

The School Connection



Horseheads Intermediate School

Principal's Post

In a few more weeks, spring will be upon us. I think the students are ready for the nicer weather to stay so they can get outside more to burn off the winter cabin fever! Hopefully March will cooperate with those wishes.

We had some great events throughout the month of February at the Intermediate School. The Variety Show was a huge hit amongst IS students. There were many talents displayed that evening including singing, dancing, instrument performances, gymnastics, and more. Thanks to all of the parent volunteers who made this possible. Check out page 2 for more information about STEM Night!

Attention fifth grade parents! Please be sure to read page 6 regarding the NYS school immunization regulations. All 6th grade students will need to receive 2 doses of the Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccination along with the Tdap vaccine. The laws are very strict, and we cannot allow students to come to school after the 10th day of school without these immunizations.

As many of you know, the 2018-2019 school budget talks are in full swing. Horseheads School District is always focused on building a fiscally responsible budget while trying to provide the best learning opportunities for students. I encourage you all to be involved in the process and stay informed by checking out the [HCSD website](#). There will also be a Community Budget Workshop next Thursday at 6pm at the Multi Media Center.

The NYS ELA and Math Tests are quickly approaching (see page 4). Please visit the Intermediate School Webpage link called [Parent Resources](#) to see how you can help support your child with the common core curriculum.

Thanks for your continued support of your child and our school. I encourage you to stay in close communication with the teachers and School Tool for academic information. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact our office. Every once in a while I will include a parent article. Check out the link on the right hand side of this page about bringing out the genius in every child!

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>

The research is overwhelmingly clear: *When parents play a positive role in their child's education, students do better in school.*

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Volume 6 Issue 7

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[Parent Article](#)

ATTENTION!

[Parent Resources](#)
on IS website.

"Horseheads School District is always focused on building a fiscally responsible budget while trying to provide the best learning opportunities for students."

Mark Your Calendars!

<u>Friday, March 2nd:</u>	STEM Night, 6:30 – 8:30 PM (rescheduled to Friday, 3/16)
<u>Thursday, March 8th:</u>	Board of Education Budget Workshop, Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM
<u>Friday, March 9th:</u>	NO SCHOOL – SUPERINTENDENT’S CONFERENCE DAY
<u>Tuesday, March 13th:</u>	IS PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM, IS Library
<u>Tuesday, March 20th:</u>	Middle School Parent Orientation for Grade 6, MS Café, 6:00 PM
<u>Thursday, March 22nd:</u>	Board of Education Meeting, Multi-Media Center, 6:00 PM
<u>Monday, March 26th:</u>	Gr. 4 Presentation/Open House, MS Café, 6:00 PM
<u>Fri, 3/30 – Mon, 4/2:</u>	NO SCHOOL – EASTER RECESS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. It is that time of the year again to replenish your child's school supplies such as pencils and paper. Students can purchase a variety of items at our school store in the morning and during most lunch periods. Some items available include pencils, pens, mechanical pencils, highlighters, glue sticks and notebook paper.
2. Join us in the fun of exploring STEM with demonstrations and hands-on experiments! Code robots, play the giant chess game, Rubik's cube competition, learn about animals, explore scientific concepts, fill a cavity, and much more! Try to save your egg from its big fall in the Egg Drop Contest! March 2nd from 6:30-8:30pm. STEM Night has been rescheduled to Friday, March 16th from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
3. Other upcoming events:
April ~ Grade 6 Teams will visit the Middle School for an Orientation Program during the school day.
April - May ~ Mr. Bostwick and Mrs. Doubrava will visit fourth graders at each elementary school for an Orientation Program during the school day.
4. The 6th Grade Celebration will be on Wednesday, June 20th. More information will be coming out in the months to come about how you can help out.
5. Letters will be sent home on Friday, March 2nd, regarding the Maturation Unit. If you have any questions or did not receive the letter, please contact the Main Office. The form should be returned only if you do not want your child to participate in this health unit.
6. Afternoon Pick-Up: Afternoon recess ends at 2:20 PM for many classes. Our upper parking lot is used during recess for basketball and other games. This is especially important with snow and mud. Parents should not arrive before 2:20 PM to pick up students for dismissal. If you arrive early, please park in the row farthest away from the basketball hoops facing the main parking lot.
7. We encourage students to bring sneakers to school every day. Sneakers are required for Physical Education class. Boots and dress shoes are not appropriate for Physical Education classes. Additionally, appropriate clothing should be worn for recess and KIA outdoors.



Three years ago we launched a Makerspace in the Intermediate School. A Makerspace is a place for students to tap their creativity and innovation by investigating/making things they are passionate about. Students have been working on 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. Be sure to follow our school hashtag to see all of the great happenings at the IS! [#ISinnovators](#)

ATTENTION PARENTS!!!

We are always looking for interested parents who would like to help out with school events. That could be as simple as chaperoning an event or working at the book fair. Everyone is also welcome to join our PTO meetings listed on the district calendar. **Next year we are looking for a new PTO Secretary. Please contact the school or one of the officers if interested.** We appreciate your support and value the partnership!

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



Target and Tops Bonus Cards!

Have you linked your Target and Tops Bonus Cards to our school? We receive a portion back of all that you buy at Tops and Target. Here is the information to get signed up:

Tops - 1) Go to TopsMarkets.com/education 2) Click on the "School Administrators" Link 3) Click on the "Group Registration"

Target (follow the link) -

<https://www.target.com/c/take-charge-of-education/-/N-xazi3>

Parent Portal

Web address: <https://schooltool.horseheadsdistrict.com>

Parent Portal allows instant access to your child's grades and progress. Try to make it part of your homework routine at least once a week to allow them to look at their grades with you. Below are a couple of helpful tabs to help you navigate through your child's grades & assignments.

The Assignment tab allows you to see your child's assignments in all subject areas. Use the Courses drop down box to sort the assignments by subject.

STUDENT

Contacts Schedule Attendance Grades Assessments **Assignments** Letters

School Year 2013-2014 Marking Period MP2 Courses All Courses

Once on the Grades tab select marking period average from the drop down box to see what your child's averages are in each subject area.

STUDENT

Contacts Schedule Attendance **Grades** Assessments Assignments Letters

View Marking Period Average for MP1

If you are having trouble logging in to your parent portal account or have forgotten your login/password information, please contact <mailto:hcsdportalinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com>

NYS ELA and Math Tests

The ELA State Test will be given on April 11th – 12th. The Math State Test will be given on May 2nd – 3rd. **State tests have been reduced from 3 days down to 2.** These tests help us determine how each student is performing with specific skills in both ELA and Math toward the standards' expectations. They also help us to know who needs extra help (Academic Intervention Services or AIS) for the following school year in each of these areas. **Please note that a refusal of the State Tests does not mean students will be exempt from AIS if they qualify.**

**We explain to students that the tests are important and to try their best. However, we don't want to burden our students with stress and anxiety. Thanks for your help with this!*

Test Taking Tips For Parents

1. Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before a test and has a nutritious breakfast in the morning.
2. Maintain a pleasant home environment and avoid unnecessary conflicts. Try to make the morning of the test a pleasant one.
3. Make sure your child has taken any needed medication.
4. Ensure that your child is present during testing (children generally perform better when taking tests with their class, rather than at a make-up time).
5. Get your child to school on time the day of the test.
6. Wish your child good luck each morning of the test. Tell your child that you believe in him/her.
7. Remind your child the test is important, but don't put too much emphasis on them that would create stress or anxiety.
8. Encourage him/her to do their best.
9. Remind your child to listen carefully to the instructions from the teacher, and to read the directions and each question carefully.
10. Explain to your child the importance of using time wisely. If your child gets stuck on a question, encourage him or her to make the best guess and move on.
11. Tell your child to attempt to answer all of the questions and not to leave any blank.
12. Encourage your child to stay focused on the test, even if other students finish early.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

The Board of Education and District administration are currently developing the 2018-19 Proposed School Budget. The first of three Board Budget Workshops was held February 8th. Both the presentation and a video of the presentation, as well as budget and vote information, are available on our District website.

The remaining workshops are March 8th and April 5th, both at 6:00 PM in the High School Multi-Media Center located in the South Wing. The workshops are open to the public.

A public hearing on the proposed budget will be Thursday, May 3rd, at 6:00 PM in the High School Multi-Media Center.

The Budget Vote/Board Election is Tuesday, May 15th, 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. in the High School South Gym.

INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION?

Voters will elect three members to the Board of Education on May 15th. If you're interested in running for the Board, petitions and other information will be available in the Business Office beginning March 1st. Interested residents must submit petitions with the appropriate number of signatures of qualified district residents to the Business Office by April 16th. Petitions will be available for pick-up March 1.

Questions? Email hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or call (607) 739-5601, x4260.



Clearly going to school regularly matters!

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and become discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your child keeps a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your child goes to school every day unless they are truly sick (i.e. stomach bug or fever)
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or friend to take your child to school.

As an added incentive, the Intermediate School is encouraging students to come to school as they "Pop Toward Super Attendance." Classes will work toward spelling "We Are Super" to earn a popcorn party for achieving up to 97% class attendance.

Please let us know how we can best support you and your child so that he/she can show up for school on time every day. If you are struggling in any way to get your child to school, please contact us so we can work together to solve the problem. We want your child to be successful in school!



NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

PLEASE READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Dear Fifth Grade Parents/Guardians:

All 6th grade students will need to receive 2 doses of the Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccination along with the Tdap vaccine. The laws are very strict, and we cannot allow students to come to school after the first 10 days of school without these immunizations.

Your child may get the required immunization through your health care provider, Five Star Urgent or Walk-In Clinics or through the Chemung County Health Department, at (607)737-2028, appointment, only if qualified.

You must provide proof that your child has received the Tdap immunization in order for your child to attend school in the fall. Your health care provider or health department will provide you with this written proof once your child receives the immunization. Please bring this proof to our Health Office or fax it to us at 795-2495. Information must be received by Wednesday, September 18, 2018. **No appointment cards accepted.**

Please note: 10-year-old students who are entering 6th grade will not be required to receive the Tdap vaccine at this time and will not be excluded from school, but will be tracked and must be immunized upon turning 11 years old.

If you have further questions, please contact the health office at 739-6366 (Option 2). Thank you for your cooperation.



HEALTH CORNER



It is that time of the year again to remember good health practices. Please keep your child home if he/she has had a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, vomiting or diarrhea in the past two hours. Because there is no known cure for the common cold, prevention is the key to keeping colds away. Most of the time you acquire a cold virus by touching your eyes, nose or mouth with an object that has the cold virus on it.

Therefore, to help avoid catching a cold:

- Wash hands thoroughly and frequently with warm soapy water.
- Sneeze into a tissue, rather than your hands, then discard the tissue(*Remember to please send in tissue boxes)
- Don't touch your face—your hands may have come in contact with a cold virus!
- Drink 8 glasses of water daily.
- Get plenty of rest—up to 12 hours a night!!



NATIONAL YOUTH ART MONTH



Student artwork has been selected from Mr. Bell's 6th Grade Art classes to be displayed at the Corning Credit Union during the month of March. Artwork from more than 75 students will be on display for the public to see. Students will be bringing home postcards with more information on the event if their work was chosen. National Youth Art Month is a program hosted by The Arts Council of the Finger Lakes that celebrates awareness and advocacy for art in our schools and excellent art education for our youth. This is the 7th year students from Mr. Bell's art classes have participated. Please stop by The Corning Credit Union at 101 John Roemmelt Dr. in Horseheads, March 1st-31st to see the student work on display. Corning Credit Union has been an amazing partner in hosting student artwork from the Intermediate School. For more information about National Youth Art Month, visit <http://www.earts.org/nyam>.

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted

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

Sub Bus Drivers – Training will be included

Apply in person at Human Resources

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

NEED 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 10th, January 9th, and April 10th

9:00 AM in the Cafeteria 6:00 – 6:30PM in the Library



Keep hoarding pull tabs! So far we have collected far less than usual. **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: Respect

- Having Respect for someone means you think good things about who a person is or how he/she acts. You can have respect for others, and you can have respect for yourself.
- Showing Respect to someone means you act in a way that shows you care about their feelings and well-being.
- Showing Respect for others include things like not calling people mean names, treating people with courtesy, caring enough about yourself that you don't do things you know can hurt you.

The Habit of Mind:

Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations

These are some situations you would use Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations:

- When I learned about swimming and life-saving, I used my knowledge to save someone who was choking.
- After I finished studying about the environment, and how harmful a single piece of litter can be, I began cleaning up garbage whenever I saw some, and I always put garbage in a bin.
- Learning how to add, subtract, multiply and divide helped me when I was shopping or saving up for a special item.



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