

Feb/Mar 2018

# Laker LIVES



Hammondsport Central School District Newsletter

## Career Day at HCS



*Hammondsport volunteer fire fighters Bill Fries and David Buckley talk to 4th grade students.*



*Sgt. Bryan Starkweather talk to 6th grade students about the Army National Guard.*



*Steuben County Sheriff Deputy Eillison talks to 5th grade students.*

Thank you to Alisa Wright and the Career Development Council for partnering with our school to put on our annual Career Day for grades 4-6 on Friday, February 2nd. Parent and community volunteers rotated across classrooms to speak about their respective careers and answer questions from our students. Thank you to all of our community members that came in to share your expertise and provide a meaningful learning experience for our kids!



## Message from the Board of Education and the Superintendent

The Governor's proposed 2018-19 state budget did no favors for the Hammondspport Central School District or our taxpayers. In the current 2017-18 school year, our District is set to receive \$3,061,794 in Foundation Aid. This form of aid is general operating aid that can be used to help offset the overall expenses of the District. The HCS 2017-2018 school budget is currently \$13,996,689. Since the value of taxable property in our District exceeds \$840,000,000 in value, we are labeled a wealthy school district. As such we are seen as a District with a tax rate that is well below average and our taxpayers can afford to pay more.

In his proposed 2018-19 state budget, the Governor has proposed an increase in Foundation Aid for Hammondspport Central School in the amount of \$7,754 or .24%. While our state property tax cap limit will be around 2%, it will still be very challenging to maintain all current programs and stay within our tax cap limits.

The current budget development season is the most challenging we have faced in my ten years of putting HCS budgets together. Mandated District costs continue to increase, state revenue to help cover those costs does not keep pace, and that will force us to look at reducing overall expenditures or going to the taxpayers with the tax levy that may exceed our tax cap limits.

Please follow our District Facebook page [www.facebook.com/hammondspportschool/](http://www.facebook.com/hammondspportschool/) and check our District website at [www.hammondspportcsd.org](http://www.hammondspportcsd.org) for upcoming Board meeting dates as well as budget workshops.

Check out the HCS SHARE TABLE!

Thank you and Go LAKERS!

Mr. Kyle C. Bower, Superintendent of Schools

### HCS 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.

### 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.

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; Dennis Carlson, Vice President; Richard Drain, Kevin Bennett, and Lynda Lowin.

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

For more school information, visit our school website at: [hammondspportcsd.org](http://hammondspportcsd.org)

Superintendent of Schools: Kyle Bower

Newsletter Editor: Makenzie Witter

## Public Notice Reminder

Section 3635 of education Law requires notification by parents or guardians of requests for private/parochial school transportation services prior to April 1st of each school year for the following school year. Request forms are available at the bus garage, 7960 SR 54, Hammondsport, NY.

For additional information, contact :

**Bill Fries**  
**Transportation Supervisor**  
**607-569- 5200, ext. 5283**

Nancy Clark, District Clerk  
Hammondsport Central School

## PARENTS!

### CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR FAMILY'S ACCESS TO EFFICIENT INTERNET?

For a limited time, Steuben County is addressing the needs of our region's families and sponsoring an online survey to hear from residents about their current broadband needs.

Steuben County needs your feedback about your experience with your current broadband provider and whether you feel your family's accessibility is adequate.

Don't have internet? Fill out a hard-copy which can be found by printing it from the link below, at HCSD, or a local library. Surveys are available at the County libraries as well!

Please Visit:

[www.steubencony.org/broadband](http://www.steubencony.org/broadband)



## Share Table in HCS Cafeteria

The new Share Table in the HCS Cafeteria is a way for extra and unwanted food not to go to waste. The share table is refrigerated and kept available all day for any students that want to leave something or take something for themselves. The food must be pre-packaged and not opened. As you can see, there is plenty of juice and milk available every day. Elementary classrooms can also use items from the share table to help any students that may need a daily snack. Thank you very much to our cafeteria staff for getting our share table up and running!

## Introducing Laker Kids!

### After School Child Care for Hammondsport Central School

We opened the program on November 6<sup>th</sup> with just 6 children, but enrollment has been growing ever since. We offer flexible days and hours to help families juggle their work and family activities. Some children attend for just an hour and ride the second bus to their homes at 3:30. We have a great group of kids and keep them all busy with fun projects, active play and individualized care.

The mixed age group creates a special opportunity for social interaction and cooperation. We currently serve 18 children in all grades except 6<sup>th</sup>.

Though the JR Lakers name has been a part of our child care history at Hammondsport School, some questioned it and wondered if it was a sports team. The new name, Laker Kids, was proposed by a parent and approved by funders and school leaders. Please watch for new materials that will promote Laker Kids as part of the Kinship Family and Youth services provided by Catholic Charities of Steuben. Our sister child development program is the Bath Community Child Day Care Center. Parents may be interested in dually enrolling their children in this program for times when Laker Kids is closed. Contact Evelyn or the Director, Darcy Cherry at 607-776- 7387.

## Alumni Spotlight: Susan Sincerbox

Susan N. Sincerbox graduated from Hammondsport Central School in 2012. Since leaving the small town, she has completed her Bachelor of Science in Biological Anthropology at Binghamton University, Summa Cum Laude, under the guidance of forensic anthropologist Dr. Elizabeth A. DiGangi. During her undergraduate studies, Susan completed an Honors Thesis on the impacts of animal scavenging behavior on forensic investigations, which has since been expanded on and published as *Forensic Taphonomy and Ecology of North American Scavengers*. During her undergraduate career, she also volunteered with the Forensic Anthropology Center of Texas State on Operation Identification, an ongoing project which aims to forensically identify and repatriate migrants who have died crossing the Texas-Mexico border. Susan is now completing her Master of Arts in Biological and Forensic Anthropology at Texas State University, where she continues to volunteer with Operation Identification, serves as an instructional assistant for labs in biological anthropology, and conducts research on the rate of human decomposition for estimating time since death in medico legal casework. After receiving her graduate degree, Susan hopes to work for a local Medical Examiner's office before pursuing her PhD. She would like to thank the faculty and staff at Hammondsport fostering her love of learning and helping her lay a foundation for success.



If anyone has someone they believe should be featured in the **Alumni Spotlight** section of Laker Lines please contact Nancy Clark, District Clerk, at #569-5200 ext 5240. We would love to feature your LAKER success story!

### Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration



Hammondsport- Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration for the 2018-2019 school year will be held at the Hammondsport Elementary School on February 28th from 5:00-7:00pm in the Elementary Office.

To register, parents will need to **show documentation** that their child will be **5 years old by December 1, 2018 for Kindergarten and/or 4 years old by December 1, 2018 for Pre-K**. You will need to provide a **birth certificate**, and your child's **immunization** records.

The immunizations required for public school attendance must be completed before entering school.

For more information contact Miss Darcie in the Elementary Office at 569-5200 ext. 5233.

### The Wheels on the Bus *DO* Go Round and Round!



During the 2016-2017 school, Hammondsport school vehicles transported HCS students more than 188,015 miles! The circumference of Earth is 24,901 miles. Last year, the current fleet of twelve larger school buses and five smaller school vehicles transported our students the equivalent of 7.5 times around the Earth!

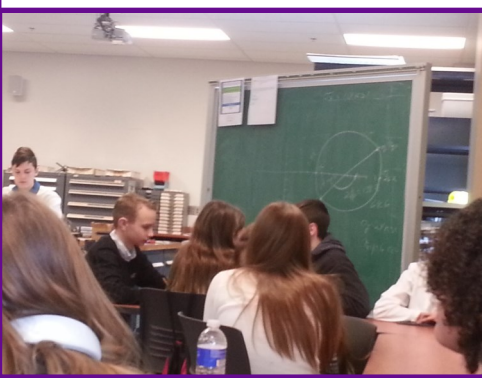
## From the Desk of Mr. Rounds, 7-12 Principal

On February 5th, Scott Fitch met with the student body on the topic of Goal Setting and Reputation Management. The assembly was scheduled to align with the building goal of teaching students the importance of a Growth Mindset. The presentation hit upon the importance of having established goals that are outside an individual's comfort zone and how goals drive your actions, which establishes your reputation or "brand". Mr. Fitch was an All American college basketball player and named the Division III player of the year, and was well received by the students.

On Friday, February 9th, the seventh grade class toured the FLCC (Finger Lakes Community College) Campus Center in Victor with the expressed goal of providing students an early opportunity to



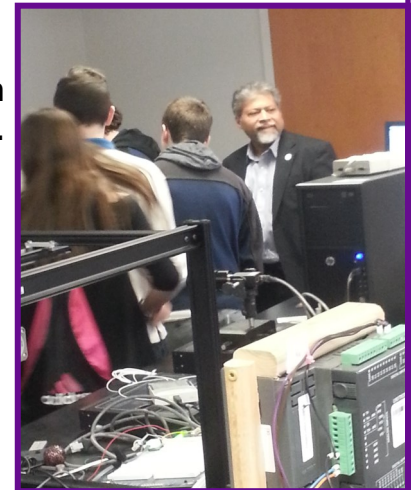
*7th grade students meet with FLCC Campus Director on STEM fields*



*7th grade students presented with information on instrumentation and control technologies*

view post-secondary opportunities. The students met with three different college professors and were provided an overview of degree options and job opportunities in the STEM field. Students were also able to utilize the lab equipment and experience the college classroom environment for a day. The campus director has extended an open invitation for our students based upon how well they represented our school.

On March 14th, our sophomores will travel to Alfred State College for Career Day. Students will be able to meet with both college professors and representatives across a spectrum of professions to help set career goals and plan for any corresponding post-secondary education.



*Dr. Samata and 7th grad students utilize lab equipment.*

This year of the twelve schools participating in Steuben County All County for chorus, only Painted Post and Bath sent more students than Hammondsport. Corning Painted Post sent twenty-five students and Bath sent fifteen students. Hammondsport sent twelve students for this event (Elissa Martinez, Natalie Lowin, Andrew Hill, Eli Hill, Thomas Kressly, Tyler Hill, Matthew Cole, Zach Pifer, Gavin Ruddy) which demonstrates students' commitment and dedication to music in our small school setting.



## Elementary Spelling Bee

Thank you to the families who joined us for the Elementary Spelling Bee on the afternoon of Friday, February 9th. We had 24 spellers ranging from grades 1-6. Congratulations to Markus Tompkins for emerging as our school champion, as well as to his younger brother and our runner-up, Nicholas! Markus and Nicholas will represent our school at the Regional Spelling Bee at Corning-Painted Post Middle School on March 17th. Good luck boys - we'll be cheering you on!

## From the Desk of Mr. Koehler, Elementary Principal

We have passed the midway point of the 2017-2018 school year and continue to celebrate the growth we see in our students. Thank you to our parents who took the time to meet with Mr. Bower and me during our Elementary parent meeting on January 25th. We recognize how precious evening time is with our families at home, and we can't be more thankful for your commitment to our school and the learning experiences we provide for our children. We are excited to share some of those learning experiences with you.

We are not only committed to educating our children at a high level with academic skills, but with social and emotional skills as well. We had our Leading Laker kick-off on January 2nd in our high school gym. Together as a school, we learned the meaning of Voice Levels 0-4, and what it means to show KAHFOOTY. Our bus drivers joined us for our assembly as our teachers demonstrated what a Leading Laker looks like on our school buses. After the assembly, each grade level took a bus ride through town to practice these behaviors. Later that day, each grade level had a lesson in the hallway to learn how to be a Leading Laker in the hallway. Our classes have also gone to the cafeteria to learn about and practice what a Leading Laker looks like in the cafeteria.

All staff are acknowledging these behaviors as we see them with Leading Laker tickets. Each Monday, we draw four tickets to acknowledge students who have shown specific Leading Laker behaviors on our morning announcements.

These students are able to choose a special incentive in the office, such as a positive phone call home, lunch in the office with a friend, or sitting in the Leading Laker chair for the day. Please enjoy looking through pictures of our lessons and common language posters on the pages that follow, which you will see as you walk through our building as visual reminders for students and staff. We encourage all of our families to use this same language to continue to enhance our partnership between school and home as we work to support all of our children in demonstrating Leading Laker behaviors!

I would like to extend a special thank you to our fifth-grade students who presented their work with answering text-dependent inference-level questions through constructed response writing to our Board of Education at our January meeting: Ava Drumm-Brightwell, Raegan Luppino, Brooke Lisefski, Lilia Morgan, Beyonca Akers, Allison Peck, and Corinne Ruddy. It was a special moment for the fifth-grade team and I to step back and watch our students shine and demonstrate the ownership they have over this high-level work that has taken place throughout this school year. Thank you to Mr. Bower and our Board of Education for providing our students with this meaningful and rewarding opportunity. We continue to be incredibly proud of our students!

We are looking forward to a rigorous, engaging, and rewarding second half of the school year – as always, thank you for preparing your child each and every day to learn!

## Principal's Awards

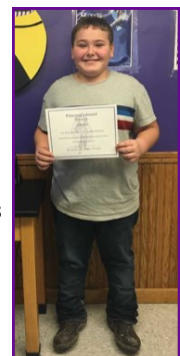
**Going Above and Beyond to Demonstrate Leading Laker Behavior!**



Joe was nominated by Mrs. Dickson and Mr. Stermole for showing a positive attitude and using her "bubble gum brain" to grow her independent reading level by working hard!



Veronica was nominated by Mrs. Studley for being a growth mindset role model by always working her hardest, helping others, and pushing herself to master what she hasn't learned yet!



Garrett was nominated by Mrs. Bower for having a positive attitude and consistently working hard both in school and with his work at home.

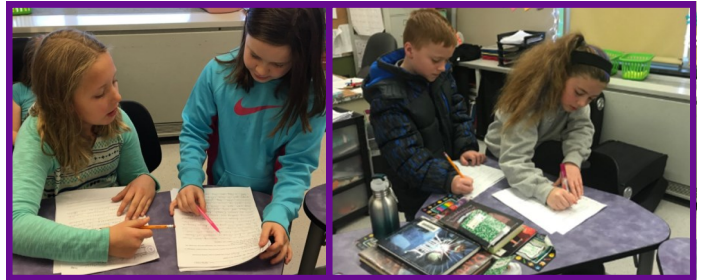
Elementary students that demonstrate "above and beyond" behaviors within our school are recognized with principal's awards from Mr. Koehler. Thank you to our students below for helping our school be the best it can be!

## Leading Lakers!



Our first graders practice what it looks like to be a Leading Laker in the cafeteria as a part of our kick-off event.

## 3rd and 4rd Grade Work Together, Learn Together



Ashleigh and Kadence (left) and Zanden and Madison (right) share their writing pieces and provide each other with targeted feedback.

**Leading Laker**

KAHFOOTY

Stay seated

Voice Level 0-2

Eyes forward

Safe pace

\_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION:  
 Bus Cafeteria Hallway Classroom

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Staff Initial \_\_\_\_\_



All staff carry the same Leading Laker tickets to acknowledge the specific behaviors we have taught in different locations. For example, a student might be acknowledged for staying seated in the cafeteria. The adult will provide the child with specific feedback, such as: "You are a Leading Laker



Students from Mrs. Webster's third grade class share their writing with students from Mrs. Kellogg's and Mrs. Conover's fourth grade class.

when you stay seated by raising your hand in the cafeteria."

**KAHFOOTY** is a catchy acronym that reminds our students to keep their hands, feet, and objects to themselves. This applies in all areas of our building!



In the Elementary, we have focused on growing common language and structures for constructed response writing across all levels K-6. Our third graders visited fourth grade to share a recent informational writing response to answer the focus question: "How does living in Kenya affect student's access to books?" The fourth graders were also able to share a recent writing piece they had completed.

Students partnered up to give each other feedback on their writing using "stars and stairs" and one takeaway. They were able to discuss common structures in their writing. Similarly, they were able to use common language frames to participate in student-led discussions.

This extension of learning was a great opportunity for students to share their hard work, participate in peer accountable talk, and study each other's work and behaviors for future learning opportunities. We are working hard to build common structures that align across grade levels, and our students are helping to lead the way!

Voice Levels	
4	outside
3	strong speaker
2	table talk
1	whisper
0	no talking

Students have been taught and practiced common definitions of voice levels ranging from 0 to 4. When all adults use this language for these voice levels, students become familiar with each and learn when each is appropriate to use in different areas of the building. We've been excited to hear from parents that are using these

same voice levels at home!

## Congratulations to the Following Seniors:

- Billy Whitney:** Tompkins-Cortland Community College  
Finger Lakes Community College
- Elissa Martinez:** Buffalo State College
- Brittany Storrs:** Corning Community College
- Luke Atkinson :** Niagara University  
St. Bonaventure University  
Cazenovia College  
Alfred University  
Cazenovia College
- Jackson Cummings:** Corning Community College
- Renee Stickler:** Tompkins-Cortland Community College
- Joseph Rago:** Alfred State University
- Benjamin Fingar:** Finger Lakes Community College

## Calendar of Events

- 2/28: Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration, 5:00PM-7:00PM
- 3/8: Early Dismissal @ 12:30PM
- 3/9: No School –Conference Day
- 3/21- Board of Education Meeting, 6:00PM, High School Library
- 4/3: BOE Special Budget Meeting, 6:00PM, High School Library
- 4/11-4-13: 3rd-8th ELA Testing
- 4/16-4/18 3rd-8th ELA Make-ups
- 4/18: BOE Meeting, BOCES
- 4/23-4/27: Spring Break, No School

**Anna Vogel:** Cazenovia College  
LeMoyne College

**Brayden Whitcomb:** United State Air Force  
Aviation Mechanic

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