



**HAMMONDSPORT
CENTRAL SCHOOL**

Laker Lines

October 2009

Junior's "Finding Nemo" Finds 1st Place



The Junior Class took first place in this year's Homecoming Parade float contest with their *Finding Nemo* float. The theme of this year's parade was Disney Pixar's animated movies and included *Wall - E* (7th grade), *A Bug's Life* (8th grade), *A Toy Story* (9th grade), *Monster's Inc.* (10th grade), *Finding Nemo* (11th grade) and *The Incredibles* (12th grade). See page 4 for more Homecoming photos.

A Message from the BOE

~ by BOE President, Jim Zimar

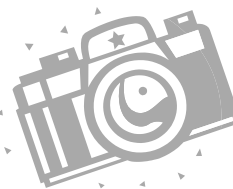
Earlier this year Doctors Susan Gray and Robert Bradley conducted a "Fresh Perspective" study for our district. They work for a partnership between the New York State School Boards Association and the New York State Council of School Superintendents. They provide an objective evaluation of administrative and governance operations, financial management and communications. They reviewed documents and interviewed members of our school community. In interviews, frequently mentioned strengths included academic performance and rigor, the advantages of a smaller district, community support, administration and dedicated staff. Concerns included declining enrollment, finances, maintaining programs, the Curtiss move, property values, taxes, jobs and communications. Opportunities for improvement included long-range planning, consistency of curricula, creative merger solutions, communications and efficiencies.

We can do better long-range planning to provide consistency and a sense of institutional memory and integrity. We can communicate better among members of our school community. The Strategic Plan, which is presented on the next page, is the beginning of doing better. Personally, and on behalf of the Board of Education, thank you to our supportive community, to those who helped with "Fresh Perspective" and "Strategic Planning" and to Superintendent Bower for initiating this process and for advocacy of growth and advancement through continuing education.

The Future of the Curtiss School

Superintendent Kyle Bower will be holding public meetings to discuss the future of the Curtiss School and other topics of interest. Below is the schedule of meeting places, times and dates.

Monday, October 26	HCS Cafeteria	6 p.m.
Tuesday, October 27	Town Hall Pulteney	7 p.m.
Wednesday, October 28	Town Hall Wayne	7 p.m.
Thursday, October 29	Town Hall Urbana	7 p.m.



District Snapshot

	2006-2007	2009-2010
Enrollment	584	539
Non-resident students attending HCS	47	36
Home school students	27	19
Students with disabilities attending BOCES full time	4	3
Total students with disabilities	58	82
% free & reduced lunch	37%	50%

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

Hammondspport CS&D Strategic Plan

Our Mission

The mission of the Hammondspport Central School District, a high-performing unique learning community, is to provide a dynamic, quality education to a close-knit and diverse population, and to ensure that all students are prepared to compete in an ever changing global society by challenging each student through superior, innovative educational opportunities while promoting responsible citizenship through strong character and moral development.

Core Beliefs

We believe:

- In the value of education.
- Students are our first priority.
- Individual interaction between educator and student is critical.
- The school community will provide the best educational opportunities possible.
- Everyone is entitled to and responsible for a safe, supportive learning environment.
- Community involvement, support and commitment are essential.
- The school community is accountable for student success.
- Effective communication among all members of the school community is essential and must be ongoing.
- Learning is a life long process of continuous improvement and growth.
- The educational process must be dynamic to ensure students are globally competitive.
- Individuals are unique, have potential and will be challenged to excel.
- Strong character and morals promote responsible citizenship.
- We have an economic responsibility to our school community.
- Trust and respect within the school community are essential.
- In the authority, the responsibility and the accountability of the school community.

Parameters

- We will remain committed to and promote our mission.
- We will make decisions in the interest of students.
- We will treat each other with dignity and respect.
- We will maintain professionalism.
- We will treat our students as individuals.
- We will act in a fiscally responsible manner.
- We will employ and retain people who subscribe to our mission.
- We will be committed to and will provide for personal and professional growth.
- We will foster individual interaction between teachers and students.
- We will challenge the school community to excel.
- We will communicate effectively in an open and inclusive manner.
- We will not tolerate apathy.
- We will strive for educational options that will allow our students to be competitive.
- We will only accept a safe, secure, environment.
- We will work collaboratively with all members of our school community.
- We will not accept failure.

Objectives

- 100% of our students will meet their graduation requirements.
- 100% of school community members will contribute to a safe, secure, student centered environment.
- 100% of students will meet proficiency with the continued goal of achieving mastery.
- 100% of the school community will rate the internal/external communications of the district as satisfactory.

Strategies

- We will develop a formal communication system to ensure all students, staff, parents and community members can initiate, receive and respond to information in a timely manner.
- We will design, align and implement a curriculum that utilizes all resources and programs to achieve academic success and prepare students for a variety of post-secondary opportunities.
- We will develop a results-based system of professional learning in all areas that utilizes all available resources.
- We will provide a student-centered environment that protects the safety and security of everyone.
- We will clearly define proficiency levels to ensure students achieve excellence.

Strategic Planning Team Members: Jim Zimar-BOE President, Frank Curran-BOE Vice President, Kyle Bower-Supt., Tad Rounds-HS Principal, Michelle Sincerbox-Elementary Principal, Dan Conley-Teacher, Kelley Meade-Teacher, Lisa Stone-Aide/Parent, Betty Fitzpatrick-Teaching Assistant, Mary Moyer-Parent, James Draper-Parent, Mary Farmer-Parent, Gloria Woods-Parent, Theresa Stopka-District Treasurer/Parent, Gerhard Koenig-Resident, Dennis Carlson-Resident, Connor Amsden-Student, Taylor Wade-Student



Homecoming



The rain came, but the school spirit certainly wasn't dampened for the 2009 Homecoming Celebration held on October 2 and 3. The festivities kicked off with a pep rally on Friday afternoon where classes competed in various games including a balloon stomp, paper airplane throw, pass the orange and more. The 2009 Homecoming Court was also announced at the pep rally. This year's court included Diana Derr (Queen), Josh Snyder (King), Josh Malone (Prince), Jordan Ohradzanski (Princess), Audrey Derr (Duchess), Lucas Dickerson (Duke), Sierra Thomas (Baroness), Ryan Eckel (Baron) and JC Balaguin, Nichole Perkins, Aaron Lowin and Kourtney Hoyt (Pages)

Following the Homecoming parade the Boys' Varsity Soccer and Girls' Varsity Volleyball Teams took on Dundee and Prattsburgh respectively. Congratulations to both teams for their victories and to the Girls' Varsity Soccer Team for their 3-1 win the next day.

Pictured counterclockwise from top: Ashlee Landolf and Cejae Scotchmer exchange an orange with their feet during one of the pep rally games. Mr. Perry and Mr. Brayman try to stomp out the other's balloon during the balloon stomp game. The Sophomore Class's *Monster's Inc.* float took second place in the float contest. Josh Snyder, Diana Derr, Josh Malone and Jordan Ohradzanski pose as this year's Homecoming King, Queen, Prince and Princess.



2009

Excel Project Update

by Superintendent Kyle Bower

The total cost of the EXCEL project improvements are not to exceed \$439,530 with the funding coming from EXCEL aid provided by the State and building aid. EXCEL aid must be used in specific areas as outlined by New York State. The improvements we made all fit into the criteria provided by the State.



The sidewalk snowmelt system (pictured left) was completed. This system uses the water from the Main Street building boiler to keep the bus loop sidewalk clear of snow and ice. This system saves the District thousands of

dollars in labor and materials during the winter season and keeps the sidewalk safe 24/7.

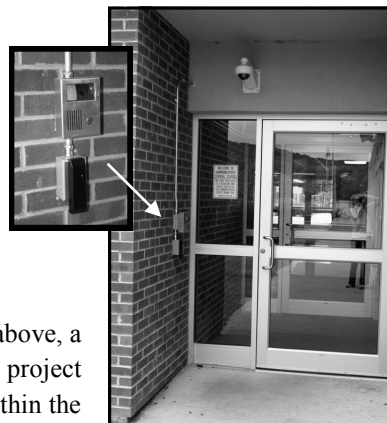
Newly installed ramps at Main Street entrances (pictured below and right)



allow for easier access to our buildings and keep us ADA compliant. The new canopy roof protects the main Elementary Entrance, as well as the security equipment underneath.

Outside entrances are now protected with security door access panels and an electronic key fob access system (pictured right). Four outdoor security cameras and door "face" cameras allow the District to monitor all traffic in and out of the building at all times.

In addition to the items pictured above, a major component of the EXCEL project was the abatement of asbestos within the Curtiss School crawlspace. This took place and the pipes were reinsulated with an energy efficient and less hazardous material.



Social Studies Department Working Hard to Improve Students' Test Scores

~ by Joanne Le Clair

Did you know our students' test scores on the New York State Global Studies Regent's, U.S. History and Government Regent's and AP scores are among the highest in the state? Tom Jackson, Diana Satterfield, and Jennifer Kuhl-Peterson are to be commended for their hard work, extra training, and ability to inspire students and other staff to this end result. These three teachers have been attending conferences and seminars sponsored by the Western Southern Tier Council for the Social Studies through a Teaching American History (TAH) grant, largely put together by Tom Jackson and teachers from Jamestown. In addition, both Mr. Jackson and Ms. Satterfield are serving as Educational Specialists to the state, and work on developing multiple choice questions, document based questions and thematic essays for New York State Regents Exams. This is truly an honor for our school!

TAH conferences, which Tom helps coordinate and several of our teachers attend, offer seminars staffed by *top* professors from all over the country and *distinguished* White House Aides. The most recent seminars were on U. S. Foreign Policy from the Colonial Period to the Cold War Era, held one week this past July at the Wings of Eagles. Teachers leave these conferences more knowledgeable and with more books, documents, and materials that they can immediately implement in their classrooms.

Recently, these conferences have opened to include a few librarians, English and language teachers as well, to better integrate these disciplines with history, increasing students' knowledge of social studies and history. HCS faculty members Suzanne Curran (librarian), Joanne Le Clair (English) and Barbara Demmin (Spanish) have been attending these conferences, too. The next will be on November 6, in Elliptoville. Check out the program on www.wstcss.org.

Elementary News

by Elementary Principal Michele Sincerbox

Now that September has passed and the weather is turning cooler, it is time to reflect upon our first month. The Open Houses are complete and were a large success. At the Curtiss building we had a 70% attendance while at the Primary School we had an 87% attendance. We also had a successful Book Fair and simply a good time seeing all that the students have accomplished. Thanks to everyone who made that a success.

The Club Fair went off with success. The clubs for this year include Spanish Club, Sign Club, Garden Club, Computer Club, Jazz Band, Sports Club and Ski Club. The permissions slips went out last week. Thank you to all the teachers and staff who advise these clubs. Without you, we could not have these extra activities that are so important to the well roundedness of our students.

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Leading Lakers



Congratulations to (from left) Lauren Musso (6), Ruger Cummings (6), Cody Kolo (5) and Damein Personious (5) for being chosen as Laker Leaders for the 5th and 6th grades.

HCS Spanish Club.....On the Move!

~ by Barbara Demmin

The students in the Spanish Club kicked off their summer with a week-long trip to the island of Puerto Rico. On July 6, the group traveled from Rochester to San Juan, spending their first day in the old colonial city. They toured Fort San Cristóbal during the day, and spent the evening eating authentic food and watching a show of traditional dancing at the restaurant Rosa de Triana. The following morning students departed for the rainforest of El Yunque, where they relaxed in the cool waterfalls of the tropical forest. The afternoon was spent at the beautiful Caribbean beach of Lu-

quillo. The Puerto Rican culture is a mix of Spanish, African and Indigenous peoples. During day three, students had the opportunity to visit the traditional ceremonial grounds of the Tibes tribe, some of the first people to inhabit the island. The group then traveled to the resort of La Parguera where they spent time swimming, snorkeling and boating. They had the opportunity to see a diverse amount of marine life including octopus and giant blow fish. In the evening, they took a boat ride to the Bioluminescent Bay where they swam among the millions of sparkling micro-organisms that rise to the surface of the warm water each evening. During the entire week of travel, a line of open communication was maintained through a blog site between student travelers and parents back home.

Each day a trip journal was posted, along with many photos. You can visit this blog site at <http://hcsspanish.edublogs.org/>. This journey gave students more than just a chance to practice Spanish; it also gave them the opportunity to immerse themselves in the island culture of Puerto Rico.

This year the club is planning a trip to Costa Rica where they will explore a nature reserve, volcanoes, tropical beaches, and much more!



A Christmas Carol to Be Performed

~ by Joanne Le Clair



A comedy/drama version of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, adapted by John Jakes, will be performed by the Grades 7-12 Drama Club at Hammondsport Central School on Friday, November 13 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, November 14 at 2 p.m.

Jakes has adapted the classic story to be performed within an hour on a bare stage with props, offering the performers a chance to be very creative, as well as singing a cappella. The short performance time makes the production suitable for children and busy adults as being a welcome start to the holiday season. Students acting in the production are also the show's set, costume, props, sound and make-up crews, which is providing them with experience in all areas of theatre.

Tickets are \$5 each (\$3 for children under 5 years of age); and this money will go toward the performance royalties, cost of the scripts, and cost for supplies toward building props.

Please save these dates and times and kick off the holiday spirit with Charles Dickens as he and his friends happily bring this beloved classic to you!

From the Desk of HS Principal Tad Rounds

Congratulations to the varsity boys' and girls' teams for their Homecoming victories. A special thank you to all staff, parents and students for your participation during Homecoming weekend. Our students are fortunate to have such a supportive school and community to count upon.

Progress reports will be in the mail the third week in October. Students not passing courses are required to stay with their academic teacher from 2:20-3:20. Please note the letter included with the progress reports regarding the procedures for the upcoming emergency evacuation drill and the flyer regarding H1N1. Effective hand washing and staying home when ill is one of the most effective methods of stopping the spread of the flu. Please contact our nurses with any questions or concerns regarding your child's health.

PSAT exams will be given to all juniors on October 14 and all sophomores will take the PLAN exams on October 20. Both of these exams are to prepare students for their SAT and ACT exams. Students need to take their results from these practice exams and

(Continued on page 7)

Hammondsport Students Win Poetry and Essay Contests

by Joanne Le Clair

Once again our school was well represented by students writing winning poems and essays this past year. After our Poet-in-Residence Rachel Guido deVries conducts a poetry workshop, students in Mrs. Le Clair's classes are offered the opportunity to enter their writings in competitions sponsored by Pine Tree Poetry, The American Anthology of Poetry, and Creative Communication, which was a new contest for us this year.

The reason these contests are selected to enter is because they do *not* require students to purchase the anthology in order to be published. They are required to submit a final signed form giving permission to the company to publish their work, and in some cases are asked to write a little information about themselves, then return this form to the company within the specified deadline.

Students receive notification over the summer months if they win these contests. In some cases, the notices are sent to the school, and hopefully we are able to forward these to the students so they may return permission slips in time to be published. Students who have won one or more poetry contests as 8th graders include Connor Amsden, Lauren Binnert, Sydney Farmer, Kareena Hoyt, Lydia Shippee, Megan Erway, Alissa Walruth, Laurie Smith, Cory Dixon, Troy Dodge, Matt Lowin, Michael Bestys, Brooke Clark, Brain Wood, Hunter Cummings, and Alicia Darrin. Upper classmen writing winning poems as 11th graders include Mattie Catherman and Nick Hopkins, as well as graduating seniors Brian Stachnik, Jennifer Gordon, and Katherine Woods.

Also, for the first time last spring, two 8th grade students entered Creative Communication's essay contest and have been selected as winners: Lauren Binnert for her essay, "The History of Volleyball" and Sydney Farmer for her essay, "Global Warming: What Could Happen?" This is indeed an honor for these two young ladies who are currently freshmen.

These are the winners we know about; there could be more. If you see these students, please compliment them on their fine work. Hopefully, they will continue to write and share their work with others. Ms. deVries had completed another poetry workshop our first week in September, and a few students have decided to enter work this school year as well. Students do not have to be currently enrolled in one of Mrs. Le Clair's classes to enter their work in these contests. Please see Mrs. Le Clair if you would like to submit your work this year.

(Continued from page 6)

begin preparing for the real exam. Picture re-takes are scheduled for October 23.

Congratulations to the Senior Class on their trip to Washington DC. Now come the midterms, Regents exams and the college selection process. Graduation in June is right around the corner.

Students of the Quarter

Annalee Mishrell and Jacob Albright have been selected as Students of the Quarter for the 4th 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 Annalee and Jacob!

Student of the Quarter

Full Name:
Annalee Mishrell

Favorite Subject in School:
art/ gym

Hobbies / Activities:
soccer, softball, ski club

Future Plans:
Go to college

Three words that best describe yourself:
outgoing, happy, determined



Student of the Quarter

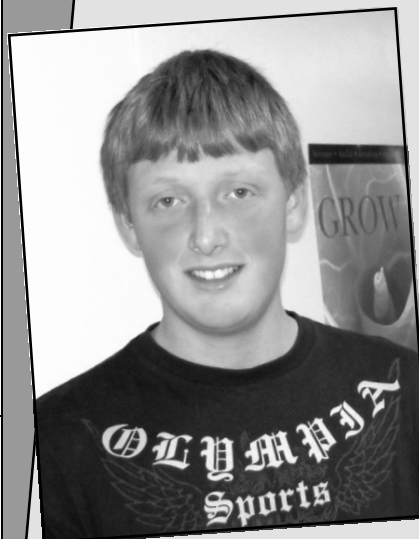
Full Name:
Jacob Albright

Favorite Subject in School:
math, lunch

Hobbies / Activities:
basketball, golf

Future Plans:
I want to get a job in business or engineering

Three words that best describe yourself:
fun, smart, hard-working



October/November Calendar Items

October

- 20 PLAN Test for Soph., Early Dismissal Day; Parent Advisory Meeting, Curtiss Library, 6 pm
 21 BOE Meeting, 7pm
 23 Picture Re-take Day
 24 ACT Exam @ HCS

November

- 2 PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm, Student Lounge
 6 Marking Period 1 ends; Junior High Area All State;
 7 SAT @ Bath
 10 9th grade trip to VA/Co. BLDG.
 11 No School, Veteran's Day

(Elementary News, continued)

Response to Interventions implementation has begun. Initial screening is complete and students have been grouped. The results will be monitored and reviewed often and groups will move quickly. We are excited to see the results of implementation of this new piloted program.

With upcoming cooler weather, please ensure that your child dresses in layers and wears appropriate footwear. Sneakers are best and the only footwear for the playground equipment. No sandals please. As a reminder, there is no supervision for students prior to 7:30 am. Please do not drop your child off before that time.

Jr. Lakers Before and After School Program

The Jr. Lakers Before and After School Program has openings in its program for this fall. This program serves 20 children on a first come first serve basis. In order for the program to continue to offer before and after school services, we need to have 10 full time registrants. If you are or know of a family that needs before and after school child care, we still have openings. Registration packets can be picked up in the Hammondsport Elementary School Main Office, or from Beth Morrison in the Jr. Lakers Room. For more information, stop in and see Beth or call 607-776-6441.

HTA Roller Skating for Students Saturday, November 7th

NHS Halloween Food Drive



Saturday, October 31
6-7 p.m.

National Honor Society members will be trick-or-treating for canned foods for the Loaves and Fishes Food Bank.



Baseball Team Announcement



There is a drop-off box at the end of the Main Street School driveway where cans and bottles can be dropped off at any time. PLEASE ONLY LEAVE RE-FUNDABLE CANS AND BOTTLES, no recyclables.

Spaghetti Dinner

Sponsored by the Class of 2011

October 16th at the Hammondsport Fire Hall
5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

\$5-adults
\$4-senior citizens
\$3-students



Deadline for Wall of Fame

The deadline for submitting
Wall of Fame applications
is December 31, 2009
to be considered for
2010 induction.



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