

The School Connection

**Horseheads
Intermediate School**

See the attached letter from Superintendent Douglas for more information regarding the Horseheads 2030 project!

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.



The School Connection



Principal's Post



Horseheads Intermediate School

It seems hard to believe that we are already into the month of December. November always seems to pass by so quickly from an educational perspective. It is a busy, yet short month.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to participate in the parent/teacher conferences. The connection between school and home is vital for your child's academic success. Please continue to check Parent Portal and stay in touch with your child's teacher.

Fifth and sixth grade students have participated in their Adventure Based Learning (ABL) experiences. ABL is a building-wide initiative which focuses on teamwork, collaboration, and problem-solving. Students learn how to strategically think through problems in an effort to find logical solutions with intent in developing these skills for real-world scenarios. All 5th and 6th grade students were able to participate in several activities with BOCES ABL Facilitators in October and November.

Thank you to all who supported the PTO BELIEVE fundraiser and to those who spent their time organizing the event. We were able to make a large profit that goes directly back to the school toward field trips, PTO activities, technology, classroom supplies, and much more.

Please continue to value your child's attendance at school. Arriving on time and scheduling vacations/appointments outside of school hours, makes a tremendous difference in the academic progress of students. I also ask you to keep your child's mind and body active during winter break. Exercise, reading, journaling, and problem-solving/brain teasers have been shown to be great methods in staying fresh during school breaks.

Please encourage your child to participate in community service with our Presidential Community Service program. If you need more information or the service logs, [click here](#).

Check out the article to the right about 6 ways to help your child become a **quality reader**. Thank you for your support, and I wish you a very Happy Holiday season!

Yours in education,

Michael Bos
Principal

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."

- Jane D. Hull

December 2016
Volume 5 Issue 4

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[Parent Article](#)

ATTENTION!
[Parent Resources](#)
on IS website.

"The connection between school and home is vital for your child's academic success."

Mark Your Calendars!

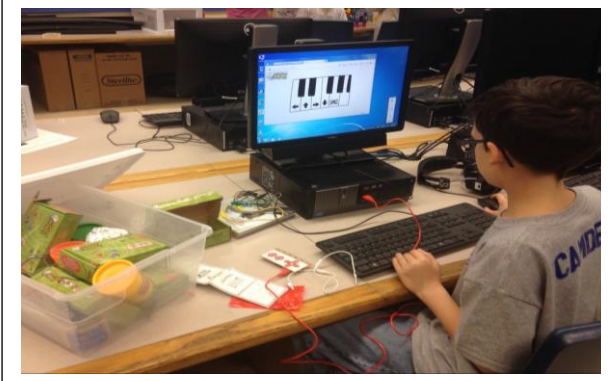
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|--|--|
| Friday, December 2nd: | Character Kickoff Day – Pajama Day! |
| Thursday, December 22nd: | Board of Education Meeting, Intermediate School Café., 6:00 PM |
| Friday, 12/23 – Mon, 1/2: | No School – Winter Recess |
| Tuesday, January 10th: | Principal/Parent Chat, 9:00 AM, Cafeteria/6:00 PM, Library |
| Tuesday, January 11th: | Strings Showcase, High School Auditorium, 7:00 PM |
| Monday, January 16th: | NO SCHOOL/MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY |
| Wednesday, January 18th: | Grade 6 Concert, High School Auditorium, 7:00 PM |
| Monday, January 23^d: | Grade 5 Concert, High School Auditorium, 7:00 PM |

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. The Intermediate School staff gratefully declines Christmas gifts this Holiday Season. Instead, we encourage you to help those in need or less fortunate by donating to your favorite charity. Applications for assistance from the Arctic League are available in the Health Office.
2. Students should NOT be dropped off in the morning along the road or while the car is in line to drop off. Drop off is at the curb in front of the Field House door. Five cars can drop off at a time when they pull up to the front of the curb. Thank you for adhering to this important safety procedure. Drop off time cannot be earlier than 7:45 AM. Please do not drive through the bus lanes between 7:15-8:25 AM.
3. Students should be picked up by 2:30 PM each day. There is not adequate supervision beyond that time.
4. A study has found that irregular bedtimes can lead to behavioral problems. [Click here.](#)
5. We will have a Canned Food Drive for our local Horseheads Food Pantry sometime in late winter or early spring when their supplies often run low.
6. Reminder that recess is outside when weather permits. Please be sure that your child wears an appropriate jacket.
7. Please be sure to pick your child up promptly from after-school activities including clubs and intramurals. Volunteers cannot stay late with students who are not picked up on time.
8. Report Cards: Grades for Art class and Music class are weighted at .33 because these classes meet two times in a six-day cycle. Our Honor Roll recognizes students who had a grade point average of 85.0 or higher and did not fail any classes. Distinguished Honors is 95.0 or higher. Congratulations to these students!
9. We thank all the parents who participated in Parent Teacher Conferences in November. Communication with home is essential. Please contact your child's homeroom teacher to monitor your child's progress throughout the year or if you have any other questions. Parent Portal is always available as well.
10. Please encourage your child to read at home. Our Goal is for all students to read three books each month in order to reach the goal of 25 books for the year.



This year we are continuing to grow our Makerspace at the Intermediate School. A Makerspace is a place for students to tap their creativity and innovation by investigating/making things they are passionate about. We are starting small with things such as making challenges, electrical circuits, tech devices such as Makey Makey/Little Bits/Ozobots, and we even have a take apart station where students can deconstruct electrical devices to see how they work. Check out some pictures below, and be sure to follow our school hashtag to see all of the great happenings at the IS! [#ISinnovators](#)



CREATIVE GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Need some gift ideas for your Intermediate School student? How about some new art supplies to help keep them creative and productive over the break. Here is a short list of quality well priced art supplies and tools you can pick up. If you have questions or want more suggestions, contact Mr. Bell at cbell@horseheadsdistrict.com.



**8.5x11
Hardbound
Sketchbook**
\$8 - \$12
(Hobby Lobby)



**Watercolor
Paint Set**
\$1 - \$5
(Hobby
Lobby)



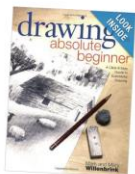
**Colored
Pencils**
\$3 - \$10
(Hobby
Lobby)



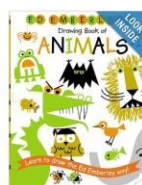
**Darice 80-Piece
Deluxe Art Set**
\$15.99
(amazon.com)



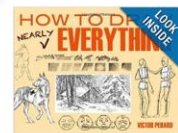
**How to Draw
Comics the
Marvel Way**
\$13
(amazon.com)



**Drawing for
the Absolute
Beginner**
\$15
(amazon.com)



**Ed Emberley's
Drawing Book
of Animals**
\$7
(amazon.com)



**How to Draw Nearly
Everything** \$10
(amazon.com)



HANDLING NON PAYMENT OF MEAL CHARGES

High School:

There is no charging in the High School. Exception: if a student tells the cashier that their parent deposited money through PaySchools, they will be allowed to charge and the charge will be deducted from their meal account once it has been credited.

Middle School:

Students may charge one lunch in the cafeteria. After one charge, the student will be sent to the Main Office by the cashier. There, the student may borrow money for lunch. A building administrator will then contact the parent to collect the charges.

(NOTE: When any student (Grades Pre-K-12) has any charges on their account, no extra items will be allowed to be purchased until the account is paid in full. If a student brings in money to buy ala carte items and has charges, the money will be returned to them.)

Grades Pre-K-6:

- 1) A student can charge up to three meals. After three meals are charged, a meal of a **peanut butter and jelly sandwich, two side dishes and white milk** will be provided and charged at the regular price. (NOTE: For those with medical issues that prohibit peanut butter, a cheese sandwich will be substituted for the PB&J sandwich.) The District's auto call system will notify the parent of the charges due.
- 2) When there are three outstanding meal charges on a student's account, an alternate breakfast will be provided. That alternate breakfast will include a granola bar, a package of graham crackers, canned fruit and white milk. The student will be charged for this at the regular price.
- 3) This alternate meal will be provided for seven days (up to 10 total charges) or until the account is paid in full. If after this time, payment has not been received, the food service cafeteria manager will call the home, and:
 - a) Notify the parent of current charges due.
 - b) Ask if there has been a change in finances in the household that would necessitate changes on their Free or Reduced Application.
 - c) Send home a new application for completion if there is none on file. If an application is on file that needs updating, the manager will make changes to the application based on the phone conversation.
 - d) Inform the parent that they have the option of meal prepayment.
 - e) Notify the parent that after an additional three days, the cafeteria manager will forward the concern to the principal. (include form letter follow-up summarizing the issue).
- 4) If the charges remain outstanding, the cafeteria manager will inform the Principal, who will then make written contact with the parent. The letter shall contain the following information:
 - a) Charges due and a request that payment be made by a specific date.
 - b) Another copy of the application for free and reduced lunch.
 - c) A statement that meals will be stopped if payment is not made in full, and the date of meal cutoff.
 - d) A statement that if the bill is not paid in full by the specific date given, the matter will be turned over to the District's attorney for collection.

(NOTE: This procedure also applies when a bad check is received from a home for payment of charges when there is a negative balance due to charges.)

On occasion, parents forget to give lunch money to their child. Most of the time these charges are repaid immediately, however, in some situations charges continue to pile up and go on for many days.

GOT TALENT? SHOW OFF YOUR STUFF!

HORSEHEADS INTERMEDIATE VARIETY SHOW

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

Sing, dance, flip, magic, jokes, etc. All acts are limited to 2 minutes.

Rehearsal Dates:

5th Grade TBD after school

6th Grade TBD after school

A Final Practice for 5th and 6th grade will be offered as well.

All rehearsals will be in the I.S. cafeteria, after school, until 3:30.

All students must be picked up no later than 3:30, in the main lobby.

Intermediate School PTO Officers (2016-2017)

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--|--------------|
| <i>President:</i> | Lisa Bingaman | magnolia3666@yahoo.com | 607-767-5121 |
| <i>Treasurer:</i> | Deborah French | frenchsd526@aol.com | 607-742-7941 |
| <i>Secretary:</i> | Carol Campbell | jcz@stny.rr.com | 607 739-0526 |

ART SUPPLIES NEEDED

Mrs. Crans's Art Classes (grades 5 & 6) are in need of some materials for a special Art project. If you can donate any of the following materials by Monday, December 12th, we thank you in advance for your generosity.

- *Christmas, Winter or Generic wrapping paper
- *Small self-stick gift tags
- *Disposable scotch tape dispensers



Attention!

PRINCIPAL CHATS

October 11th, **January 10th**, and

April 4th

9:00 AM in the Cafeteria 6:00 &

6:30PM in the Library

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

Substitute Teachers, Teaching Assistants, Substitute RNs and Bus Drivers needed for per diem work during the school year.

Teaching Substitutes must meet the following criteria: 1) An Associates' Degree or higher; OR 2) completion of at least 2 years of College; OR 3) Graduated from High School for at least 4 years and completed at least 12 college credits; OR 4) an Honorable Discharge from the military.

Sub RNs should bring in evidence of their license.

Sub Bus Drivers – Training will be included

Apply in person at Human Resources

or email: hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com for more information.

Apply in person at the address below:

Human Resources Office
Horseheads Central School District
One Raider Lane (south end of the High School)

NEW RATES FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The District needs certified teachers for day-to-day substituting opportunities in all of our schools. Certified substitutes receive a rate of \$95 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at 739-5601 x 4211.

thank
you!

A special thank you goes to the PTO for the Staff Luncheon they provided on Parent/Teacher Conference Day. It was delicious and very helpful with a busy schedule for staff that day. We sincerely thank all parents who donated to help make it such a success!

CHARACTER TRAIT AND 'HABIT OF MIND' OF THE MONTH

Character Trait: Caring is being kind • being compassionate and showing you care • expressing gratitude • forgiving others • helping people in need.

- Have your child perform 1 selfless deed per day
- Help care for pets
- Perform Community Service

The Habit of Mind: Thinking Flexibly. Flexible thinking means finding more than one way to do something. It means stretching what you know enough to make an educated guess that could be right. It is about finding out what you need to know and problem solving. Being a flexible thinker will give your child the tools they need to thrive in school now and in the future.

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Michael Bostwick is the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator at the Intermediate School. Judith Christiansen is the DASA Coordinator for the district. All concerns regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying should be directed accordingly.

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to gender, race, color, national origin or disability. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Judy Christiansen, Title IX Coordinator, or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601