

March 2020

# Laker LIVES



## Hammondspport Central School District Newsletter

# Class of 2020 Valedictorian and Salutatorian

### Valedictorian: Gavin Ruddy



Gavin Ruddy, son of Mr. & Mrs. George and Jennifer Ruddy of Pultney, has been announced as the Valedictorian of the 2020 Senior Class at Hammondspport Central School.

Gavin has been active in Drama, Band, Choir & Golf, a National Honor Society member and President, he is also his class treasurer. Gavin has also been very active in The Grape Press and has participated in Youth in Government. Gavin is the founder of our school's History Club.

Gavin's college choice is Ithaca. He will major in Psychology. He plans on participating in the music & theatre programs.

### Salutatorian: Julia Bennett

Julia Bennett, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Kevin and Christina Bennett of Hammondspport, has been announced as the Salutatorian of the 2020 Senior Class at Hammondspport Central School.

Julia has been active in Volleyball, Golf, Ski Club, Yearbook Editor and the National Honor Society. She is also on Student Council with the role of President. Julia has also participated in Youth in Government.

Julia plans on going to Clarkson University to major in Chemical Engineering with a concentration in Biomolecular Engineering in hopes of pursuing a career in either pharmaceuticals or environmental health.



The remaining top ten in the Senior Class are:

Aubrie Cole, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas and Karen Cole of Hammondspport; Amanda O'Donnell, daughter of Ms. Julie Vargo of Hammondspport and Mr. Robert O'Donnell of Texas; Michael Beam Jr., son of Mr. & Mrs. Michael and Karen Beam of Hammondspport; Madison Wright, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Tonya Wright of Pultney; Chelsey Curry, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Christopher and Kayla Curry of Hammondspport; Aleah Ordway, daughter of Mr. William and Maureen Ordway of Bath; Mariah Bray, daughter of Mr. Carl Bray of Hammondspport and Ms. Eve Bray of Penn Yan; and Ciera Celelli, daughter of Ms. Rochelle Casselbury of Hammondspport and Mr. Daniel Celelli of Hammondspport.



## Message from the Board of Education and the Superintendent

With the Elementary gym now complete, it was great to see the 1st graders LOVING the new climbing wall. As soon as each one finished they ran back to the beginning of the line to do it again, and again, and again.... Ms. Leederman has done an excellent job getting the students excited about the new space and the kid's faces in the photos on page 4 say it all!

By the time this newsletter is released, the new fitness area will be complete and open. Over the next few months I will be working with the PE department to finalize a plan to open the new fitness space to the community beginning in the fall of 2020. One of our goals in creating this renovated space was to have a space on campus where our students, faculty, staff, AND COMMUNITY can work on personal wellness and fitness. Look for more information on hours of availability and how to access the fitness room in the fall of 2020.

At the time of writing this article, the coronavirus has been detected in New York State and we are working to get our District prepared for any local actions that need to be taken. The District has several plans in place for communicable diseases and we are reviewing those plans and implementing the recommended prevention measures. Due to the changing nature of this situation, please regularly check the District website at [www.hammondsportcsd.org](http://www.hammondsportcsd.org) or the official District Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/hammondsportschool/](https://www.facebook.com/hammondsportschool/) for current and updated information. As this unfolds, we will continue to follow the guidance of the State Education Department, Steuben County Public Health and our school physician Dr. Brammer.

I will be presenting the proposed 20-21 school budget to the Board on Wednesday, April 1st for approval. I encourage all Hammondsport residents to come out and listen, ask questions, and get informed. The continued lack of increased State revenue to Hammondsport Central School is a challenge again this year, but I believe we have met that challenge with a responsible school budget proposal. I hope to see many of you on April 1st at 6pm in the High School Library!

GO LAKERS!

### 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: Dennis Carlson, President; Rick Drain, Vice President; Carre Doyle, 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: [hammondsportcsd.org](http://hammondsportcsd.org)

Superintendent of Schools: Kyle Bower

Newsletter Editor: Makenzie Witter

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

On Monday, March 9th, Hammondsport Central School proudly announced the valedictorian and salutatorian of the class of 2020. Mr. Gavin Ruddy, son of Mrs. Jennifer Ruddy and Mr. George Ruddy was designated the valedictorian, and Ms. Julia Bennett, daughter of Mrs. Christine Bennett and Mr. Kevin Bennett earned the salutatorian distinction. Congratulations to both of these students for their academic achievements. Also, congratulations are in order to the Hammondsport Girls Varsity Basketball team on their Steuben County Championship and receiving the Steuben County Sportsmanship Award. The sportsmanship award is conferred based upon rankings for the players, coaches and spectators.

New York State ELA testing and math test will commence at the end of March. ELA testing is schedule for March 25th and March 26th, and math testing is scheduled for April 22st and April 23rd. These exams are reflective of the changes made for the 2018 and 2019 test administration. These changes include; fewer test sessions, untimed testing sessions, test questions written and reviewed by New York State teachers, and providing the results to teachers in a timelier

manner. We are excited to have our students show what they know and can do!

Students are in the process of selecting coursework for the 2020/2021 school year and freshmen scheduling orientation took place at the start of the month. Hammondsport Junior/Senior High has a variety of college level coursework though our AP program, as well with Corning Community College through the ACE (Accelerated College Enrollment) program, which allows students to earn both high school and college credit in accredited courses during their junior and senior year. In addition, career and technical education is available through GST BOCES at their Coopers Plains campus. Research shows that the skills necessary for success

in a student's freshmen year in college, entry level trade employment or the military mirror each other, and that high levels of reading comprehension and competence with mathematics improves life outcomes regardless of chosen pathways. All students are encouraged to challenge themselves to maximize their potential.



## Portable Dental Service

The Portable Dental Service is coming to Hammondsport Central School. If you would like your child to participate in the dental program that is offered in our school please complete the packet that will be available and return it as soon as possible to the health office. If you have any questions or need additional dental forms please call the health office at 607-569-5200 ext. 5241.





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

Encouraging our students to approach learning with a growth mindset is a foundational aspect of our culture in the Curtiss School. Grounded in research about how the human brain works, this means explicitly teaching our students that we possess the ability to “grow our brains” through hard work and intentional practice. The opposite of a growth mindset is referred to as a fixed mindset, a term used to describe the mindset of those who believe that you are simply born with a certain amount of intelligence and there isn’t much you can do to change that. An example would be the person who states, “I’m just not a math person.”

Our standards-based approach to learning and assessment is designed to promote a growth mindset within our students. One key aspect of this system is that we do not average grades over time. Consider the second grader who initially struggles with classwork on how to subtract numbers with regrouping. After repeated practice and learning from past mistakes, the student demonstrates mastery of this standard by the end of the unit. In some systems, this student’s grade would include their earlier struggles as a part of an average over time. In our system, we believe our students should not be penalized for struggling early in the learning process. Rather, current grades should always reflect the current levels of understanding our students are able to independently demonstrate.

When students do not see grades on individual assignments as permanent, their mindset toward learning and assessment begins to change. Daily classwork becomes important opportunities for practice and feedback, and assessments change from stressful events to exciting opportunities to demonstrate what we

are able to do independently at a given point in time. At all times, we want our students to feel in control of their learning progress and empowered to celebrate successes, set goals, and take risks as a part of that journey. As a staff, we are committed to questioning and challenging any aspect of grading that works in opposition to these goals.

As we continue to work to strengthen this culture around learning, our upcoming ELA, Math, and Science state assessments fall under that same heading of exciting opportunities to demonstrate what we are able to do independently. These assessments provide opportunities for our students to demonstrate the growth they have made on the same grade level standards we assess throughout the school year. Additionally, our instructional staff uses the data we receive on student performance to continually reflect on how we can improve our instruction with regard to specific grade level standards. We are all working to continually grow together, and we thank our families for partnering with us to share this message and encourage this same mindset toward learning and assessment in general for all of our kids!

This edition of Laker Lines includes a number of recent learning experiences and celebrations that have taken place in our school for our families and community members to enjoy. When you combine committed and child-centered educators with engaged families and a supportive school community, it doesn’t take long to see why our students continue to soar to higher levels in their learning. We look forward to the celebrations that are to come as we move toward the latter stages of the 2019-2020 school year. As always, thank you for preparing your child each and every day to learn!

First Graders enjoying the new climbing wall in the completed elementary gym, as referenced in the Superintendent article on page 2.



## Leading Laker Quarterly Expectation Shifts to Safety

Our four Leading Laker building-wide expectations are **respect, responsibility, safety, and growth mindset**. We held our third Leading Laker quarterly assembly prior to February Break, this time focused on safety. Our Student Council continues to help lead our Leading Laker assemblies, and with a focus on safety this time, invited individuals that help keep our Hammondspport community safe to join us!



*Students work together to match each piece of safety advice with the community helpers who provided it, including our local police, EMTs, and fire department!*



*Miss Leederman and members of Student Council model for the school what a safe transition looks like at the end of PE class.*

## Pre-K Families "Drop In" To Join and Celebrate our Learning!

Thank you to our Pre-K families who came in to join us for our February Pre-K Family Drop-In Day! Our Pre-K students led the way as they engaged their families in a variety of classroom learning experiences that we regularly engage in to build academic skills, social skills, fine and gross motor skills, and much more!



*Ms. Buckley and Mrs. Cruze welcome our families and introduce the structure and stations for our Pre-K Drop-In Day.*



*Misha enjoying a book with Mom!*



*Lennox all smiles learning with Mom and Dad!*



## Celebrating Music In Our Schools Month in the Elementary

March represents Music In Our Schools month. We are fortunate to provide many opportunities for our students to engage in music throughout our district in addition to general music classes, starting with Curtiss Chorus, Beginner Band, and Symphonic Band in the Curtiss School. On March 6th, we held an assembly to celebrate music in our school that included performances from our Curtiss Chorus and Symphonic Band, as well as our Sr. High Chorus and Band. We were fortunate to have multiple high school students speak to our Elementary classes about their love of music and the experiences they've taken advantage of in Hammondspport. Together, we celebrated music in our school while also raising awareness for our younger students of the opportunities they will have available to them around music in future years!



*Our Symphonic Band performs for the school.*



*Our Curtiss Chorus sang one of their favorite songs during the assembly.*



*Students were able to see how the foundations laid in Beginner Band and Symphonic Band lead to more complex performances by our Sr. High Band.*



*Mr. Mitchell leads the Sr. High Chorus as they perform for our Elementary audience.*



## Glenn Curtiss Elementary Spelling Bee 2020!



We are proud of all 24 of our spellers who qualified for the school spelling bee by placing in the top 2 of their classroom spelling bees. Congratulations to Nick Tompkins, our school champion, and Ashleigh Meade, our runner-up! Nick and Ashleigh will represent our school at the regional spelling bee at Corning-Painted Post Middle School on March 28<sup>th</sup>! Good luck Nick and Ashleigh – we are proud of you!

## Alumni Spotlight



Elected class officers for next year include Terry Underhill, President, Class of 1972, Cora Moyer, VP, Class of 2011, Trevor Parke, Secretary, Class of 2010 and Sandy Honeyman, Treasurer, Class of 1957.



Bob Shuart, Class of 1953, again leading the alumni in the singing of the HCS Alma Mater.



Bill Fries, President, Class of 1956 shown leading the business meeting at the alumni reunion.



Honored as the oldest graduate present, Dave Niver, Class of 1948 and the youngest, Cora Moyer, Class of 2011.

This year's reunion will be held on  
**July 25, 2020**  
at the Hammondsport Fire Hall!

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!

## Message to the Motoring Public

**We have encountered many motorists passing our school buses with the Red Flashing Lights.**

### **A few things to remember and watch for**

- Watch when you see the **YELLOW LIGHTS** come on and flash, slow down the bus is going to stop . Prepare to do the same.
- Never pass a school bus when it's **RED STOP LIGHTS** are flashing!!
- Be extra vigilant around school hours, Children are unpredictable. Assume a child might run out at any moment.
- Never pass a school bus on the right.

Transporting your children safely is our job. Driving your car safely is your job. Working together will make sure everyone gets home safely.

Thank you!

## Calendar of Events

3/25-3/27	3-8th Grade ELA Assessments
3/27-3/28	Spring Musical "Annie"
3/31	BOE Special Budget; 6pm
4/2	Spring Picture Day
4/6-4/10	Spring Break– No School
4/21-4/23	3rd-8th Math Assessments
4/22	BOE Meeting/BOCES Vote, 6pm
5/5	BOE Public Hearing, 6pm
5/7	BOE Open Registration for Voters, 12-5pm
5/18-5/29	4th & 8th Grade Science Assessments
5/19	BOE Budget/Trustee Vote, 12-8pm
5/20	BOE Meeting, 6pm

## Congratulations on Your Acceptance to College!

**Austin Mead**

Corning Community College

**Hammondsport Central School District**  
**8272 Main Street**  
**Hammondsport, NY 14840**

**Non-profit organization**  
**U.S. Postage PAID**  
**Hammondsport, NY 14840**

**Box holder**