

Laker Lives

February/March 2015

Hammondsport Central School District Newsletter



Participants in first grade through eighth grade participated in the 3rd annual Curtiss Elementary School Spelling Bee. Shown above are first graders: Olivia Wheeler, Gwen Ball, Audra Abeel, Luke Martello; 3rd grader, Xander White, and 6th grader Madison Pifer. School Bee winners move on to regional spelling bee competition on March 5th at Campbell-Savona High School. (See p.8 for more information and winning results)

News from
Mr. Kyle Bower, Superintendent

The **Hammondsport Central School District Board of Education** is working on short-range and long-range plans for the school district to help meet the Board goals of providing a high quality program that meets the needs of all District students while being fiscally responsible to District taxpayers.

The Board is seeking residents to volunteer to take part in a **Community Focus Group**. The Focus Group will meet on **Wednesday, March 25th from 6pm-9pm**. The Board hopes to bring together about 30 to 35 community members who are representative of all residents, taxpayers, and stakeholder groups of the Hammondsport School District Community. The Board of Education and Superintendent will not be present at this meeting. We hope to have volunteers that come from a variety of positions in the District, such as business owners, single residents, senior citizens, parents, resident faculty and staff, and government officials. For those that need or want it, a lite dinner will be provided in the cafeteria beginning at 5:30pm and child care for school age students will be provided for the duration of the workshop.

More information is available on the school district website:
www.hammondsportcsd.org or by calling **Nancy Clark, District Clerk at #569-5200 ext. 5240.**

Please volunteer to be considered to join the Community Focus Group by February 27th, 2015. Your input is important and all responses will be recorded and shared.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP CHART THE FUTURE OF HAMMONDSPORT CSD!

Board of Education Vacancy

Petitions nominating candidates for the office of Member of the Board of Education, are available at the Hammondsport Central School District Office beginning **March 20, 2015**.

Petitions must be filed with the District Clerk not later than **Monday, April 20, 2015 at 5:00 P.M.**

The following vacancy is to be filled on the Board of Education:
5 year term (Francis Curran)

Each petition must be directed to the Clerk of the District, must be signed by at least twenty-five qualified voters of the District, must state name and residence of the office and the name of the last incumbent.

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.

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; Dennis Carlson, Vice President; Richard Drain, Frank Curran and Kevin Bennett.

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: **hammondsportcsd.org**

Chilly Winter Greetings,

Our third annual Glenn H. Curtiss school spelling bee took place Friday, February 6th at 1:00. The school be includes 2 winners from each classroom from grades 1-6, as well as 7th and 8th grade winners.

Congratulations to the students who will represent their classrooms during our school wide spelling bee:

First graders: Olivia Wheeler, Luke Martello,
Audra Abeel and Gwen Ball

Second graders: Austin Durand, Corinne Ruddy,
Brooke Lisefski, and Arielle Szathmary

Third graders: Grace Newman, Tara Sahni,
Peyton Crooks, and Xander White

Fourth graders: Seneca Boscoe, Jaisek Covell,
Luke Szathmary, and Blake Wright

Fifth graders: Alyssa Crooks, Ryan Stoeckel,
Katrina Derby, and Liam Kressly

Sixth graders: Ben Cole, Justice Jones,
Madison Pifer, and Lauren House

Seventh grader: Dylan McGinn

Eighth graders: Tea' Bendick, Matthew Cole,
Jaida Smith, and Brandon Hilligus

The two winners from our school spelling bee will compete against others from across the region in March. Regional winners will then participate at the national spelling bee in Washington, DC. I would like to thank Mrs. Suzanne Curran for her work with organizing and facilitating the school wide spelling bee. Thank you to the staff and parent volunteers who committed their time and energy. The staff and students are excited to see who wins!

Career Day for fourth, fifth and sixth graders was also held on Friday, February 6. We had nine volunteers visiting our students for the purpose of discussing career options. The careers include a physical therapist, a construction worker, new product engineer, a nutritionist, a retail manager, a financial/banker, our own superintendent and even a professional golfer. I want to thank Mrs. Miller and our community volunteers for their participation in this very important day and also to extend a special thank you to the Career Development Council and Mrs. Onyiruka for helping us with this each year!

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration is on the calendar for February 25th from 5-7. Please call Ms. Darcie in the elementary office at 607-569-5200 ext. 5233 if you have a child who will be 4 or 5 by December 1, 2015 and qualify for Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten.



Sincerely,
Mrs. Sincerbox

From the desk of **Tad Rounds,**
7-12 Principal

On January's early dismissal day Dr. Steve Pilgrim, an engineering and education professor from Alfred University, Associate Dean Byron Shaw from CCC (Corning Community College) and Associate Dean Deb from CCC presented to the junior/senior high school faculty and staff on the skills that students need to be college ready. All three speakers stressed that skills such as personal responsibility, organization and time management are just as or more important than the academic skills that students bring to the table their freshmen year. In a collective effort at providing a comprehensive college preparation program at Hammondsport Junior/Senior High the faculty have added the following new courses for the 2015-2016 school year: AP (Advanced Placement) Studio in Art, ACE College Applied Business Math and Personal Budgeting, AP Language and Composition, College Pre-Calculus, and "Engineer Your World", and will also be adding AP Biology on an alternate yearly basis with Chemistry beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. These courses are all in addition to the ACE and AP courses currently offered at HCS.

A hearty congratulations goes out to the students in Mr. Lowin's Principles of Engineering class who competed in the STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) Regional Robotics Competition and returned with numerous awards and recognitions! Excellent work was done by all involved!

A student leadership team has tasked themselves with a goal of designing and/or selecting a mascot to represent the Hammondsport Lakers by June of 2015. Parents and community members are free to email ideas and concepts for review by the Student Leadership Team to trounds@hport.wnyric.org. Thank you, and think spring!



You've been caught... doing the right things!



Mrs. Sincerbox and the Curtiss Elementary staff have begun recognizing students who are behaving in ways that they should; they are 'caught' doing the right thing. In order to increase recognition for the positive behaviors of our students in all settings, teachers, aides, TAs, bus drivers, special

area teachers, and administration have stickers to give students randomly for doing the "right thing". This "right thing," will be themed, such as "showing a positive attitude" or "demonstrating respect to others." If staff catches them doing the "right" thing, they hand the student a sticker.

Along with these stickers, Mrs. Sincerbox sends out an optional writing "assignment." Once the writing is handed in at the office a winner is chosen from each grade level and winning work is hung on the wall outside the elementary office. Pieces that are chosen for display may be polished/edited prior to being hung in the hallways, and if your child is not yet writing in complete sentences, picture stories are an option where grade-level appropriate.

The Reading Corner

By Mrs. Courtney Johnston

Why does my child have to read every night?

Research supports that the more a child reads, the more successful they will be in school. If students read 20 minutes a day at home, they will have read about 1,800,000 additional words a year, and score in the 90th percentile on standardized tests. If students read 5 minutes a day at home, they will have read about 282,000 more words a year, and score in the 50th percentile on standardized tests. If students only read 1 minute per day at home, they will have read about 8,000 additional words per year, and only score in the 10th percentile on standardized tests. If you want your child to find more success and enjoyment in learning, reading 20 minutes a night with them can help significantly.

What if we don't have any books at home? Take a trip to the local library or ask your child's teacher to send some books home. You don't always have to read books either! Try reading magazines, the newspaper, recipes, road signs, or write your own books together to read.

What if I don't have any time to read with them? That's understandable! Everyone is busy and won't have time to read with their child every night. Have them read to a stuffed animal, family member, or a neighbor.

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?		
Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
❖ Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests.

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.

Kindergarten 'K'oncepts



In our Listening and Learning unit on plants, the kindergartners have been learning about plant parts, life cycle, photosynthesis, types of trees, plants and people, and a lot more!

Here, the kindergartners are experimenting with plant parts—exploring how stems actually work.

In another experiment, we found out that most of the ingredients in chocolate chip cookies come from plants! Of course, our favorite part of that experiment was making the cookie dough, baking the cookies, and enjoying what plants can give us... cookies!!

We just love how our Listening and Learning stories apply to many science (and also social studies) concepts!



Let's Hear it for our January LEADING LAKERS!



Pictured above front row: Gwen Ball, Cameron Tobias, Kyla Hawley, Ethan Welch, Tyler Erway, Andrew Morrison
 Back Row: Chevelle Jones, Dallas Brady, Madison Pifer, Cody Cook, Aliyah Loquasto, Hudson Cole, Andrew Henning

Leading Lakers is a program that is utilized in our P-6 grades to recognize students for exemplifying each facet of our LAKERS motto. Teachers remind our students of the motto on a regular basis. We watch all the time for students who are doing their best so that we can acknowledge them.

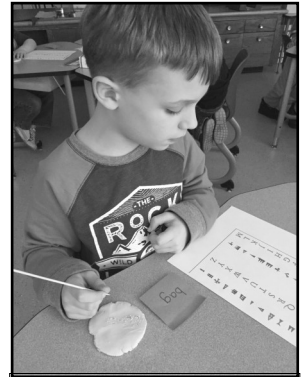
Our motto is:

- L:** Stands for students who are ready to **learn** and who allow others to **learn**.
- A:** Stands for students who have a positive **attitude**.
- K:** Stands for students who are **kind** and respectful.
- E:** Is for those students who **enjoy school** and allow others to enjoy it, as well.
- R:** Stands for **responsibility** to self and others.
- S:** Is for **safety**, being safe for themselves and for others.

Leading Lakers are chosen once a month based on the attribute for that particular month. February's characteristic is Responsibility. Teachers are asked to choose a student who demonstrates the month's attribute in an outstanding way and really goes above and beyond, exhibiting that characteristic consistently on a daily basis. Students selected are given a certificate for a free slice of pizza and a book of their choice donated by the PTO.

FIRST GRADERS 'TRAVELING THE GLOBE'

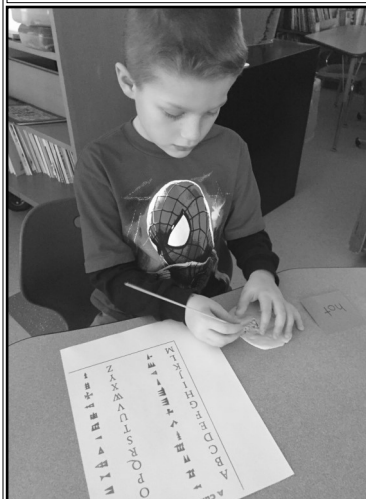
First graders have just begun a new Listening and Learning unit, Early World Civilizations, where they are learning about the ancient civiliza-



Tripp Wakefield writes in cuneiform symbols on his clay 'tablet'.

tions of Mesopotamia and Egypt. Beginning in Mesopotamia, the children have learned the importance of the major rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates, for the development of farming and trade leading to the growth of cities. Children also learned that writing was necessary to record important information. First graders then could "travel back in time" to write in cuneiform on clay tablets. The children found this ancient way of writing with wedge-shaped symbols was much harder than the symbols we call our alphabet. The unit will move from Asia into Africa, as the classes learn about the Nile

First grader Jeffrey Hoerter concentrates as he practices his clay tablet writing.



River in Egypt, along with the Egyptian symbols for writing, hieroglyphics. Children will complete their study by comparing and contrasting the two ancient civilizations.

Rockin' It, Robotics-Style

On January 7th, a group of 12 robotics students competed in the GST BOCES VEX Robotics Competition at the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center in Big Flats. These juniors and seniors are taking a robotics class being offered for the first time at Hammondspport. They were 7 of 23 teams from 6 schools who competed in 3 categories: science fair, collaborative, and autonomous control. The science fair portion had adult judges asking questions of each team about the projects and what they have learned. Several judges commented on how well our students did in this portion. The collaborative category was a team challenge where two remotely controlled robots each had a part of the challenge. One had to traverse a slalom course and the second grabbed a block from a column and dropped it in a bucket. The team who did it quickest and without knocking over columns was the winner. The autonomous control portion consisted of two parts. The first was a dance routine where the students choreographed a routine that matched the chosen background music. The second part of autonomous control was called 'bot in a box'. The students attached bump sensors and wrote a program that made the robot change behavior when one of the sensors hit the side of a wooden box that they were operating in. The scores for all activities were added up and ribbons were awarded in 12 categories.

Prize winners were:
Eric Orr and Johnny Hilligus 1st in Autonomous Control
Quentin Carvajal and Ravid Sananas 1st in Science Fair, 1st in Collaborative, 3rd Overall
Aaron Lowin and Ruger Cummings 1st in Collaborative
Cameron Jensen and RJ Ritter 2nd in Science Fair and 2nd Overall
Lily Hopkins and Brianna Powell 2nd Autonomous Control

Shown below are members of the Robotics Teams, with Mr. Jon Lowin who teaches the first year robotics course.

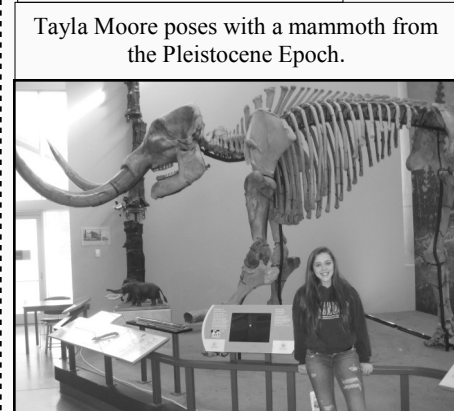
Left to right are: RJ Ritter, Lily Hopkins, Cameron Jensen, Brianna Powell, Kenny Becker, Ruger Cummings, John Hilligus, Allen Fitzwater, Aaron Lowin, Eric Orr, Quentin Carvajal, and Ravid Sananas.



For Additional Coverage on the Robotics Competition, visit — <http://www.stargazette.com/story/news/education/2015/01/13/robotics-competition-wings-eagles/21718059/>



Curtiss Brown and Jackson Cummings keeping warm in the glacier exhibit.



Tayla Moore poses with a mammoth from the Pleistocene Epoch.

Mrs. Orzel's eighth grade and Earth Science students have had a busy first semester.

Eighth Grade Scientists just finished a semester where they focused on chemical interactions. In their latest STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) investigation, they learned why chalk formed when they exhaled carbon dioxide into a limewater solution, and were able to calculate how many mL of stomach acid could be neutralized by one antacid tablet. We are excited to begin exploring the topics of energy, earth materials, and motion and forces.

Regents Earth Scientists have been learning how to apply some of the global topics covered on a more local level.

Emily Staychock from Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Dennis Carlson from the Keuka Lake Association came in to discuss the Keuka Lake Watershed, point-source pollution, and led the students through a laboratory activity where they had to make decisions on how the land surrounding a fictitious lake should be used. We also took a field trip to the Museum of the Earth in Ithaca to conclude our Earth History unit. The students were able to see a multitude of fossils, go on a guided tour and attend a presentation about the geologic history of New York State.

News from Mrs. Orzel's Science Lab



Cameron Roote, Caleigh Hunn, Paige MacDonald, and Dillan Conley are in the presence of a giant Eurypterid (NYS Fossil).

New AP (Advanced Placement) Courses Offered to HCS Students!

Beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, high school juniors will have the option of taking **Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Composition** in place of 11 Honors English. Students will compose narrative, expository, analytical, and argumentative essays on a variety of subjects, that proceed through a multistep drafting process that utilizes both teacher and peer editing. Students will also study informal forms of writing, multiple forms of compositions based on both prose writings and nonfiction readings. A major focus of the second semester of this course will center around the student development of research skills and ability to evaluate and use both primary and secondary sources, conducting self-driven research and revision of their work.

This course will be academically and intellectually challenging to our students and prepare them for the rigorous world of secondary education.



Starting in the 2016-2017 school year, **Advanced Placement (AP) Biology** will be offered by our Science Department. Through hands-on laboratories and college-level coursework, students will explore and deepen their understanding of the following topics: evolution, cellular processes, energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, and ecology. The course will be driven by inquiry and scientific practices that promote the complex thinking and reasoning skills essential to success in higher education.

It will be a rigorous course that is sure to challenge our students and ignite their curiosity and passion for the sciences!

You've been accepted!

Congratulations to the following students for their recent college acceptance notifications:

Student:	College & Award Received:
Sydney McGinn	Pace University Honors College; Pace University Merit Scholarship
Morgan Sincerbox	SUNY Fredonia SUNY Cortland
Kelsey Sack	SUNY Fredonia Quinnipiac University MS/MBA Program; Quinnipiac Deans Scholarship
Arianna Turner	George Mason University; Mason Excellence Award SUNY Geneseo
Eladio Martinez, Jr.	Corning Community College
Amanda Sprague	Penn State University Philadelphia University
Aaron Lowin	University of Buffalo; UB Provost Merit Scholarship



College Economics Course Debuts at Hammondsport

Seventeen seniors ventured into uncharted waters in September when they opted to take a college level economics course through Corning Community College. Taught locally by Mrs. Derr, ACE Economics offers three college credit hours in Macroeconomics as well as fulfills the NYS requirement that seniors take and pass a half credit course in economics. In the push to achieve college and career readiness for students, Hammondsport continues to challenge students with college level work. As one student commented, "I'm really glad I took this course because it kind of kick started me for college. I know that I can't slack in my college courses now." In addition to ACE Economics, Mrs. Derr also teaches a college level accounting class.

Breakfast = BRAIN Power

Did you know that breakfast really does jump start your brain in the morning? Studies show that not only do kids who eat breakfast do better in school, but are also more likely to maintain a healthy weight. Eating even a small breakfast helps to 'wake up' your metabolism after sleeping at night. Once you get that up and running, the rest of your body will follow suit.

Try: Yogurt, whole wheat toast, buttered, a handful of raisins & a glass of water or Peanut butter and strawberries on whole wheat toast /crackers & a glass of milk or if you're really ambitious in the morning, a Breakfast Burrito: scrambled egg, black beans, and tomato salsa wrapped in a whole wheat tortilla & a glass of milk. If you don't want to cook, school offers lots of breakfast options in the cafeteria.

Congratulations!

Congratulations go out to our amazing 6th grade, junior high, and senior high vocalists! The following students were accepted into 6th grade All-County Choir after performing their solos for the adjudication panel: Lydia Dluzak, Eli Hill, Andrew Hill, Ben Cole, McKenzie Boscoe, and Madison Pifer (at left). Our own Mr. Mitchell was also chosen to be this year's 6th grade choir director at the All-County Festival.



The following Junior High students (at right) were also selected for Jr. High All-County Choir: Natalie Lowin, Shelby Sherman, Pia Bacubac, Amanda O'Donnell, Thomas Kressly, Travis Raab, and Robert Stoeckel*.



Last but certainly not least, 100% of our Sr. High students who auditioned were accepted into the Sr. High All County Choir. (at left) Way to go: Emily Davis, Morgan Sincerbox, Robin Jenkins, Timberly Wilkinson, Graham O'Donnell, Dominick Koseba, Jared Raab, Tyler Hill, Zachary Pifer, and Eladio Martinez*! (*not pictured)

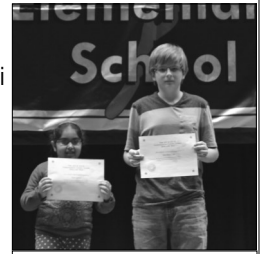


RULES FOR RIDING THE BUS

1. Take your seat quickly.
2. Talk quietly.
3. Remain in your seat for the entire ride.
4. Keep your head, arms, feet and all objects inside the bus.
5. Keep aisles clear at all times.
6. Obey all the rules, and follow directions given by the bus driver.
7. Be courteous to your bus driver and all other passengers.
8. Carry on the bus only what you can hold on your lap.
9. Think of the bus as your property; don't damage any part of it.
10. Ask the bus driver's permission to open a window.
11. Don't bother the bus driver; talk to them only if an emergency arises.

SPELLING BEE WINNERS NAMED

On Friday, February 6, 2015 HCS held the annual school spelling bee. The school winners, Matthew Cole & Tara Sahni will now move on to compete against winners from over 20 area schools at the regional spelling bee held at C-S high school on March 5th. The regional winner then travels to compete at the Scripps National Spelling Bee (televised on ESPN networks) in Washington, DC. Last year's regional winner from Steuben County went on to be crowned winner of the Scripps National Spelling Bee.



Tara Sahni and Matthew Cole after winning.

2/25	Pre-K/Kindergarten Registration 5-7 pm
3/6	Progress Report #3 ends SCMTA Festival A: 6th grade chorus, Jr. High Band & Sr. High Chorus @ Campbell-Savona
3/7	Winter Ball 8-11 SCMTA Festival A: 6th grade chorus, Jr. High Band & Sr. High Chorus @ Campbell-Savona
3/8	Daylight Savings Time Begins
3/12	P-12 early dismissal, 12:30pm
3/13	Conference Day; NO SCHOOL for students
3/18	BoE Regular Meeting, 6pm
3/19	4-12 Chorus Music in Our Schools Concert 7pm
3/20	SCMTA Festival B: 6th grade band, Jr. High Chorus & HS Band @ Hornell High School
3/21	SCMTA Festival B: 6th grade band, Jr. High Chorus & HS Band @ Hornell High School
3/26	4-12 Instrumental Music in Our Schools Concert 7pm
3/30-4/3	Spring Break, NO SCHOOL

Winter Calendar Items

Hammondsport Central School District
8272 Main Street
Hammondsport, NY 14840

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

Box holder