



**HAMMONDSPORT
CENTRAL SCHOOL**

Laker Lines

April 2010

PTO Science Night Draws 100+

The PTO held its annual Hands On Science Night in the Curtiss School Gymnasium on Tuesday, March 16. Over 100 students and parents attended this free event which offered 15 different stations where students could participate in hands on activities relating to science including magic sand, glow stick science, bouncing bubbles, angle of a dart gun, soda sounds and color changing UV beads to name a few.



**Parent/Community
Sports Forum
April 6, 2010
6 pm, HS Cafe**

First grade student Madison Pifer certainly looks the part as she gets her picture taken at the "Picture Yourself as a Scientist" station during the PTO's Hands On Science Night.

HCS Mission

The mission of the Hammondsport 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.

District Objectives

100% of our students will meet their graduation requirements.

100% of school community members will contribute to a safe, secure, student centered environment.

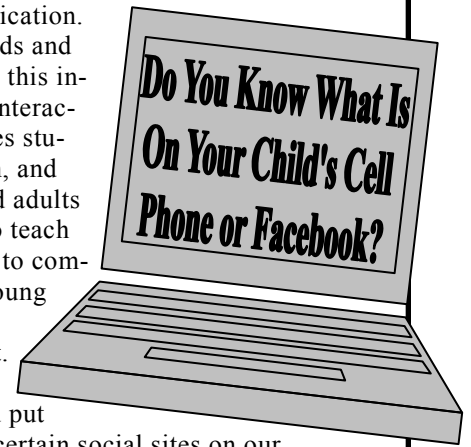
100% of students will meet proficiency with the continued goal of achieving mastery.

100% of the school community will rate the internal/external communications of the district as satisfactory.

Aiming High

News from Hammondsport Central School District Superintendent Kyle Bower

Do you know what is on your child's cell phone or Facebook page? As technology continues to move faster than our comfort level with learning it, our children have mastered ways to communicate in their world. Gone are the days when kids needed to sit in the kitchen to use the phone where parents could hear what was being said and monitor their communication. Our children communicate with dozens of friends and classmates hundreds of times a day. Sometimes this interaction is polite and cordial. Sometimes this interaction is mean spirited and threatening. Sometimes students share very personal thoughts, information, and pictures of themselves or others. As parents and adults in this technological age, we may not be able to teach our young people how to use the tools they use to communicate, but it is our responsibility to teach young people the appropriate use of these tools and make them aware that anonymity does not exist.



Our school requires that cell phones are off and put away during school hours. We block access to certain social sites on our school computers. School systems today all struggle with the lines between teaching technological literacy and ensuring technological responsibility. We need the help of parents in this regard.

If your child has a cell phone, you can be sure that at one time or another, they have received a mass message threatening their death if they don't forward that message to ten other people. When notes were passed in the "old days," one child would pass it but the other student usually had the choice if they grabbed it, opened it, and read it. Today's technology doesn't work that way. If you have a number, a blog, or a page, you will get what people send you. The power of choice now rests much more with the sender than the receiver. Do you know what your child is sending out? Do you know what your child is being sent?

As our *District Strategic Plan* states, "strong character and morals promote responsible citizenship." We need to work together as a larger school community to help teach our children how to responsibly use these new technologies to which they have access. Reading your child's text messages or checking their Facebook page isn't an invasion of privacy or a lack of trust. It is now part of what needs to happen as we all try to protect our children in the 21st century.

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 H.S. Principal Tad Rounds

It is my pleasure to announce the Valedictorian, Mattie Catherman, and Salutatorian, Diana Derr for the Class of 2010. Congratulations to Mattie and Diana who exemplify Hammondsport pride!

April will be a busy month with National Honor Society inductions taking place on April 9 at 1:30 pm. Our 6th Grade Orientation for current fifth grade students and parents is scheduled for April 7 at 6 pm. This will be followed by the 7th Grade Orientation scheduled on April 14 at 6 pm. for all current 6th grade students and parents. 7th and 8th Grade ELA (English Language Arts) Assessments will be administered on April 27 and April 28, which is the week students return from spring break. The 7th and 8th Grade Math Assessments will follow on May 5 and May 6. Please ensure that students have adequate rest and a healthy breakfast prior to the exam.

Congratulations to the currently undefeated Academic All Stars. I believe another championship is in the near future! Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Highlights from the March 2010 Board of Education Meeting

- Approved minutes of regular meeting of February 10, 2010.
- Presentation by Greg Klauk, Klauk, Lloyd & Wilhem, Inc., of the appraisal of the Curtiss School building and property.
- Presentation by Trafford Doherty, Director of the Curtiss Museum, on the development of the Glenn H. Curtiss Heritage Trail.
- Adoption of five previously read policies
- Presentation by Superintendent Bower on the preliminary budget development for the 2010-2011 school year.
- Approval of the Class of 2011 senior trip to Orlando, Florida.

Student Spotlight

Sophomore Lindsey Draper
Attends Capital Days in Albany

Sophomore Lindsey Draper was chosen to participate in the 75th Annual 4-H Capitol Days in Albany February 28 – March 2.

One of two students chosen from the Steuben County 4-H program, Lindsey traveled to Albany where she met Assemblyman Jim Bacalles and Senator George Winner. She also toured the Capitol Building, visited various departments of government, and attended sessions of the assembly and senate.



Elementary News

by Elementary Principal Michelle Sincerbox



I want to begin by sending a big thank you to Kim Sprague, the PTO, the staff, and volunteers for the wonderful Hands On Science Night. We had a great turn out and the kids really had fun.

With spring comes improved weather and more outside time for students. Please review and continue to follow the school handbook for appropriate dress. Flip flops are not appropriate shoes for Physical Education class or the playground. Spring also brings Little League season, more evening events at school and spring break. Although these are exciting times, it is important for students to continue to come to school well rested and ready to learn.

The parent advisory meeting will be held April 13 in the Primary Library from 6-7 pm. This is a good time to meet with me to discuss any questions you may have regarding programming at the elementary level.

The New York State Assessments for English Language Arts for grades 3-6 will be April 26-28. The New York State Mathematics Assessment for grades 3-6 will follow the week of May 3. Please make every effort to get your child/children to school on time and well rested during these exams. Your cooperation is essential to your child's success.

Primary Students Jump Rope for a Healthy Heart

Students in grades K-4 participated in Jump Rope for Heart as part of February's "Heart Healthy Month." The program began with a video explaining heart disease and how it can affect any person, including young people. The students then participated in jump rope related activities in their Physical Education classes including single roping, making letters and shapes with jump ropes and musical jump ropes. In addition, students had the option of collecting donations toward heart and stroke research for the American Heart Association. A total of 51 students took to the community collecting \$2,641 in donations! Kindergarten student Alexia Lovejoy and second grade student Madison Wright brought in the top money donations with \$235 each. Each student who collected donations will be awarded a prize for their efforts.

What Happened to the February Break?



And Other Questions Regarding the 2010-11 School Calendar

Since the school calendar for 2010-2011 was put in the *Laker Lines* last month we have received some questions on how the school calendar is created. Here are some answers to the most common questions.

How many days are in a full school year?

HCS students have school for 176 days and we have 4 full day conference days. We build in 4 extra "snow days" each year in case of closings for emergency reasons. There are 180 official days this year and there are 180 official days next year. The number of school days can only change through negotiations with our teacher's bargaining unit.

What happened to a full week of recess in February?

The official GST BOCES calendar eliminated the February break next year. We use approximately 1.3 million dollars in services from BOCES, including special education and career/tech education. To have our District open when they are closed would require us to provide services for students when they are open and we are closed. That is not cost effective.

Why did Spring Break move?

New York State moved ELA and Math testing in grades 3-8 to the last week in April this year. Having rigorous State tests for the majority of our students beginning the day after a break is not the best situation. GST BOCES moved this week of break across the region due to this concern. If testing dates change in the future this will be revisited.

Should you have any questions about the District calendar, feel free to contact the District Office.

Alumni News

Jennifer Linnan, HCS Class of 2007, and **Kelsey Lanphere**, HCS Class of 2009, currently students at Nazareth College, have been invited to participate in The March: Bearing Witness of Hope program, where students travel to Germany and Poland to study the Holocaust through an international program called the March of Remembrance and Hope (MRH). The March: Bearing Witness to Hope will offer its first study trip May 25 - June 2, 2010 with student leaders from both Nazareth and Hobart and William Smith Colleges. This nine-day student leadership experience to study the Holocaust on site in Germany and Poland will be led by Holocaust scholars together with Holocaust survivors and Israeli and Polish guides.

A commitment to identify, confront, and transform situations of prejudice, bigotry, and intolerance, institutionally as well as interpersonally, upon one's return is a prerequisite for participation in the March. Undergraduate students of all majors and years (particularly sophomores and juniors) are encouraged to learn more about this transformational experience.

If you would like to submit news about an HCS alum, please mail it to the District Office or email it to the attention of Nancy Clark at nclark@hport.wnyric.org.



"Banana Splits" Update

"Banana Splits" is a peer support group for children whose families are in transition as a result of separation, divorce, remarriage or death. The major goal is to help children regain a feeling of stability by confronting the crisis of divorce or remarriage and learning to live with it. Through peer support of other students who also share feelings of loss and change, the children try to help each other solve the problems present in many "splits."

During the past several weeks we have been talking about what issues are the most difficult on a day to day basis. We decided that it would be helpful to share these thoughts in a general way with the adults in their lives.

- Keeping track of "stuff" between two houses
- Not getting to see Dad or go to his house, especially on school days
- Time spent traveling to Dad's
- They still fight and it makes me scared
- Putting us (kids) in the middle
- Fighting over us (kids) or saying bad things about each other
- Wanting me to take sides
- Having to be the messenger

Children are amazingly resilient, but as the significant adults in their lives, we can all help by trying to understand their struggles offering concrete solutions or lending an understanding ear when needed.

Catherman, Derr Top Class of 2010



2010 Valedictorian
Mattie Catherman

Mattie Catherman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen and Tammy Catherman of Hammondsport, has been announced as the Valedictorian of the 2010 Senior Class at Hammondsport Central School.

Mattie has been active in Tennis, Softball, Drama Club, Ski Club, Student Council, Girl Scouts, Youth in Government, Academic All-Stars and the National Honor Society. She is also class president, and has been involved in numerous volunteer activities, including participating in multiple mission trips to such places as Louisiana and Buffalo.

Mattie is currently undecided on her final college choice. Her major will be architecture.

The remaining top ten in the Senior Class are:

Trevor Parke, son of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy and Sherry Parke of Hammondsport;

Kristen Cornish, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth and Angelia Cornish of Hammondsport;

Bethany Leggett, daughter of Ms. Belinda Trickey of Hammondsport and Mr. Michael Leggett of Oneonta;

Annalee Mishrell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kirk and Rosemary Mishrell of Hammondsport;

Joshua Snyder, son of Ms. Elizabeth Snyder of Pulteney and Mr. Brian Snyder of Pulteney;

Bradley Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steven and Lisa Jones of Hammondsport;

Jordon Bernd, daughter of Mrs. Rachelle Peterson of Prattsburgh and Mr. Tracey Bernd of Campbell;

Taylor Wade, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy and Ellen Mortensen of Hammondsport.

Graduation is scheduled for June 25, 2010 at 6:00 pm in the auditorium or outside (weather permitting) at the Hammondsport Central School.



2010 Salutatorian
Diana Derr

Diana Derr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James and Karen Derr of Bath has been announced as the Salutatorian of the 2010 Senior Class at Hammondsport Central School.

Diana has been active in Volleyball, Track, Band, Ski Club, and a member of Student Council and the National Honor Society. She has also held several class officer positions, as well as being involved in numerous volunteer activities, both in school and the community.

Diana will be attending SUNY Fredonia in the fall, majoring in accounting.

You've Been Accepted!

The past few months have been very busy for our seniors as they prepare for life after HCS. After countless hours researching, visiting and applying to colleges, their hard work is starting to pay off. Listed below are the names of some of our seniors along with the college to where they have been accepted.

Michelle Gardner	LeMoyne College (Community Scholarship Award)
Alysia Hilligus	Corning Community College
Jodi Kulyeshie	Corning Community College
Kristen Cornish	St. Bonaventure University (Merit Scholarship)

Save the Date
for the
3rd Annual
Run, Walk or Crawl
Saturday, June 12, 2010



Details and registration information will be available soon on our District website

PTO To Hold Book Fair



April 6, 7 & 8

HCS Auditorium

Books for sale for ages
Pre-K through Grade 12

Don't Forget to Fill Out the 2010 Census

Census Day is April 1, 2010 and the U.S. Census Bureau has provided educational materials to HCS through the Census in Schools program to teach students about the 2010 Census and how it affects our community. While there is no deadline in responding, the Census Bureau encourages households to respond as quickly as possible so that everyone can be counted. If you have any questions about the 2010 Census, you can go to www.census.gov.

Attention Parents of Pre-School Children

The Hammondsport Central School District plans to continue the pre-kindergarten program for 2010-2011. As we prepare for registration it is important that we gather the number of eligible children currently living in the District.

If you have a child that will turn 4 years old prior to December 1, 2010, your child will be eligible for pre-kindergarten.



To assist us with planning, please contact Mrs. Groves in the Primary Office #569-5200 ext. 5233 and give us your child's name and contact information.

SCHOOL TRUSTEE VACANCY

The Hammondsport Central School District announces one vacancy for trustee on its Board of Education as of **June 30, 2010**. Qualified voters of the school district will elect this member at the annual school district election on May 18, 2010 between the hours of noon and 8:00 pm in the lobby of the Main Street School.

Qualifications of School Trustee Candidates are as follows:

- Age 18 years or older
- Citizen of the United States
- Ability to read and write
- Residency in the Hammondsport Central School District for at least one (1) year prior to the date of the election

**School Budget Vote
May 18, 2010**

Anyone interested in running for this trustee seat may pick up an election packet at the District Office beginning on March 19, 2010. Deadline for filing completed petitions is 5:00 pm on Monday, April 19, 2010.

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY REGISTERED either with the county or with the school district, please come to the District Office on **Thursday, May 6, 2010**, between 12:00 pm and 8:00 pm to register to vote in this election.

6 Simple Rules to Follow When Exiting a School Bus

- Always cross in front of the bus, never behind.
- Walk forward along the side of the road until you see the driver's face.
- Look at the driver and wait for the signal to begin crossing. Walk straight until you are even with the outer edge of the bus and stop.
- Listen, and look both ways for any moving traffic. When you decide the road is clear, cross quickly, do not run.
- If the driver blows the horn, go back to the side of the road and wait for the driver to signal again.
- If you drop something near the bus, ask the driver to help you retrieve the dropped item.

Be safe ~ from the Transportation Department

Reading With Your Child

The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.

Strong Families, Strong Schools

- Set aside a time to read together every night or every other night.
- Occasionally take turns reading, paragraph by paragraph or page by page. This is a good way to read books that your child is unfamiliar with or one where he misses three or more words per page. If your child likes to read alone, let him. If he likes you to take a turn, do it. Remember that this should be an enjoyable time for both you and your child.
- Find a book that interests your child. If the book is too difficult for her to read, read it to her and then discuss the pictures together. If the book seems too easy, let her read it anyway; this will help breed confidence and build interest.
- If you can get anyone else in the family involved in reading time, do it.
- In general, if your child struggles with a word, offer him hints in sounding out the first letter of the word and then ask "What word would fit here?" Also, another good strategy to teach readers is to read to the end of the sentence and then go back and reread the entire sentence and see if they know what the word is then. However, if your child becomes frustrated with these efforts and doesn't seem to be enjoying the story or even able to pay attention to it, start telling him the words he doesn't know. Later, as he progresses, you can work through the above methods again.
- Praise, praise, praise your child's efforts. Do not criticize mistakes, even if you think she should not have made them. Each time you read together try to look for something specific your child does well and tell her what you've noticed. This can be things like sounding out a word on her own, reading with appropriate expression, or even just staying committed to reading time.
- After the story is over, talk about it with your child. Ask her opinion about characters and offer your own. Ask open-ended questions (rather than just factual) about what happened in the story including things like, "Why do you think _____ did this? What would have happened if...?"
- With older children, consider reading long books together, reading a chapter or two each night.



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Students of the Quarter

Diana Derr and Cameron Wade have been selected as Students of the Quarter for the 2nd marking period of the 2009-2010 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 Diana and Cameron!

Student of the Quarter

Full Name:
Diana Derr

Favorite Subject in School:
accounting

Hobbies / Activities:
volleyball, skiing, tubing, wakeboarding

Future Plans:
Attend college and major in business administration

Three words that best describe yourself:
determined, energetic, charismatic



Student of the Quarter

Full Name:
Cameron Wade

Favorite Subject in School:
pre-calculus

Hobbies / Activities:
Video games, watching movies, snowboarding

Future Plans:
attend college for film making

Three words that best describe yourself:
intelligent, funny, hard-working



April/May Calendar Items

April

- 1 Local scholarship application due
- 2 No school, Good Friday
- 5 PTO Meeting, 6:30, student lounge
- 6 Pre-K Information Night, 6 pm;
PTO Book Fair, HCS Auditorium
- 7 Marking Period 3 ends; 6th
Grade Orientation, 6pm; PTO
Book Fair, HCS Auditorium
- 8 PTO Book Fair, HCS Auditorium
- 10 ACT at HCS
- 13 Parent Advisory Meeting, 6 pm,
Elementary Library
- 14 7th Grade Orientation, 6 pm;
BOE Meeting, 7 pm
- 19 No school, Spring Break
- 20 No school, Spring Break
- 21 No school, Spring Break
- 22 No school, Spring Break
- 23 No school, Spring Break
- 26 NYS ELA Test Grades 3-6
- 27 NYS ELA Test Grades 3-6
- 28 BOE Meeting, 7:30 am BOCES
vote; NYS ELA Test Grades 3-6
- 30 NYS ELA Test make-up day

May

- 1 SAT @ Bath; Prom at
Esperanza
- 3 No School, Conference Day
- 5 NYS Math Assessment Grades 3-8
- 6 NYS Math Assessment Grades
3-8; Open registration for vot-
ers 12-8 pm
- 7 NYS Math Assessment Grades 3-6

February Laker Leaders

Grade 7

Sarah Bates
Alyson Binnert
Miguel Bustamonte
Quentin Carvajal
Collin Conklin
Jennifer Cranmer
Dylan Giardina
Kourtney Hoyt
Brian Kilbury
Eric Lannon
Jessica Lawrence
Aaron Lowin
Olivia Makarick
Eladio Martinez
Sydney McGinn
Shaun Miller
Janice Oyoo
Sean Putney

Kelsey Sack
Morgan Sincerbox
Amanda Sprague
Ann Stone
Arianna Turner
Joseph Woods

Grade 8

Elizabeth Albright
John Baliguin
Taylin Bower
Carrington Ellis
Claudia Eygabroat-
Guerin
Lauren Farmer
Lori Gordon
Korynne House
Hannah Ridge
Alexander Seager
Sydney Sprague

2010 Sports Awards Program

Friday, June 4, 2010
7:00 pm
High School Auditorium

2010 Homecoming October 1 & 2

Congratulations to...

- **Bethany Leggett** who was awarded the Steuben County Exceptional Senior Cheerleading Scholarship at the Steuben/Alleghany County Senior All-Star Games on March 11.
- Fifth grade student **Paige Fawcett** for winning the PTO sponsored slogan contest promoting a healthy one mile walk in the Village of Hammondspport.
- Junior **Brooke Gordon** for making the Section V Class DD All Tournament Team and the SCL's 1st Team All Star Team for basketball.
- Juniors **Ashley House** and **Reagan Ball** for being placed on the 2nd team of the SCL All Star Team for basketball
- Senior **Will Duncan** for being placed on the 2nd team of the SCL All Star Team for basketball
- Senior **Ryan House** for winning the Section V Helen Hague Scholarship for \$500.

Hammondsport Central School
District
8272 Main Street
Hammondsport, NY 14840

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