

The School Connection



Principal's Post



Horseheads Intermediate School

October has been a busy and exciting month. Town and Country Fire Department visited to highlight some important safety tips during Fire Prevention Week. They would be pleased to know that I'm reminding you to practice your family fire plan as well as change your batteries in your smoke alarms. Joe Trionfero came to do his 'Show of Love' assembly that focused on always doing the right thing to build each other up. We also wrapped up the month with our Halloween celebrations in school.

The academic expectations are growing each day as we move into more rigorous content. There are many things you can do to help make your child successful in school. Please check out the Intermediate School website, specifically the **Parent Resources**. We have included many helpful resources including month-by-month tips, problem solving strategies, homework tips, internet safety, common core standards information, bullying information and much more! Simply click on *Parent Resources* link to the right on this page. It's very useful, and we thank you for taking an active role in your child's education as it is one of the most critical pieces of success.

Each month we focus on a specific character trait as well as a Habit of Mind (HoM). November's character trait is **citizenship** and our HoM is **managing impulsivity**. The teachers infuse them into the classroom, and we highlight the traits in activities and throughout the building. We would appreciate your help with these at home as well. Discussing ways to show citizenship in daily practices and promoting strategies for managing impulsive behaviors, are great ways to build these skills. See page 8 for more information.

In closing, I'd like to say thank you for sending us such great kids. November is a month to reflect upon what you're thankful for, and for me it is the great population of students at the Intermediate School. We certainly face our challenges, but we always collaborate as a team to make this a welcoming and productive place of education. With your help, we are developing some fantastic young minds. Thank you very much for your assistance in reinforcing academics, positive behaviors, and healthy relationships.

If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me.

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>

"We are apt to forget that children watch examples better than they listen to preaching." - Roy L. Smith

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Volume 5 Issue 3

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ATTENTION!

[Parent Resources](#)
on IS website.

"Thank you very much for your assistance in reinforcing academics, positive behaviors, and healthy relationships."

Mark Your Calendars!

<u>Friday, November 4^h:</u>	Marking Period Ends
<u>Monday, November 7th:</u>	Picture Re-Takes
<u>Tuesday, November 8th:</u>	PTO Meeting, Library, 6:30 PM
<u>Thursday, November 10th:</u>	½ day students – Parent/Teacher Conf. Day (Dismissal at 11:00 AM); Reports cards sent home
<u>Friday, November 11th:</u>	NO SCHOOL – VETERANS DAY
<u>Thursday, November 17th:</u>	Board of Education Meeting, MS LGI, 6:00 PM
<u>Friday, November 18th:</u>	NO SCHOOL - Parent/Teacher Conference Day
<u>Wed. 11/23 – Fri. 11/25:</u>	NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING RECESS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. Fall is well under way and temperatures are below freezing on some mornings. Physical Education classes and recess are outside when weather permits. Please be sure your child wears a coat and dresses appropriately for the weather.
2. Friday, November 18th, is a Parent/Teacher Conference Day. All Elementary Schools are not in session on that day. Thursday, November 10th, is a half-day of school due to Parent/Teacher Conferences. **Dismissal will be at 11:00 AM this day.** Also, Friday, November 11th is Veteran's Day and the school will be closed.
3. The School Store is open daily from 10:20 AM – 12:45 PM. Middle School students operate the store. Pencils, erasers, paper and many other items are available there for students to purchase.
4. We use an electronic report card across the district. We will recognize students on the Honor Roll who have a grade point average of 85.0 or higher and do not fail any classes. Students achieving a grade point average (GPA) of 95.0 or above will be recognized as Distinguished Honors. A student will receive a "U" for any grade under a 65. A GPA will not be calculated if a student has a "U" on the report card. Art, Music, and Physical Education classes are weighted 1/3 of the core subjects for the GPA because they meet twice in a six-day cycle.
5. Parent-Teacher Conference Forms were sent home. We encourage you to meet with your child's homeroom teacher to discuss their progress this year and ask questions. Focus for the conferences could be about academic, behavioral, and social strengths as well as areas for improvement.
6. 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 Artic League are available in the Health Office.
7. Math Facts—Memorization of math facts is critical for student success at this grade level. Math facts are essential for students as they study higher level math concepts. The Intermediate School would like to see ALL students testing at 100% on their math facts by the end of this school year. Your child may borrow a set of math facts cards. We ask that you or someone in your family help your child to study these math facts cards and then return them to their homeroom teachers. Practice will pay off!
8. We are encouraging our students to wash their hands often with soap and water. Hand sanitizer is available at the doors to the lunch room. We appreciate those who had sent some in with your child this year. We want to inform you that the District will be maintaining this during the year. Thank you.
9. PTO is planning a Luncheon for staff on Friday, November 10th, Parent/Teacher Conference Day. Donations are appreciated. Please contact Amy Bo with any questions. amywirth@yahoo.com

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

Physical Education Happenings

It's Back! INTRAMURALS

Parents – Starting after our Thanksgiving break our Intramural Fitness/Sports program will begin. The sign-up process is as follows:

1. Sign-up sheets are placed in the “pick-up” box located in the hallway outside the Main Gym by PE teachers.
2. Students look at the activity or activities, (if more than one is offered) and the days they’re being offered. If they are interested, they bring a sheet home to be signed.
3. Students return the sheet to “return box” **before the due date.**

*The 2 limitations of this program are:

There is **NO** school provided transportation home.

Children need to be picked up **by 3:45 PM**. They may walk home w/parents’ permission.

*There is no fee to participate, and runs from 2:30 – 3:30 on the days listed on the sign-up sheet.

Examples of activities: Basketball, Badminton, Archery, Wrestling, Ultimate Frisbee and others.



LUNCH WITH YOUR CHILD

We want to provide a place for parents to eat lunch with their child on those special occasions when you come to school. We will have a table in the Cafeteria designated for this purpose. Your child may wish to invite a friend to join you at this table. This will still allow the “down time” that students look forward to having at lunch with their friends.

PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARDS

A reminder that Presidential Service Award volunteer forms for the first marking period are due on Thursday, November 10th. Students may give the forms to their teacher or drop them off in the Office. As a reminder, this is an optional activity.



SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

The Intermediate School PTO is excited to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee again this year. Our Local Spelling Bee will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2017, at 9:00 AM, in the Middle School Cafeteria for qualifying students. (more on page 8)



CIM TEAM

Our School District currently is utilizing the CIM (Classroom Intervention Model) in assuring your child is receiving all necessary supports to have a positive school year. The CIM Team is a collaborative approach which includes teachers, special area teachers, administrators, special education staff, school psychologist, social workers and other staff with knowledge or specific skills. Our goal is to discuss, confidentially, any student's needs and to develop an Intervention Plan that will help him/her be more successful. You, as the parent/guardian, can be involved in the process to help make this a joint effort between home and school. If you have any questions regarding this team, please consult with your student's classroom teacher.

ACADEMIC INTERVENTION SERVICES (AIS)

The New York State Education Department mandates that all schools identify and provide academic assistance to any student falling below a designated cutoff on various assessments. AIS stands for Academic Intervention Services. Identified students will be monitored and will receive additional help, which continues until the student demonstrates competency in the identified area. In many cases, a student will have been identified through a State Assessment he/she took at the end of the previous school year. In addition, students may qualify for AIS support if they have fallen below designated levels on District tests and/or have been recommended by teachers.

STUDENTS READ THREE BOOKS A MONTH

Our District has established the standard that Grade 5 and 6 students will read a minimum of 25 grade level books per year. We need your help to encourage your child to reach this goal each month. Children whose parents read with them on a regular basis are more successful in school.



Community Outreach

As you may know, the Intermediate School does a lot of to support our community. We believe that community outreach is not only important for our community, but it also teaches our students a sense of civic responsibility and citizenship. Check out our 'CANstruction' challenge. Students built structures out of the canned and boxed food brought in to benefit the March Out Hunger Drive and Meals on Wheels!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

Thank you to all of the students, parents, and teachers who volunteered their time on October 22nd, for Make A Difference Day. Many wonderful projects were accomplished in support of the school and local community agencies. Intermediate School students pictured below made almost 800 dog biscuits for the SPCA who came with a furry friend to pick them up.



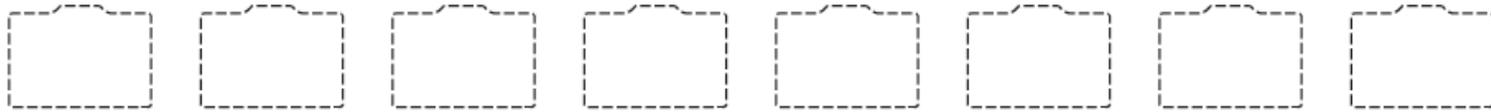


50 BOX TOPS = \$5 FOR YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL



Clipped Box Tops are each worth 10¢ for your child's school. Tape or paste them to this collection sheet and send it to school. Please note, bonus certificates must be submitted separately. Thanks for your help!

- 1 Clip Box Tops and check expiration date
- 2 Tape or glue Box Tops on sheet until filled
- 3 Send completed sheet to your school Coordinator



Earn Cash for Our Schools!



Clip, fill the page, and bring it in to school!



Scripps National Spelling Bee

Horseheads Intermediate School is excited to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Below are the steps to participate:

1. Interested students will be given a grade-specific spelling list to prepare for the classroom spelling bee.
2. In November/December, your child will participate in a *Classroom Spelling Bee* to qualify for the *School Spelling Bee*. The *Classroom Spelling Bee* will be done on the computer during school
3. Students who qualify will be invited to the *School Spelling Bee* and given the School Study List.
 - a. Place: Horseheads Middle School Cafeteria
 - b. Date and Time: Saturday, January 28, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.
4. Two winners from the *School Spelling Bee* will then continue to the *Local Spelling Bee* in Campbell, NY on Saturday, March 4th, at 12:30 p.m. They will be given a School Champion study list that will be used for the district level and following levels.
5. If a Horseheads Intermediate School Spelling participant wins, they will continue to the National Spelling Bee in Washington DC.

If your child is interested, he/she will be given a list from their classroom teacher to start studying for the Classroom Spelling Bee. If you have any questions, contact Robin Doubrava at 739-6366.

Horseheads Central School District Parents' Bill of Rights Relating to Student Data

The District, in compliance with Education Law 2-d, hereby establishes the following Parents' Bill of Rights in regard to student data:

1. A student's personally identifiable information will not be sold or released for any commercial purpose;
2. Parents have the right to inspect and review the complete contents of their child's educational record. Procedures for reviewing student records can be found in the Board Policy entitled "Student Records," Policy 5500, Regulation 5500-R;
3. Security protocols regarding confidentiality of personally identifiable information are currently in place and the safeguards necessary to protect the confidentiality of student data are maintained at industry standards and best practices. The safeguards include but are not limited to encryption, firewalls, and password protection.
4. New York State maintains a complete list of all student data collected by the State and the data is available for public review at www.nysed.gov, or by writing to 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234
5. Parents have the right to have complaints about possible breaches of student data addressed. Complaints should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845.

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.

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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.

Attention!

PRINCIPAL CHATS

October 11th, **January 10th**, and April 4th

9:00 AM in the Cafeteria 6:00 &

6:30PM in the Library



Pull for the House.



Many Hearts. One Home.

Please start hoarding pull tabs! We began our drive to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Last year we gathered over 147 pounds which was the most out of any school in the region!

Get others involved – ask your friends, neighbors, and family members to collect! Pull tabs can be brought to the office.

CHARACTER TRAIT AND HABIT OF MIND' OF THE MONTH

Character Trait: **Citizenship** is contributing to your school and outside community, staying informed, and participating in decision-making.

The Habit of Mind: **Managing impulsivity** means taking a minute to think before you speak or act. Consider how your words and actions will affect you and other people.

Parents can help reinforce *citizenship* by

- Promoting community service
- Encouraging cooperation
- Staying informed and voting when possible
- Being a good neighbor
- Respecting authority; obey laws and rules

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