



Horseheads Central School District

Golden Star Gazette

December 2016

Gardner Road Elementary School

541 Gardner Road, Horseheads, New York 14845 (607) 739 – 6347
ppatterson@horseheadsdistrict.com



Dear Gardner Road Families-

December is a full month of activities at Gardner Road. Be sure to check out the details in our calendar about movie night, the Holiday Shoppe, 4th grade concert, Discovery Center Assemblies, our annual holiday sing-along and more. Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date with daily news and learning in our school.

This month ends the term of two of our PTO Board members. I would like to publicly say thank you to Kelly Cook and Erica Mendelsohn for their service to our students over the last few years. We are so appreciative to the activities, funding support and fun you brought to our school on a daily basis. Our new president and treasurer will be voted on in the upcoming PTO meeting on 12/13.

Enjoy December, the seasonal holidays and the winter break. We look forward to seeing everyone return in the new year! Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss anything about your child and/or our school.

Your Partner in Education,

Patrick Patterson - Principal

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Included in the Online Newsletter:

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December Calendar

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Gardner Road School Hours

8:00 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Tardy Bell – 8:15 AM

Gardner Road Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Elementary Lunches (K-6)

Breakfast: \$ 1.25

Lunch \$ 2.10

All district residents - parents, students, business people, senior citizens, community members - are invited to an important discussion:

Horseheads 2030

Initial Community-Wide Discussion

Tuesday, December 6

6:30pm

Horseheads High School Auditorium

All are welcome and urged to attend this important discussion about the future of the Horseheads Central School District - both our educational program and our infrastructure.



Moishe's Quote of the Month:

"Be Yourself. Everyone Else Is Already Taken"

Oscar Wilde

Main Office Updates:

Morning Drop-Off Reminder:

If you plan on having your child get dropped off in the morning, please use the lane closest to the fence in the parking lot. We always have a staff member by the fence to help the students get from your car to the main entry. Please only use the second lane if you are going to walk your child in. You must walk your child at least to the fence so that they are safe in the parking lot. Thank you in advance for helping keep all of our students safe as they enter our building.

School Delays and Closings:

The cold, slippery, white flakes are just around the corner. When the ice and snow arrive, it is often necessary to delay or close schools. The announcements can be found on our District website www.horseheadsdistrict.com and the local media stations. In the event of a 1 or 2-hour delay, students can be dropped off at the cafeteria entrance beginning at the adjusted time. Please be aware that **NO** breakfast is served when there is a 2-hour delay. PK start time during a 2-hour delay is 10:30.

Spring New York Assessment Dates (Grades 3 & 4):

ELA: March 28 - 30 Math: May 2-4 Grade 4 Science Performance: May 24-25 Grade 4 Science Written: June 5

Backpack Program has openings!

If you could benefit from additional food on weekends and holidays the Backpack Program could be the answer for you. We partner with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier to send home a bag of non-perishable food on Fridays. Each bag contains 2 proteins, 2 grain, 2 dairy and 2 fruits or vegetables. This program is offered free of charge. Please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Norton at school if this program would be beneficial to your family. Referrals are taken throughout the school year.

The Arctic League Applications:

The Arctic League is an organization that provides Christmas gifts to needy children in Chemung County. The League serves children through age 12. Applications are now available at the school. Please contact your child's teacher, school social worker or the school nurse to obtain an application. Forms will also be available on conference days in the main office. Applications need to be filled out completely in order to be accepted. Completed applications may be returned by mail to the Arctic League or returned to school. To learn more, visit: <http://arcticleague.publishpath.com>

Change of Your Child's 'Go-Home' Plans:

Please be sure to send in a gold note if your child will be going home in a different way than usual. We understand that changes occur during the day. Our office staff can adjust your child's plans prior to noon if a change occurs. At noon, we send bus notes to all classroom teachers and bus drivers. After this time, making changes in your child's go home procedure is difficult and changes delay the dismissal of all students. We appreciate your use of the gold notes and if need be a phone call prior to noon. Thank you.

Visiting with Classroom Teacher's – Morning:

Please call ahead and make an appointment with your child's teacher if you need to talk to her between 8:00 and 2:30 as your child's teacher is teaching. If you do come to school, the office staff will need to call down to your child's teacher to see if they are available. Please understand that your child's teacher may be unavailable. Our Gardner Road team will work with you to help you with any question or topic you would like to discuss.

Arctic League Penny Drive

The character education challenge for the month of December is to demonstrate the character trait of caring. To show caring, we are collecting spare change for our penny drive. The collection will go to the Arctic League which will then provide needy families with gifts during the holidays. Our goal is to raise 500 dollars which would surpass our total from last December.

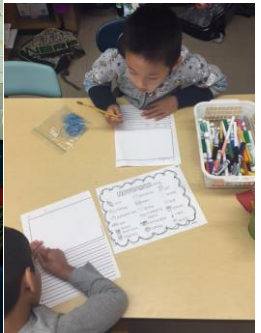
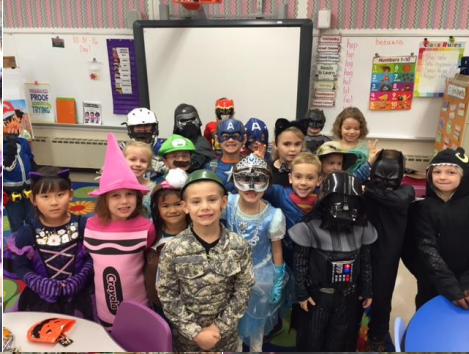


Gardner Road Sings:

The 4th grade Chorus will be performing their **Winter Concert** on Tuesday, December 20th, at 7:00 PM in the Gardner Road Cafeteria. Students in Chorus should wear white on top and black on bottom, and arrive at 6:30PM. Please come out to support our students and enjoy some holiday music!



Learning at Gardner Road in November



"We Succeed Because The Stars Lead!"

CHARACTER

O In November, 312 (76 %) students earned a character award for demonstrating citizenship in our school. Check out the wall of stars (over 215) as you enter the building for ways our students completed the citizenship challenge!

R December's Trait is:

Character Education

Caring

- Think about how your actions will affect others
- Be sensitive to people's feelings
- Help people in need
Treat people with kindness and generosity
- Do not be mean or hurtful



Character Matters
Horseheads Central School District

Horseheads Central School District

Our Mission

"Quality Education for All"

The Mission of the Horseheads Central School Community is to provide a quality education for all within a nurturing environment, which promotes excellence, growth, and a sense of civic responsibility.

Our Vision

We, the Horseheads School Community, want a district that:

- is nurturing and responsive.
- strives for balance in a supportive, safe, encouraging environment.
- recognizes the need for continual improvement in an ever-changing world.
- has a clearly defined focus on learning outcomes, collaboration, and support systems.
- creates an environment within which everyone can thrive and achieve his/her highest potential.

Our Beliefs

We believe:

- everyone can achieve his/her highest potential.
- trust is essential for growth.
- learning is cooperative.
- programs are inclusive.
- success will be nurtured and expected.
- learning is performance-based.
- decisions are data-based.
- responsibility, respect, and results guide our every effort.

Exit Outcomes

The Horseheads Central School graduate will be ...

- a life-long learner
- a caring, productive citizen
- an effective communicator
- a creative problem-solver
- a quality decision-maker
- a healthy, well-rounded person

Substitutes Needed:

The Horseheads Central School District is seeking applications for substitute teachers, bus drivers and substitute teaching assistants. For information, please visit:

<http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/subteach.html>

Human Resources Office: 739-5601, x4211

e-mail: hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com

PULL TOGETHER.



The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender (including gender identity and expression). Inquiries regarding this notice may be made to Judy Christiansen, Title IX and DASA Coordinator, or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Gardner Road Elementary is Patrick Patterson. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Patrick Patterson at (607) 739 – 6347. The Dignity Act Coordinator for the Horseheads Central School District is Judith Christiansen. Mrs. Christiansen may be reached at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, 607-739-5601, x4211.



Gardner Road Elementary School



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
<p><u>CARING—Character Education Tips for Home</u> --Help a neighbor --Discuss with your kids what/who they care about & why --Donate time/items to a favorite charity --Make a card/ write a letter to a friend/relative you care about --Talk about how characters in a book represent caring.</p>				<p>1 Day 2 3-4 Town Hall</p>	<p>2 Day 3 PK & K-2 Town Hall GRPTO Movie Night 6:30 Finding Dory</p>
<p>5 Day 4</p>	<p>6 Day 5 4th Grade—Arnot Art Museum Community Forum HHds 2030 HS Auditorium 6:30</p>	<p>7 Day 6</p>	<p>8 Day 1</p>	<p>9 Day 2 Grades 2–4 Scripps Spelling Bee—Qualifying Rounds in School</p>	
<p>12 Day 3</p>	<p>13 Day 4 Principal Chat 5:30 Library GRPTO 6:00 Library PTO MEETING</p>	<p>14 Day 5</p>	<p>15 Day 6</p>	<p>16 Day 1</p>	
<p>19 Day 2 Site Base Team 2:30 Library</p>	<p>20 Day 3 PK—1st Polar Express Day 4th Grade Winter Concert 7:00 PM GR</p>	<p>21 Day 4 Science & Discovery Center Assemblies</p>	<p>22 Day 5 BOE @ IS 6:00</p> <p>HOLIDAY SING-ALONG</p>	<p>23 No School See you on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 for the next day of school!</p>	

DECEMBER 2016



HORSEHEADS SCHOOL DISTRICT - GRADES PK-4TH

AVAILABLE DAILY

PBJ Sandwich
 Chef Salad w/Bread Choice
 Yogurt w/Bread Choice
 Hummus w/Veggies, Chips & Bread
 Tossed Salad
 Fresh Vegetables
 Fruit Cups
 Fresh Fruit
 100% Fruit Juice
 Chilled Milk

Bread Choice = Breadstick, Soft Pretzel or Bagel

ALL BREAD PRODUCTS ARE WHOLE GRAIN RICH


PRICING

Grades K-6	\$2.10
Grades 7th-12th	\$2.35
Broad Horizon K-8th	\$2.10
Broad Horizon 9-12th	\$2.35
Reduced	\$0.25
Breakfast	\$1.25
Milk	\$0.75
Snacks	\$0.75
Adult Lunch	\$3.95

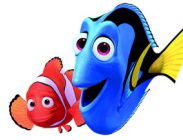
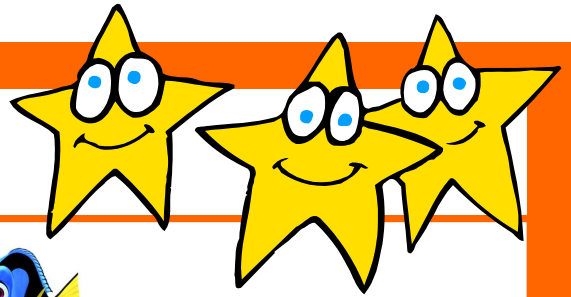
NOTICE:

The menu is subject to change without advanced notice.

THIS DISTRICT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER & PROVIDER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Contact Us if you have any questions, comments or concerns. We can be reached at (807) 739-5601 ext. 3671 or Email: sblunt@gstboces.org</p>	<p>POWER UP WITH SCHOOL BREAKFAST!!</p> <p>Check out the Breakfast Menu on the district website or contact the food service cafeteria to have one sent home with your student.</p>	<p><i>Smart Choices</i></p> 	<p>Pizza Dunkers w/Marinara Sauce Buffalo Chicken Wrap Baked Beans Fresh Baby Carrots</p>	<p>Toasted Cheese Sandwich Sloppy Joe on a Bun Hot Tomato Soup Green Beans</p>
<p>5 Crispy Chicken Nuggets w/Bread Tuna Salad Sub Squash Oven Fries</p>	<p>7 Meat or Bean Nacho Grande Turkey Club Wrap Refried Beans Golden Sweet Corn</p>	<p>9 Chicken Teriyaki w/Fried Rice Hot Ham & Cheese Melt Carrot Coins Homemade Fruit Crisp</p>	<p>11 Pepperoni Pizza Cheese Pizza Southwest Taco Salad Steamed Broccoli Florets</p>	<p>13 Homemade Macaroni & Cheese w/Bread Fish Treasures w/Bread Minestrone Soup Green Beans</p>
<p>12 BBQ Baked Chicken w/Bread Ham & Cheese Sub Sweet Potato Fries Baked Beans</p>	<p>14 Pasta w/Meatsauce & Cheese Pasta w/Marinara Sauce & Cheese Chicken Caesar Salad w/Bread Choice Steamed Broccoli Florets</p>	<p>16 French Toast Sticks w/Sausage BBQ Pork Rib on a Bun Seasoned Potato Wedges Fruity Jello w/Whipped Topping</p>	<p>18 Pizza Dunkers w/Marinara Sauce Turkey Club Wrap Sunset Sip Juice Golden Sweet Corn</p>	<p>20 Toasted Cheese Sandwich Sloppy Joe on a Bun Hot Tomato Soup Green Beans</p>
<p>19 Chicken Patty on a Bun Italian Meatball Sub Mashed Sweet Potatoes Oven Fries</p>	<p>21 Meat or Bean Taco w/Mexican Rice Chicken Ranch Wrap Refried Beans Green Beans</p>	<p>HOLIDAY LUNCH Hot Turkey & Gravy w/Bread Egg Salad Sandwich Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Steamed Broccoli Florets Homemade Fruit Crisp</p>	<p>22 Pepperoni Pizza Cheese Pizza Southwest Taco Salad Fresh Baby Carrots</p>	<p>23 HAPPY HOLIDAYS</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>WINTER BREAK DEC 23rd - JAN 2nd</p>				

GR PTO News



FINDING DORY MOVIE

The PTO would like to invite you all to come watch the movie Finding Dory on December 2nd at 6:30 in the cafeteria. Bring a blanket to set on, enjoy the movie, and eat some popcorn. There will also be candy for sale. At the end of the movie one lucky student will win the movie to take home.

Please email any questions to:
pto.gardnerroad@gmail.com

and

Don't forget to like us on Facebook for up to date PTO information. If you have questions we will get to your messages promptly.

The time is always right to do what is right.
-Martin Luther King Jr.-

BOX TOPS:

The next Box Tops contest is now underway. Send in your neatly trimmed non expired Box Tops with your child's name and teacher's name on the bag or envelope.

SCRIP SALE:

A quick reminder that our SCRIP gift card sale ends on December 2nd if you plan on participating. You can order online and the cards will be here by Christmas.

PLEASE JOIN US:

The PTO meeting will be in the school library on December 13th at 6:00 p.m. We would love to come share your thoughts and ideas.

PTO Officers

President: Kelly Cook
Vice-President: Jenny McKenzie
Treasurer: Erica Mendelsohn
Secretary: Amy Crandall
Email: pto.gardnerroad@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:

<i>Family Fun Night</i>	<i>December 2, 6:30 p.m.</i>
<i>Principal Chat</i>	<i>December 13, 5:30 p.m.</i>
<i>PTO Meeting</i>	<i>December 13, 6:00 p.m.</i>
<i>Holiday Shoppe</i>	<i>December 14-16</i>
<i>Holiday Sing-Along</i>	<i>December 22</i>
<i>NO SCHOOL</i>	<i>December 23- January 2</i>



**READY FOR MOVIE NIGHT?
JOIN GRPTO FOR FINDING DORY!**



WHAT: POPCORN, DRINKS, AND A MOVIE (candy will also be available to purchase for \$1)

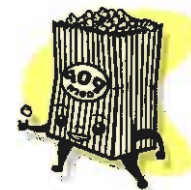
WHEN: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 6:30pm

WHERE: GARDNER ROAD CAFETERIA

BRING YOUR BLANKET, PILLOW AND SETTLE IN TO WATCH FINDING DORY!

BE SURE TO STAY UNTIL THE END,

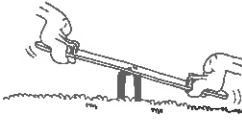
ONE LUCKY VIEWER WILL WIN THE MOVIE!



Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

Gardner Road Elementary School
Mr. Patrick Patterson, Principal



SHORT NOTES

Excellent attendance

Being in school every day means your child won't miss out on learning. Try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours. If he asks to stay home "just because," remind him of what he'll miss, such as his reading group or PE class. Explain that he can be absent only if he's sick or if there's a family emergency.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children who regularly eat meals with their families tend to do better in school and avoid risky behavior. Eating dinner together is great, but other meals count, too. If you work at night, maybe you could make time for a family breakfast. Or on a weekend, try a picnic lunch!

Celebrate progress

Suggest that your youngster create a fun reminder of all the things she has accomplished. Let her cover a container with construction paper and label it "I did it!" Then, she can write each success ("I learned to add fractions") on a slip of paper and put it in the container. If she's feeling discouraged, have her read the slips.

Worth quoting

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up!"
Mark Twain

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

A: Of course. The Empire State Building can't jump!



Conversations about school

When you think of parent involvement, do you picture moms and dads volunteering in classrooms? That's one way to help—but research shows that supporting your child's education at home is even more important. Here are four conversations that will help you stay involved.

"Let's see what you brought home."

Look at completed work to find out what your youngster is learning and how well she's doing. You could comment on her social studies report or pottery project, for instance. ("You know a lot about our state's history!") Also, respond to notes from her teacher, and sign her weekly folder or daily planner if required.

"Show me what you have for homework."

It's your child's job to do her homework, but you play a role, too. Make sure she knows what she's supposed to do by having her explain the assignments to you. After she finishes her homework, glance over the work to see that it's complete.

"Describe a book you enjoyed today."

This gives you an idea of what your youngster prefers to read. Then, build a daily reading habit by asking what she'd like to read tonight. Encourage her reading and listening skills by reading aloud to her and letting her read to you.

"Tell me what you learned that you'd like to know more about."

Use her interests as jumping-off points for activities to share. If she likes geometry, you might do tangrams



together. If she's fascinated by how animals adapt to winter, take her to the library to research the subject or to the zoo to see live animals. ♥

After-school questions

Asking "How was school today?" might not get you far. Instead, ask questions like these for a better picture of your youngster's day:

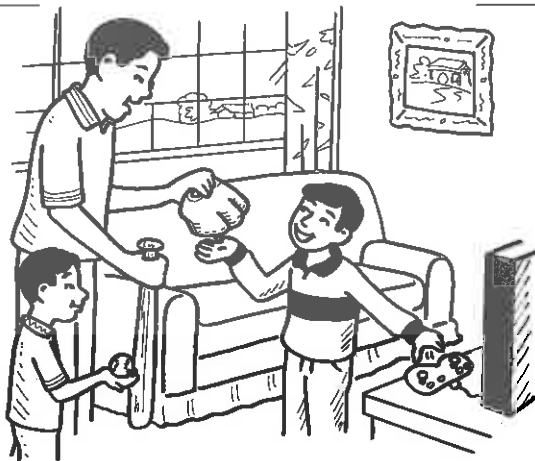
- "What's the coolest thing that happened? What wasn't so cool?"
- "Pretend you're the teacher. How would you describe the day?"
- "What made you laugh?"
- "What was the most creative thing you did?"
- "How were you kind or helpful today? Was anyone kind or helpful to you?" ♥



What does respect look like?

Your child's daily dealings with adults and kids alike will be more pleasant if he speaks and acts respectfully. Try these tips for helping him learn respect.

Respectful replies. Think about something that you and your youngster disagree on (say, whether his video game time should be limited). Model having a respectful discussion about it. You might say that his brain and body are growing and that he needs to run and play to stay healthy. Then, suggest a respectful response, such



as, "I want to be healthy, but I love video games." Have him brainstorm other situations where people have different opinions but still speak to each other with respect.

Everyday acts. When you mow the lawn or clean up after your dog, you can teach your youngster about respect for neighbors. Explain that keeping your neighborhood clean and neat makes it nice for everyone. Ask him to think of other respectful things neighbors should do. If you share an apartment laundry room, he might say that you respect neighbors' time by removing your clothes when they're done so others get to use the washers and dryers.♥

A reading challenge

By reading more complex books, your child can learn new words, facts, and ideas. He'll also be exposed to more complicated plots and will grow as a reader. Share these suggestions:

- Knowing something about the topic or setting will make a tougher book easier to comprehend. If your youngster is reading a novel set in China, he could talk to someone who has been there or look up the country online (try a children's site like kids.nationalgeographic.com).



- Encourage your child to look at a simpler book on the same subject. A picture-book biography about Harriet Tubman may help your youngster better understand a textbook chapter on the civil rights movement, for instance.

- Suggest that your child read complicated material with pencil and paper in hand. He can jot down questions, words to look up, or facts he wants to learn more about.♥



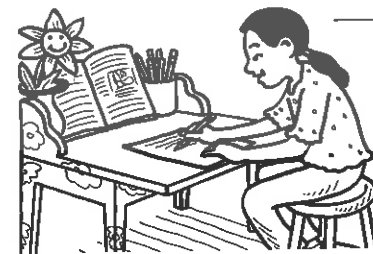
Strong study habits

Q: My third grader has to spend more time studying this year. How can I make sure she studies effectively?

A: Set your daughter up for success by helping her find a distraction-free study spot. Also, have her come up with a study routine. For instance, she could reserve time each evening to review her textbook and notes in the days leading up to a test or quiz.

Also, many students find it helpful to jot down a purpose each time they study. Your child might write: "I will learn the definitions of all the boldfaced words in chapter 7, section 1."

Finally, encourage her to experiment with study strategies to find what works best. She could close his eyes and imagine how a word is spelled or draw a grid with 9 squares to solve 3 x 3. Or she might find it easier to spell or recite math facts aloud in rhythm or to a familiar tune.♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Talking to kids about money

My children were always asking to buy things like dress-up shoes or new games. They didn't seem to understand that these items weren't in our budget.

I wanted them to learn about how we spend our money—and that it is limited. So I got a spiral notebook and labeled it "Family Spending Journal." I explained that for two weeks, everyone would keep a record of what they spent money on. I listed items like my

subway fare, the electric bill, and food at the grocery store. The children wrote down expenses such as school lunch, soccer cleats, and field trip fees.

After a few days, they were surprised by how many things we needed money for. Our kids had no idea, for example, that we paid for taxes on our income, several types of insurance, and membership in our homeowners' association. Sometimes they still ask to buy too many things at the store, but when I say no, at least they understand why.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,
a division of CCH Incorporated
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
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