

Nov/Dec 2017

# Laker Lives



Hammondsport Central School District Newsletter



*Soldiers: Ty Ritter, Isaiyah Ali, Caleb Bray, Ilya Ivanov (Nutcracker), Liam McLoud, Markus Tompkins, Alex Brown, Sarah Lyle (soldier/Marie), and Sativa Gordon*



*Lillah Morgan (Marie) and Xander White (Fritz) explore the gifts under the Christmas tree.*



*Mice and Soldiers Battle*



*Cadence Butler (Nanny), Mother (Natalie Lowin) and Father (Gavin Ruddy) deal with a bratty Fritz (Xander White)*



## "Nutcracker"

A Christmas Musical



On the weekend of, December 15-17th, the HCS Drama Club presented the production of the Nutcracker, based on E.T.A. Hoffman's "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" with music from Peter Illytch Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite".



## Message from the Board of Education and the Superintendent

Families, students, staff, and faculty of Hammondsport Central School District know our school is special, but we don't often find the words to communicate the value that is created by our presence in the community. What does Hammondsport Central School do better than anyone else? What makes us unique and a good investment of local dollars that support the district budget? Members of the Board of Education have begun to create a Value Proposition Statement (VPS) that will define and carry that message to our community.

The VPS process began in October and is facilitated by Michael McDonald, a local expert in quality implementation and Six-Sigma black belt with 60 years of experience with Corning, Inc, and hundreds of volunteer hours invested in community based work. Hammondsport Central School stakeholders provided foundational insight through the District and Community Focus Groups that met and produced summary reports in 2015. The Value Proposition Statement work will continue into the new year resulting in a simple, authentic statement to communicate the positive outcomes and benefits of the value of educating a Hammondsport Central School student.

The District's Lakers 2027 long term planning initiative will be guided in part by this new District value proposition statement. Using the value proposition statement, as well as the data and feedback provided by school community members over the last several years, the District will be revisiting the current strategic plan beginning in the spring of 2018. In order to be valuable and relevant, this process must involve representatives from the entire school community. We hope you will consider being a part of this important work! If so, please contact Nancy Clark, District Clerk, at #569-5200 or [nclark@hport.wnyric.org](mailto:nclark@hport.wnyric.org). Thank you and Go LAKERS!

Hammondsport Central School Board of Education and Mr. Kyle C. Bower, Superintendent of Schools

### 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, 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

## New School Sign Update

Due to our inability to make any more repairs to the existing school sign, the District included funds for a replacement in the voter approved 2017-18 school budget. After going through the bidding process, the school board approved the purchase and installation of the new school sign illustrated in the picture. The installation of the new sign should be complete by the time this article reaches the community. We are excited that this new school sign will allow us communicate more information to the school community on a daily basis.



## Attention Walkers!

The school is open to residents interested in walking indoors. Hours are 5-8pm, Monday- Friday on days that school is in session. Individuals are asked to sign a waiver, as well as the sign-in sheet – both of which are located next to the District Office. Participants can enter the school through the back doors. Please contact the District Office with any questions.

## Capital Project Results

On December 14th, members of the school community gathered to vote on the Capital Improvement Project. The project was approved by a margin of 138-33, which authorizes the construction, reconstruction and equipping of school buildings and facilities, site and incidental improvements, all at an aggregate cost of \$8,628,535.

This project was developed by the District Facilities Committee to address a variety of infrastructure needs and instructional program enhancements to the District that will vastly improve the safety, energy efficiency and educational experience the students receive while minimizing cost to the taxpayers.

### Capital Improvements:

- Infrastructure upgrades (remaining roofing, doors, etc.)
- Ventilation to meet code
- Hot water boiler piping
- Emergency lighting coverage
- Track resurfacing and site sanitary upgrade
- Bus garage fuel canopy and monitoring system
- STEAM renovations
- Auditorium upgrades
- Primary gym upgrades

### Energy Performance Contract:

- Upgrade to energy saving interior and exterior LED lighting
- Integration of a lighting control system that self-adapts to the learning activities of classrooms
- Numerous mechanical system upgrades replacing 1950's era equipment
- Conversion of the existing 1958 steam boilers to new, highly efficient hot water boilers

## HCS Wall of Fame

The HammondSport Central School District Wall of Fame was established in 2005, with the first induction ceremony held in March of that year. The Wall of Fame is broken down into the following three categories:

- ♦ Lifetime Achievement - former students who have attended HammondSport Schools and who have performed significant, out-of-the-ordinary accomplishments in the world at large; have contributed to the well-being of their communities, and have reached 40 years of age.
- ♦ Athletic Achievement - graduates of the district who have performed significant, out-of-the-ordinary athletic accomplishments beyond high school; have contributed to the well-being of their communities; and have reached 40 years of age.
- ♦ Gold Star - graduates who lost their lives in the line of duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. Gold Star names will be added as they are verified.

The link to the Wall of Fame section of the HCS Website is [under District](#). The deadline for this year's applications is: **January 31, 2018.**

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

The Drama Club production of the Nutcracker was an outstanding success. The students presented a preview of the show to both the elementary students and junior/senior high students on Friday-December 15th, and the auditorium was packed for their evening performances and the Sunday matinee. Congratulations and thank you to both the Drama Club and Music Department for filling the school with holiday music in December!



*Jess Bray (Godfather Drosselmeyer) tells the story of the "Nutcracker's Dilemma" to Fritz (Xander White).*

The PE (Physical Education) department and health department applied for funding through the RACE Foundation to upgrade their curriculum offerings to embed lifetime fitness activities into the curriculum. The goal is to spiral the teachings of the CATCH program (Coordinated Approach to Children's Health) into the upper grades. Students can look forward to future units such as snowshoeing that can be a lifelong activity. The district has been notified that we were awarded a \$6,000 grant which will be presented to the district on January 16 at the Watkins Glen International Media Center.



*Elissa Martinez works on the robot.*

*Team Members Prepare Strategy at Robotics.*

Mr. Lowin's Robotics Team competed in their opening tournament in Tioga with four wins. The students will compete with their robots at three more tournaments this year. The students design and code their own unique robots to complete a set of challenges that must outperform the designs from other participating school districts.

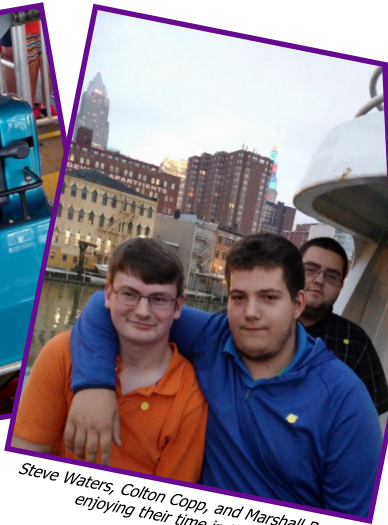
In the area of professional development, the senior high staff is researching the benefits of using a standards based approach to grading students. The concept of standards based grading includes the belief that learning is best supported by continual re-teaching and assessment of essential skills and knowledge. The diagram below compares traditional grading with standards based grading:

<b>Traditional Grading Paradigm</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>Standards-Based Grading Paradigm</b>	<b>Results</b>
Learning is expected to be error free-mistakes are punished.	Reinforces fixed mindset (I'm just not smart).	Defines learning as hard and frustrating but Achievable.	Reinforces growth Mindset.
Students are judged with grades while still learning.	Fear of failure.	Mistakes are a natural part of learning.	Learned optimism. Perseverance.
Failure is a judgement and validation of ability.	Struggling students avoid learning. Teacher rescues struggling learners. Learned helplessness.	Lack of understanding is a puzzle, not a validation of stupidity. Struggle is good-BUT with support.	Students beliefs empower them to achieve .

## Class of 2018 Senior Trip to Cleveland October 6-8 2017



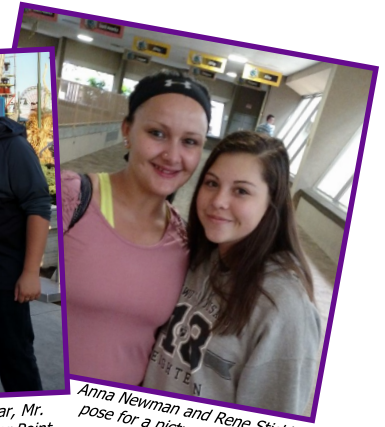
Billy Whitney and Mr. Brayman are ready to ride!



Steve Waters, Colton Copp, and Marshall Benet enjoying their time in the city.



Coaster Crew! Mr. Brayman, Billy Whitney, Ben Fingar, Mr. Lowin, and Colton enjoy a day filled with rides at Cedar Point.



Anna Newman and Rene Stickler pose for a picture during the trip

Members of the Hammondspport Class of 2018, along with advisors Mr. Jason Brayman and Mr. Jon Lowin, visited Cleveland for their Senior Trip from October 6-8. After enjoying the hotel and the pool Friday evening, they sailed on a very memorable dinner cruise. While aboard they enjoyed the city lights, a very nice meal, and dancing. They had perfect weather Saturday for a great amusement park day at a Halloween-themed Cedar Point. Their trip wrapped up Sunday with visits to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



### 5th Graders Bring Holiday Cheer to Elderly

Our fifth graders visited the Steuben Center for Rehabilitation and Health Care to sing Christmas carols and deliver cards that shared a favorite Christmas memory with residents.

### Curtiss Chorus and Symphonic Band Perform at Elementary Seasonal Concert

The Curtiss Chorus performs the "Reindeer Rap" at our Elementary seasonal concert on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Holiday music performed by our symphonic band and Curtiss Chorus was enjoyed by all. Thank you to Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Arnts, and our students for your hard work!



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

Winter is in full swing, and the holidays are upon us! The holiday season offers the opportunity for reflection and celebration of our accomplishments, and there are many for us in the Elementary building. As you look through the different pictures and experiences in this edition of Laker Lines, a few different themes are sure to emerge.

We continue to place a focus on developing a growth mindset for our students and for ourselves, emphasizing that we all have the potential to learn and grow through practice and hard work. Our staff continues to engage together in research on best practice to make a growth mindset culture a reality for all of our children. When students have clarity in what success looks like in the learning goals they are working toward and specific feedback from teachers along the way to get them there, they are able to take ownership in their own learning process. Our students are learning to reflect on their progress, celebrate growth they have made, and set goals for next steps that they have not mastered *yet*.

At the heart of our daily work is the belief that each child belongs to all of us. We are incredibly proud of the collaborative nature of our staff and the collective commitment they hold for the success of every child we are privileged to work with. This commitment to collaboration has spread to our students as well. We have had several occasions where students across classrooms and grade levels are getting together to share their work, provide each other with

feedback, and help each other to learn and grow. When we describe ourselves as a "family", we mean it!

Part of our district's mission statement is to promote "responsible citizenship through strong character and moral development." Over the past month, we have placed a strong emphasis on service and helping others through the giving of our time and talents, both within our school and in our wider community. Grade levels have identified different activities to contribute to our community, culminating in a whole building share-out at our Celebration of Giving on the morning of December 20th. It has been a joy to see the meaningful reflection this work has resulted in for our students and our staff as they have made a true difference in our community.

We are fortunate to have had the hard work of our students and staff to kick us off into the holiday season. Thank you to Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Corell, and our drama club for a fantastic production of *The Nutcracker*. Our PreK-3 students also got in on the act with our performance of *A Holiday Moosical*. A thank you also goes out to Mr. Arnts and our symphonic band and Mr. Mitchell and our Curtiss Chorus for a delightful evening of holiday music and songs at our Elementary seasonal concert.

Thank you for preparing your child each and every day to learn. Enjoy your own family traditions and celebrations during this special time of year!

## Principal's Awards

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



Alex gave up some of his own time to go out and help a Pre-K student on the playground as a fourth grade mentor.



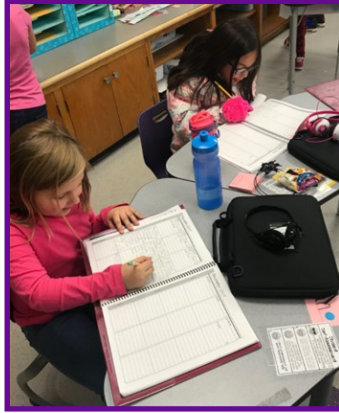
Chevelle, Ailley, Leah, and Emily read aloud for groups of teachers on November 7th during a training on running reading records. Thank you for helping our teachers learn together!

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!

## Celebrating the Giving of our Time and Talents in Our Community

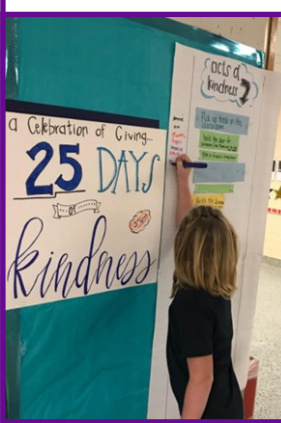
Throughout December, our students have shared their time and talents as an act of giving to our school and community. These experiences were shared with our entire school at our Celebration of Giving Assembly on December 20th. Our third graders participated in "25 Days of Kindness". They listened to the text *Each Kindness* by Jaqueline Woodson read aloud and reflected on the focus question: "How does each kindness make our community a little bit better?"

Afterwards, students brainstormed a variety of random acts of kindness ideas such as saying good morning to someone, writing a kind note, and helping others. They wrote these on strips of paper to make a 25-day kindness chain. Each



*On the left, Veronica and Jovana complete their daily "25 Days of Kindness". To the right, Jahneiya adds the daily act of kindness to the hallway display.*

day, a link was unveiled. Students worked throughout the day to complete the act of kindness. At the end of each day, students participated in peer



accountable talk to discuss how that day's act of kindness made our community a little bit better. After discussing this with peers, they used the "RADD" (restate, answer, detail) structure to write a written response in their agendas. Before leaving at the end of each week, two links from the chain revealed two acts of kindness students could

complete over the weekend. Students and their families could then complete a written response around the same focus question to return on Monday. Students were able to share these with their classroom family.

### Elementary Celebration of Giving at the SPCA



*Sarah Lyle, Josie Jenkins and Jessica Soloman braiding a dog chew toy!*

Sixth Graders went to the Finger Lakes SPCA as part of the Elementary Celebration of Giving. The SPCA was contacted and they said they needed help on site. Students and teachers unfolded newspapers and prepared litter pans, made toys for the dogs and cats and made posters for upcoming events to be displayed in the community. We were rewarded with a tour of their new facilities and we were able to meet some of the residents!

### Veteran's Assembly and Breakfast



On November 9th students honored veterans with a breakfast and assembly. Veterans ate breakfast with students as they shared cards, poems, and letters about how thankful and appreciative we as a school are for all they have done. At our assembly, the students read poems, sang "God Bless America" and shared personal writing pieces about the impact veterans have in our community. Thank you to all veterans for your service to our country.

## Congratulations on Your Acceptance to College!

<b>Caleigh Hunn:</b>	SUNY Cortland
<b>Dillan Conley:</b>	SUNY Cortland SUNY Brockport
<b>Robin Jenkins:</b>	Paul Smith College Unity College of Maine
<b>Brianna Miller:</b>	Finger Lakes Community College
<b>Ann Szathmary:</b>	University of Buffalo
<b>Meghan Fingar:</b>	Finger Lakes Community College
<b>Brittany Storrs:</b>	Finger Lakes Community College
<b>Jackson Cummings:</b>	Alfred State College
<b>Paige MacDonald:</b>	University of Buffalo
<b>Dylan Worboys</b>	Alfred State College

## Calendar of Events

- 1/15—No School—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 1/17—Board Meeting 6:00 PM, HS Library
- 1/26— Semester 1 ends
- 2/9—Spelling Bee
- 2/14—Board Meeting 6:00PM, HS Library
- 2/19-2/23—No School—Winter Break



Order your 2017-2018 Hammondsport Vintage Yearbooks at [Jostens.com](http://Jostens.com).

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!

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