

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 flies by so quickly from an educational perspective. It is a busy, yet short month.

Thank you to all who supported the PTO Believe fundraiser and to those who spent their time organizing the event. Any money we make goes directly back to the school toward field trips, PTO activities, technology, supplies, and much more.

Fifth and sixth grade students are participating 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 the intent of developing these skills for real-world scenarios.

Please continue to value your child's attendance at school. Arriving on time to school 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 the holiday 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

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

December 2024
Volume 13 Issue 4

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Parent Article

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

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

"Please continue to value your child's attendance at school."

Mark Your Calendars!

Wednesday, December 4th:	Picture Retakes
Friday, December 6th:	Color Wars (theme day)
Thursday, December 12th:	Drama Club – Production of “A Christmas Carol,” 7:00 PM, IS Cafetorium
Monday, December 16th:	6 th Grade Concert, IS Cafetorium, 6:45 PM (See Below)
Tuesday, December 17th:	5 th Grade Concert, IS Cafetorium, 6:45 PM (See Below)
Thursday, December 19th:	Board of Education Meeting, Center Street Café., 6:00 PM
Mon., 12/23rd – Fri., 1/3rd:	No School – Winter Recess

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. Our **Winter Music Concerts** are right around the corner! We will host them at the Intermediate School in the IS Cafetorium at 6:45 PM. Please look for a communication from the Music Department regarding the time for your child to arrive. Seating and parking may be tight, so **please do not leave open seats in between families whenever possible.**
2. Applications for assistance from the Arctic League are available in the Main Office and were sent home with all students.
3. 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.
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 and temperatures are above 20 degrees F. Please be sure that your child wears an appropriate winter jacket.
7. 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 and Canvas are great ways to stay involved as well.
8. 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 4K Book Challenge for the year.
9. **Report Cards:** Grades for Art, Music, and PE are not weighted in the overall average. Our Honor Roll recognizes students on 3 tiers. Students who had a grade point average of 85.0 – 89.99 made Honor Roll, High Honors is 90.0 – 94.99, and Distinguished Honors is 95.0 or higher. Students cannot fail a class and still make the Honor Roll. Congratulations to all Honor Roll students!
10. **Digital Resources Family Questionnaire**
The New York State Education Department (NYSED) requires that districts send a Digital Resources Questionnaire to parents and guardians. This information is meant to assist the state and districts in providing resources to students and families. NYSED asks that parents/guardians complete a questionnaire for each student in grades K-12. You can access the questionnaire by logging in to the Parent Portal. An instruction sheet is included in this month’s newsletter.
If you do not yet have a Parent Portal account, you can request one using [this form](#). If you have questions, please contact our office. Thank you.



Visions and Voices, Horseheads' district-wide publication of student work, is now accepting submissions. Students and parents/guardians can submit student work including drawings, paintings, photography, sculpture photos, poetry, short stories, comics, etc. Send to cbell@horseheadsdistrict.com by March 12th. Please include student's full name, school, and grade. If you have questions, contact Mr. Bell at the address above.

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.

 <p>8.5x11 Hardbound Sketchbook \$8 - \$12 (Hobby Lobby)</p>	 <p>Watercolor Paint Set \$1 - \$5 (Hobby Lobby)</p>	 <p>Colored Pencils \$3 - \$10 (Hobby Lobby)</p>	 <p>Darice 80-Piece Deluxe Art Set \$15.99 (amazon.com)</p>
 <p>How to Draw Comics the Marvel Way \$13 (amazon.com)</p>	 <p>Drawing for the Absolute Beginner \$15 (amazon.com)</p>	 <p>Ed Emberley's Drawing Book of Animals \$7 (amazon.com)</p>	 <p>How to Draw Nearly Everything \$10 (amazon.com)</p>

ATTENTION PARENTS!!!

Intermediate School PTO Officers (2024-2025)

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 welcomed to join our PTO meetings listed on the district calendar. **Please contact the school or one of the officers if interested.** We appreciate your support and value the partnership!

Tara Spirawk

Alicia Wahl-Knowlden

Email: tara.spirawk@gmail.com

IS Facebook: @HorseheadsIntermediateSchoolPTO



Thank you to our Veterans!

We'd like to thank you our Veterans for coming in to celebrate 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!

Thank You, Veterans



Horseheads Schools



IS ILLUMINATORS

We are so proud of all the IS Illuminators nominated for the recognition. An IS Illuminator can be recognized for kindness, working hard, extra effort, stepping out of their comfort zone, having self-control in a tough situation, making good choices, showing empathy and more. Keep shining bright, IS Illuminators!

IS ILLUMINATOR



First and Last Name

Homeroom
KEEP SHINING BRIGHT!

Closing and Delay Text Alerts

The district uses text-messaging to alert parents/guardians about school delays, closings, and safety alerts. Parents/guardians **must opt-in** to receive texts. To opt-in, text "Y" or "Yes" to 67587. Note that your standard text/data rates apply. The alerts are also posted on the district website, social media pages, and on local TV and radio stations. [Click here](#) to learn more about school delays and closings.





HANDLING NON-PAYMENT OF MEAL CHARGES

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.

Further information is available in our Board of Education Policy Charging School Meals 8505. **As a reminder, regular school lunches are free for the entire school year.**

PLEASE NOTE:

PaySchools Central is the processor of online payments, you may set up automatic notification of low funds on your child’s school account. If you would like to receive the notifications, you must sign into your account and turn on the notification. Click here <https://horseheadscafeteria.gstbooces.org/?page=prepaidacct> for a link to PaySchools Central as well as the ability to transfer funds or request funds from a graduating senior. If you have questions, please contact Food Services at 739-5601 x3671 or contact us using the “contact us” form on the Food Services website.

GOT TALENT? SHOW OFF YOUR STUFF!

HORSEHEADS INTERMEDIATE VARIETY SHOW

FEBRUARY 27TH, 6:00 PM, IS CAFETORIUM

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!

More information to come! Start thinking about how you can show-off your talent!



STUDENT COUNCIL THEME DAYS

December 6th – Color Wars Day

January 10th – Sports/Hobby Day

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
143 Hibbard Rd. Big Flats, NY

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.

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 \$135 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at 739-5601 x 4211.

Attention!

PRINCIPAL CHATS

September 17th, **January 21st**, and April 22nd
9:00 AM in the Main Office

5:30PM in the Library

SAFE SCHOOLS LINE

The Horseheads Central School District has a Safe Schools Line for students, parents, and community to use to report rumors, tips, or other items of concern regarding District schools. The service is available twenty-four hours, seven days a week. All calls are anonymous unless the caller wishes to leave his/her name. The tip line numbers are 795-2044 and 1-800-305-4984 (toll free).

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 Caitlin DeFilippo, Title IX/DASA Coordinator and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer, Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, 143 Hibbard Road, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

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