

# 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

**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>

December 2023  
Volume 12 Issue 4

### Inside this issue:

Principal's Post	1
Calendar Dates	2
Informational Items	2
Visions and Voices	3
IS Illuminators	4
Variety Show Info	5
Classifieds	6

### 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!

Friday, December 1 <sup>st</sup> :	Comfy Cozy Day (theme day)
Thursday, December 14 <sup>th</sup> :	Board of Education Meeting, Intermediate School Café., 6:00 PM
Monday, December 18 <sup>th</sup> :	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Concert, IS Cafetorium, 7:00 PM (See Below)
Tuesday, December 19 <sup>th</sup> :	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Concert, IS Cafetorium, 7:00 PM (See Below)
Fri., 12/22 <sup>nd</sup> – Tue., 1/2 <sup>nd</sup> :	No School – Winter Recess
Friday, January 5 <sup>th</sup> :	Future Career Day (theme day)
Tuesday, January 16 <sup>th</sup> :	Parent/Principal Chat, 9:00 AM, Cafeteria, 5:30 PM, IS Library
Tuesday, January 16 <sup>th</sup> :	PTO Meeting, 6:00 PM, IS Library

## Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

1. Our **Winter Music Concerts** are right around the corner! This will be the first year we will host them at the Intermediate School in the IS Cafetorium. We are still in the process of working out final logistics, but the concert will likely begin at 7 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 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 is another great way 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:

<https://forms.office.com/r/zmB1NAWB8u>. 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](mailto:cbell@horseheadsdistrict.com) by March 15<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:cbell@horseheadsdistrict.com).

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

## Intermediate School PTO Officers (2023-2024)

I'd like to introduce you all to our PTO Officers (named below) for the 2023-2024 school year. Please attend our meetings held in the IS Library at 6:00 PM most often on the third Tuesday of the month. Please reach out via email if you have any questions or would like to help with upcoming events.

**Beth Manwaring**

**Alicia McWilliams**

**Tara Spirawk**

**Alicia Wahl-Knowlden**

**Email:** [intermediateschoolpto@gmail.com](mailto:intermediateschoolpto@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 month of November. 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. We would like to recognize the following students, **from fifth grade:** Teddy Howe, Hudson Sena, Matt Updyke, and Tateum Sustello **from sixth grade:** Presley McInnis, Norah Wylie, Shawna Hubbard, Jay Paul.

Keep shining bright, IS Illuminators!







## 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 27<sup>TH</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> – Comfy Cozy Day**

**January 5<sup>th</sup> – Future Career 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](mailto: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 \$125 per day. To apply, contact the Human Resources Office at 739-5601 x 4211.

## Attention!

### PRINCIPAL CHATS

September 19<sup>th</sup>, **January 16<sup>th</sup>**, and April 16<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM in the Cafeteria 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.

# *Do you live in the Horseheads Central School District?*

## **We need your input.**

The Horseheads Central School District is conducting a census of all residents in the district.

The school district is made up of the Town and Village of Horseheads, Big Flats, Veteran, Breesport, Pine Valley, Erin, Millport, Cayuta, Catlin, and portions of adjacent communities.

We recently sent a mailer to all residences in the district with information on submitting census information. If you submitted your information, thank you. If not, please do so at this link:

**[Horseheads.fyi/Census](https://horseheads.fyi/Census)**

or at the QR code below:

