting & Government

Hobbies / Activities:
cheerleading, reading, being with my friends

Future Plans:
Attend Duquesne and get my MBA in Accounting and my CPA/CFE licenses and perhaps a degree in law.

Three words that best describe yourself:

ambitious, approachable, and meticulous



Student of the Quarter

Full Name:

Joshua James Malone

Favorite Subject in School:
Biology

Hobbies / Activities:
snowboarding

Future Plans:
Really not sure yet

Three words that best describe yourself:

focused, well-rounded, outgoing



Laker Leaders Announced

Laker Leaders have been announced for November. "Laker Leaders" is a recognition program formed by the staff and students involved with the 7th and 8th grades. It seeks to honor students who are consistently displaying the values of excellent school attendance; cooperation, courtesy, and helpfulness toward other students and staff members; high levels of self-discipline; and a willingness to do more than is expected in both the classroom and other areas of school involvement. It is important to the staff of Hammondsport Central School to develop within each student the many positive values that lead to healthy family relationships, responsible community citizenship and productive memberships in our society. This program's intent is to reward success and to set models for young people to see and emulate.

Grade 7

Elizabeth Albright
Marissa Andersen
Brandi Bailey
Kelsey Bailey
John Baliguin
Taylin Bower
Carrington Ellis
Claudia Eygabroat-Guerin
Lauren Farmer
Lori Gordon
Chelsea Hansen
Korynne House
Claire Kolodziejczak
Trenton Kolodziejczak
Nikki Martinez
Katrina McGregor
Dalton Mori
Joanna Northrop
Lucas Peacock

Nicolas Peacock
Nichole Perkins
Hannah Ridge
Sydney Sprague
David VonRhedey

Grade 8

Connor Amsden
Brianna Bergstresser
Michael Bestys
Lauren Binnert
Brooke Clark
Dustin Deal
Ryan Eckel
Megan Erway
Sydney Farmer
Matthew Lowin
Brianna Martinez
Brett Rotondo
Alissa Walruth
Mary Webber

What's For Dinner?

Just ask an HCS Seventh Grader what they recommend from their repertoire of recipes outlined in their very own cookbooks!



Seventh Grader Zayna Hartman and Family & Consumer Science Teacher Joy Pierce pose with a display of cookbooks designed and written by the Seventh Grade Family and Consumer Science Class.

From the Bus Garage

by Transportation Supervisor Cindy Tollerup

Our procedure for determining a delayed opening or school closing must be done early enough to contact the parents, media and staff. I speak with the area road supervisors to determine the road conditions on the hills, how far along their plows are in their areas and if they feel the roads are clear enough for us to open school. After their report, I call the Superintendent who is in touch with other area Superintendents and we determine what course of action we will take.

The drivers are extremely cautious in snowy conditions and drive defensively. We don't worry about getting to school on time in these road conditions, we worry about getting the children to school safely. We need parents to remember the buses weigh much more than their family car (about 19,000 lbs. empty), there are dual wheels and brand new snow tires on all the buses.

Please be advised there are times when some roads are not plowed and we are not able to reach our students, but that is up to the drivers to determine. We will do everything we can to bring all students into school, but will not compromise the safety of a bus load of children to attempt a road the driver determines has not been plowed or sanded. We ask all parents to have their phones on and working as we will attempt to call you if the bus cannot get to you. Also, please have an emergency plan in place for your children to follow if the bus cannot get to them (such as a neighbor who they can go to or call, mom's and dad's work numbers, the transportation department's phone number, a babysitter's phone number, etc). If you have any questions, please call me at 569-5200 x5283.

Community Use of School Facilities Policy Update

This year the Board of Education is going through a policy audit and reviewing and approving over 100 of the current Board of Education policies that govern the District. The Community Use of School Facilities policy is one of the policies being reviewed. The current policy was first approved on January 20, 1998 and was last reviewed in 2006. The use policy outlines what outside organizations must do in order to use school facilities responsibly, while protecting the interests and assets of the District. At this time, a subcommittee will be working to evaluate our current policy and make recommendations that will be presented to the Board of Education at their February meeting. All Board policies are available in the District Office for review by the public.

A Request from Maintenance Supervisor Don Gardiner

It looks like there is still plenty of winter left! Please help the maintenance staff in their snow removal efforts. If there is an impending storm or you have vehicle trouble and feel the need to leave your vehicle here at school, PLEASE CONTACT ME! We can either direct you to an

out of the way parking space or help you with your vehicle. It's very important to not leave them where they become an obstacle for the plow trucks to dodge.



Kickball Tournament

Sponsored by
the HCS Baseball Team

Saturday, January 31, 2009
High School Gymnasium

An Update From

Clase Espanola

by Spanish Teacher Barbara Demmin

The Spanish 7 classes spent a busy month in December writing bilingual children's books. Since the beginning of the school year, the students have been working on learning vocabulary, grammar and Spanish writing skills. This was an opportunity for them to combine all of their knowledge into a project that they could

Spanish 7 Creates Bilingual Books



create themselves, and share with others. After completing their books, students were divided into reading team of 2-3 students each. Each team selected an elementary classroom to share their books. Not only was this good practice for Spanish reading, but it also fostered connections between our students and future Spanish learners!

Spanish V Explores the Art of Oaxacan, Mexico



The students in Spanish V spent several days learning about the traditional art of Oaxacan, Mexico. In this region, known for the production of hand carved imaginary creatures called 'Alebrijes', a craft began in the 1930's and continues to this day. Many Mexican artists

work to create unique and individual creatures, each one elaborately decorated and hand painted. Spanish V students created their own versions using a variety of pods and dried natural materials which they glued and painted. They produced some very lively pieces, along with a Spanish essay describing their work. The projects are on display in Room 205. This is one of the many classroom activities which provide Spanish learners the opportunity to apply language abilities across content areas.

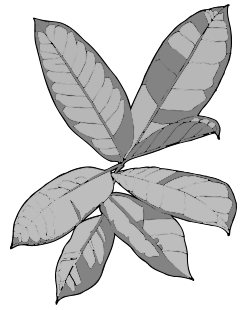
January

- 8 BMB (H), GMB @ Arkport, Wrest @ Addison
- 9 BJVB & BVB @ CS
- 10 GMB (H), BMB @ JT
- 12 BMB @ Avoca
- 13 NYS ELA Exam Grades 3 & 4; Wrest @ Marcus Whitman, BJVB & BVB (H)
- 14 NYS ELA Exam Grades 3,4 & 5; Wrest @ Canisteo
- 15 NYS ELA Exam Grades 4 & 5; Wrest (H)
- 16 Winter Sports and Club Pictures; BJVB & BVB (H)
- 17 Wrest @ Hornell Tourn, BMB (H), GMB @ Addison
- 19 No School, MLK Day
- 20 NYS ELA Exam Grades 7 & 8; GJVB & GVB @ Penn Yan
- 21 NYS ELA Exam Grades 6, 7 & 8; BJVB & BVB (H), Mod Wrest @ JT; BOE Meeting, 7 PM
- 22 NYS ELA Exam Grades 6, 7 & 8; BMB @ CG, Wrest (H)
- 23 NYS ELA Exam Grades 6, 7 & 8; GVB & BVB (H)
- 24 JR/SR High All County Auditions
- 26 Second Marking Period Ends; GJVB & GVB @ Addison
- 27 Regents Exams; BMB @ Wellsville, GMB (H)
- 28 Regents Exams
- 29 Regents Exams; BMB (H), GMB @ CS
- 30 Regents Exams; BJVB & BVB (H), GJVB & GVB @ CG
- 31 BJVB & GJVB (H); Kickball Tournament

February

- 2 No School for students, Conference Day
- 3 GVB (H)
- 4 BJVB & BVB @ Addison, Wrest (H)
- 5 Wrest @ CS
- 7 Baseball can/bottle drive
- 9 PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 11 BOE Meeting, 7 pm; Jazz & Solo Concert, 7:30 pm
- 12 Wrestling Sectionals
- 16 No School, Winter Recess
- 17 No School, Winter Recess
- 18 No School, Winter Recess
- 19 No School, Winter Recess
- 20 No School, Winter Recess
- 24 Kindergarten Registration, 2-4pm & 6-8pm
- 27 ACT Registration Deadline for April Test

Garden Club Fun



Garden Club has been busy in conjunction with Cornell Cooperative Extension instituting a fun-filled literacy based program.

The program involves stories related to nature and interactive activities. The students had the opportunity to listen to the story Plantizilla by Jerdine Nolen and Brian Keliher read by Garden Club's high school volunteer Lindsey Draper. Garden Club is looking forward to many more exciting adventures.

Clip 'em



You can make a difference for our school every time you shop for groceries! Just clip the Box Tops coupons from hundreds of your favorite products and send them to school!

Hammondsport Central School
District
Main Street
Hammondsport, NY 14840

Non-profit organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Hammondsport, NY 14840
Permit #8

Box holder