

The School Connection



Horseheads Intermediate School

Principal's Post

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 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 Bostwick
Principal

Follow me on Twitter: Michael Bostwick@[M_Bostwick](#)
School Hashtag: [#ISinnovators](#)
Like us on facebook: Search Horseheads Intermediate School
Website: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHIS.cfm>

"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 2017
Volume 6 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!

<u>Friday, December 1st:</u>	Character Kickoff Day – Pajama Day!
<u>Thursday, December 21st:</u>	Board of Education Meeting, Middle School, 6:00 PM
<u>Mon, 12/25 – Mon, 1/1:</u>	No School – Winter Recess
<u>Tuesday, January 9th:</u>	Principal/Parent Chat, 9:00 AM, Cafeteria/6:00 PM, Library
<u>Tuesday, January 9th:</u>	PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM, Library
<u>Wednesday, January 10th:</u>	Strings Showcase, High School Auditorium, 7:00 PM
<u>Monday, January 15th:</u>	NO SCHOOL/MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
<u>Tuesday, January 30th:</u>	Grade 5 Concert, High School Auditorium, 7:00 PM
<u>Wednesday, January 31st:</u>	Grade 6 Concert, High School Auditorium, 7:00 PM
<u>Wednesday, January 31st:</u>	Scripps Spelling Bee, MS Cafeteria, 2:45 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 Intermediate School Main Entrance door. Be sure to pull up as far as you can so that many students can be dropped off at a time. Thank you for adhering to this important safety procedure. Drop off time cannot be earlier than 7:40 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 0.33 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 all Honor Roll 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)



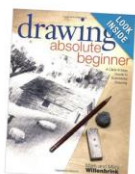
**Colored
Pencils**
\$3 - \$10
(Hobby Lobby)



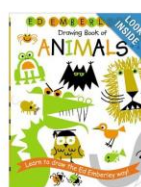
**Darice 80-Piece
Deluxe Art Set**
\$15.99
(amazon.com)



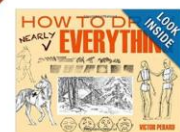
**How to Draw
Comics the
Marvel Way**
\$13
(amazon.com)



**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

NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY:

The Board of Education recognizes that on occasion, students may not have enough funds for a meal. To ensure that students do not go hungry, but also to promote responsible student behavior and minimize the fiscal burden to the District, the Board will allow students who do not have enough funds to “charge” the cost of meals to be paid back at a later date subject to the terms in this policy.

A student may charge up to ten reimbursable meals. The District may allow additional reimbursable meals to be charged when extenuating circumstances exist. Extra items such as à la carte items and snacks may not be charged.

No student with unpaid charges will be prohibited from purchasing food if they have money on a particular day.

PLEASE NOTE:

During the transition to PaySchools Central, the automatic notification of low funds on your child’s school account has been disabled. If you would like to receive the notifications, you must sign in to your account and turn on the notification. [Click here](#) for a link to PaySchools Central. If you have questions, please contact food services at 739-5601 x671 or email Suzanne Blunt at sblunt@gstboces.org

Thank you to our Veterans!

We’d like to thank you our Veterans for coming in to celebrate Monday with students after Veterans Day. Our Vets greeted students as they entered with high fives and positive messages. Students in return thanked them for their service with messages and cards. Most importantly, we’d like to thank all Veterans for protecting our country!



GOT TALENT? SHOW OFF YOUR STUFF!
HORSEHEADS INTERMEDIATE VARIETY SHOW
FEBRUARY 7, 2018

Sing, dance, flip, magic, jokes, etc. Students may enter the show with one individual or group act. More information will be given in January when sheets will be sent home to sign up!

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

Intermediate School PTO Officers (2017-2018)

President:	Lisa Bingaman	magnolia3666@yahoo.com	767-5121
Vice-President:	Gretchen Ferraro	gferraro2010@gmail.com	425-2603
Treasurer:	Brandon Johnson	brjohnso@horseheadsdistrict.com	358-4117
Secretary:	Jaime Cunningham	cunningham.jaime@yahoo.com	857-0197

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 11th, we thank you in advance for your generosity.

- *Rolls of Christmas, Winter or Generic(non-holiday) wrapping paper
- * Disposable scotch tape dispensers
- *All colors of yar(needed later for a 5th grade project)



Attention!

PRINCIPAL CHATS

October 10th, **January 9th**, and April 10th
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)

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.

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.

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!

Michael Bostwick is the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Coordinator at the Intermediate School. Megan Collins 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 Megan Collins, Title IX Coordinator, or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601