

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Volume 9 Issue 8

HAMS

May 2015

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Center For The Book
In The Library Of Congress

Starting in 1984, the Center for the Book in the Library began to establish affiliated centers in the 50 states. Today, there is a State Center for the Book in all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These Center for the Book affiliates carry out the nation Center's mission in their local areas, sponsor programs that highlight their area's literary heritage and call attention to the importance of books, reading, literacy, and libraries. More than 50,000 young readers from across the country participated in this year's Letters About Literature initiative. Students were asked to write to an author (living or deceased) about how his or her book affected their lives. Winners come from all parts of the country and wrote to authors as diverse as Laura Ingalls Wilder "*Little House in the Big Woods*", Amy Tan "*The Joy Luck Club*" and J.R.R. Tolkien "*The Hobbit*".

Maxwell Brenneman has won the Level I Letters About Literature contest for his letter about the *Magician's Nephew!* His letter was sent on to the National Contest. So exciting! :-)
Max wrote to C.S. Lewis after reading *The Magician's Nephew*. "The Night I started reading I thought this book was like every other chapter book: boring. But as I read further, the story came alive. I was sucked from the boring farm in Kansas to the magical land of Oz".

This year we also have two honorable mention winners in the Level I completion of the Letters About Literature contest.



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Elizabeth Escudro and Nathaniel McClain both chose to write to Patricia Reilly Giff. Mrs. Botteicher introduced her book, *Pictures of Hollis Woods* to her classes which struck a cord with Elizabeth and Nathaniel. Both students write about how they relate to the main character Hollis. Elizabeth writes, "I always though I was unusual, just plain, old, downright weird because nobody looked beyond my outside personality", but in her reading she realizes that she is not the only one who seems different. Nathaniel writes, "I just wanted to say thank you. Thank you for opening my eyes. Thank you for letting me know in words that I am not a mountain of trouble. And most importantly, thank you for giving me wings".

Congratulations Maxwell, Nathaniel and Elizabeth, and thank you Mrs. Botteicher for encouraging your students to participate in this program.

Educationally,
Mrs. Luffy

PROMOTION POLICIES

Students who successfully pass all major subjects will be promoted to the next grade. Students who fail at least two major subjects must take remediation for them in our summer school program. Students who do not attend summer school will be retained. A student who fails the same subject two years in a row must take remediation in order to be promoted to the next grade.

SUMMER SCHOOL



Summer School will be an on-line format. When a student fails a full year course with a grade of F, a remedial course must be taken or next year repeated.

HAMS Jazz Band

By: Mrs. Canner

The HAMS Jazz Band has been busy rehearsing after school on Tuesdays from 3:00-5:00pm. These dedicated groups of 20 students flood the hallways with a variety of jazz selections including *Chameleon*, *Chase the Clouds Away*, and *On Broadway*. These musicians have the opportunity to create music in a style other than that typically heard in a band setting. In doing so, many of the jazz band members try improvising, where they might solo and show their creative musical skills. The HAMS Jazz Band hopes to perform at a number of places in the community this spring. Keep up the good work and the sweet sounds!



Junior High County Band

Congratulations are in order for 15 seventh and eighth grade musicians! These musicians participated in Junior High County Band on March 30th and 31st at Juniata Valley Jr./Sr. High School. They, along with other musicians from Mount Union, Southern Huntingdon and Juniata Valley put on a wonderful concert! To prepare, these musicians rehearsed with Mrs. Canner after school on alternating Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-4:00pm so they were prepared and well rehearsed! Great job! Keep up the good work!



Isabel Kruse, Connor Heath, Adam Campbell, Frank Hawbaker, Kelly Ardrey, Sean McLaughlin, Andrew Buonaccorsi, Duncan Wentzel, Patrick Sweet, Jack Hosler, Jake Tanner, Nick Nazari, Amber Newell, Addisyn Bracco, Lindsey Scialabba

Other important Dates for the HAMS Music Department:

Thursday, May 7th HAMS Spring Concert– 7:00pm – HS Auditorium

Saturday, May 9th – Music in the Parks – Hershey, PA

Wednesday, May 27th- Jazz Night – 7:00pm – HS Auditorium

Reading is a HOOT!

By: Miss Webb

Pancakes and burrows and owls – oh my! Shockingly enough, the final marking period of the school year is already upon us, and the 7 Bears have been very busy in Reading class. During this last nine weeks, we have begun reading “*Hoot*” by Carl Hiaasen, and our novel exploration has led us into discussion about the motifs and conflicts and different character types present in the book. The values of an environmentalist attitude, the many meanings of courage, and some silly middle-school humor involving antics at a new pancake house combine seamlessly as the book weaves in and out of the protagonist’s struggles and triumphs. As we progress towards the end of the year, my students will continue to study a variety of literary topics, and they will even have the chance to enjoy some cinematic magic as we watch the film version together in class. As always, there will be extra credit opportunities for the kids to take advantage of before those report cards come out, and I am excited to see them soar to great heights like the owls in our new novel. These soon-to-be eighth-graders are undoubtedly looking forward to a successful end to the year before becoming the big kids on campus. Feel free to chat with your child about what they are learning in Reading class; an open dialogue can help students take ownership over their academic achievements. There’s never a bad time for a good book – happy reading!



Middle School Technology Education Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)

By: Mr. Rakar

Middle school students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will be in the technology education class this year. STEM is the newest curriculum being used in the technology education classroom because of the integration of core content areas. Students at each grade level are assigned different projects that they work on and present to their class.

What is Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM)?

STEM focuses on students' engagement and skills from the earliest grades in science, math and technology to help foster interest for their later school years and careers. The ultimate goal is to grow the proficiency level of students in sciences and mathematics.

Our Work-In the final 9 week marking period at Huntingdon Area Middle School, we will be starting a new project at each grade level.

6th grade students will be working on designing their very own skate park. Students will act as industrial engineers and design and implement a skate park into the constraints of an existing city park.

7/8th grade will be acting as architectural design engineers by designing and implementing a new play area for a fast food restaurant. We will use "Burger Queen" to not infringe on any rights of existing establishments. Students are responsible for the design, construction, and cost plans for this project.

8th grade students will be working as if they were engineers in the energy business. Each group will have to research and design a wind mill farm. The students will determine the best place in the United States to place their wind mill farm. Then the students will have to conduct tests to prove their decision. Students will have to originate an introduction plan to address the concerns with building a wind mill farm.

Exercise!!!!

By: Mrs. Felton
School Nurse

Benefits:

- *Lower your risk of heart disease
- *Maintain a healthy weight
- *Reduce or control blood pressure
- *Raise HDL(good cholesterol)
- *Reduce your risk of diabetes and some cancer
- *Sleep better
- *Have more energy

If you need to lower your blood pressure or cholesterol, aim for an average of 40 minutes of moderate to vigorous aerobic activity 3 or 4 times per week.

Kids should get at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity every day.

30 mins. a day, 5 times a week is an easy goal to remember. You will benefit even if you divide your time into 2 or 3 sessions per day of 10 to 15 mins.

You may not be able to achieve this goal right away. But remember, **something is always better than nothing!**

Today is the day to make healthy changes in your life!



Tuck Everlasting

By: Mrs. Sellers

If you could take a drink of magic water that would let you live forever, would you drink it?

That is the question the 6th graders are writing about in ELA before reading the novel *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbitt. Some students knew their answer right away and some changed their minds after talking with their classmates.

Tuck Everlasting is a fantasy story that takes place in the everyday world. It “explores a serious question about life and how it should be lived”. Babbitt’s writing is full of foreshadowing and figurative language, which the students are very familiar with.

During the story the students will be completing activities such as making a wanted poster, designing a persuasive advertisement for magic water, and writing a letter to “Dear Abby”. They will also have choices of projects to complete at the end of the novel.

When we finish, I’ll be asking the students again: Is eternal life a blessing or a curse?

Fitness Testing

By: Mr. Carlson

We have finished our second round of fitness testing for the year, and, for the first time, we have digitally recorded the results of the tests. It will be interesting to see how some of the students’ times and numbers have improved from the beginning of the year to the end. If you still haven’t passed all of the tests, there is still time! Some students are really close to getting the fitness award at the end of the year. If they want to retest, just let Mrs. Schneider and I know. We want to get as many students as possible. Have a great end of the year!!



Tasty Tidbits You and Yogurt Parfaits

By: Mrs. McNitt, Food Service Directo

An 8-ounce carton of low-fat yogurt provides 448 milligrams of calcium and about 13 grams of protein. Low-fat yogurt has about 4 grams fat per 8-ounce serving. Plain yogurt is a healthier choice than flavored yogurts because often it is much lower in sugar, usually by about half the amount. While yogurt makes up the largest portion of a yogurt parfait, a yogurt parfait is served with layers of several ingredients. Popular add-ins for a parfait include fruit and granola. If you enjoy yogurt parfaits, a healthy parfait depends on the add-ins you select. Paying attention to what is in your yogurt parfait will allow a good tasting healthy choice. Recipes for yogurt parfaits that include some type of fruit will increase your intake of important ingredients like potassium and vitamin C. Granola, a common choice for an addition to a yogurt parfait, should be one loaded with fiber but low in fat and sugar. Dried fruit such as raisins or cranberries will also add taste and nutrition to a parfait. Be aware of unhealthy ingredients that are often added to a yogurt parfait that can decrease the nutritional benefit of your parfait. Chocolate chips, crushed cookies and candy sprinkles can increase the fat and sugar content of a yogurt parfait and take away the healthfulness of your parfait.

Volunteer?

By: Mrs. Miller

Any eighth grade student who aspires to enter a medical profession or become an administrative assistant should obtain an application to serve as a volunteer at JC Blair Memorial Hospital for summer months or weekends. Applicants can specify interest in patient care or office related skills. Students must be 14 years of age and have another individual complete a reference form. Applications are located in the office. Young people are encouraged to gain experience that can be valuable when applying to institutions of higher learning.

New Look for a Great Cause

By: Mr. Uhrich

Huntingdon Area Middle School students and staff had the privilege and honor on Monday, April 6, to be a part of a very exciting event for a very worthy cause. To show support for sixth-grade Science teacher, Mrs. Brown, who was diagnosed with breast cancer earlier this year or students and staff shaved their heads, received mohawks and got their hair sprayed bright pink during the Cut N' Color for Cancer Event.

The cutting and coloring took place in the LGR during students' Enrichment periods. Local stylists from Untangled, Desert Garden Day Spa and Shear Impressions provided the styling all day while graciously coming in on their day off. While students anxiously awaited their new looks, they had the opportunity to fill out posters with words of encouragement for Mrs. Brown or to honor/memorialize someone they knew who has been affected by cancer. The posters were later placed in the school cafeteria.

The grand finale of the event was a school assembly where students and staff got the chance to see Mrs. Brown and recognize and honor her on this special day. She was present with some of her family members.

During the assembly, all individuals who participated or donated to the cause were recognized. All volunteers were thanked and the total money raised – approximately \$2,500.00 which will be going to help with Mrs. Brown's expenses related to her trips back and forth to Pittsburgh for treatments and also towards cancer research was announced. Penn State women's basketball coach, Coquese Washington, who was unavailable to attend the event, has graciously autographed a basketball, which will later be presented to Mrs. Brown. Washington has been very instrumental in propelling the Pink Zone event and is also an outspoken supporter of the fight to find a cure for breast cancer. Mrs. Brown then took a few moments to show her appreciation and overwhelming support and promised all students they would be seeing her back here next year.

Brown then headed to the gymnasium for a final picture with all students and staff who participated in this wonderful event.

HAMS

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Fax: (814)-643-6513

LOST AND FOUND

There are MANY items in the lost and found. If your child is missing anything from clothing to books to lunch boxes, please have them look in the lost and found. This is located in the cafeteria on the back table. If the items are not claimed by the end of the school year, they are donated to the Salvation Army.

Additionally, we do not keep any items left at school from a previous year.

EVENTS AT H.A.M.S

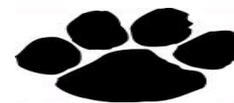
- May 4- PSSA Make-ups
- May 7- 6 BEARCATS to Altoona Curve
Middle School Spring Concert-
HS 7:00 pm
- May 8 - 7 CATS field trip to Pittsburgh
- May 11- School Board Work Session
6:30 pm
- May 13- 7 BEARS to Altoona Curve
- May 18- School Board Mtg. 6:30 pm
- May 21- 8 CATS to Philadelphia
- May 22- 8th Grade Party
- May 25- Memorial Day/No School
- June 1- 1/2 day of school
- June 2- 1/2 day of school

Electronic/Mechanical Devices

The unauthorized possession and/or use of any type of electronic or mechanical device, which distracts or impedes the educational process is against policy. The following are examples of such but are not limited to: Cell phones, iPods, cameras, hand held video game systems, tablets and other internet capable devices. Electronic devices are NOT TO BE TURNED ON DURING SCHOOL HOURS. If a device is out without permission it will be confiscated. First offense-the student may pick it up after school. Any offense following will require a parent/guardian to pick up the device and a Level I Discipline Offense will be assigned. Additionally, we ask that parents DO NOT TEXT or CALL their child's cell phone. If you need to get a message to your child, please call the school office and we will get a message to them.

School Closings can happen at any time. With this in mind, please make arrangements with and for your child before they happen. Planning ahead helps lessen your child's anxieties regarding what they are to do and if their parents know. Also, calling the school ties up the phone lines which may be needed in case there is an emergency.

Thank you for helping assist your child when there is a change in the regular school day.



Coming to Huntingdon Middle School!

**BUY ONE, GET ONE
FREE
BOOK FAIR**
Stock up for summer reading!

The Huntingdon Area Middle School is having a Book Fair, May 26 through May 29! This Book Fair will be a BOGO (buy one get one free)! This is a great opportunity for students to begin a summer full of reading and fun.

Students will have the opportunity to attend the Book Fair during Enrichment classes. An evening parent event will be held on Tuesday, May 26 from 5 to 7pm: follow signs to the library! Please stop in and take a look!

All proceeds generated from the Book Fair will benefit our very own Middle School Library. We will have teacher wish lists available for enhancement of our classroom libraries.

Here are the dates: Tuesday, May 26: Snare, Quinter, Miller, Watkins, Webb, Mykut, and Mitchell's Enrichment class will attend. Wednesday, May 27: Sowers, Buterbaugh, Vescovi, Goodman, Streightiff, and Sellers' Enrichment classes will attend. Thursday, May 28: Mazurowski, Rygel, Shields, Klinger, Russo, and Smith's Enrichment classes will attend. Friday, May 29: Uhrich, Anders, Dickson, and Orenshaw's Enrichment classes will attend .

Middle Years

Being in school all day, every day, helps your child get the most out of middle school. Encourage good attendance with these ideas:

- Point out that there is no substitute for being in class. Your youngster needs to be present to hear teachers explain concepts, to participate in group projects and class discussions, and to ask questions.
- Schedule doctor, dentist, and orthodontist appointments for before or after school hours whenever possible. If you can't, try to arrange them for lunchtime.
- It will be easier for your child to get up early on time for school if he has had at least nine hours of sleep. Set a reasonable bedtime, and make sure he puts away electronic devices so they are not tempted to stay awake to read messages or play games.



