

Laker Lives

January 2016

Hammondsport Central School District Newsletter



A "Beary" Festive Musical!



On December 23rd, the PreK-3rd grade classes presented the musical, "A Beary Merry Christmas" for faculty, staff, students and their families prior to the holiday break. The musical took the students (and their teachers) a lot of time and effort which was evident in the final production which was directed by Mr. Mitchell.

News from
Mr. Kyle Bower, Superintendent

With January brings the difficult work of finalizing budget development as we look to a successful finish to the 15-16 year at the same time that we finalize planning for 16-17. This budget season will be our most difficult in many years due to the multiple factors that are against us. Although the Governor has touted the significant increase in school aid that he has proposed, for Hammondspport his proposal represents a projected \$62,000 additional dollars as we attempt to balance a \$13.5 million dollar budget. Due to rising costs within our health insurance plan, we have been given notice of an immediate 10% increase in the 15-16 school year rates and the implementation of an additional 15% increase in all premiums effective July 1 for the 16-17 school year. That increase alone will represent an approximate need to find an additional \$400,000 to cover only the increase in health insurance costs.

Raising property taxes is always the last option and the tax levy discussion is always the last component of budget development. With the statewide property tax cap set at .12%, there is no doubt we will be looking to override the cap in our upcoming budget vote. Our local property tax cap will be calculated in the coming weeks and that information will be shared in the coming edition of Laker Lines. I encourage participation in the development of the 16-17 school budget either through attendance at our Board meetings and workshops, joining the District Budget and Program Advisory Committee, or contacting me directly with your thoughts and ideas.

Springtime also brings New York State testing for our students in grades 3-8 in math and English Language Arts. In February I will be presenting our District testing plan to the Board of Education. That plan will reflect any changes that have recently been made by the Board of Regents. It is still required that all students be offered State tests and the District is still responsible to maintain a pattern of at least 95% of our students being tested. However, we will have an opt out plan in place and parents will be informed of how they can exercise their right to opt their children out of testing well before the testing dates.

Thank you to the Hammondspport PTO and President Kim Sprague for their donation of a new sound system to the High School Gym!

With Laker Pride,
Mr. Bower

INCOME TAX SEASON IS HERE!

If you are a district resident and need a copy of your school taxes, please go to www.hammondspportcsd.org, and go to the Site Shortcuts column on the district home page, then select *School Tax Search*.

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, Lynda Lowin, 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: hammondspportcsd.org

Winter Greetings!

The third annual School Wide Spelling Bee at Glenn Curtiss Elementary will be held on February 5th at 1:15pm. Classroom spelling bees took place January 4th through January 13th. It is always exciting to see the students who are able to participate in this event. Two students will have the opportunity to participate in the Regional Spelling Bee on March 10th, at Campbell-Savona High School beginning at 5pm. The student who wins the Regional Spelling Bee is eligible to go to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington DC in May.

Career Day will also take place on February 5, 2016. The participants include representatives from the Finger Lakes Boating Museum, a U.S. Marshall, an engineer, a professional golfer, a physical therapist and a fire fighter. The students always look forward to the event!

A Parent Advisory meeting will be held on February 11th from 6:30-7:30pm. This meeting is an opportunity for parents to learn about the Elementary **STEM** program. They will have a chance to watch children in third through sixth grade demonstrate investigations in the STEM curriculum. The event will conclude with a question and answer session for any parent of Pre K- 6th graders. Please come out and enjoy the evening with your children!

Pre-K and K registration will take place February 24, 2016 in the Elementary Office from 5-7pm. If you have a child who will be 4 or 5 years old by December 1st please call the Elementary Office at 569-5200 ext. 5233 and mark your calendars.



Sincerely,
Mrs. Sincerbox

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

Two instructional focal points of the Junior/Senior High School for the 2015/2016 school year are technology integration and student engagement. Both elements are interrelated and support the mission of the district to prepare students for an ever-changing, global society.

Faculty and staff were surveyed at the midpoint of this school year regarding the efficacy of the one-to-one technology program initiated in September for all students in grades 7-12. Based upon the results of the survey:

- 87%** of those surveyed believe the Google Chromebooks are reliable for student use,
- 70%** of those surveyed believe that the Google Chromebooks enhance their ability to present information in a compelling format,
and
- 95%** of those surveyed believe the Google Chromebooks enhance students' ability to collaborate with the course content.

Likewise, collaboration is a key strategy to foster student engagement, which is again an instructional focus of the Junior/Senior High School. Research by Eric Jensen shows that student engagement is related to four key domains:

- Effort:** A willingness to do what it takes to be successful.
- Attitude:** Positive belief in one's own abilities
- Behavior:** Kindness, fairness, and cooperation
- Cognitive Capacity:** Vocabulary and Executive Function (i.e. self discipline to complete tasks)

Although this should be no surprise, all four of these engagement domains are directly correlated with post-secondary success in both college and the work place.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Christian Torp, HCS Class of 1998, is a civil rights attorney in Lexington, KY. He also graduated from Cornell University and the University of Kentucky Law School.

Torp works with clients whose civil rights have been violated. His biggest case to date has been working with Kentuckians For The Commonwealth in their quest to allow felons who have served their terms to receive their right to vote. Kentucky was only one of four states that did not allow this. Gov. Beshear signed into law in December this new bill which will give 100,000

Kentuckians who have no pending charges nor were sentenced for a sexual or treasonous offense the right to vote.

In his spare time, he and his wife, Tanya, raise chickens, rabbits and bees while working on communal gardens.



The School Wide Spelling Bee is Coming!

Classroom spelling bees have concluded and the following winners from each room will move on to compete in the school-wide spelling bee on February 5th at 1:15pm in the auditorium.

- 6Y Victoria Morgan and Steven Perkins III
- 6J Katrina Derby and Amelia Johnson
- 5S Cody Cook and Tevera VanGorder
- 5J Blake Wright and Cadence Butler
- 4B Lily Morris and RJ Kelly
- 4K Tara Sahni, Carter Thompson and Markus Tompkins
- 3D Beyonca Akers and Silas Scofield
- 3W Arielle Szathmary and Lillah Morgan
- 2V Sofia Locey and Luke Martello
- 2K Aubrey Hink and Zachary Doyle
- 1S Jovana Rosenbloom and Zachary Howell
- 1U Elias Shamsiddeen and Nicholas Tompkins

These winners and all who participated should be very proud! The top 2 students from our school bee will move on to compete at the Regional Spelling Bee at Campbell-Savona HS for a chance to move on to the National Bee in Washington, DC.

Attention Parents of Future Pre-K and Kindergarten students in the Hammondsport School District:

Hammondsport Central School is looking for an accurate count of students who qualify for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten in the fall of 2016. If you are a parent living in the Hammondsport School District, and have a child or children who are not currently enrolled in school but will be **4 or 5 years old by December 1, 2016**, please call the Elementary Office at 569-5200 ext. 5233 or e-mail us at

dringer@hport.wnyric.org.

Please provide us with your child's name, date of birth, your name and contact information.

Pre-K and Kindergarten registration will be held on **Wednesday, February 24th from 5-7 pm** in the Elementary Office at Hammondsport Central School.

Girls on the Run Spring 2016 Season!

Girls on the Run is an empowerment program for girls in 3rd-5th grade – giving them skills and experiences to navigate their world confidently and to unleash their limitless potential! We teach girls life skills through a curriculum of engaging lessons and fun running activities. At each season's conclusion, the girls complete a celebratory 5K run that gives them a lifelong memory of accomplishment.

The result? Healthy, confident girls who CAN!

Girls on the Run of the Southern Tier will have sites throughout Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler, Yates, and Allegany Counties this spring – including a team at Glenn Curtiss Elementary! Online registration opens on Monday, February 1st at 9 a.m. at www.gotrst.com and the season kicks off the week of Monday, March 21st.

To learn more about site locations/times, the registration process, or to get involved, visit www.gotrst.com.

The Reading Corner:

By Mrs. Courtney Johnston

Are you wondering how to help your child in Kindergarten-2nd grade become a more independent reader at home?

This "Reading Strategies" bookmark has multiple ideas for children in the primary grades to use when they get stuck on a word. All of these strategies are taught by the end of Kindergarten and reintroduced in 1st and 2nd grade. Next time your child gets stuck on a word, suggest a reading strategy for him/her to try! (bookmark at right)

READING STRATEGIES



Eagle Eye

-Look at the picture for clues



Stretchy Snake

-Stretch the sounds
-Blend the sounds



Flippy Dolphin

-Flip the vowel sound



Chunky Monkey

-Look for a chunk
-Look for a word family



Tryin' Lion

-Try to reread with only the first sound
-Try to reread with a new word



Ellie Elephant

-Look back at a word you've read

Cut Out and Save the above bookmark to use at home with your K-2nd grade Readers!

2016 HCS Summer Enrichment Program

The Summer Enrichment Program is an initiative to engage Hammondsport students in non-traditional and creative ways. These opportunities will be of little, or no cost, to students of the Hammondsport School District. Most of these opportunities will take place outside of the classroom or off campus. While the majority of these ventures will be offered during the months of July and August, our kick-off event is an opportunity to see the world-famous Blue Man Group at the Clemens Center in Elmira on the evening of May 17. Increased access to the arts and theater is just one focus of this initiative.

The planning for the Summer Enrichment calendar is underway. We hope to offer opportunities to students K-12 that promote principles of STEM, physical education/athletics, and the arts. All events not only align to, but enhance, NYS Learning Standards. A brochure is in development and will include hikes/tours of three NYS Parks, local history and trails, local cooperative farms, and culinary adventures to include a trip to the Food Truck Rodeo in Rochester. Opportunities are also being arranged to enjoy golf lessons and yoga. Additionally, trips will include the Rockwell Museum, CMOG, the Seneca Park Zoo, the National Women's Historical Park, and the Genesee Country Museum, just to name a few.

The brochure will be completed and available by late spring. Please check it out before making summer arrangements, so that our students might take advantage of as many events as possible. The District is generously providing transportation for all students. For further information, please contact Dr. Satterfield or Principal Rounds.

Drama Club Presents Three One-Act Plays



Drama Club students in grades 7-12 presented an assembly performance to the students and staff on Friday afternoon, January 15th, and their parents were also invited to attend. Those interested in acting selected a total of three comical scenes available from Brooklyn Publishers of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Luckily, they all fit nicely together to illustrate the Absurdist theme that mankind's struggles and endeavors stem from futility, and we must all muddle along as best we can.

The first duet, "Necessary Evil" by Mike Phelan, is a mythological "What if?" that suggests mankind's deck of cards was stacked against us, before we even had a chance to set events into motion for ourselves, when one angel believes the "earth project" is a fiasco, defies the laws of physics, and cannot be done. It starred Natalie Lowin (9th grades) as Lucy, the rebellious angel, and newcomer Thomas Kressly (7th grade) as Michael, the good angel.

The second duet, "I'm Just Digging a Hole in the Woods at 2 a.m. No Reason. Why Do you Ask?" by Bradley Walton, starred two seniors, veteran actor Gregory Di Tomasso as Andrews and newcomer Heaven Hess as Halling. The struggle in futility is illustrated by these two college students, who believe they have found a way to relieve the stress of homework, early classes, bad roommates, and knowing your fellow students only by faces and last names.

The final duet, "Nothing Personal" by Judith Estrine, provided the final metaphor to play out "when day is done" and mankind's struggle against futility comprised the final curtain call for the afternoon when Death (originally rehearsed by senior Casey Jensen) pays a visit to Jake Bodeman, played by Curtis Brown (9th grade). The "removal expert" leaves the health-conscious Jake intact but facilitates the removal of Jake's offstage wife, Harriet.

The production was facilitated by Taylour Flynn (11th grade) running lights, Hayley Newman (12th) prompter, Jami Long (12th) sound effects & stage hand, and stage hands Ethan Bower (12th), R.J. Ritter (12th), Colden Thompson (11th), Elissa Martinez (10th), and Patrick Flores (7th). Joanne Le Clair is the advisor for Drama Club and Barb Yahn is the assistant advisor.





Student Mentors

The Hammondsport Student Leadership Group has instituted a peer mentor program for junior high students. The goal of the program is to provide an academic mentor to relevant students, who will deliver both content specific tutoring and serve as an academic role model. Student mentors are assigned a mentee in the junior high who they meet with each Tuesday from 2:30-3:20 throughout the school year. The mentors provide their service on a strictly volunteer basis and their commitment to the success of their peers is to be admired.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WANTED!

Mr. Lowin is looking for spring building projects for his classes this spring. They are able to build small tool sheds, play houses, gardening sheds, and similar structures. If you have the need for such an item, please contact Jon Lowin at the school for more information.

He can be reached via email at jlowin@hport.wnyric.org, or by phone at 607-569-5200, (choose menu option for *high school, then the option for *principal's office, then speak with the secretary who can connect you.)

Congratulations!

Emily Eckel for being honored by the Section V Girls Basketball Committee as the **Player of the Week** the week of January 11-17th, 2016.

You've been accepted!

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

<u>Student:</u>	<u>College & Award Received:</u>
Jami Long	SUNY Brockport Corning Community College
Dylan Storrs	Finger Lakes Community College
Katelynn Hoyt	Pace University
Heaven Hess	University of Dallas; U of Dallas Provost's Scholarship
Alexis Salisbury	Elmira College Elmira College Trustee Award



It's that time of year again, Academic All-Star season is back!

This year's team looks promising and would appreciate your support at their matches. They look forward to seeing you there!

HCS Academic All-Stars 2016 Schedule

- 2/22: at Jasper-Troupsburg versus Alfred-Almond
 - 2/29: at Alfred-Almond versus Arkport
 - 3/7: at Arkport versus Jasper-Troupsburg
 - 3/14: at **home** versus Arkport
 - 3/21: at Alfred- Almond versus Alfred-Almond
 - 4/4: at Jasper-Troupsburg versus Jasper-Troupsburg
- Championship Matches @ time and place TBD**

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

THEIR MAIN CONCERN IS THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF STUDENTS. TO KNOW ALL RULES POLICIES AND REGULATIONS THAT PERTAIN TO STUDENT TRANSPORTATION.

EXAMPLES ARE:

- Properly instruct in Safe Crossing every time a student boards or leaves the bus.
- Pre-Trip bus before morning and afternoon runs.
- Post Trip bus after each run.
- Report operational defects on Daily Report Sheets.
- Do annual emergency Drills.
- Driver must have CPR and First aid Training.

BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL FOR STUDENTS

- Be tactful when dealing with students and parents.
- Be professional
- Most importantly, be PATIENT and BE PUNCTUAL.
- Try and keep pick up and drop off times consistent each and every trip

Our drivers work very hard to maintain these policies to keep each bus ride safe and free from problems.

ROBOTICS ROCKS!

Students from Mr. Lowin's Fall 2015 Robotics Class attended the Regional Vex Robotics Competition in January at the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center in Big Flats. This competition hosted 12 schools who brought a total of 40 teams to compete. Teams interview with a panel of adult experts in robotics and explain to them how their robots and programs work, as well as any problems that they encountered during the building and development of their robot, and how they solved those problems.



Members of the Robotics Class Shown (LtoR): Casey Jensen, Nick Bennett, Trevon Adams, Cody Kolodziejczak, Jalen Presley, Nick Erway, Jake Peacock, Tristen Beauvier, and Justin Hilligus

Congratulations to the team of **Cody Kolodziejczak and Jalen Presley** who earned 3rd place in the Science Fair Division at the competition!

February 2016

- 2/2 Groundhog Day
- 2/5 Elementary Career Day
School-Wide Spelling Bee
- 2/10 BoE Regular Mtg., 6pm
HS Library
- 2/15 Winter Break Begins
- 2/19 Winter Break Ends
- 2/24 Pre-K/Kindergarten
Registration, 5-7 pm
- 2/27 Winter Ball, 8-11pm

March 2016

- 3/4 Progress Period #3 ends
All County Festival A @
Hornell HS
- 3/5 All County Festival A @
Hornell HS
- 3/10 Early Dismissal @ 12:30
- 3/11 NO SCHOOL—
Conference Day
- 3/16 BoE Regular Mtg., 6pm
HS Library
- 3/17 4-12 Chorus "Music in Our
Schools" Concert, 7pm
- 3/18 All County Festival B @
Haverling HS
- 3/19 All County Festival B @
Haverling HS
- 3/24 4-12 Band "Music in Our
Schools" Concert, 7pm
- 3/25 Good Friday-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