



Tuesday, 1/2
School Reopens

Tuesday, 1/9
Spelling Bee
LGI
6:00PM

Thursday, 1/11
Winter Art Show
Café
6-7:30 pm

Monday, 1/15
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
No School

Thursday, 1/25
MP 2 Ends

Friday, 1/26
Instructional Planning Day
No School

Monday, 1/29
Second Semester Begins

Tuesday, 1/30
Report Cards

Horseheads Middle School

January 2018

Explore Empower Excel

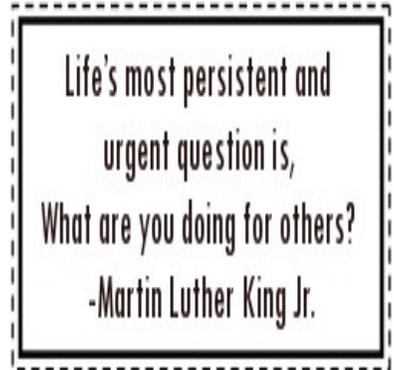


Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

“And so we commemorate on this holiday the man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice every day, the man who braved threats and jail and beatings and who ultimately paid the highest price to make democracy a reality for all Americans.”



— *Coretta Scott King*



HMS Spelling Bee

Join us for a “spell”-binding challenge as our middle school orthographers battle for the championship! Come to the LGI at the middle school on Tuesday, January 9 at 6:00pm and cheer on the semioticians!



Health Unit Notification

During the last marking period of each semester, seventh grade health classes will be studying the Human Physiology Unit. This is an abstinence-based unit which will include the male and female reproductive systems, conception and birth, the risks of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS prevention.

You have the option of exempting your child from the HIV/AIDS prevention information. However, we strongly encourage your child to participate. HIV information must be presented to every child by State mandate. Therefore, it is the parent's responsibility to provide this information which will be included in the Health final. If a student is exempted, he/she is assigned to a study hall and required to do an independent study unit in health.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your concerns before making your decision, call your child's health teacher during school hours at 739-6357.

RETURN THE FORM BELOW IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UNIT.



Return this portion by January 10, 2018 to the Middle School Health Teacher to exempt your child from instruction in the classroom.

(student name) _____

Does not have my permission to participate in the Human Physiology Unit and/or HIV/AIDS prevention.

Student: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____



Peter Pan

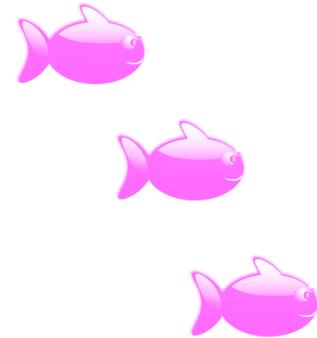


Middle School Musical

Our school musical this year is *Peter Pan*. The presentation of the show will be on Thursday, February 1st and Friday, February 2nd in the HS Auditorium. The show begins at 7:00 PM and is free of charge. The musical, with a cast of 30 students, features singing and dancing. The students have worked hard to bring you an entertaining presentation. Don't miss it!

Winter Art Show

The Horseheads Middle School Art Department is proud to present our 2018 Winter Art Show! On Thursday, January 11th from 6:00 – 7:30pm in the Middle School Cafeteria. Please invite family and friends to stop in and help us celebrate student artwork selected from the first half of the year!



THINK

At Horseheads Middle School we ask our students to THINK. Before speaking or writing, ask yourself if what you are about to communicate is True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary and Kind?

SEMESTER TWO

MS second semester begins on 1/29/18. Prior to first period, students will report to **homeroom** to pick-up their second semester schedule. First semester schedules should be discarded.



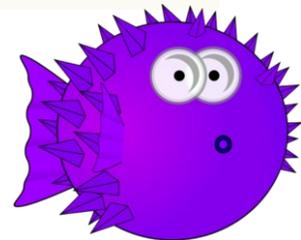
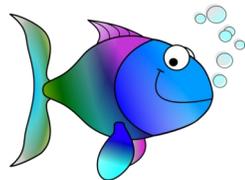
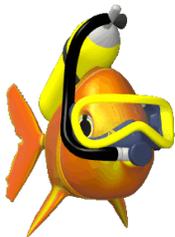
Make a Difference...The Raider Way!

PLAY
IS NOT A SPECIFIC GAME OR ACTIVITY. IT IS A STATE OF MIND THAT BRINGS NEW ENERGY TO THE TASKS AT HAND AND SPARKS CREATIVE SOLUTIONS.

MAKE THEIR DAY
IF YOU FIND YOUR ENERGY LAPSING, FIND SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A HELPING HAND, A WORD OF SUPPORT, OR A GOOD EAR - AND MAKE THEIR DAY.

BE THERE
BECOME ENGAGED WITH ALL YOUR HEART IN WHATEVER YOU DO - AND THRIVE!

CHOOSE YOUR ATTITUDE
YOUR ATTITUDE IS YOUR REACTION TO WHAT LIFE HANDS YOU, AND ONLY YOU CAN CHOOSE THAT REACTION.



Character Trait of the Month

Fairness

Treat all people fairly. Be open-minded. Listen to others and try to understand what they are saying or feeling. Don't take unfair advantage of other's mistakes. Don't take more than your fair share.



Feeding the Community

Record-Breaking Food Drive Totals!

Our students set a new school record for food items donated for the Back Pack Program Food Drive! A total of 18,059 items were collected by the Raiders.

The two-week competition was fierce, as the teams jostled for position. When all was said and done, the 8 White Team finished on top with 6,081 total items, and the 7 White Team had 1,654! Great job students!

8th Grade Totals:

1st Place: 8 White	6,081
2nd Place: 8 Blue	4,949
3rd Place: 8 Red	3,291

7th Grade Totals:

1st Place: 7 White	1,654
2nd Place: 7 Red	1,507
3rd Place: 7 Blue	577



Way to Go Raiders!

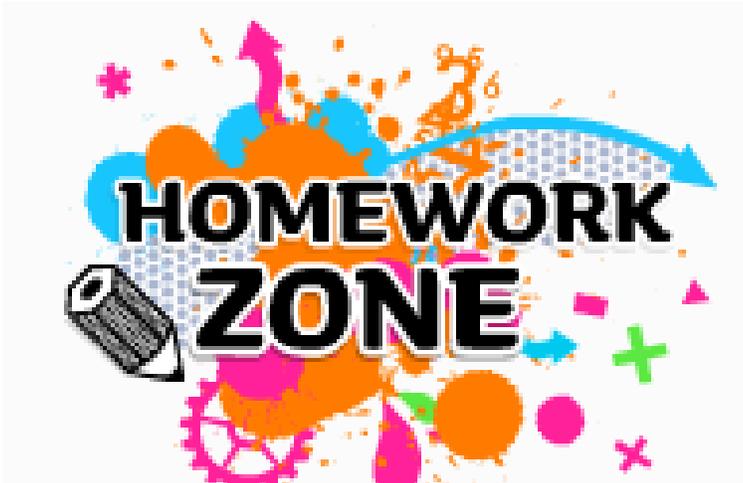
The Student Council collected more than 18,000 items for the Back Pack Program for the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, a new school record!



Featuring

Student Contributions !

Thank you to Mrs. Horton for helping students develop and revise their work, showcased on the next few pages.



Homework Lifesavers

By Hayden Denkenberger and Daquahn Mathews

Most middle school students struggle to some degree to keep up with the homework assignments. We set off to find some good advice to help with this problem. There are some things we can do to set ourselves up for success.

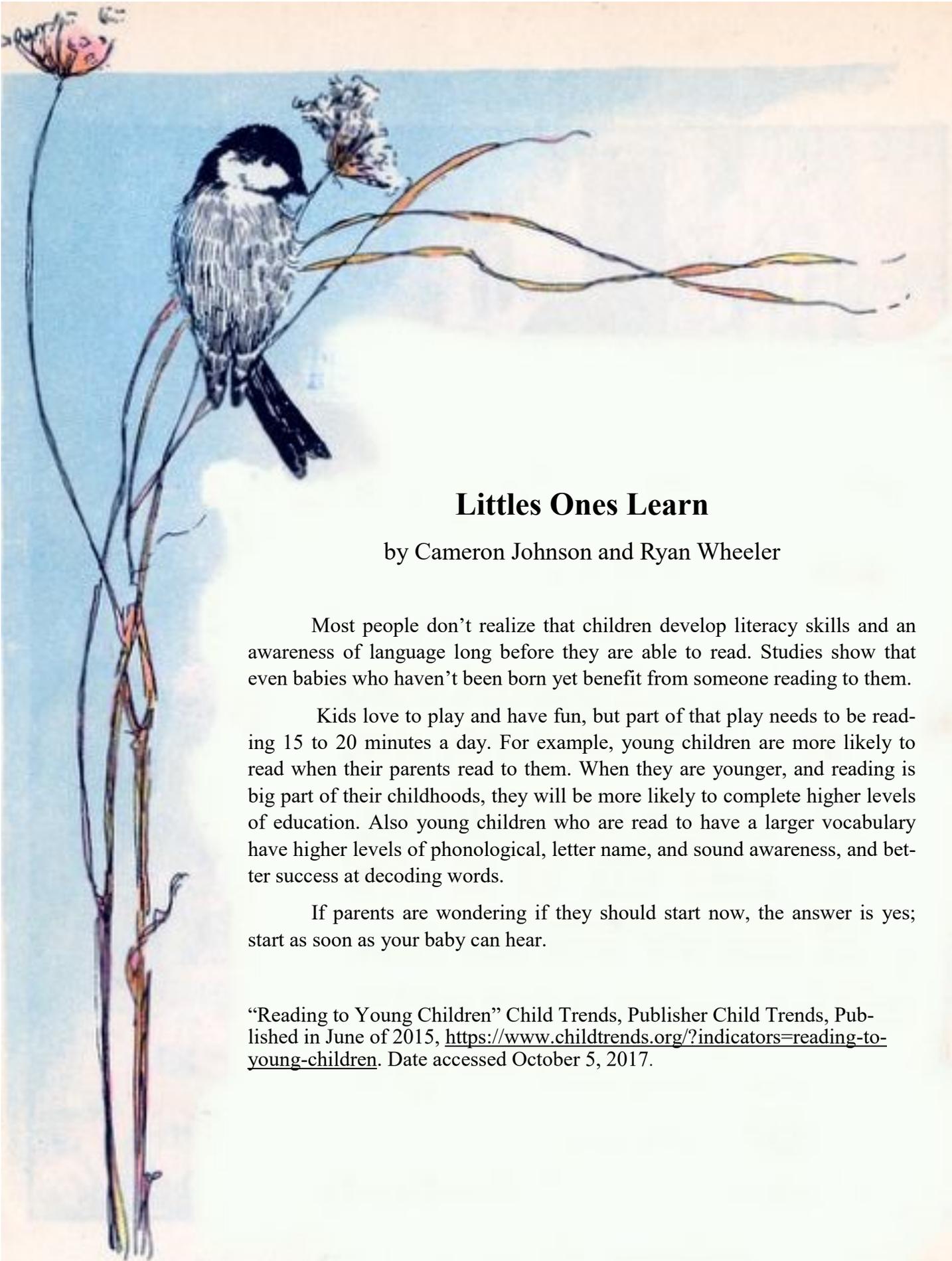
Steps to help you with homework:

- Find the quietest place to do homework.
- Take notes in class to help with homework.
- Talk to a teacher or an adult if you do not understand the homework.
- Take a short break if you are tired or stressed.
- Eat a snack that is healthy if you are hungry.
- Email your teacher for help.
- Chew gum while you work.
- Get a tutor or homework buddy.
- Put your phone as far away as you can.
- Turn off your phone notifications.
- Don't multi-task with homework.
- Try it first by yourself then get help.
- Create a homework plan on what you're going to work on first.
- Try your hardest on your homework.
- Don't stress too much.



These tips might help make homework less work.

“How to Make Homework Less Work.” <https://www.wikihow.com>. accessed October 5, 2017



Littles Ones Learn

by Cameron Johnson and Ryan Wheeler

Most people don't realize that children develop literacy skills and an awareness of language long before they are able to read. Studies show that even babies who haven't been born yet benefit from someone reading to them.

Kids love to play and have fun, but part of that play needs to be reading 15 to 20 minutes a day. For example, young children are more likely to read when their parents read to them. When they are younger, and reading is big part of their childhoods, they will be more likely to complete higher levels of education. Also young children who are read to have a larger vocabulary have higher levels of phonological, letter name, and sound awareness, and better success at decoding words.

If parents are wondering if they should start now, the answer is yes; start as soon as your baby can hear.

“Reading to Young Children” Child Trends, Publisher Child Trends, Published in June of 2015, <https://www.childtrends.org/?indicators=reading-to-young-children>. Date accessed October 5, 2017.



Is E.T Real???

by Marcus Brooks and RK Cornett

Do you believe in life on other planets? Well, according to NASA experts, NASA's Kepler Spacecraft has tracked down 219 new planets outside our solar system, including 10 that could have the right qualifications for hosting life.

NASA has confirmed that there actually is life on planets other than Earth. There is also a new solar system 39 light years away from Earth. All of these discoveries are amazing, making us feel that we might not be alone in the universe. Since the 1960s, the Drake Equation has been used to predict how many communicative extraterrestrial civilizations might exist in the Milky Way Galaxy. Along these same lines, a new formula seeks to estimate the frequency at which life emerges on a planet—a calculation that might allow us to figure out the likelihood of life on other planets.

Many scientists believe we are not alone in the universe. It is probable, they say, that life could have begun on at least some of the billions of planets thought to exist in our galaxy alone -- just as it did here on planet Earth. This basic question about our place in the universe is one that may be answered by scientific investigations. Life on other planets may not consist of little green men running around with big eyes, but there may be life of some kind on other planets.

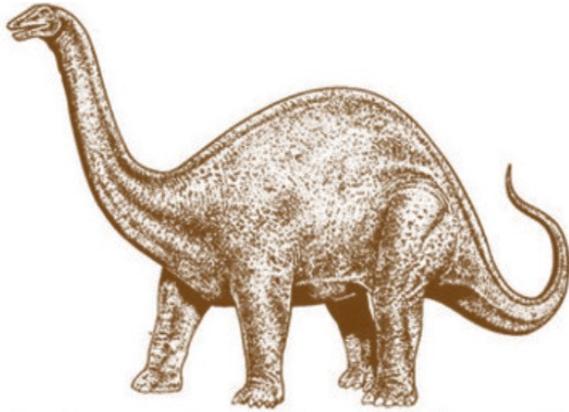
WEBSITES

www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/06/19/10-new-planets-could-have-life-discovered/103009286/.

“Finding life beyond earth is within reach” July 14 2014 October 3 2017
<https://www.nasa.gov/content/finding-life-beyond-earth-is-within-reach>
“Extraterrestrial life MAY exist” Lukas Magnuson October 3 2017

http://www.disclose.tv/news/NASA_confirms_Extraterrestrial_life_DOES_exist_on_other_planets/112979





having great vocabulary didn't save the
THESAURUS
from extinction / eradication / extirpation

January 18 is Thesaurus Day! Brit Peter Roget created the thesaurus to “facilitate the expression of ideas and assist in literary composition”.* Before he invented the thesaurus, Roget was a physician, philologist, inventor and natural theologian. He was also secretary of the Royal Society.

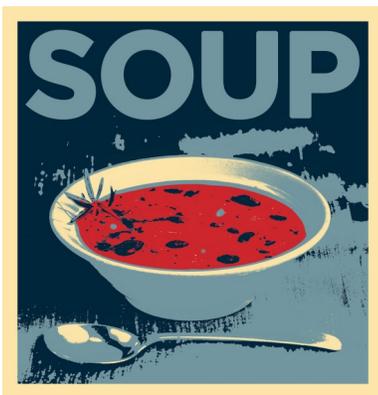
Here’s something to think about:
- what’s another word for “thesaurus”?
- what rhymes with “thesaurus”?

**TheFamousPeople.com*

January 7 is Old Rock Day

Rock hounds rejoice! It’s your day to celebrate all things old and rocky! Rocks provide fascinating glimpses into the past. Fossils in the old rocks teach us about what plants and animals came before us. Do you know New York’s state fossil? Meet *Eurypterus remipes*, or Sea Scorpion. As a specimen of the mid-to-late Paleozoic Era, the average size of the sea scorpion was 7 inches. The biggest ever found measured 4’ 3”, and is on display at the Paleontological Research Institution in Ithaca, NY. Its closest living relative is the King Crab.





It's National Soup Month!

What could be better than a steaming hot bowl of soup on a cold winter's night? Grab a bowl and a book and nourish your mind and soul!



SUPER MOON

Did you miss December's Super Moon? There will be two more super moons this month, on January 2nd and 31st.

The Super Moon on the 31st is also a "blue" moon and a total eclipse of the moon. (A blue moon is the second full moon of the month.)



Pileated Woodpecker

Hylatomus pileatus

Winter Birds in New York

Everyone knows the cardinal, blue jay and the black-capped chickadee. But have you ever seen a pileated woodpecker? If you have, you won't forget it. If you haven't, you're in for a treat. They live in forested areas, and will eat suet, berries or nuts at your feeder.

The pileated averages 16-19" in length, has a 26-30" wingspan and weighs approximately 11oz. They carve out huge, rectangular holes in trees to find their favorite food, carpenter ants. They also make 10-24" deep holes in dead trees for their nest cavities. Their pterodactyl-like appearance and exotic call is truly special to behold.

Smaller birds, like chickadees, can spend the cold winters here by entering a state of hibernation called *torpor*. This is different from hibernation, which is set by the length of the day and hormones. The ambient temperature and the availability of food drives the birds into torpor.

DISTRICT DIGNITY ACT COORDINATOR

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Megan Collins, director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Mrs. Collins, at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845. Her telephone number is 607-739-5601 x 4211.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COORDINATOR

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Middle School is Ron Holloway, building principal. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Mr. Holloway at 739-6357 x 3640 or at rholloway@horseheadsdistrict.com.

NOTICE

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

