

# MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Volume 8 Issue 3

HAMS

December 2013

## Principal's Message

It's hard to believe we are already in December! What a great time of year! Some updates for you, winter sports are underway with Junior High Wrestling and Basketball programs beginning practice. Here at HAMS we are getting in the holiday spirit! Our tree is up and so are our other holiday decorations. In other news, we held our first parent group meeting in November and had seven parents attend! We were pleased with that number and are looking to double if not triple it on Thursday December 5th at 5:00 in the HAMS LGR. I hope you can attend! The Special Events Committee, comprised of faculty, will meet soon to discuss a student-faculty basketball game for December 20th at the high school. A reminder that Friday December 20th is a full day of school. HAMS Activity Night is set for Friday December 13th from 6:00pm- 8:00pm; students who attend can enjoy pizza, dancing, volleyball, popcorn, hot chocolate, a holiday movie, Wii and other activities. It is so important for our students to get involved and socialize outside of school hours, the development of social skills is an important component of your child's educational experience. The HAMS Holiday Concert is scheduled for Monday December 16th at 7pm in the HS Auditorium, I encourage you to attend and support our middle school students. Student Council is sponsoring a Door Decorating Contest throughout the building. The theme is "Cartoon Christmas", with the winning homeroom getting a movie and hot chocolate! Student Council is also sponsoring a canned food drive, collection dates are December 4th - 13th. The winning homeroom will receive a party during enrichment and watch a movie. On activity night, for each can brought in, students will be entered into a drawing for an itunes card or a movie pass. Collections will be donated to the Salvation Army. Please have a safe and enjoyable Holiday with your loved ones. As always, please contact Mrs.



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Rieffannacht or myself with any concerns.  
Warmly,

Brian J. Pelka  
Principal



## Motivating Your Child Through Television

By: Mrs. Mykut

Many parents are concerned about the influence of TV on their children's reading development. Television has become a major source of entertainment for many American families and its influence can be felt in several aspects of our daily lives. TV can also have a positive effect on your child's growth in reading. It can spark and illuminate many new and exciting adventures for your child. You may find the following ideas appropriate for blending TV and reading.

- Note your child's special TV interests and provide him or her with books about those interests.
- Join your child in watching some of his or her favorite TV programs. Bring up the ideas of cause and effect by asking questions such as: "Why did the character do that?" or "What do you think will happen next?"
- Listening is a natural TV skill that can be transferred to reading. Select an article about an upcoming TV program or noted TV personality and have your child read it. Have your child give you specific facts or ideas about what they read.
- Encourage your child to read the newspaper regularly. Suggest that your child look for articles about TV personalities or special programs.
- Help your child determine what is real or unreal, fact or fantasy, true or false, on TV. Discuss TV programs your child watches that may involve these elements as well as those which portray different cultures than yours.

Using TV as a tool you can help your child to discover all the joys of reading as well as sharing time together. When you take time to read with your child, you are demonstrating to him or her that reading is an important part of their lives.



## Edgar Allan Poe By: Mrs. Sellers

The sixth grade bears were busy in language arts during the end of October learning about the strange works of Edgar Allan Poe. Poe was famous for writing horror stories and poems. He was born January 19, 1809 and died October 7, 1849. It is ironic that his death, at the age of 40, is mysterious.

The students have read, listened to, and in some cases, seen a short video clip of "The Raven", "Annabel Lee", "The Fall of the House of Usher", "The Pit and the Pendulum", and the "Tell-Tale Heart". Poe was clearly a master of writing poems and short stories that deal with lost loves, death, and torture. The students published their own stories inspired by the works of Poe. They saw how word choice can make a difference in setting the tone for a piece of writing. Using words like chamber, instead of room, can make the writing more dark and sinister. Be sure to look for these spooky stories and poems and prepared to see words like dreary, ghoul, soul, horrify, terror, macabre, phantom, and dismal.



## 8 Bears

**By: Mrs. Watkins**

I have to agree with Mr. Thurber's article last month and say the 7 Bears are definitely not preparing for hibernation, despite the cold temperatures outside. In all the classrooms, the students have been engaged and busy. In Mrs. Watkins' Language Arts class the students have been working on brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing a creative short story. The story could be written about anything. Students wrote about topics ranging from a zombie apocalypse to a love story about the dreamy guy in chemistry class. There were even a few ninja stories and one story with a talking dog who befriended a cat. Students learned how to correctly write dialogue and create interesting story lines through the use of setting, conflicts, symbolism, and dynamic characters. There was an obvious sense of accomplishment, as there should have been, among the students as they each completed their stories. If you didn't have a chance to read your child's story, please take a moment and read it. They were great!

Mrs. Abernethy's students are reading *Island of the Blue Dolphins* and are continuing to work on improving their reading comprehension skills. This is the first time 7<sup>th</sup> graders have been introduced and given the chance to read this novel. It is a new addition to the reading curriculum.

Many students have been excited for the upcoming winter break. A few have even shared some of the traditions they look forward to doing over the holidays. Noah Lewis cannot wait for New Year's Eve to celebrate with family as they count down to the new year. Katy Lemin travels to Dillsburg to watch the Christmas pickle drop and visit with family. Kendra Worthy looks forward to spending time with family and having the traditional family dinner. On Christmas Eve, Hayden Norvell enjoys sitting around the Christmas tree, drinking hot chocolate, and watching Christmas movies. Last, but not least, Erin States says her favorite holiday tradition is when her entire family watches the Disney Christmas Day Parade. She also says her dad always reads *Twas the Night Before Christmas* to her and her siblings. Whatever you and your family find yourselves doing over the holidays, we hope you enjoy the time spent with loved ones. Happy Holidays from the 7 Bears team!

## Acts of Kindness

**By: Mrs. Abernethy**

7Bears students have been studying *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens in language arts class. Students will write about the play by completing a comic book creation, an interview with Scrooge and a persuasive writing piece to help the students analyze elements of the story line. The focus of these activities is the theme of acts of kindness and the importance of family and love ones.

The holidays provide a perfect opportunity for everyone to appreciate how fortunate we are. Students will participate in an experiment by completing an act of kindness at home. They will then analyze the reactions of the recipient of the kindness. They will also analyze their own feelings after completing the act of kindness.

Students across the board usually find that even a small act of kindness is received positively. They also will see that there is an overwhelming good or warm feeling that they feel after doing these good deeds.

Students are then able to compare their warm, good feelings to those of the Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. This warm fuzzy feeling became intoxicating to Ebenezer and he never returned to his cold and stingy ways. The amazing transformation of the cold hearted Scrooge to the warm hearted Ebenezer is no longer a mystery. It definitely feels good to do something kind for another.



## Students Write About Community Experiences

**By: Mrs. Gibbs**

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, HAMS dedicated the entire day to writing. Beginning in the morning and continuing throughout the day, the students were taken through the five steps of the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. The writing theme was, "Taking Pride In Our Community".

This writing project provided a familiar topic for the Life Skills students at the Middle School. The Huntingdon Area Middle School Life Skills students do take pride in their community by giving back, while gaining positive life experiences. Not only do the Life Skills students complete their academics in the classroom, but they also volunteer at local agencies within the Huntingdon community. In doing so, they acquire appropriate social skills, safety awareness, and important on-the-job training. Each student goes into the community twice a week. Students are placed at a site according to their strengths. Every student is able to complete a task, no matter how simple or how difficult. There is a job for everyone!

Some of these community experiences include: The Huntingdon County Humane Society, The Huntingdon County Visitor's Bureau, J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital, Huntingdon Manor Nursing Care Facility, Westminster Woods, and, most recently, The Standing Stone Senior Center. At these agencies, the students perform such jobs as: unfolding newspapers for the bedding in the cages, bulk mailings and refilling brochures at local restaurants, paper shredding, playing bingo, filling and passing out water pitchers, bussing tables, and sweeping the floors.

These work experiences are priceless. The students are gaining valuable life lessons, while giving some back. Writing about these community based experiences reinforced to the students, the importance of what they do for the Huntingdon community, and for themselves.

## HONOR ROLL Sixth Grade

Kelly Adrey	Dylan Painter
Luke Atherton	Zachary Peck
Abigail Bilger	Bruce Perow
Cayla Bilger	Eli Powel
Gaige Brumbaugh	Caden Reamer
Micholas Buckley	Isaiah Reed
Daniel Bukowski	Mikaela Reed
Andrew Buonaccorsi	Haylee Riley
Conner Clark	Avalon Ritchey
Casey Conner	Rece Ritchey
Andrew Cooper	Rachel Ruge
Theoren Cramer	Giovan Scaccia
Kendel Crotsley	Caroline Sliver
Cole Cutshall	Elizabeth Speck
Jacee Deline	Savannah Swartz
Mcai Didyk	Jake Tanner
Sofia Dinardi	Vi ctoria Thompson
Aaron Dunwoody	Nicholas Troha
Cody Dysard	Olivia Vlasak
Alexia Fagan	Duncan Wentzel
Nicholas Gearhart	Barend Werner
Dakota Graham	Mallory Woodward
Angeline Grove	Kieran Wright
Ryan Grove	Roseanne Zoerner
Colby Grubb	
Peighton Gutshall	
Lillian Guyer-Wright	
Brady Hawkins	
Harlee Hoffman	
Jack Hosler	
Jenicka Huntsman-Varner	
Phillip Keller	
Bray Kinzey	
Nathaniel Kramer	
Isabel Kruse	
Rachel Kyle	
Carly Kyper	
Magdeline Lashlee	
Kaitlyn McElroy	
Jada McGahan	
Andrew Miller	
Kynneddy Miller	
Sara Miller	
Emily Mitchell	
Nicholas Nazari	
Amber Newell	



## HONOR ROLL Seventh Grade

Logan Allan	Amanda Norris
Morgan Banks	Austin Norris
Makenzie Bennett	Hayden Norvell
Gabrielle Brown	Chrislyn Patrick
Atticus Clark	Reagan Querry
Victoria Conrad	Ryan Querry
Mikayla Cummings	Nicholas Rigby
Halina Dingo	Nellie Romecki
Brianna Edwards	Lindely Scialabba
Brianna Fagan	Hayleigh Scott
Andrew Finkle	Mallory Sellers
Katie Freeberg	Sheth Sheeder
Skyla Funk	Lindsea Sherlock
Jacklyn Gaugler	Jordyn Shultz
Rebeka Gearhart	Olivia Simpson
Natalyn Gladfelter	Kaden Sims-Basil
Kylie Glorioso	Jayton Smith
Allison Goldstone	Bryant Speck
Rachel Gwinn	Erin States
Sierra Hanlon	Lucas Stephens
Lauren Harris	Olivia Stinson
Conner Heath	Amanda Stone
Tyler Hess	Monica Stromer
Bradley Houp	Rachel Stuber
Skyler Humer	William Sulesky
Melissa Huntsman	Kasey Traxler
Lauren itinger	Emily Walters
Zane Kazmarski	Isabella Welsch
Allyssabeth Kinder	Richard Widman
Ned Kough	Luke Wilson
Emily Kurtz	Robert Wilson
Alyson Kyper	Victoria Wiser
Owen Lane	Kieara Worthy
Madison Langenbach	Camden Yablonski
Cuyler Leidy	Camryn Yocum
Andrew Lewis	Seth Yocum
Taylor Long	Joshua Zimmrman
Marshall Lowe	
Natalie Lucas	
Aaliyah Mateo	
Catherine McCarthy	
Cheyenne McGinns	
Sean McLaughlin	
Gracie Miller	
Jaelyn Mitchell	
Timothy Myers	

## HONOR ROLL Eight Grade

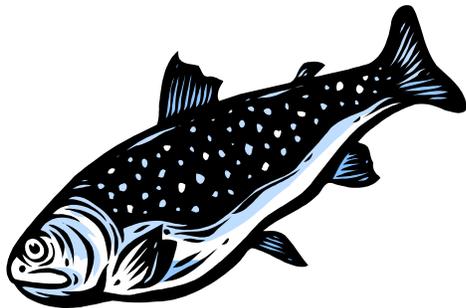
Hailey Banks	Audrey Marker
Jonathan Basom	Paige McCabe
Tyer Batzel	Reagan McKim
Cody Bilger	Catherine Miller
Laura Bilger	Fox Miller
Ryan Brechbiel	Jadelyn Miller
Katelin Brenneman	Hunter Michell
Bengamin Briggs	Christopher Mort
Madison Buckley	Alex Mykut
David Bukowski	Bailey Norris
Abigail Casner	Hannah Park
Payton Casner	Jenna Powell
Ariell Chilcote	Hayden Price
Patrick Clapper	Leah Reed
Grace Cook-Huffman	Alexander Rothstein
Madeline Corbin	Jacob Safko
Cecilia Crayosky	Jennifer Shaffer
Sydney Cressman	Natalie Shingler
Aubree Cresswell	Jared Showalter
Abigail Cunningham	Katie Shultz
Shawn Dearmitt	Brandt Sliver
Tatiana Dittus	Megan Smithmyer
Timani Easter	Christine Stone
Katherine Emel	Jenna Swan
Sabin Ficher	Thomas Tuten
Nathan Fleming	Betty Walters
Tiara Garlock	Drew Weglarz
Maddison Gearhart	Jairus Werner
Chelsea Gladfelter	Meghan Wright
Julian Groenendaal	Paisley Yablonski
Dylan Grove	Nicholas Zanic
Heather Gutshall	Rebekah Zoerner
Jordan Hawkins	
Charles Hawn	
Jenna Herncane	
Nicholas Holesa	
Brook Hollibaugh	
Paige Hollibaugh	
Maxwell Hosler	
Pierce Hunter –Kysor	
Tessa Keller	
Katelyn Kelsey	
Braedon Knode	
Peter Kruse	
Rickayla Lane	
Jaselyn Lillibridge	



## 8 Bears

By: Mr. Quinter

Are you interested in fishing? Do you think about the sources of your water? Are you concerned about possible threats to your water quality such as AMD, siltation, fracking, or pesticide and farm run-off? If so, ask any of the 8 Bears students about their opinions on some of these issues. Mr. Sowers and I have been using our Enrichment period to co-teach a yearlong unit connected to the Trout in the Classroom program. We started the unit by discussing the habitat of our local streams and how we could mimic that within our classroom fish tanks. We then discussed the history of the brook trout from colonial times to today. Recently we focused on PA Geology and its connection to why we have such high quality H<sub>2</sub>O in PA. The program will continue to focus on the development of our 350 brook trout eggs that have hatched into sac fry and will soon develop into swim-up fry. The culminating activity will be a field trip to the C. Barton McCann School of Art where we will make connections to art and science as well as fly tying and casting. Parents are welcome to work with our team to develop lessons and share experiences with our students. If you are interested in working with our team, please contact our office.



## Ways to decrease stress over the holidays

By: Mrs. Felton



1. Acknowledge your feelings
2. Reach out to a friend or loved one.
3. Get plenty sleep
4. Drink plenty water
5. Learn to say no
6. Take a breather
7. Seek professional *Huntingdon Area* help if needed



*Middle School*

**“Working together so all students can learn”**

***Patriot’s Pen***

Each year the local VFW Post 1754 Veterans of Foreign Wars conducts a writing contest for students in grade 6-8. The theme for this year’s competition was: “What Patriotism Means to Me?”

This year the Middle School has two winners; Meghan Wright and Jonathan Basom.

CONGRATULATION Meghan and Jonathan!



***Wishing you a very Merry Christmas  
and relaxing New Year.***

**Homework Help**

Monday through Thursday of each week, help for students will be available. Our homework Help tutoring program is available to all students that need more time to develop academic skills and time to complete homework. Hours for help are 2:45 –4:00 PM and transportation will be the responsibility of the parents. Please contact the school if you are interested in the program.



**EVENTS**

**December 4– Progress Reports**

**December 10 & 11– Winter Math keystones**

**December 13– Activity night - 6-8 PM**

**December 16– MS Holiday Program—7:00 PM - HS**

**December 23 thru Jan. 3—Holiday Vacation**

**January 6– Classes Resume**

**Mission**

**Our community engages all students to maximize their learning and leadership potential as global contributors.**

**Vision**

**Our students achieve their full potential and experience success, leaving school inspired to continue learning every day.**

**Values**

**Safety, Excellence, Respect, Integrity, Lifelong Learning.**

**Yearbook**

Orders can be placed NOW for the 2013-2014 Yearbook. Orders can be placed ONLINE with Jostens, Inc. [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com)

Search Huntingdon Middle School  
Cost: \$22.00 + Tax= \$23.32  
Order your Yearbook now.!

## Tasty Tidbits

### By: Margaret McNitt, Food Service Director

The Huntingdon Area School District Food Service Department provides parents a convenient, easy and secure online service to help manage their child's school lunch account. From the PayPAMS web page ([www.paypams.com](http://www.paypams.com)) you can:

- Deposit money into your child's school meal account
  - View your child's account balance
  - View a 90-day history of your child's purchases and payments – from the day the account was created
- Request automatic email notification when your child's account balance is low

Important Things to know:

- Your child's name and birth date are needed to add them to your account.
- If you have more than one child in the district you can handle all online prepayments from the same online account. However, to prevent duplicate accounts, PayPAMS allows associating a student to only one account. If both parents/guardians cannot share the same username and password, contact customer support from the 'Contact Us' page on the PayPAMS website.
- In order to use the online prepayment service, a convenience fee for each transaction will be assessed to cover the bank fees. The convenience fee is \$1.95 per deposit transaction. The Huntingdon Area School District does not profit from the use of this site.
- It is not necessary to make an on-line payment to take advantage of the other features of this website. There is no fee for requesting automatic email notification of your child's account balance or to view your child's balance or account transactions.

**Please allow one day to two school days for a payment to replenish your child's account at the school cafeteria.** Your balance on the PayPAMS website will reflect your recent payment only after the school cafeteria confirms receipt of payment.

**Note:** Payments to your child's account can still be sent into the school with your child or to the Food Service Director's office by mail – without a convenience fee. We recommend payment by check for easier tracking. When paying by check, make checks payable to "HASD Cafeterias". If your check is to cover multiple accounts in the District, please include instructions indicating how much money is to go into each student account. Without any instructions, the check will be divided equally among the accounts indicated.

Do not send cash by mail to the Food Service Director's Office.

In addition, if you have any questions, please contact the Food Service Director's Office at Huntingdon Area Middle School – (814) 643 – 2900, ext. 2190.

## Careers

### By: Mrs. Miller

Most recently students were introduced to the term "High-Priority Occupations" or HPOs. They have the following characteristic: 1. they are in high demand, 2. they pay higher wages than average, and 3. they provide opportunities for career advancement. These are the "hot jobs" in PA that you definitely want to know about. In the field of dentistry – dental hygienist or dental assistant. In the field of science- Pharmacist, nanotechnology, Genetic Counselors, Genetic Engineers, Veterinarians and Vet Assistants/Tech.

All of the HOPs require post High School schooling and many require a four year degree. For some HOPs you will need to complete specific programs. All are highly in demand and provide for opportunities for advancement. If you are interested in learning more HOPs please see me.

**8 BEARS**  
**By: Mr. Buterbaugh**

As we excitedly approach the holiday break, the students of 8 Bears continue to expand their knowledge while utilizing new classroom technology. In U.S. History, students are using the new Samsung Chromebooks and are able to participate in a new and fun interactive learning experience

As we moved into the 13 Colonies of America, students became enthralled with the mysterious nature of the Salem Witch Trials. Because of the access to the Chromebooks in my classroom, we were able to take an interactive trip to the world of 17th century Salem. Students were able to engage in "Salem: Witchcraft Hysteria," a website sponsored by National Geographic, that allowed the students to become completely engulfed in the witch trials while using their knowledge and logic to make decisions that would affect their very own fates.

Without the use of this new technology, student would not have been given the opportunity to explore a subject in which they are so passionate. As we continue on, I am excited to utilize the Chromebooks in my classroom to promote interactive

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learning and student engagement.

**Industrial Arts**

**Bridge Building**

**By: Mr. Rakar**

During December and January in the technology education department, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students have been testing the strength of their bridges. The students worked in groups using software designed by West Point Military Academy to design an efficient and safe bridge. Students will then construct models of the bridge to physically test for compression and tension forces. Students have constructed nine inch bridges out of 1/4" wood stock that held over 200lbs! During this activity students integrate geometry, trigonometry, and math skills with hands on learning. Students can finally see a "real world application" of where they can put their knowledge of the previous mentioned subjects to use.

After the bridge building projects students were introduced to the world of buoyancy. We talked about Archimedes' principle, which best defines our prospective of buoyancy. Students get to put their newly gained knowledge to use and construct several prototypes of a boat to test the laws of buoyancy. Each student will construct and test a boat in a friendly competition to build the most buoyant boat in each class or even the entire seventh grade! Students also learn a basic form of the scientific method when testing their boats for buoyancy.

