# The School Connection



## **Principal's Post**

# Horseheads Intermediate School

I hope everyone is having a relaxing and peaceful holiday season despite the changes in how we celebrated this year. I imagine everyone is rested, rejuvenated, and ready for the long haul through the NY winter.

January 4<sup>th</sup> will be the official return date for all students to remote learning as usual. January 7<sup>th</sup> marks the date for the return of our in-person learners in Cohort B, and we will be bringing back our Cohort A students on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure you have turned in the consent for Covid testing; otherwise students will need to be 100% remote. See page 3 for more information regarding the return to our hybrid model.

We always challenge our students to 'read their heart out.' Try to have your child finish at least one book (cover to cover) on their reading level over break. We also like to extend the challenge to include exercise each day as well. Thanks for your help in supporting reading and exercise at home throughout the year!

I'd like to end by wishing you all a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. Please continue to be active in your child's education. The investment of your time inquiring about their day, reading, or studying important skills, will pay enormous dividends for them in the future.

If you get a minute, check out the parent article to the right called, *How to Teach Your Kids It's Okay to Have Less Than Their Friends*. Most parents want their kids to fit in and feel socially accepted. Unfortunately, today's world is full of 'the next best thing' and kids are feeling the pressure of 'needing' (not 'wanting') what they think everyone else has.

Yours in education,

Midnel Batail

Michael Bostwick Principal

Follow me on Twitter: Michael Bostwick@<u>M\_Bostwick</u> School Hashtag: #ISinnovators Like us on facebook: Search Horseheads Intermediate School Website: http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/HHIS.cfm

"Loving a child doesn't mean giving in to all his whims; to love him is to bring out the best in him, to teach him to love what is difficult."

-- Nadia Boulanger

January 2021 Volume 9 Issue 5

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### Parent Article

### **ATTENTION!**

Parent Resources on IS website.

"Thanks for your help in supporting reading and exercise at home!"

### Mark Your Calendars!

Friday, January 1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	No School – Winter Recess
Thursday, January 7 <sup>th</sup> :	Return of Cohort B
Monday, January 11 <sup>th</sup> :	Return of Cohort A
Monday, January 11 <sup>th</sup> :_	School Pictures Make-Up – Cohort A <mark>(tentative)</mark>
Tuesday, January 12 <sup>th</sup> :	PTO Meeting, 6:30PM, via Zoom
Thursday, January 14 <sup>th</sup> :_	School Pictures Make-Up – Cohort B <mark>(tentative)</mark>
Monday, January 18 <sup>th</sup> :_	No School – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Thursday, January 21 <sup>st</sup> :	Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 PM, via Zoom

# Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

- 1. Winter has arrived! Please be sure that your child wears an appropriate coat, hat, gloves, and clothes. Recess will be outside when weather permits.
- 2. Please be sure to pick up your child promptly from school dismissal. We cannot guarantee supervision of students after 2:30 PM on full days of school or after 11:00 AM on half days of school.
- 3. It is important that Intermediate School students not arrive until 7:40 AM. Our supervision begins at that time. **Students who are dropped off prior to 7:40 AM will not be permitted in the building.**
- 4. The folks at the Bus Garage would like to remind students that **NO GLASS CONTAINERS OR OBJECTS** of any kind should be on the bus.
- 5. **Reminder:** In an effort to cut costs and increase efficiency, the District consolidated some of our bus runs. As a result, due to limited space on the buses, we are no longer able to allow friends of students to ride their bus to and from school with them.
- 6. **Reminder:** On days when there is a Two-Hour Delay, breakfast **will not** be served.
- 7. The District Food Services Office would like to remind all families in need that by way of special funding from the USDA, all school meals will be served at no charge. This includes breakfast and lunch served at school as well as meals delivered home. Every child under 18 is entitled to receive one breakfast and one lunch per day. Additional food items beyond the breakfast and lunch meals in the cafeteria will continue to be available for sale. Questions? Call (607) 739-5601, x3671 or email dobrian@gstboces.org.



Dear Parents,

Winter weather brings the possibility of school closings. Schools are closed when the weather makes it impossible to have reasonable attendance or when the schools or buses would not be able to operate safely. The school day is delayed only when inclement weather conditions are expected to improve by early morning. Inclement weather may include snow, ice, and freezing temperatures.

If schools are closed in the morning, they will remain closed all day for scheduled activities, including remedial programs, use of facilities by non-school groups, and special evening programs.

If schools are on a two-hour delay, they will begin two hours later than usual. For example, students who arrive after 10:25 AM will be marked tardy. There will be no breakfast served on those days.

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Let's hope the weather cooperates with us so that we have a safe winter!

# **Return to Hybrid Learning Model**

- January 4<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> all students will continue remote learning as usual
- January 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Cohort B students return to in-person learning while Cohort A and 100% remote students learn live from home (**MUST HAVE COVID TESTING CONSENT**) see below
- January 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Cohort A students return to in-person learning while Cohort B and 100% remote students learn live from home (MUST HAVE COVID TESTING CONSENT) – see below
- Regular schedule will continue after that with Monday/Tuesday (Cohort A) and Thursday/Friday (Cohort B)
- Remote Learning will continue every day with live lessons for our students learning from home
- Wednesdays will continue to be the same as usual with a 30-minute class check-in and student support hours. Other independent work will be assigned on itslearning.

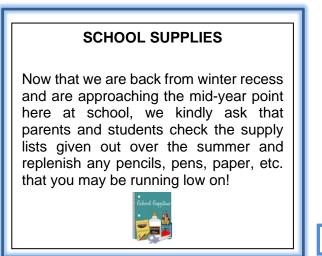
We require a consent for testing form (sent with the newsletter) for any student returning in person. If you <u>will not</u> allow random testing, students will not be allowed to attend school in-person and will be moved to 100% remote.

# **Covid Testing For Students:**

- At this time, we are required to test 5% of students and staff per week, which will be 20% per month.
- Students will only be tested once every 5 months
- The rapid test is non-invasive and only requires swabbing just inside the nose. <u>Here is a short video</u>
- You will be notified ahead of time when your child is scheduled for a test
- Feel free to call and ask any further questions you may have

# Return of 100% remote students to hybrid model

- When you picked your learning model over the summer, we asked for a 1/2 year commitment.
- We plan to revisit the ability to bring back 100% remote students to in-person if desired
- We will send more information in January regarding this process. If you are interested, you may let us know at that time.



### PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARDS

A reminder that Presidential Service Award volunteer forms for the second marking period are due on Friday, February 5, 2021. Students may give the forms to their teacher or drop them off in the Office. As a reminder, this is an optional activity.



#### The Horseheads Central School District partners with

SchoolMessenger®

The Trusted Platform for School Community Engagement

# Parents and Guardians You can now take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Horseheads schools will soon use the SchoolMessenger system to deliver **text messages**, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.\*

You can participate in this free service\* just by sending "Y" or "Yes" by text to our school's short code number, 67587.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "**Stop**".



SchoolMessenger is compliant with the <u>Student Privacy Pledge</u>™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

# Opt-In from your mobile phone now!



Just send "Y" or "Yes" to 67587

#### Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes:

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a "text message". Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as "short code" texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you've ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

\*<u>Terms and Conditions</u> – Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See <u>schoolmessenger.com/txt</u> for more info.

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### **INFORMATION REGARDING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS!**

### **NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE**

#### PLEASE READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE Dear Fifth Grade Parents/Guardians:

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will need to receive <u>2 doses</u> 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. **No appointment cards accepted.** 

Please note: 10-year-old students who are entering 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



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 24 hours. Because there is no known cure for the common code, 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!!!

Please be considerate of others—you are contagious for the first three days that cold symptoms appear.

## Intermediate School PTO Officers (2020-2021)

President:Gretchen FerraroVP:Angela SullivanTreasurer:Danielle RichardsonSecretary:Denise Trondsen

gferraro2010@gmail.com Aksullivan624@gmail.com dani0227@aol.com dtrondsen@outlook.com

425-2603 518-708-4288 425-6896 742-9051



### **READING CORNER**

Reading is an integral part of learning. The more you read, the better you read. You have heard the saying, "Practice makes perfect," and studies support the idea that the best way to improve your reading skills is to read.

Reading is also a form of entertainment. Many genres or categories of books lend themselves to reading for fun: mysteries, historical fiction, science fiction, folklore, etc.

As parents, it is important to be a reading role model. Let your child see you reading and encourage them to read on a daily basis.

Each Intermediate School child is to read three grade level books each month for a total of twenty-five books for the year. Help your child to accomplish this by going to the Library, reading together, and discovering books your child will enjoy. "Just do it!"



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go." --Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"



**Reading Tips**...The key to maintaining focus while reading is to stop often and think about what you're reading. Here are some tips to make you a better reader!

- 1. Ask yourself questions such as: How does this relate to what I already know? Why would the character do that? What connections can I make to my own life?
- 2. While reading, make a light checkmark with a pencil after each paragraph. If you start to get lost reading, you can start from the last checkmark. Don't forget to jot down words and concepts. If you read, write and recite, you have a better chance of remembering important information.

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3. Every night, read something meaningful that you enjoy for at least 15-20 minutes.

# CLASSIFIEDS

# <u>Help Wanted</u>

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. Horseheads, NY

#### **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 \$105 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*: **Fairness** is defined as just and reasonable treatment in accordance with accepted rules or principles. Parents please encourage your child to *play by the rules, take turns and share, be open-minded while listening to others, treat all people equally, and consider all opinions.* 

*The Habit of Mind*: Taking Responsible Risks. It means to be adventuresome. Stretch your thinking....I think I can!

Ex. Students who step outside their comfort zone and try new strategies to solve problems, stand up for a friend, or attempt to answer a question in class when they're not exactly sure, are all examples of taking responsible risks.



Keep hoarding pull tabs! So far we have collected far less tabs than usual. **Get others involved** – ask your friends, neighbors, and family members to collect! Pull tabs can be brought to the office.

### PRINCIPAL CHATS

Mr. Bostwick normally holds Principal Chats several times a year as a way to ask questions, offer suggestions, and get to know the procedures of the school. These have been cancelled due to the Pandemic and rules about school visitors. If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to him directly.

#### 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 Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlin DeFilippo, Director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Caitlin DeFilippo at 143 Hibbard Rd, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601, x4211, or cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. 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 Rd., Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.