

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Volume 7 Issue 5

HAMS

February 2013

Principal's Message

Dear Parents /Guardians/Students:

Greetings and welcome to the month of February. First, I would like to thank all staff, students, and parents in contributing to the great start to the second semester.

We would like to congratulate our Student of the Month students - February. Hats Off to You!

Dakota Weglarz - 6th grade Bears

Nicholas Rigby - 6th grade Cats

Jaselyn Lillibridge - 7th grade Bears

Audrey Marker - 7th grade Cats

Trisha Yedlosky - 8th grade Bears

Eliana Powell - 8th grade Cats

COMMUNICATION COUNTS AT HAMS!

Our goal is to communicate efficiently and effectively with HAMS families. Part of the middle school philosophy is to develop responsibility and self advocacy skills in all of our students. Encourage your child to seek out his or her teacher with questions about academic progress, grades or concepts from class. While Edline provides important information email is helpful for those questions with specific answers or information.



B

E

A

R

C

A

T

S



If more in depth information is needed please consider a phone call to teachers or guidance counselor. We continue to look forward to working collaboratively with families to promote student achievement and success.

HOMWORK

The assignment notebook is a valuable tool for helping students develop organizational skills necessary for success. Students are responsible for bringing their assignment notebooks to all classes to record all daily and long-term assignments.

- Please check your child's assignment notebook regularly to monitor your child's academic progress.

MISSION

Working together to inspire all students to become lifelong learners and productive global citizens

VISION

Every day, all students are challenged to develop their full potential and experience success leaving school inspired and eager to return the next day

VALUES

Safety, Respect, Collaboration, Empowerment

Huntingdon Area

Middle School

“Working together so all students can learn”

6 BEARS

By: Mrs. Sellers

Most of the 6th grade bears have just finished a unit on economics. The next course of study is geography and after that, astronomy.

Economics is the study of how people, businesses, and nations make choices. We started the year by introducing terms and concepts like needs, wants, scarcity, entrepreneur, and opportunity cost. As the year progressed, these words became part of their everyday vocabulary and the students learned new terms such as equilibrium, surplus, inflation, revenue, and expenditures.

During the year students were introduced to historical events and people such as: hyperinflation after World War I, the Great Depression, unemployment insurance, and Karl Marx.

The chapter test at the end of each chapter always contained an essay choice. Students used economic vocabulary and real life examples to answer questions dealing with the levels of government, the two types of inflation, saving and borrowing, interest, and comparison shopping.

Morgan Banks said, "I really enjoyed watching the movie about the Great Depression. I learned about hobos and how they communicated with different kinds of signs."

As a culminating activity, some students' chose a project to complete. Some items to choose from were comparing prices from past years on the same items, redecorating their bedroom within a budget, creating their own cereal and advertising it, and choosing goods and services on a limited budget. They researched, displayed, and presented their findings to the class.

Some students participated in making and advertising a new drink. They came up with an advertising slogan, attempted to price their product, and actually made the drink to share with classmates.



6 CATS

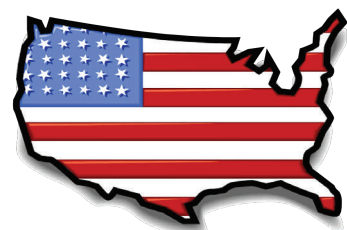
By: Mr. Payne

6th Grade Geography

As the second marking period has ended and the third marking period has begun, sixth grade students will be transitioning from learning Economics during Social Studies to studying Geography. Over the next nine weeks, students will be studying landforms, states and capitals. They will have to know the definitions and be able to recognize different types of landforms. The states and capitals section of geography will be broken down into four different regions: northeast, southern, mid-west, and western. Students will be expected to know the location of the state on the map, as well as, the state's capital.

Students will also be working on their map skills. They will study the lines of latitude and longitude. They will learn the cardinal, intermediate directions, and practice reading maps by using a legend. Students will also be able to identify important features on a world map. They will have to know the seven continents, the five oceans and other landmarks and lines on a world map.

Students will be using *Fearson's United States Geography* text to learn about Our Home in Space (Chapter 1), Globes and Maps (Chapter 2), Landforms of the United States (Chapter 7), Oceans, Lakes and Rivers (Chapter 8), Earth's Different Climates (Chapter 9), and the Climate of the United States (Chapter 10). They will be reading chapters and answering questions based on the reading. These chapters reinforce the map skills, states and capitals, and landform information that was taught.



7 Bears

By: Mr. Thurber

Believe it or not, we have crossed the half way point in the year, and Wednesday, February 6th marks the 100th day of school! I am sure some parent's feel as though just yesterday was Labor Day and students were just beginning to figure out the new building. While many of us are looking forward to Punxsutawney Phil's prediction of spring being "right around the corner", there is still a lot to accomplish before summer break. Some of the 7Bears reflected on their journey this far with their favorite thing of the first half of the school year or their first reactions to the new building.

Kylie Patterson really likes "the modern look of the classrooms, especially the lab tables in Science". As for Jacob Dillion, he is able to be "more focused in class now that you can't hear through the walls".

"Less walking between rooms" is a big plus for Pierce Hunter-Kysor. Does anyone else agree with Dylan Grove that "the food at lunch is better"?

In the classroom, Kayln Shope thinks that the "smartboards are really cool". Maddie Skipper, who is a member of the Girls Club finds "activity period to be a popular time of day". Tabi enjoys "choir and homework with music".

Most people would find it hard to disagree that these things have made the beginning half of the year more enjoyable and preferable. Hopefully we can carry on the growth in the coming half to continue to increase our enjoyment and learning. Keep up the positive feedback!



7 CATS

By: Mr. Martin

The past month has been interesting, to say the least, for the 7 Cats team. Since our return from Christmas break, we have experienced such events as a Presidential Inauguration, the beginning of a new sports season, and the fury of mother nature's winter. However, the 7 Cats are using these activities to learn from and persevere through, and we are gearing up for next month's PSSAs.

In Social Studies, Right now, students are making iMovies about ancient Greece. Students are learning about ancient Greece and learning how to use technology at the same time. Also, students wrote letters to Obama. The letters are the issues that students would like to see Obama take on during his second term in office. I am mailing the letters to Obama.

In Language Arts students are reading *Freak the Mighty*. To begin their exploration of the novel they studied King Arthur and his knights of the round table. They researched medieval weapons, battles, knights and created their own coat of arms. They will be exploring the themes of friendship and the importance of being an individual. This week they are writing and presenting their own I Am poem to their class.

Science class has been travelling back in time, studying the history of life on earth. Students researched a major life history event, created a timeline poster for the event, and made the classroom a working timeline of earth's 4.56 billion year history. Next, students will enlighten themselves with a study of photosynthesis. Students will be creating a virtual poster using the Web 2.0 program "Glogster".

In Holt 2 we just finished a chapter on percents and calculating tips. In Algebra we were working on graphing and writing equations of lines. In Pre-Algebra we have been working on some Geometry ideas such as polygons and their properties.

8 BEARS

By: Mr. Young

On Thursday January 31st, the 8th Bears students were able to take a look at some future careers. The students spent the morning touring the Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center (HCCTC). As eighth grade students, it is important to start thinking about what they might want to do in their future, and I am sure this day got their minds thinking.

The students arrived at HCCTC at 8 AM and spent all morning touring the center. There were roughly ten different careers the students observed and learned more about. A wide range of program options are available to students if they choose to enroll at the HCCTC; some of these careers include plumbing, nursing, or pursuing cosmetology. The students were engaged in hands-on activities such as handling animals and learning how to detail a car. Students were able to spend about ten minutes with each career instructor and were able to ask questions about the things that they saw.

Eighth grade students will have to start thinking about careers in the next four years of their lives. Some students will decide to go on to college and others may decide to pursue a career that is more in line with what they saw at the HCCTC. It is never too early to start thinking about what lies ahead and the eighth grade bears definitely got a great start by touring the Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center.



8 CATS

By: Miss. Miller

Thirteen Colonies Sales Pitch Project

It seems that whenever we turn on the television or log onto the internet, there is a company advertising a product they want us to purchase. Every commercial or ad is created by a sales person who uses special techniques to convince you to purchase their product. In Social studies class, students have been taking full advantage of the observations they have noticed about advertising by creating a sales pitch that would convince an immigrant to leave the crummy “old world” in Europe and start a new life in the English Colonies.

The project contained several components. Students worked in pairs to utilize sales pitch skills to create a 1700’s sales pitch aimed at attracting a European immigrant to move to the colonial region of their choice. They had the choice of choosing the New England, Middle, or Southern colonies.

One of the first parts of the project was to create an Elevator Pitch, where students had to create a 60 second presentation to catch the listener’s interest about their colonial area. Then, students were to create a visual that explained the qualities of their area in more detail. Students had the option to do this in a variety of ways including creating a poster, creating a visual presentation



on Glogster, or creating a video. The presentations were a great success and overall the students had a blast creating these projects.

Guidance Corner

By: Linda Miller

During the months of February and March, the school counselor will begin lessons pertaining to career exploration. All activities will be linked to The Academic Standards for Career Education and Work. While many standards are met through the diverse curricula during the middle school years, other areas are in need of study. Sixth grade will enter the fascinating world of interests and abilities, while seventh grade will learn about entrepreneurship, and finally eighth grade will hear about workplace skills needed for future careers. Local business owners and a presenter from Juniata College will be instrumental in sharing pertinent information related to the complex realm of employment and a sluggish economy. All students will have a day to utilize a computer program called Career Cruising. When using Career Cruising, students will take a skills and interest inventory, review careers reflecting strengths, and what course requirements are needed at institutions of higher learning. It is important for our children to dream and make career aspirations a reality.



Arc of Learning

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week, students from Juniata College provide tutoring in all subject areas from 6:00PM-8:00PM. The location of Arc of Learning is 2514 Shadyside Avenue (Salvation Army), Huntingdon. Tutoring services are free of charge. Sandra Altman, Federal Community AmeriCorps representative, may be contacted at 641-3364 for additional information



Yearbook

Help personalize your child's yearbook!

Send candid shots of your student and his/her teammates to agoodman@huntsd.org. You can also send an SD card, CD, or flash drive (will be copied and returned immediately).

All school sponsored sports and activity photos are welcome and appreciated!



"Box Tops Blizzard!"



* Two new parents are engineering the collection/competitions of Box Tops this year ---Kris Kazmarski and Tammy Stuber.

Those ladies have organized a competition, "Box Tops Blizzard", that should be a 'shovelful of fun' for the kids. Homerooms will be competing against each other until the deadline of Feb. 13, so tell your kids to start clippin' and savin'!!



* For each 50 coupons collected, the homeroom will receive 5 'snowballs' to fling at another homeroom. To win, a homeroom has to collect the most Box Tops and have the least amount of 'hits.' Winning homerooms will earn a prize.

Any questions? -- call me at school.

N. Shelow.

Let the fun begin!!! 🌨️

Grand Opening of the new AR Store

The AR Store was brimming with new merchandise for the students to purchase with their accumulated AR points! We have a new location that is a bit roomier than at the other middle school, and kids had an opportunity to spend their points on Jan. 16.

We're hoping it will be open again in the very near future!

** It is important to know that the funding needed to stock the store comes mostly from Box Tops earnings.



Events At HAMS

February 11 - Board Work Session

6:30 PM - HS Library

February 14 - Snow Make-up Day

WE have School

February 15 - No School - Professional

Development

February 18 - No School / Board Meeting

6:30 PM - HS Library

New Gym

By: Mr. Carlson

This year in Physical Education, we have been fortunate enough to use the high school facilities. As the year goes on, we have students and faculty asking questions about the new gym at the middle school. I did some investigating and found out some information about the new gym.

At this time, the estimated time of completion is the middle of April. The gym is about 50% completed at this time. The whole gym project is about 50 days behind schedule, because they need dry weather to complete the roof. The inside of the gym cannot be completed until the roof is done. The gym will have four half court hoops and 1 regulation size full court. It will also have two dividing curtains that can be set up for regulation volleyball courts. The gym is regulation size with the exception of the spectator area where two small bleacher sections will be. The boy's locker room will be on the south side and the girl's locker room on the north.

That's the inside scoop on the new gym.

Feel Free To Contact Us

Address: HAMS

2500 Cassady Avenue
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Phone: 814-643-2900

Fax: 814-643-6513

Website: www.huntsd.org



ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school is necessary for a good educational experience. If a student is under the compulsory school attendance law, proper steps will be taken to enforce that law. Unexcused absences will result in no credit for the day and no opportunity to make up work that was missed.

When a student returns to school after an absence, the student must report to the office during homeroom and present a properly signed written excuse. If you have obtained a written doctor excuse, please send this excuse also. The student has 3 days after his/her return to school to bring this note. Failure to bring a proper excuse within 3 days will result in 1 illegal day.

The Huntingdon Area School District attendance policy provides that a claim of continual or repeated illness in excess of 10 days per school year requires a physician's statement regarding illness. If a student has absences in excess of 10 days with no medical excuse, the absences will be considered illegal. Students whose absence is determined to be illegal will not be allowed to make up their work.

Parents will receive an attendance letter in the mail after 10 days of recorded absences and doctor's excuses will be required. State legislation stipulates that students (and/or their parents) may be fined for excessive absences.

TARDY TO HOMEROOM

Students are responsible for being in class on time. A reasonable amount of time is provided for changing classes. Teachers will keep appropriate records and work with students to resolve problems of tardiness. Disciplinary consequences are listed below:

Procedure for handling tardiness –

1. Student/Teacher conference – 1st tardy
2. Student/Assistant Principal conference – 2nd tardy
3. Letter sent home – 3rd tardy
4. After School Detention – 4th tardy
5. Two After School Detentions – 5th tardy
6. Administrative discretion – 6 or more tardies



